



# Free Flow Conference Programme

January 2024

## International conference on protecting and restoring free-flowing rivers in Europe

April 15–17, 2024 | Oosterpoort,  
Groningen, The Netherlands  
[Freeflowconference.eu](https://Freeflowconference.eu)



# Welcome to the Free Flow Conference

The World Fish Migration Foundation and Institute of Fisheries Management would like to invite you to the Free Flow Conference taking place on the 15-17 April 2024 in the wonderful city of Groningen in The Netherlands.

Our rivers are facing unprecedented threats, and freshwater biodiversity is in decline, but by joining together to share best practice and learn from each other we may, collectively, be able to slow this decline and restore the free flowing rivers we all hold so dear.

Together with our Advisory Board members we have selected 125 speakers divided over 27 sessions. Topics range from nature based solutions, free flowing river policies, dam removal to technical river connectivity solutions. So, join us and over 450 delegates from around the world for three days of talks, posters, field trips and networking opportunities.

This event is made possible with the support of partners, exhibitors and sponsors. We are truly grateful for their financial contribution.

We look forward to seeing you there.



**Herman Wanningen**

–

Director,  
World Fish Migration  
Foundation



**Paul Coulson**

–

Director of Operations,  
Institute of Fisheries  
Management

# Conference Programme

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# Meet our moderator

Ella McSweeney is an Irish journalist and reporter. She is a science (zoology) graduate from Trinity College, Dublin and holds a masters in food policy from City University, London.

She works across radio, television and print for a variety of broadcasters and publications, including RTE, BBC, The Guardian and the Irish Times, amongst others. She's presented a wide range of radio shows for RTE, including Shanks Mare, Documentary on One, Into the Deep, award-winning Mind Matters, Future Tense, Nature's Web, The Green Light, Farm Week and Countrywide. For BBC, she has reported for and presented Farming Today, On Your Farm and The Food Programme on Radio 4, and documentaries on BBC World Service.



**Ella McSweeney**

–

Journalist and reporter



# Keynote speakers



## **Pao Fernández Garrido**

**Dam Removal Expert, World Fish Migration Foundation, Segovia, Spain**

“This event gives you the opportunity to meet in-person people from many countries with big experience dealing with river connectivity issues, learning from their real case studies and increasing your network of experts who could collaborate (or give support) in your future projects.”



## **Zeb Hogan**

**Research professor, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada, USA**

“Around the world, free-flowing rivers support irreplaceable biodiversity, bountiful fisheries, and human well-being and livelihoods. While these critically important waters are under threat and under appreciated, momentum is building for free-flowing river research, preservation, and restoration. This conference is an opportunity for experts and river advocates to join together to share our knowledge and enthusiasm for healthy rivers full of life, and spread the word about the important connection between people, water, and fish.”



## **Jeffrey Duda**

**Research Ecologist, USGS, Western Fisheries Research Center, Seattle, Washington, USA**

“More than ever before, the world is focused on the restoration of rivers. I look forward to joining experts from around the world at Free Flow 2024 giving presentations about lessons learned from dam removal and restoration of river connectivity - what it takes, why it is important and what the outcomes can be for rivers, people and biodiversity.”



## **Gabriel Singer**

**Ecologist and Research Group Leader, Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries, Berlin, Germany**





“To some aquatic fauna, free-flow is a critical life condition. To me as a human, there is hardly anything more inspiring than free-flow, as a real-world phenomenon I study, a conservation target I dream of, a natural riverine feature keeping me alive. So maybe it’s a critical life condition for me as well, not just for fish!”

