

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



Seventieth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Rosa Khutor, Sochi (Russian Federation), 1-5 October 2018

EUROPEAN EELS (*ANGUILLA ANGUILLA*)

Recommendations

***The Working Group suggests that the Standing Committee adopt the following recommendations concerning illegal trade in European eel:***

1. Range States along with aquaculture, transit and consumer Parties are encouraged to build on the successes of existing enforcement efforts through cross-border as well as cross-agency collaboration and sharing of intelligence.
2. All range States' management, scientific and enforcement authorities are encouraged to participate in ongoing and future *Anguilla anguilla* initiatives and/or anti-smuggling operations.
3. Law enforcement agencies in range States, transit and destination Parties should strengthen regional initiatives with a view to planning targeted operations focusing on anguillid eels.
4. Parties are encouraged to monitor aquaculture facilities and points of sales to ensure illegally traded European eels are not being mis-represented as legal.
5. Parties should inform the countries of origin, transit and/or destination of all seizures of *Anguilla anguilla* in a timely manner.
6. Parties should include seizure data for *Anguilla anguilla* in their CITES illegal trade reports.
7. Law enforcement agencies are encouraged to report all *Anguilla anguilla* seizures using the INTERPOL Ecomessage system.
8. Law enforcement authorities should provide Management Authorities as many details as possible such as the life stage (i.e. fingerling, adult), meat, gross / net weight, and other pertinent information for CITES reporting purposes.
9. When disposing of seized live eels, Parties are encouraged to consider the potential risks and benefits before returning any specimens to the wild.
10. Parties are encouraged to carry out appropriate sampling (DNA or other) for seizures of suspected *Anguilla anguilla* – live or dead – to an acceptable standard for use in prosecution.
11. Parties and other stakeholders (academia, industry, NGOs etc.) are encouraged to develop new rapid identification processes that are accurate, credible and inexpensive.
12. Range States, transit and importing countries are encouraged to explore the development of a standard reporting system throughout the value chain from the point of catch to the final point of sale, in order to track legal trade for European eel.

***The Working Group Proposes that the Standing Committee propose the following draft decisions to the Conference of the Parties:***

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

The Standing Committee shall consider information relating to illegal trade in European eel at its 73rd and 74th meetings, including the UNODC case study on European eel trafficking as part of the 2nd Wildlife Crime Report, and make recommendations as appropriate.

***Directed to the Animals Committee***

The Animals Committee at its 31st and 32nd meetings shall review available information relating to the potential risks and benefits of reintroducing seized, live eels to the wild and if appropriate provide advice on suitable protocols taking into account existing guidance and practices, for consideration at the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties.