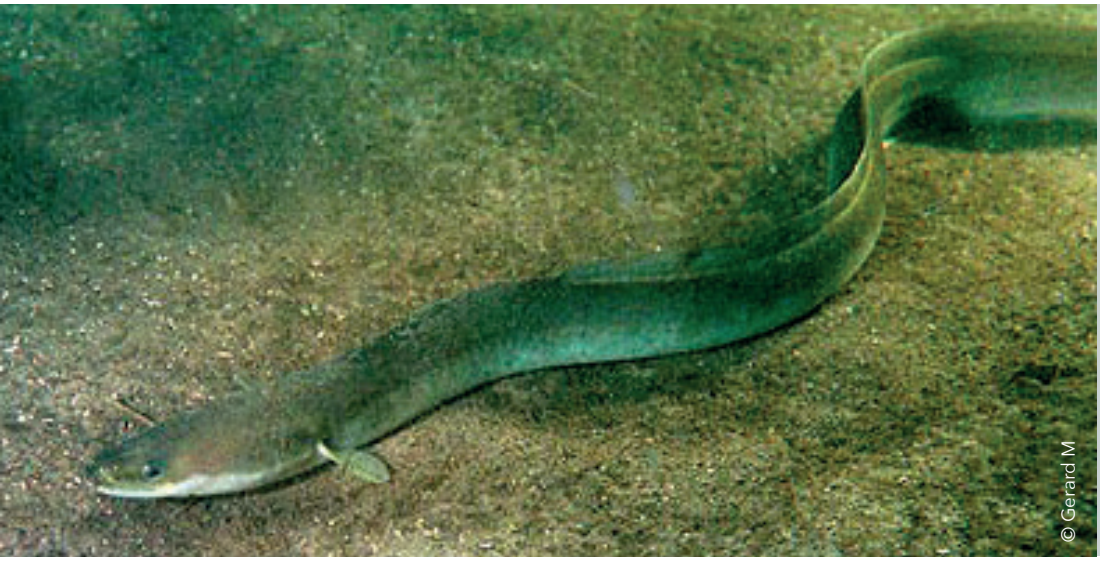




European eel

Description and status

The European eel is categorised by the IUCN as 'critically endangered' and protected by the 2007 European Commission Eel Regulation as incorporated into the England & Wales 2009 Eel Regulations. They are a territorial and solitary species, found in all types of freshwater habitats. They are the only European fish that returns to the sea to spawn.

Their feeding habits make them vulnerable to the bioaccumulation of pollutants, that may result in organ damage and impair their ability to undergo migration. Eels constitute an important component of the diet of iconic species such as otters, ospreys and herons. Elvers provide a significant source of food for many other species in the spring, at a time when demands of the breeding season are at their height.

It is important, therefore, to ensure that eel populations are sufficient to sustain other species' diets.

Threats

- Barriers to upstream and downstream migration.
- Injury and death caused by in-stream hydropower turbines or screws.
- Habitat degradation and habitat loss.
- The illegal trade in elvers.
- The effects of climate change on eel larvae migration.

Actions required

- Removal of barriers to migration.
- Effective methods to prevent being drawn into hydropower turbines or screws.
- Habitat restoration and habitat protection.
- Combat the illegal trade in elvers.
- Monitor the effects of climate change on eel larvae migration.

Species Champion



Dawn Bowden MS
Party: Welsh Labour
Region: Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney

