





Freshwater fishes in the context of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

Event report

Brussels, Committee of the Regions and online

Speakers' presentations, agenda and background document:

www.eaa-europe.org/news/living-rivers-europe-event

Mentimeter polls: www.eaa-europe.org/files/fish-event-nov2022-pdf 12404.pdf



24-25 November 2022

Organised by the European Commission and the Living Rivers Europe coalition

Networking Event, Biogeographical Process















On 24 and 25 November 2022, the European Commission and the Living Rivers Europe coalition organised a seminar in the frame of the EU Biogeographical seminar process.

The event gathered national and European freshwater fish experts, conservation NGOs and stakeholder groups, as well as national or regional representatives in charge of preparing the national pledges for protected areas and conservation status improvement of habitats and species. It aimed at highlighting opportunities for improving the protection and management of Europe's freshwater fish species, including in terms of transnational cooperation, covering both the species listed in the annexes of the Habitats Directive, and IUCN Red listed species.

165 persons registered for the event, and 49 attended in person and 90+ participants attended session online. About 70 participants participated in the Mentimeter polls. According to the Mentimeter polls, most of the participants came from civil society organisations (22), followed by research (19) and national governments (14).

Opening Seminar on Fish and Rivers

Speakers:

Peter Gammeltoft, Head of the Danube Sturgeon Task Force

Roby Biwer, Member of the Committee of the Regions

Sibylle Schroer, Scientific Coordinator Sustainability Research, Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries

Frank Vassen, DG Environment, European Commission

Jörg Freyhof, IUCN Freshwater Fish Species Specialist Group

Carlos Garcia-De Leaniz, Professor of Aquatic BioSciences & Director of the Centre for Sustainable Aquatic Research (CSAR), Swansea University

Dr. Niels Jepsen, DTU-Aqua/ Denmark

Dr. Kurt Pinter, BOKU Vienna/ Austria

Prof. Dr. Carola Winkelmann, Univ. Koblenz-Landau/ Germany

Frederic Casals - INVASAQUA

Carl De Schepper, Agentschap Natuur en Bos, Flemish Region

What do you hope to take home from this seminar?





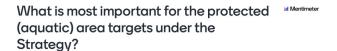
Roby Biwer noted that lakes and rivers can be an essential part of the life of a commune and urged national and local authorities to restore free-flowing rivers. Sibylle Schroer reminded the audience of the large decline in freshwater megafauna populations globally and in Europe. Planned dams are big threats and particularly affect hotspots for freshwater fish. Alien species also have large negative impacts on freshwater megafauna. Frank Vassen presented the pledge framework under the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and reminded the audience of the importance of strict protection (based on the maximum ecological potential of the site) in addition to protection. He urged Member States Authorities to highlight the conservation needs of freshwater fish in their pledges, to improve the knowledge base, and to provide in their pledges a detailed description of measures foreseen for improving their status.

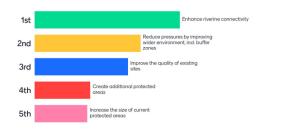
Q&A session:

Jeroen Van Wichelen from the Research Institute for Nature and Forest underlined the contradiction between hydropower development and the EU Biodiversity Strategy target of restoring 25,000 km of free-flowing rivers. Frank Vassen replied that there is a large pressure for the development of renewables, and that the red list of freshwater species should be used for prioritisation of rivers to be spared from hydropower developments or where obstacles should be removed. Sibylle Schroer added that investments need to be made costlier for hydropower companies willing to build new dams, by tightening the regulation on environmental requirements and minimum outputs that hydropower dams need to provide. One of the online participants noted that fish passes in hydropower plants are a solution to fish mortality but not to habitat loss. Athenais Georges from Grüne Liga Berlin expressed concerns with the fact that hydropower projects in go-to areas could be automatically presumed of overriding public interest under REPowerEU and the Emergency Regulation, and asked how the protection and restoration objectives of the EU can be achieved in this situation. Frank Vassen replied that the presumption of overriding public interest is a political signal

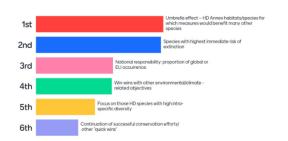
that the EU and its Member States want to give to push for deployment of renewable energy, but reminded that overriding public interest is the last condition to be checked when assessing a plan or project under EU nature legislation, and that the other requirements still apply. An online participant also noted that for species with a long life cycle such as sturgeons, achieving a positive trend could take longer than 2030 but that no action would mean extinction.

Participants rated on Mentimeter measures to enhance river connectivity and measures to reduce pressures by improving the wider environment including buffer zones, as the two most important measures for reaching the protected area targets under the strategy. Participants asked on Mentimeter about the most suitable criteria for Member States to prioritise species for status improvement pledges rated first the umbrella effect (habitats and species for which measures would benefit many other species) and second the species with highest immediate risk for extinction, far before the other measures.





Which criteria do you feel are the most suitable for member States to prioritize species for status improvement pledges



Jörg Freyhof reminded the audience that 37% of freshwater fish are threatened in Europe (data from 2011) while only 4% of birds are, and that most of the threatened freshwater fish are in Mediterranean habitats. He mentioned that a new IUCN red list of freshwater species will be released in 2023. Carlos Garcia de Leaniz reminded the audience that Europe has the most fragmented rivers in the world and that migratory freshwater fish populations have declined by 93% since 1970. A significant part of the damage is caused by small obstacles such as weirs. Niels Jepsen presented the status of grayling (listed in annex V of the Habitats directive) populations in Denmark and flagged that predation from cormorants is the main reason for an observed decrease in grayling populations in Denmark since about 2010. Presenting lessons learnt from various river restoration projects in Austria, Kurt Pinter recommended sediment management to avoid silting-up caused by natural dynamics, and to design restoration projects to work at all flow conditions, e.g. to anticipate the impacts from hydropeaking. He stressed that grayling populations are not really recovering because of multiple stressors such as hydrological alterations, predation, sediment deficits, and lack of natural dynamics. Carola Winkelmann reminded that healthy fish stocks are important beyond conservation as they fulfil ecological services such as reducing eutrophication effects, therefore increasing the

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Mentime

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ecological quality of rivers. **Frederic Casals** presented the LIFE INVASAQUA project (https://lifeinvasaqua.com/en/) which seeks to tackle invasive alien species development in freshwater ecosystems in the Iberian Peninsula. **Carl De Schepper** presented how Flanders is developing its pledge based on scenarios depending on implementing costs and capacity, in relation with stakeholders, and building on activities already planned, including actions on allowing migration and removing obstacles.

