



Overview of recent trade in *Anguilla* spp., focusing on American Eel range States

Vicki Crook

Wildlife Trade Analyst
Independent consultant

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Trade analysis – data sources

- FAO catch production
- National landings
- Global Customs – UN Comtrade
- East Asian Customs
- Farming input
- CITES Notification No. 2018/018
- Online research and press releases
- Focus – live eels from *A. rostrata* range States



Customs codes

Global – Harmonised System (HS)

- Live eels (*Anguilla* spp.) - HS 030192
- Fresh or chilled eels (*Anguilla* spp.) - HS 030274
- Frozen eels (*Anguilla* spp.) - HS 030326)
- Prepared/preserved eels (*Anguilla* spp.) - HS 160417

East Asian Customs – examples of more detailed live eel codes

Hong Kong

0301.92.10 Live eel fry "*Anguilla* spp."

0301.92.90 Live eels, other than fry (*Anguilla* spp.)

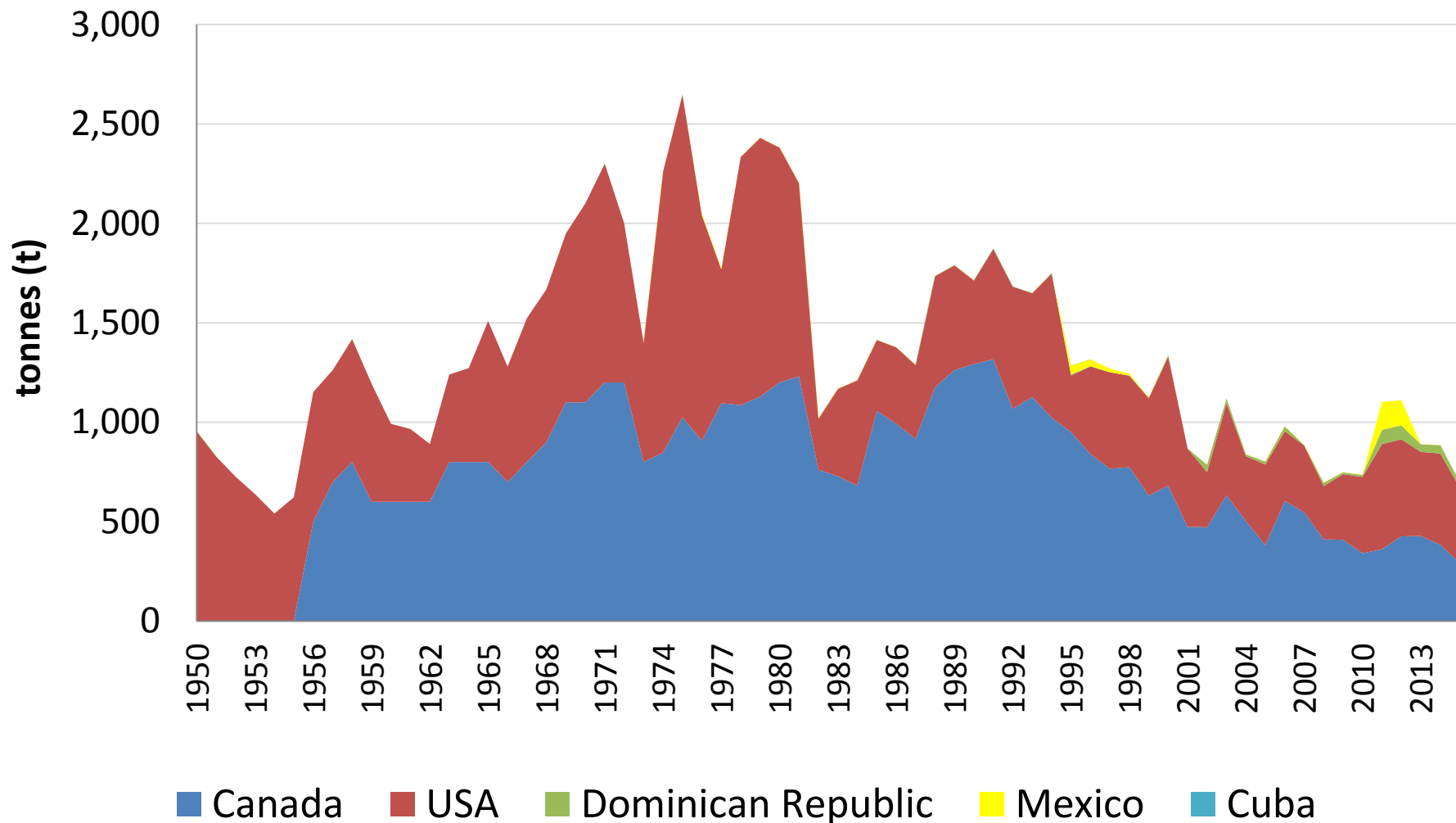
South Korea

0301.92.10.00 Glass eel (≤ 0.3 g per unit, for aquaculture)

0301.92.20.00 Young eel (> 0.3 g and ≤ 50 g per unit, for aquaculture)

0301.92.90.00 Live eels, other than fry (*Anguilla* spp.)

