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

Finland

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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Acknowledgments:

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1 Summary of national and international stock status indicators

1.1 Escapement biomass and mortality rates

No available data.

1.2 Recruitment time series

No available data.

2 Overview of the national stock and its management

2.1 Describe the eel stock and its management

There is no available data to provide stock indicators of silver eel escapement biomass and mortality rates. In Finland, eel is on its North-Eastern limit of natural geographical distribution. Natural eel populations have probably always been very sparse, and the overall importance of the species has been relatively low. In freshwaters, only in few areas in Southern parts of the country eel has been a target in the recreational fisheries. According to information from old fishers, the catch and the importance of eel to local fisheries was higher in 1940-1960 in some parts of the Gulf of Finland, mainly in the estuary of the river Kymijoki and east of the city of Kotka. Eel was also a common species in the Finnish Archipelago at that time.

Almost all rivers running to the Baltic Sea are closed by hydroelectric power plants. Today, natural eel migration is possible only in few freshwater systems near the coast and in the coastal areas of the Baltic Sea.

Eel populations and eel fisheries in Finnish inland waters depend almost completely on introductions and re-stockings. First introductions were conducted in 1893 but the most numerous introductions were made in the sixties and 1970's. During the years 1979-1988, importing eels was prohibited because eel was detected to be a possible carrier of some viral fish diseases. For this reason, it was decided in 1989 to carry on re-stockings only with glass eels reared in a careful quarantine. Since then, glass eels originating from River Severn in the UK have been imported through a Swedish quarantine and re-stocked in almost one hundred lakes in Southern Finland and in the Baltic Sea along the Southern coast of Finland. Post-Brexit, the glass eels into the Swedish quarantine have been imported from the River Garonne, France.

The Finnish EMP covers the whole Finnish national territory as one eel river basin. It is bounded to the ICES Ecoregion Baltic Sea. Terms used in the EMP to define natural habitats for the eel were:

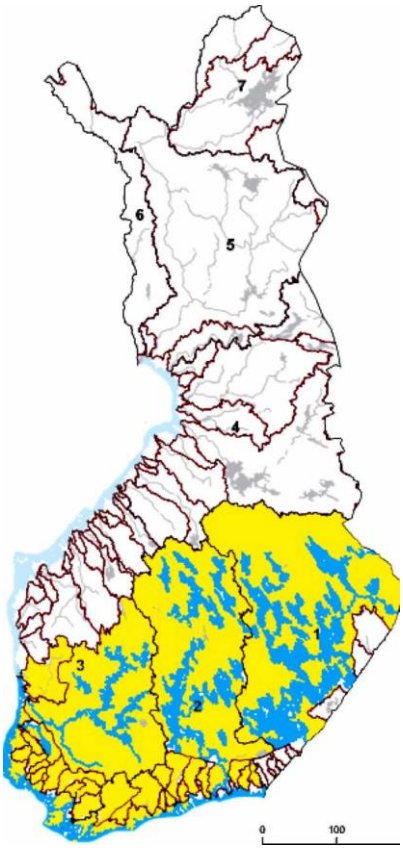
- outlet of the river basin is in Finland's national territory
- there has been natural migration of elvers before the damming of the rivers
- there have been considerable stockings lately
- there has been regular eel fishery

On the grounds of the terms, two categories with additional subcategories were defined:

A) Area of free migration includes all coastal waters of the Baltic and the inner archipelago to the depth of ten meters and the few small, undammed river basins running to the Baltic. The area was subdivided into two categories:

Aa) Reserve area (the Bothnian Bay area) where eels exist but for climatical and geographical reasons have always been very rare. Light blue coastal area in the map. The total area is 1783 km².

Ab) Main management area for the eel: the Gulf of Finland and the small, undammed river basins running to it. Deep blue coastal area in the map. The total area is 4677 km² for the coastal area and 382 km² for the small river basins. According to the EMP, stockings in this area compensate in the long run to the loss of silver eels in freshwaters.



B) Area where immigration of elvers is totally prevented because of the dams and the hydroelectric turbines in the dams have a severe negative effect on the escapement of silver eels. This area includes three major freshwater river basins; Vuoksi (number 1 in the map), Kymijoki (number 2) and Kokemäenjoki (number 3), and also some small water basins running to the Baltic. Yellow area in the map (main lakes in the area are coloured in deep blue). The total area is 20509 km². No management actions take place in this area.

The management actions are directed towards the free migration area (Ab, see above). Meanwhile, the management measures are not directed towards the dammed waters area (B, see above). The theoretical (40 % objective) natural eel production of dammed waters area was thought to be compensated by directing the substitutive additional measures towards the free migration area.

In the short-term, the restocking measures in the EMP were greatly increased. It was calculated that the total amount of glass eels needed for stocking purposes in first few years was about 530 000 individuals annually and 1 070 000 individuals annually thereafter. In the long-term, the purpose of restocking measures was to rebuild a sustainable eel stock in the free migration area complex. After this the restocking measures may gradually be cut down. The catch of eel fisheries was also to be monitored. Should the catch level rise too high in order to achieve the objective, proper restraint measures in fisheries should be applied accordingly.

