

European Eel overview



Matthew Gollock

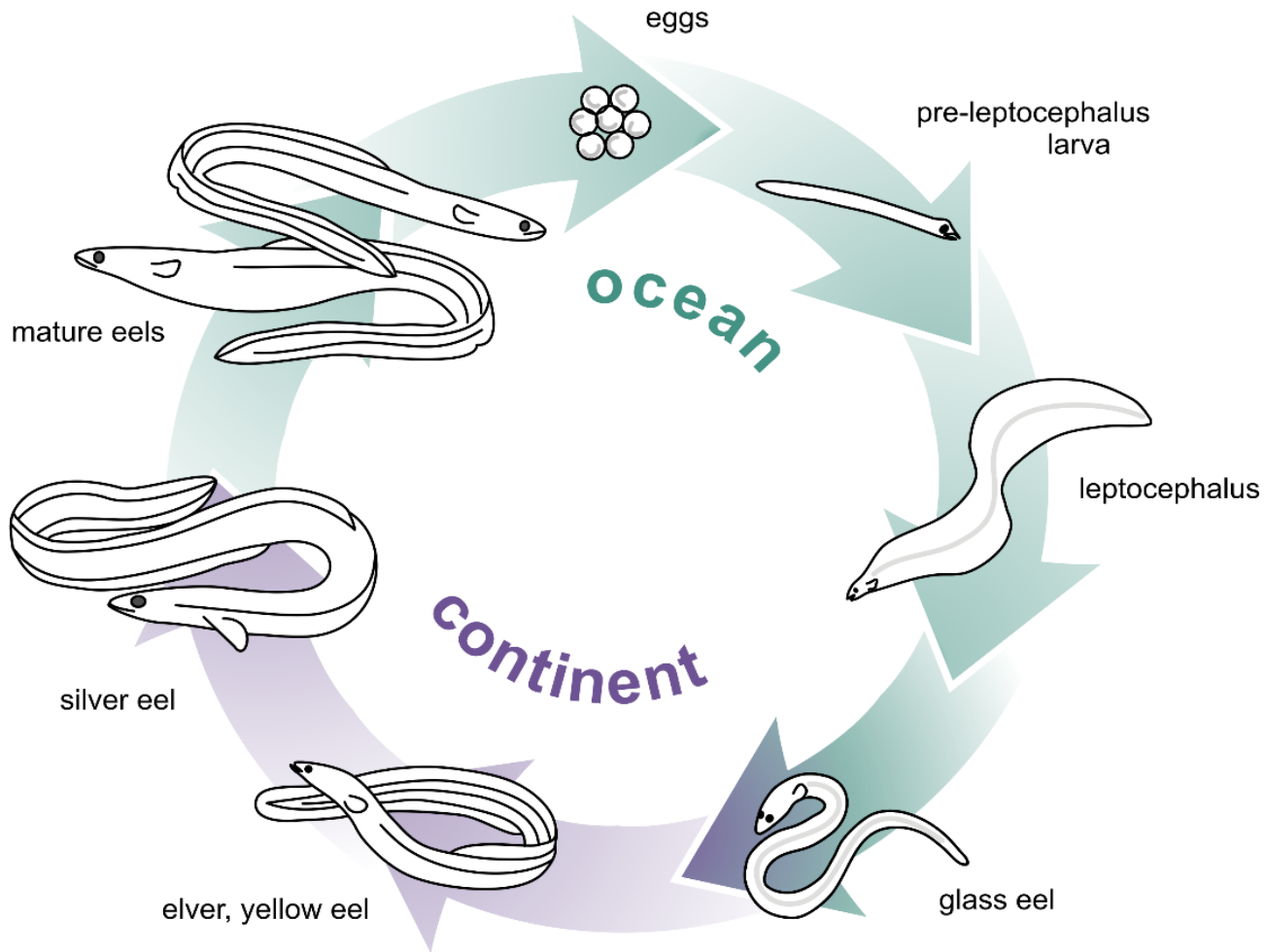
Zoological Society of London

Anguillid eels

- 16 species – various opinions on sub-species / populations
- Temperate / tropical
 - Non-polar
 - West Africa and Pacific USA
- Common, complex life cycle -
 - Multiple life stages
 - Catadromous
 - Semelparous
 - Panmictic



