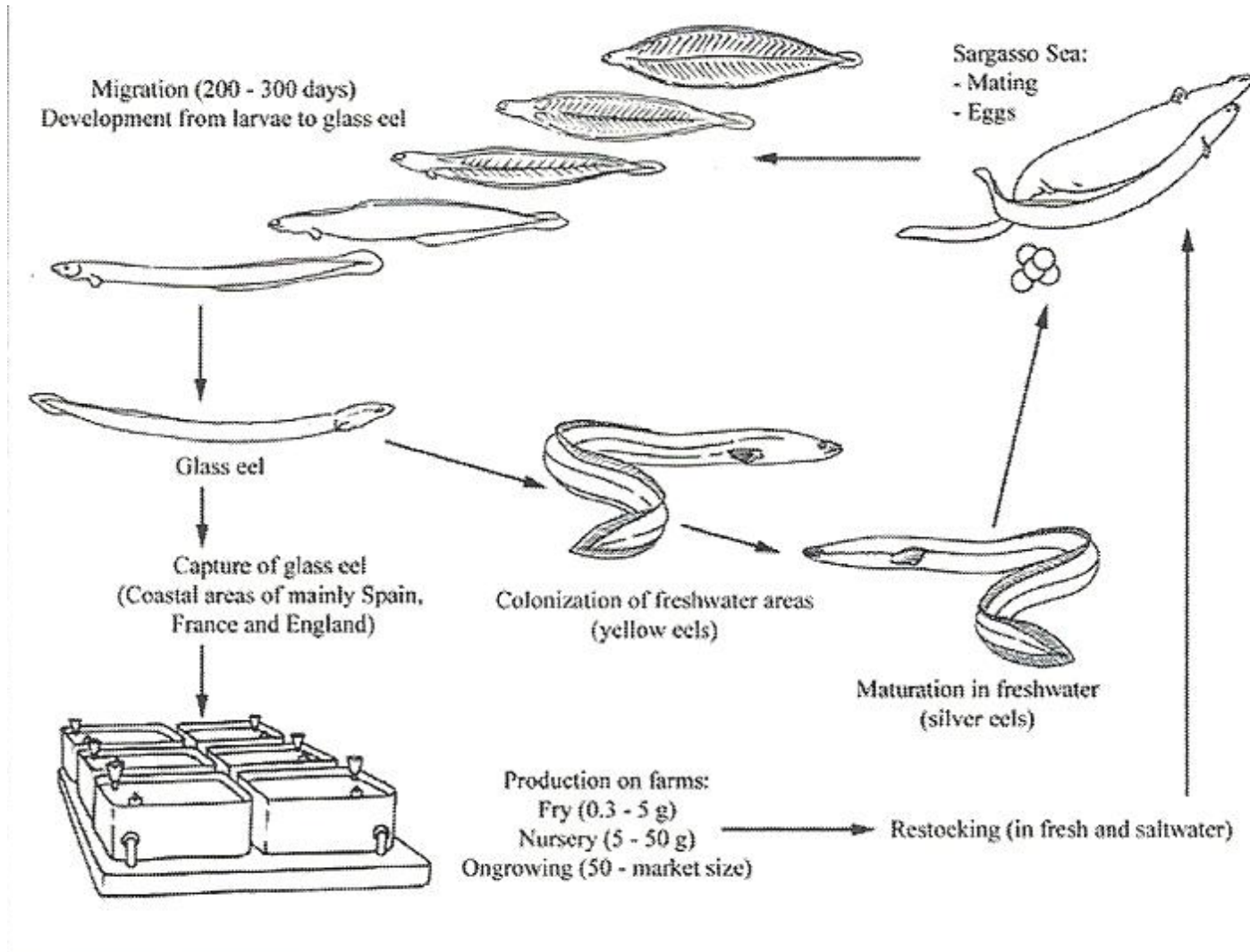


# Live eel transport from Egypt to The Netherlands

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# Lifecycle of the eel



# Problem

- After arrival in The Netherlands many eels of the 20 tons showed abrasions and wounds and their selling price was reduced
- Microbiological examination of the wounds: Aeromonas, Pseudomonas infection
- What has caused these infections and from where?

# Skin lesions (Aeromonas sp.)



# Healthy eels (*Anguilla anguilla*)



# Anguilla anguilla

- Silver eels are ready to swim to the Sargasso sea to spawn and do not eat during this trip
- Eels were caught in a lake next to a garbage belt outside of Alexandria
- Eels in Egypt were kept in floating cages
- Put into plastic baskets with holes and carried a long way to a scale
- After each weighing the scale was scraped clean from water







# Container

- Aluminium holding tanks fit into a 40 foot sea-container
- Each of the two tanks can hold 10,000 kg of eels
- Water is cooled to 5°C
- Surplus of ammonia is taken away by zeolite
- Water is supplied with oxygen





# Examination

- All eels looked good and healthy, no wounds
- Each day two eels were euthanized
- Samples from liver and kidney were taken for bacterial examination



# Transport

- Containers were permanently on trailers
- Trailers were transported to the Alexandria harbour by truck tractor
- On a ferry to Pireaus, Greece then through the Corinth canal to Venice, Italy
- Imported, checked by an Italian veterinarian
- Water change and loading into smaller tanks



















# Arrival in The Netherlands

- Eels were weighed again – some weight loss
- Eels like to wriggle their tails into every opening they can find
- Some eels had small wounds and abrasions from catching and transport
- No growth of bacteria was found in the liver and kidney samples taken during the journey





# Solution

- Eels were transported at 5°C
- After arrival they were put into well water of 12°C
- This sudden jump of 7 degrees caused a septicaemia in some of the eels with small wounds
- A gradual raise of maximal two degrees per day is the solution to this problem
- Salt 3 grams/litre during one week helped heal the lacerations

# The end

