



Free Flow Conference Programme

March 2024

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

April 15–17, 2024 | Oosterpoort,
Groningen, The Netherlands
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 | Opening and welcome, featuring a welcome video by Virginijus Sinkevičius – European Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries | | | | |
| 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 | A1 (FREE FLOW ROOM) | B1 (OTTER ROOM) | C1 (STURGEON ROOM) | D1 (DRAGONFLY ROOM) | E1 (KINGFISHER ROOM) |
| | Implementing European Biodiversity Targets and EU policies for free-flowing rivers Moderator: Claire Baffert | Ecology and hydromorphology of free-flowing rivers Moderator: Roland Jansson | River restoration projects Moderator: Kaspars Abersons | Conservation of Danube River basin Moderator: Martin Tschikof | Cultural and socio-economic aspects of dam removal Moderator: Chris Bowser |
| 12:10 – 12:40 | Official opening & VIP guests, featuring a digital interview with Jutta Paulus – Member of the European Parliament | | | | |
| 12:40 – 14:00 | Lunch time & Exhibitors' market | | | | |
| | Posters' session – Sponsored by:  | | | | |
| 14:00 – 15:20 | A2 | B2 | C2 | D2 | E2 |
| | 20 years of WFD: What did this bring to free-flowing rivers (+ panel discussion) Moderator: Yurena Lorenzo | Dam Removal – Small barriers Moderator: Jeffrey Duda Sponsored by:  | River restoration for LIFE (EU LIFE projects) Moderator: Karin Olsson | Hydropower development vs free-flowing rivers Moderator: Birgitta Malm Renöfalt | Small scale fish passage solutions Moderator: Tom Buijse |
| 15:20 – 15:40 | Break | | | | |
| 15:40 – 17:00 | A3 | B3 | C3 | D3 | E3 |
| | Freshwater fish & fisheries: Restoration of migratory fish populations Moderator: Marc Ordeix | Nature-based Solutions Moderator: Kerry Brink | Road dams / Culverts retrofitting Moderator: TBD Sponsored by:  | River protection in the Western Balkans Moderator: Amelie Huber | River restoration tools Moderator: Joshua Royte |
| 17:05 – 18:00 | Social – Sponsored by:   | | | | |
| 18:00 – 19:30 | DAMBUSTERS FILM SCREENING | | | | |

Programme overview – Day 2

Tuesday, 16 April 2024

| Time | Programme Overview – Tuesday 16 April 2024 | | | | |
|---------------|--|--|--|--|---|
| 8:25 – 8:40 | Registration | | | | |
| 8:40 – 8:50 | Opening and welcome | | | | |
| 8:50 – 9:30 | Gabriel Singer: The river as a habitat for river ecologists | | | | |
| 9:30 – 10:10 | Jeff Duda: Science and dam removal: Lessons learned from local to continental scales | | | | |
| 10:10 – 10:20 | Exhibitors' pitch presentations | | | | |
| 10:20 – 10:40 | Break | | | | |
| 10:40 – 12:00 | A4 (FREE FLOW ROOM) | B4 (OTTER ROOM) | C4 (STURGEON ROOM) | D4 (DRAGONFLY ROOM) | E4 (KINGFISHER ROOM) |
| | Dam Removal – Large dams Moderator: Michelle Thieme Sponsored by:  McMillen | Small scale fish passage solutions Moderator: Olle Calles | Cultural and socio-economic aspects of free-flowing rivers Moderator: Sebastian Birk | Priority actions towards free-flowing Rhine and Maas rivers Moderator: Jeroen Tummers Sponsored by:  ARCADIS | BioAgora workshop: Removing barriers together: Developing a new collaborative strategy for prioritising research to restore free-flowing rivers Moderator: Twan Stoffers |
| 12:10 – 12:35 | Free flowing developments | | | | |
| 12:35 – 14:00 | Lunch time | | | | |
| | FREE FLOW Yoga | | | Posters' session – Sponsored by:  Oregon RFD <small>Proving better river solutions for 20 years</small> | |
| 14:00 – 15:20 | A5 | B5 | C5 | D5 | E5 |
| | Large scale fish passage solutions Moderator: TBD Sponsored by:  CDM Smith | River restoration tools Moderator: Ruben van Treeck | River restoration for LIFE (EU LIFE projects) Moderator: Katarina Mravcova | Priority actions towards free-flowing Rhine and Maas rivers Moderator: Bas Roels Sponsored by:  ARCADIS | Dam Removal Europe / European Open Rivers Programme workshop Moderators: Kerry Brink, Gwen McDonald |
| 15:20 – 15:40 | Break | | | | |
| 15:40 – 17:00 | A6 | B6 | C6 | D6 | E6 |
| | River restoration projects Moderator: Charles Crundwell | Ecology and hydromorphology of free-flowing rivers Moderator: Twan Stoffers | Freshwater fish & fisheries: Restoration of migratory fish populations Moderator: TBD | Dam Removal – Small barriers Moderator: Jeffrey Duda | Prioritizing rivers and dams for restoration workshop Moderators: Joshua Royte, Ruben van Treeck |
| 17:00 – 18:00 | Social & Exhibitors' market | | | | |
| 18:30 – 22:30 | Dam Removal Europe Award ceremony & Conference dinner | | | | |
| | DJ GrooveAX FREE FLOW SET | | | | |

