

WORKSHOP OF RANGE STATES OF THE AMERICAN EEL SANTO DOMINGO 4-6 APRIL 2018



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Presentation by
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POPULATION STATUS OF JAMAICAN EEL “PANMIXIA”



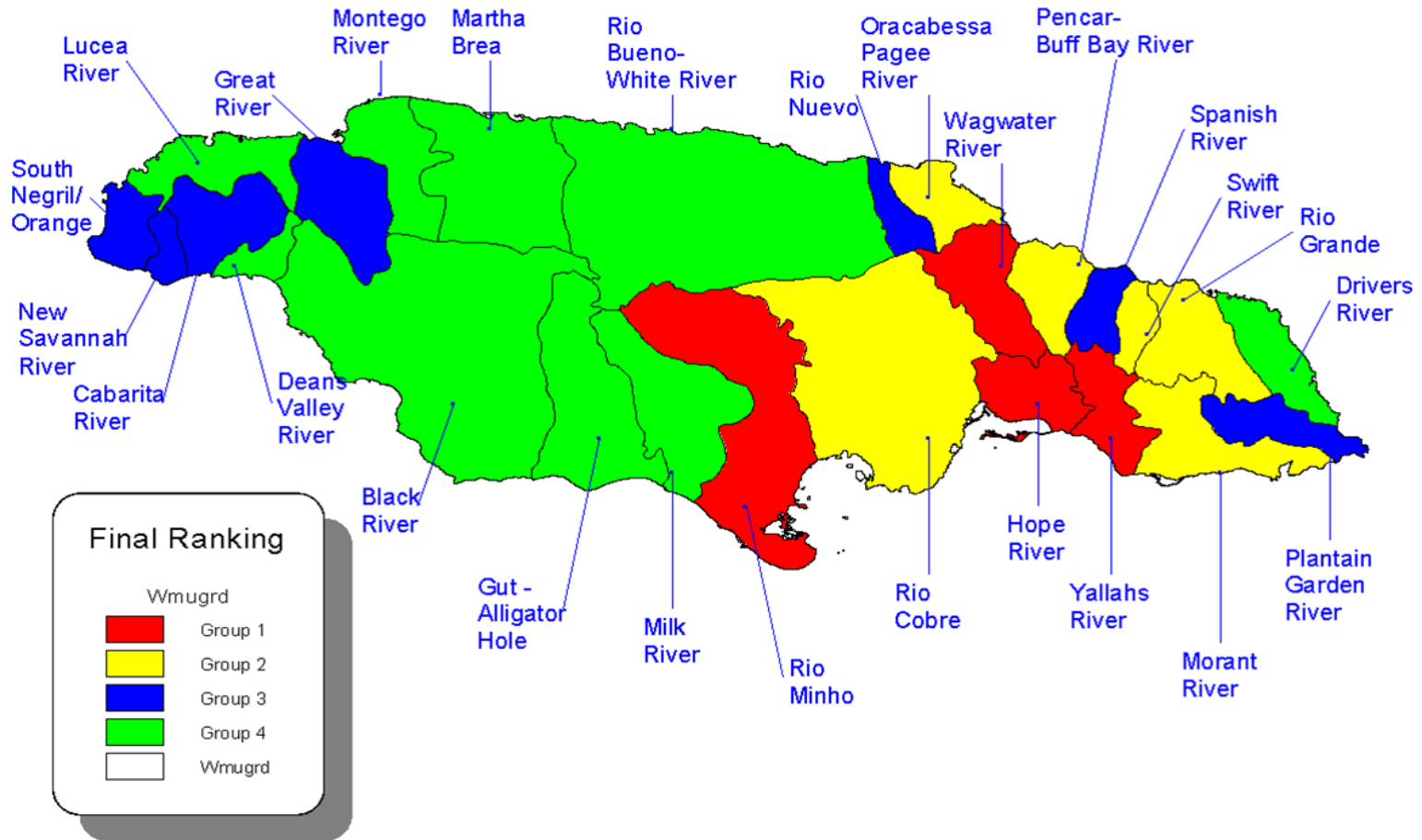
POPULATION STATUS OF AMERICAN EEL

- Please summarize the information you have about the biology and status of American eel in your country.
 - The American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) is found in Jamaica, however, not much is known about its status in local rivers and streams.
 - At this time, there is still lack of information on the population size, population trends, geographic distribution, or threats to the species. Currently, through the Fisheries Division they are collaborating with permitted licensed fisher₃ to gather this data.

