

# Introduction and Context



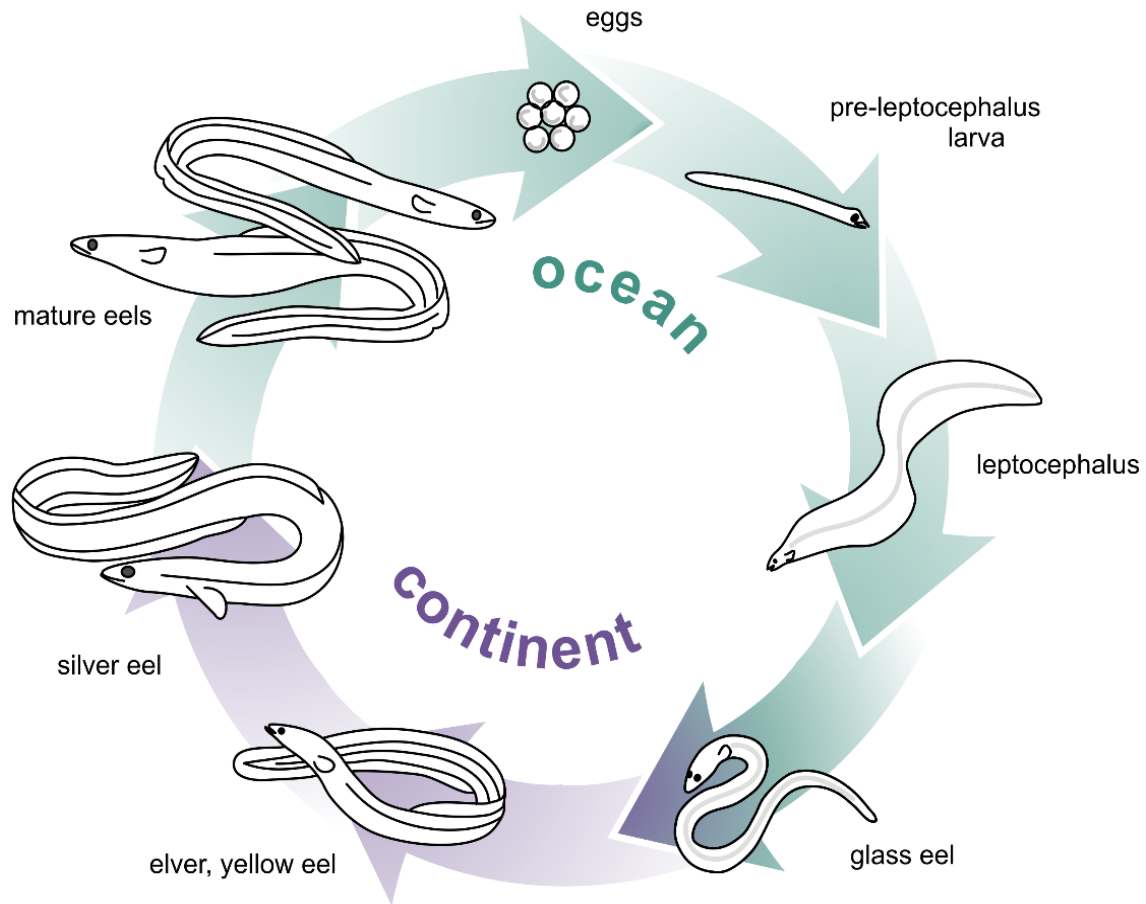
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# Anguillid eels

- 16 species – various opinions on sub-species / populations.
- Common, complex life cycle.



# Life cycle

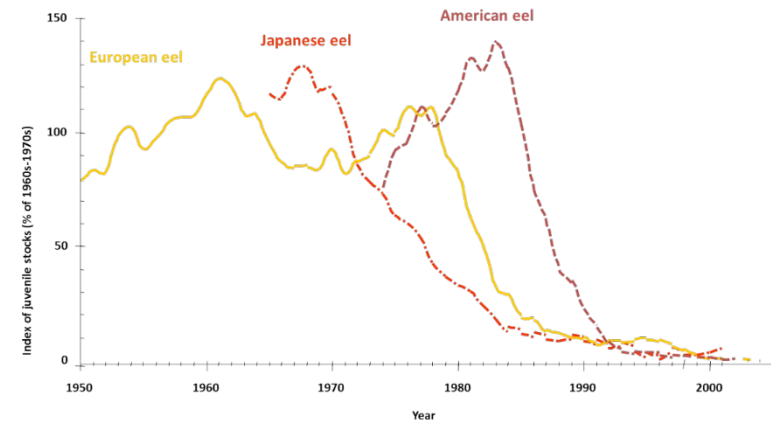


# Anguillid eels

- 16 species – various opinions on sub-species / populations.
- Common, complex life cycle.



