



Eels in the New Forest

Name: Dom Longley

Job title: Fisheries Technical Specialist, Analysis & Reporting

Date: 15th November, 2018



"Angela"

(*Anguilla anguilla*)



Date: 9th July, 2018

Location: Fullford Passage, Beaulieu River

Length: 56cm

Age: 10-12

Place of birth: Sargasso Sea

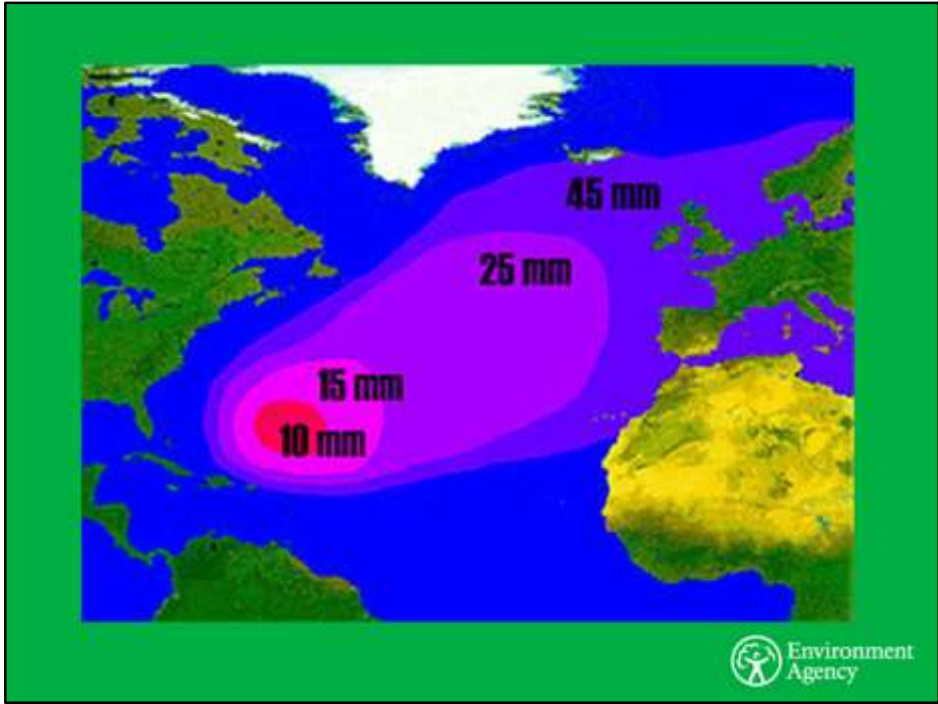
Favourite food: not fussy, bugs & fish - dead or alive

Ambitions: stay healthy, return home safely, have millions of kids.

Home (for now)







...a few days old (leptocephalus)



...reaching the coast ("glass eel")



...hanging out in the estuary, thinking about heading up river



...."bootlace eels"



...middle age: feeding & growing in fresh & estuarine waters
"yellow eel"



...silvering up for the journey ahead

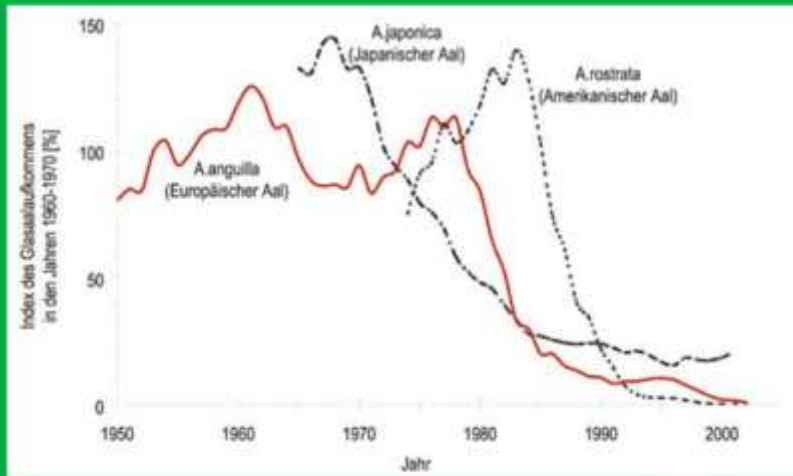


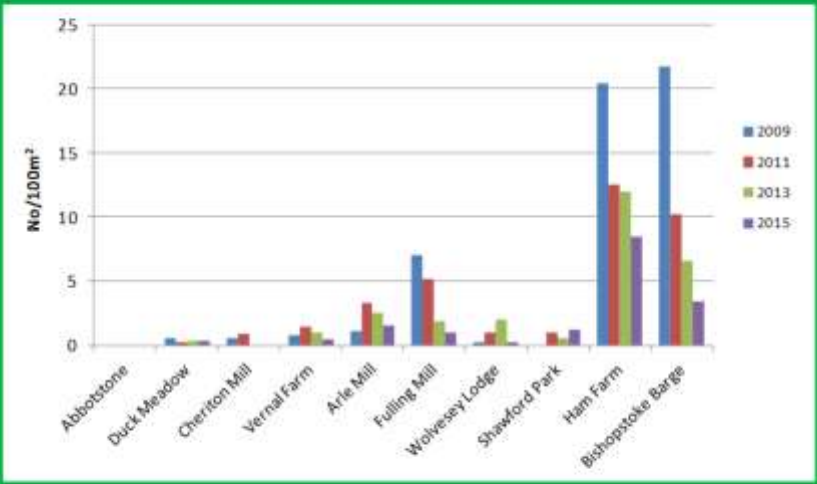
Eels in New Forest river fish population surveys



European eel
IUCN Conservation Status:







Some suspected factors in the decline:

Changes in oceanographic conditions (climate change induced?)

Swim-bladder nematode infestation

Entrainment / impingement in water intakes

Overfishing (esp. glass eels)

Barriers to migration

Habitat loss

Water quality & quantity

Increased cormorant predation





Illegal 18m long "flow net", seized from the River Parrett



Ecological importance of eels:

Predator

Scavenger

Prey item

Nutrient distribution







 Environment
Agency

















Many thanks.