The Finnish EMP was adopted in January 2010. No extra finance was given to fulfil the stocking plan. In twelve years almost 1,9 million eels have been stocked in total. In the beginning, 40-60% of the stocked fish were paid by private water owners mainly to benefit the local fisheries in the sea or in the freshwaters. Later, the motivation of restocking has changed toward helping the recovery of eel in Europe in larger scale. In last years, the Natural Resources Institute Finland has restocked quarantined glass eels in the coastal area from Vaasa to Vironlahti and lower reaches of small waterways below the dams closest to the coast, to improve the stock.

2.2 Significant changes since last report

Finland is updating the eel management plan. Currently the process is to update background documents, and the management plan is updated in 2025.

3 Impacts on the national stock

3.1 Fisheries

Finnish eel catches are very low and there are no fisheries targeting eel only. Annual catch estimates are available for professional and biennial estimates are available for recreational fisheries. Earlier studies suggest that most eels in Finland originate from restocking programs. It is possible to get limited number of eel samples from the fyke-net fisheries bycatch.

Since August 2022, catching of eels has been prohibited for a 11-month period (August-June) every year in coastal and fresh water, in both commercial and recreational fishery. Additionally, since 2023, recreational fishing has been prohibited in coastal waters throughout the year. For every illegally caught eel there has been an administrative penalty fee of 3510 € since 1.5.2019.

3.1.1 Glass eel fisheries

There are no glass eel fisheries in Finland as glass eels do not exist in Finland. Earlier studies have shown that all naturally migrating eels have reached yellow-eel stage when arriving to Finnish waters.

3.1.2 Yellow eel fisheries

There is no specific data on yellow eel fisheries. During 2008-2022 the total professional marine eel landings (yellow and silver together) varied between 609-2300 kg/year. In 2019, the catch was radically reduced to 299 kg, mainly due to the four months closure of fisheries. Since 2020,the catches have remained between 202 and 345 kg. The information on landings by the commercial fisheries are based in the sea on annual logbook data and in freshwaters until year 2016 on questionnaires made every second year to commercial and semi-commercial fishers. In freshwater commercial fisheries the number of fishers reporting eel catches grew when a new logbook-based registry was implemented from 2016 onwards. As a result, the reported landings of commercial fisheries in freshwater were 49 kg in 2016, 36 kg in 2017, 31 kg in 2018, 95 kg in 2019, and 150 kg in 2020. Landings for 2022 will be officially available in October 2023; most probably they will be of the same magnitude as in previous years.

During 2008-2020 in recreational fisheries the landings in freshwater have varied between 2000-11000 kg/year and in the sea from almost zero to 13000 kg/year. In recreational fisheries, the information on landings are based on data collected by questionnaires every second year. The data are collected with a postal survey. The sample is taken from the population information system maintained by the Population Register Centre. Data is collected from household-dwellings, the statistical unit of the survey. The big variation in the eel landings is mainly explained by the small sample size of only 6-7000 households.

There is no available data on the catch effort.

Table 1. Commercial landings (kg) of eels (yellow and silver together) in freshwater and sea from 2008 to 2019. (EMU = Fl Finl, NC = Not collected)

Year	Commercial Freshwater	Commercial Sea	Fl Finl altogether
2008	0	1000	1000
2009	NC	1800	1800
2010	0	2300	2300
2011	NC	1549	1549
2012	0	1539	1539
2013	NC	1307	1307
2014	0	1021	1021
2015	NC	609	609
2016	49	1277	1326
2017	36	1045	1081

Year	Commercial Freshwater	Commercial Sea	Fl Finl altogether
2018	31	1064	1095
2019	95	299	394
2020	150	202	352
2021	94	282	376
2022	2000	345	2345

Table 2. Recreational landings (kg, rounded to the nearest thousand)) of eels (yellow and silver together) in freshwaters and sea from 2008 to 2019. (EMU = Fl Finl, NC = Not collected). *=Landings <500 kg, rounded down to zero.

Year	Recreational Freshwater	Recreational Sea	Fl Finl altogether
2008	4000	13000	17000
2009	NC	NC	
2010	9000	1000	10000
2011	NC	NC	
2012	3000	2000	5000
2013	NC	NC	
2014	11000	9000	20000
2015	NC	NC	
2016	1000	7000	8000
2017	NC	NC	
2018	2000	0*	2000
2019	NC	NC	
2020	1000	1000	2000
2021	NC	NC	
2022	1000	4000	5000
2023	NC	NC	

3.1.3 Silver eel fisheries

There is no specific data on silver eel fisheries. See 3.1.2.

3.2 Restocking

No wild glass eels migrate to the Finnish coast. Earlier studies have shown that all naturally migrating eels have reached yellow-eel stage when arriving to Finnish waters. Instead, glass eels captured elsewhere are restocked to Finnish waters. All restocked glass eels are labelled with strontium chloride since 2009.

