



Free Flow Conference 2024: International conference on protecting and restoring free-flowing rivers in Europe

Free Flow Conference 2024

The World Fish Migration Foundation and Institute of Fisheries Management co-organize the [Free Flow Conference](#), taking place on the 15-17 April 2024 in the wonderful city of Groningen in The Netherlands.

Find below the short bios of the keynote speakers and the moderator.



Moderator & Keynote speakers bios



Ella McSweeney – Moderator

Ella McSweeney is an Irish journalist and reporter. She has 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.



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Pao Fernández Garrido

Pao Fernández Garrido studied Forestry Engineering in Madrid and did her Master's in Ecosystems Restoration. She had the great opportunity to do her master practices on fishway evaluations with PIT and Radio telemetry in Massachusetts and got specialized in technical and naturalized fishways design. Later she got trained on dam removal projects by Laura Wildman and her team in the US Eastern Coast. She started designing fishways in England, but very soon after she began working for World Fish Migration Foundation. She has been the events coordinator for World Fish Migration Day since 2014 and has been responsible of the collection of the river barrier inventories in Europe for AMBER project. **Dam Removal Europe** project developer along with Herman Wanningen and responsible for the content and research of the dam removal studies globally, now she is DRE project coordinator and tries to support the movement which keeps growing every day.



Zeb Hogan

Zeb Hogan is a research professor at the University of Nevada, Reno and the United Nations Convention on Migratory Species Scientific Councilor for Fish. He has a doctoral degree in ecology from the University of California, Davis, was a visiting Fulbright scholar in the Environmental Risk Assessment Program at Thailand's Chiang Mai University and has served as a World Wildlife Fund Senior Freshwater Fellow. Hogan also hosts the Nat Geo Wild television series "Monster Fish." His research focuses on migratory fish ecology, freshwater biodiversity, and endangered species issues. As a National Geographic Fellow and Explorer, Hogan led a multi-year effort to find, study, and protect the world's largest freshwater fish. Hogan is currently the Principal Investigator of the USAID-funded Wonders of the Mekong project. The goal of the Wonders of the Mekong project is to document and highlight the value of the Mekong River through research, capacity building, and science communication. Zeb is the co-author of the new book "Chasing Giants: In Search of the World's Largest Freshwater Fish".



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Jeffrey Dudda

Jeff Duda is a research ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) at the Western Fisheries Research Center in Seattle, Washington. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Biology from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan and is a certified senior ecologist with the Ecological Society of America. At USGS for 25 years, Jeff conducts research to determine the ecological effects of human activities and natural disturbance regimes on a wide variety of aquatic and terrestrial organisms and ecosystems throughout the United States.

Since 2004, Jeff has developed research programs in freshwater, estuarine, and marine ecosystems to understand the ecological outcomes of largest dam removal in U.S. history on the Elwha River. He also examines dam removal at continental and international scales, synthesizing what is known about the science of dam removal in several publications and a database called the Dam Removal Information Portal. He has published over 75 scientific journal articles and reports, which can be found online at his USGS Profile <https://www.usgs.gov/staff-profiles/jeffrey-duda>



Gabriel Singer

I am a river ecosystem ecologist who doesn't stop when the channel falls dry or the water stops flowing. I have learned my trade in Vienna, grew to a senior scientist in Berlin and now act as a Professor in the mountains at Innsbruck University. To understand how rivers shape the global carbon cycle, I and my team study their linkages to the landscape and appreciate the full diversity of habitats along the continuum from source to sea. Riding their waves with a kayak helps, too. Our research is dedicated to the movement and processing of materials in rivers and their linkages to aquatic biodiversity. The fascination for fluvial ecology is married with a concern about what we may lose if we keep treating rivers as we do now.