Catch Production, *Anguilla* spp., 1950-2015





Exports of all eel commodities

(live, fresh, frozen and prepared eel)

- **Recent annual exports** of all eel commodities from *A. rostrata* range States **decreased** (from 4,100 t in 2011 to 2,200 t in 2015).
- Overall decline due to **decrease in exports of frozen eels**
- Annual **live eel exports increased** from ~370 t in 2008 to over 1,200 t in 2013-2015.
- UN Comtrade live eel data includes all life stages.

Live eel (re-)exports (tonnes)

<i>EXPORTS</i>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
USA	368.7	284.5	260.7	476.1	628.4	1,041.6	1,181.0	1,114.3	
Canada		272.1	214.9	176.6	228.6	273.3	174.1	158.5	171.1
Costa Rica	0.8	15.2	28.1	28.2	8.9		1.1		
Panama				53.8					
Dominican R.				1.4	1.6	4.7	1.6	1.3	2.8
Jamaica							0.0	0.0	0.1
Nicaragua	0.0						0.0		
Total	369.5	571.8	503.7	736.1	867.4	1,319.6	1,357.8	1,274.2	174.0

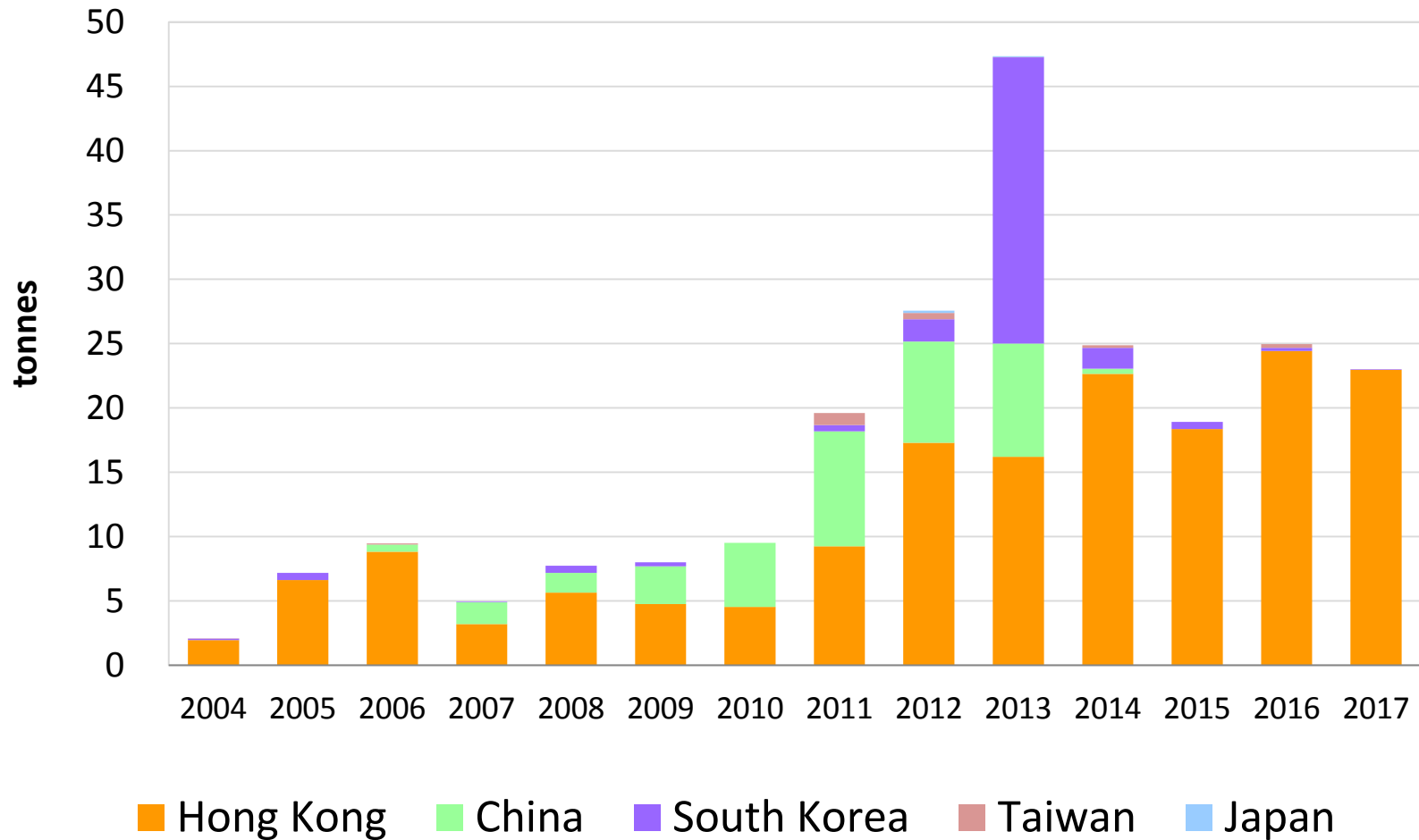
<i>Re-exports</i>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
USA	1.3		1.0	39.3	0.1	18.5	97.8	63.5	
Canada				1.7				2.6	1.1
Jamaica									0.1
Total	1.3		1.0	41.0	0.1	18.5	97.8	66.1	1.2