Daily schedule – Day 1

Monday, 15 April 2024

| Time | Full Day Programme – Monday 15 April 2024 | | | | |
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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 |

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|---------------|---|--|--|--|---|
| 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 | TBD |
| 12:10 – 12:40 | Official opening & VIP guests, featuring a digital interview with Jutta Paulus – Member of the European Parliament | | | | |
| 12:40 – 14:00 | Lunch time & Exhibitors' market | | | | |
| | Posters' session (Sponsored by Oregon RFID) | | | | |
| 14:00 – 15:20 | A2 | B2 | C2 | D2 | E2 |
| | 20 years of WFD: What did this bring to free-flowing rivers (+ panel discussion) Moderator: Yurena Lorenzo | Dam Removal – Small barriers (sponsored by Princeton Hydro) Moderator: Jeffrey Duda | River restoration for LIFE (EU LIFE projects) Moderator: Karin Olsson | Hydropower development vs free-flowing rivers Moderator: Birgitta Malm Renöfält | Small scale fish passage solutions Moderator: Tom Buijse |
| 14:00 | Valentina Bastino: River restoration in EU Water and Nature policy | Geoffrey Goll: Dam removal is not just about dam removal | 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 | Olle Calles: Resolving recruitment bottlenecks for the critically endangered European eel |
| 14:15 | Marc Daniel Heintz: 37 years of effort to restore fish migration in the Rhine River basin – where do we stand? | Kerry Brink: How dam removal has opened up >1817 km of river in Europe | 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 | Rachel Mawer: Analysing the behaviour of migrating fish to predict movement near barriers |
| 14:30 | TBD | Hamish Moir: The sustainable 'nature-based' management of dam and weir structures: Design and implementation – Case studies from Scotland, England and Iceland | Sílvia Pedro: LIFE Agueda – Restoring river connectivity for migratory fish in the Vouga River basin | Dimitrios Papageorgiou: Conservation challenges in the Aaos River basin: The threat of small hydropower plants | Jamie Dodd: Can't pass or won't pass: Quantifying improved connectivity for riverine brown trout at a low-head gauging weir |
| 14:45 | Panel discussion and Q&A | Camila Kuncar: Improving river governance: Removal of dams on the Ega River | 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 | Patricija Raibarte: Monitoring results show slow recovery of lamprey reproduction after construction of a country wise first natural fish passage |
| 15:00 | | Giandomenico Mercuri: Giov & Go: Free-flowing Giovenco. Defragmentation interventions on the Giovenco River: Connecting stakeholders to reconnect the river | 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 | Samuel Shry: Benefits of dam removal for Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) smolt migration and identified challenges in downstream passage of fragmented reaches |