Q&A session:

Jeroen Van Wichelen from the Research Institute for Nature and Forest noted that one solution to the predation of fish by cormorants is to provide more debris and places for fish to hide in the river. A participant noted that a majority of the cormorant population is fed by fish farms, and that this is why cormorants are such a problem for natural waters. Jörg Freyhof flagged that climate change would also have a large effect on fish populations and the Commission should address this. Carola Winkelmann noted that cormorants are ultimately a management problem. A participant from the Agentschap Natuur en Bos, Flemish Region, noted that the Agency is working towards ambitious measures to improve fish passage in the Scheldt river, which will take two years.

Participants asked on Mentimeter about the best opportunities to improve fish conservation status voted in majority for improving habitats (38) and second for reconnecting rivers (10).



<u>Session A: Pledges for strict protection of freshwater ecosystems in the context of the EU</u> <u>Biodiversity Strategy</u>

Frank Vassen recalled that the pressures on freshwater fish are both human and biological (predators). He recalled the activities which may be accepted within a strictly protected area according to the <u>EU guidance</u>, reminding that it is very much a case by case assessment and that the main criteria is not to go against the conservation objectives set for the area. Extractive activities should be allowed only if "overriding public interests" apply, as a last resort. Balancing the different pressures is ultimately a political decision, which is why the Commission took a "soft approach" to it.

Tobias Schäfer (WWF Germany) gave a presentation on Legal protection of free-flowing rivers. He advocated for strict protection of rivers to be based on their free-flowing character, i.e. rivers whose functions and services are not affected by anthropogenic barriers and not disconnected from their floodplain when a floodplain is present. He gave examples of successful protection schemes in Europe (Slovenia, Finland, Sweden, Spain and France), showing that some of those countries already have a system of legally protected rivers based on national legislation, but mainly created in reaction to specific threats. He argued that a European approach combined with river basin management is needed, as at the moment the insufficient implementation of the WFD does not deliver sufficient protection. In his views, this new EU approach should combine strict protection with river restoration (through barrier removal in particular) more strategically.

Marina Piria (Univ. of Zagreb) gave a presentation titled "Is recreational fishing compatible with strict site protection?" She showcased two EIFAC/FAO publications about recreational fisheries practises and management: EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries (2008), and FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries. No. 13. Recreational Fisheries (2012).

She explained some similarities and differences between conservation- and fisheries management. Conservation management shares similarities with the objectives of fisheries management related to protecting and enhancing biodiversity and habitats. One key goal of fisheries management is to maintain and enhance exploited populations towards biomass levels that produce acceptable services to humans. The difference between conservation- and fisheries management is often the scope of the targeted taxa. Conservation typically targets species of concern (e.g.threatened species) or protection of vulnerable habitats, whereas fisheries management typically aims at exploited fish species, sometimes also including "non-game" fishes but rarely directs specific attention towards other taxa than those that are exploited or support the exploited species (e.g., prey fish for targeted predators).

She stressed that the conservation-conscious recreational fishing community represents one of the greatest potential forces for the conservation of aquatic biodiversity.

Support for conservation by fisheries stakeholders is typically high as long as the chosen conservation actions involve the continued use of the species or population of interest. Conflicts exist when fisheries management actions constrain access to the resource. Conservation and fisheries stakeholders tend to intensively debate the proper tools to achieve their goals.

Assigning protected areas with partial or full removal of capture fisheries from certain zones is a continuous source of conflict among conservation and fisheries interests. This is because a net benefit to fisheries stemming from no-take protected areas can only be expected if the catch of fish is increased outside the boundaries of protected areas relative to the situation before the implementation of the measure. The implementation of protected areas, and their effectiveness continues to be controversial, specifically where a central authority is the decision-maker.

Based on studies and publications referenced in her presentation - including a recreational angling management measures example from the US Yellowstone National Park¹ - she concluded that recreational angling and protected areas can be integrated. A recreational fishery with guided management may have a positive effect on a strictly protected area.

During the discussion participants discussed how river restoration through dam removal is gaining momentum in several countries such as Germany, Denmark (mainly small projects and a few large ones), Latvia, while in some others like Austria dam removal is just not happening. Participants also reflected on the fact that very often, technical solutions for fish passage are implemented but not satisfactory (Austria, Croatia), because either connectivity for sediment is missing, or the fish ladders are not tested. Finland seems to be a frontrunner with an official fishway strategy for 20 years, dams are being removed and the fishways which are built usually are nature-like fish passages. Many restoration projects also deal with lateral connectivity and floodplain restoration (Germany, The Netherlands), with maybe less effect on fish.

<u>Session B: Sustainable use of fish populations listed on Annex V of the Habitats Directive</u>

Niels Jepsen (DTU-Aqua/DK) presented a Danish example of recreational freshwater fishing and conservation of Atlantic salmon and grayling. Both species are listed in Annex V of the Habitats Directive and the Bern Convention, thus both are protected at the EU level. However, populations of both species are declining globally. In Denmark, however, there has been major progress in their protection which has resulted in an increase in salmon populations which are now at good status there. This is hopeful evidence that negative trends can be reversed through good conservation methods, and that rivers and habitats can recover quickly following restoration. Recent years though, salmon in Danish rivers again have come under pressure from an increase in cormorants, which hunt in Danish freshwaters.

Research-based management is central for successful restoration of fish populations, which has saved these fish in Denmark. For salmon, their protection came about partly through the Danish salmon quota system which ensures that no more than 10% of the spawning run will be removed from the rivers. Sufficient monitoring and inventories are required to make these assessments, and river associations are responsible for reporting. Furthermore, a digital citizen science platform is used which allows anglers to report trips and catches. In exchange, anglers receive various benefits such as collaborations with angling clubs. For grayling, recreational fishing has only happened under catch and release since 2010.

In this example, angling and protection of fishes has gone hand in hand, so that recreational fishing is not causing a negative impact on the fish populations, but rather supporting it. The involvement of researchers with managers and stakeholders has been important in its success.

