


Why eels?

- The population of glass eels has fallen to **less than 5% of their 1980s level**
- **September 2007 EC Regulation No1100/2007 adopted**
- **40% of silver eel biomass should be allowed to escape to the sea (or downstream)**
- **2010 critically endangered**
- **Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 Statutory Instrument No. 3344**



Why eels?



The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ 2014.3

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Anguilla anguilla

NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX

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76,000 species and counting...

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Taxonomy [top]

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
ANIMALIA	CHORDATA	ACTINOPTERYGII	ANGUILLIFORMES	ANGUILLIDAE

Scientific Name:	<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>
Species Authority:	(Linnaeus, 1758)
Common Name(s):	English – European Eel
Synonym(s):	<i>Muraena anguilla</i> Linnaeus, 1758
Taxonomic Notes:	Other <i>Anguilla</i> species have occasionally been stocked in Europe, but none have established a self-sustaining population. Pure <i>A. rostrata</i> (American Eel) have been recorded, likely due to stocking attempts, but are relatively rare (Böetius 1976). DNA analysis is the best tool to distinguish between European Eels and other species, and <i>A. rostrata</i> have fewer vertebrae than <i>A. anguilla</i> (102-112, usually 106-108, vs. 111-119, usually 114-116). Hybrids are known to have been found in Iceland where pure <i>A. rostrata</i> and <i>A. anguilla</i> also exist (Albert <i>et al.</i> 2006).

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Do we comply?

- EA assigned each PS with a priority
- Capita Symonds undertaken studies on behalf on EA and Lincolnshire IDBs
- Cost beneficial solution at each high priority pumping station
- All exemptions issued BEFORE 01/01/15



Do we comply?

YES!



Exemptions & Solutions

- Time limited
- ‘Solutions’
 1. Best Practice Screening
 2. Fish Friendly Pumps
 3. KLAWA Bypass
 4. Other – habitat suitability
 5. Other – operational changes
 6. Proposed solution is being prepared and will be known by March 2015



Exemptions & Solutions

Eel life stage (minimum size protected)	Mesh size/bar spacing for exclusion (mm)	
	Screen angle $\Phi > 20$ deg	Screen angle $\Phi \leq 20$ deg
Elver/glass eel	1-2*	1-2*
Yellow (14cm)	3	3
Yellow/silver eel (30 cm)	9	12.5
Silver eel (50cm)	15	20



Exemptions & Solutions



Exemptions & Solutions



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Our pumping stations...

- All 8 fish friendly pumps

£4.5million



Where are we now?

- 10th March-DEFRA meeting
- Number of high priority sites
- Engineering required to makes sites compliant
- Research and application of solutions
- Cost benefit ratios



Way forwards...



- Nationally led progress meetings
- Consultation prior to reports being issued
- Thorough research and investigation
- EA to review 26 structures
- EA invited to make more use of IDB data



EA stance

“Under EU law, the UK has to take action to halt and reverse the decline in the European eel stock. We are working with Internal Drainage Boards to assess what is required at priority sites in order to take the most cost-effective action to protect this endangered species. While the costs of the work will vary from place to place, many of the measures that site owners can make are simple to implement and the costs relatively low. Where the agreed projects will involve higher costs, sites will be given a longer period to complete the work.”

