

Interreg
Sudoe



Current Eel Management (France, Spain, PORTUGAL)



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COUNCIL REGULATION 1100/2007

ESTABLISHING MEASURES FOR THE RECOVERY OF THE STOCK OF EUROPEAN EEL

The European eel is outside safe biological limits (ICES, 1998) and is critically endangered (IUCN). Annual recruitment of glass eels in European waters in 2018-2019 was 6 % of the historic recruitment in southern Europe. ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied to European eels, all anthropogenic effects (e.g. caused by recreational and commercial fishing at all stages, hydropower, pumping stations and pollution) that decrease silver eel production and escapement should be reduced to zero or kept as close as possible in 2019-2020.

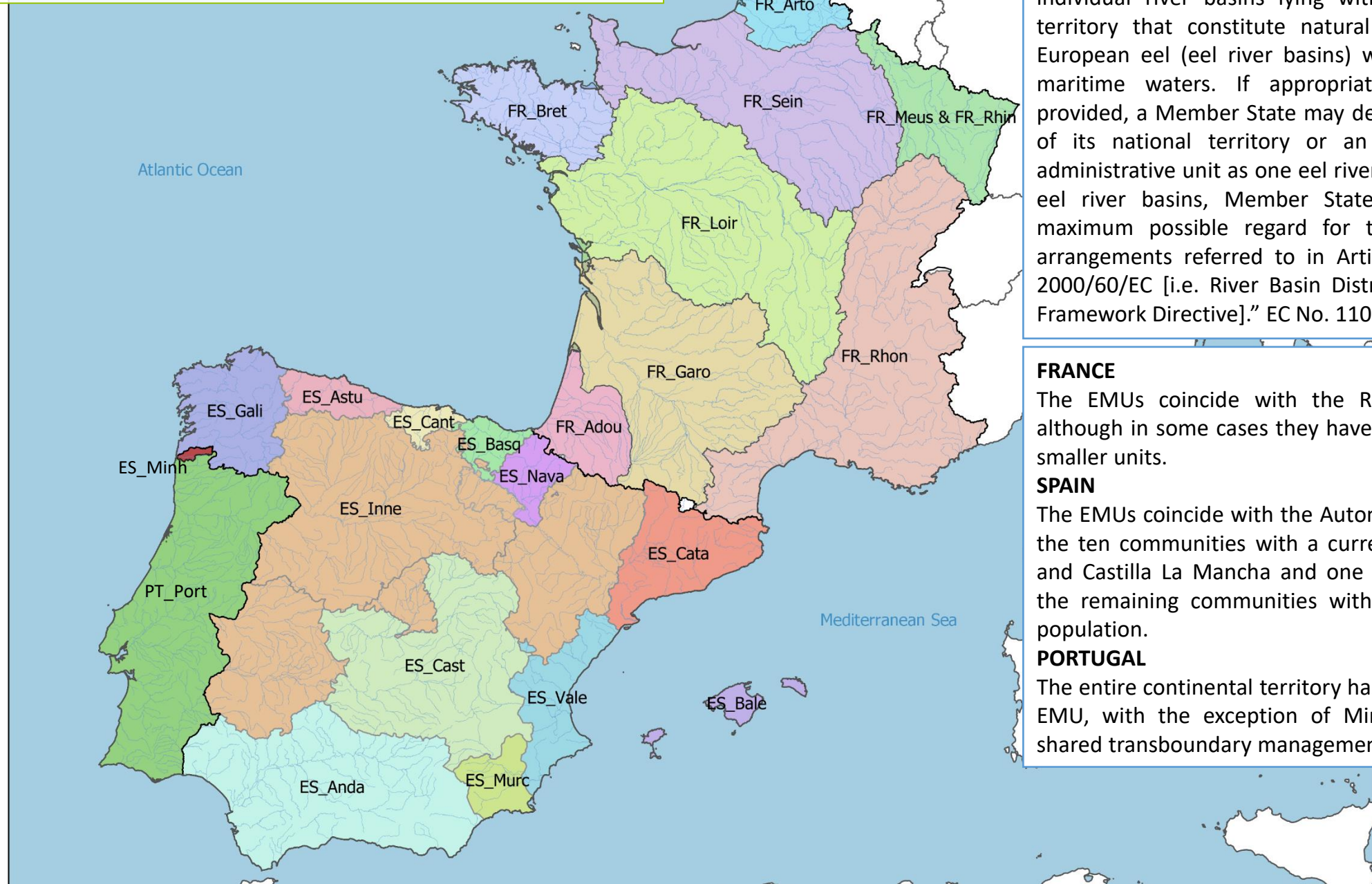
<https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2019/2019/ele.2737.nea.pdf>

In 2007, the European Union adopted Council Regulation 1100/2007 "establishing measures for the recovery of the stock". As a result, Member States were required to identify the natural habitats of the European eel and to develop Eel Management Plans (EMPs) to achieve a 40% escapement target for silver eels compared to pristine conditions.