Keynote presentations  
are kindly sponsored by:








# Programme overview – Day 1

Monday, 15 April 2024

Time	Programme Overview – Monday 15 April 2024				
7:50 – 8:40	Registration				
8:40 – 8:50	Introduction and welcome				
8:50 – 9:30	Zeb Hogan: Global Swimways and Migratory Megafish: Current Status and Future Opportunities				
9:30 – 10:10	Pao Fernandez Garrido: Progress, challenges and achievements on dam removal in Europe the last 10 years				
10:10 – 10:20	Exhibitors' pitch presentations				
10:20 – 10:40	Break				
10:40 – 12:00	<b>A1 (FREE FLOW ROOM)</b>	<b>B1 (OTTER ROOM)</b>	<b>C1 (STURGEON ROOM)</b>	<b>D1 (DRAGONFLY ROOM)</b>	<b>E1 (KINGFISHER ROOM)</b>
	<b>Implementing European Biodiversity Targets and EU policies for free-flowing rivers</b>  <b>Moderator: Claire Baffert</b>	<b>Ecology and hydromorphology of free-flowing rivers</b>  <b>Moderator: Roland Jansson</b>	<b>River restoration projects</b>  <b>Moderator: Kaspars Abersons</b>	<b>Conservation of Danube River basin</b>  <b>Moderator: Martin Tschikof</b>	<b>Cultural and socio-economic aspects of dam removal</b>  <b>Moderator: TBD</b>
12:00 – 12:30	Official opening & VIP guests				
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch time & Exhibitors' market				
	Posters' session – Sponsored by: 				
14:00 – 15:20	<b>A2</b>	<b>B2</b>	<b>C2</b>	<b>D2</b>	<b>E2</b>
	<b>20 years of WFD: What did this bring to free-flowing rivers (+ panel discussion)</b>  <b>Moderator: Yurena Lorenzo</b>	<b>Small scale fish passage solutions</b>  <b>Moderator: Tom Buijse</b>	<b>River restoration for LIFE (EU LIFE projects)</b>  <b>Moderator: Karin Olsson</b>	<b>Hydropower development vs free-flowing rivers</b>  <b>Moderator: TBD</b>	<b>Dam Removal – Small barriers</b>  <b>Moderator: Jean-Marc Roussel</b>  Sponsored by: 
15:20 – 15:50	Break				
15:50 – 17:10	<b>A3</b>	<b>B3</b>	<b>C3</b>	<b>D3</b>	<b>E3</b>
	<b>River restoration tools</b>  <b>Moderator: Josh Royte</b>	<b>Freshwater fish &amp; fisheries: Restoration of migratory fish populations</b>  <b>Moderator: Marc Ordeix</b>	<b>Nature-based Solutions</b>  <b>Moderator: Kerry Brink</b>	<b>River protection in the Western Balkans</b>  <b>Moderator: Amelie Huber</b>	<b>Road dams / Culverts retrofitting</b>  <b>Moderator: Erica Borum</b>
17:10 – 18:10	Social – Sponsored by:  				
17:50 – 19:20	DAMBUSTERS FILM SCREENING				

# Programme overview – Day 2

Tuesday, 16 April 2024

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8:25 – 8:40	Registration				
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	<b>Dam Removal – Large dams</b> <b>Moderator: Michelle Thieme</b> Sponsored by: 	<b>Cultural and socio-economic aspects of free-flowing rivers</b> <b>Moderator: Sebastian Birk</b>	<b>Small scale fish passage solutions</b> <b>Moderator: Olle Calles</b>	<b>Priority actions towards free-flowing Rhine and Maas rivers</b> <b>Moderator: Jeroen Tummers</b> Sponsored by: 	TBD
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14:00 – 15:20	<b>A5</b>	<b>B5</b>	<b>C5</b>	<b>D5</b>	<b>E5</b>
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15:20 – 15:50	Break				
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	<b>Ecology and hydromorphology of free-flowing rivers</b> <b>Moderator: Twan Stoffers</b>	<b>River restoration projects</b> <b>Moderator: Charles Crundwell</b>	<b>Freshwater fish &amp; fisheries: Restoration of migratory fish populations</b> <b>Moderator: Heather Bond</b>	<b>River restoration tools</b> <b>Moderator: Ruben van Treeck</b>	<b>European Open Rivers Programme / Dam Removal Europe workshop</b> <b>Moderators: Kerry Brink, Gwen McDonald</b>
17:10 – 18:30	Social & Exhibitors' market				
18:30 – 23:00	Conference dinner & Dam Removal Europe Award ceremony				
	DJ GrooveAX FREE FLOW SET				