In the Netherlands, Jacco van Rijssel (Wageningen Marine Research) discussed the status and trends of those species listed on Annex V, all of which experienced a major collapse in populations between

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¹ 50,000 of the park's four million annual visitors fish in the park.

2011-2015. He stressed that monitoring needs improving for some species and that collaboration and information exchange between countries is vital. As was found in Denmark, river system recovery measures and stocking need to be combined with research.

During the discussion period, active measures for sustainable fisheries management were shared. It was noted that measures will need to be species, or even population, dependent, and that understanding the bottlenecks and the ecology of each species is first required. However, in Denmark, significant population recovery was shown after the separation of fish farms from rivers.

Recreational fishery organisations can support the conservation of Habitats Directive species through monitoring, not just of interesting species, but of all fish seen, and putting these records into a digital database. There should be joint cooperation on monitoring, education and awareness raising among members of fisheries organisations.

<u>Session C: The importance of connectivity for migratory fish species and ecosystem</u> <u>processes</u>

The Danube Sturgeon Task Force was presented by **Peter Gammeltoft**, showing the outcomes of the 2022 IUCN Red List assessment for sturgeons. This includes the regional extinction of the Ship sturgeon, the first time a species on a Habitats Directive annex has been declared extinct in the EU.The Iron Gate dams are a major barrier in the section of the Danube river in Romania, so establishing a fish passage there would provide unhindered flow for very long stretches of river upstream. It was stated that the NRL in its current form would do little for long-distance migratory fish, treating river connectivity as an end in itself rather than a means to an end (providing passage for migration, including across jurisdictions, and ultimately improved biodiversity).

The power of the dam removal movement was showcased through many positive examples in recent years by **Herman Wanningen**. Dam Removal Europe (DRE) has been leading this cause and helping on the ground local groups lobby and fund for barrier removal in their regions. Its strategy is to build a movement of proud river practitioners and enable them to remove dams, starting with the more than 150,000 obsolete and old barriers in Europe. Sweden is a leading country in the movement with a new hydropower strategy including the planned removal of hundreds of barriers, and Spain has a national law to remove obsolete dams. Seven countries have now implemented dam removal as a river restoration tool.

Research from the Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries has demonstrated the high mortality of fish when passing through hydropower turbines; one-fifth of fish suffer fatal injuries. **Sibylle Schoroer** described a risk assessment of hydropower plants for fish, also by the Leibniz Institute, outlining the parameters with the highest risks and how these can be overcome in the design of hydropower turbines. While hydropower is a solid renewable source and contributes to the energy transition, they should be fitted with state-of-the-art fish protection (bypass, fine screen, management). Financial incentives could be created for the replacement and dismantling of small hydropower plants which contribute little to the electricity grid.

Finally, a GIS-based national fish road map developed by Rijkswaterstaat in the Netherlands was presented by **Peter Philipsen**. This can be used by managers and planners to help fish migrate and navigate the highly fragmented rivers of the country, visualising connectivity and prioritising migration measures from source to sea. It can also be used to link fish monitoring data and link WFD measures with Natura 2000 measures.

During the discussion period, we shared what measures are being done in various countries to help restore river connectivity, and opportunities through the pledge process. It was noted that we are not only discussing longitudinal connectivity but also lateral connectivity, and thus it is useful to distinguish between habitat types (eg. alpine small rivers and lowland large rivers) because species composition can be very different. In lowlands, it could be most effective to focus on lateral connectivity and construct spawning sites to ensure appropriate habitat for nursing, and ensure there is connectivity when restoring floodplains.

<u>Session D: Main drivers of decline of the 'forgotten' fish species – what do we know?</u> <u>Prioritising actions</u>

Lynne Barratt (NEEMO monitor/LIFE) provided an overview of LIFE-funded projects implemented to-date targeting different freshwater fish species. The projects as a rule implemented a combination of measures, for example barrier removal to enable fish migration, planting trees to provide shade and improve riparian habitat, improvements of agricultural practices to reduce pollution (e.g. fencing to prevent access of livestock to rivers and streams), restoring / reestablishing new habitats (e.g. new pond features). Projects targeting restricted habitats demonstrated quick wins were possible. Different species could benefit from the same set of measures. Overall, the approach taken by successful projects was to remove the pressures and protect the outcomes.

Frank Vassen highlighted that based on projects funded by the EU so far, there seems to be a focus on wide ranging fish species in Northern Europe and there is a clear need for these projects to be complemented with projects from the South and East of Europe targeting endemic fish species in these regions too.

Carlos Romano (EEA) presented the findings from the reporting under the Nature Directives as well as under the Water Framework Directive, highlighting that reporting from different instruments tells the same story - many protected fish species are in unfavourable status and demonstrate deteriorating trends. Most species are exclusive to Europe and most fishes have a restricted range so local pressures may lead to species or genetic losses. Overall, the pressures on species and habitats are well-known (changes in hydrology and morphology, pollution, overexploitation, IAS). There are some data and knowledge gaps. Pressures from economic activities (energy, food) are growing. The targets in the Biodiversity Strategy will help but may not be sufficient. The targets in the Nature Restoration Law could also help with barrier removal and floodplain restoration.

Answering the questions from the participants, Carlos Romano mentioned that

- For the next reporting in 2025, there will be a question on species taxonomy in the checklist, but it will not be possible to introduce species for reporting that are not in the Annexes of the HD;
- It is possible to report on translocated species under the "Pressure: Alien and Problematic".

 Translocated species outside of the range are not subject to protection;
- Climate change is reported as additional pressure, but may not be as prominent as the totality of pressures. However, in some regions, it is already seen as a significant pressure (e.g. Czech Republic where climate change and climate change induced changes are high).