[*\(Council Regulation \(EC\) 1100/2007 of 18 September 2007 establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel\)*](#)

COUNCIL REGULATION 1100/2007

ESTABLISHING MEASURES FOR THE RECOVERY OF THE STOCK OF EUROPEAN EEL



EEL MANAGEMENT UNIT (EMU)

“Member States shall identify and define the individual river basins lying within their national territory that constitute natural habitats for the European eel (eel river basins) which may include maritime waters. If appropriate justification is provided, a Member State may designate the whole of its national territory or an existing regional administrative unit as one eel river basin. In defining eel river basins, Member States shall have the maximum possible regard for the administrative arrangements referred to in Article 3 of Directive 2000/60/EC [i.e. River Basin Districts of the Water Framework Directive].” EC No. 1100/2007.

FRANCE

The EMUs coincide with the RBDs (see Annex), although in some cases they have been divided into smaller units.

SPAIN

The EMUs coincide with the Autonomous Regions in the ten communities with a current eel population and Castilla La Mancha and one that encompasses the remaining communities without a current eel population.

PORTUGAL

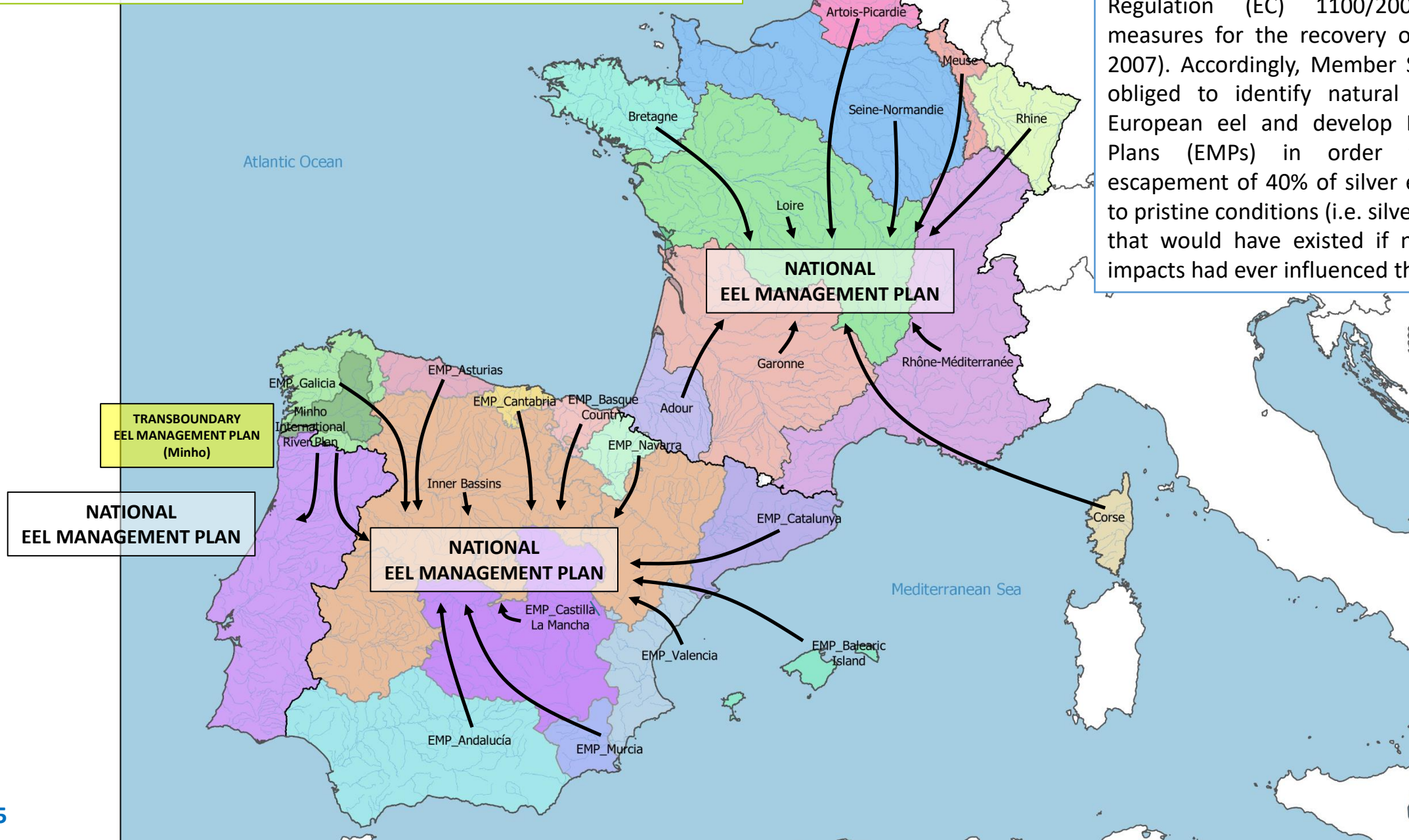
The entire continental territory has been taken as an EMU, with the exception of Minho, which has a shared transboundary management plan with Spain.