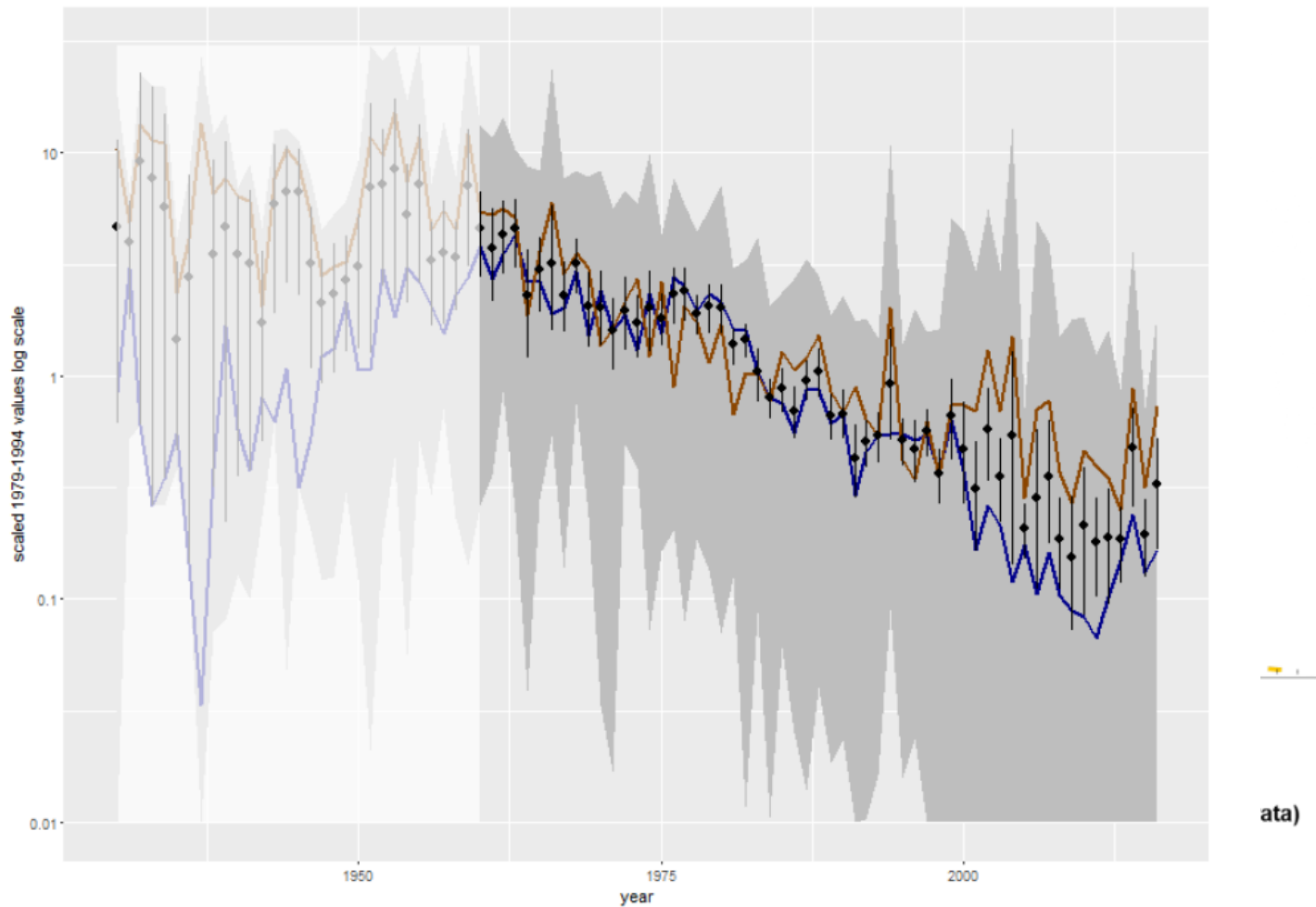
Life cycle



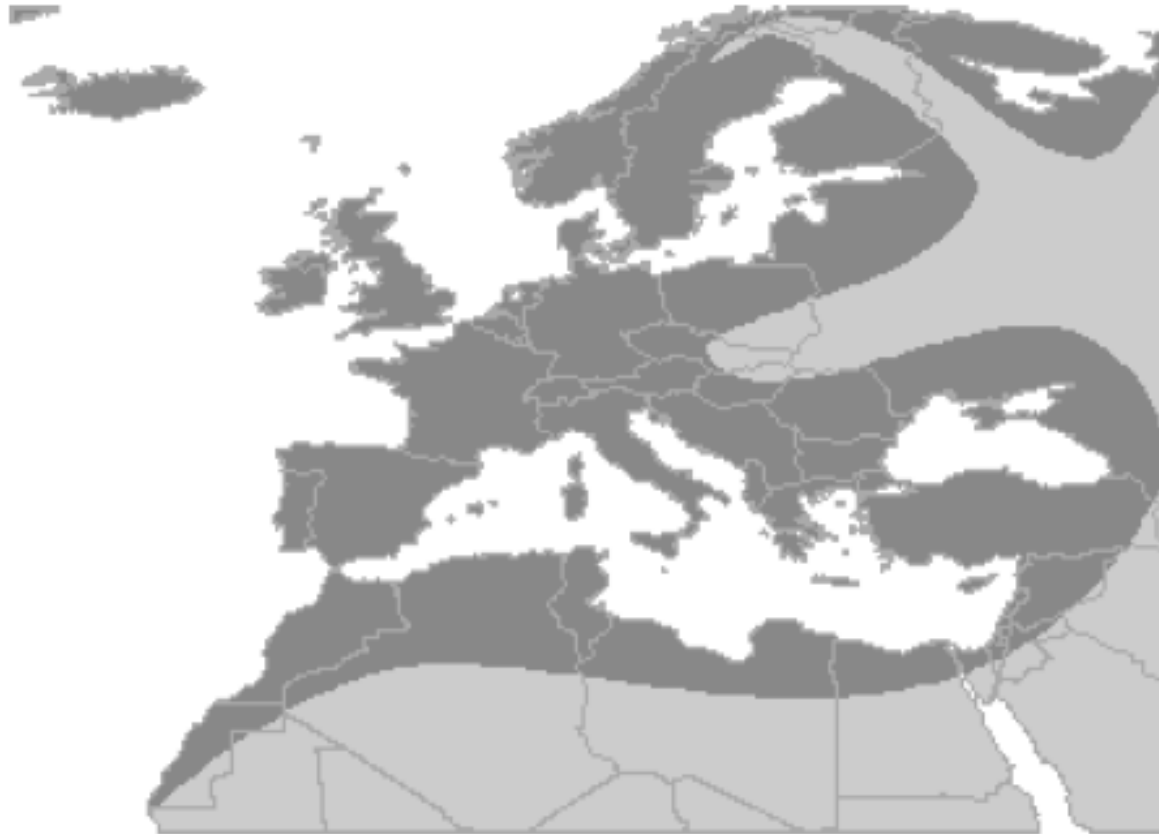
Potential impacts

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

European eel



European eel



European eel

- 2007 – Council Regulation (EC) No. 1100/2007
- 2007 – CITES Appendix II listing
- 2010 – EU trade cessation
- 2013 – CMS Appendix II listing
- IUCN
 - Red List – CR (2008; 2013)
 - Resolution at WCC (2016)



Council Regulation (EC) No. 1100/2007

- Eel Management Plans
 - Fisheries management
 - Fish passage
 - Re-stocking
- *‘The objective of each Eel Management Plan shall be to reduce anthropogenic mortalities so as to permit with high probability the escapement to the sea of at least 40 % of the silver eel biomass relative to the best estimate of escapement that would have existed if no anthropogenic influences had impacted the stock.’*

