

EUROPEAN EELS UNDER CMS

Melanie Virtue

Head, Aquatic Species

CMS Secretariat



EUROPEAN EEL UNDER CMS

The European Eel was added to Appendix II of the CMS in 2014, at COP11

CMS Parties which are Range States to the European Eel



FIRST RANGE STATE WORKSHOP ON OF THE EUROPEAN EEL

Galway, Ireland, October 2016

- Co-organized by the CMS Secretariat and the Sargasso Sea Commission.
- Brought together Range States and experts on European and American eel.
- To update countries on the status of eel conservation and management.
- Measures discussed included
 - extension of the management regimes to other Range States & mechanisms to support such activities,
 - protection of the crucial spawning areas in the high seas areas of the Sargasso Sea.



FIRST RANGE STATE WORKSHOP ON OF THE EUROPEAN EEL

x

Outcomes Key Elements of a future agreement

- Objective: Recovery of the eel stocks.
- need to take a flexible approach to measures within any international instrument.
- Non-duplication of scientific knowledge, using existing scientific bodies for advice.
- Identify key partners that would work closely with the instrument, including Regional Seas, (Barcelona Convention, HELCOM etc.), RFMOs (eg GCFM)

FIRST RANGE STATE WORKSHOP ON OF THE EUROPEAN EEL

Follow Up

- Convene 2nd meeting including North Africa
- Questionnaire to identify gaps to be sent to Range States
- Feasibility assessment of including American eel in Instrument
- Feasibility of Sargasso Sea protection under possible international instrument
- Bring to the attention of CMS Parties
- Brief GCFM on status



EUROPEAN EEL AT CMS COP12

PROPOSAL BY
MONACO,
SARGASSO SEA
AND CMS

- In 2017, COP12 adopted a Concerted Action for the species, which envisaged a number of future actions, including a second meeting of Range States.



CONCERTED ACTION ON THE EUROPEAN EEL

UNEP/CMS/ Concerted Action 12.1

- Organise a second workshop of Range States.
- Undertake a survey of Range States to identify gaps in conservation and management of the species.
- Identify actions that complement both the 2016 CITES COP17 decision and the IUCN World Conservation Council 2016 Resolution that relate to anguillid eels.
- Encourage improved data flow/collection to ICES for annual reporting and AESG for Red List assessment in 2018.
- Engage with non-Range State stakeholders e.g. relevant Regional Fisheries Bodies, especially the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).



melanie.virtue@cms.int