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10:40	Introduction by LRE	Piotr Parasiewicz: Over 200,000 kilometers of free-flowing river habitat in Europe is altered due to impoundments	Donné Mathijssen: Restoring the Westerwoldse Aa from sea to source: 30 years of improving water quality, connectivity and habitat diversity for fish	Yusdiel Torres-Cambas: Prioritizing conservation and monitoring areas in the Danube River basin: Insights from the DANUBE4all project	Marq Redeker: People love their weirs – Moving goalposts in a dam removal project
10:55	Wouter van de Bund: Is my river free-flowing? Towards a common European method showing the benefits of barrier removal for river connectivity	Arjit Mishra: Mapping of free flowing and wild rivers of Uttarakhand, India	Ana Catarina Miranda: Rollin'Rivers – People, knowledge and action to enhance river restoration in Portugal	Miroslava Rakovská: Comprehensive efforts towards improvement of the Danube inland delta water regime	Miriam Colls: The adventure of implementing a barrier removal project – A socio-cultural perspective
11:10	Bart Fokkens: River continuity restoration policies and freshwater ecosystem restoration	Róisín Donovan: Invisible actors: Thermal responses to low head impounding structures – Identification, quantification, prioritization, and mitigation	Paweł Pawlaczyk: Natural fluvial processes as a tool of river restoration (example of Polish Surface Waters Restoration Programme)	Marcell Szabo-Meszaros: Connectivity assessment for fish in the Danube River basin	Clemens Gumpinger: Dam Removal in Austria – How to move from pilot projects to standard procedure?
11:25	Melissa de Raaij: Towards a free(er) flowing Netherlands	Martin Dalvai Ragnoli: How damming contributes to global warming: Learning from the free-flowing Upper Neretva River in Bosnia-Herzegovina	Tim Feierfeil: Structural measures for the near-natural development of the Neckar in Mannheim	Rafaela Schinegger: Riparian zones – A key factor in conservation efforts for terrestrial and freshwater connectivity	Eva Horvat: Best match on Reka catchment: River barrier inventory with awareness raising activities