More information

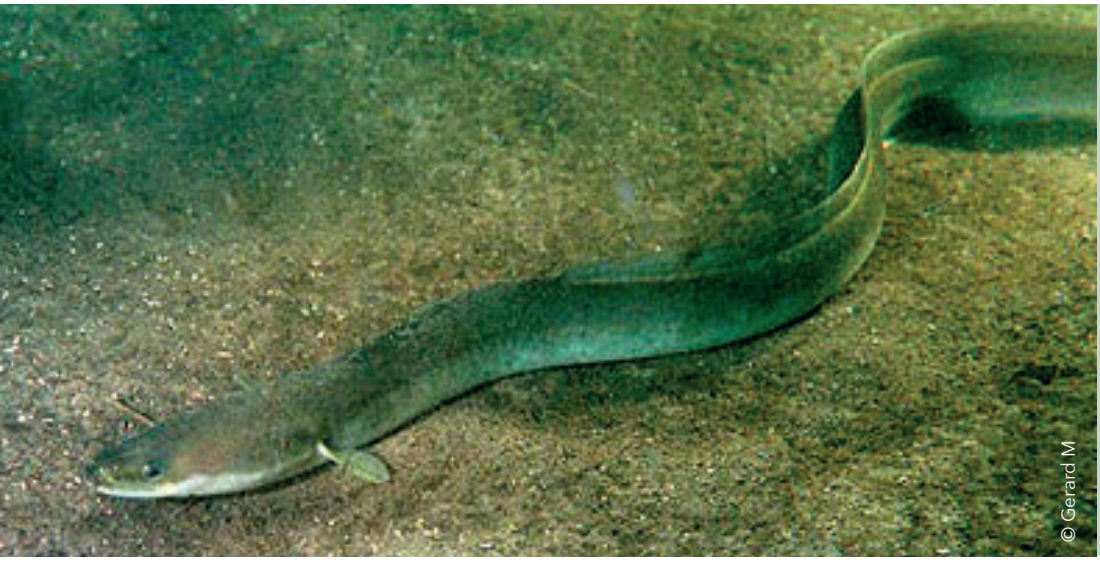
- iucnredlist.org/species/60344/12353683
- sustainableeelgroup.org

Lead members

afonydd cymru
caring for welsh rivers

Salmon & Trout Conservation Cymru
YN GWARCHOD EIN DYFROEDD GWYLLT · SEF 1903
DEFENDING OUR WILD WATERS · EST 1903

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Pencampwr Rhywogaeth



Dawn Bowden AS
Plaid: Welsh Labour
Bro: Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney

Mwy o wybodaeth

- iucnredlist.org/species/60344/12353683
- sustainableeelgroup.org

Prif aelod

afonydd cymru
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YN GWARCHOD EIN DYFROEDD GWYLLT · SEF 1903
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Llysywen Ewropeaidd

Disgrifiad a statws

Ystyrir y Llysywen Ewropeaidd yn rhywogaeth mewn Argyfwng Pryderus gan yr Undeb Rhyngwladol dros Gadwraeth Natur (IUCN) a chaiff ei ddiogelu gan Reoliad Llysywod y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd 2007 wedi ei ymgorffori yn Rheolau Llysywod (Lloegr a Chymru) 2009. Yn rhywogaeth diriogaethol ac unigeddol, maent i'w canfod ymhob fath o gynefin dŵr croyw. Y rhain yw'r unig bysgodyn Ewropeaidd sydd yn dychwelyd i'r môr i silio.

Gall eu harferion bwydo arwain at fiogroni llygryddion, megis metelau trwm a halogyddion organig, a thrwy hynny achosi niwed i'w organau ac amharu ar eu gallu i fudo. Mae llysywod yn elfen bwysig o fwyd rhywogaethau eiconig fel y dyfrgi, y gwalch a'r crëyr las. Mae llysywod grawn yn ffynhonnell bwyd pwysig i sawl rhywogaeth dros y gwanwyn, ar gyfnod pan mae gofynion y tymor atgenhedlu ar eu hanterth.

Mae'n bwysig felly i sicrhau fod poblogaethau llysywod yn ddigonol i gynnal y rhywogaethau hyn.

Bygythiadau

- Rhwystrau i fudo i fyny ac i lawr afonydd.
- Marwolaeth neu niwed gan dyrbinau neu sgriwiau ynni trydan dŵr.
- Dirywio cynefin neu colli cynefin.
- Masnach anhgyfreithlon mewn llyswennod bach.
- Effaith newid hinsawdd ar fudiad y larfa.

Gweithredu angenrheidiol

- Gwaredu rhwystrau i fudo.
- Atal eu tynnu i mewn i dyrbinau neu sgriwiau ynni trydan dŵr.
- Adfer cynefin a gwarchod cynefin.
- Brwydro yn erbyn y fasnach anghyfreithlon mewn llyswennod bach.
- Monitro effaith newid hinsawdd ar fudiad y larfa.

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