



General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean  
Commission Générale des Pêches pour la Méditerranée



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## Management framework of eel in Europe: current structure, status of advice and role of the ICES EIFAAC Working Group on Eel

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Meeting on

Mediterranean coastal lagoons management:  
interaction between aquaculture and capture  
fisheries

Cagliari, Italy, 28-30 June 2011



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1990-2013

→ Growing concern about the conservation of the European eel, *Anguilla anguilla*

→ Need for conservation and suitable management has been clearly identified by scientists, managers, and even by the public opinion.

→ The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) since October 2002 pointed out the urgent need for a recovery plan for the European eel, that should include measures to reduce exploitation of all life stages and restore habitats.

→ Consultations at many levels



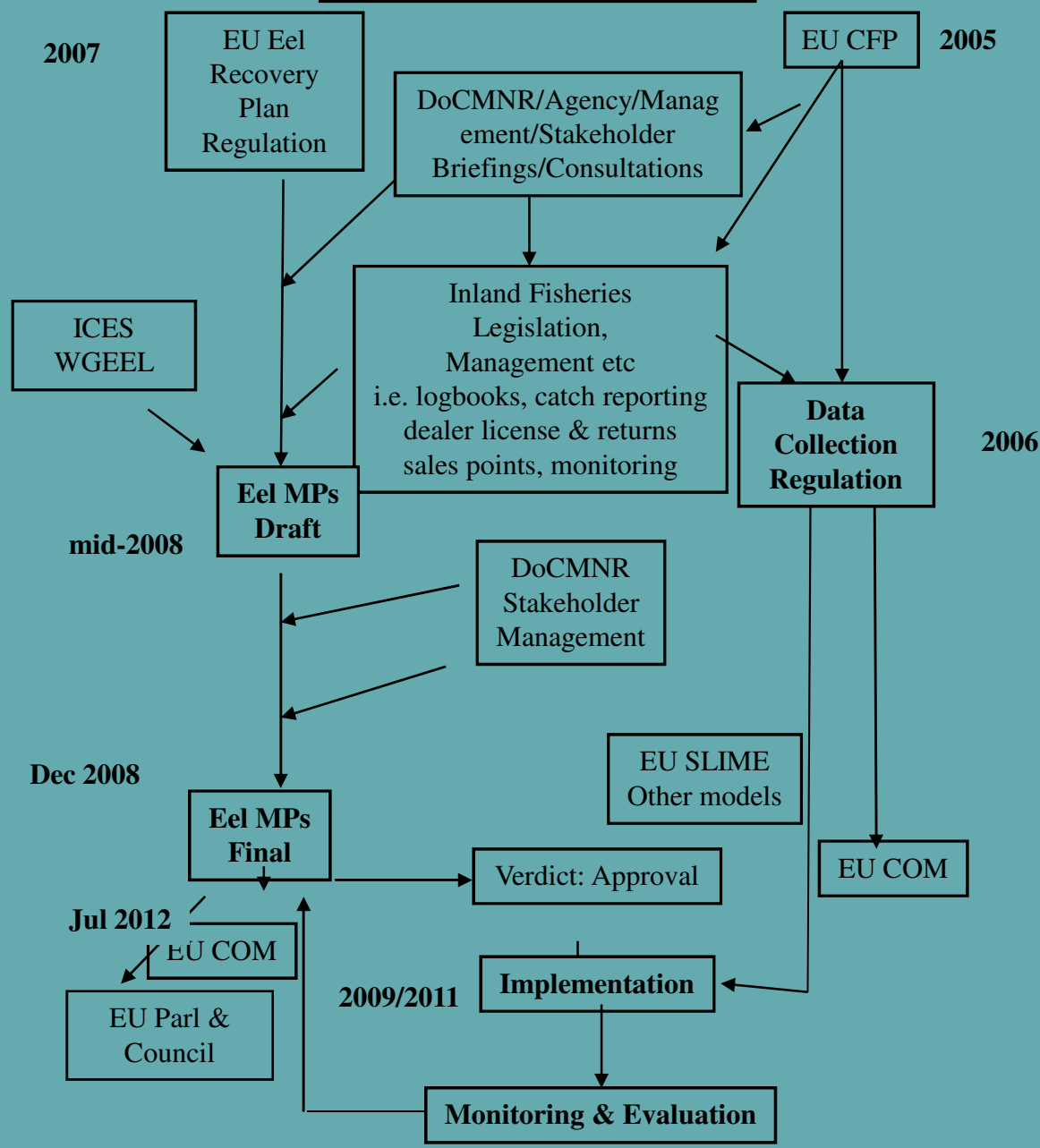
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- September 2007 Regulation 1100 is issued by EU
- 2008 MS prepare and submit EMPs
- 2009 EMPs are evaluated and approved
- 2009-2011 EMPs implementation
- 2012 MS prepare and submit to EU  
a report based on monitoring  
and evaluation
- 2013 stock-wide assessment for eel



