

2021 Report

IUCN SSC Anguillid Eel Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
10

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITES

www.zsl.org/conservation/species/fish-and-invertebrates/eel-conservation/iucn-anguillid-eel-specialist-group
www.iucnffsg.org/about-ffsg/anguillid-specialist-sub-group/

Mission statement

To coordinate effective conservation and management activities for the benefit of eel species, as well as acting as advocates and increasing awareness of the threats to them.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The Anguillid Eel Specialist Group (AESG) will continue to engage in management and policy fora relating to anguillid eels in order to ensure these are best informed by Red List assessments and other evidence-based sources.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Complete Red List assessment of the American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*).

T-003 Increase knowledge of four Data Deficient species.

T-007 Complete European regional assessment for the European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*).

T-013 Assess Green Status of the European Eel.

PLAN

T-004 Lead the development of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Action Plan for the European Eel.

T-005 Ensure robust science relating to anguillid eels is fed into CITES meetings, working groups and decisions.

T-006 Engage with International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) Working Group on Eel on annual advice and associated ad hoc workshops.

T-008 Maintain representation on the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission eel-focused activities/assessments.

T-010 Continue engagement with the 'Informal Consultation' on the Japanese Eel (*Anguilla japonica*).

T-011 Maintain engagement with the Sargasso Sea Commission.

NETWORK

T-002 Recruit four new members to cover regional and thematic gaps.

T-014 Represent on the Freshwater Conservation Committee.

T-015 Represent on the Marine Conservation Committee.

COMMUNICATE

T-009 Organise three public presentations to communicate the conservation work of the AESG and how Red List assessments are developed.

T-012 Hold annual knowledge-sharing webinars with Maori representatives in relation to the New Zealand Long-fin Eel (*Anguilla dieffenbachii*) in New Zealand.

Activities and results 2021

ASSESS

Red List

T-001 (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: Red List assessment of the American Eel has been delayed due to COVID-19; we will be submitting in April 2022 in line with the next Red List update.

T-007 (KSR 6)

Number of national Red List reassessments published: 0

Result description: European regional assessment for the European Eel is ongoing.

Research activities

T-003 (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 0

Result description: We will progress the Green Status assessment of the European Eel in the coming 12 months.

PLAN

Planning

T-010 (KSR 9)

Workshop held to engage Japanese Eel range states: 0

Result description: This workshop will be held virtually in April 2022. Two members of the AESG have been invited to attend as experts.

Policy

T-004 (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 0

Result description: Development of the CMS Action Plan for the European Eel is ongoing. The document presently sits with the CMS Secretariat, and we are waiting for guidance as to the next steps.

T-005 (KSR 9)

Number of MEA meetings attended by the SSC group: 2

Result description: AESG members were in attendance at the 73rd meeting of the CITES Standing Committee and 31st meeting of the CITES Animals Committee (AC31). AESG members were involved in the Working Group struck at AC31 to develop Decisions for the Conference of Parties in November 2022.

Number of documents provided to support/guide policy making: 1

Result description: Two AESG members were involved as authors on a document relating to use and trade of anguillid eels submitted to CITES in November 2021 (available at: <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/74/E-SC74-64-01.pdf>). This has been published and will be considered at CITES meetings in 2022 and 2023.

T-006 (KSR 9)

