

Joint Statement

of the Bureau of Fisheries of People's Republic of China, the Fisheries Agency of Japan, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea and the Fisheries Agency of Chinese Taipei
on International Cooperation for Conservation and Management of Japanese Eel Stock and Other Relevant Eel Species

The Bureau of Fisheries of People's Republic of China, the Fisheries Agency of Japan, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea and the Fisheries Agency of Chinese Taipei (hereinafter referred to as "Participants"),

Recalling that People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Chinese Taipei are all Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economies;

Recognizing that the catches of Japanese eel (*Anguilla japonica*) at the glass eel stage have been decreasing in the medium- to long-term and that such decrease has been estimated to be caused by habitat/environment degradation, oceanographic changes and overharvest;

Also recognizing that the Japanese eels migrate to coastal areas of the East Asian region, where the Japanese eel stock has been exploited as a common resource, and that the conservation and management of the Japanese eel stock requires regional cooperation for its migratory nature;

Considering that decrease of Japanese eel supply at the glass eel stage has resulted in the introduction of other relevant eel species into aquaculture ponds in the East Asian region and that this phenomenon could negatively affect those stocks;

Concerned that, despite the fact that some Participants have taken measures to restrict export of glass eels in cooperation with relevant authorities, it appears that the massive amount of glass eels continues to be traded among People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Chinese Taipei;

Recalling the achievements of the seven informal consultations among Participants, which have been periodically reported to the APEC Ocean and Fishery Working Group (OFWG); and

Mindful that Participants are willing to cooperate under the Framework of APEC OFWG;

Have reached the following common views:

Paragraph 1

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF EEL RESOURCES

Participants will cooperate on the conservation and management measures of Japanese eel stock and other relevant eel species as follows:

(1) Actions to restrict initial input¹ of glass eels and eel fries taken from the wild, hereinafter referred to as “eel seeds” in this Paragraph, into aquaculture ponds

(a) For Japanese eel stock, the amount of initial input of eel seeds for the 2014-2015 input season (from 1st November, 2014 to 31st October, 2015) will be no more than 80 percent of that of the 2013-2014 input season (from 1st November, 2013 to 31st October, 2014). The amount for the 2015-2016 input season (from 1st November, 2015 to 31st October, 2016) and thereafter will be established, taking into account the catch of glass eels and other relevant factors.

(b) For other relevant eel species, each Participant will take every possible measure not to increase the amount of initial input of eel seeds from the recent level (the last three years).

(2) Monitoring initial input of eel seeds into aquaculture ponds and aquaculture production

(a) Each Participant will monitor the amount of annual initial input of eel seeds into aquaculture ponds and that of domestic aquaculture production by the species. It will report the statistics to other Participants.

(b) If a Participant finds out that the amount of domestic aquaculture production is unreasonably large compared to that of initial input, it will investigate the case and report the results to other Participants.

(3) Collecting statistics on trade of aquaculture eels and eel products

(a) Each Participant will collect statistics on the amount of import and export of aquaculture eels and eel products in cooperation with respective competent authorities, and will report the statistics to other Participants annually.

(b) If a Participant finds out that the amount of import from other Economy is unreasonably large compared to that of the initial input of eel seeds, it will report to the Participant of exporting Economy. Upon receiving such information, the Participant of exporting Economy will investigate the case and report the results to other Participants.

¹ “initial input” does not include the transfer of glass eels and eel fries taken from other aquaculture ponds within the Economy.

- (c) Participants will continue to discuss ways and means to improve the effectiveness of actions to restrict the initial input of eel seeds.

Paragraph 2

ESTABLISHMENT OF DOMESTIC NON-GOVERNMENTAL ASSOCIATION FOR EEL AQUACULTURE MANAGEMENT

Each Participant will encourage such relevant groups as eel aquaculture farmers, and traders if necessary, to establish one domestic non-governmental association for eel aquaculture management (hereinafter referred to as "Association") in order to ensure effective implementation of Paragraph 1 (1) and (2) above.

Paragraph 3

ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Participants recommend Associations established in accordance with Paragraph 2 above to found "Alliance for Sustainable Eel Aquaculture" (ASEA) as an international non-governmental organization. The details of the ASEA are as follows:

(1) Member

Associations referred to in Paragraph 2

(2) Terms of reference

- i. To exchange the information on eel aquaculture and trade
- ii. To exchange the information on measures to achieve the target amounts referred to in Paragraph 1 (1) and the efficiency of measures referred to in (2) above
- iii. To review the actions by each member
- iv. To discuss public relations
- v. To discuss other matters as necessary

(3) Meeting and Decision making

- i. The member who assumes the secretariat will convene a meeting at least once a year.
- ii. Decision will be made by consensus.

(4) Contribution

- i. All the costs related to the meeting will be borne by the host member except the travel costs which will be borne by the participating member itself.
- ii. No contribution by Participants or other members is required.

(5) Secretariat

Unless otherwise decided;

- i. No permanent secretariat will be established for the time being.
- ii. Each Association will serve as the secretariat in rotation.
- iii. A permanent secretariat, whose cost is borne by each member, may be

established if a consensus is reached by the members.

Paragraph 4

FUTURE WORK

- (1) Participants will continue to discuss measures to improve the transparency of eel trade.
- (2) Participants will continue to closely work together in order to strengthen conservation and management measures for eel stocks. For this purpose Participants will consider possible establishment of legally binding framework as appropriate.