- 'Temperate' spp. recruitment decline.
- Poor understanding of other species.
- Suite of potential impacts.



Trends in glass eel recruitment for the European eel (*A. anguilla*), Japanese eel (*A. japonica*) and American eel (*A. rostrata*) (from Dekker 2004).

# Potential impacts

- Climate change / Changing oceanic currents
- Disease / Parasitism

# ***A. crassus* from a European eel swimbladder**



# Potential impacts

- Climate change / Changing oceanic currents
- Disease / Parasitism
- Pollution
- Barriers to migration / Habitat loss

## Migration barriers

- Transport
- Power
- Tidal flow
  
- Reduced habitat
- Increased competition
  
- Fish pass vs Eel pass





# Potential impacts

- Climate change / Changing oceanic currents
- Disease / Parasitism
- Pollution
- Barriers to migration / Habitat loss
  - Lower lipid stores / condition / fecundity
- Predation
- Unsustainable / illegal exploitation and trade
- These will vary depending on species and location
- Many still not fully understood e.g. Climate change
- Majority of management limited to continental waters

# Prioritisation?!

- Variety of species ranges and overlaps
- Varied knowledge base
- Multiple threats / impacts – synergistic?
  
- Varied (limited?) resources - Financial / Human
  
- Conservation / management of species across it's range in context of others eels.
  
- How do we prioritise?

## Recent / future activities for anguillids

- IUCN resolution – 2016-2021
  - *Promotion of anguillid eels as flagship species for aquatic conservation*
- CMS co-operative actions for European eel (2017)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Range state workshop – May 2018
- Red List workshop 2018
  - Update 2013 assessments
  - Published 2019
- CITES Decisions 17.186-17.189
- Ensure complementarity!



