

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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Protection of the Rhine (ICPR)**



Photo: J. Schneider



Photo: Rijkswaterstaat

Internationale
Kommission zum
Schutz des Rheins

Commission
Internationale
pour la Protection
du Rhin

Internationale
Commissie ter
Bescherming
van de Rijn

International
Commission
for the Protection
of the Rhine

9 nations – one river basin





The ICPR and its working mode

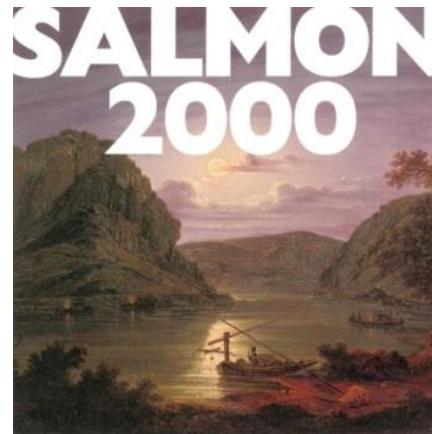
- 70 years of international cooperation
- Convention on the Protection of the Rhine
- National delegations & expert groups
- Consensus principle, no sanctions
- Coordination-based commission
- International secretariat with 10 employees
- 3 working languages (German, French, Dutch)
- topics: chemistry,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



Two instruments

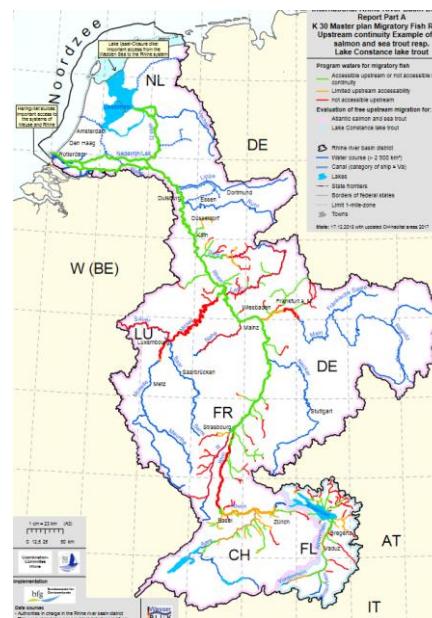
Programme “Rhine 2040”