Since 1989, glass eels have been imported and stocked into Finnish freshwaters and coastal waters through a Swedish quarantine (Scandinavian Silver Eel). Origin of those glass eels has been mainly England (River Severn estuary) but recently, after Brexit, the glass eels into the Swedish quarantine have been imported from the River Garonne, France.

After the Finnish EMP approval in 2010 almost 1,9 million individuals (mean weight 1 g) have been stocked. Roughly a little bit more than half of the eels have been stocked directly into coastal waters where they can freely leave for spawning migration. About 20-30 % of those stocked into freshwaters are stocked in lakes which are directly connected to the sea or there is only one small dam between them and free migration.

Table 3. Amount of restocked quarantined glass eels in 2005-2020 in Finland.

Year	Freshwaters (no migration connection to the sea, or above hydroelectric dams)	Costal (free to migrate)	Fl Finl altogether
2005	20 500	43 500	64 000
2006	37 400	17 600	55 000
2007	68 500	38 500	107 000
2008	195 700	10 300	206 000
2009	113 300	4700	118 000
2010	75 000	78 000	153 000
2011	134 000	172 000	306 000
2012	109 000	68 000	177 000
2013	100 000	97 000	197 000
2014	85 000	62 000	147 000
2015	61 000	41 000	102 000
2016	40 000	39 000	79 000
2017	61 500	59 000	120 500
2018	22 500	59 000	81 500
2019	37 500	97 000	134 500
2020	45 500	84 000	129 500
2021	36 000	118 000	154 000
2022	45 500	60 500	106 000
2023	37 000	56 000	93 000
2024	0	0	0

3.3 Aquaculture

There is currently no eel aquaculture in Finland. In 2013, 40 000 glass eels (on grown ~1 g) were imported to aquaculture through the Swedish quarantine. According to the fish farmer (Polar Fish Oy) in 2014 and 2015 the import was 50 000 glass eels annually. Production was approximately 500 kg in both years. The information is based on discussions with the only eel farmer in the country. Farming was experimental and conducted in a recirculation system. There were still eels in that single farm in spring 2021.5hey have tried to sell 1000 kg for restocking but did not find a buyer. Average size of the fish in 2021 was about 30 cm, weight varied between 200-700 g.

3.4 Entrainment

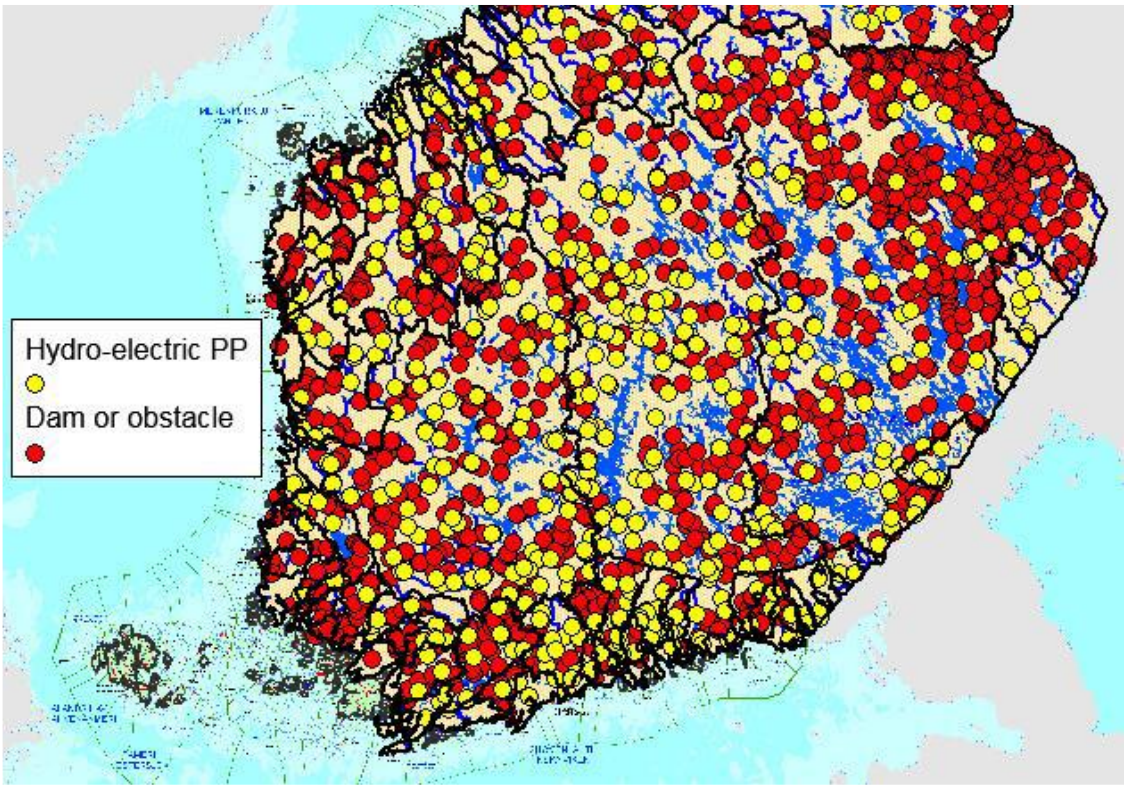


Figure 1. Hydro-electric power plants and other dams in Finland.