## CITES

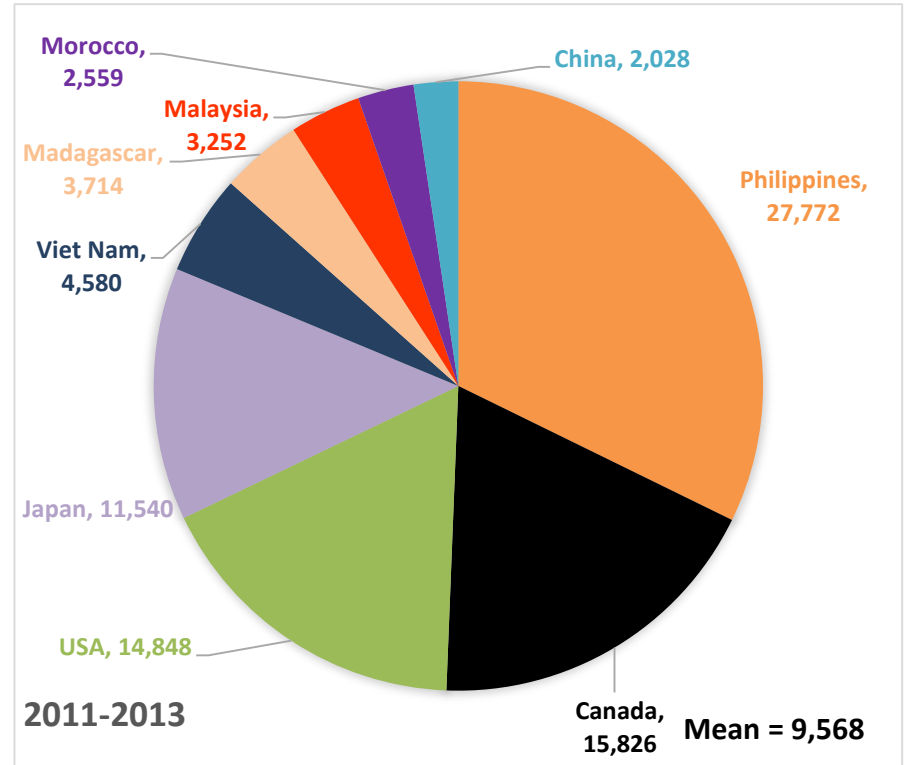
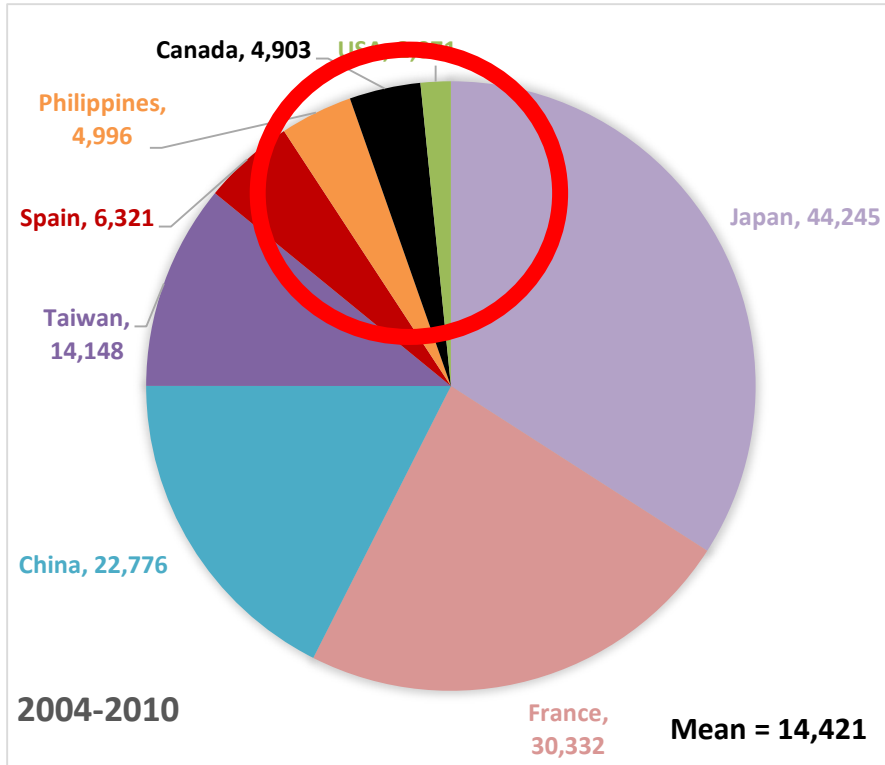
- *“International agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.”*
- European eel listed **Appendix II** in 2007.
  - Control of trade to prevent unsustainable use
  - ‘Non-Detriment Finding’
    - Analysis to evidence trade is sustainable.

# EU export ban

- EU export ban in 2010
  - N. Africa – *A. anguilla*
  - Americas – *A. rostrata*
  - S.E. Asia – *A. bicolor*



# Change in trade



- Pre- / Post-zero export quota in 2010.
- Legal export in t/yr (Not species/life-stage specific)

# Effect on other anguillid species

- EU export closure
  - N. Africa – *A. anguilla*
  - Americas – *A. rostrata*
  - S.E. Asia – *A. bicolor*
- Capacity issues
  - Countries not always equipped for sudden shift in demand.
- Genus-wide management
  - CoP17 Decision 17.186 (EU)





## Decision 17.186

- *'...a study compiling information on challenges and lessons learnt [from] Appendix II listing of European Eel and its effectiveness.'*
- *'...compiling available data and information on the biology, population status, use and trade in each species, as well as identifying gaps in such data and information, based on the latest available data and taking account inter alia of the Red List assessments...'*
- *'organize international technical workshops'*
- Animal Committee - 16-21/7/2018





## Decision 17.186

- Process
  - Research and engagement
    - ZSL, TRAFFIC and consultants
  - Notification and questionnaires
    - Collation of responses
  - Workshops
    - Regional/species-specific issues
  - Reports submitted to AC30
    - In-session / Side event / WG



# Summary

- Species and their management can be globally linked:
  - Certain areas may require multi-species approach.
  - Communication and collaboration is key.
- The workshop should identify key areas to explore:
  - Species status
  - Knowledge gaps
  - Management challenges
- The Decision relates to more than exploitation/trade.