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**Our Ref: H4/ACB/IM/hgj**

14 November 2019

**Subject: Data call 2019 in response to the EU Commission request to ICES for scientific advice on eel migration and fishing closure periods**

Dear Reader,

Please find enclosed a document describing the rationale, scope and technical details of the data call for the 2020 work of the Workshop on Migration Patterns of European Eel (WKEELMIGRATION). Also, enclosed are three annexes with additional information.

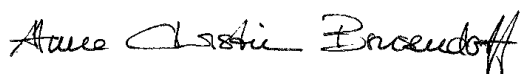
The data will be used by WKEELMIGRATION to conduct an assessment of the eel stock and factors affecting the stock.

For countries which are also EU members this data call is under the Council Regulation (EC) No 2017/1004. The deadline for this data call is Monday 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2019.

For questions about the content of the data call, please contact: [advice@ices.dk](mailto:advice@ices.dk). For questions on data submission, please contact: [data.call@ices.dk](mailto:data.call@ices.dk).

The data call will also be available from the ICES website at: <http://ices.dk/marine-data/tools/Pages/Data-calls.aspx>.

Sincerely,



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**CIEM**

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## Data Call Table of Contents

<b>1. Scope of the Data call .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2. Rationale .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3. Legal framework.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4. Deadlines.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5. Data to report.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5.1 Geographic and temporal scope .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5.2 Data types.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6. Data submission.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7. Contact information .....</b>	<b>6</b>

## **Data call 2019 in response to the EU Commission request to ICES for scientific advice on eel migration and fishing closure periods**

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### **1. Scope of the Data call**

ICES Member Countries, EIFAAC Member Countries and GFCM Member Countries with the natural range of the European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*, Code EEL) are requested to provide the following for European eel in waters of the European Union:

- Data on landings from commercial fisheries in 2000–2019 (inclusive), at monthly and eel management unit scales;
- Timing and geographic scale of closures of commercial and recreational fisheries from 2000–2019 (inclusive), at monthly and eel management unit scales;
- Timing of eel migrations; and
- Metadata associated with the above, describing the name and e-mail address of the Data Steward, and comments / description of the methods.

### **2. Rationale**

The data requested will be used by the ICES Workshop on Eel Migrations (WKEELMIGRATION) to support the provision of ICES advice to the European Commission on the temporal migration patterns and related fisheries of European eel.

This is a joint call from EIFAAC, ICES and GFCM to seek data from all EU countries within the natural range of the European eel. Please note that the absence of DCF/EU MAP activity should not exempt countries from reporting.

### **3. Legal framework**

All the governments and intergovernmental commissions requesting and receiving advice from ICES have signed international agreements under UNCLOS 1995<sup>1</sup> Fish Stocks agreement article 5 and 6 (to incorporate fisheries impacts on other components of marine ecosystems) and WSSD 2002 article 30 (to implement an ecosystem approach in relation to oceans policy including fisheries).

For EU Member States, this Data call is under the DCF regulation ((EC) No 2017/1004, and Commission Decision 2016/1251/EU) and in particular, Article 17(3) of regulation (EC) No 2017/1004 which states “..requests made by end-users of scientific data in order to serve as a basis for advice to fisheries management, Member States shall ensure that relevant detailed and aggregated data are updated and made available to the relevant end-users of scientific data within the deadlines set in the request,..” Please note that the absence of DCF/EU MAP activity should not exempt countries from reporting.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations (UN). 2011. Agreement related to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. Available at: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N95/274/67/PDF/N9527467.pdf?OpenElement>

In addition, this call is under Council Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, Council Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007 of 18 September 2007 establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel and Council Regulation (EU) 2019/124 of 30 January 2019 fixing for 2019 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters.

This Data call follows the principles of personal data protection, as referred to in paragraph (9) of the preamble in Council Regulation (EC) No 2017/1004.

## 4. Deadlines

The deadline to deliver the data is Monday 16th of December 2019. Missing the reporting deadline will compromise the indispensable data quality checking before the use of that data in WKEELMIGRATION.

## 5. Data to report

### 5.1 Geographic and temporal scope

Ideally, all data should be provided by eel management unit (EMU); if not possible report on the next higher aggregate level (i.e. larger scale). In addition, for life stage and habitat, data should be provided on the lowest aggregate level possible, i.e. available options for combinations of life stages (e.g. yellow/silver eel) or habitats (e.g. freshwater and transitional waters) should only be used if separate data are not available.

The geographic scope is all waters (marine and inland waters) of countries in the European Union within the natural range of the European eel. The data should be reported at the geographic scale of EMU or equivalent water body, where possible.

It is understood that in some circumstances, fishery closures have been applied a more local scale than the EMU, and that multiple different closures may have been applied within a single EMU. This understandably complicates the reporting at EMU-scale. To accommodate this, the country is asked to estimate the proportion of the EMU that is closed under this year-month-EMU circumstance.

The temporal scope is every month of every year from 2000 to 2019, inclusive. However, in circumstances where no data are available for a whole year, the submission should use the 'whole year' option rather than creating month-by-month entries with no data. The same principle applies if there is any country where, for example, there are no landings or closures from any water and the 'whole country' option can be used; but this should not be used where data per EMU are available.

### 5.2 Data types

Three data types are requested in this call:

#### 5.2.1 Commercial Landings (Annex 1)

- Commercial landings data are defined as the quantity of eel that are harvested (in kg) and brought to land. That is, they include regular landings from fisheries.
- Landings data should be provided for all months in all years when fisheries operated, but not for years when no fisheries operated. When the landings correspond to a partial closure during one month, please indicate this in the corresponding fisheries closure sheet.
- Landings data should be provided for each EMU where fisheries operated, but not for EMU where there have been no fisheries. When or where landings cannot be attributed to an EMU, for example if landings were recorded to a different spatial scale before EMPs (eel management plans) were implemented, select the closest EMU or spatial scale (this may be national).
- Data should be provided as monthly total values in kg.

