

CITES and eels (*Anguilla* spp.)



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**2nd meeting of European eel
range States, Malmö, Sweden
15 – 16 May 2018**

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora



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- An international agreement between governments (183 Parties)
 - Aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival
 - Works by subjecting international trade in selected species to certain controls through a licensing system
 - Currently covers approximately 35,800 species (of which approx. 30,000 are plants)
 - Species are listed in three Appendices (I, II and III), according to the degree of protection they need

CITES Appendices

- **Appendix I** – includes species threatened with extinction
 - **Appendix II** – includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled to ensure it is sustainable
 - **Appendix III** – species protected in a country which has asked other Parties to help control trade
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LEGAL

SUSTAINABLE

TRACEABLE

- European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) was listed on Appendix II of CITES at CoP14 (June 2007)
- Proposal used Annex 2(a) Paragraphs A and B as the qualifying criteria under Resolution Conf. 9.24 (rev. CoP13)

A It is known, or can be inferred or projected, that the regulation of trade in the species is necessary to avoid it becoming eligible for inclusion in Appendix I in the near future;

B It is known, or can be inferred or projected, that regulation of trade in the species is required to ensure that the harvest of specimens from the wild is not reducing the wild population to a level at which its survival might be threatened by continued harvesting or other influences.

- Listing came into force on 13 March 2009

The Non-Detriment Finding (NDF)

For Appendix II species - Under Article IV, an export permit shall only be **granted when ... a Scientific Authority of the State of export has advised that** such export will not be detrimental to the survival of that species

This advice is effectively a decision that must be made by the Scientific Authority

Science-based risk assessment

Guidance found in Resolution Conf. 16.7 on *Non-Detriment Findings*

Making a Non-Detriment Finding (NDF) for European eel (*A. anguilla*)



- European eel is considered a panmictic species with a very complex life-cycle
- It has a large number of range States
- Fisheries regulation and management is complex
- It is traded in a number of different forms
- It cannot currently be captive bred
- Fishing for international trade is only one of a number of threats facing the species
- There is no overarching management plan for the species at a European level
- No management plan for the species at a wider international level

Eel in the EU

- **CITES implemented through the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations, which are stricter than CITES**
- **EU Member States unable to make an NDF for *Anguilla anguilla*, so in December 2010 a zero export quota was set and imports from non-EU range States were also suspended**
- **This “ban” remains in place today**
- **Council Regulation (EC) no 1100/2007 sets out measures for the recovery of European eels, including requirement for Member States (MS) to develop Eel Management Plans (EMPs) at the river basin level**



CoP17 Decisions on Eels

Decisions 17.186 to 17.189

Summary of Decision 17.186

- Conduct a study on implementation of the Appendix II listing of European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) and its effectiveness, including non-detriment findings, enforcement and identification challenges, as well as illegal trade
- Conduct a study on non-CITES listed eels (*Anguilla* spp.) compiling available data and information on the biology, population status, use and trade in the other 15 *Anguilla* species and looking at possible changes in trade patterns following the listing of *A. anguilla*
- Organize, where appropriate, international technical workshops, with a focus on priorities identified in the studies
- Make the two studies and any workshop report available for consideration by the Animals Committee
- Make available to the Standing Committee relevant information on illegal trade in European eels gathered from the study and any workshop report

Decision 17.187

Directed to: range States and Parties involved in trade in *Anguilla* spp.

Range States and Parties involved in trade in *Anguilla* species, in collaboration with the Secretariat and FAO, are encouraged to:

- a) promote international or regional cooperation on a species-by-species basis, including the convening of regional meetings to discuss how to fill the information gaps and ensure long-term sustainability in the face of increasing demand from international trade;
- b) provide the Secretariat and their consultants with specific information needed for the purposes of completing Decision 17.186 a) and b) as well as the results of the regional meetings; and
- c) participate, where appropriate, in the technical workshops and share expertise and knowledge on the priority topics identified.

International technical workshop on eels (*Anguilla* spp.)

