Facilitating fish migration in the Rhine River Basin

European River Symposium 2021
Session 2: Sharing Basins, Sharing Destinies: International River Commissions

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Photo: J. Schneider
Photo: Rijkswaterstaat
9 nations – one river basin
The ICPR and its working mode

- 70 years of international cooperation
- Convention on the Protection of the Rhine
- National delegations & expert groups
- Consensus principle, no sanctions
- Coordination-based commission
- International secretariat with 10 employees
- 3 working languages (German, French, Dutch)
- topics: chemistry, ecology, flood/low water
Two instruments

Programme “Rhine 2040”

Objective: ecological continuity for migratory fish upstream & downstream
(Rhine + water bodies defined by masterplan)

Masterplan Migratory Fish
https://www.iksr.org/de/themen/oekologie/pflanzen-und-tiere/fische/wanderfische
Species of migratory fish

Atlantic salmon
Sea trout
Allis shad
Lake Constance lake trout
European eel
Achievements & challenges

Photos: Rijkswaterstaat
Achievements & challenges

a.s.a.p. to ensure compliance with EU legislation

Photo: Regierungspräsidium Freiburg
Achievements & challenges

Remove another 300 obstacles by 2030
Achievements & challenges

2020: 30 % → 2030: 60 % of original spawning habitats reconnected

Statistics of returning fish

Climate change adaptation!
→ fish migrate to cooler river sections
Thanks for your interest!

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