Questionnaire Results

Mari-Beth DeLucia

American Eel Range States Workshop
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 4-6 April, 2018
Questionnaire on the Status, Trade, and Conservation of non-CITES-listed anguillid eels

Dominican Republic
Haiti
Jamaica
Cuba
Bahamas
Belize
Nicaragua
Honduras
Costa Rica
Panama
Canada
USA including Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands
Mexico
Questionnaire format

- National and Global Conservation Status
- Harvest Consumption and Trade
- Legal and Regulatory Framework
- Enforcement
Does information about the biological characteristics of anguillids in your country?

- No
- Yes

- Yes: 77%
- No: 23%
Does information about current status of Anguillids exist in your country?

- No
- Yes

NATIONAL AND GLOBAL CONSERVATION STATUS
New York businessman gets 1½ years for dealing in black market eels from Virginia

Photo credit: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

NATIONAL AND GLOBAL CONSERVATION STATUS

Major Threats

- Unsustainable/illegal harvest and/or trade
- Predation
- Pollution
- Habitat loss/modification
- Disease / Parasites
- Climate change
- Barriers to migration (including hydro-power)

# of responses
Are Anguillids harvested in your country?

- yes (77%)
- no (23%)

End Use

- Subsistence by indigenous tribes
- Export for direct consumption (4)
- Export for grow-out farms (2)
- National re-stocking (3)
- For grow-out in domestic farms (3)
- Direct consumption (4)
- Export for re-stocking
- Other uses
- unknown

HARVEST CONSUMPTION & TRADE
Is your country a range state for any other ‘eel or eel-like’ species (such as swamp eels, *Monopterus* spp. or snake eels *Synbranchus* spp.) that could be confused for *Anguilla* species and/or may be reported as *Anguilla* in customs data?

*Look alike species seems to be primarily a potential issue in Mexico and Central American countries, Esp. Synbranchuss spp (swamp eels).*
Is domestic use of Anguilla species regulated in your country though national legislation?

National Legislation re: domestic use

- No: 10
- Yes: 1
- No answer: 1
National Legislation regarding Anguilla export?

- No: 8
- Yes: 2
- No answer: 2

National Legislation re export
Illegal Harvest of American eels in your country?

- 34% Yes
- 8% No
- 58% No answer

ENFORCEMENT
In Summary....

- A lot of unknowns or questions left blank.
- Lack of current status of eels and what life stages exists in what countries.
- Some Caribbean countries seem to really be epicenter of “newer” illegal harvest.
- Enforcement and regulation sections had very few responses except for a few countries that have a history of established fisheries.