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**Our Ref: H.4/ACB/hgj/ck**

**21 May 2021**

**Subject: ICES Eel Data Call 2021**

Dear Reader,

Please find enclosed a document describing the rationale, scope and technical details of the Eel Data call for the 2021. Also, enclosed are up to 15 annexes (depending on the country, see below) with the Data Call templates to fill.

The data will be used by WGEEL to conduct an assessment of the eel stock status and factors affecting the stock in support of the recurrent ICES Advice, and ICES workshop(s) to address tasks to evaluate Eel Management Plan progress as reported by EU Member States in terms of monitoring, effectiveness and outcome, in support of the special request from the EC to ICES.

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 30th of August 2021.

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: <https://www.ices.dk/data/tools/Pages/Data-calls.aspx>

Sincerely,



Anne Christine Brusendorff

General Secretary

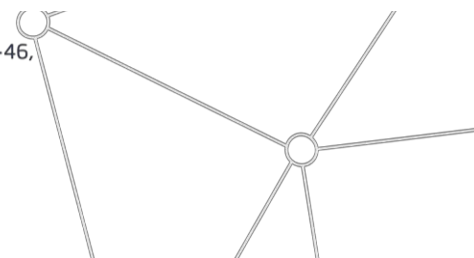
**CC:** Jan-Dag Pohlmann (WGEEL chair), Cédric Briand (WGEEL Stock Coordinator); Hilaire Drouineau (WGEEL Stock Assessor); Elisabetta Betulla Morello (GFCM), Teppo Vehanen (EIFAAC), Ciara O'Leary (EIFAAC), DG MARE.



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# Joint ICES/GFCM/EIFAAC Eel Data Call 2021

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## 1. Scope of the Data Call

This Data Call is limited to European eel (Table 1) and is addressed to all the countries within the geographic range of the European eel (North Atlantic, Baltic and Mediterranean Seas, and inland waters). These countries are distributed across different global and regional management organizations such as those represented in WGEEL (EIFAAC, ICES, GFCM).

Data submitters will be supplied with tables of the historical data hosted by the WGEEL and are asked to provide any revisions plus new data, for:

- Time series of recruits, yellow eel abundance and silver eel abundance
- Commercial, recreational and other fisheries landings
- Releases of eel to other waters, and
- Aquaculture production

In addition, data submitters are requested to submit all available eel data for

**From 2000 onwards:**

- Numbers of recreational fishers
- Fishing effort
- Recreational fisheries catches (including released to same waters)

**From 2007 onwards:**

- Anthropogenic mortality rates
- Biomass indicators
- The uses of eel caught of less than 12 cm length

**From most recent year where available:**

- An overview of the Eel Management Plan
- A description of the monitoring of effectiveness and outcome of measures

Data Call Annexes should be accompanied with a scientific report outlining the methods used to calculate the Biomass Indicators (see sections 5 and 6 for details of data types and annexes).

EU countries are also requested to provide additional information in support of the EU non-recurrent request for the '*Technical evaluation of the EU Member States' progress reports for submission in 2021*'. Member states will be provided with prefilled tables (see section 5 and 6 for details of data types and annexes)

**Table 1. List of species.**

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

## 2. Rationale

This is an ICES data call to seek data from all the countries within the geographic range of the European eel.

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

The additional data requested to EU countries will be used in support of the EU special request (*Non-recurrent request to ICES for technical evaluation of the EU Member States' progress reports for submission in 2021*). Some of the data required to answer the special request are specified in articles 9, 10 and 11 of the EC 1100/2007.

### 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.
- Commission Delegated Decision EU 2019/910 establishing the multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of biological, environmental, technical and socioeconomic data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors
- 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.

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\* 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>

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 data is requested to be delivered by **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2021**. 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 (including FAO major fishing areas 27, 34 and 37). 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 unit is per year. The default temporal scope is 2000 to 2020 inclusive: however, this comprises all historical data (i.e. collected before 2000) for new time series (not previously submitted to ICES). For glass eel recruitment series only, the temporal scope includes 2021 (i.e. all data years not previously submitted, up to and including 2021). For data requested linked to the EC Regulation 1100/2007, the temporal scope is from 2007 onwards, the year of that regulation.

### 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 are made available to each data submitter as part of this data call (see below).