Live eel imports into the USA and Canada

(tonnes)

Importer	Source	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Canada	USA	250.3	98.9	117.8	114.6	57.9	23.7	8.7	14.0	13.5	699.5
	Cuba				3.2	13.2	4.8	1.5	2.0	0.1	24.7
	Haiti						2.2	8.6	6.9	2.8	20.6
	Dominican R.						0.7	1.0	2.9	1.9	6.5
	Dominica							0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2
	Jamaica									0.1	0.1
	Canada total		250.3	98.9	117.8	117.9	71.1	31.4	19.8	26.0	18.4
USA	Canada	141.9	166.2	69.7	4.3	15.8	10.9	20.8	35.0		464.7
	Haiti						7.9				7.9
	Dominican R.						3.3				3.3
	Jamaica							0.0			0.0
	USA total		141.9	166.2	69.7	4.3	15.8	22.2	20.8	35.0	0.0

East Asian imports of live eel fry from *A. rostrata* range States (tonnes)



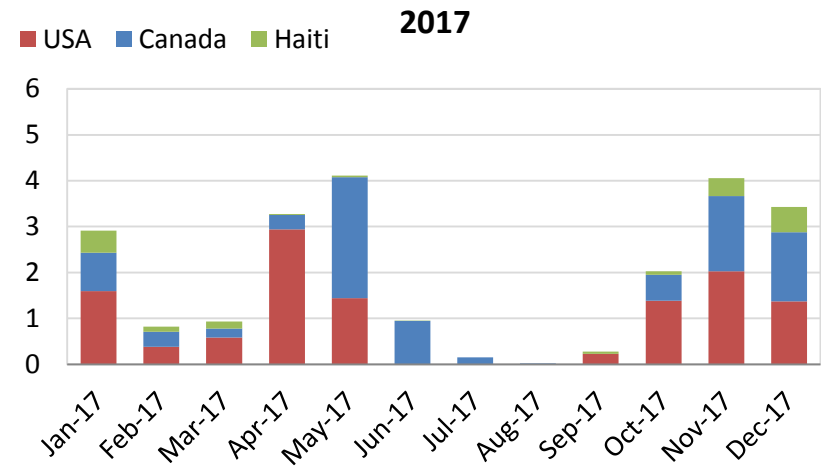
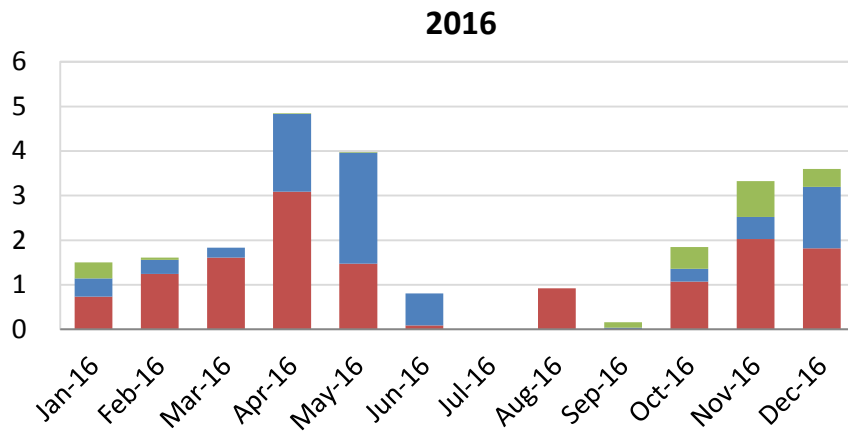
East Asian live eel fry imports by source, (kg)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Canada	5,420	6,536	8,146	13,836	14,751	18,609	11,004	7,403	8,221	9,134
