

## KEY FINDINGS FROM THE RESTORE HIGH ENERGY RIVER WORKSHOP, SCOTLAND, 27th SEPTEMBER 2012

The follow is a very brief summary of one part a one day workshop help this September. There were approximately 70 attendees from a range of back grounds. Recognising the synergies between the RESTORE workshop and the EU funded workshop on fish migration and river connectivity it was agreed that one of the outputs of the RESTORE workshop would be to highlight the key points in time for the meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October. If you have any further questions about the details of this comments please contact Jenny Mant at the River Restoration Centre ( [Jenny@therrc.co.uk](mailto:Jenny@therrc.co.uk)). In the first instance however, please discuss with JukkaJormola who is attending both workshops.

### Key points:

- Sediment release/mobility/contamination the greatest concern when removing a manmade barriers and there is little confidence associated with these elements: Requires more research and monitoring programme with final output to deliver a working hand book. It will also result in a reduce risk of where sediment may deposit in the system and ultimately help produce policy that will help restore river connectivity for fish more effectively.
- It was felt that “Bigger systems” are harder to deal with/work with & greater potential for mistakes. The impact both up- and down-stream is uncertain... Needs more guidance about the effects of barrier removal (relates to bullet above).
- Lack of knowledge on fish biology/design criteria for specific species.... Needs more research that is applicable to practitioners.
- Compensation ecology should be a requirement with respect to any hydropower schemes ( in place in some countries but should be applicable to all).
- In the context of the above bullet need to promote natural bypass channels for more than just fish.
- Both and high energy weir removal are difficult
- Agri- environment and landmanagement schemes need to be more flexible.... E.g. one off payments as an example.
- Stakeholders often sceptical about idea of re-naturalising rivers. Belief that may make (e.g. flooding) situation worse. Need to be able to convince stakeholders that restoration works and demonstrate the variety and significance of benefits that may accrue. Demonstration sites needed. Note: could be part of the consenting process to monitor projects as is the case in parts of the USA.