In this 2021 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 data hosted by WGEEL, for European eel on the following, noting that some but not all data are already available to WGEEL:

Time series of empirical data (no model outputs):

- Recruitment (glass eel and yellow eel recruitment timeseries), (Annex 1, revisions and new data)
- 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 (Annex 2, revisions and new data)
- Silver eel abundance indices (Annex 3, revisions and new data)

Annual update on:

- Landings for commercial fisheries (Annex 4, revisions and new data)
- Landings for recreational fisheries (Annex 5, revisions and new data)
- Landings related to transport/relocation operations (when eels have been collected somewhere in traps and transported to other waters where they appear as release, this sheet is to be used to collect capture information) (Annex 6, revisions and new data)
- Releases (Annex 7, revisions and new data)
- Aquaculture production (Annex 8, revisions and new data)
- Proportions of eel less than 12 cm caught and used for restocking, direct consumption or aquaculture (Annex 14, data since 2007 are requested)

Data submitted every 3 years as part of national reports:

- Anthropogenic mortality (impacts: silver eel equivalent biomass, and lifetime mortality rates) (Annex 9, revisions and new data since 2007 but note revised data rules)
- Biomass Indicators (Silver eel escapement) (Annex 10, revisions and new data since 2007 but note revised data rules)
- Fishing effort by gear type (Annex 12, revisions and new data since xxx)
- Assessment and monitoring methods (Annex 13, new data since 2007)
- Measures including in regard of conservation, management and others (Annex 15, new data for reporting year)

Most updated estimates:

- The number of recreational fishermen per EMU or country and per year since EMP was implemented (Annex 11, new data since 2007) and their catches of eels (Annex 5, new data since 2000)

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

- 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 to complement annex 13 if needed.
- Indication on whether there was change brought to existing data.

**Important for data submitters:** Further instructions are found in the ReadMe section in the data input sheets of Annexes 1 to 15, and in text-boxes attached to the data entry sheets.

For the time series data types (Annexes 1 to 3), data have been pre-filled in the 'new data' sheets based on existing series. Data submitters are requested to delete rows that are not available and fill in new data in the rows prepared for you, where available. Since 2019, biometry data are requested to the time series and will be used to qualify and analyze the time series.

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

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

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 21 years, and pre-filled data are reported to the data submitters for validation. In the same sheet, pre-filled entries highlight the data expected to be reported this year as a continuation of the existing series. 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 or an update (e.g. due to incomplete reporting in past data calls), please do not make the correction in the existing\_data sheet but instead provide the corrections by copying the old line of data and make corrections in the dedicated “updated data” sheet.

## 6. Data submission

Fifteen template tables (Annexes) are provided for this Data Call:

- Annex 1 Time Series Recruitment
- Annex 2 Time Series Yellow Standing Stock
- Annex 3 Time Series Silver
- Annex 4 Landings Commercial
- Annex 5 Landings Recreational
- Annex 6 Landings Other
- Annex 7 Releases
- Annexes 8 Aquaculture
- Annex 9 Mortality Rates
- Annex 10 Biomass Indicators
- Annex 11 Recreational Fishers
- Annex 12 Effort
- Annex 13 EMP Overview
- Annex 14 Less Than 12 cm Eel Utilisation
- Annex 15 Measures

**For EU Member States**, the data should be submitted using all the templates supplied in all Annexes of this Data call (**annexes 1-15**).

**For other countries (i.e. non-EU)**, the data should be submitted using templates in **Annexes 1 to 10, 12 and 13**.

In addition, EU Member States and other countries can provide text in a word document in English if they wish to provide additional information not captured in these Annexes, in particular, detailing the methodology used to assess the status of the local stock in each EMU(s), and to quantify anthropogenic mortality factors and determine the biomass of silver eel being produced and escaping from that EMU(s), as this would facilitate the evaluation of biomass and mortality indicators submitted within the Data Call.

Annexes have been 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](mailto: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](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.

"2021 DataCall WGEEL [country] [type of data] " (example: 2021 DC WGEEL FR LANDINGS COMMERCIAL)

In the case of GFCM Experts and/or Focal Points participating in WGEEL, when submitting data to ICES, also send a copy to the GFCM DCRF team ([DCRF@gfcmonline.org](mailto:DCRF@gfcmonline.org)) for information.

## 7. Contact information

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