USA	2,319	1,461	1,367	5,764	12,188	26,593	12,043	9,707	14,366	11,956
Haiti						626	1,476	1,704	2,340	1,908
Dominican R.					351	875	183	103	40	
Cuba					264	628	106			
C&S America						20	60			
Total	7,739	7,997	9,513	19,600	27,554	47,351	24,872	18,917	24,967	22,998

- Imports from Dominican Republic and Cuba reached peaks of 1.5 t in 2013
- Haiti became main live eel fry supplier to East Asia from the Caribbean region since 2014 (1.5-2.4 t annually)
- Haiti has not reported *Anguilla* spp. catch production to FAO, nor has Cuba since 1995.

Hong Kong live eel imports, origin and seasons (tonnes)

2017 data	USA	Canada	Haiti
Imports by origins (a)	12	9.1	1.9
Imports by suppliers (b)	13.5	9.4	0.1
(b)-(a)	+1.5	+0.3	-1.8



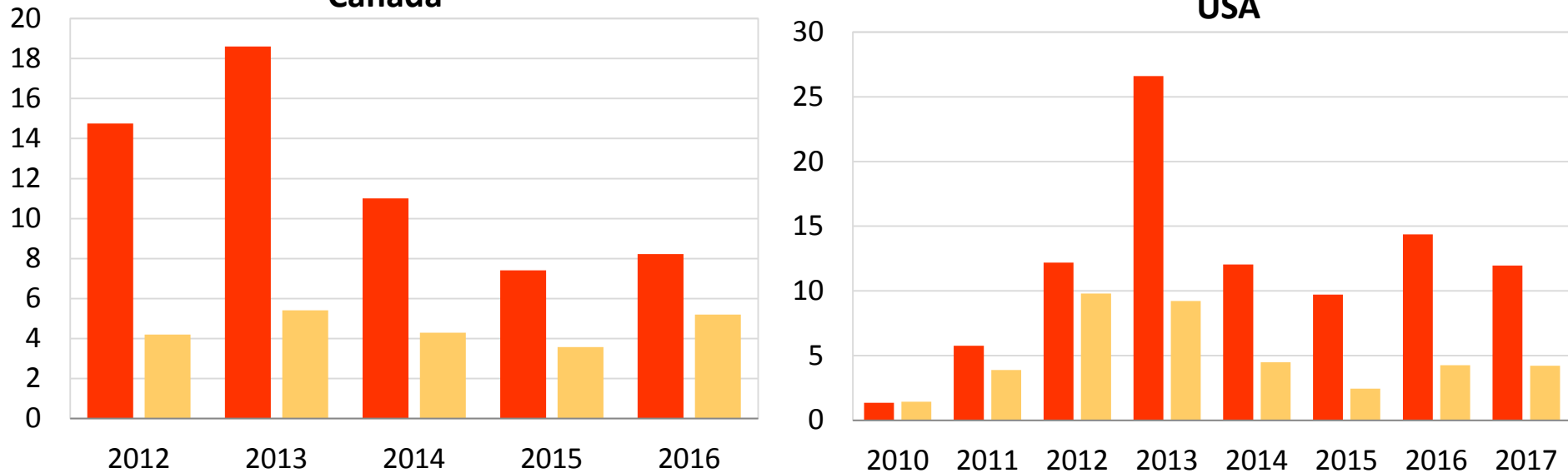
North America: ~March – July, 5000 eels/kg **Caribbean:** ~October – February, 6000-8000 eels/kg

