



## To recover the European Eel

03/11/2010

The European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) has undergone a remarkable and rapid decline throughout its range in the last three decades. Currently, according to the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas, the species is outside the safe of biological limits.

For this reason, the Governing Council of the Andalusian Government has approved a decree on measures to restore the European eel. The rule gives effect to the European Union regulation for the preservation of the species listed in critical danger of extinction by the International Union for Conservation of Nature where the catches in Andalusia have declined by 98% over the past three decades. Among other provisions, the decree sets a ten-year moratorium on fishing for eels in any stage of development, both inland waters and internal waters with the exception of fish farms.

The main objective of the decree is to ensure a minimum escape to the sea of 40% of adult eels to thus complete their life cycle, which begins with the entrance to rivers as elvers, from the Sargasso Sea, and concludes with their return to marine waters and reproduction in the central Atlantic area.

Source: Industrias pesqueras

Subdelegación del Gobierno en Málaga, Paseo de Sancha 64  
Oficinas 305-307 29071 Málaga (España)  
Tel: (+34) 952989299 Fax: (+34) 952989252  
[www.faocopedmed.org](http://www.faocopedmed.org) [copedmed@fao.org](mailto:copedmed@fao.org)