In southern Finland all big rivers are totally blocked for upriver migration. There are several hydro-electric power plants with turbines. Downstream migration for eels is almost impossible and mortality is high but unknown.

In the coastal area in some small watercourses from Virojoki to Vaasa migration is still possible.

3.5 Habitat Quantity and Quality

In the Vuoksi watercourse (brown in the map) eels have hardly existed because the rapids in Imatra have been too rough even for eels to climb up. Nowadays there are electric powerplants in the rapids. The habitat is suitable growing area for eels otherwise.

Lower reaches of the Kymijoki watercourse (blue in the map), Kokemäenjoki watercourse (red in the map) and the small coastal watercourses in the south and in the west (green in the map) have been the main distribution area of eel in Finland. All those watercourses are excellent growing areas for eels. However, in Kymijoki and Kokemäenjoki watercourses several hydroelectric dams have been built since 1920-1930 and upstream migration has been impossible since then. All eels there originate from stocking programmes. Downstream migration is possible but high mortality in turbines have been observed in both watercourses.

Of the 108 500 hectares in the small coastal watercourses from Vaasa in the west to Virojoki in the east only 37 800 hectares are still accessible for eels. From those areas it is also possible for eels to migrate downstream freely. In the same coastal region, there is still over 4 million hectares of suitable growing areas for eel in the Baltic (from shoreline to the depth of 10 meters) where free migration is possible.

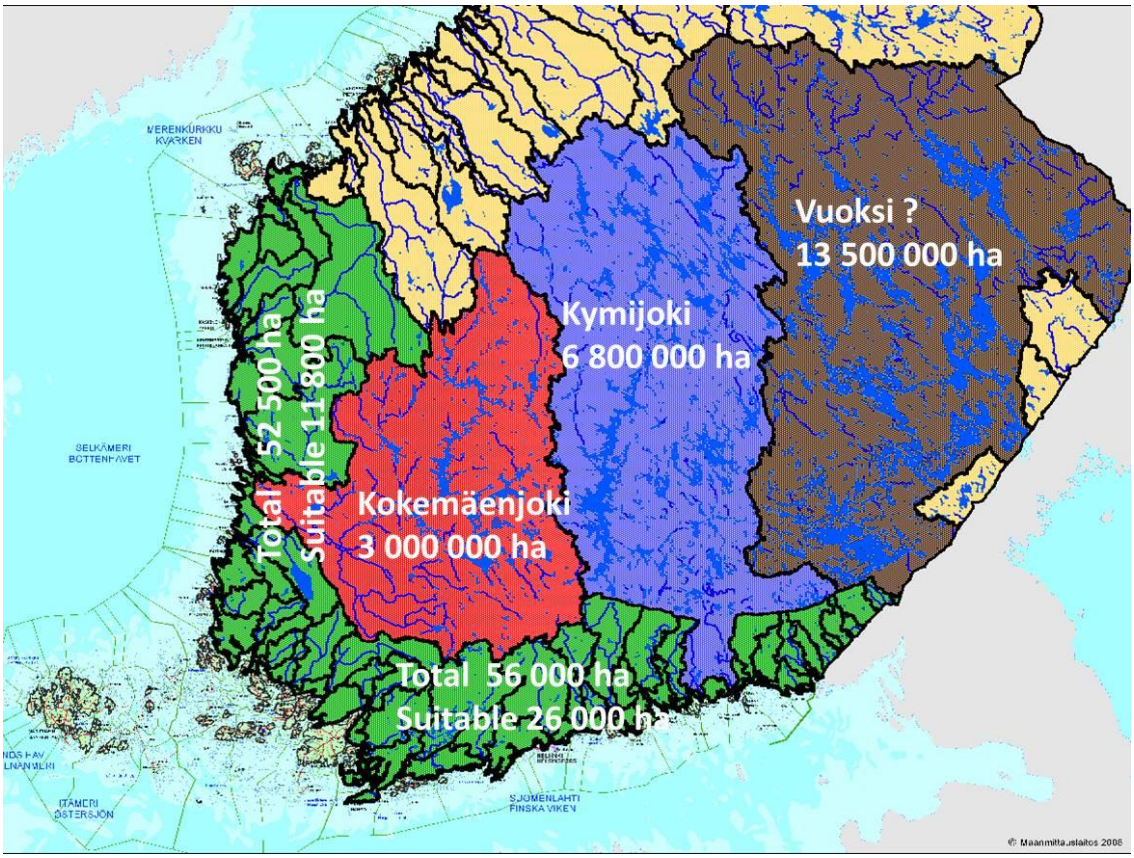


Figure 2. The three main watercourses and the small coastal watercourses in southern Finland and their water areas in hectares. Only in the coastal watercourses (green) there is approximately 30 000 hectares of suitable habitat left for natural migration of eels. In all other areas eel populations originate from stocking programmes.