Reported live eel fry catches vs. trade

(tonnes)

Canada

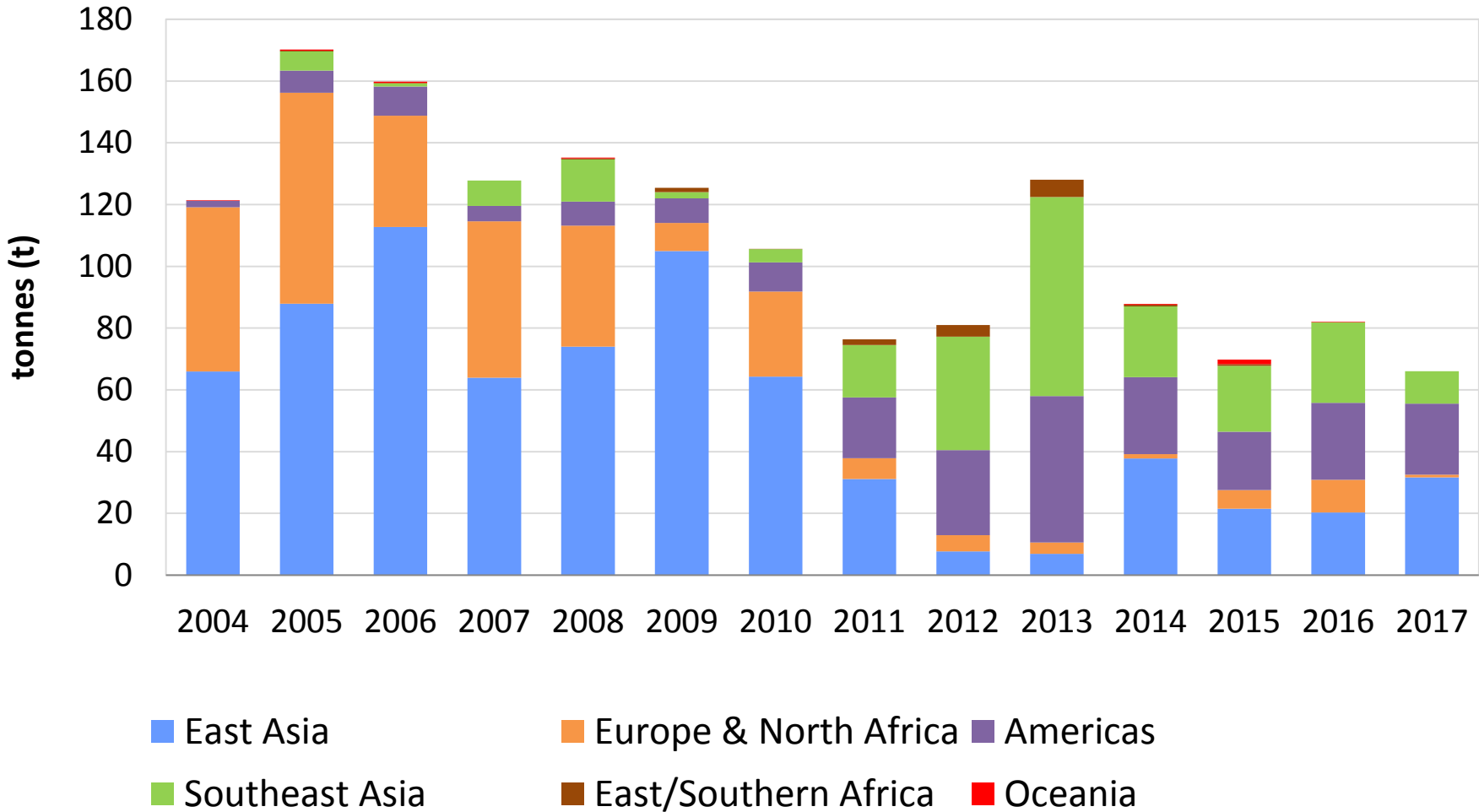
USA



Live eel fry imports from Canada and the USA reported by East Asian Customs (dark orange)
Elver landings reported by Canada and the USA, CITES Notification No. 2018/018 (light orange)

- In all years but 2010, live eel fry imports exceed the quantity of elver landings.
