



**Beastly
Business**

Green-collar crimes and the illegal wildlife trade in Europe

Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Sheffield

Beastlybusiness.org | [@BeastlyProject](https://twitter.com/BeastlyProject)

Beastly Business

Draws on collective team effort
Iordachescu et al (2023)
Environmental Politics
Gutierrez & Duffy (in review)



Beastly Business Project (2021-2023)

News > UK > Home News

Organised crime finds a new type of contraband: goldfinches

John Lichfield | Friday 6 May 2016 13:26 BST | 0 comments

Source: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/organised-crime-finds-a-new-type-of-contraband-goldfinches-a7016676.html>

Illegal eel: black market continues to taint Europe's eel fishery

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/world-on-a-plate/2016/feb/09/illegal-eel-black-market-continues-to-taint-europes-eel-fishery>

Europe

Liechtenstein prince accused of poaching Europe's largest bear

Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/05/07/arthur-bear-liechtenstein-romania/>

Green-collar crimes

Environmental crimes that are (un)knowingly committed by legally registered companies involved in illegal activities, or which use their infrastructure to facilitate trade (Barret, 1997; Van Uhm 2016).



Political Ecologies of Green Collar Crime



highlights the role of legal businesses engaged in IWT

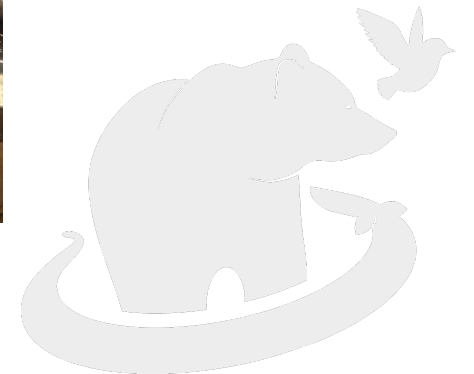
deconstructs the power dynamics and inequalities that underlie environmental harms caused by green-collar crime.



Trade in European Eels

- Critically endangered
 - Listed on CITES Appendix II in 2010 due to concerns trade could drive extinction
- 2007 EU regulations
- Rises in eel prices
 - 2019 trade estimated £3bn per year
- legally fished eels £150 per kg
illegally fished £1500 per kg