new actions are foreseen at EU level

# Eel Timescale and Schedule





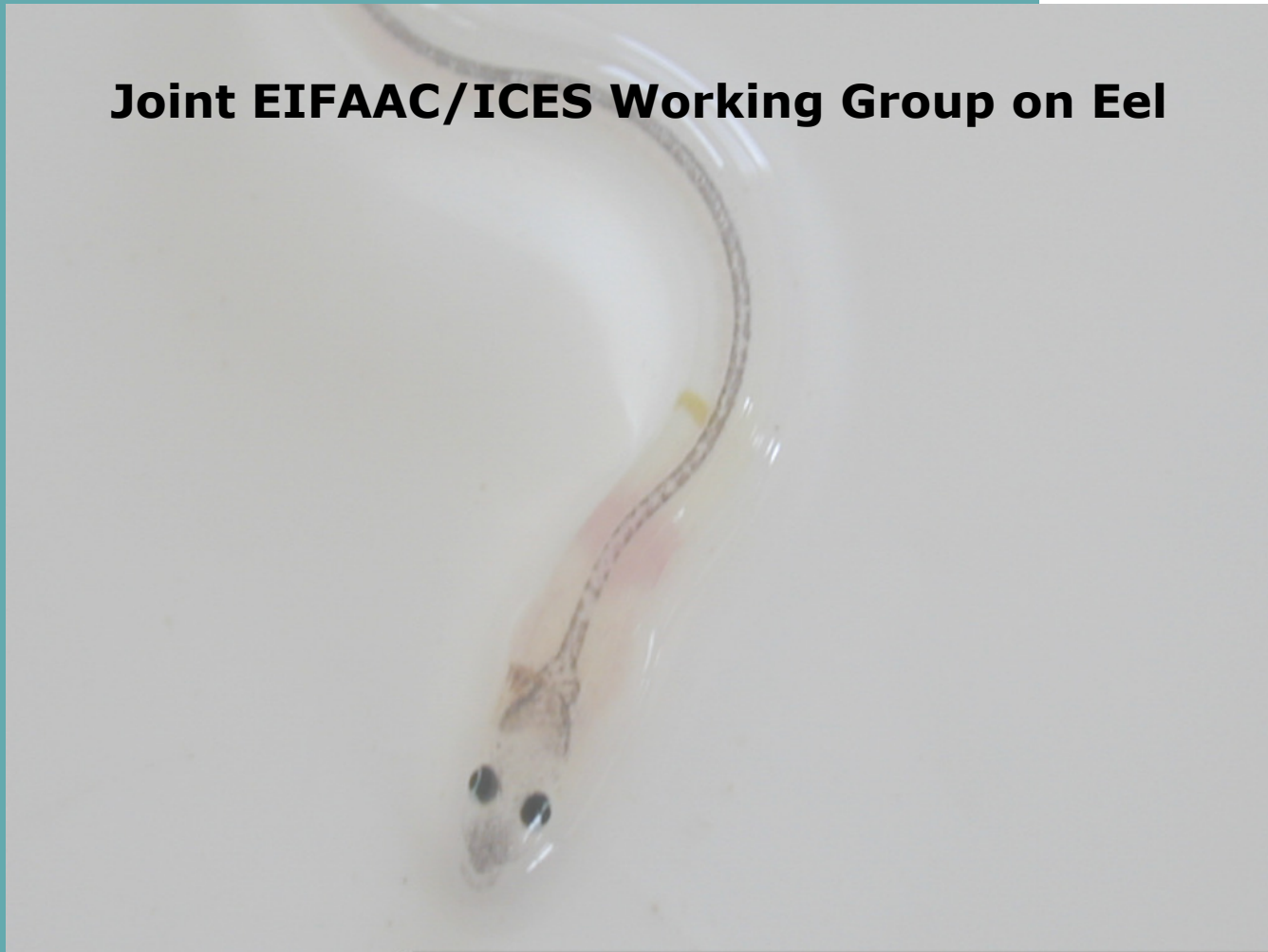
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## Joint EIFAAC/ICES Working Group on Eel