3.6 Other impacts

4 National stock assessment

4.1 Description of Method

4.1.1 Data collection

Currently, no national stock assessment procedure is in place. In the near future, the current and upcoming data collection methods will be assessed and targeted towards the stock assessment.

4.1.2 Analysis

4.1.3 Reporting

4.1.4 Data quality issues and how they are being addressed

4.2 Trends in Assessment results

5 Other data collection for eel

5.1 Yellow eel abundance surveys

An index for the abundance of yellow eel and silver eel along the Finnish coast is obtained from fisheries statistics. Both yellow and silver eel are caught as bycatch in commercial and recreational fisheries. Eel has been also included in the EU Data Collection Programme in Finland since 2017. Since then, samples are collected along the Finnish coast to estimate the share of yellow/silver eels and restocked/wild eels (Table 4). Samples are collected in two locations in inland waters as well: lake Kulovesi (Kokemäenjoki watershed, Table 5) and lake Vesijärvi (Kymijoki watershed, Table 6), where all eels are supposed to be of restocked origin due to migration barriers. Samples were not received from the lake Kulovesi in 2020 and 2021 because the fishers had discontinued their operation, and in 2022 they did not catch any.

Samples have been collected in freshwaters with the help of local recreational fishers and in the sea by a commercial fisher. Fish have been collected mainly alive from the fishers but occasionally also as frozen. In few cases the fishers have measured (weight and length) the fish and delivered the head and the guts together with the length/weight data to Luke where otoliths have been removed and swim bladder examined for Anguillicola.

For every fish, the following information has been collected:

- Catching date and killing date
- Catching site
- Fishing gear
- Length
- Weight
- Sex (when possible)
- Colour (sides and belly)
- Vertical and horizontal diameter of the eye
- Length of the pectoral fin
- Weight of the gonad (only occasionally)
- Anguillicola (presence/absence, quantity, size)

For most age analysis, the grinding and polishing method has been used (Swedish style as described in ICES WKAREA Report 2009 in Bordeaux).

Table 4. Eel sample data caught in the sea (mainly Kotka area). The eels were caught as a bycatch in a commercial fisher's fyke nets. *Effort based on fisher´s announcement.

Year	n	mean length (mm)	mean weight (g)	mean age (min-max), years	Effort* (fish/fykenet/day)
2017	22	877	1350	*n/a*	
2018	83	849	1166	15,6 (8-26)	1,6
2019	46	845	1184	15,4 (8-24)	1,6
2020	94	832	1170	14,1 (7-26)	1,6
2021	30	812	1032	14,2 (9-20)	1,6
2022	27	817	1133	n/a	1,6
2023	119	816	1199	n/a	1,6

Table 5. Eel sample data caught in the lake Kulovesi. The eels were caught with longlines by a recreational fisher.

Year	n	mean length (mm)	mean weight (g)	mean age (min-max), years	Effort (fish/hook/night)
2017	35	743	911	*n/a*	n/a
2018	59	777	1048	20,2 (11-25)	0,06
2019	51	755	883	21,4	0,05

Table 6. Eel sample data caught in the lake Vesijärvi. The eels were caught with small fykenets by a recreational fisher. *=weights estimated by the fisher before release

Year	n	mean length (mm)	mean weight (g)	mean age (min-max), years	Effort* (fish/trap/day)
2017	36	905	1431	*n/a*	1,05
2018	80	882	1301	19,5 (10-41)	1,65
2019	11	867	1226	19,4 (12-21)	1,14
2020	74	914	1473	20,8 (12-42)	1,85
2021	51	916	1553	20,5 (13-23)	1,65
2022	68	n/a	1095	n/a	2,1
2023	23	n/a	1270*	n/a	0,57

5.2 Silver eel escapement surveys

An index for the silver eels migrating from Finland is obtained from two sites. There is an eel trap in the River Vääksynjoki and an echosounder (DIDSON/ARIS) in River Kokemäenjoki.

Trap in the River Vääksynjoki

Vääksynjoki runs from the Lake Vesijärvi in the upper reaches of the Kymijoki watercourse, 150 km from the sea. The trap catches all eel migrating downstream in the beginning of their spawning migration. The eel caught in this trap are tagged and released into the Baltic Sea in the River Kymijoki estuary (downstream of all hydropower dams). All eel are originally restocked in the lake Vesijärvi. During 2014-2023, more than 3500 eel have been caught and transported to the sea.

Table 4. Eels trapped in the river Vääksynjoki and transported to the sea during 2014-2023.