<https://www.iksr.org/en/icpr/rhine-2040>



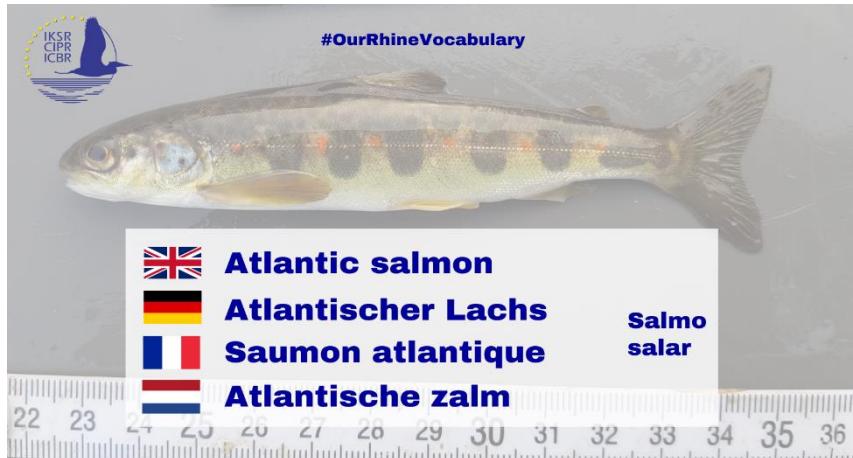
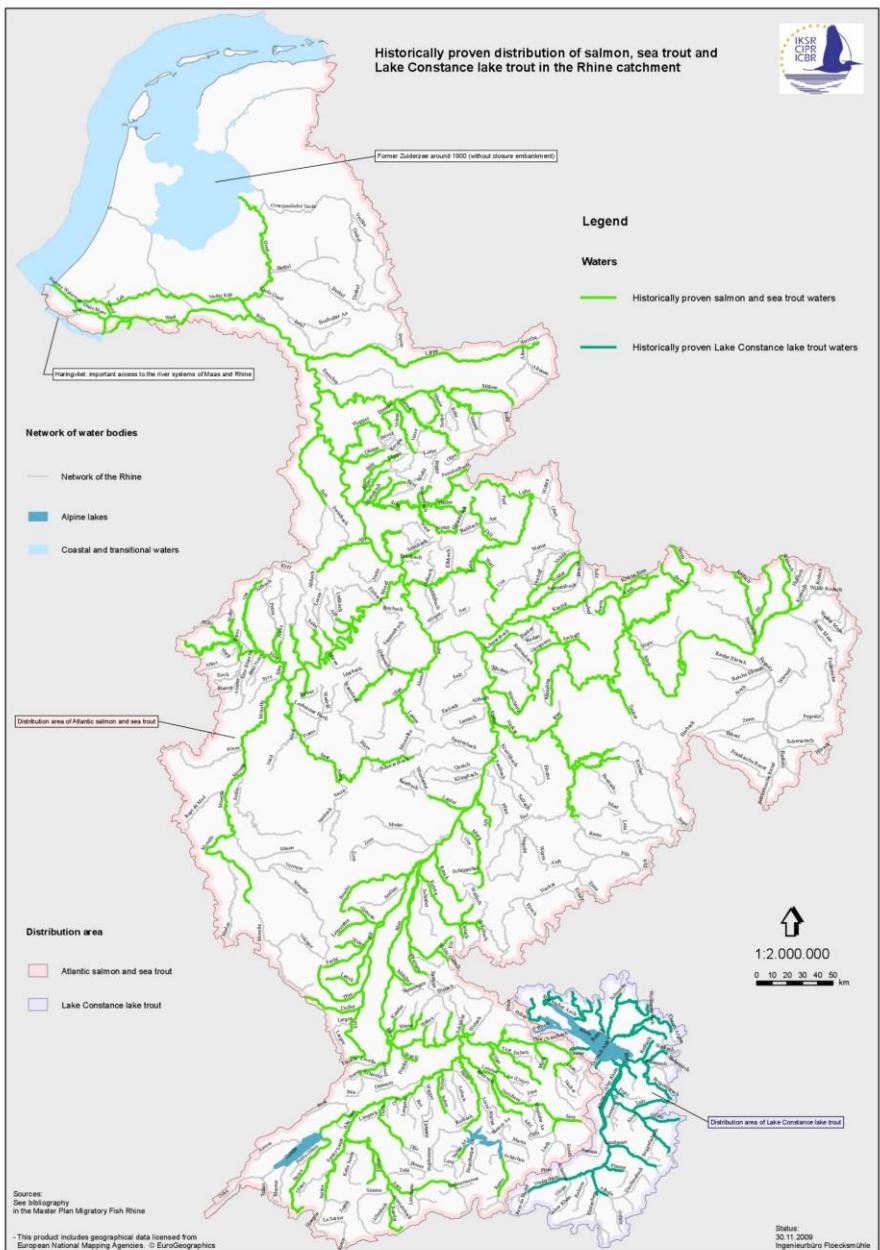
Masterplan Migratory Fish

<https://www.iksr.org/de/themen/oekologie/pflanzen-und-tiere/fische/wanderfische>