- Significant quantities may have been sourced from other range States and re-exported from the US and Canada, or exports include unreported (and potentially illegal) landings.
- Data not directly comparable, however, as imports may include variety of live eel fry sizes.

Changes in live eel fry supply since the CITES listing/EU trade ban



East Asian farming input of *A. rostrata*

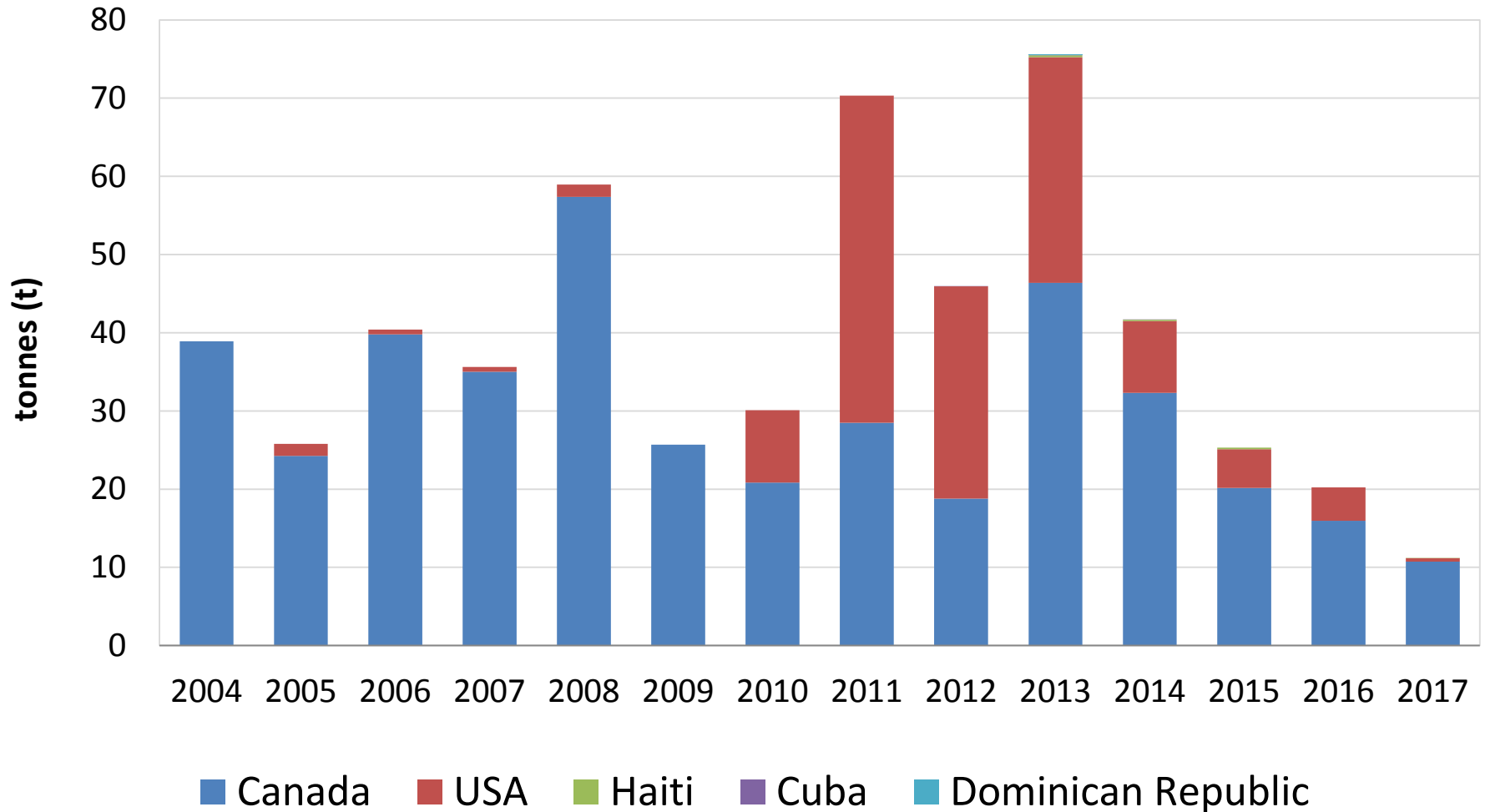
(tonnes)