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| 15:40 | 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 | Erica Borum: A Nature Based Solution at road-stream crossings: Free flowing and flood resilient | Irma Popovic Dujmovic: Achieving durable river protection: The United for Rivers initiative in Southeast Europe | Carlos Garcia de Leaniz: Can't do them all, so how should we prioritize barriers for removal? |
| 15:55 | 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 | Emma Washburn: River obstacles: A new type-attributed road-river crossing dataset for England, United Kingdom | Iskra Krstic: Serbia: A war against rivers and activists | Gonçalo Duarte: RivConnect – A new tool for river network connectivity assessment |
| 16:10 | 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 | Niklas Kemi: The Swedish transport administrations successful work with removing barriers | Maja Pravuljac: Implementation of environmental acquis relevant to hydropower projects in selected Western Balkan countries – Systemic failures and golden standards | Liz Townley: Climate driven adaptation tools and strategies for wild and scenic rivers |
| 16:25 | TBD: The establishment of the Trans-European Swimways Network and Swimways of European Importance | Mario Brillinger: Nature-based solutions for the Elbe estuary? | Matïss Žagars: Mapping impassable culverts to be removed in the highly ecologically prioritized Gauja River | Jelena Popovic: Komarnica canyon, the screaming silence of untouched nature under threat – The battle for its preservation from hydroelectric power | Magnus Keller: Potentials for new free-flowing river sections in Saxony (Germany) – Connecting the Elbe River to its lost tributaries |
| 16:40 | 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 | Thiago Couto: Connecting water and people by improving road-crossing infrastructure in the Brazilian Amazon | Panel discussion and Q&A | Sami Domisch: Tools to address the longitudinal connectivity in spatial freshwater biodiversity science |
| 17:05 – 18:00 | Social (Sponsored by Municipality of Groningen & Oregon RFID) | | | | |
| 18:00 – 19:30 | DAMBUSTERS FILM SCREENING | | | | |

Daily schedule – Day 2

Tuesday, 16 April 2024


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| 10:40 | Morton McMillen: Planning and implementation for the removal of the four dam complex of the lower Klamath project | Pieter Boets: Fish migration passages on smaller watercourses: How effective are they? | Anna Scaini: Uncovering the invisible connection between people and rivers | Tim Vriese: Connectivity on the River Meuse | Removing barriers together: Developing a new collaborative strategy for prioritising research to restore free-flowing rivers |
| 10:55 | Laura Soissons: Ecological restoration of the Selune River (Normandy, France) through the removal of two large dams | Robert Feurich: Improving fish passage by an unstructured block ramp | Rob Cunningham: Mainstreaming NbS in water management sector – Example from Croatia | Jeroen Tummers: Connectivity in the River Meuse: Characteristics of a major, flowing bypass | |
| 11:10 | Keith Denton: Ecosystem response to the removal of the Elwha River dams, Washington State, United States of America | Arantxa Unzurrunzaga: From theory to practice with naturalized design | Chris Bowser: Getting everyone involved: A quick primer on building community awareness into conservation action for stream connectivity and dam removal | Sam Maijvis: 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 | Falko Wagner: Risk assessment for fish passing turbines, pumps and hydraulic structures: A methodological framework and innovative methods | Brigitta Mikus: Ecosystem services for dam removals in the River Lahn (Germany) | Jacco van Rijssel: Rhine salmon population threatened by multiple hurdles along their migration | |

