



*Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations
for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful
restoration well in progress by 2015*

ESA and CITES Petitions





CITES

- In April FWS announced that American eel was being considered for listing on CITES Appendix II
 - Recommended by Species Survival Network and WWF
- The Service must submit all species proposals to the CITES Secretariat 150 days prior to the start of CoP16.





ESA

- April 2010 –petition submitted to list American eel on the ESA
- September 2011 - Positive 90 Day finding published; listing may be warranted
- Staff and funds have not been allocated for American eel status review
- In August 2012 a lawsuit filed by CESAR against FWS to make a 12-month finding on the petition by a date certain





ESA

- A species must be listed if it is threatened or endangered due to any of the following five factors:
 1. Present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range;
 2. Overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes;
 3. Disease or predation;
 4. Other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence
 5. Inadequacy of existing management





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Draft Addendum III





Draft Addendum III

- 2012 American eel benchmark stock assessment found that the coastwide stock has declined in recent decades and the stock was declared depleted.
- The prevalence of significant downward trends in multiple surveys across the coast is a cause for concern.
- American eel Management Board initiated the development of Draft Addendum III with the goal of furthering eel conservation and reducing mortality throughout all life stages.





Draft Addendum III

- Habitat Considerations
- Monitoring Requirements
- Commercial Management Measures
- Recreational Management Measures
- Law Enforcement Recommendations





Habitat Considerations

1. Development of quantifiable eel habitat enhancement goals through the creation of a coastwide eel habitat GIS database.
2. Increase coordination with Fish Passage Committee and Habitat Committee.
3. Downstream migration considerations





Monitoring Program

Requested PDT and TC Tasks to Complete:

1. Evaluation of the current glass eel surveys
2. Develop recommendations to increase the number of surveys targeting yellow eels
3. Develop recommendations to implement surveys targeting silver eels
4. Develop recommendations for implementation of both a glass and yellow/silver eel survey in at least one system per region
5. Prioritize types of data collected (abundance, mortality estimates, ageing...)





Draft Glass Eel Fisheries Options

1. Status Quo

2. Closure of Glass Eel Fisheries

– Immediate

– Phase out

3. Glass Eel Quota

– Historical Average (1998 – 2011)

~~– Historical Average (1998 – 2012)~~

~~– Current landings~~





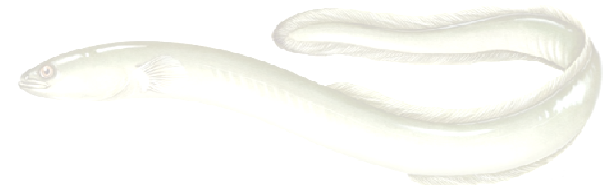
Draft Glass Eel Fisheries Options

4. Gear Restrictions

- Time Closures
- ~~Gear Distance Requirements~~
- Gear Reductions

~~5. Harvest License Cap~~

6. Dealer Requirements





Draft Yellow Eel Fisheries Options

1. Status Quo
2. Increase Minimum Size
3. Gear Restrictions

Minimum Size (inches)	% Change Eggs Per Recruit
8	0
9	0.0113
10	0.0113
11	0.262
12	0.262





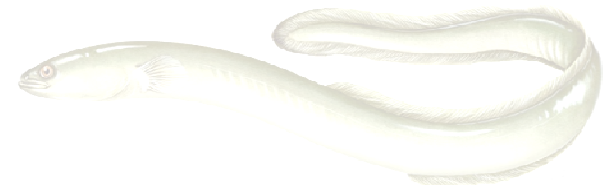
Draft Yellow Eel Fisheries Options

4. Coastwide Quota

- Historical Average (1980-2011)
- Historical Average (1990-2011)
- ~~Current landings~~

~~5. Harvest License Cap~~

6. Dealer Reporting Requirements





Draft Silver Eel Fisheries Options

1. Status Quo
2. Maximum Size Limit

Percent Eels Emigrated	Length (in)	% Change Eggs Per Recruit
0.25	19.1	65.4
0.5	21.3	22.5
0.75	23.5	0.923

3. Gear Restrictions





Draft Recreational Fisheries Options

1. Status Quo
2. Reduce Bag Limit
 - PDT recommends 25 fish bag limit





Law Enforcement

- Encourage states to increase penalties for violations
- Increase pre-season coordination of glass eel fishery enforcement efforts
- Synchronize dealer and export reporting
- Increase cooperation and communication regarding violations





Board Direction

- Specific goals for reductions?
- Development of quota options for glass and yellow eel fisheries?
 - Base years?
 - Allocation?
- Monitoring Programs?

