REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
Minister of Agriculture

ORDER

X РД09-797/08.07.2022

Pursuant to Art. 30, para. 5 of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act (FAA), art. 3, para. 1 and Art. 5, para. 2 of the Structural Regulations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (promulgated SG No. 82 of 18.10.2019) in connection with a letter of agreement with ex. No. 04-00-1368/25.05.2022 of the Ministry of Environment and Water, approved report with reg. No. 93-3750/08.07.2022 of Stefan Burdzhev, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and the need to implement measures to protect the European river eel,

I ORDER:

1. Commercial and recreational fishing of European river eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) in the waters of the territory of Bulgaria and in the Bulgarian water area of the Black Sea is prohibited.
2. The ban is introduced for a period of 5 (five) years, starting from the date of issuance of the order.
3. In case of accidental catch of specimens of eel, they should be returned immediately to the water basin from which they were caught, regardless of their condition.
4. The captains of fishing vessels shall record in the fishing logbook each case of accidental catch of eel, the record containing information on the weight and size of each eel caught individually.
5. When carrying out recreational fishing, information is recorded for each accidental catch of eel by the order of Art. 24, para. 1, item 3 of FAA.

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In case of a discrepancy, the Bulgarian original will prevail.

6. For the period of validity of this order, it is prohibited to carry, store, transport, offer and sell eels caught in the waters of the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria or in the Bulgarian water area of the Black Sea.

The order does not apply to storage, carrying, transportation, offering and sale of eels in the country, farmed in facilities under Art. 3, para. 1, point 3 of the FAA, for which there is registration under Art. 25 of the FAA.

International trade in eels with countries outside the European Union (including transfer of ownership in a commercial transaction, donation/exchange, movement, import, export and re-export from the European Union) is regulated according to Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 of 9 December 1996 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein (OJ, L 061 of March 3, 1997), including are included those farmed in facilities under Art. 3, para. 1, point 3 of the FAA, for which there is registration under Art. 25 of the FAA.

The order does not apply to catch, without right of retention, for scientific research purposes, in cases where the person holds a valid authorisation to catch European river eel, issued by Art. 40, para. 2 of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act. Caught specimens are returned to the water basin from which they were caught.

The order is subject to appeal in accordance with the Code of Administrative Procedure within one month from the announcement of issuance and or within 14 days from the individual announcements to the persons who participated in the proceedings before the administrative body.

The order is to be published on the electronic pages of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture.

I assign control over the execution of the order to the Executive Director of the Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture.

The order to be communicated to the persons liable for information and execution.

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D-R IVAN IVANOV
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

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