Year	n	mean length, cm	length (min-max), cm	mean weight, g	weight, (min-max), g
2014	189	93	78-115	1520	744-2637
2015	337	93	71-119	1492	743-3060
2016	298	93	65-113	1506	450-2610
2017	196	94	60-113	1581	401-3394
2018	371	94	67-116	1464	559-2752
2019	428	94	69-116	1469	511-2651
2020	174	92	65-116	1411	545-2588
2021	377	92	64-115	1453	492-3066
2022	662	91	69-114	1369	638-3234
2023	537	90	63-113	1340	469-2516

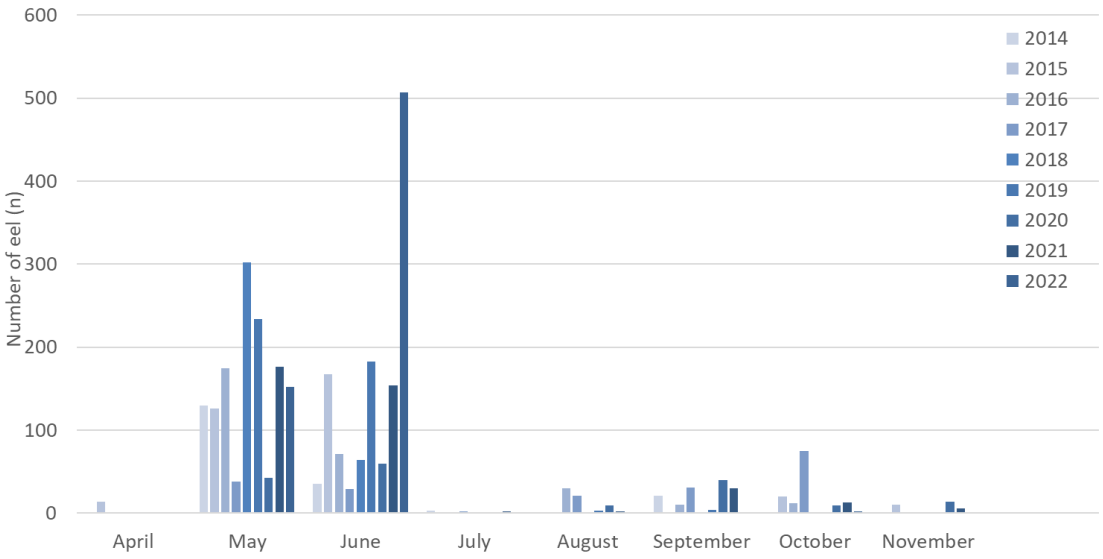


Figure 3. Seasonal variation in the silver eel catches in the trap in the river Vääksynjoki.

Tagging experiments since 2014 with the "trap and transport" eels from the River Vääksynjoki and Ultrasound tagging in 2020

All fish caught in Vääksynjoki since 2014 have been marked with T-anchor or Carlin tags and transported to the sea to the mouth of the River Kymijoki in Ahvenkoski. Recovery data on fish tags during 2014-2018 were obtained in 2019. So far, in total 47 tags have been recovered, more than half of them from Finnish territorial waters. From the rest of the Baltic Sea, there have been four returns from Estonia, two from Poland, five from Germany, three from Denmark and four from Sweden.

Returns from Finland are all less than 20 km east of the release site. Not a single fish has been caught from the western Gulf of Finland or the Archipelago Sea. In total, the return data has been obtained by 3.5% of the tagged fish. On average, the fish had swum for 134 days before being caught. The fish that migrated to Germany and Denmark had reached that distance of 1000-1200 km in an average of 270 days. The fastest fish (14 km/day) had reached the Danish Straits in 84 days. The eel that made the longest journey was the slowest of the set (1.7 km/day) and was caught in the Danish straits after 2 years and 37 days of the mark.

Eel catching has decreased since 2010 in the whole Baltic Sea region. During the winter of 2018-2019, the eel was for the first time tranquilized from commercial catching in marine areas of the European Union, including the Baltic Sea. This has potentially reduced tag returns, especially from the southern Baltic Sea of the coasts of Poland, Germany and Denmark.

In the autumn of 2019, the clearing of the eel trek in the Baltic Sea received a new boost when the Danish University of Technology (DTU) placed acoustic ultrasonic receivers in the Danish Straits. Receivers record an identified sighting of a fish whenever a transmitter marked fish overtakes a receiver and an extremely endangered fish does not need to be caught for information.

The "trap and transport" work is still ongoing, and more tag returns are expected. Similarly, there are plans to continue ultrasound tagging in the future. In 2022-2024, a pilot study was conducted in Lake Vesijärvi where silver eels are captured using fyke nets, tagged, and transported to the sea.