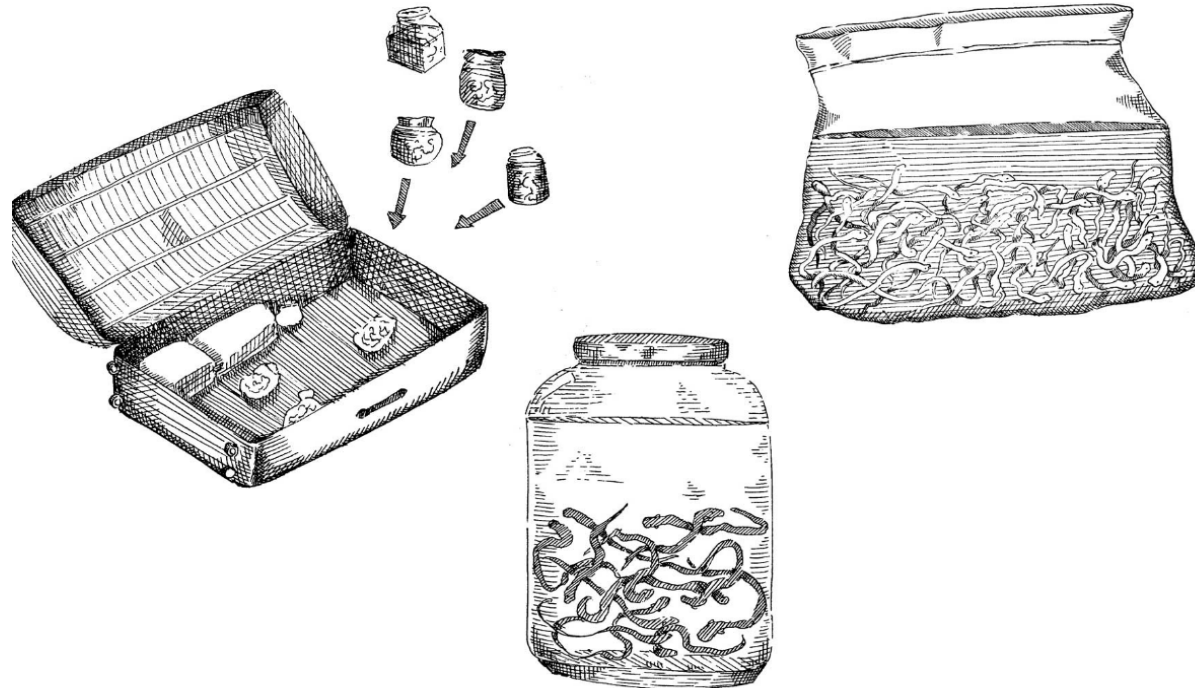
Photo credit: George Iordachescu



Legal and illegal trade intermix

- ‘there is no trader who has never trafficked’ (P5),
- to make a profit in the illegal glass eel business, ‘companies are more or less obliged to participate in both official [dealings] and smuggling’ (P8)

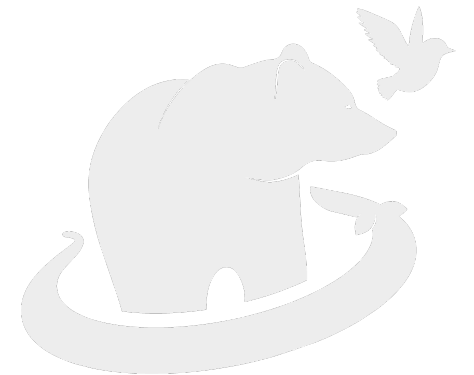
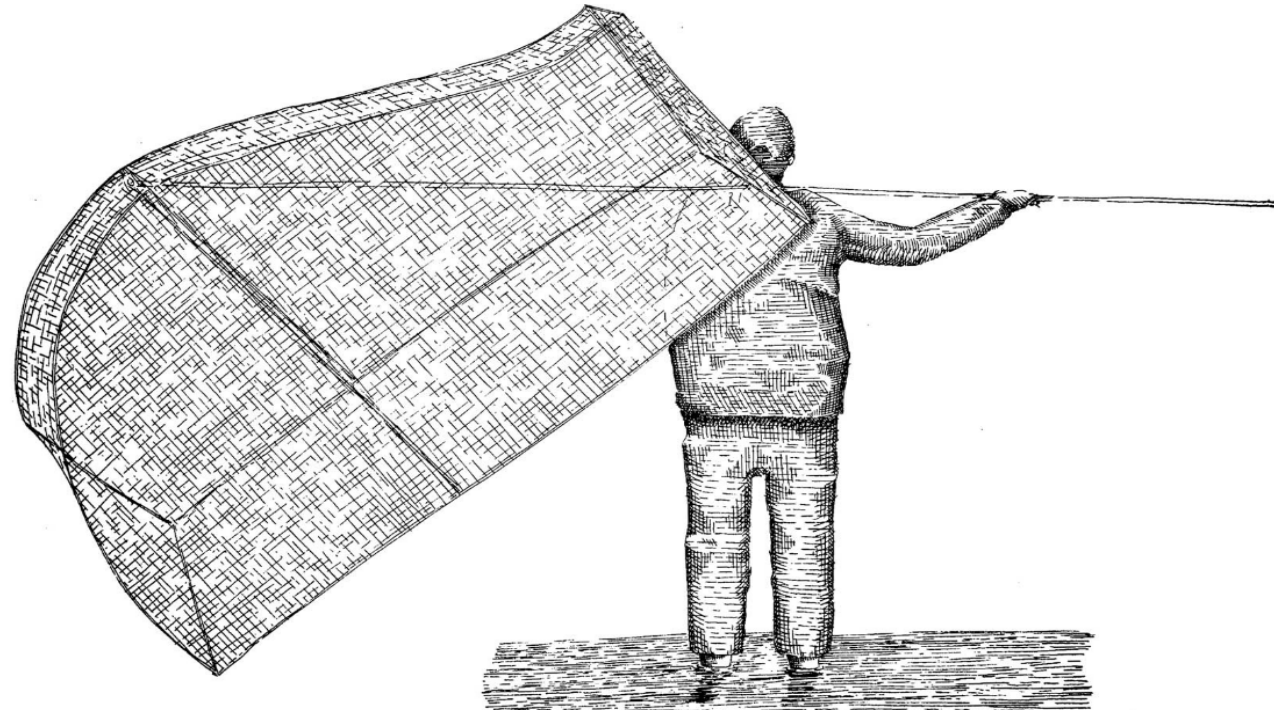
Artwork credit Sergio Rosas Gonzales for Beastly Business



