

## Joint Workshop of the Working Group on Eel and the Working Group on Biological Effects of Contaminants (WKBECEEL)

2014/2/SSGEPD07 A Workshop of the Working Group on Eel and the Working Group on Biological Effects of Contaminants (WKBECEEL) will be established under the subject “Are contaminants in eels contributing to their decline?”. WKBECEEL will be chaired by Caroline Durif\*, Norway, and Bjørn Einar Grøsvik\*, Norway, and will meet in Os, Norway, 25–27 January 2016 to:

- a) Describe the spatial and temporal trends in concentrations of “traditional” and/or “emerging” contaminants in eel (but mainly refer to figures available from WGEEL 2008–2013).
- b) Describe the potential impacts of contaminants on reproduction in the European eel, based on science of eel and what can be learned from other species models (including endocrine disruption, effect on sex ratio, maternal transfer of bioaccumulated contaminants toward the eggs and effects on the larvae).
- c) Describe the potential impacts of contaminants on lipid metabolism and migration in the European eel based on eel science and what can be learned from other species
- d) Review the impacts of contaminants on the genetics of the European eel.
- e) Explore whether there is experience with assessing/qualifying the bioaccumulation + fitness status in other species, which can be helpful for the eel’s quality assessment (Eel Quality Index) and to quantify the impact of eel quality.

WKBECEEL will report by 10 March 2016 (via SSGEPD) for the attention of WGEEL, WGRECORDS and SCICOM.

## Supporting information

Priority	<p>During previous meetings WGEEL (2008-2013) made considerable progress in understanding and describing the potential impact of contaminants on the European eel stock.</p> <p>During the last sessions WGEEL 2012 and WGEEL 2013 indicated that the WG would clearly benefit from a joint cooperation with experts from other ICES WGs, and specifically WGBEC. The experience and knowledge concerning the effect of contaminants in other species, as present within WGBEC, is anticipated to be very beneficial to make further progress in understanding the role of contaminants in the eel stock decline.</p>
Scientific justification	<p>The stock of the European eel <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> is in decline and there is an increasing awareness that poor health status due to contaminants might be a key element in this decline and might be a hindrance to recovery. Several studies have recently been initiated to study the degree and the effects of pollution on the eel, resulting in an increasing quantity of information that demonstrates the negative impact of pollution on eel. These advances in the science of the effects of contaminants on the eel have been reviewed recently (e.g. Geeraerts <i>et al.</i>, 2010; by Elie and Gerard, 2009, and WGEEL 2008-2012). However, essential issues to assess the importance of eel quality for reproductive success, such as to evaluate the effect of specific contaminants on the ability for eel to migrate and to reproduce have still to be developed. The joint workshop will review all sources of information (including work on other species) to better understand how contaminants in eels contribute to their decline.</p>
Resource requirements	
Participants	WGEEL and WGBEC Working Group Participants, and other experts. The Workshop is anticipated to be attended by some 15-20 members and guests.
Secretariat facilities	Sharepoint
Financial	
Linkages to advisory committees	WGEEL, WGBEC and ACOM
Linkages to other committees or groups	WGRECORDS, SSGEPD, SCICOM

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Linkages to other organization FAO EIFAAC, GFCM, EU DG MARE, EU DG ENV

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