The discussion then focused on questions around LIFE funded projects and could be summarised as follows:

- LIFE funding remains an important funding line, offering opportunities for conservation of the so-called "neglected" fish species. Such projects could have a higher co-financing rate, and could include species outside of the HD annexes, as well as IUCN red-listed species. Projects could also target a range of species. LIFE can also fund projects that contribute to breeding rare species for reintroduction;
- There is a mismatch between awarded LIFE projects which mainly deal with species in Northern and Western Europe, and the needs of endemic fish species which are primarily in Eastern/Southern Europe. More LIFE projects are needed in countries such as Hungary and Greece, and there is a need to build capacity in these regions so that scientists/NGOs/administrations could develop good projects too. One other obstacle is the need to secure co-funding, exchange on this could be beneficial. One potential idea that was discussed was to set up twinning between successful projects in Northern/Western Europe and potential projects in Southern/Eastern Europe so those projects could learn from the funded projects. However, the projects should always be built around the expertise of the local implementing partners;
- LIFE Programme will continue to disseminate information about funding opportunities. National Contact Points are key and it's also important to raise their awareness on the conservation needs of the "neglected" fish species so that they can promote these projects too. There is a need to continue raising awareness of both conservation needs and funding opportunities at upcoming events, for example, a suggestion was made to organise a side event on LIFE projects for threatened fish during the Ichthyology Congress in 2023, existing LIFE projects could act as ambassadors. The idea of an "Erasmus for people in LIFE projects" was also put forward in order to allow learning in the field. The Integrated LIFE projects could include as activities organisation of training for developing/funding spin off projects. Other funding opportunities were highlighted, including the Open rivers programme providing funding for small barrier removal.

Participants also highlighted the following issues they face in their fish conservation projects:

• IAS are an issue; while we know about biology, we may not know enough about distribution. Real research is needed on how to resolve it;

- Fish conservation is not only about fish, it is about humans and people who are the drivers of some pressures, such as anglers or aquarium fans (introducing IAS); Need to focus on solutions;
- Lack of enforcement of existing rules on the field.

Success factors for conservation projects that were mentioned in the discussion include:

- Partnering with the right partners e.g. local partners for knowledge on local conservation, international partners for knowledge on funding and setting fundable projects;
- Disseminating information into communities about the conservation successes.

The pledge and review process was seen as an important opportunity for neglected fishes and some conclusions were:

- The protected area target includes other protection regimes in addition to Natura 2000, for example, it includes OECMs, with a contractual agreement. A challenge is to make sure Member States think about fish when drafting the pledges. Pledges need to be consulted on, so the fish community needs to get involved.
- For the status improvement target, only fish species from the HD annexes should be considered, but for protected areas it is worth looking at other species. The red-listed species should be a priority, MS should then pledge to protect the sites.
- The EC when analysing the pledges would look at which species are under represented and the review process should allow to review/step up pledges.

Closing session

The break out sessions A and B were concluded by reporting of the key points from the discussions on 24 November and key conclusions from the break out sessions C and D were reported on 25 November. The seminar then concluded with a closing session on 25 November which highlighted the importance of maintaining the network established at the seminar and that there was need to further share knowledge and explore ways in which actions for Europe's freshwater fishes and their habitats could be included in the national pledges for protected areas and for status improvement of species and habitats that Member States are currently preparing. The seminar also highlighted that raising awareness about the ecological and conservation requirements of freshwater fish species needed to be continued especially between Member State officials responsible for implementing EU Nature, Biodiversity and Water policies and targets, and experts in the conservation of these species and their habitats.

Annex I: Additional resources:

LIFE project ReBorN - Restoration of Boreal Nordic Rivers https://en.rebornlife.org/_files/ugd/a179e9_0497f6cf93eb49948888c5877156ef47.pdf

ECRR pan-European survey to strengthen and improve policies and strategic planning regarding river continuity restoration https://www.ecrr.org/Publications/id/980

EU Criteria and guidance for protected areas designations:

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-01/SWD_guidance_protected_areas.pdf

Annex II: List of registered participants

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Colin	Bean	NatureScot
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Annex III: updated list of LIFE projects relevant to fish conservation

<u>LIFE Reference</u>	<u>Project Acronym</u>	<u>Project Title</u>
LIFE05 ENV/E/000267	BE-FAIR	Benign and environmentally friendly fish processing practices to provide added value and innovative solutions for a responsible and sustainable management of fisheries.
LIFE05 NAT/A/000078	LIFE - Gesäuse	Conservation strategies for woodlands and rivers in the Gesäuse Mountains
LIFE05 NAT/B/000087	Cx SCAILLE	Actions for the valleys and turf moors of Croix Scaille (Belgium)
LIFE05 NAT/B/000090	Life Grote Nete	Restoration of the lowland river system 'Grote Nete'
LIFE05 NAT/B/000091	<u>Dommeldal</u>	<u>Transboundery habitat restoration in the valley of</u> <u>the Dommel</u>
LIFE05 NAT/D/000056	Oberer Hotzenwald	<u>Upper Hotzenwald</u>
LIFE05 NAT/D/000057	<u>Lippe-Aue</u>	Optimisation of the pSCI "Lippe flood plain between Hamm and Hangfort"
<u>LIFE05</u> <u>NAT/DK/000153</u>	<u>Houting</u>	<u>Urgent actions for the endangered Houting</u> <u>"Coregonus oxyrhunchus"</u>
<u>LIFE05</u> <u>NAT/IT/000026</u>	Fortore 2005	Urgent conservation action for Fortore River pSCI
<u>LIFE05 NAT/L/000116</u>	<u>Ardmouperl</u>	Restoration of pearl mussel populations in the Ardennes
<u>LIFE05</u> <u>NAT/LT/000095</u>	<u>LITCOAST</u>	Natura 2000 site conservation and management on the Lithuanian coast
LIFE05 NAT/S/000109	Moälvsprojektet ReMo	From source to sea, restoring river Moälven