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
China	3.5	5.5	8.5	9.0	13.0	18.5	32.0	27	<i>Not complete</i>
South Korea			0.5	1.7	5.6	0.5	0.1	0.7	0.035

Joint Statement at Tenth Meeting of the Informal Consultation on International Cooperation for Conservation and Management of Japanese Eel Stock and Other Relevant Eel Species, June 2016.

- China began to import small quantities from North America for farming trials in 1994
- Input stayed constantly low until 2010, when farming Caribbean eels became successful
- In 2016, *A. rostrata* input exceeded those of *A. anguilla* and *A. japonica*
- According to another source, China farm input of *A. rostrata* glass eels from the Caribbean and Central America has been 9-15 t every year from 2011
- Korea began *A. rostrata* farming trials in 2011 and maintained small-scale *A. rostrata* farming every year, however with limited success.

East Asian imports of other live eels, by source (tonnes)



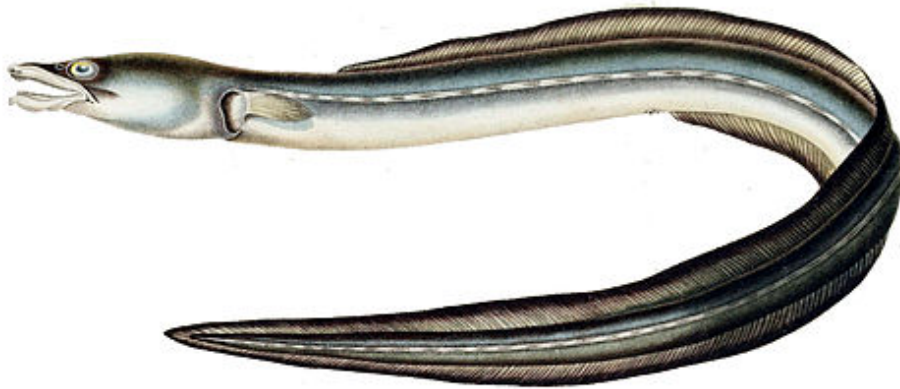
Look-alike species



Marbled Swamp Eel (*Synbranchus marmoratus*)



Hagfish, Class Myxini



Snake Eel (*Ophichthus remiger*)



Red Pike Conger (*Cynoponticus coniceps*)



Trade in look alike species

- Common name for eel in Spanish is “anguila”
- Costa Rica, Panama and Nicaragua exports most likely to be Red Pike Conger (*Cynoponticus coniceps*)
- Peru, Ecuador and Chile (non-range States) reported total exports of 163 t of *Anguilla* eels in 2008-2016 to UN Comtrade
- Live eel exports reported annually by Peru in 2008-2016, 0.9 t (2008) - 2.1 t (2013); principal destinations Japan (2 t), the USA (1.8 t) and Hong Kong (1.7 t)
- Reports of increased fishing, processing and trade in Punctuated Snake Eel (*Ophichthus remiger*) to East Asian markets.
- Press releases say these eels are similar to the “Japanese eel” and are therefore in increasing demand in Asia as a substitute

Thank you!
¡Muchas gracias!

Any questions?
¿Preguntas?

Contact:
vicki_crook2@yahoo.co.uk

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