11:40	Twan Stoffers: Reviving Europe's rivers: Seven challenges in the implementation of the Nature Restoration Law to restore free-flowing rivers	Victoria Huk: The effects of the German-Polish expansion of the Odra River on nutrient retention and water quality	Johanna Hägglund: Ecostreams: Holistic approach to restoring aquatic habitats in Northern Sweden	Anthony Basooma: Biodiversity data quality flagging checks for distribution models using species ecological and tolerance limits	Joshua Matanzima: Dam removal blind spots: Debating the importance of community consultations and consent in decommissioning projects
12:00 – 12:30	Official opening & VIP guests				
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	Posters' session (Sponsored by Oregon RFID)				
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14:00	TBD	Olle Calles: Resolving recruitment bottlenecks for the critically endangered European eel	Katarina Mravcova: LIFE Living rivers: Restoring rivers in Slovakia	Esther Carmen: Navigating change to mainstream barrier removal: Using a Nature-based Solutions (NbS) approach with the hydropower sector across Europe	Geoffrey Goll: Dam removal is not just about dam removal
14:15	Marc Daniel Heintz: TBD	Rachel Mawer: Analysing the behaviour of migrating fish to predict movement near barriers	Vibeke Lirås: LIFE CONNECTS creates free flowing rivers in Southern Sweden	Peter Rudberg: Stakeholder collaboration as part of the Swedish national plan for modern environmental provisions for hydropower	Kerry Brink: How dam removal has opened up >1817 km of river in Europe
14:30	TBD	Jamie Dodd: Can't pass or won't pass: Quantifying improved connectivity for riverine brown trout at a low-head gauging weir	Sílvia Pedro: LIFE Agueda – Restoring river connectivity for migratory fish in the Vouga River basin	Dimitrios Papageorgiou: Conservation challenges in the Aous River basin: The threat of small hydropower plants	Hamish Moir: The sustainable 'nature-based' management of dam and weir structures: Design and implementation – Case studies from Scotland, England and Iceland
14:45	Panel discussion and Q&A	Patricija Raibarte: Monitoring results show slow recovery of lamprey reproduction after construction of a country wise first natural fish passage	Patrik Olofsson: Reviving freshwater pearl mussel populations and their habitats – LIFE REVIVES	Valerio Barbarossa: Strategic restoration and development scenarios to mitigate fish habitat fragmentation for low-impact hydropower in the Mekong	Camila Kuncar: Improving river governance: Removal of dams on the Ega River
15:00		Samuel Shry: Benefits of dam removal for Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) smolt migration and identified challenges in downstream passage of fragmented reaches	Joel Rees-Jones: LIFEDeeRiver, restoring one of the most regulated rivers in Europe	Paul Meulenbroek: Conservation requirements of European eel ( <i>Anquilla anquilla</i> ) in a Balkan catchment	Giandomenico Mercuri: Giov & Go: Free-flowing Giovenco. Defragmentation interventions on the Giovenco River: Connecting stakeholders to reconnect the river

15:20 – 15:50	Break				
	A3	B3	C3	D3	E3
15:50 – 17:10	<b>River restoration tools</b>  <b>Moderator: Josh Royte</b>	<b>Freshwater fish &amp; fisheries: Restoration of migratory fish populations</b>  <b>Moderator: Marc Ordeix</b>	<b>Nature-based Solutions</b>  <b>Moderator: Kerry Brink</b>	<b>River protection in the Western Balkans</b>  <b>Moderator: Amelie Huber</b>	<b>Road dams / Culverts retrofitting</b>  <b>Moderator: Erica Borum</b>
15:50	Carlos Garcia de Leaniz: Can't do them all, so how should we prioritize barriers for removal?	Justine Gelder: What do fish do during and after the opening of a migration axis? An analysis of their colonization dynamic	Sebastian Birk: Building blocks for upscaling freshwater Nature-based Solutions in Europe	Irma Popovic Dujmovic: Achieving durable river protection: The United for Rivers initiative in Southeast Europe	Erica Borum: A Nature Based Solution at road-stream crossings: Free flowing and flood resilient
16:05	Gonçalo Duarte: RivConnect – A new tool for river network connectivity assessment	Emilien Lasne: A toolbox to assess the spatio-temporal dynamics of Atlantic salmon recolonisation after dam removal on the Sélune River (Normandy, France)	Paul Brotherton: Natural sponges: Wetland solutions to protect against floods and droughts	Iskra Krstic: Serbia: A war against rivers and activists	Emma Washburn: River obstacles: A new type-attributed road-river crossing dataset for England, United Kingdom
16:20	Liz Townley: Climate driven adaptation tools and strategies for wild and scenic rivers	Johan Watz: Removal of lake outlet dams in Sweden and its effects on fish communities	Péter Kajner: Involving local stakeholders into lateral connectivity restoration along the River Tisza, Hungary	Maja Pravuljac: Implementation of environmental acquis relevant to hydropower projects in selected Western Balkan countries – Systemic failures and golden standards	Niklas Kemi: The Swedish transport administrations successful work with removing barriers
16:35	Magnus Keller: Potentials for new free-flowing river sections in Saxony (Germany) – Connecting the Elbe River to its lost tributaries	Heather Bond: The establishment of the Trans-European Swimways Network and Swimways of European Importance	Mario Brillinger: Nature-based solutions for the Elbe estuary?	Jelena Popovic: Komarnica canyon, the screaming silence of untouched nature under threat – The battle for its preservation from hydroelectric power	Matīss Žagars: Mapping impassable culverts to be removed in the highly ecologically prioritized Gauja River
16:50	Sami Domisch: Tools to address the longitudinal connectivity in spatial freshwater biodiversity science	Sebastian Rock: Parasitic freshwater pearl mussels induce upstream movement in their brown trout hosts: Early evidence of an extended phenotype	Laurice Ereifej: Living Danube Partnership for restoration: 1+1+1=5? Innovative partnership between corporate, governmental platform and NGO	Panel discussion and Q&A	Thiago Couto: Connecting water and people by improving road-crossing infrastructure in the Brazilian Amazon
17:10 – 18:10	Social (Sponsored by Municipality of Groningen & Oregon RFID)				
17:50 – 19:20	DAMBUSTERS FILM SCREENING				

