



EIFAAC PROJECT

TITLE¹: “Joint EIFAAC/ICES/GFCM Working Group on Eel (WGEEL)”

PRELIMINARY	
a. Owner	EIFAAC, ICES, GFCM
b. Role of EIFAAC²	Covers inland waters, fisheries and aquaculture of member countries of EIFAAC, including Mediterranean countries, not covered by ICES. EIFAAC brings expertise and specific issues to the Working Group relating to the inland water phases of eel. EIFAAC and FAO have the structure and experience to disseminate advice and information to a wide audience of scientists, managers and stakeholders. This it will achieve through the EIFAAC Technical and Scientific Committee.
1. OBJECTIVE AND EXPECTED OUTCOME	
1.1 Purpose	To report on the status of the European and American eel stocks and to provide technical and scientific advice in support of the development and implementation of the EU Regulation for the recovery of the eel stock. To provide regular updates on the latest advances in eel stock assessment and science and to develop a means of post-evaluating the outcome of implemented management actions on the whole stock.
1.2 Objectives³	There is a new co-ordination role required between EIFAAC, ICES and GFCM to cover the Mediterranean and North African area. The Working Group on Eel is a joint Expert Scientific Working Group between EIFAAC and ICES. There is liaison with the First EIFAAC/ICES/GFCM Workshop on Eel and the ICES/HELCOM Baltic Workshops on Eel. From 2014, the GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) is operating on a joint

¹ Please use Annex 1 to list all acronyms used in this template

² ² Explain what is the specific, unique role of EIFAAC compared to other groups/organisations that may deal with this subject, too? Has EIFAAC the role of being “lead agency”, “participant” or other role?

³ Statement of the objective(s) (PLEASE NOTE: objectives need to be **SMART**: **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**elevant and **T**ime-bound).

	basis with EIFAAC and ICES on European Eel.
1.3 Rationale⁴	The eel stock is in decline, recruitment is at an all time low and exploitation of the stock is currently unsustainable. ICES have advised that anthropogenic mortality should be reduced to as close to zero as possible and the EU have implemented a Regulation for the recovery of the stock. The EU Regulation requires Member States to put in place approved eel management plans and to monitor their implementation and outcomes. Eel has been listed as critically endangered by IUCN and as an Annex II species in CITES. The WGEEL brings together national and key agency scientists to provide the latest advice on the status of the stock, a framework for post-evaluation of the outcome of management actions and implementation of the Regulation, technical support to MSs for local assessments and eel management and updates on the latest developments in eel science pertinent to the objectives. The WGEEL is now listed in the EU DCF as an international expert group providing the basis for scientific advice and supported by DCF funding (DCF provides funds for nominated national participants to attend Expert Stock Assessment Groups).
1.4 Benefits	Annual stock assessment and observation on the status of the stock, including recruitment trends Local stock assessment methodologies Up to date (annual) best available scientific advice under ICES /EU Memorandum of Understanding Scientific support to the EU Regulation for the Recovery of the Eel Stock Scientific support for the EU determination of non-detriment findings for the trade of eel with respect to CITES listings Network of key eel scientists covering the north Atlantic, Baltic, Mediterranean areas and close links with Asian and Australasian scientists
2. PROJECT MANAGEMENT	
2.1 Project Manager or Chair	Alan Walker (United Kingdom)
2.1.1 Management responsibilities ⁵	Chair the WGEEL Report to EIFAAC TSC, ICES ACOM, WGRECORDS, RG/ADG, SCICOM Groups. Set the meeting Agenda and workplan, co-ordinate the Country Reports and the running of the meeting, edit report, edit draft advice. Provide support to the Review Groups and Advice Drafting Groups where appropriate.
2.2 Participants⁶ and stakeholders	Scientific Experts ICES National Nominations DCF Government Nominations

⁴ Reason for the project; why the project is important and key outcomes and stakeholders.

⁵ e.g., serve as chair, report to appropriate bodies, set agenda and work plan, coordinate country reports and running of the meeting, edit report, edit draft advice.

	EIFAAC Participants GFCM Participants Invited Experts
2.2.1 Identify potential participants	Scientists, data providers The Expert Group WGEEL needs a communication framework with managers and stakeholders.
2.2.2. Identify stakeholders concerned and involved (answer not immediately needed but think about it and address it in the course of the project)	Other linkages to SCICOM, WGRECORDS EU – DGMARE and DGENV (CITES) FAO Links with eel research Nominated and invited Scientists
2.3 Time frame⁷	Annual meetings
2.4 Expected deliverables⁸	One meeting per year (two in 2013 to support revision of the EU Regulation for recovery of eel stock) One technical report per year, including individual Country Reports to the WGEEL Draft scientific advice to ICES ADGroup (ACOM) Each ToR is addressed annually. Report is organised into themes.
2.5 Outline of Working Methodology⁹	Meetings and correspondence, including an Annual Working Group involving those identified in C(i) and close liaison with Study Groups and Workshops. Country Reports on Eel stock and data updates. Collation and examination of national data collected under the DCF Collation and examination of national data reported to the EU
3. BUDGET	
3.1 Budget¹⁰	
3.1.1 available	No
3.1.2 possible	
3.1.3 required	An EIFAAC budget is not required.

⁶ Identify potential participants; include details of relevance of the participant to the project and the capacity in which participation is carried out.

⁷ Expected/intended duration of the project

⁸ List potential project deliverables; e.g. Policy guidelines; best-practice guidelines; recommendations; scientific report; project report; etc

⁹ How the project work to be is conducted e.g. meetings, workshops, literature review, research. A methodology should be provided for and closely linked with each of the objectives.

¹⁰ In relation to budget, answer each of the three categories with “yes” or “no”, and provide details if appropriate/needed

EIFAAC STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Select one of below list:

I.	Management-related issues and principles for inland fisheries and aquaculture	X
II.	Interactions and avoidance or resolution of conflicts in inland fisheries and aquaculture	
III.	Harmonization of cross-border and cross-sectoral governance and legal aspects of inland fisheries and aquaculture	X
IV.	Protection and restoration of the environment and species	X
V.	Trade and economic aspects of inland fisheries and aquaculture	X
VI.	Development of databases on inland fisheries and aquaculture	X
VII.	Climate change	X

Please list ACRONYMS used in the above template