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Geographical range

www.iucnredlist.org
www.global.wetlands.org
 Help Save Species

Species of the Day: European Eel

The **European Eel**, *Anguilla anguilla*, is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. It spends most of its life in European rivers which flow into the Atlantic, Mediterranean and Baltic seas, and migrates to the western sub-tropical Atlantic where it breeds.

There is a huge demand in Asia and Europe for European Eels as food and, as a result, they are now being fished unsustainably. Other threats include dams, which have blocked migration routes and cause high mortality rates among migrating eels, and a parasitic nematode introduced from stocked eels from Japan, which is suspected to affect the ability of these eels to reach their spawning grounds.

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) has recommended that a recovery plan be developed as a matter of urgency. International trade in this species is regulated by the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and the European Council has issued a regulation requiring the development of eel management plans.



Species of the Day is sponsored by



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