Legal and illegal trade intermix

‘The glass eel fishery operates at night, in the dark, in very remote places with characters who don’t always pay their normal taxes. It is almost set up for a kind of underground trade in eels’ (P13).

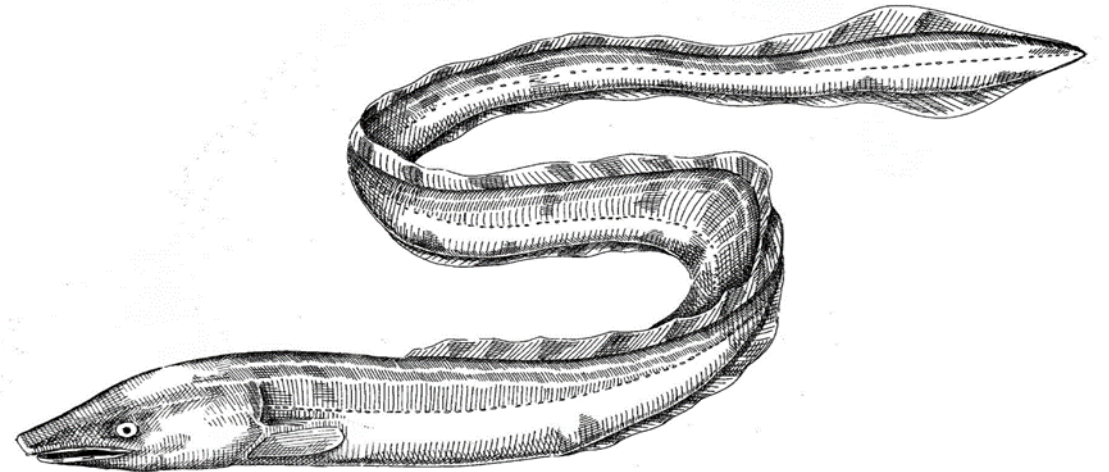
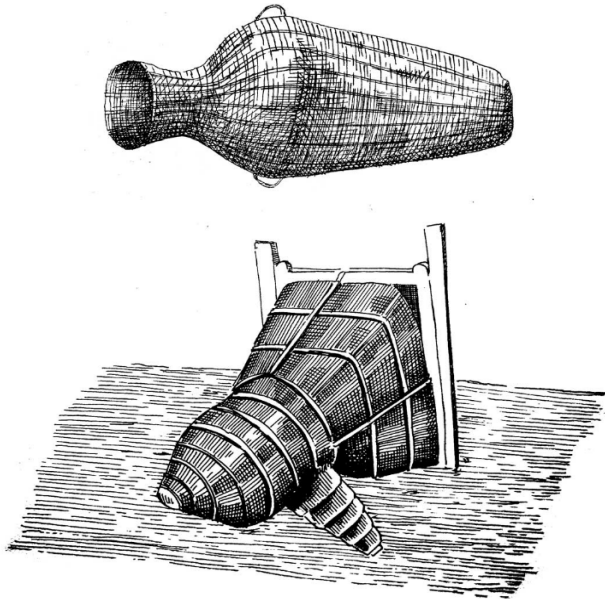
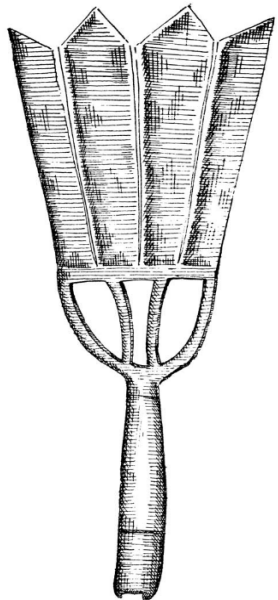
Artwork credit Sergio Rosas Gonzales for Beastly Business