<u>LIFE05</u> <u>NAT/UK/000143</u>	<u>STREAM</u>	River Avon cSAC: demonstrating strategic restoration and management
LIFE06 ENV/D/000485	Moveable HEPP	Demonstration Plant in the Kinzig River: Moveable Hydroelectric Power Plant for Ecological River Improvements and Fish Migration Reestablishment
LIFE06 NAT/A/000127	LIFE Obere Drau II	Life in Upper Drau River
LIFE06 NAT/D/000003	Rohrhardsberg	Rohrhardsberg, Upper Elz and Wilde Gutach
LIFE06 NAT/D/000005	LIFE-Projekt Maifisch	The re-introduction of the allis shad (Alosa alosa) in the Rhine system
LIFE06 NAT/F/000142	<u>Lauter-Donon</u>	Protection of the forests of Basse Lauter and Vosges moyennes
<u>LIFE06</u> <u>NAT/LV/000110</u>	<u>ADAZI</u>	Restoration of Biological Diversity in Military Training Area and Natura 2000 site "Adazi"
<u>LIFE06</u> <u>NAT/LV/000196</u>	IHM-VESTIENA	The improvement of habitats management in Natura 2000 site - Vestiena
LIFE06 NAT/NL/000072	Moerasontwikkeling Zouweboezem	Marsh area "De Zouweboezem": conservation, restoration and development
<u>LIFE06</u> <u>NAT/NL/000074</u>	Wetland succession	Wetlands: challenges and innovation in succession management
LIFE06 NAT/NL/000076	Verbrakking Westzaan	Restoration of brackish ecosystems in Westzaan polder
<u>LIFE06</u> <u>NAT/NL/000078</u>	Roer Migration	Restoring migration possibilities for 8 Annex II species in the Roer
LIFE06 NAT/SI/000066	<u>BIOMURA</u>	Conservation of biodiversity of the Mura river in Slovenia
LIFE07 ENV/D/000229	ECOSMA	Ecological Certification of Products from Sustainable Marine Aquaculture

<u>LIFE07</u> <u>ENV/E/000814</u>	<u>3R-FISH</u>	Integral management model of recovery and recycling of the proper solid waste from the fishing and port activities
LIFE07 NAT/A/000010	Mostviertel- Wachau	Living space in the rivers of Mostviertel- Wachau
<u>LIFE07</u> NAT/EE/000120	<u>HAPPYFISH</u>	Saving life in meanders and oxbow lakes of Emajõgi River on Alam-Pedja NATURA2000 area
LIFE07 NAT/D/000214	Bachtäler Arnsberger Wald	Rehabilitation of streams in the " Arnsberger Wald"
<u>LIFE07</u> <u>NAT/IRL/000341</u>	<u>CAISIE</u>	Control of aquatic invasive species and restoration of natural communities in Ireland
<u>LIFE07</u> <u>NAT/IRL/000342</u>	<u>IShannonSACLAEO</u>	Restoration of the Lr.Shannon SAC for Sea lamprey. Atlantic salmon and European otter
<u>LIFE07</u> <u>NAT/IT/000413</u>	P.A.R.C.	Petromyzon And River Continuity
LIFE07 NAT/IT/000433	Water SCIs	Improvement of the conservation status of SCIs in the high appenine area and in the plain around Prato.
LIFE08 ENV/E/000119	<u>FAROS</u>	Integral networking of fishing actors to organize a responsible optimal and sustainable exploitation of marine resources
LIFE08 NAT/A/000013	LIFE+ Gail	Water development Gail - An integrated model for Natura 2000
LIFE08 NAT/A/000014	<u>Murerleben</u>	Mur experience - Alpine river management Upper Mur
LIFE08 NAT/A/000613	LIFE+ Gail	Water development Gail - An integrated model for Natura 2000
LIFE08 NAT/A/000614	<u>Murerleben</u>	Mur experience - Alpine river management Upper Mur
LIFE08 NAT/D/000001	<u>Obermain</u>	<u>Upper Main valley</u>

LIFE08 NAT/D/000007	Nebenrinne Bislich-Vahnum	Restoration of a side channel of the river Rhine near Wesel, Lower German Rhine
LIFE08 NAT/D/000008	Ems-Dynamik+Habitate	Near-natural river and flood plain development of the River Ems at Einen – river dynamics and habitat diversity
LIFE08 NAT/D/000009	Life+ Möhneaue	Restoration and improvement of the SCI "Möhne Oberlauf" and the SCI "Möhne Mittellauf"
<u>LIFE08 NAT/D/000013</u>	Elbauen bei Vockerode	Improvement and Long-Term Safeguarding of the Natura 2000 Site Dessau-Wrlitz Elbe Floodplain
LIFE08 NAT/E/000078	PROYECTO ESTANY	Improvement of the Natura 2000 habitats and species found in Banyoles: a demonstration project.
LIFE08 NAT/F/000471	Rohrschollen island	Restoration of the dynamics of Rhine alluvial habitats on Rohrschollen island
<u>LIFE08 NAT/S/000266</u>	<u>Vindel River LIFE</u>	Restoration of tributaries of the Vindel river combined with monitoringand evaluation of ecological responses of species and habitats
<u>LIFE08</u> <u>NAT/UK/000201</u>	<u>ISAC 08</u>	Irfon Special Area of Conservation Project
<u>LIFE09</u> <u>INF/GR/000319</u>	PROM.SUS.FIS.PR.PRESP	Halt the decline of fish biodiversity, in the Prespa basin, by promoting sustainable fishery practices in compliance with EU policy
LIFE09 INF/IT/000076	FISH SCALE	Food Information and Safeguard of Habitat a Sustainable Consumption Approach in Local Environment
<u>LIFE09</u> <u>NAT/BE/000411</u>	LIFE Kleine Nete	Large scale habitat restoration in the valley of the Kleine Nete
<u>LIFE09</u> NAT/CY/000247	ICOSTACY	Improving the Conservation Status of Fauna Species in Cyprus: from microhabitat restoration to landscape connectivity
<u>LIFE09</u> <u>NAT/DE/000004</u>	Rheinauen bei Rastatt	Rhine wetlands near Rastatt

