

Report on the eel stock, fishery and other impacts, in:

TUNISIA

2023

Note to the reader – this document accompanies a series of spreadsheet tables that provide the bulk of the data in a format most suitable for the working practices of WGEEL. Summaries of these data are provided in this document.

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1 Stock status summary

"NO AVAILABLE DATA"

2 Overview of the stock and its management

2.1 Describe the eel stock and its management

2.1.1 EMUs, EMPs,

Tunisia potential sites for the presence of eel are more abundant in the North and East zones and Medjerda than in the Central East and South zones. They extend generally over an estimated wetted area of about 950 000 ha (Tab. I) distributed over **4 Eel Management Units** defined by the EMP.

The eel is found mainly in lagoons and to a lesser extent in coastal waters, sebkhas and dam reservoirs. Its exploitation is concentrated, by targeted fishing, in the 3 main sites of northern Tunisia: The lagoon complex of Ichkeul-Bizerte; Ghar El Melh Lagoon and Tunis Lagoon.

Other exploitation sites correspond to accidental fishing, not specifically targeting eel; they include the dam reservoirs in the North and Centre and some weirs in the Gulf of Gabes (Kerkennah and Zarrat).

In terms of area, exploitation sites for eel cover about 124,493 ha. They represent only a small proportion (13%) compared to all the potential sites where it is present in abundance levels equivalent to the exploited sites (both coastal and continental). Moreover, it is noteworthy that among the identified wetlands, 20 sites are listed as Ramsar sites and about 21 more are proposed to be included under this status. This status allows establishing rules for the protection of important habitats.

Map of the geographical location of the 4 EMU



2.1.2 Management authorities

The Eel Management Plan in Tunisia was defined during 2009 and 2010 as part of a wide consultation with stakeholders related to the eel resource. These administrative bodies are: DGPA (General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture),

DGF (General Directorate of Forestry representative of CITES),

DGBGTH (General Directorate for Dams and Major Hydraulic Works),

Technical agencies: GIPP (Interprofessional Association of Fishery Products),

CTA (Technical Center of Aquaculture),

ANPE (National Agency for Environmental Protection),

APAL (Protection and Coastal Planning Agency),

Organizations of Professional Fishermen represented by UTAP (Tunisian Union of Agriculture and Fisheries),

NGOs (ATSMer: Tunisian Association of Marine Science and AAO: Association des Amis des Oiseaux),

can intervene in the eel management at national and local level in close collaboration with the scientific community represented by INSTM (National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technologies) to be responsible for the scientific coordination of the EMP.

2.1.3 Regulations

The fishing activities in Tunisia are governed by Law No. 94-13 of January 31, 1994, which stipulates inter alia:

- ✓ Setting a minimum mesh size: square mesh (10mm)
- ✓ Setting the minimum size of capture to 30 cm
- ✓ Establish an export quota of 90 T which represents 90% of the average annual production (100 T) since the consumption of eels is not part of culinary traditions of the Tunisian population.

The plan proposed that Tunisia contains both measures to reduce major mortality factors on which it is statutorily possible to short-term significant results, and others fruit in the longer term, such as those concerning the environmental quality of pollution-related habitats (water, sediment and trophic chain).

2.1.4 Management actions

The Eel Management Plan was set up in 2009 but a few of measures have been applied:

- In each EMU the responsible for resource management must ensure that the escapement of silver eels is at least 40 percent of the potential of the system.
- New regulation of fishing campaign in 6 months/year in from 1st October to 31 March in the 3 northern sites of targeted fishing.

2.2 Significant changes since last report

3 Impacts on the stock

3.1 Fisheries

"NO AVAILABLE DATA"

3.1.1 Glass eel fisheries

"NO AVAILABLE DATA"

3.1.2 Yellow eel fisheries

"NO AVAILABLE DATA"

3.1.3 Silver eel fisheries

"NO AVAILABLE DATA"

3.2 Restocking

"NO AVAILABLE DATA"

3.3 Aquaculture

"NO AVAILABLE DATA"

3.4 Entrainment

"NO AVAILABLE DATA"

3.5 Habitat Quantity and Quality

"NO AVAILABLE DATA"

3.6 Others

"NO AVAILABLE DATA"

4 National stock assessment

4.1 Description of Method

No new data cf. Tunisia Country Report Master 2018

4.1.1 Data collection

4.1.2 Analysis

4.1.3 Reporting

4.1.4 Data quality issues and how they are being addressed

4.2 Assessment results

5 Other data collection

5.1 Recruitment time series

"NO AVAILABLE DATA"

5.2 Yellow eel abundance surveys

"NO AVAILABLE DATA"

5.3 Silver eel escapement surveys

"NO AVAILABLE DATA"

5.4 Biological parameters

No new data cf. Tunisia Country Report Master 2017

5.5 Parasites & Pathogens

No new data cf. Tunisia Country Report Master 2017

5.6 Contaminants

No new data cf. Tunisia Country Report Master 2017

5.7 Predators

"NO AVAILABLE DATA"

6 New Information

- New projects

MedSea4Fish : The GFCM programme for capacity development in the Mediterranean Sea contains actions concerning European Eel : data collection (recruitment, escapement to the sea, yellow eel) and socioeconomic survey

- New publications

- New and emerging threats

- ✓ Siltation in transition areas (tidal channels)
- ✓ Climate change (droughts, low rainfall)
- ✓ NIS (blue crab)

7 References:

DGPA. 2010a. Projet de Plan de Gestion Anguille de Tunisie. Direction Générale de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture. Ministère de l'agriculture, Tunisie. 108 pp.