COUNCIL REGULATION 1100/2007

ESTABLISHING MEASURES FOR THE RECOVERY OF THE STOCK OF EUROPEAN EEL

EEL MANAGEMENT PLAN (EMP)

In 2007, the European Union passed Council Regulation (EC) 1100/2007 “establishing measures for the recovery of the stock” (EU 2007). Accordingly, Member States (MS) were obliged to identify natural habitats of the European eel and develop Eel Management Plans (EMPs) in order to achieve an escapement of 40% of silver eels as compared to pristine conditions (i.e. silver eel escapement that would have existed if no anthropogenic impacts had ever influenced the stock).



EEL MANAGEMENT IN FRANCE

For the management of migratory species (including eels) and their fisheries throughout the basin (under marine and river regulation), the Migratory Fisheries Management Committees (COGEPOMI) were established in 1994. There are nine COGEPOMI (management units, grouping basins), one for each major group of basins:

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Rhin-Meuse | 4. Bretagne | 7. Adour |
| 2. Artois-Picardie | 5. Loire | 8. Rhône-Méditerranée |
| 3. Seine-Normandie | 6. Garonne-Dordogne | 9. Corse |

They bring together all the actors involved in the management of these species (representatives of the administration and public institutions, different categories of fishermen, local authorities, associations, hydroelectricity, etc.). Each COGEPOMI proposes Migratory Fish Management Plans (PlaGePoMi) every five years to determine conservation and management actions, restocking operations and proposes fishing regulations for both recreational and commercial fishing.

The implementation of Regulation 1100/2007 led to the development of a specific management plan for eels. The then Ministries of Agriculture and Fisheries and of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning and the National Office for Aquatic Environments (ONEMA) developed a [national EMP](#) incorporating the main requirements of the regulation and proposing a homogeneous framework. However, the national plan leaves the implementation of the plan to COGEPOMI at the local level, taking into account the characteristics and needs of each territory. Thus, the French Eel Management Units (EMU) were defined, more or less coinciding with the areas of COGEPOMI. For this reason, the various COGEPOMI have drawn up [specific eel plans](#) for each of the areas. All stakeholders (administrations, local authorities, public institutions, associations, users, etc.) are involved in the preparation of these plans and contribute to their implementation.

The secretariat of these committees is provided by the Regional Directorates of Environment, Development and Housing (DREAL). The DREALs represent the State in the implementation of the public policies of the Ministry of Ecological Transition and Solidarity (MTES) and the Ministry of Territorial Cohesion (MCT). Under the authority of the regional and departmental prefects, the DREALs are responsible for drawing up and coordinating State policies on "sustainable development and planning, ecological transition, combating climate change, preserving the quality of the environment (water, air, soil), biodiversity and landscapes, preventing pollution, risks and disturbances, as well as housing, habitat, urban renewal and transport, with a view to ensuring consistency between these issues.