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|---------------|--|---|--|--|--|
| 11:40 | Richard Roos-Collins: Risk management in dam removal | David Buysse: An Archimedes screw threesome: A study evaluating the fish friendliness of three Archimedes screw variants | Lígia Vaz de Figueiredo: Can people's engagement facilitate dam removal processes? Lessons learned from a case study in Portugal | Daphne Willems: Free flowing rivers in The Netherlands | |
| 12:10 – 12:35 | Free flowing developments | | | | |
| 12:35 – 14:00 | Lunch time | | | | |
| | FREE FLOW Yoga | | Posters' session (Sponsored by Oregon RFID) | | |
| 14:00 – 15:20 | A5 | B5 | C5 | D5 | E5 |
| | Large scale fish passage solutions (Sponsored by CDM Smith) Moderator: TBD | River restoration tools Moderator: Ruben van Treec | River restoration for LIFE (EU LIFE projects) Moderator: Katarina Mravcova | Priority actions towards free-flowing Rhine and Maas rivers (Sponsored by Arcadis) Moderator: Bas Roels | Dam Removal Europe / European Open Rivers Programme workshop Moderators: Kerry Brink, Gwen Mcdonald |
| 14:00 | Katja Philippart: Fish migration river: Nature based large scale fishway between Waddensea and Lake IJssel. Under construction now! Adaptive design, construction and research ambitions | Ruben van Treec: Prioritizing barrier removals in Germany – a GIS and feasibility approach | Karin Olsson: River restoration for a free flowing Rönne å River – Challenges and lessons learned | Melanie Meijer zu Schlochtern: Upstream passage success of large anadromous fish at the Haringvliet estuarine barrier using long-term telemetry monitoring | |
| 14:15 | Mark Yeldham: Severn Unlocked? The response of two anadromous fishes to catchment-scale barrier mitigation in the River Severn revealed using acoustic telemetry | Mária Šibíková: NaturaSat Wetland project – A novel tool for riparian vegetation monitoring after river branch system restoration | Marc Ordeix: Restoration of fish migration and beginning of a European sturgeon recovery project in the lower Ebre River (Catalonia) and beyond | Niels Brevé: Lessons learned from telemetry: How climate change affects pathways of migratory fish in one of Europe's largest river basins | |
| 14:30 | Vincent Autier: Horizontal fish screen solution for downstream fish passage at a historic dam used to restore Lahontan cutthroat trout population | Carlos Garcia de Leaniz: Are satellite images reliable for filling barrier data gaps? Modelling barrier discovery to achieve free-flowing river targets | Peter Jones: Overcoming challenges and constraints to delivering effective river restoration: Lessons learnt in the Four Rivers for LIFE project | Bas Roels: Action plan | |
| 14:45 | Reid Swanson: FishPass – A vision for selective fish passage solutions to the connectivity conundrum | Amaia Rodeles: A method for fish meta-population connectivity evaluation and barrier removal optimization | Sofia Perä: TRIWA LIFE – The Torne River International Watershed LIFE – Europe's largest water project | Workshop: TBD | |
| 15:00 | Ulrike Drabek: Nature-based solutions for fishways | Jaime Ricardo Garcia Marquez: Estimating fish habitat fragmentation patterns and simulating barrier removal to target habitat restoration efforts | Helena Mühlmann: LIFE IP IRIS – Integrated River Solutions in Austria – Linking Water Framework Directive and Floods Directive | | |