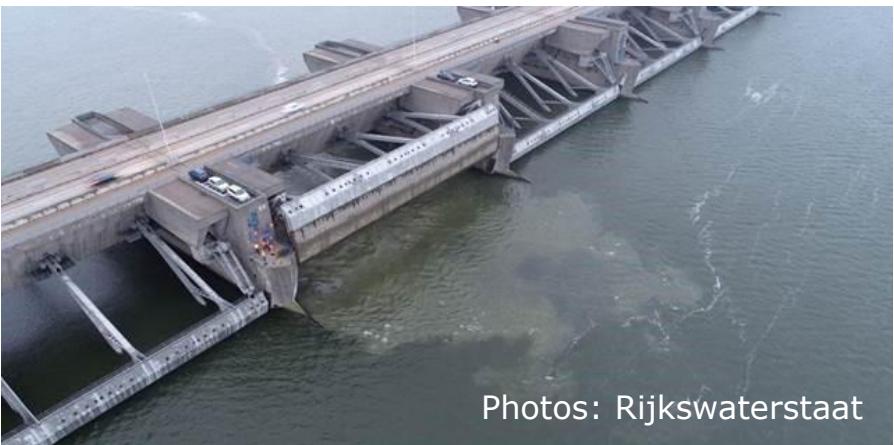
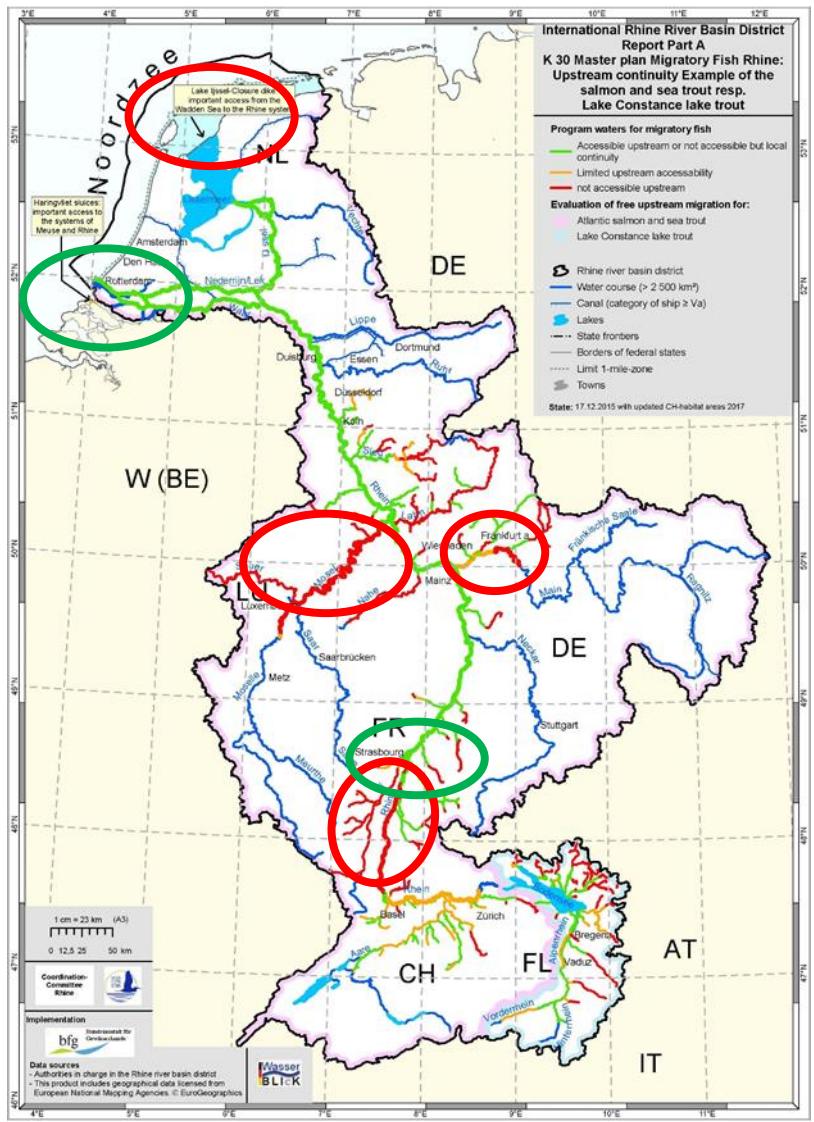
Objective: ecological continuity for migratory fish upstream & downstream
(Rhine + water bodies defined by masterplan)