The National Museum of Natural History (MNHN) is the scientific authority for CITES and the Ministry of the Environment is the administrative authority. The control of illegal fishing and trade is the responsibility of the French Biodiversity Office (AFB), the Central Office for the Fight against Damage to the Environment and Public Health (OCLAESP) belonging to the National Gendarmerie, the Ministry of Justice and the Customs Service of the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

COMPETENT EEL MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES IN FRANCE

Threat	National Competent Authority
Disruption of river connectivity	Ministry of Ecological Transition and Solidarity (Direction of Water and Biodiversity)
Habitat degradation/contaminants	Ministry of Ecological Transition and Solidarity (Direction of Water and Biodiversity)
Overfishing	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Ministry of ecological and solidarity transition (Direction of Water and Biodiversity)
Illegal trade	Ministry of Ecological Transition and Solidarity (French Biodiversity Agency and CITES authority); Ministry of Interior (National Gendarmerie) and Ministry of Economy and Finance (Customs)

EEL MANAGEMENT IN SPAIN

The **General Secretariat for the Sea**, then the Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs responsible for fisheries and the environment, coordinated and presented the Eel Management Plan (EMP) in December 2008. Given Spain's national and regional competences, the Spanish management plan is based on a [National Eel Management Plan](#) and [12 specific EMPs](#): 10 EMPs prepared by the Autonomous Communities with current eel populations, 1 EMP for Castilla la Mancha, and another one covering the rest of Autonomous Communities without a current eel population.

The competences related to eel management that can be assumed by the Autonomous Communities include:

- Environmental protection management.
- The legislation, management and concession of hydraulic resources and their uses in the waters that flow within the Autonomous Community and the projects, construction and operation of hydraulic uses, channels and irrigation of interest to the Autonomous Community. This would be the case of the river basin districts of the internal basins of the Basque Country, Galicia Coast, Tinto, Odiel and Piedras, Guadalete and Barbate, the Mediterranean basins of Andalusia and Catalonia (see Annex).
- Inland water fishing, shellfish farming and aquaculture, hunting and river fishing.

However, **the Autonomous Communities must coordinate with the State** in the EMP, as the latter has exclusive powers in:

- The participation and coordination of actions concerning the European Union's internal fisheries policy, participation in the formulation of strategies, guidelines and programs for the conservation of biological diversity, genetic resources and marine ecosystems through the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (**MAPA**).
- Legislation, management and concession of hydraulic resources and their uses when the waters flow through more than one Autonomous Community, and the authorization of electrical installations when their use affects another Community or the transport of energy goes beyond its territorial scope. This would be the case of the Cantabrian, Minho-Sil, Duero, Tajo, Guadiana, Guadalquivir, Segura, Júcar and Ebro river basin districts. The management in this case is carried out through the 9 hydrographic confederations dependent on the Ministry for Ecological Transition (**MITECO**). Each Confederation is included in a district except the Cantabrian one which is present in two districts: Eastern Biscay (in which they share competences with URA, Basque Water Agency) and Western Biscay.
- Basic legislation on environmental protection, without prejudice to the powers of the Autonomous Communities to establish additional protection regulations, which is done through MITECO.
- Management of the state control forces, including the Nature Protection Service (**SEPRONA**) of the Guardia Civil.
- International relations, including the National Administrative Authority (**Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism**) and Scientific Authority (MITECO) for the CITES Convention.

COMPETENT EEL MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES IN SPAIN

Threat	National Competent Authority	Regional Competent Authority
Disruption of river connectivity	Hydrographic Confederations (Ministry for Ecological Transition)	Water related regional authorities
Habitat degradation/contaminants	Hydrographic Confederations biodiversity managers (Ministry for Ecological Transition)	Water related regional authorities Biodiversity and hábitat related regional authorities
Overfishing	Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Food	Regional fishery managers Regional fishery control forces
Illegal trade	Internal Affairs Ministry (SEPRONA) Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism (CITES administration) Ministry for Ecological Transition (CITES scientific)	Regional fishery control forces

EEL MANAGEMENT IN PORTUGAL

The eel fishery is managed by the Directorate General for Natural Resources, Maritime Safety and Services (**DGRM**), responsible for transitional and coastal waters, and the Institute for the Conservation of Nature and Forests (**ICNF**), responsible for inland waters. Licenses to fish in inland waters are issued by the ICNF, while licenses to fish in transitional and coastal waters are issued by the DGRM. The ICNF has five Regional Directorates (**DRCNF** - Regional Directorate for the Conservation of Nature and Forests: North; Centre; Lisbon and Tagus Valley; Alentejo; Algarve). In addition, ICNF is also the National Authority for the CITES Convention. The DGRM and the ICNF report to two ministries: the Ministry of the Sea and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Action, respectively.