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10:40 – 12:00	<b>Dam Removal – Large dams (Sponsored by MCMillen)</b>  <b>Moderator: Michelle Thieme</b>	<b>Cultural and socio-economic aspects of free-flowing rivers</b>  <b>Moderator: Sebastian Birk</b>	<b>Small scale fish passage solutions</b>  <b>Moderator: Olle Calles</b>	<b>Priority actions towards free-flowing Rhine and Maas rivers</b>  <b>Moderator: Jeroen Tummers</b>	<b>TBD</b>
10:40	Morton McMillen: Planning and implementation for the removal of the four dam complex of the lower Klamath project	Rob Cunningham: Mainstreaming NbS in water management sector – Example from Croatia	Pieter Boets: Fish migration passages on smaller watercourses: How effective are they?	Tim Vriese: Connectivity on the River Meuse	
10:55	Laura Soissons: Ecological restoration of the Selune River (Normandy, France) through the removal of two large dams	Anna Scaini: Uncovering the invisible connection between people and rivers	Robert Feurich: Improving fish passage by an unstructured block ramp	Jeroen Tummers: Connectivity in the River Meuse: Characteristics of a major, flowing bypass	
11:10	TBD	Chris Bowser: Getting everyone involved: A quick primer on building community awareness into conservation action for stream connectivity and dam removal	Arantxa Unzurrunzaga: From theory to practice with naturalized design	Sam Majjvis: Ecological continuity of weir complexes for fish in the Water Framework Directive Explorer	
11:25	Riku Rinnevali: Monitoring the very first large-scale dam removals in Finland – Preliminary results	Brigitta Mikus: Ecosystem services for dam removals in the River Lahn (Germany)	Falko Wagner: Risk assessment for fish passing turbines, pumps and hydraulic structures: A methodological framework and innovative methods	Jacco van Rijssel: Rhine salmon population threatened by multiple hurdles along their migration	