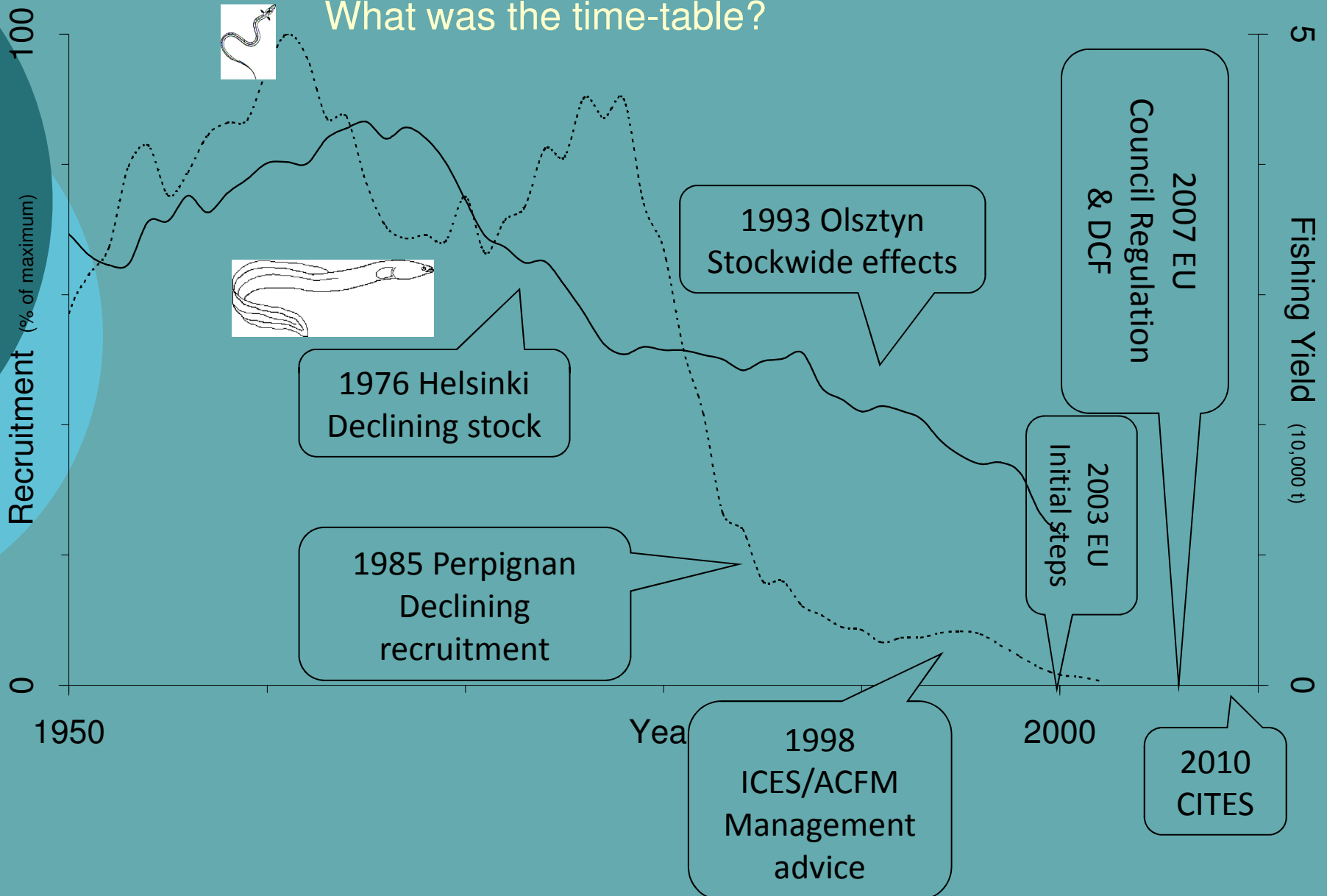
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## History of Working Group

