American Eel Range State Workshop
Santo Domingo 4-6 April 2018

Dr. David Freestone
Executive Secretary,
Sargasso Sea Commission

2nd Range State Meeting on the European Eel
Malmo, Sweden
15-16 May, 2018
American Eel Range State Workshop
Hosts: Dominican Republic
Sponsors: US FWS and DFO
Organizers: Sargasso Sea Commission

To contribute to implementation of CITES Decisions 17.186 & 7 on Anguilla species

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.
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Participants
➢ Bahamas
➢ Belize
➢ Canada
➢ Costa Rica
➢ Cuba
➢ Dominican Republic
➢ Jamaica
➢ Honduras
➢ Nicaragua
➢ United States

Range States unable to attend
But sent information
➢ Haiti
➢ Mexico
➢ Panama
American Eel Range
Source: David Cairns, DFO Scientist
How to assess American eel status

2. Analytical stock assessment

Challenges:
Most of range is unfished
Most of range has no demographic data

Source:
D Cairns: DFO Scientist
East Asian imports of live eel fry from *A. rostrata* range States (tonnes)

Source: Vicki Crook, 2018
Changes in live eel fry supply since the CITES listing/EU trade ban

Source: Vicki Crook, 2018
TOKYO (The Japan News/ANN)

Volume of glass eels caught, put into aquaculture ponds (tons)

* Total for Nov.-May period. The 2018 figure is from November to the end of January.
Overview

- Billion Dollar trade- mostly based in China – through Canada and Hong Kong
- Much of the catch and the trade is illegal
- Anguillid Species are being mixed for reimports to Europe, US and Japan - often falsely labelled as *A rostrata* to avoid CITES restrictions
- Very high prices for *Anguilla japonica* elvers have driven up prices for all elvers
- Apart from Canada and US very little management or trade controls in *A rostrata* range states