The management of water bodies is the responsibility of the Portuguese Environment Agency (APA) through 5 hydrographic region administrations for inland waters (Hydrographic Region Administration: North; Centre; Tagus and West; Alentejo; Algarve), which depend on the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Action. These authorities are responsible for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and thus for the obstacles in the river basins.

The control of the fishery is carried out by the National Maritime Authority (**AMN**) through 20 local commands and 20 captains, and by the National Republican Guard (**GNR**) through 18 territorial units with 87 environmental protection teams (**SEPNA**), 10 Nautical Sub-teams and 1 Coastal Control Unit (UCC). In addition to GNR, the Economic and Food Security Authority (**ASAE**) participates in the control of illegal trade through 7 sub-regional delegations (2 North; 2 Central; 3 South).

For the development of the [Portuguese Eel Management Plan](#), the entire continental territory was taken as EMU, with the exception of the Miño, which has a transboundary management plan shared with Spain - [Eel Management Plan in the International Section of the Miño River](#) (TIRM). In the first management plan, a working group coordinated by the National Forest Authority (AFN) (now ICNF I.P.) was created, which included representatives of the Directorate General for Fisheries and Aquaculture (DGPA) (now DGRM), the Institute for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity, I.P. (ICNB) (now ICNF), the Water Institute, I.P. (INAG) (now APA I.P.) and the National Institute of Biological Resources (INRB/IPIMAR) (now IPMA). The following entities were also invited to join the group: EDP - Energias de PORTUGAL, S.A., and the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon. In the second management plan, the Permanent Transboundary Commission of the Miño River was created, which includes representatives from both countries: from PORTUGAL - DGRM, Capitanía Porto Caminha, IPMA, ICNF, CIIMAR (Interdisciplinary Centre for Marine and Environmental Research, Univ. de Porto) and from Spain - Comandancia Naval do Minho, Subdelegación del Gobierno Pontevedra, Servicio Provincial de Costas de Pontevedra-MAGRAMA, Xunta de Galicia - Consellería do Mar, Ministerio de Agricultura y Pesca, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, Xunta Galicia - Servizo de Conservación da Natureza and Confederación Hidrográfica Miño-Sil. This commission establishes specific rules that apply to the fishing carried out in TIRM.

COMPETENT EEL MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES IN PORTUGAL

Threat	National Competent Authority
Disruption of river connectivity	APA I.P. (Portuguese Environmental Agency) – National Water Authority ICNF I.P. (Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests)
Habitat degradation/contaminants	APA (Portuguese Environmental Agency) ICNF (Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests) - Mainly in Protected areas
Overfishing	DGRM (Directorate General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services) – Management of Brackish water fisheries (Ministry of the Sea) ICNF (Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests) - Management of Freshwater fisheries (Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development) AMN (National Maritime Authority) GNR (National Republican Guard)
Illegal trade	ICNF (Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests) - CITES Authority GNR (National Republican Guard) ASAE (Economic and Food Safety Authority) – controls illegal economic activities and is a CITES inspection authority AT (Tributary and Customs Authority)



ANNEX

EU WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE AND RIVER BASIN DISTRICT



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EU WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

INTEGRATED RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT FOR EUROPE

On 23 October 2000, the "Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy" or, in short, the EU Water Framework Directive (or even shorter the WFD) was finally adopted.

A single system of water management: River basin management

The best model for a single system of water management is management by river basin - the natural geographical and hydrological unit - instead of according to administrative or political boundaries. For each river basin district - some of which will traverse national frontiers - a "river basin management plan" needs to be established and updated every six years, and this will provide the context for the coordination requirements.

