**American Eel Range State Workshop**

The American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) is a species found across a large geographical range, within which a number of countries have established fisheries - particularly for juveniles or ‘glass eels’.  Following the implementation of the listing of European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), in 2009, a significant increase in demand and price was observed for the American eel, and other anguillid eels, in international markets. In 2016, a series of Decisions were adopted at its 17th Conference of the Parties (CoP17) calling on range States to submit information on science, management and trade for relevant eel species. At CITES CoP18 in August 2019, a new series of Decisions were adopted, a number of which encouraged collaboration and establishment of joint programmes of work to benefit eels species.

The Sargasso Sea Commission (SSC) has hosted a number of meetings in recent years with the aim of progressing the conservation of both the European and American Eel, both which spawn in the Sargasso Sea. In 2018 SSC hosted a workshop in the Dominican Republic, bringing the American eel range states  together with a specific focus on enhancing coordination and information sharing in regards to American eel fisheries, and capacity building with respect to data collection on harvests and exports. While the Dominican Republic workshop was successful in facilitating the sharing of information among the American eel range States, to date there remains a lack of a co-ordinating forum to define a programme of collaborative work for that species. Such a programme would address one of the key recommendations calling for collaboration among American eel range States outlined in the vision statement of the Dominican Republic workshop. In order to promote coordination and the development of shared objectives among American eel range states that harvest and trade the species, a key recommendation outlined in the vision statement of the 2018 workshop, and to position range States to respond the Decisions adopted at CITES CoP18, the Sargasso Sea Commission, with support from Canada, will be hosting a virtual workshop over two half-days in the week beginning 17th May 2021. The workshop intends to bring together American eel range States with active eel fisheries with the aim of developing a ‘road-map’ in order to catalyze collaborative work between those range states. A draft template for the road-map will be circulated prior to the workshop such that all attendees are given time to input and craft a document that is mutually beneficial.