11:40	Richard Roos-Collins: Risk management in dam removal	Lígia Vaz de Figueiredo: Can people's engagement facilitate dam removal processes? Lessons learned from a case study in Portugal	David Buysse: An Archimedes screw threesome: A study evaluating the fish friendliness of three Archimedes screw variants	Daphne Willems: Free flowing rivers in The Netherlands	
12:00 – 12:30	Official launch of toolkit: How to remove dams?				
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14:00	Kristen Coveleski: Optimizing restoration resources: Removing multiple dams along urban rivers	Karin Olsson: River restoration for a free flowing Rönne å River – Challenges and lessons learned	Katja Philippart: Fish migration river: Nature based large scale fishway between Waddensea and Lake IJssel. Under construction now! Adaptive design, construction and research ambitions	Melanie Meijer zu Schlochtern: Upstream passage success of large anadromous fish at the Haringvliet estuarine barrier using long-term telemetry monitoring	<b>Removing barriers together: Developing a new collaborative strategy for prioritising research to restore free-flowing rivers</b>
14:15	Josu Elso: River connectivity restoration to improve diadromous fish populations: LIFE KANTAURIBAI project	Marc Ordeix: Restoration of fish migration and beginning of a European sturgeon recovery project in the lower Ebre River (Catalonia) and beyond	Mark Yeldham: Severn Unlocked? The response of two anadromous fishes to catchment-scale barrier mitigation in the River Severn revealed using acoustic telemetry	Niels Brevé: Lessons learned from telemetry: How climate change affects pathways of migratory fish in one of Europe's largest river basins	
14:30	Mircea Marginean: First steps in restoring longitudinal connectivity on Vâlsan River – home of critically endangered fish species Asprete	Peter Jones: Overcoming challenges and constraints to delivering effective river restoration: Lessons learnt in the Four Rivers for LIFE project	Vincent Autier: Horizontal fish screen solution for downstream fish passage at a historic dam used to restore Lahontan cutthroat trout population	Bas Roels: Action plan	
14:45	Lorenzo Quaglietta: Galaxes weir removal: An ORP-funded project kickstarting the civic movement for the restoration of river connectivity in Portugal	Sofia Perä: TRIWA LIFE – The Torne River International Watershed LIFE – Europe's largest water project	Reid Swanson: FishPass – A vision for selective fish passage solutions to the connectivity conundrum	Workshop: TBD	
15:00	Melissa Mahavar-Snow: Removing redundant gauging weirs to benefit migratory fish in Wales	Helena Mühlmann: LIFE IP IRIS – Integrated River Solutions in Austria – Linking Water Framework Directive and Floods Directive	Ulrike Drabek: Nature-based solutions for fishways		

15:20 – 15:50	Break				
15:50 – 17:10	<b>A6</b>	<b>B6</b>	<b>C6</b>	<b>D6</b>	<b>E6</b>
	<b>Ecology and hydromorphology of free-flowing rivers</b>  <b>Moderator: Twan Stoffers</b>	<b>River restoration projects</b>  <b>Moderator: Charles Crundwell</b>	<b>Freshwater fish &amp; fisheries: Restoration of migratory fish populations</b>  <b>Moderator: Heather Bond</b>	<b>River restoration tools</b>  <b>Moderator: Ruben van Treeck</b>	<b>European Open Rivers Programme / Dam Removal Europe workshop</b>  <b>Moderators: Kerry Brink, Gwen Mcdonald</b>
15:50	Carmen Rethschulte: Weir management and the impact on peak floods and sediment flushing as key factors for the upper Isar alluvial dynamics	Ewa Leś: The greatest water management challenges in the Baltic Sea region	Remko Verspui: Spawning migration of North Sea Houting in the Overijsselse Vecht	Mária Šibíková: NaturaSat Wetland project – A novel tool for riparian vegetation monitoring after river branch system restoration	TBD
16:05	Miriam Colls: Green house gas emissions from dammed river basin – A case study at basin scale	Peter Mathisen: Rivers of LIFE – Examples of holistic restorations and problem solving in boreal rivers	Ričards Kaupužs: Successful restoration of migratory fish populations confirms the benefits of dam removal in middlesized rhithral stream	Martin Friedrichs-Manthey: River network properties and spatial connectivity: How and where has the freshwater fish community changed in Germany	
16:20	Marcis Saklaurs: Management of water and forest ecosystems in the Salaca River basin	Wendy Katagi: Los Angeles river watershed fish passage, restoration, and flows	Stephanie Popp: Mapping sturgeon habitats: A comprehensive overview of sites, protection status and potential threats in selected river systems	Amaia Rodeles: A method for fish meta-population connectivity evaluation and barrier removal optimization	
16:35	Twan Stoffers: Ontogenetic habitat shifts by juvenile fishes highlight the importance of permanent river-floodplain connectivity and habitat heterogeneity	Panos Panagiotopoulos: Restoring a lowland river basin: Effects of fishways, removing barriers and re-meandering on fish and invertebrate communities	Pieterjan Verhelst: European eel migration speed, timing and success in relation to habitats, geographical location and migration barriers: A European-wide telemetry meta-analysis	Carlos Garcia de Leaniz: Are satellite images reliable for filling barrier data gaps? Modelling barrier discovery to achieve free-flowing river targets	
16:50	Tamara Leite: The state of European river network connectivity	Piotr Nieznański: Space for the Oder River – Putting the concept into practice	Ian Cowx: Using the global Swimways concept to understand the threats to fish migration in species rich tropical river systems	Jaime Ricardo Garcia Marquez: Estimating fish habitat fragmentation patterns and simulating barrier removal to target habitat restoration efforts	
17:10 – 18:30	Social & Exhibitors' market				
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	DJ GrooveAX FREE FLOW SET				

