



## Without aid there would not be any eel in the Netherlands

The Netherlands has nearly 15,000 barriers which the eel cannot cross without human intervention. Our coastline is almost fully closed off to eels and other migratory fish. And their journey through the inland waterways of the Netherlands also knows many barriers. Many eels get hurt in pumping stations every day and die as a result. As long as there are no unblocked migratory pathways, DUPAN and its partners are instead combatting the problem by physically helping the eel migrate to and from the ocean.

Help the eel overcome the barriers



## Do you enjoy eel? Choose wisely!

It is very well possible to enjoy eel responsibly, but make sure to choose eel which has the blue Eel Stewardship Fund logo. That way, you will be sure that you are contributing to helping young eels get to the right habitats, helping mature eels cross the dikes and investing in scientific research. These measures as well as regulated, sustainable fishing ensure that we will be able to continue enjoying eel in the future.

A sustainable future for eel aquaculture:

- Releasing young eels
- Helping eels across the dikes
- Increasing the sector's sustainability
- Scientific research into effectively eel management

## About the DUPAN foundation

DUPAN undertakes and coordinates activities which accelerate the increase in the eel population in the Dutch inland waterways and restore the population in a sustainable fashion. We cannot sit back and do nothing; we want to help the eel. That's why DUPAN is a very active organisation. For the latest information and our cooperating partners, please visit [www.dupan.nl](http://www.dupan.nl)



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**Dutch  
EEL**  
*European from head to tail*

Choose consciously, help us!



European from head to tail

Eel is actually a European breed of fish. They spawn in the ocean and are carried along by the currents to European shores, millions of larvae at a time. After a six-month journey, they arrive here, having grown into tiny glass eels. Once they are in fresh water, they mature into full grown eels.



A part of the Netherlands for many centuries

Eel is as much a part of the Netherlands as clogs, tulips and windmills. It has been part of our culture for centuries. Understandably so, because the Netherlands has water in abundance and much of it is nutrient-rich fresh water. Eels come to the Netherlands to feed and mature. Our country is a true eel paradise. There are plenty of small water creatures and insect larvae for them to feast on. After a while, the full-grown eels return to their spawning grounds out in the ocean.



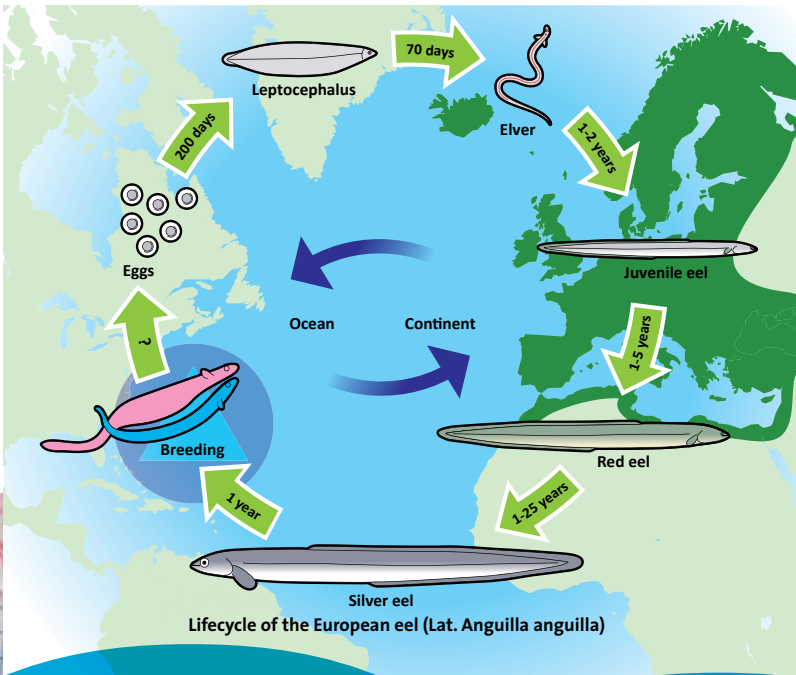
Well on our way to a sustainable future

Eel is dear to us.

Over the last few decades, the eel population has been steadily declining. One of the main causes of this is the high degree of coastal protection in Europe, which prevents the young glass eels from reaching the fresh water in land and maturing there. Therefore, the eels need our help. The DUPAN foundation is dedicated to helping eels in the Netherlands.

Aid from the rest of Europe

All of Europe is aiding in restoring the eel population. Rules for this have been formulated in Brussels. For example, we are obligated to catch young eel that are stopped in their tracks by barriers and set them free in the wild. There are also limitations on and strict rules regarding eel fishing. Moreover, Europe is implementing solutions to make it possible for eels to pass through the afore-mentioned barriers.



DUPAN dedicates itself to the conservation of eel and their part in our culture

Helping eel conquer our dikes

From 2012 onwards, professional fishermen and recreational anglers, the Dutch government, Dutch water managers and the Coastal & Marine Union have been working together to help as many fully matured eel as possible return to their spawning grounds unharmed. The sexually mature eels, known as silver eels, are caught before they reach pumping stations and hydro power plants and brought across the dikes out to sea. This extra security measure saves thousands of eels each year, some over a metre long in length. And once they are back in the ocean, each of them will spawn at least a million offspring.

Restoring the interrupted life cycle of the eel

As long as it remains impossible for young eel to reach our country on their own, the DUPAN foundation is releasing millions of young eel each year in carefully selected, nutrient-rich areas in the Netherlands. This has caused an acceleration in the growth of the eel population, and causes the number of mature eels to rise as well. This allows us to restore the natural life cycle of the eel that has been interrupted. These initiatives are made possible in part by the Eel Stewardship Fund.



Increase in glass eel

After decades of decreasing numbers, scientists have since 2011 been observing an increase in the number of glass eels that are attempting to reach European continental waters. Time will tell whether this increase is linked to the European policy changes.



Restocking works

DUPAN has sponsored scientific research into the growth of juvenile eels, matured in fish farms. This research (as well as other independent research) shows that eels from fish farms thrive in the wild. Recent scientific research in Sweden determined that these eels behave naturally and know the right way to their spawning grounds once they are mature. Breeding eels and introducing those into the wild is therefore a good way to accelerate the increase in the eel population.



Making progress

The DUPAN foundation is working on making eel aquaculture fully sustainable. With measures such as the release of young eel into the wild (both wild glass eels and juvenile eels from fish farms), regulated eel fishing compliant with the international Sustainable Eel Standard, helping mature eels cross the dikes and investing in scientific research, eel will be a sustainable fish species before long.