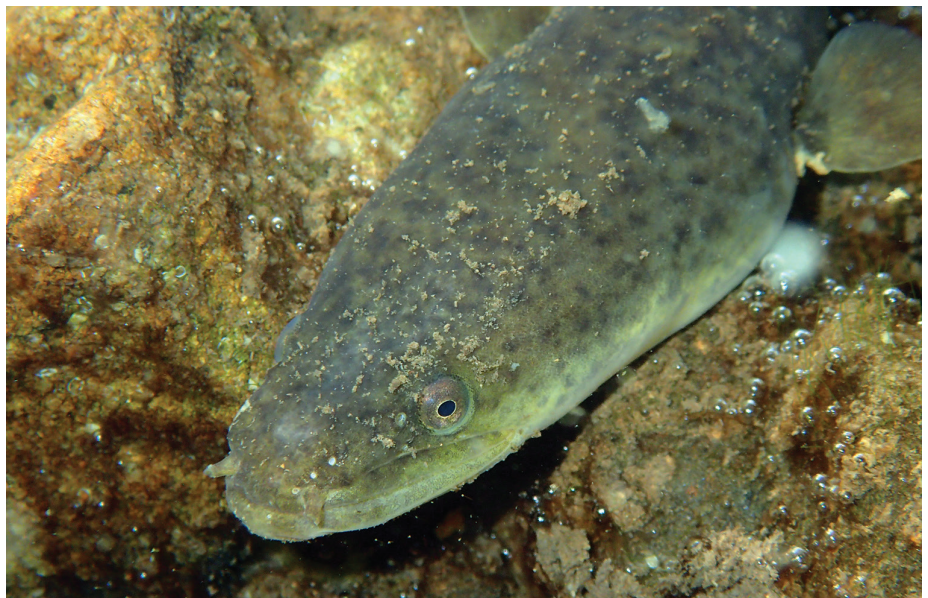
Number of documents provided to support/guide policy making: 2

Result description: Two AESG members attended the ICES Working Group on Eel meeting to develop the annual report (<https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Forms/DispForm.aspx?ID=38324>) and associated Advice to European Eel Range States (<https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2021/2021/ele.2737.nea.pdf>). The AESG was also represented at the ICES Workshop on the future of eel advice (<https://www.ices.dk/community/groups/Pages/WKFEA.aspx>). A workshop was held to evaluate the EU Eel Management Plans by country (WKEMP3); the AESG was represented at the first meeting in late 2021 and will attend the second meeting in early 2022 prior to the report being published.

T-008 (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 0

Result description: The Chair of the IUCN ASEG chaired a meeting of American Eel Range States (see <http://www.sargassoseacommission.org/our-work/workshops/second-range-states-workshop-on-the-american-eel>).



Least Concern Marbled Eel, *Anguilla marmorata*
Photo: Matthew Gollock

T-010 (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 0

Result description: This links to the Japanese Eel workshop and has been delayed due to COVID-19.

T-011 (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 0

Result description: The Sargasso Sea Commission organised a workshop for American Eel Range States which the Chair of the AESG chaired (see <http://www.sargassoseacommission.org/our-work/workshops/second-range-states-workshop-on-the-american-eel>).

NETWORK

Membership

T-002 (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 0

Result description: Recruiting of new members has been postponed due to delays in existing work as a result of COVID-19; we expect to do this in the coming 12 months. New members have been identified.

T-014 (KSR 3)

Membership on Freshwater Conservation Committee: 1

Result description: We continue to engage as a member of the Freshwater Conservation Committee. The Chair was a co-author on the recent paper relating to freshwater conservation, along with several other members of the Freshwater Conservation Committee (Maasri, A., et al. (2022). 'A global agenda for advancing freshwater biodiversity research'. *Ecology Letters* 25:255–263. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ele.13931>).

T-015 (KSR 3)

Membership on Marine Conservation Committee: 1

Result description: We continue to engage with the Marine Conservation Committee. We lead a joint presentation on the concept of Aquascapes with the Marine Conservation Committee and Freshwater Conservation Committee at the IUCN World Conservation Congress.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-009 (KSR 12)

Number of virtual meetings: 0

Result description: This target has not been initiated to date, but we are presently sourcing funding to establish a coordination group for UK eel stakeholders which should present an opportunity for public engagement.

T-012 (KSR 12)

Number of virtual meetings: 0

Result description: We remain in contact with Maori representatives, but no webinars have been scheduled to date.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Monni Bohm for support during the year.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 15

Geographic regions: 10 Global, 1 America, 1 Asia, 1 Europe, 1 Oceania, 1 Body of water

Actions during 2021:

Assess: 3 (KSR 5, 6)

Plan: 8 (KSR 9)

Network: 3 (KSR 2, 3)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