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, London, UK
18-20 April 2018



Review of Significant Trade

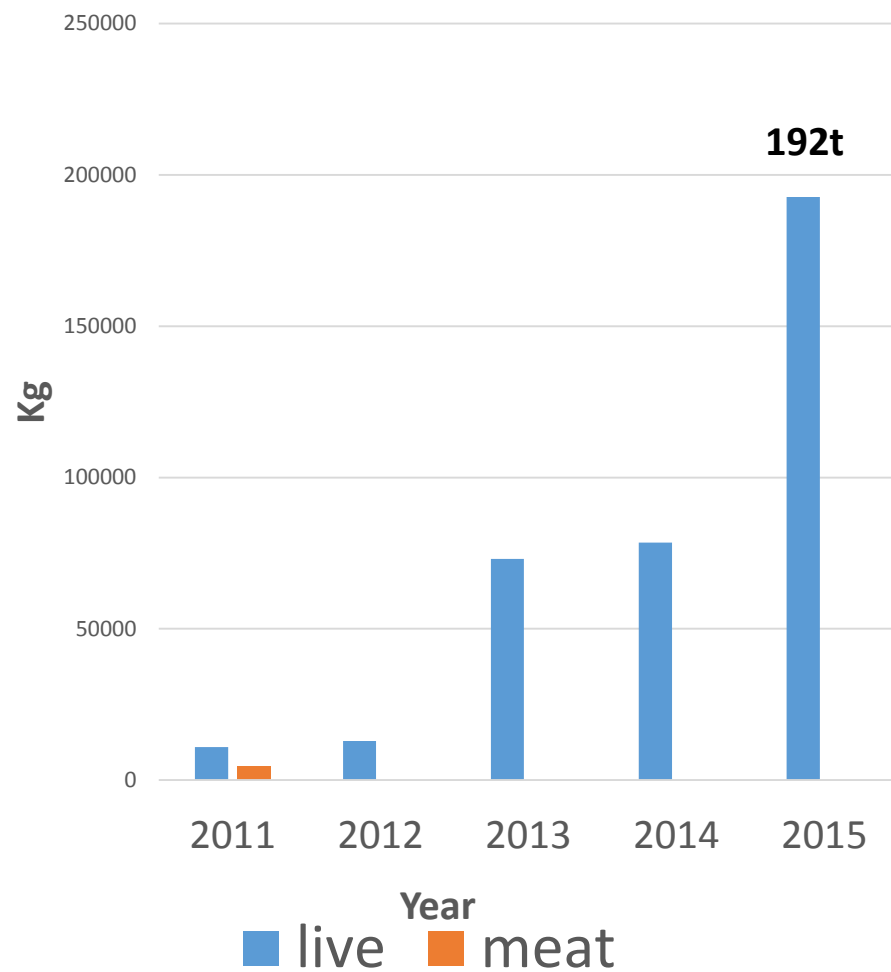
- The Animals/Plants Committees review the biological, trade and other relevant information on Appendix-II species subject to significant levels of trade, to identify problems and solutions concerning the implementation of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a) of the Convention.
- The AC and PC select species/country combinations of greatest concern for review (Consultants review and range States provide a response)
- AC29 – Selection of *Anguilla anguilla*/Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia

AC29 (July 2017) – Review of Significant Trade

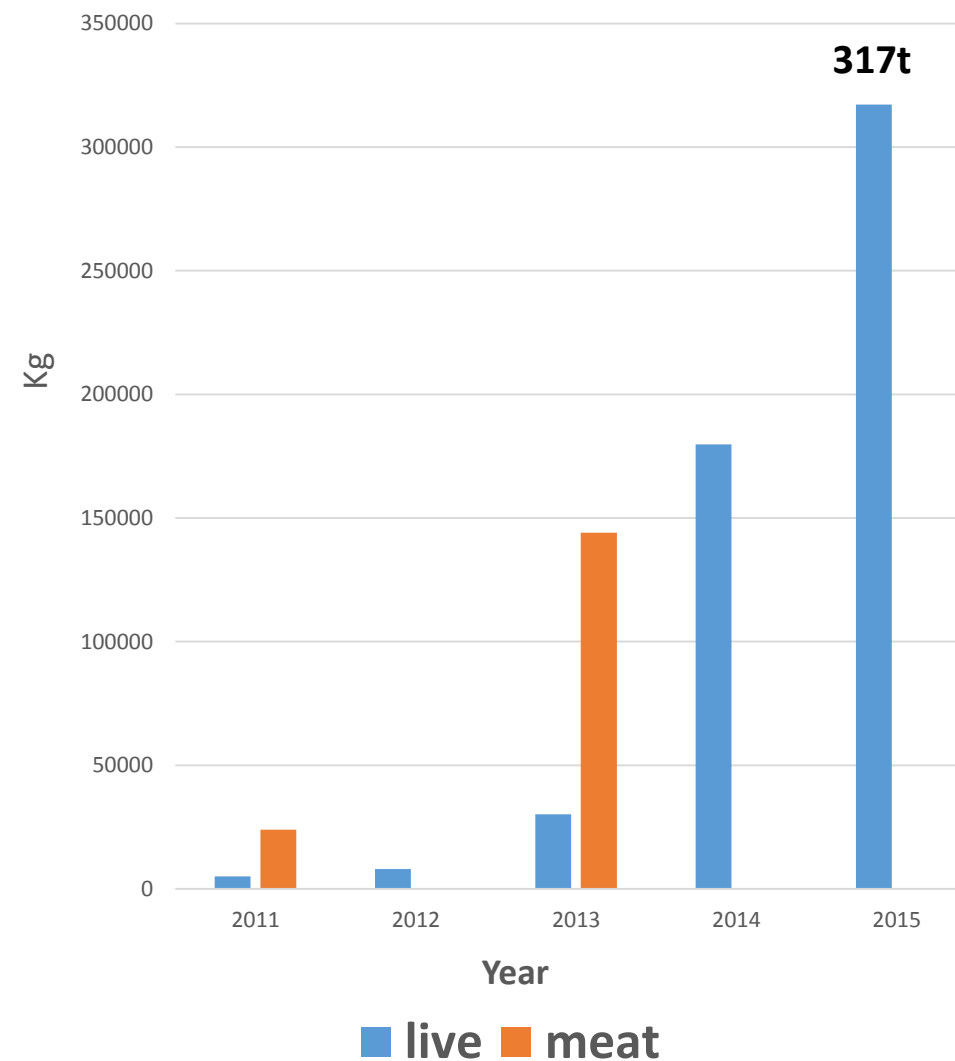
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
live	11272	8960	0	198939	43688
kg	4795	10717	86803	59204	498216
meat	4509	0	0	300	30
kg	4500	4509	292387	134970	128499

4 criteria met: (1) Endangered, (2) High volume (GT), (3) Sharp Increase (global), (4) Sharp increase (Morocco; Tunisia)

Exports of *Anguilla anguilla* from
Tunisia (2011-2015)



Exports of *Anguilla anguilla* from
Morocco (2011-2015)



30th meeting of the CITES ANIMALS COMMITTEE (AC30, Geneva, 16 - 21 July 2018)

1) Implementation of Decisions 17.186 to 17.189

- **Results of the Studies in Decision 17.186 a) and b)**
- **Recommendations from the I workshop on eels (*Anguilla* spp.) – UK, April 2018**
- **Recommendations from any other regional technical workshops e.g. American eel – Dominican Republic, April 2018; 2nd Regional meeting of European eel range States – Sweden, May 2018; Others?**
- **Any recommendations on the above coming from the AC intersessional working group on eels**

TASK - Based on the above, the Animals Committee will provide recommendations to ensure the sustainable trade in *Anguilla* species, to Parties for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Colombo, Sri Lanka, May-June 2019).

30th meeting of the CITES ANIMALS COMMITTEE (AC30, Geneva, 16 - 21 July 2018)

2) Review of Significant Trade

- Responses provided by the range States
- Species/country reviews by UNEP-WCMC

TASK - Based on the above, the Animals Committee determine whether *Anguilla anguilla* from any of the 3 range States is of “less concern” in which case it will be removed from the review or if “Action is needed” in which case the Animals Committee will develop a set of recommendations directed to the range States that are **time-bound, feasible, measurable, proportionate, and transparent** (the implementation of which will be monitored and reported to the Standing Committee for action as appropriate).

70th meeting of the CITES STANDING COMMITTEE (SC70, Sochi, 1-5 October 2018)

- **Information on illegal trade in European eel from the Study in Decision 17.186 a)**
- **Recommendations on enforcement from the international technical workshop on eels (*Anguilla* spp.) – UK, April 2018**
- **Any other available information on illegal trade in European eel**
- **Any recommendations on the above coming from the SC intersessional working group on eels**

TASK - The Standing Committee shall consider information relating to illegal trade and adopt recommendations as appropriate.

For more information:

www.cites.org

AC30 agenda and documents:

<https://cites.org/eng/com/ac/30/index.php>

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