

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Thirtieth meeting of the Animals Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 16-21 July 2018

Species specific matters

GUIDANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORE DETAILED NATIONAL/REGIONAL CUSTOMS CODES  
FOR LIVE ANGUILLA EEL IN AMERICAN EEL RANGE STATES

1. This document has been submitted by the Secretariat on behalf of the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) in relation to item 18 of the agenda\*.

**Guidance for the development of more detailed national/regional  
Customs codes for live *Anguilla* eel in American eel range States**

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Globally, there are several six-digit Harmonised Systems (HS) Customs codes designated specifically for reporting trade in *Anguilla* eels:

- **Live eels (*Anguilla* spp.) (HS 0301.92);**
- Fresh or chilled eels (*Anguilla* spp.) (HS 0302.74);
- Frozen eels (*Anguilla* spp.) (HS 0303.26); and
- Prepared/ or preserved eels (HS 1604.17)†.

These codes do not differentiate between the various life stages or species. **Some countries/territories have more detailed national Customs codes for live eels, which enables users to differentiate between live eel fry** (juveniles such as glass eels and elvers used for farming) **and other larger live eels** (for consumption). This **enables more accurate monitoring and analysis of trade**, including the identification of changing trade dynamics and the demand for different *Anguilla* species for farming.

Countries are generally able to modify their national Customs codes more regularly and easily (as part of yearly updates) than is possible under the HS system. National Customs codes include additional numbers (in addition to the 6 digit HS code) and can be made up of 8, 9, 10, 11 or 12 digit codes, which can be used to record more detailed commodities in trade.

American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) is increasingly in demand for farming in East Asia and elsewhere and **it has been recommended at this workshop that all American eel range States modify their national Customs codes for live *Anguilla* eel to differentiate between live eel fry and other live eel**. More detailed codes are already being used by members of the Central American Customs Union‡, and it is

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† HS Nomenclature 2017 edition: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/nomenclature/instrument-and-tools/hs-nomenclature-2017-edition/hs-nomenclature-2017-edition.aspx>

‡ [https://www.centralamericadata.com/en/search?q1=content\\_en\\_le:%22Central+American+Customs+Union%22](https://www.centralamericadata.com/en/search?q1=content_en_le:%22Central+American+Customs+Union%22)

recommended that the code numbers already in use, together with equivalent descriptions, be applied across the region for consistency. In addition, it is recommended that “*Anguilla* spp.” be referred to in the description of these more detailed codes, in case the higher level titles are not published or searchable in national systems (currently the case in a number of the Central American countries).

**The recommended format and descriptions in English, Spanish and French for the two more detailed live *Anguilla* eel Customs codes are outlined in the table below.** For countries using more than 8 digits in their national systems, it is recommended they follow the system below, adding additional zeros (“0”). Where possible, it is recommended that countries use existing Customs agreements/arrangements to make these changes regionally, such as through the Central American Customs Union and the Caribbean Community<sup>§</sup>, further ensuring harmonisation across the region and the inclusion of all *A. rostrata* range States, even if at present these are not involved in live *Anguilla* trade.

Finally, there have been reported cases of *Anguilla* Customs codes being used incorrectly to **report trade in other eel-like species (non-*Anguilla*)** in the Americas, such as for Red Pike Conger (*Cynoponticus coniceps*), Marbled Swamp Eel (*Synbranchus marmoratus*\*\*) and Snake Eel (*Ophichthus remiger*). The HS code that should be used to report trade in live specimens of these species (or, if available, a more detailed national code based on this) is: **0301.99 (“Other” Live fish)**.

#### **6-digit HS codes and suggested more detailed codes for national Customs systems for live *Anguilla* eels, in English, Spanish and French**

| <b>English</b>  | <b>Code</b>   | <b>Description</b>   |
|-----------------|---------------|--|
|                 | 0301.92       | Live eels ( <i>Anguilla</i> spp.)                            |
|                 | 0301.92.10    | Live eel fry for farming ( <i>Anguilla</i> spp.)             |
|                 | 0301.92.90    | Live eels, other than fry ( <i>Anguilla</i> spp.)            |
| <b>Español</b>  | <b>Código</b> | <b>Designación</b>   |
|                 | 0301.92       | Anguilas vivas ( <i>Anguilla</i> spp.)                       |
|                 | 0301.92.10    | Angulas/larvas para cría industrial ( <i>Anguilla</i> spp.)  |
|                 | 0301.92.90    | Otras anguilas ( <i>Anguilla</i> spp.)                       |
| <b>Français</b> | <b>Code</b>   | <b>Désignation</b>   |
|                 | 0301.92       | Anguilles vivants ( <i>Anguilla</i> spp.)                    |
|                 | 0301.92.10    | Civelles pour fermes d’engraissement ( <i>Anguilla</i> spp.) |
|                 | 0301.92.90    | Autres anguilles ( <i>Anguilla</i> spp.)                     |

**Note:** If national Customs systems use more than 8 digits, add additional zeros to the above 8-digit format.

<sup>§</sup> <https://www.caricom.org/>

\*\* [http://museohn.unmsm.edu.pe/docs/pub\\_ictio/235.pdf](http://museohn.unmsm.edu.pe/docs/pub_ictio/235.pdf), [http://www.trinidadexpress.com/commentaries/Of\\_zangies\\_and\\_eels-115384264.html](http://www.trinidadexpress.com/commentaries/Of_zangies_and_eels-115384264.html)