# Side programme

The conference offers a diverse and interesting side programme and networking possibilities. Some highlights are presented here and more can be found on the conference website. If you are interested to host a workshop or a meeting, get in touch with [Neza@fishmigration.org](mailto:Neza@fishmigration.org) to explore the possibilities.

## List of posters

The conference will host poster sessions where you can present your research! 30 posters are already selected and there is enough space for 20 more. New poster proposals will be evaluated regularly. Get in touch with [Foivos@fishmigration.org](mailto:Foivos@fishmigration.org) for more information.

The poster sessions are sponsored by:  Oregon RFID  
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Title	Presenter
The political ecology of Indus delta: Analysing policy paradigms for climate-resilient pathways	Abdul Waheed
Conservation and rehabilitation of Prespa's riparian zones: A holistic approach to biodiversity and ecosystem management	Androniki Turlouki
Effect of hydropower dams on the network connectivity of the Nile River Basin	Anthony Basooma
Searching for appropriate parameters to assess river continuity in Slovenia	Barbara Debeljak
Flowing freedom: Conservation and connectivity in the Semois valley national Park	Céline Hanzen
How environmental DNA metabarcoding fills the knowledge gaps in a cross-country characterisation of lotic fish communities: the Scheldt estuary	Charlotte Van Driessche
Worthyvale Camel connection	Craig Renton
Migratory fish worldwide: Differences in data within global and regional repositories	Daria Gundermann
Scale matters: Effects of hydrogeomorphology and anthropogenic disturbances on the abundance of native fish in Chilean Rivers	Fernando Tapia
Coupling multiple ways of knowing water quality and river health in the Klamath River during and after dam removal	Guillermo Giannico
Biodiversity and ecological significance of the Zeta River: A review of ichthyofauna and speleological features	Irma Muhović
Fish conservation evaluation at two Kenyan east flowing rivers reveals importance of anguillids eels	Japhet Tembo
Investigating fish migration through acoustic telemetry at different scales	Jelger Elings

River restoration by chance? Floods and European beaver ( <i>Castor fiber</i> ) as factors maintaining spontaneous renaturalization of Łososina River (Western Carpathians)	Joanna Wąs
Temporal developments of longitudinal connectivity: The perspective of potamodromous fish	Johannes Kowal
Floodplains by design: A public-private partnership for integrated floodplain management in Washington State, USA	Kas Guillozet
Different meander reconnection methods lead to different biodiversity success	Malaurie Hons
River defragmentation: A pilot intervention for central Italy	Marco Seminara
Robust indicators for floodplain conditions and restoration success: Identify, test, evaluate, and upscale	Martin Tschikof
Dam removals and sense of place: Case studies of the Vramsån and Mörrumsån	Martine Roseboom
A bioeconomic model for optimizing river barrier removal in Norway	Mayra Darre
Nature conservation measures on waters of Štajerska in the LIFE integrated project for enhanced management of Natura 2000 in Slovenia	Mojca Hrovat
The Vjosa River – A hotspot of highly threatened ecosystems and biodiversity of European significance	Paul Meulenbroek
Responsiveness to surface-groundwater interactions by spawning salmonids: Site selection patterns and control mechanisms in <i>Oncorhynchus</i> , <i>Salmo</i> and <i>Salvelinus</i> genera	Rudy Benetti
From fish to sensors: Assessing pumping stations impacts on fish and optimizing future research designs using innovative sensors	Sarah Broos
Overview of the United States national wild and scenic rivers system	Steve Chesterton
How safe is a 'fish friendly' Fairbanks Nijhuis axial flow pump? A study using live fish and passive sensors	Stijn Bruneel
Rioni River – Sturgeon Diversity Hotspot	Tamar Beridze
Understanding the impacts of river network fragmentation on freshwater fish species	Tamara Leite
Seasonal variations of coastal fish community in relation to environmental parameters – A case of the Sylt-Rømø Bight, southeastern North Sea	Victor Odongo