<u>LIFE09</u> <u>NAT/DE/000006</u>	Wald - Wasser - Wildnis	Optimisation of NATURA-2000-habitats in the National Park Eifel
<u>LIFE09</u> <u>NAT/DE/000008</u>	Alosa alosa	Conservation and restoration of the Allis shad in the Gironde and Rhine watersheds
<u>LIFE09</u> <u>NAT/ES/000520</u>	<u>LAGOON</u>	Habitat restoration and management in two coastal lagoons of the Ebro Delta: Alfacada y Tancada
<u>LIFE09</u> <u>NAT/IE/000220</u>	BLACKWATER SAMOK	Restoration of the Upper River Blackwater SAC for the Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Atlantic Salmon, European Otter and Kingfisher
<u>LIFE09</u> <u>NAT/IT/000213</u>	<u>SORBA</u>	RESTORATION OF BACCHIGLIONE SPRINGS AND HABITAT OF SPA IT3220013 AND SCI IT3220040
<u>LIFE09</u> <u>NAT/LT/000234</u>	<u>Denoflit</u>	Inventory of marine species and habitats for development of NATURA 2000 network in the offshore waters of Lithu
<u>LIFE09</u> <u>NAT/SI/000374</u>	<u>WETMAN</u>	Conservation and management of freshwater wetlands in Slovenia
LIFE10 INF/FI/000052	Saimaan lohikalojen	Promoting sustainable salmon fishing practices on Lake Saimaa
<u>LIFE10</u> <u>NAT/AT/000015</u>	Untere March-Auen	Restoration of the Lower Morava floodplains
<u>LIFE10</u> <u>NAT/AT/000016</u>	Netzwerk Donau	Danube Network
<u>LIFE10</u> <u>NAT/AT/000017</u>	LIFE+ Lavant	LIFE+-Lavant: Habitats network for endangered small fish species
<u>LFIE10</u> <u>NAT/DE/000008</u>	Rur und Kall	Rur and Kall fluvial habitats
<u>LIFE10</u> <u>NAT/DE/000010</u>	Emmericher Ward	River and floodplain improvement Emmericher Ward within the EU Bird Area Unterer Niederrhein

<u>LIFE10</u> <u>NAT/DK/000099</u>	<u>SMOOTH</u>	Restoring S
<u>LIFE10</u> <u>NAT/FR/000192</u>	<u>LIFE Continuité</u> <u>écologique</u>	LIFE ecological continuity, management of catchment area and associated patrimonial fauna
<u>LIFE10</u> <u>NAT/FR/000200</u>	<u>SUBLIMO</u>	Biodiversity Survey of Fish Post-Larvae in the Western Mediterranean Sea
<u>LIFE10</u> <u>NAT/IT/000271</u>	<u>SHARKLIFE</u>	SHARKLIFE – Urgent actions for the conservation of cartilaginous fish in Italy
<u>LIFE10</u> <u>NAT/PL/000654</u>	<u>Niebieski korytarz Iny</u>	Creating a Blue Wildlife Corridor in the Ina basin
<u>LIFE10</u> <u>NAT/SE/000045</u>	<u>ReMiBar</u>	Remediation of migratory barriers in Nordic/fennoscandian watercourses
<u>LIFE10</u> <u>NAT/SI/000142</u>	<u>Ljubljanica connects</u>	Restoration of the Ljubljanica River corridor and improvement of the river's flow regime
<u>LIFE11</u> <u>INF/AT/000902</u>	SAVING DANUBE STURGEONS	JOINT ACTIONS TO RAISE AWARENESS ON OVEREXPLOITATION OF DANUBE STURGEONS IN ROMANIA AND BULGARIA
<u>LIFE11</u> <u>NAT/BE/001061</u>	Most-Keiheuvel	Natuurherstel Most-Keiheuvel: natuurherstel op de gradint van veen naar stuifzand
<u>LIFE11</u> <u>NAT/CZ/000490</u>	LIFE CORCONTICA	Grasslands and streams restoration in SCI Krkonoe: Future of Nardus grasslands*, Dwarf gentian* & Bullhead
<u>LIFE11</u> <u>NAT/IT/000188</u>	CON.FLU.PO.	Restoring connectivity in Po River basin opening migratory route for Acipenser naccarii* and 10 fish species in Annex II
<u>LIFE11</u> <u>NAT/PL/000424</u>	Niebieski korytarz Regi	The construction of the blue ecological corridor along the valley of Riga river and its tributaries
<u>LIFE11</u> <u>NAT/SI/000882</u>	<u>LIVEDRAVA</u>	Riparian Ecosystem Restoration of the Lower Drava River in Slovenia

LIFE42 DIO/IT/000556	LIFE Chapt	Techniques to reduce the impacts of ghost fishing gears and to improve biodiversity in north
LIFE12 BIO/IT/000556	LIFE Ghost	Adriatic coastal areas
LIFE12 INF/FI/000233	LIFE+ CrayMate	RAPUKAVERIA EI JÄTETÄ. CRAYMATES WILL NOT BE LEFT BEHIND.
<u>LIFE12</u> <u>NAT/AT/000321</u>	LIFE Ausseerland	Natural wood lands, bogs and habitat network around Aussee
<u>LIFE12</u> <u>NAT/BE/000438</u>	LIFE Grote NeteWoud	Grote NeteWoud: wilderness on a human scale
<u>LIFE12</u> <u>NAT/BE/000596</u>	LIFE+SCALLUVIA	Habitat Restoration of alluvial forests and creeks within the flood controlled Scheldt estuary site Kruibeke-Bazel-Rupelmonde.
<u>LIFE12</u> <u>NAT/BG/001011</u>	<u>LIFE FREE FISH</u>	Conservation and restoration of Natura 2000 rheophilic fish species and their migratory routes in key SCIs in Bulgaria
<u>LIFE12</u> <u>NAT/DE/000093</u>	LIFE+Nationalpark BayWald	Bogs, flowing waters and nardus grasslands in the Bavarian Forest National Park
<u>LIFE12</u> <u>NAT/EE/000871</u>	LIFE HAPPYRIVER	Restoring the integrity of freshwater habitats in Alam-Pedja Natura 2000 area- bringing the River Laeva back to life
<u>LIFE12</u> <u>NAT/ES/001091</u>	LIFE Potamo Fauna	Conservation of river fauna of Community interest in the Natura 2000 network sites of the Ter, Fluvi and Muga river basins
<u>LIFE12</u> <u>NAT/ES/001210</u>	LIFE LimnoPirineus	Restoration of lentic habitats and aquatic species of Community interest in high mountains of the Pyrenees
<u>LIFE12</u> <u>NAT/GR/000275</u>	LIFE-Stymfalia	Sustainable management and financing of wetland biodiversity The case of Lake Stymfalia
<u>LFIE12</u> <u>NAT/IT/000321</u>	LIFE Ausseerland	Natural wood lands, bogs and habitat network around Aussee
<u>LFIE12</u> <u>NAT/IT/000331</u>	LIFE-SeResto	Habitat 1150* (Coastal lagoon) recovery by SEagrass RESTOration. A new strategic approach to meet HD & WFD objectives