Species of migratory fish



Atlantic salmon
 Sea trout
 Allis shad
 Lake Constance lake trout
 European eel

Achievements & challenges



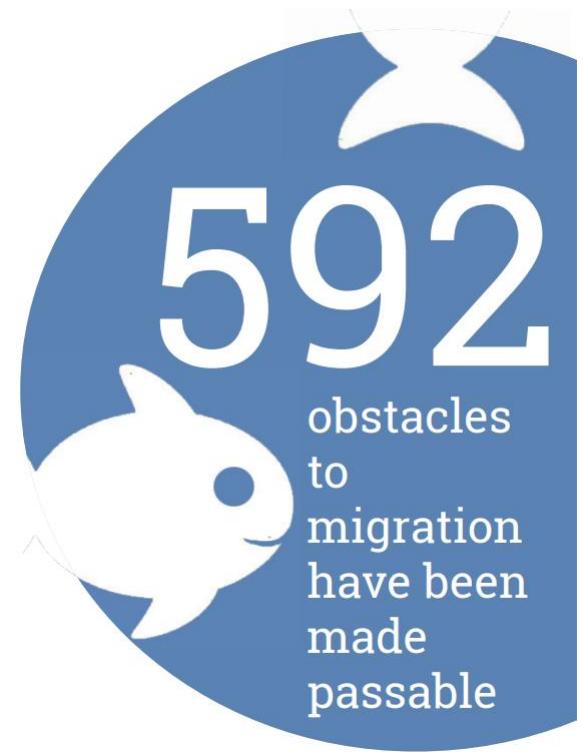
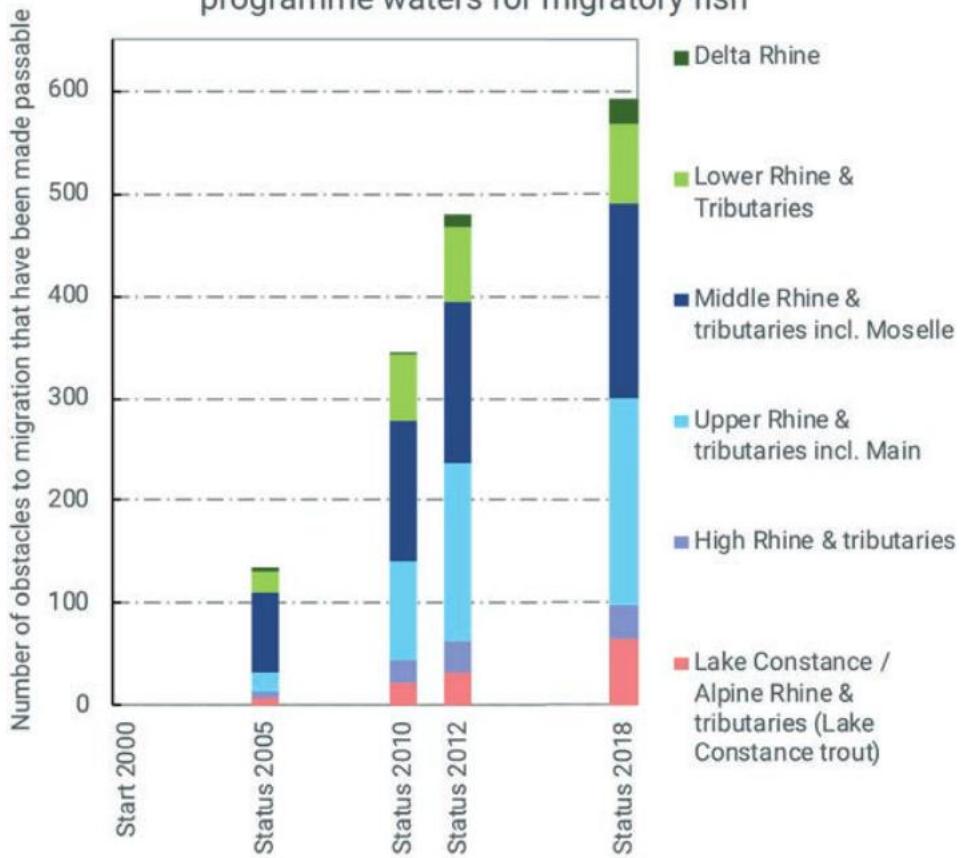
Photos: Rijkswaterstaat

Achievements & challenges



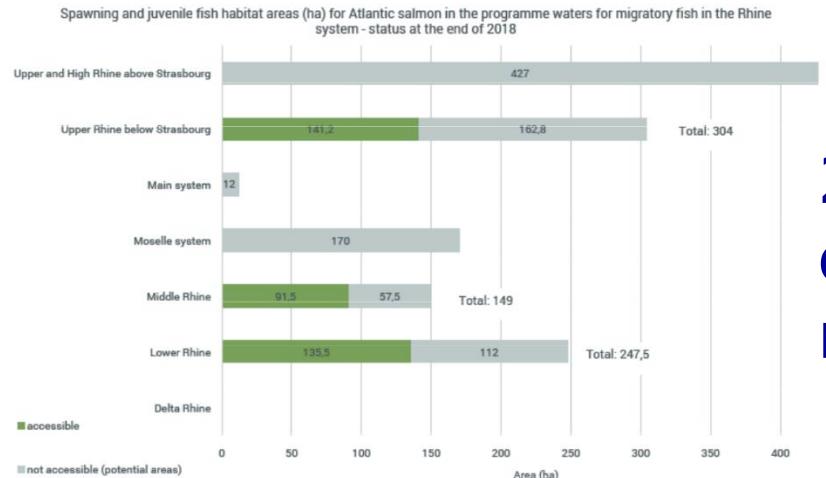
Achievements & challenges

Improving the river continuity of the Rhine and the programme waters for migratory fish