- This experimental licence was granted for a period of 3 years commencing in October 2013 with a view to partnering with the Fisheries Division to develop our understanding of the species as well as to determine the environmental and economic feasibility of a commercial fishery in Jamaican waters



26 MAJOR RIVERS IN JAMAICA



DEMERARA RIVER - GUYANA



LAWRENCE RIVER - CANADA



MARTHA BRAE RIVER



DUNN'S RIVER



BLACK RIVER

DOMESTIC HARVEST OF AMERICAN EEL

- Please summarize the information you have about the harvest of American eel in your country.
 - What life stages are harvested
 - **American Eel are usually harvested at the Glass Eel / Elvers (juvenile) stages**



- Summarize the end use (e.g. consumed domestically, exported)
 - **They are exported to Hong Kong via Canada**



○ What quantities are harvested

- In **2013** a total of 4 rivers were visited of which **45.5kg** of eels were reported as caught.
 - During this period of which only **23.5kg or 52%** was exported and reported to have arrived at their overseas grow-out market healthy.
- In **2014 to 2015** there were 85 rivers visited with approximately **76 kgs** of glass eels were reported as caught.
 - None of these quantities were exported due to low quantities being caught at any one time and low quality (dark pigmentation)
- In **2015 to 2016** there were 9 rivers sampled during this period yielding **114kg** of glass eels were reported as caught.
 - All of which were reported to have been released or discarded due to small numbers and poor quality
- In **2016 to 2017** there were 9 rivers sampled over a combined 840 fishing nights resulting in the capture of **127kg** of glass eels.
 - Of this quantity only **30kg or roughly 24%** was retained and exported with the rest discarded to poor quality and unsuitability for export.

- What quantities are harvested
 - Estimated quantity harvested on an experimental bases since 2013 – **362kgs**



LOCATION OF TRAPS

Glass Eel Location

Legend

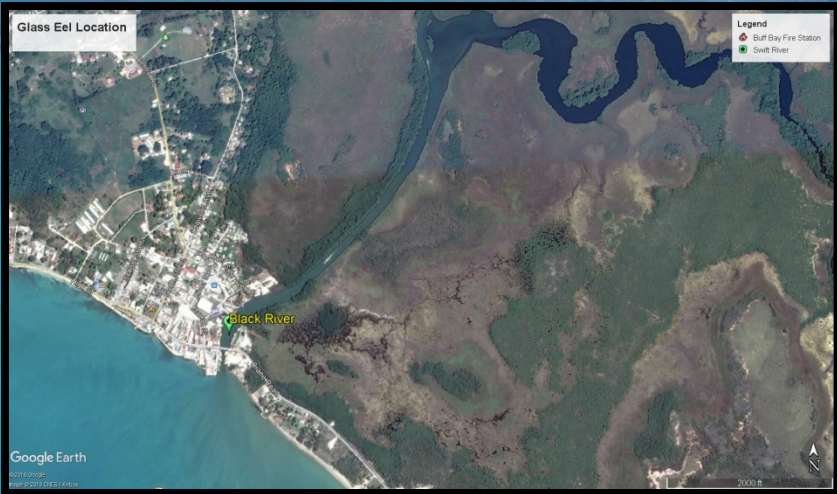
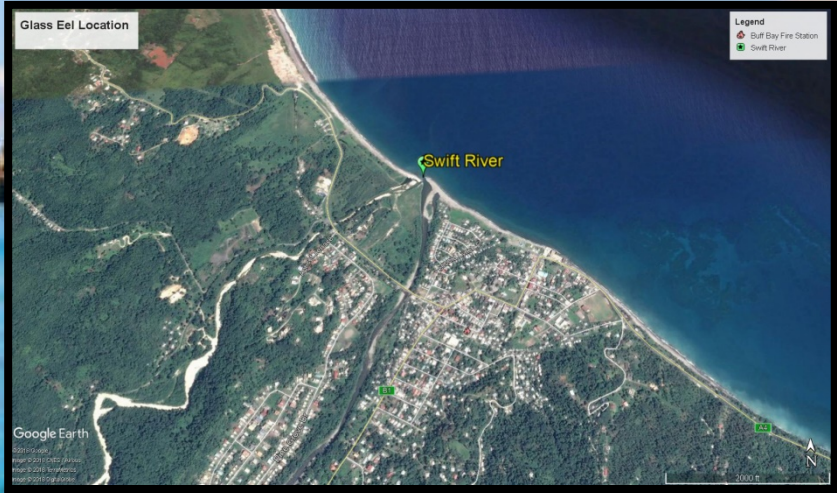
- 📍 Buff Bay Fire Station
- 📍 Swift River