- Data should be provided according to life stage (glass (G), yellow (Y), silver (S)). Only when it is not possible to separate, a mixing of yellow and silver eel (YS) should be used in the reports. Do not use any other stage for landings.
- Data should be provided according to habitat\_type (freshwater (F), transitional (T), coastal (C), marine open (MO)) but only for commercial fisheries. Only when it is not possible to separate, a mixing of habitats (AL) should be used in the reports.
- An area division should only be provided for Marine Open and Transitional waters.

#### 5.2.2 Fishery closure periods (Annex 2)

- Report data for any year/month/EMU/fishery combination where a closure was introduced. Report data for both commercial and recreational fisheries.
- Fishery closure data should be reported for all years from 2000 to 2019 (both years included), repeating the years even if the seasonality did not change.
- Fishery closure data should be provided for all months in all years when fisheries operated, but not for years when no fisheries operated. When the landings correspond to a partial closure during one month, please indicate this in the corresponding fisheries closure sheet.
- Fishery closure data should be provided for each EMU where fisheries operated, but not for EMU where there have been no fisheries. When or where landings cannot be attributed to an EMU, for example if landings were recorded to a different spatial scale before EMPs were implemented, select the closest EMU or spatial scale (this may be national).
- Data should be provided in three columns.
  - fishery\_closure\_type describes if a seasonal closure is enforced. T total, P partial, N fishery allowed, NR non relevant;
  - fishery\_closure\_percent gives a number between 0 and 100 indicating the percentage of the reduction in the allowed period for the selected month. For example, a closure for half the month for the entire EMU in transitional water for Silver eel, or in one river corresponding to half of the Yellow eel landings in Freshwater in the EMU would lead to an estimate of 50 (percent). This percentage could also describe more complex situations in the Baltic when the closure is chosen per fisherman. These values are expected to be rough estimates given to qualify the value given when the closure is partial;
  - When changes are made to seasonality as a consequence of the implementation of the EMP, or in response to the EU closures in 2018 and 2019, these should be commented upon in this column.
- Reason\_for\_closure should be recorded only as the three drop down options: EMP, EU Closure, Other, i.e. do not try to further explain Other in this column, although an explanation can be inserted in the eel\_comment column if you wish.
- Data should be provided according to life stage (glass (G), yellow (Y), silver (S)) and fishing activity type (commercial or recreational). Only when it is not possible to separate, a mixing of yellow and silver eel (YS) should be used in the reports.
- Data should be provided according to habitat\_type (freshwater (F), transitional (T), coastal (C), marine open (MO)) and fishing activity type (commercial or recreational). Only when it is not possible to separate, a mixing of habitats (AL) should be used in the reports.
- An area division should only be provided for Marine Open and Transitional waters.

### 5.2.3 Season of migration (Annex 3)

- Seasonality of migrations and standing stock data should be reported from scientific surveys on recruitment, silver eel escapement, or experimental fishing/surveys on yellow eel providing results on the seasonality of abundance.
- First fill in the series description in the series\_info sheet. Be sure that all columns are completed and ensure especially that the coordinates (Lat-Lon in columns ser\_x and ser\_y) of the series are provided in the wgs84 (decimal degree) format. Describe the stages and the method used to collect data in the “ser\_comment”, describe the location of the series in “ser\_location”. If this series relates to an existing dataseries in the ICES glass, yellow or silver eel series, you just need to fill in the “ser\_nameshort” column.
- Once this is done use the “nameshort” of the series to provide all lines for one series in the data sheet. Provide the maximum of month. Provide detailed data for different years.

## 6. Data submission

The format for data submission has been developed based on that designed by the WGEEL for populating its ‘eel database’, to maximize data compatibility and facilitate analyses. The data must be submitted using the templates supplied in Annexes 1–3 to this Data call. A detailed list of data formats, instructions and codes can be found in Annexes 1–3. Whenever the input is constrained (in the form of a drop down menu), do not use any input other than the given options. Also, ICES area should not be provided for freshwater. Please refer to dictionary tables (labelled tr...) in the sheets, and follow the detailed instructions about stages in the following annex description.

In the case of GFCM Experts and/or Focal Points participating in WGEEL, please complete the Annexes 1–3 to for this Data call to the extent possible and, when submitting them to ICES, also send a copy to the GFCM DCRF team ([DCRF@gfcmonline.org](mailto:DCRF@gfcmonline.org)) for information.

Data files should be submitted to [data.call@ices.dk](mailto:data.call@ices.dk) in as few e-mails as possible. Both e-mail subject and file name must include working group, country, and data type references.

"2019 DC WKEELMIGRATION [country] [type of data] " (example: 2019 DC WKEELMIGRATION FR SEASONALITY)

## 7. Contact information

- For questions on data submission, please contact: [data.call@ices.dk](mailto:data.call@ices.dk)
- For questions on general advice, please contact: [advice@ices.dk](mailto:advice@ices.dk)
- For support concerning on technical issues about the data call (i.e. annexes) please contact:
  - Cédric Briand. WGEEL Stock Assessor. E-mail: [Cedric.Briand@eptb-vilaine.fr](mailto:Cedric.Briand@eptb-vilaine.fr)
  - Jan-Dag Pohlmann. WGEEL Stock Coordinator. E-mail: [jan.pohlmann@thuenen.de](mailto:jan.pohlmann@thuenen.de)



- For support concerning the WGEEL and WKEELMIGRATION, please contact the chair:
  - Alan Walker. Chair. E-mail: [Alan.walker@cefas.co.uk](mailto:Alan.walker@cefas.co.uk)