## Swimway Conference 2024

Free Flow Conference synchronised and organised in close cooperation with the [SWIMWAY conference 2024](#) to be held later the same week also in Groningen. Please visit their [website](#) for programme and more information.

## Icebreaker on Sunday evening

We would like to invite to join us on the evening before the conference in Oosterpoort for an early bird registration, networking and a drink. We will welcome you between 19:00–21:00. First drink is on us!

## Oregon RFID workshop

The Oregon RFID PIT technology class covers the construction and operation of PIT Tag monitoring systems. Subjects discussed include site selection, field power sources, installation and maintenance. The technical aspects of antenna design, tuning and analysis are also presented.

Workshop will take place on Sunday, April 14, 2024, from 10:00 in Flonk Hotel Zuid (Laan Corpus Den Hoorn 300, 9728 JT Groningen)

Registration (required) and more information:

[teddi@oregonrfid.com](mailto:teddi@oregonrfid.com)



## Dam Removal Award

Dam Removal Europe proudly presents Dam Removal Award 2023. On the evening of April 16, 2024 we will celebrate together free-flowing rivers restored by dam removal projects of 2023 and the jury will announce the winner of the Dam Removal Award 2023. More about the nomination process here: [Dam Removal award](#)

The Dam Removal Award is sponsored by:



## Dambusters Documentary Screening

April 15, 2024 at 17:50, Groningen, The Netherlands

Dambusters documentary follows the journey around the world of Spanish engineer, Pao Fernández Garrido, meeting river heroes on their passionate quest to restore their rivers and ecosystems by removing dams.





## Excursions

To deepen your experience of free-flowing rivers we are offering five field trip options which are organised in cooperation with Wadden Sea Swimway project. You can choose to visit a river restoration and fish passage projects including the fish migration river, something for everyone to explore and experience the region of northern Holland. Visit the website to learn more. Excursions have limited space available and are sold on a first comes, first serves basis. Only a few places left!

- **Between Sea and Source: Peizerdiep**
- **Afsluitdijk & Fish migration river**
- **Between Sea and Source Westerwoldse Aa**
- **Texel – Researching fish in the Wadden Sea**
- **Saltmarshes as fish habitat on Schiermonnikoog**



## Dam Removal Course

April 13-14, 2024, Groningen, The Netherlands

Dam Removal course led by top experts from the field and is targeted to river restoration practitioners near the beginning of their dam removal careers who are looking to remove a dam or two (or more) and are seeking advice and tools with which they could better solve the challenges they might face on the future projects. Two-day course will focus on social and technical aspects of dam removal, including dam removal planning, removal design, and construction techniques, and include an interactive public meeting exercise and interactive case examples where course participants will learn to identify potential projects and key issues.

More information: [Dam Removal Course](#)



# Sponsors

The Free Flow Conference is made possible by partners and sponsors. We gratefully thank them for their contributions.



Want to become a sponsor or a vendor too?

Contact: [Neza@fishmigration.org](mailto:Neza@fishmigration.org)