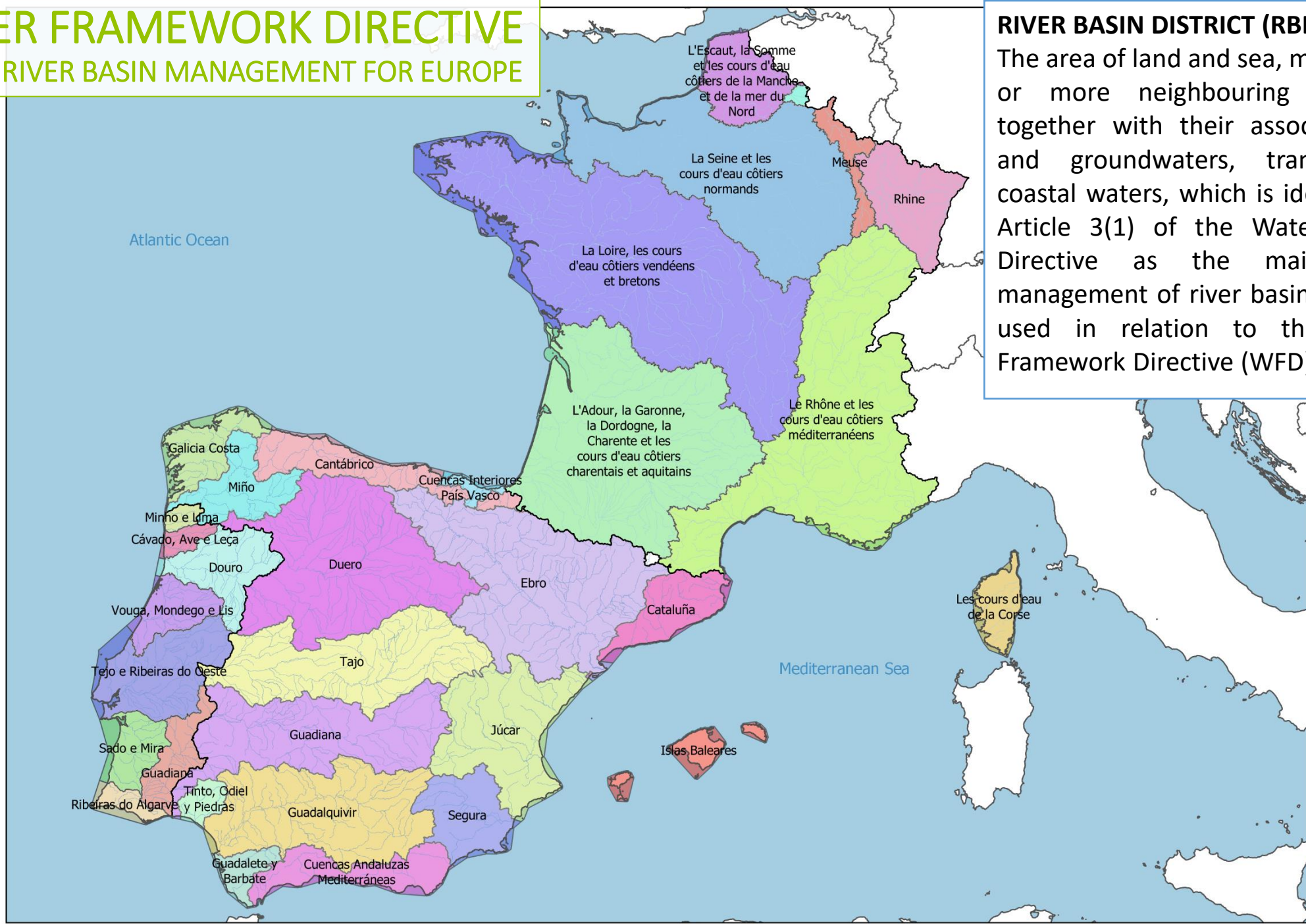
The river basin management plan

The plan is a detailed account of how the objectives set for the river basin (ecological status, quantitative status, chemical status and protected area objectives) are to be reached within the timescale required. The plan will include all the results of the above analysis: the river basin's characteristics, a review of the impact of human activity on the status of waters in the basin, estimation of the effect of existing legislation and the remaining "gap" to meeting these objectives; and a set of measures designed to fill the gap. One additional component is that an economic analysis of water use within the river basin must be carried out. This is to enable there to be a rational discussion on the cost-effectiveness of the various possible measures. It is essential that all interested parties are fully involved in this discussion, and indeed in the preparation of the river basin management plan as a whole. Which leads to the final major element of the Directive, the public participation requirements.

(European Commission/Environment/Water/Water Framework Directive)

EU WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

INTEGRATED RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT FOR EUROPE



RIVER BASIN DISTRICT (RBD)

The area of land and sea, made up of one or more neighbouring river basins together with their associated surface and groundwaters, transitional and coastal waters, which is identified under Article 3(1) of the Water Framework Directive as the main unit for management of river basins. The term is used in relation to the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD).

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Project co-financed by the INTERREG SUDOE Programme
through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

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