

# NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2023/062

Geneva, 18 May 2023

CONCERNING:

Seeking information on the status, management and trade in eels (*Anguilla* spp.)

1. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.218 to 19.221 on *Eels* (*Anguilla* spp.), which are presented in Annex 1 to this Notification.
2. Pursuant to the implementation of paragraph i) of Decision 19.218, Parties are hereby invited to provide any relevant information on the implementation of paragraphs a) to h) of the same Decision to the Secretariat in order to allow it to report to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, as appropriate, by completing the questionnaires contained in Annexes 2 and 3 to this Notification.
3. The following 27 Parties that have previously submitted information in response to Notification to the Parties No. 2021/018 on eels are invited to provide any updates to the information previously submitted: Algeria, Australia, Canada, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Slovakia, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.
4. At its 75th meeting (SC75; Panama City, November 2022), the Standing Committee encouraged Parties who did not respond to Notification to the Parties No. 2020/018 and were identified in Annex 4 to document SC74 Doc. 64.1 as being important in the global trade in European eel, in particular China, Egypt and Türkiye, to provide a response to this follow up Notification seeking information on eel trade ( see [SC75 summary record](#)).
5. Other Parties that did not respond previously to Notification to the Parties No. 2021/018 on eels are kindly requested to complete the questionnaires in Annexes 2 and 3.
6. When completing the questionnaires in Annexes 2 and 3, Management Authorities are encouraged to consult all relevant national authorities, especially fisheries departments, to obtain the required information. Parties are further encouraged to engage with industry representatives, researchers, fishery experts, national and international organizations with relevant expertise, and other relevant stakeholders, to ensure that as much information as possible is provided. It would also be greatly appreciated if respondents could provide contact details of experts in any of these sectors who would be able to answer any specific follow-up questions that may arise.
7. In addition to the questionnaires, in accordance with paragraphs b), g) and h) of Decision 19.218, Parties are invited to provide the Secretariat with the following:

- a) any non-detriment finding studies on European eel they have undertaken for inclusion on the CITES website
  - b) information regarding any changes to measures they have in place to restrict the trade in live 'glass' or fingerling European eels;
  - c) where available, protocols and guidelines for reintroduction of seized live European eels to the wild.
8. Parties are invited to complete and submit the questionnaires and provide the additional information requested in paragraph 7 above by **15 June 2023** to the Secretariat at [info@cites.org](mailto:info@cites.org), with a copy to [karen.gaynor@cites.org](mailto:karen.gaynor@cites.org), so that the relevant information can be made available to the Animals Committee for consideration at its thirty-second meeting (AC32; Geneva, 19 – 23 June 2023).

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE 19TH MEETING  
OF THE CITES CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
ON *EELS (ANGUILLA SPP.)*

***Directed to Range States of European eels (Anguilla anguilla), transit and importing Parties***

**19.218** Range States of European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*), transit and importing Parties are encouraged to:

- a) strengthen co-ordination between range States, (re-)exporting and importing Parties to improve traceability and effective enforcement measures for trade in *Anguilla* spp., particularly the European eel;
- b) submit any non-detriment finding studies on European eels they have undertaken to the Secretariat for inclusion on the CITES website; explore the different approaches that might be taken for making non-detriment findings for European eels traded as fingerlings (FIG) compared with those traded as other live eels (LIV); collaborate and share information with other Parties regarding such studies and their outcome, especially where the Parties share catchments or water bodies; seek review and advice from the Animals Committee or other suitable body on any non-detriment findings for European eels, where appropriate;
- c) develop and/or implement adaptive European eel management plans at national or sub-national (or catchment) level, with defined and time-bound goals, and enhance collaboration within countries between authorities and other stakeholders with responsibilities for eel management, and between countries where water bodies or catchments are shared;
- d) implement the reporting recommendations in document SC75 Doc. 12 to ensure that, where possible, trade in Anguillid eels is reported at species-level and differentiated by life stage (as set out in the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports*);
- e) share information on stock assessments, harvests, the results of monitoring and other relevant data with the Joint Working Group on Eels (WGEEL) of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission, the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas and the Central Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (EIFAAC/ICES/GFCM), so that a full and complete picture of the state of the European eel stock can be established;
- f) develop measures or implement more effectively existing measures to improve the traceability or assessment of legal acquisition of eels in trade (both live and dead) and aquaculture and share these with the Secretariat;
- g) provide the Secretariat with information regarding any changes to measures they have in place to restrict the trade in live 'glass' or fingerling European eels;
- h) share with the Secretariat, where available, protocols and guidelines for reintroduction of seized live European eels to the wild; and
- i) provide information to the Secretariat on the implementation of this Decision or any updates to the information previously submitted in response to Notification to the Parties No. 2021/018 on eels, to allow it to report to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, as appropriate.

**Directed to the Secretariat**

**19.219** The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a Notification inviting range States of European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*), transit and importing Parties to submit to the Secretariat information on the implementation of Decision 19.218, any information sought in Notification No. 2021/018 not already provided or any updates to the information previously submitted in response to Notification to the Parties No. 2021/018 on eels, especially information on current levels of, or emerging trends in, trade in specimens of *Anguilla* spp.;
- b) prepare and submit a summary of the responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2021/018 on eels, including any updates provided under Decision 19.218, with draft recommendations on the conservation and management of European eels to the Animals Committee and draft recommendations to improve implementation of the Convention for European eels to the Standing Committee, for their consideration; and
- c) submit the study prepared in the implementation of Decision 18.199, paragraph d), on levels of trade and trade patterns, especially in live eels for aquaculture, and sources of supply, identify any disparities between these, and draft recommendations for the more effective future management of harvests and trade for consideration by the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, as appropriate.

**Directed to the Animals Committee**

**19.220** The Animals Committee shall:

- a) if requested, consider any reports submitted by Parties with respect to the making of non-detriment findings for trade in European eels and provide advice and guidance as needed; and
- b) consider the study referred to in paragraph c) of Decision 19.219, the report produced by the Secretariat under paragraph b) of Decision 19.219 and make recommendations to improve the conservation and management of European eels, for consideration by the Standing Committee or the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

**Directed to the Standing Committee**

**19.221** The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider the report prepared by the Secretariat and any other available information relating to illegal trade in European eels and make recommendations as appropriate;
- b) review any advice and recommendations from the Animals Committee concerning Decision 19.220 and make recommendations to improve the implementation of the Convention for European eels and the applicability of developing a specific Resolution to the Parties or the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate;
- c) with the assistance of the Secretariat, engage with the World Customs Organization to examine the feasibility of harmonizing customs codes relevant to trade in all *Anguilla* species; and
- d) report on the implementation of this Decision to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.