

Datum 08 August 2017

Betreft Draft advice on eel management

Dear Sir/Madam

Thanks for sending netVISwerk the draft advice on eel management. We have read the advice with interest and, at your request, we have tracked our comments in the draft advice. I have enclosed the report with our comments to the email. In this letter we have some general remarks about eel management.

1. We fully support the emphasis given by the NSAC towards increased involvement of the EC in advising and correcting Member States in the way they manage the eel in their respective Management Units.
2. In the province of Friesland we have experimented with a form of local eel management based on quota to ensure the 40% escapement level of silver eel. The results of this decentralized eel management have been reported to the Commission every year. Results are very positive both in generating knowledge on the eel as in terms of flexibility in the way the small scale fishers can manage their business. The person in charge of the eel within the Commission recently visited the area. We think the impression was positive. It would be good if the NSAC would endorse decentralized eel management to the Commission. NetVISwerk is very much prepared to give a presentation on decentralized eel management to the AC.
3. Many Member States practice trap-and-transfer of silver eels passed turbines and pumping stations. This method of increasing silver eel escapement should be promoted and Member States should yearly report the numbers saved in this way.

4. In the advice letter the NSAC repeats a phrase that is often expressed: The decimated eel stock. This is not correct. There is no evidence of a decimated eel (spawning) stock. What we do have is an observation that the inflow of glass eels is at 2-10% of the 1960-1980 level and that this recruitment is low for the past 35 years. In the advice to the Commission this should be stated correctly.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a horizontal line with a vertical line crossing it, and some additional scribbles.

Albert Jan Maat
Chairman netVISwerk