Legal and illegal trade intermix

'You can't have a police officer per fisher. So it is difficult to control. How can we be sure that the legal fishermen are only giving their catch to a legal entity, which will then bring it into the legal market? (...) whatever is legal can turn illegal at any point' (P7)

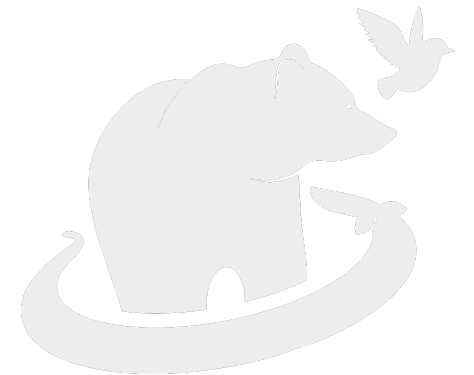
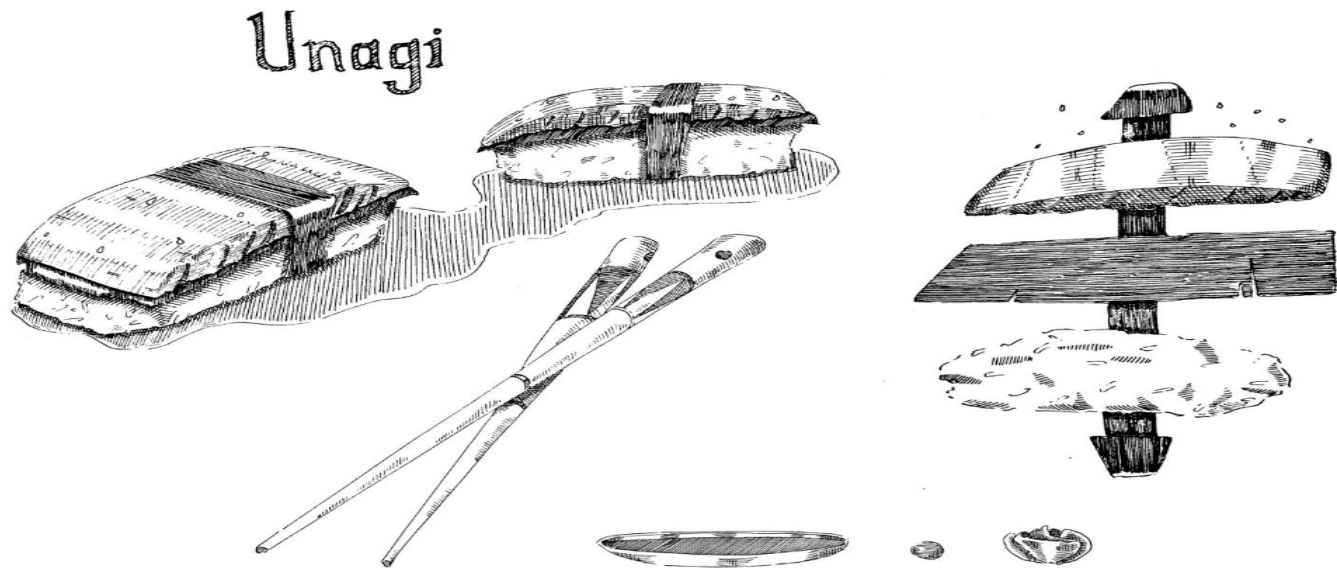
Artwork credit Sergio Rosas Gonzales for Beastly Business



Legal and illegal trade intermix

Let's say [you claim that you will] release 200 kilos in a big lake in Germany. You can put half in the lake and give the other half to somebody who is waiting in a little car to drive it to the eastern border. (...) It shows you that [making sure that things are] being done legally is basically impossible (P7).

Artwork credit Sergio Rosas Gonzales for Beastly Business





CONCLUSION

Political ecologies of green collar crime help us understand the dynamics of the trade & understand how criminalisation of some practices unevenly affects different actors

Beastlybusiness.org | [@BeastlyProject](https://twitter.com/BeastlyProject)