- 1968 International interest in eels: declining stock & re-stocking
- 1976 ICES/EIFAC eel symposium
- .... WG meetings: catch data, etc
- 1982 WG meetings became EIFAC symposia on eel biology.
- 1985 Wide spread recruitment decline noted
- 1993 Whole cycle: whole stock in decline
- 1996/98 Joint WG between ICES & EIFAC
  - Protect stock, reduce fishing (ACFM advice)
- 1999-2006 - renewed data collection: trends now evident
  - causes of the decline: fisheries/habitat/climate/...
  - suggestions for contents of recovery plan
- WG now annual – provision of scientific advice on annual data
- FAST-TRACK Advice for EU;
- EU Recovery Plan in 2007



## What was the time-table?





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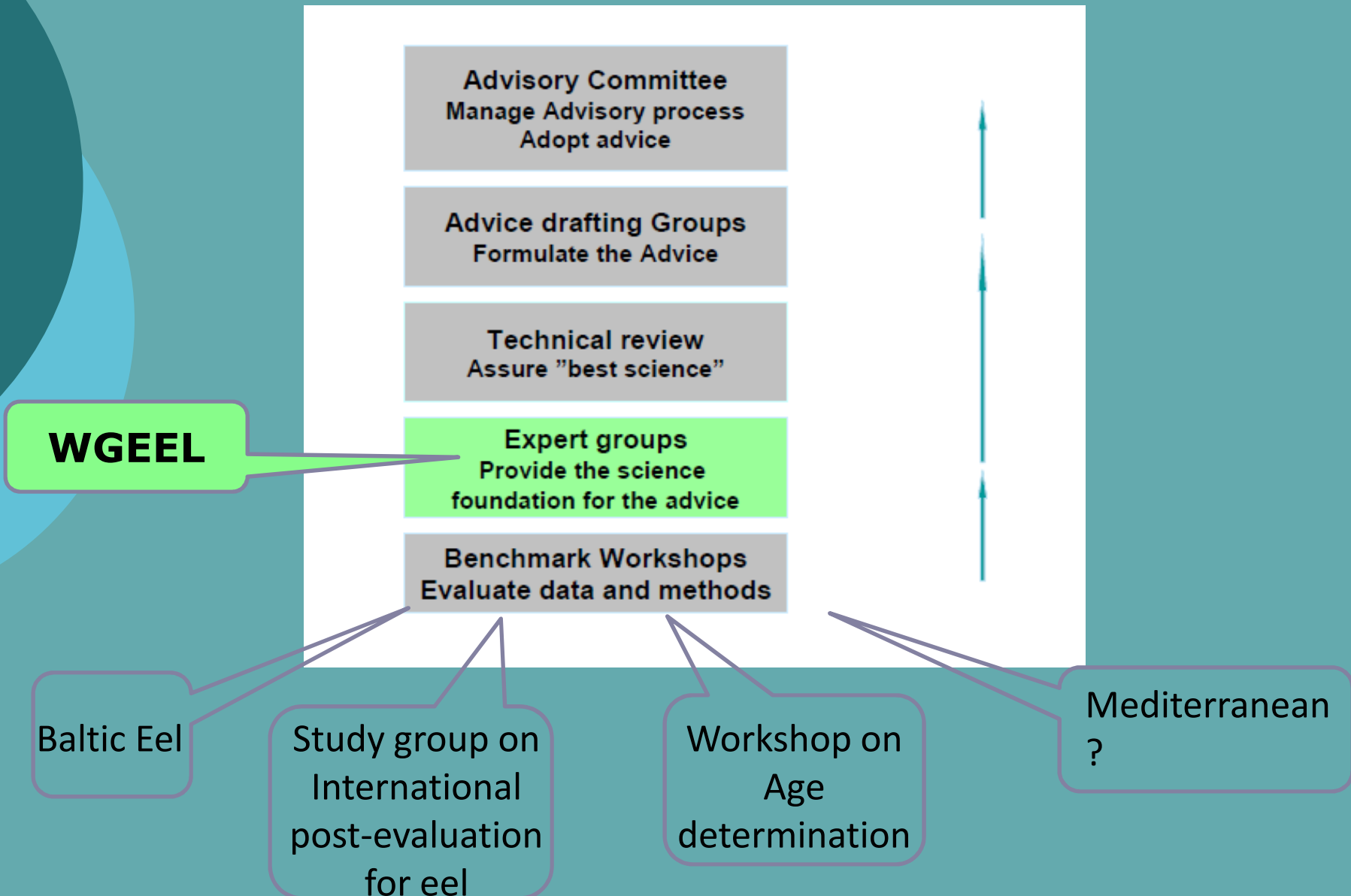
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## EIFAAC/ICES Working Group