CITES

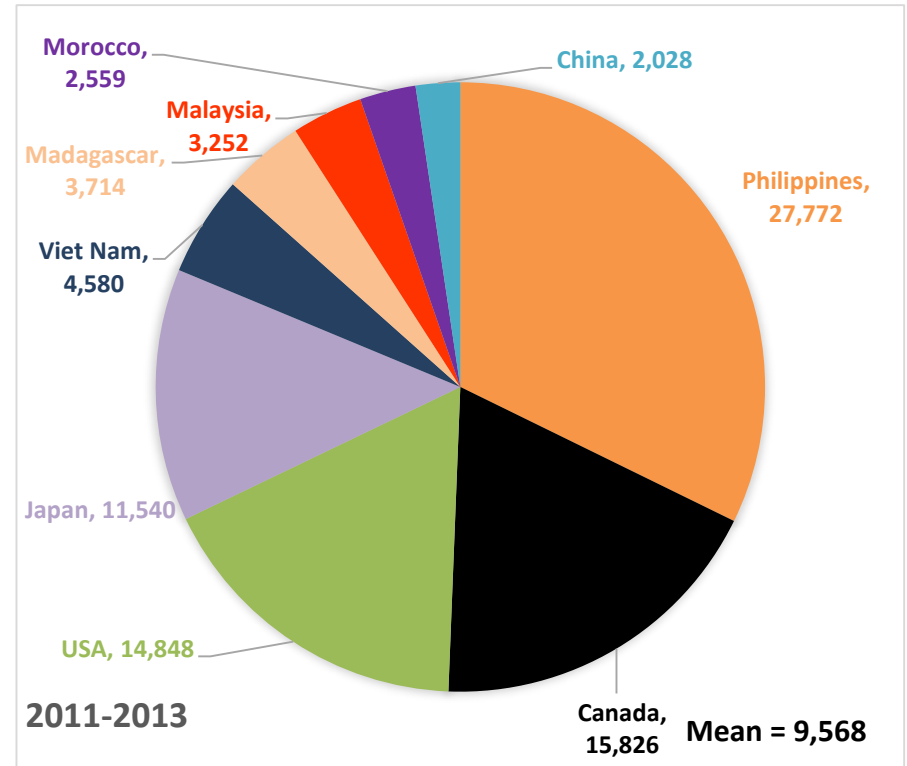
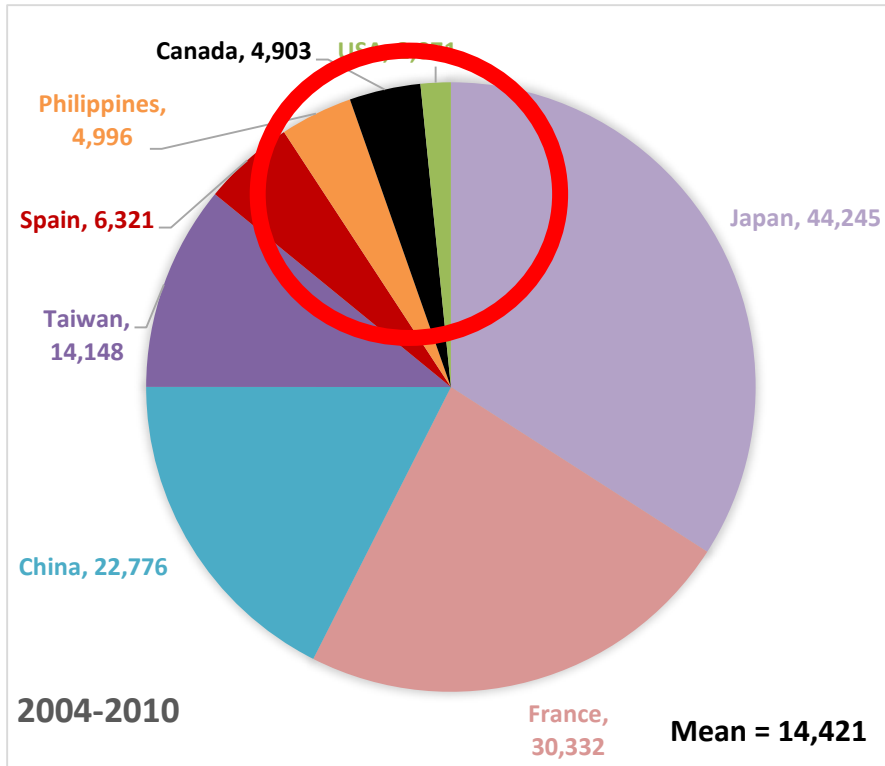
- *“International agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.”*
- European eel listed **Appendix II** in 2007.
 - Control of trade to prevent unsustainable use
 - ‘Non-Detriment Finding’
 - Analysis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

EU Export ban

- 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 appraisal
 - 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 - 17-21/7/2017



Convention on Migratory Species

- *A. anguilla* – SSC/Monaco/IUCN: App. II (2014).
 - Co-operative actions
- First range state meeting - Ireland 12-14/10/16.
- Concerted Actions adopted at CoP 12



Conclusions

- Progress has been made and the profile of this species and anguillids generally has been raised.
 - Regional knowledge and capacity gaps need addressed
- A number of binding and non-binding mechanism in place for the species.
 - None are perfect; collaboration and harmonisation essential.
- Need to consider other species as they can be impacted.