

# Anguillid Eel Interest Group



## Background, Objectives, and New Learnings

Catadromous eels [American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) and European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*)] are widely distributed in North America and Europe. Resource agency mandates to protect these species may result in imposition of costly measures with uncertain public benefits. The Anguillid Eel Interest Group (AEIG) is a forum for participants to acquire and exchange information on the biology, ecology, and management of the American and European eel and access resources pertaining to changes in permitting and licensing. Members will be kept abreast of research and management developments that may affect facilities and operations.

## Benefits

Decline in the American and European eel has stimulated resource management agencies to consider mitigation measures, including upstream passage at hydroelectric facilities and exclusion from water intakes at steam and hydroelectric generating facilities.

Unique aspects of eel ecology and behavior limit the ability of resource agencies and operators of generating facilities to apply knowledge and mitigation approaches used with other fish species. Scientific understanding of relevant eel biology and behavior is evolving rapidly, as are eel-specific regulatory and licensing initiatives targeting hydroelectric

## The Anguillid Eel Interest Group will bring participants together to:

- Contribute to and benefit from a network of informed peers
- Speed the dissemination of relevant technical and management information
- Evaluate operational measures adapted to site-specific conditions
- Provide linkages between European and North American experiences

generating facilities. These factors make timely synthesis and dissemination of eel-related information of great value to potentially affected generating facilities.

## Project Approach and Summary

The Anguillid Eel Interest Group serves as a forum for participants to exchange information related to protection of this species at electricity generating facilities. Project participants receive quarterly newsletters identifying recent and upcoming technical publications, meetings and regulatory developments related to eel protection and management. Annual workshops and quarterly conference calls facilitate exchange of information among project participants.

Specific technical issues that may be monitored and reviewed include:

- Population trends
- Reproductive biology
- Growth (freshwater and estuarine) and maturation
- Migration information (timing, swimming patterns)
- Contaminant levels and effects
- Parasite infestation and related issues
- Upstream and downstream passage technology design and performance
- Aquaculture and stocking

Management and policy information that is monitored and reviewed include:

## USA

- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensing requirements
- Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Eel Management Board actions
- Fish & Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration actions (e.g., Endangered Species Listing petitions, FERC license prescriptions, fishery regulations)
- State management actions

## Canada

- Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat activities
- Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada activities
- Species at Risk Act-related developments
- Provincial management actions

## European Continent

- EU legislation/outcomes, Eel Regulation review
- Member State legislation and initiatives
- Statements by sector associations
- Initiatives by other sectors: fisheries etc.

## Deliverables

Interest group members will have the opportunity to exchange information through:

- Quarterly webcasts and/or conference calls
- Quarterly newsletters
- Annual workshop (technical and management update, invited speaker presentations, roundtable issue discussions)

## Price of Project

The price for project is \$14,000 annually. Project qualifies for Self-Directed Funding (SDF) and Tailored Collaboration (TC) funding.

## Project Status and Schedule

The American Eel Interest Group began operation in 2009 and will continue as the Anguillid Eel Interest Group (now encompassing companies with an interest in the European eel as well as those with an interest in American eel) for the duration of ongoing participant interest.

## Who Should Join

Power companies with one or more facilities within the geographic range of these species should consider joining this interest group.

## Contact Information

For more information, contact the EPRI Customer Assistance Center at 800.313.3774 ([askepri@epri.com](mailto:askepri@epri.com)).

## Technical Contact

Paul Jacobson at 443.280.0294 ([pjacobson@epri.com](mailto:pjacobson@epri.com))

## EPRI

3420 Hillview Avenue, Palo Alto, California 94304-1338 • PO Box 10412, Palo Alto, California 94303-0813 USA

800.313.3774 • 650.855.2121 • [askepri@epri.com](mailto:askepri@epri.com) • [www.epri.com](http://www.epri.com)

© 2021 Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), Inc. All rights reserved. Electric Power Research Institute and EPRI are registered service marks of the Electric Power Research Institute, Inc.