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|---------------|---|--|---|---|---|
| 15:20 – 15:40 | Break | | | | |
| 15:40 – 17:00 | A6 | B6 | C6 | D6 | E6 |
| | River restoration projects Moderator: Charles Crundwell | Ecology and hydromorphology of free-flowing rivers Moderator: Twan Stoffers | Freshwater fish & fisheries: Restoration of migratory fish populations Moderator: TBD | Dam Removal – Small barriers Moderator: Jeffrey Duda | Prioritizing rivers and dams for restoration workshop Moderators: Joshua Royte, Ruben van Treeck |
| 15:40 | Ewa Leś: The greatest water management challenges in the Baltic Sea region | Carmen Rethschulte: Weir management and the impact on peak floods and sediment flushing as key factors for the upper Isar alluvial dynamics | Remko Verspui: Spawning migration of North Sea Houting in the Overijsselse Vecht | Kristen Coveleski: Optimizing restoration resources: Removing multiple dams along urban rivers | |
| 15:55 | Peter Mathisen: Rivers of LIFE – Examples of holistic restorations and problem solving in boreal rivers | Miriam Colls: Green house gas emissions from dammed river basin – A case study at basin scale | Ričards Kaupužs: Successful restoration of migratory fish populations confirms the benefits of dam removal in middlesized rhithral stream | Josu Elso: River connectivity restoration to improve diadromous fish populations: LIFE KANTAUribAI project | |
| 16:10 | Wendy Katagi: Los Angeles river watershed fish passage, restoration, and flows | Marcis Saklaurs: Management of water and forest ecosystems in the Salaca River basin | Stephanie Popp: Mapping sturgeon habitats: A comprehensive overview of sites, protection status and potential threats in selected river systems | Mircea Marginean: First steps in restoring longitudinal connectivity on Vâlsan River – home of critically endangered fish species Asprete | |
| 16:25 | Panos Panagiotopoulos: Restoring a lowland river basin: Effects of fishways, removing barriers and re-meandering on fish and invertebrate communities | Twan Stoffers: Ontogenetic habitat shifts by juvenile fishes highlight the importance of permanent river-floodplain connectivity and habitat heterogeneity | Pieterjan Verhelst: Downstream spawning migration of European eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i> L.): A Europe-wide telemetry meta-analysis | Lorenzo Quaglietta: Galaxes weir removal: An ORP-funded project kickstarting the civic movement for the restoration of river connectivity in Portugal | |
| 16:40 | Piotr Nieznański: Space for the Oder River – Putting the concept into practice | Tamara Leite: The state of European river network connectivity | Ian Cowx: Using the global Swimways concept to understand the threats to fish migration in species rich tropical river systems | Melissa Mahavar-Snow: Removing redundant gauging weirs to benefit migratory fish in Wales | |
| 17:00 – 18:00 | Social & Exhibitors' market | | | | |
| 18:30 – 22:30 | Dam Removal Europe Award ceremony & Conference dinner | | | | |
| | DJ GrooveAX FREE FLOW SET | | | | |

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 for more information.

The poster sessions are sponsored by:  Oregon RFID
Proudly serving our customers for 20 years

| Title | Presenter |
|---|-------------------------|
| The political ecology of Indus delta: Analysing policy paradigms for climate-resilient pathways | Abdul Waheed |
| Geomorphic assessment of discharge potential to identify areas more vulnerable to erosion after River Training, Slovak Carpathians | Akhtar Zeb Khan |
| Biodiversity and ecological significance of the Zeta River: A review of ichthyofauna and speleological features | Andrijana Mićanović |
| 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 |
| Far from free-flowing: glass eel migration in the highly urbanized Dutch delta | Arie Benjamin Griffioen |
| 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 |
| Developing a UK conservation and recovery strategy for two native sturgeon species | Hannah McCormick |
| Fish conservation evaluation at two Kenyan east flowing rivers reveals importance of anguillids eels | Japhet Tembo |
| The cost of dam removal - Trends, regional patterns, and a predictive model | Jeffrey Duda |
| 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 |

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| Floodplains by design: A public-private partnership for integrated floodplain management in Washington State, USA | Kas Guillozet |
| If the problem is caused by a dam, the best solution is to remove it | Kaspars Abersons |
| Politicising fish knowledge for river defence; insights from Colombia and the Netherlands | Lotte de Jong |
| 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 |
| Integrated river planning in Austria: Advancing towards free-flowing rivers | Matrin Wenk |
| Dam removals and sense of place: Case studies of the Vramsån and Mörrumsån | Martine Roseboom |
| Bossherveld: A haven for young fish in this newly developed floodplain of the Grensmaas? | Maya Daumal |
| 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 |
| Dammed fish: Impact of structural and functional river network connectivity losses on fish biodiversity – Optimising management solutions | Paulo Branco |
| Long-term performance of an underwater camera for monitoring fish migration at the HPP Kirchbichl (Austria) | Philipp Thumser |
| 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 |
| Fluss.Frei.Raum, a new project to speed up dam removal in Bavaria/ Germany | Sigrun Lange |
| “River pearl”-label as driver for dam removal? | Sigrun Lange |
| 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 |

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 to explore the possibilities.

Sunday, 14 April 2024

Icebreaker on Sunday evening

We invite you to kick off your Free Flow Conference with an exclusive early bird registration event held at Oosterpoort, Groningen, on the evening before the conference. Registration will be open from 19:00 to 21:00 providing you with the opportunity to network with fellow attendees while enjoying a drink.