Remove another 300 obstacles by 2030

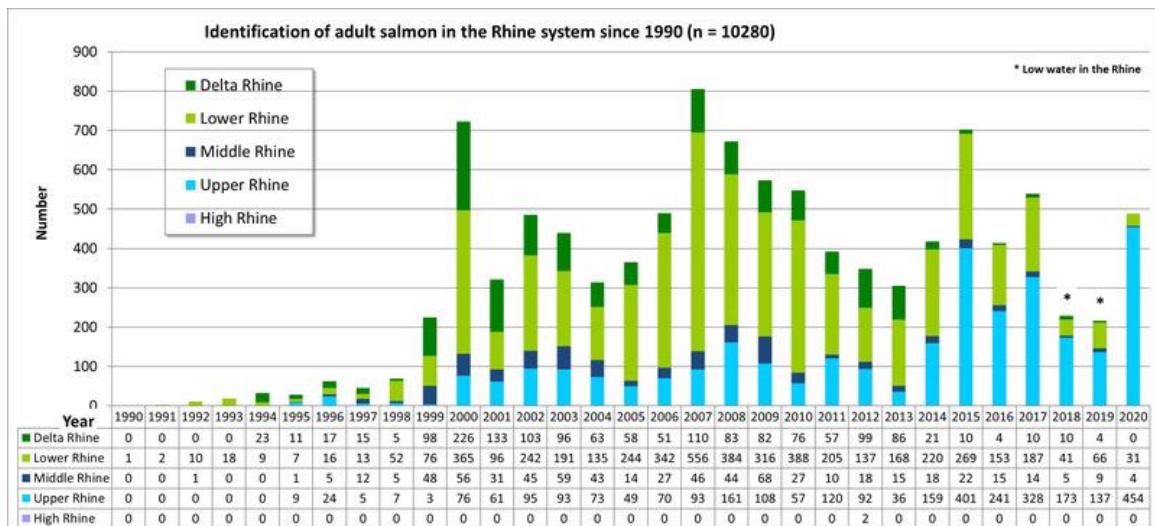
Achievements & challenges



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

Statistics of returning fish

<https://www.iksr.org/en/topics/ecology/plants-and-animals/fish/statistics-on-migratory-fish>



Climate change
adaptation!
→ fish migrate
to cooler river sections



Thanks for your interest!

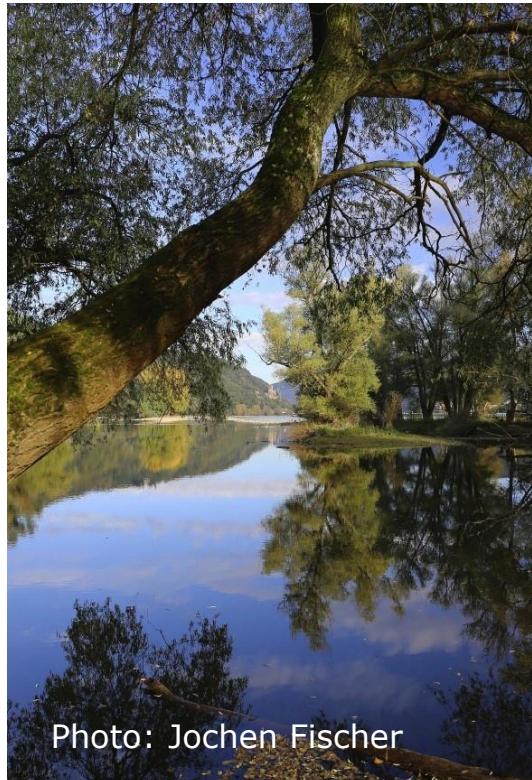
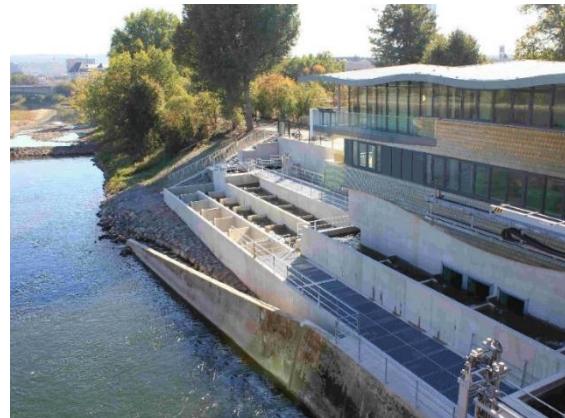
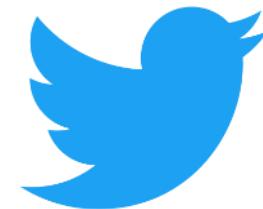


Photo: Jochen Fischer

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