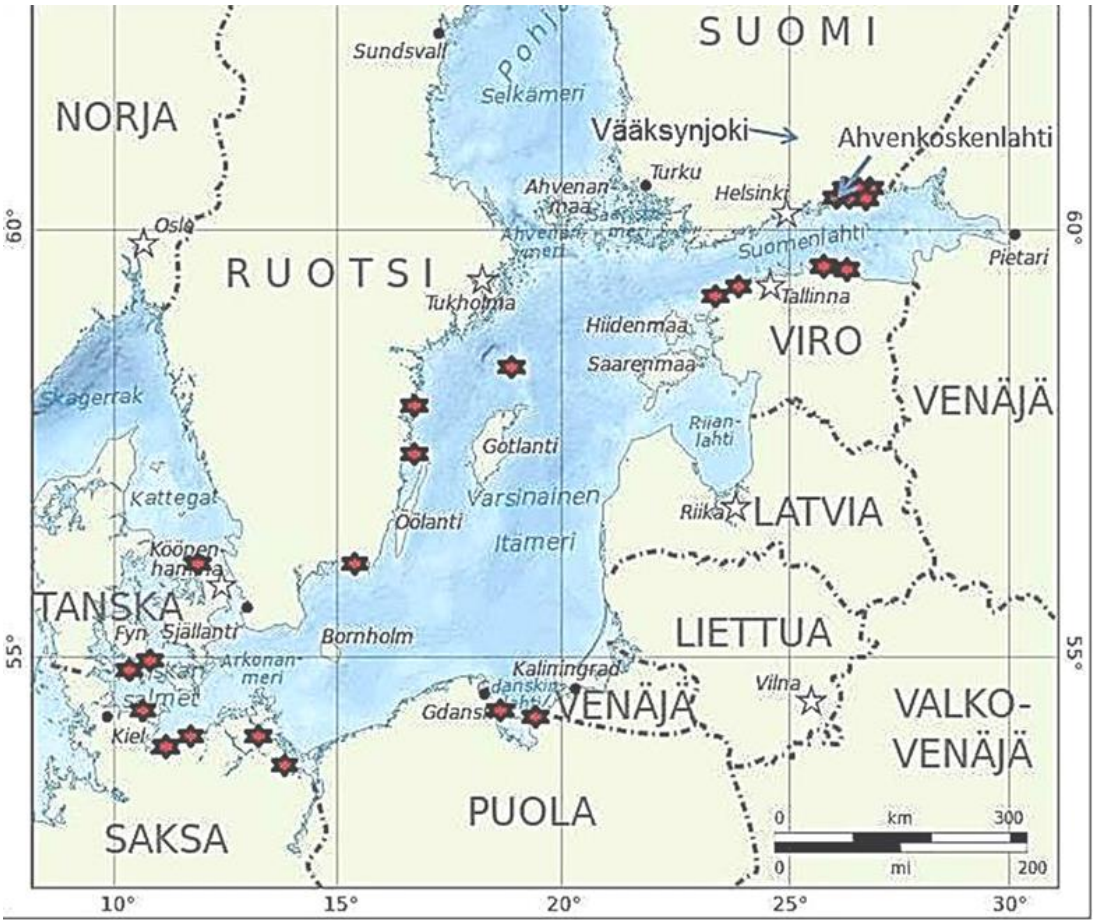


Figure 4. Recovery sites of eels caught in Vääksynjoki tagged and released in the Ahvenkoski during 2014-2018.

Echosounder in the River Kokemäenjoki

DIDSON echosounder has been used in autumns in 2011 and 2012 and in spring in 2013 to monitor downstream migration of silver eels in Nokia in the upper reaches of the Kokemäenjoki watercourse above the uppermost dam. In autumn 2013 monitoring was done in Pämpinkoski downstream the same watercourse and downstream of all the five electrical power plants. Observations are presented in the table below.

Date	Observed Ind., n	Mean length, cm	Length (min-max), cm
Location: Nokia			
12.9.-11.10.2011	221	90,5	63-123
27.9.-8.11.2012	314	85,6	51-111
17.4.-13.5.2013	98	89,1	61-115
Location: Pämpinkoski			
11.9.-23.10.2013	122	81,8	47-112

In 2018 autumn, monitoring was done few kilometres downstream Pämpinkoski only few kilometers from the sea. The river at the site is rather wide (80 m) and only part of it (20-40 m) is covered by the DIDSON. The activity of the eels was at its peak in the second half of October:113 eels were observed, half of them going downstream and half upstream. It is unclear how many true migrating silver eels there were and which were of the local population of yellow

eels. Water level and stream velocity fluctuates there greatly daily due to the electric power plants upstream and might also mix up the orientation of the migrating eels.

