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Joint ICES/GFCM/EIFAAC Eel Data Call 2020

1. Scope of the Data call

This Data call is addressed to those countries within the geographic range of the European eel. These countries are distributed across different global and regional management organisations such as those represented in WGEEL (EIFAAC, ICES, GFCM).

Table 1. List of species.

Common name	ASFIS Code	Scientific name
European eel	ELE	<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>

In this 2020 Data call, ICES, EIFAAC and GFCM ask for submission of all available eel data, including historical data that have not yet been integrated to the WGEEL database.

2. Rationale

This Data call is intended to formalize data reporting across all countries with natural production of European eel to support the provision of ICES advice on the European eel stock.

The data provided for the Data call 2020 will be used as the basis for the annual stock assessment in support of the advice for the eel stock, and will be integrated in an electronic database for the European Eel stock. This database will be used as basis for advice across the natural range of the European eel.

This is a joint call from ICES, EIFAAC and GFCM to seek data from all range states of the European eel.

3. Legal framework

The legal framework for the Data call is as follows, though noting that these don't all apply to every eel producing country:

- Council Regulation (EC) No 2017/1004 concerning the establishment of a Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy.
- Council Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2371/2002 and E(EC) No 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC.
- Council Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007 of 18 September 2007 establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel.

Generically, all the governments and intergovernmental commissions requesting and receiving advice from ICES have signed international agreements under UNCLOS 1995*. For non-EU states with fisheries operating in the North Atlantic, there is a requirement to make fisheries data available to support fisheries management under OSPAR, HELCOM, and UNCLOS.

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.

* 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>

4. Deadlines

The data is requested to be delivered by **21st August 2020**. This deadline is set to provide enough time for additional quality assurance prior to the WGEEL meeting. Missing the reporting deadline will compromise the indispensable data quality checking (on a stock basis) before the use of that data to update assessments.

5. Data to report

5.1. Geographic and temporal scope

The geographic scope is all waters (marine and inland waters) of countries within the natural range of the European eel. The data should be reported at the geographic scale of Eel Management Unit (EMU) or equivalent water body, where possible, except for aquaculture data which needs to be reported per country.

The temporal scope is 2000 to 2019 inclusive: however, this comprises all historical data for new time series (not previously submitted). For glass eel recruitment series only, the scope includes 2020 (i.e. all years not previously submitted, up to and including 2020). The temporal unit is per year.

5.2 Data Types

To allow the data stewards to compare their national data with the content of the WGEEL database, data submitted for previous data calls were extracted and made available to each national correspondent or data submitter as part of this data call (see below).

In this 2020 Data call, we ask for submission of all available eel data (with the respective metadata), including historical data that have not yet been integrated to the WGEEL database, for European eel on:

Time series of empirical data (no model output):

- Recruitment (glass eel and yellow eel recruitment time series).
- Yellow eel abundance indices. Note, that these do not refer to yellow eel recruitment time series, but only to those indices that provide a measure of the standing stock.
- Silver eel abundance indices.

Annual update on:

- Landings for commercial fisheries
- Landings for recreational fisheries
- Landings related to transport/relocation operations (when eels have been collected somewhere in traps and transported to other places where they appear as release, this sheet is to be used to collect capture information)
- Releases
- Aquaculture production

Alongside each of these eel data, we request the following metadata:

- Data Steward: name and email address of a person who can be contacted about the dataset.
- Method used: short description of the method used to collect the data.
- Indication on whether there was change brought to existing data.

Further instructions are found in the readme section in the data input sheets of Annexes 1 to 8, in text-boxes attached to the sheets

For the series data types (annexes 1-3), data have been pre-filled in the 'new data' based on existing series. Delete rows that are not available and fill in new data in the rows prepared for you, where available. Since 2019, biometry data are attached to the time series and will be used to qualify and analyse the time series.

Data for commercial and recreational landings (annex 4 and 5), as currently entered in the database, do not allow to fully check for missing data. When a category of data is not present (e.g. glass eel landings, or yellow eel recreational landings), ICES WGEEL needs to know whether these data have not been integrated, because they:

- i) simply do not exist (e.g. glass eel fishery simply never occurred at that place); in that case data would be not pertinent (NP),
- ii) because it has not been collected or reported yet (NC).

ICES WGEEL rebuilds missing data in some of the tables by using GLM (generalized linear model) prediction so this information is important. For this reason, an analysis of missing data has been carried out for the last 20 years, and pre-filled data are reported to the national correspondents for validation. In the same sheet, pre-filled data for the data expected to be reported this year as continuation of the existing series are also entered. These lines need to be either edited if data are available, or deleted if data are not yet reported.

Concerning all Annexes, if any of the values already integrated require corrections/an update (e.g. due to incomplete reporting in past data calls), please provide the corrections by copying the old line of data and make corrections in the dedicated "updated data" sheet.

6. Data submission

The data should be submitted using the templates supplied in Annexes 1–8 of this Data call.

In the case of GFCM Experts and/or Focal Points participating in WGEEL, please complete the Annexes 1–8 to for this Data call as much as it is possible and, when submitting them to ICES, also

send a copy to the GFCM DCRF team (DCRF@gfcmonline.org) for information. The annexes are adapted to each country, so for instance a country will not receive an annex related to aquaculture if aquaculture data was never reported for that country; please notify the WGEEL stock coordinator (cedric.briand@eptb-vilaine.fr) if you have data to report but the relevant annex is missing.

Data files should be submitted to 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.

"2020 DC WGEEL [country] [type of data] " (example: 2020 DC WGEEL FR SEASONALITY)

7. Contact information

- Send all data submissions (and questions concerning data submissions) to: data.call@ices.dk
- For questions on general advice, please contact: advice@ices.dk
- For support concerning issues about the data call (i.e. annexes), please contact:
 - o Cédric Briand. WGEEL Stock Coordinator. Email: cedric.briand@eptb-vilaine.fr
 - o Hilaire Drouineau. WGEEL Stock Assessor. Email: hilaire.drouineau@irstea.fr
- For support concerning the WGEEL, please contact the chair: Jan-Dag Pohlmann. Chair. Email: jan.pohlmann@thuenen.de