

Restoring Europe's Rivers

RESTORE Bulletin

August 2013

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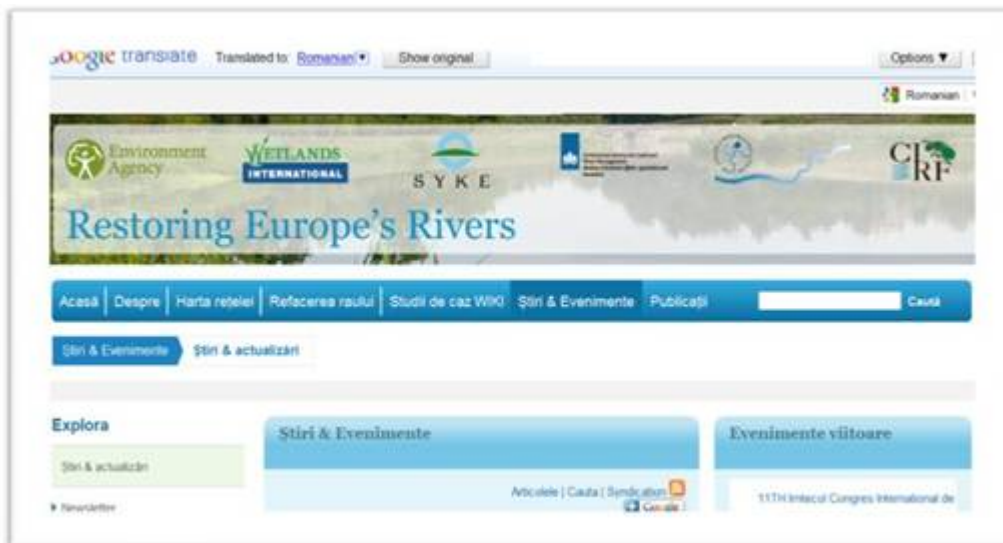
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RESTORE website goes multi-lingual

We're a European project and want to make sure our river restoration message spreads across the continent. So, we've added Google translate onto our website to make our message easier to communicate.



Just click on the Select Language button in the top right hand corner of our website to find your preferred tongue.

Please test this out and tell us what you think: [Feedback](#)

Fishing with a 'boom' boat in the UK

Early July, under cover of darkness, fish are being counted on the Thames from Oxford to Henley. Using an electric fishing boat, affectionately known as the 'boom boat', Environment Agency Fisheries and Sampling teams are taking part in an annual national fish survey.

On this part of the Thames the water is deep, making the normal wading technique for sampling fish out of the question and so the 'boom boat' is used instead. The 'boom boat', officially known as the 'Thames Trout', has a generator on board which produces an electrical current. This is passed through anodes hanging off the bow via a control box, putting a mild electrical current through the water. This current has the effect of attracting and momentarily stunning the fish allowing them to be netted on each side of the boat.



*Fish being placed in tank on boom boat
Photo courtesy of John Sutton, Environment Agency*

There are several reasons why sampling takes place at night. The fish are more active and higher up in the water at that time which is important since the electric field from the 'boom boat' is only effective to a depth of around 6 ft or so. There's also less boat traffic around at night so the survey boat can meander around areas where fish congregate without risk of collision with other vessels, or people who have a habit of

swimming in the Thames during good weather !

The team do however annually encounter the “party boat”, which is a floating disco, usually travelling between Oxford city centre and Sandford Lock. Reactions from the revellers range from the curious to the bare-cheeked, literally, with several partygoers one year deciding to drop their trousers for the benefit of the survey team.

Once caught, the fish are placed in an aerated tank before being measured, a scale sample taken and returned to the water as soon as possible. Using this method gives the number and weight of fish per caught per minute.

The surveys are carried out to assess trends in fish populations over an annual and 6 yearly cycle. The results also help determine the status of water bodies for WFD purposes.

Seventeen species of fish were caught in this year’s survey in the West Thames area. Roach were the predominant species but other notable captures included barbell exceeding ten pounds in weight, the occasional brown trout and good numbers of the fairly rare silver bream.

For further information contact: Stuart Manwaring (Fisheries Technical Officer, Environment Agency) at: stuart.manwaring@environment-agency.gov.uk

RiverWiki Case study: Wessex Chalk Stream Project (UK)

RESTORE’s RiverWiki is a valuable interactive source of river restoration schemes from across Europe. Our database now holds **455** river restoration case studies from **25** countries

Have a look at the [Wessex Chalk Stream Project’s](#) river restoration of the River Avon SSSI SAC near the village of East Chisenbury in Wiltshire.



Post-restoration channel - berm feature installed to narrow channel. Courtesy of the River Restoration Centre.

A video about the project, called East Chisenbury Restoration Scheme, has also been uploaded to YouTube: [here](#)

5th European River Restoration Conference, Vienna 11 - 13 September 2013 & first European River Prize

Programme details now available

The European River Restoration conference is only weeks away and our programme can now be viewed online !

Our conference will present more than one hundred presentations covering fifteen themes and a distinguished list of speakers. There are three outstanding excursions to see the value of river restoration and a special evening will celebrate river restoration in Europe with the first ever European river restoration prize awarded by the International River Foundation.

To see the full programme click [here](#)

For the conference newsletter, updates and highlights click [here](#)

Register Here



Vienna 12 September 2013

For more information: restore@environment-agency.gov.uk

River Restoration in Bulgaria

Following the recent flooding in Europe the old approach to flood protection is being reassessed in Bulgaria. Traditional methods used concrete channels, weirs and dams, as well as straightening rivers and removing riparian vegetation in an attempt to protect people and property from flooding. However, the use of these structures, along with increased development along areas that were previously wetlands and floodplains, has actually increased the risk of flooding and reduced flood protection for people and property.

Although there is a legal requirement to protect and restore rivers in Bulgaria until recently there have been few river restoration projects, with most work focusing on restoring riparian and coastal wetlands and protecting birdlife in the region. Other government funds have been used to build new dams, straighten rivers and clear riparian vegetation alongside rivers.

However there is increasing support for smarter, more effective natural flood protection measures. The Floods Directive is also playing a significant role in changing the way flood protection and river restoration is approached and the first management plans for flood risk protection will be ready in 2015.



Public Consultation(for APSFR) for Tundzha river in Sliven town

As part of this change in approach, in April and May 2013 a public consultation was carried out for APSFR (Areas with potential significant flood risk) in the East Aegean River Basin District. New methods of flood management were discussed that will be included in future management plans such as restoring floodplains and wetlands, compensation schemes for farmers in the event of flooding, and not least, the education of young people about more natural approaches to flood protection and river restoration.

For further information please contact: Mladen Angelov and Vasil Uzunov at: vasilu@yahoo.com



Tweet of the month

RESTORE rivers_@RESTORErivers_



Photo Environment Agency: A large area is being flooded to create a saltmarsh along Upper Severn Estuary

EA and Natural England are creating a 96 acre saltmarsh along Severn Estuary. Read more: [here](#)

RRC new map resource

The River Restoration Centre has launched a revised UK webmap.

The map is the public face of the National River Restoration Inventory (NRI). Alongside the LIFE+ RESTORE project's European database of case studies, users can use this map to view data for over 1500 UK examples of proposed and completed projects and case studies.



To find out how to use the map go to the RRC website [here](#)

To email the RRC: rrc@therrc.co.uk

[Read more on the RESTORE partnership.](#)

[If you have any news items for us please email by 20th September 2013:
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