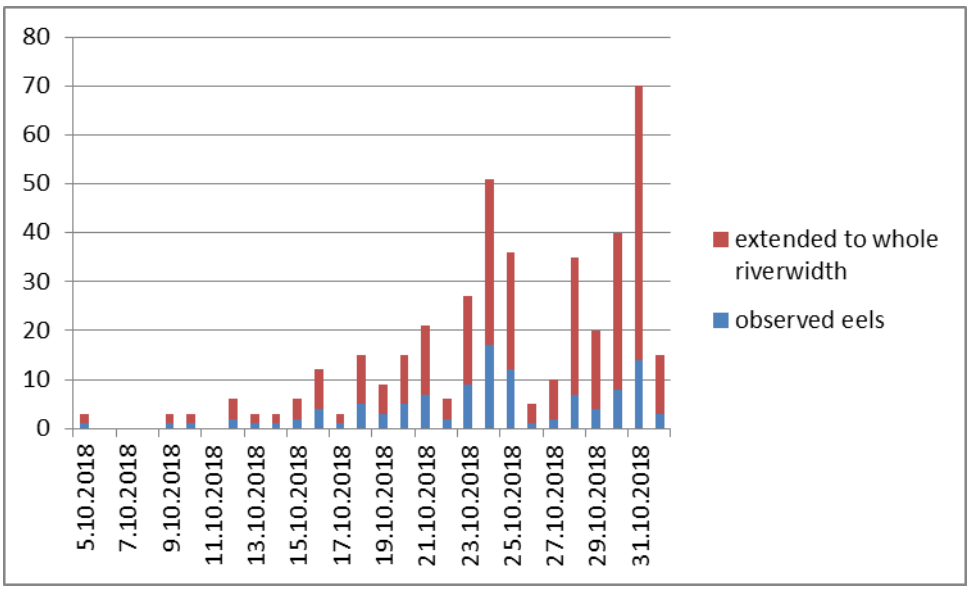


Figure 4. Eel activity in the lower reaches of the River Kokemäenjoki in autumn 2018. Both upstream and downstream migrating eels included

Year 2019 was the first time monitoring was possible through the whole ice free period. Monitoring began in May and lasted until November. DIDSON was installed in Pämpinkoski where the eel were previously mostly migrating downstream and where it was possible to cover almost 50 % of the river width (80 % of the deepest section of the main). In the year 2019 875 eels were observed to swim downstream. In 2020, the number of eels was 236, in 2021 only 115, and in 2022 it was 318. In 2023, the DIDSON was replaced with an ARIS sonar, and the number of eels was 180.

5.3 Life history parameters

During 1974-1994 over 2000 eels were collected in thirty lakes and in some lake outlets in Southern Finland. Length, weight, eye diameter, colour of the sides and belly, sex and weight of the gonads (not always) were determined and after 1986 also swim bladders were examined for Anguillicola. Age and growth were also determined. The aim of the study was to evaluate the biological outcome of eel stockings made in 1960's and 1970's and to estimate the yield to fishery and the proportions of eels escaping the lakes. The results were published mainly in 1980's (Pursiainen & Toivonen 1984, Pursiainen & Tulonen 1986, Tulonen 1988, Tulonen 1990, Tulonen & Pursiainen 1992).

There were no routine biological sampling programmes or eel research projects during 1994-2005. Some occasional samples were taken in few lakes on the author's personal interest. Also in some small water systems silver eel escapement has been monitored since 1974 (one place), 1980 (two places) and 1989 (two places) with eel boxes in the outlets. Eels in the lakes have been re-stocked there in 1967, 1978 and 1989 respectively.

In 2006, a four-year study on the biological and economical outcome of eel stockings made since 1989 and on the state of natural eel stocks was established in FGFRI. The main goal was to compile the facts and other biological data about eels in Finland to the Eel Management Plan. In the study some sampling was also done in ten lakes in southern Finland and in eight areas in the Baltic along the coasts of Gulf of Finland and Bothnian Bay and in the rivers running into them.

Due to sparse populations the sample sizes are only in few cases big enough (>100 ind.) to make any scientific evaluations. Since 2010 there has been sampling in the most interesting locations.

European eel maturation

The first observation of a spontaneously matured female European eel was made in an aquarium house (Maretarium) in the city of Kotka. The 43-year-old eel, together with eleven other females, resided at the aquarium house since their capture in 2002 and stocking as glass eels in 1978. In June 2019, the girth of the belly of the female increased as a sign of oocyte maturation. The specimen had an estimated gonadosomatic index (GSI) of 47, only half of the oocytes were hydrated and matured, indicating that European eels are polycyclic batch spawners. The live eels of the cohort were still in the previtellogenic phase but their eye sizes were close to that of the matured eel. It was hypothesized that substances released by other maturing and spawning fishes may have triggered puberty of the eel. This first observation, and the possibility of more eels maturing in the near future, provides a natural reference for the sexual maturation of the European eel. Monitoring of the maturation process continues.

5.4 Diseases, Parasites & Pathogens or Contaminants

One sample of "natural" elvers has been collected in 2002 in South-West Finland and on the coast of the Bothnian Bay. One third of the elvers were infected with Anguillicola. This was the first time Anguillicola ever found in Finland (Tulonen 2002). Since then, Anguillicola has spread almost to every eel population in the sea and after 2007 also to some freshwater populations where it is still spreading.

The concentrations of radionuclides 134Cs and 137Cs and PCB in eels were investigated in 1995 (Tulonen & Saxen 1996, Tulonen & Vuorinen 1996).

6 New Information

The sampling protocols have continued in 2024. Since August 2022, catching of eels has been prohibited for a 11-month period (August-June) every year in coastal and fresh water, in both commercial and recreational fishery. Additionally, since 2023, recreational fishing has been prohibited in coastal waters throughout the year.

In 2022-2024, a pilot study conducted in Lake Vesijärvi where silver eels were captured using commercial fyke nets, measured, and transported to the sea. The primary results were promising and in the autumn 2024, the plan is to test the same approach in another waterbody, Kokemäenjoki with acoustic tagging.

Finland is updating the eel management plan in 2025. In 2024, work has started to collect all necessary background information, including literature and interviews.

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