<u>LIFE12</u> <u>NAT/IT/000940</u>	<u>LIFE+TROTA</u>	Trout population RecOvery in central iTAly
<u>LIFE12</u> <u>NAT/NL/000134</u>	Life: Alde Feanen N2000	Booming business: wetland restoration in the marshes of Natura 2000 Alde Feanen
<u>LIFE12</u> <u>NAT/NL/000372</u>	New LIFE for Dutch Fens	Restoration programme for Natura2000 fen areas in the Netherlands
<u>LIFE12</u> <u>NAT/PL/000033</u>	Life+-Łosoś- Drwęc-PL	Improvement of fish living conditions in River Drweca and its tributaries.
<u>LIFE13</u> <u>NAT/AT/000301</u>	LIFE+ Wilderness Wachau	LIFE+ Wilderness Wetland Wachau
<u>LIFE13</u> <u>NAT/ES/000237</u>	LIFE MIGRATOEBRE	Migratory fish recovery and improved management in the final stretch of the Ebre River
LIFE13 NAT/ES/000772	<u>LIFE CIPRBER</u>	ACTIONS TOWARDS THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF IBERIAN CYPRINIDS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST
LIFE13 NAT/ES/000899	LIFE Miera	Biodiversity conservation in river Miera
<u>LIFE13</u> <u>NAT/ES/001210</u>	LIFE LimnoPirineus	Restoration of lentic habitats and aquatic species of Community interest in high mountains of the Pyrenees
<u>LIFE13</u> <u>NAT/HU/000388</u>	LIFE Old-Drava	Transboundary cooperation for revitalization of riverine habitat complex in Drava region within Natura 2000 sites
<u>LIFE13</u> <u>NAT/IT/000115</u>	LIFE AGREE	coAstal laGoon long teRm managEmEnt
<u>LIFE13</u> <u>NAT/IT/001129</u>	<u>LIFE BARBIE</u>	Conservation and management of Barbus meridionalis and Barbus plebejus in the Emilian tributaries of Po River
<u>LIFE13</u> <u>NAT/NL/000167</u>	A better LIFE for Bittern	Biotope improvement and development for Bittern and Great reed warbler in the IJsseldelta

<u>LIFE13</u> <u>NAT/PL/000009</u>	<u>LIFEDrawaPL</u>	Active protection of water-crowfoots habitats and restoration of wildlife corridor in the River Drawa basin in Poland
<u>LIFE13</u> <u>NAT/PL/000018</u>	<u>LIFENaturaSlowinskaPL</u>	Conservation of selected habitats and species in Ostoja Sowiska PLH220023 and Pobrzee Sowiskie PLB220003 Stage I
<u>LIFE13</u> <u>NAT/PT/000786</u>	LIFE Saramugo	Conservation of the Saramugo (Anaecypris hispanica) in the Guadiana basin (Portugal)
<u>LIFE13</u> <u>NAT/SE/000116</u>	<u>LIFE-TripleLakes</u>	Triple Lakes Catchment restoration and preventive action for aquatic habitats in a climate change perspective
<u>LIFE14</u> <u>NAT/AT/000496</u>	LIFE Salzachauen	LIFE Salzachauen - Riparian Forest Restoration
<u>LIFE14</u> <u>NAT/AT/000057</u>	LIFE Sterlet	Restoration of sterlet populations in the Austrian <u>Danube</u>
<u>LIFE14</u> <u>NAT/DE/000278</u>	LIFE Flusserlebnis Isar	Restoration of the river Isar and its floodplains in the region of the lower Isar valley
<u>LIFE14</u> <u>NAT/ES/000186</u>	LIFE IrekiBAI	Open rivers: Improving connectivity and habitats of rivers shared by Navarra and Gipuzkoa
LIFE14 IPE/FI/000023	LIFE Freshabit	Towards integrated management of freshwater Nature 2000 sites and habitats
<u>LIFE14</u> <u>NAT/IT/000809</u>	<u>LIFE SILIFFE</u>	River Functionality Index as planning instrument for a good governance of Sile's ecosystem
<u>LIFE15</u> <u>GIE/AT/001004</u>	LIFE FOR DANUBE STURGEONS	Sustainable protection of lower Danube sturgeons by preventing and counteracting poaching and illegal wildlife trade
<u>LIFE15</u> <u>IPE/SE/000015</u>	LIFE Rcih Waters	Integrated approach to mobilise resources for resilient ecosystems and rich waters in the North Baltic Sea River Basin
<u>LIFE15</u> <u>NAT/IT/000823</u>	<u>IdroLIFE</u>	Conservation and management of freshwater fauna of EU interest within the ecological corridors of Verbano-Cusio-Ossola.

<u>LIFE15</u> <u>NAT/IT/000989</u>	<u>LifeTicinoBiosource</u>	Enhancing Biodiversity by Restoring Source Areas for Priority and Other Species of Community Interest in Ticino Park
<u>LIFE15</u> <u>NAT/SE/000892</u>	ReBorN LIFE	Restoration of Boreal Nordic Rivers
<u>LIFE15</u> <u>NAT/UK/000219</u>	Unlocking the Severn for LIFE	LIFE - Shad Severn: Conservation and restoration of twaite shad in the Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation
<u>LIFE16</u> <u>ENV/PT/000411</u>	<u>LIFE AGUEDA</u>	AGUEDA - CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS FOR MIGRATORY FISH IN THE VOUGA RIVER BASIN
<u>LIFE16</u> <u>NAT/BE/000807</u>	<u>LIFE4FISH</u>	Downstream fish migration along the low Meuse River
<u>LIFE16</u> <u>NAT/CY/000832</u>	RELIONMED-LIFE	Preventing a LIONfish invasion in the MEDiterranean through early response and targeted REmoval
<u>LIFE16</u> <u>NAT/NL/000155</u>	Fish migration & BirdLIFE	A new approach: a gradual, ecological freshwater-saltwater transition between Wadden Sea, IJsselmeer and the hinterland
<u>LIFE16</u> <u>NAT/RO/000778</u>	Fish for LIFE	Restoration of migration corridors and habitats for rheophilic fish species in Gilort River
<u>LIFE16</u> <u>NAT/SI/000644</u>	LIFE for LASCA	LIFE SAVING LASCA Urgent measure to conserve nearly extinct species Protochondrostoma genei
<u>LIFE17</u> <u>GIE/BG/000371</u>	<u>LIFEforBgNATURA</u>	NATURA 2000 IN BULGARIA – NEW HORIZONS National awareness raising campaign on NATURA 2000 using flagship species
<u>LIFE17</u> <u>GIE/ES/000515</u>	<u>LIFE INVASAQUA</u>	Aquatic Invasive Alien Species of Freshwater and Estuarine Systems: Awareness and Prevention in the Iberian Peninsula
LIFE17 IPE/CZ/000005	LIFE-IP: N2K Revisited	Integrated LIFE project for the Natura 2000 network in the Czech Republic
LIFE17 IPE/SI/000011	LIFE-IP NATURA.SI	LIFE intergrated project for enhanced management of Natura 2000 in Slovenia