First drink is on us! Join us to connect and unwind before the conference officially begins. We look forward to welcoming you!



Oregon RFID workshop

The Oregon RFID PIT technology workshop covers the construction and operation of PIT Tag monitoring systems, including site selection, field power sources, installation and maintenance.

The workshop will start at 10:00 on April 14, at the Flonk Hotel Zuid - Laan Corpus Den Hoorn 300, 9728 JT Groningen. Pre-registration is required; for more information, contact teddi@oregonrfid.com.

Monday, 15 April 2024

Dambusters Documentary Screening

#DamBusters Documentary Screening

Join us on April 15, 2024 at 17:50 for the screening of “#DamBusters - The start of the riverlution”. The 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.

Proudly supported by:



Tuesday, 16 April 2024

Dam Removal Europe and Open Rivers Programme Workshop

This workshop will showcase various Open Rivers Programme funded projects. In this session, ORP will shed light on the programme's readily available grant opportunities, encouraging attendees to develop dam removal projects of their own. We will hear the experiences from project managers who have received funding from ORP and have a round table discussion showcasing lessons learned from completed projects and highlighting those in progress.

Brought to you by:



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](#)

Proudly sponsored by:



Free Flow after party

On April 16 night, official Free Flow Conference after party will take place in Cafe Buckshot.

DJ Sampsa will roll from 23:15 onwards.



