



**INTERNATIONAL
EEL SYMPOSIUM**

Panel Discussion

Panel

- **Mike Jones, Facilitator**
- **Willem Dekker**
- **Martin Castonguay**
- **Gail Wippelhauser**
- **Roy Stein**
- **Henry Lickers**

Decline of wild populations

- Spot the problem
- Ring the alarm bell
- Find the cause
- Develop remedies
- Take appropriate action
- Keep fingers crossed:

Will action help?

1990

..... 2000

2000

No time to waste.
Fingers crossed:
Is action taken in time?

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Panel Deliberations 1

- still emphasizing fact of decline
- need to move past cause to ACTION

- need to focus on anthropogenic causes
 - habitat degradation
 - drastically reduce harvest eel harvest

- actions happening to improve eel passage
 - could we shut down hydro operations at times of day to allow passage?

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Panel Deliberations 2

- slow recognition of issue
- encouraged by recognition of importance of eels
- impacts on community are huge!!
- cannot let this species go

- fish passage improvements may help but might not be enough
- is reducing harvest enough, or do we need a moratorium?

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Panel Deliberations 3

- restocking: controversial as to how much it can do for us
- stocking may not solve problems, but may be “miner’s canary” – keep issue in front of us.
- what should appropriate targets for recovery be?
 - presence? historical levels?
- can the scientific community, concerned about this issue, mount a “public action”?
 - support for advocacy
 - media attention
 - get others involved

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Panel Deliberations 4

- need to ensure that habitat managers recognize and act on issue
- don’t lose sight of potential importance of marine issues
- NZ stock concerns may lag NA/Euro stock issues because of longer generation times
- what is SARA status of eels, or what should it be
- action must be taken on all “anthropogenic” fronts, not just on fishing

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Panel Deliberations 5

- eels all over the world are depressed – need to determine adequate levels of spawning numbers
- dramatic declines in hydropower facility use to protect eels raises questions of how to find replacement sources of energy
- causes of declines may be many-fold, but there are limited actions that we can take
- can the participants at this symposium draft and sign an appeal to increase global awareness of eels and their decline