<u>LIFE17</u> <u>NAT/FR/000604</u>	LIFE BIODIV'OM	Protecting threatened biodiversity in French Outermost Regions by sustainable and demonstration conservation actions
<u>LIFE17</u> <u>NAT/IT/000547</u>	<u>LIFE Nat.Sal.Mo</u>	Recovery of S. macrostigma: Application of innovative techniques and participatory governance tools in rivers of Molise
<u>LIFE18</u> <u>ENV/DE/000332</u>	LIFE CityRiver	CityRiver reconnecting town and river
<u>LIFE18</u> <u>NAT/AT/000733</u>	<u>Dynamic LIFE Lines</u> <u>Danube</u>	<u>Dynamic LIFE Lines Danube</u>
<u>LIFE18</u> <u>NAT/AT/000915</u>	LIFE Network Danube+	Life Network Danube+: Closing the gaps and promoting a river corridor system with an European perspective
<u>LIFE18</u> <u>NAT/DE/000132</u>	LIFE Stadt - Wald - Bche	LIFE Restoration of structure and dynamic of the city of Augsburgs forest creeks and their reconnection to river Lech
<u>LIFE18</u> <u>NAT/IT/000846</u>	<u>LIFE ELIFE</u>	LIFE ELIFE (Elasmobranchs Low-Impact Fishing Experience)
<u>LIFE18</u> <u>NAT/IT/000931</u>	<u>LIFE STREAMS</u>	Salmo ceTtii REcovery Actions in Mediterranean Streams
<u>LIFE18</u> <u>NAT/IT/001020</u>	LIFE FORESTALL	Restoration of Alluvial Forests and Cladium mariscus habitats in Ramsar and Natura 2000 sites
LIFE18 NAT/IT/000756	LIFE Brenta 2030	PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND INNOVATIVE FINANCING SCHEMES FOR BIODIVERSITY AND WATER CONSERVATION OF BRENTA RIVER
<u>LIFE18</u> <u>NAT/SE/000268</u>	Rivers of LIFE	Restoration for Improved Resilience, Biodiversity and Status in Boreal Rivers
<u>LIFE18</u> <u>NAT/SE/000742</u>	LIFE CONNECTS	River connectivity, habitats and water quality towards restored ecosystem services
<u>LIFE18</u> <u>NAT/UK/000743</u>	LIFE DeeTiver	Restoration of freshwater features in River Dee and Bala Lake/Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid SAC

<u>LIFE19</u> <u>GIE/LV/000857</u>	LIFE FOR SPECIES	Threatened species in Latvia: improved knowledge, capacity, data and awareness
<u>LIFE19</u> <u>NAT/DE/000087</u>	LIFE Riverscape Lower Inn	Riverscape Lower Inn - An ecological perspective for riverscape management in the floodplains of the Lower Inn
<u>LIFE19</u> <u>NAT/FR/000728</u>	LIFE DORDOGNE	Ecological restoration and conservation of the alluvial ecosystem of the Dordogne river
<u>LIFE19</u> <u>NAT/IT/000851</u>	<u>LIFEEL</u>	Urgent measures in the Eastern Mediterranean for the long term conservation of endangered European eel
<u>LIFE19</u> <u>NAT/NL/000821</u>	<u>LIFE RESILIAS</u>	Making ecosystems resilient to Invasive Alien Species
<u>LIFE19</u> <u>NAT/SE/000333</u>	Ecostreams for LIFE	ECOSysTem based REstoration And Management of boreal riverS
<u>LIFE20</u> <u>NAT/AT/001126</u>	LIFE Blue Belt Danube-Inn	LIFE Blue Belt Danube-Inn - Supporting ecological connectivity by linking Natura 2000 areas along a blue corridor
<u>LIFE20</u> <u>NAT/IT/001341</u>	LIFE GrayMarble	Conservation and management of marble trout and adriatic grayling in the Dora Baltea catchment
<u>LIFE20</u> <u>NAT/UK/000100</u>	4 Rivers for LIFE	Restoration of freshwater features in four SAC rivers in Wales: Afon Teifi, Afonydd Cleddau, Afon Tywi and River Usk
<u>LIFE20</u> <u>NAT/UK/000277</u>	<u>LIFE WADER</u>	Water And Disturbance Environmental Restoration on the Northumbrian coast
<u>LIFE20</u> <u>NAT/UK/001013</u>	LIFE R4ever Kent	Restoring and revitalising to ensure a more resilient River Kent and its species
<u>LIFE21</u> <u>NAT/IT/004458</u>	<u>LIFE Predator</u>	Prevent, Detect , Combat the spread of Silurus glanis in south European lakes to protect biodiversity
LIFE21 NAT/ES/004197	LIFE KANTAURIBAI	Ecological improvement of the Natura 2000 river network in the Bay of Biscay

<u>LIFE21</u> <u>NAT/SE/004158</u>	TRIWA LIFE	The Tome River International Watershed LIFE
<u>LIFE21</u> <u>NAT/EE/004368</u>	LIFE Baltic Sturgeon	Bringing back the extict sturgeon into the North-Eastern Baltic Sea
LIFE21 NAT/AT/000035	LIFE Boat 4 Sturgeon	LIFE Boat to rescue four Danube sturgeon species from extinction
<u>LIFE21</u> <u>NAT/IT/004559</u>	<u>LIFE Minnow</u>	Small fish, small streams, big challenges: conservation of endangered species in tributaties of the upper Po river