Café Buckshot

Gedempte Zuiderdiep 58,

9711 HK Groningen, The Netherlands



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



Between Sea and Source: Westerwoldse Aa



Afsluitdijk & Fish migration river



Texel – Researching fish in the Wadden Sea

Saltmarshes as fish habitat on Schiermonnikoog



United for Rivers Photo Exhibition

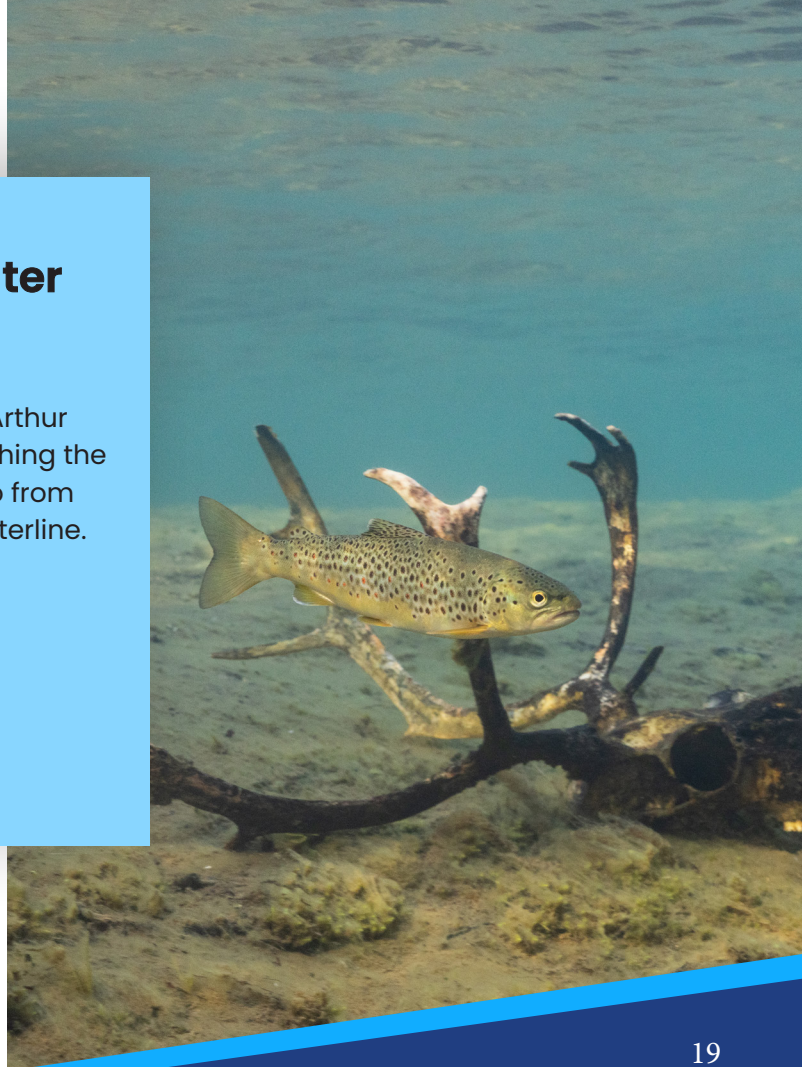
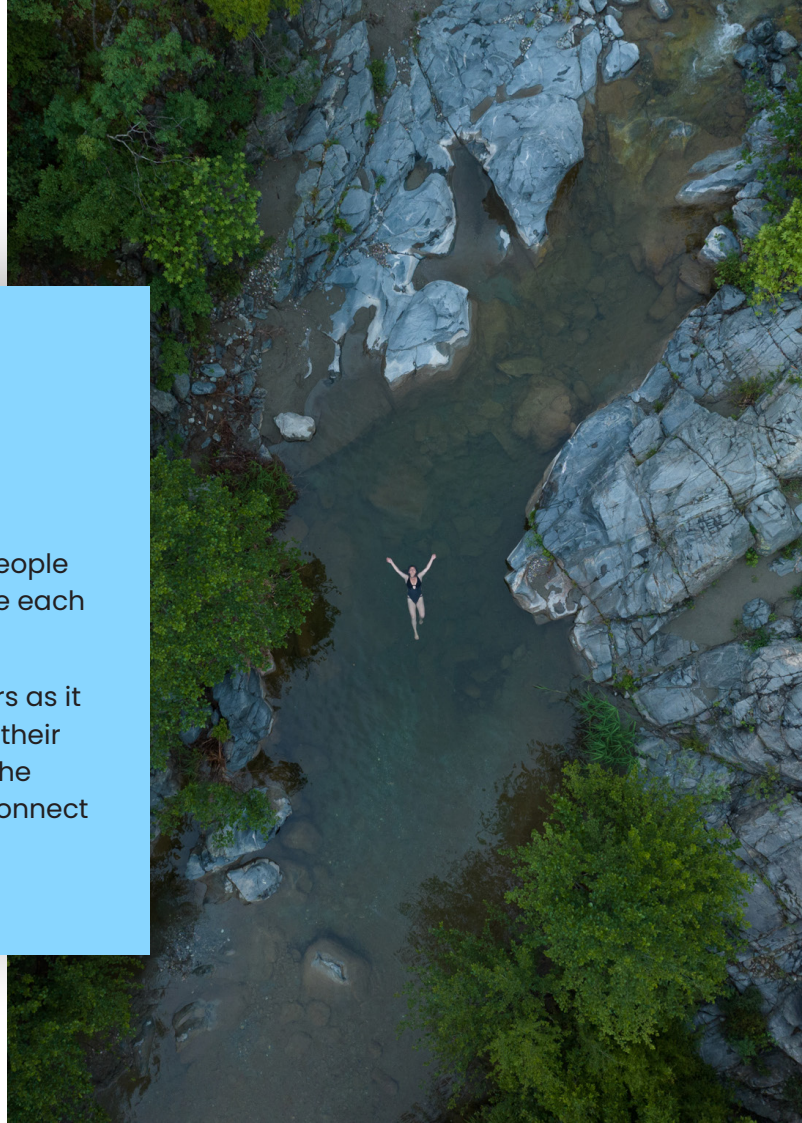
The Lives Shaped By Water Exhibition documents the connections between people and rivers by exploring how we influence each other.

This exhibition is as much a story of rivers as it is of the people and life taking place on their banks. It transcends borders to bolster the shared landscape upon which we (re)connect with nature and each other.

Arthur de Bruin Underwater Photography

During the conference, the filmmakers Arthur de Bruin and Dick Harrewijn will be enriching the Free Flow Festival with underwater video from our beloved fish friends beneath the waterline.

<https://www.blikonderwater.nl/>



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