- EU are represented on EIFAAC
- EU have a formal arrangement with ICES for seeking fisheries advice
- ICES and EIFAC membership is different
  - Many countries in southern eel range are not members of ICES
  - EIFAAC covers Inland Waters & Inland Fisheries
  - WGEEL has been accepted as a new Project in the reformed EIFAAC



# ICES Advisory Process



# Joint EIFAAC/ICES Working Group on Eel, 2010

## Recommendations

### Main recommendations

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- Since overall recruitment remains at an all time low since records began, the stock continues to decline and stock recovery will be a long-term process for biological reasons, all negative anthropogenic factors impacting on the stock and affecting the production/escapement of silver eels should be reduced to as low as possible, until long-term stock recovery is achieved.
- The 2001 meeting of WGEEL (ICES 2002) recommended the formation of an international commission that could act as a clearing house for handling and coordinating data collection & storage, stock assessment, management and research. Noting the urgent need to plan and coordinate the data collection and tool development for the 2012 post-evaluation; this recommendation is re-iterated.
- In particular, it is recommended to organise a (series of) workshops in relation to local eel stock monitoring, with a focus on standardisation and coordination, preparing for the 2012 post-evaluation, setting the scene for the 2013 international stock assessment.

## Baltic cooperation on eel in 2011/2012

### The problem:

1. Parallel efforts: 2012 post-evaluation
2. Shared data: common recruitment trends
3. Interactions: SE and DK fishing emigrating silvers

### The approach:

1. Train of 5 workshops, specific focus for each
2. Joint analysis, efficient assessment
3. Quantifying interactions.

### The planning:

1. Workshops for all countries
2. Organised by HELCOM & ICES & SE
3. Starting in fall 2011 (after WGEEL)
4. Reporting early 2012
5. Focus on assessment. Countries post-evaluate EMPs.





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## Study Group on International Ex-post evaluation on Eels (SGIPEE)

London, United Kingdom, 24-27 May 2011

*" The European Eel Regulation recognises that cooperation between countries within and outside EU is desired, especially where management measures taken in one country might interact with measures taken in other countries. This has brought attention to the fact that the "missing" countries that are most relevant to the production assessment are the Mediterranean countries. The Mediterranean area has been neglected up to now regarding its role in the stock-wide assessment. A distinctive contribution regarding potential and actual escapement for Mediterranean areas might be envisaged, on the basis of specific growth patterns, silvering rates and sex-ratios "*