

Eel

Species Description

Scientific name: *Anguilla anguilla*

The Eel is a very long, narrow fish that can grow to over a metre in length. It looks smooth and lacks the obvious scales and gills of other fish. It can be found in rivers and ditches, but leaves its freshwater home to breed in an area of the west Atlantic Ocean called the Sargasso Sea. Young Eels (known as 'Evers') return to freshwater rivers to develop. Eels are predators and scavengers, feeding on dead animals, fish eggs, invertebrates and other fish.

This is a Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. Listed as Critically Endangered on the global IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.



Key ID features

Snake-like body with no obvious scales. Colour can range from silver to olive green

Large pectoral fins

Yellow belly