Google Earth

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Image Landsat / Copernicus
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

GIS GLASS EEL HARVESTING LOCATIONS



ANTHROPOGENIC CHANGES



TRAPS THAT ARE CURRENTLY USED IN JAMAICA



Dip Net



Fyke Net

NATIONAL LEGISLATION RELEVANT TO MANAGEMENT OF AMERICAN EEL

- Does your country have legislation governing or regulating domestic harvest or use of American eels?
 - Yes
- If yes, please provide overview of that legislation.
 - The Fishing Industry Act 1975 governs the licensing and registration of fishers and vessels and provides for regulations to protect and sustainably manage any fishery in Jamaica through close seasons, fish sanctuaries or other means necessary.
 - The Aquaculture, Inland and Marine Products and By-Products (Inspection, Licensing and Export) Act & Regulations 1999 and its amendment regulates the harvesting, processing and exportation of all fish, fishery products and its by-products.

DOMESTIC FARMING OF AMERICAN EEL

- Are American eels farmed in your country?
 - No, we do not commercially farm eels, they are all usually wild caught



- If Yes, please describe (e.g. quantity, source, end use).¹⁶

TRADE OF AMERICAN EEL

- Do you export or import American eels in your country?
 - If yes, what life stages or type of products?
 - **Jamaica exports at the Glass eel/ juvenile stage**
 - What quantities are imported and exported?
 - **Approximately 85 kgs of the amount harvested were exported since 2013 (they are usually harvested and exported at the rate of two(2) quarts of river water to one(1) kilo of elvers)**
- Is your country involved in other aspects of eel trade or commercial use ? (e.g. processing eels or holding juveniles for farming). If yes –please provide details.
 - **No**



TABLE SHOWING QUANTITY AND VALUE OF IMPORTS OF ANGUILLA SPECIES INTO JAMAICA BETWEEN 2005 AND 2010.

SOURCE: STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF JAMAICA (STATIN)

Species	Imports											
	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
	Kg	\$US	Kg	\$US	Kg	\$US	Kg	\$US	Kg	\$US	Kg	\$US
Anguilla Spp. (fresh or chilled)	150.00	2,726.47	-	-	1,101.42	8,976.23	1,445.74	8,730.68	249	4,041.70	1,378.43	11,875.51
Anguilla Spp. (frozen)	388.00	5,926.91	-	-	657.71	4,455.33	6	247.20	580.37	3,595.81	-	-
Total	538	8,653.38			1,759.13	13,431.56	1,451.74	8,977.88	829.37	7,637.51	1,378.43	11,875.51

Summary Total for
Total Quantity (Kg): **5,956.67**
Total Value (\$US): **50,575.84**

NATIONAL JURISDICTION & ENFORCEMENT

- Which Government Departments or Agencies are responsible for monitoring and enforcement of legislation regarding harvesting, farming or imports/exports of eels?
 - The primary enforcement agency in Jamaica is the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries.
 - Outside of the Fisheries Division, enforcement is supported by the Jamaica Constabulary Force Marine Police Division.
 - The importation & exportation of fish, fishery products and its by-products is the responsibility of the Veterinary Services Division
- Have there been any cases of prosecutions for offenses regarding harvesting or exports of eels? If yes, please provide details.
 - No

○ END

