



WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS FREE(ER) FLOWING RIVERS IN THE NETHERLANDS

Melissa de Raaij
World Fish Migration Foundation

15 April 2024
Free Flow Conference



THE PROBLEMS

>1,2 MILLION*
**BARRIERS FRAGMENTING OUR
EUROPEAN RIVERS**

***(HORIZON 2020 AMBER
EU COMMISSION FUNDED RESEARCH)**



93%
Decline in
European
migratory fish
populations

THE PROBLEMS

>1,2 MILLION*
BARRIERS FRAGMENTING OUR
EUROPEAN RIVERS

1.100
MIGRATORY FISH SPECIES ARE
BLOCKED WORLDWIDE BY
BARRIERS

***(HORIZON 2020 AMBER**
EU COMMISSION FUNDED RESEARCH)



THE PROBLEMS

>1,2 MILLION*

BARRIERS FRAGMENTING OUR EUROPEAN RIVERS

1.100

MIGRATORY FISH SPECIES ARE BLOCKED WORLDWIDE BY BARRIERS

**DISRUPTED RIVER ECOSYSTEM
LACK OF SEDIMENTATION AND EROSION, WATER QUALITY ISSUES,
HABITAT**



FREE
FLOW

THE SOLUTION

FREE(ER) FLOWING RIVERS THROUGH BARRIER REMOVALS AND RIVER RESTORATION

RESTORING CONNECTIVITY AND
HABITAT FOR BIODIVERSITY

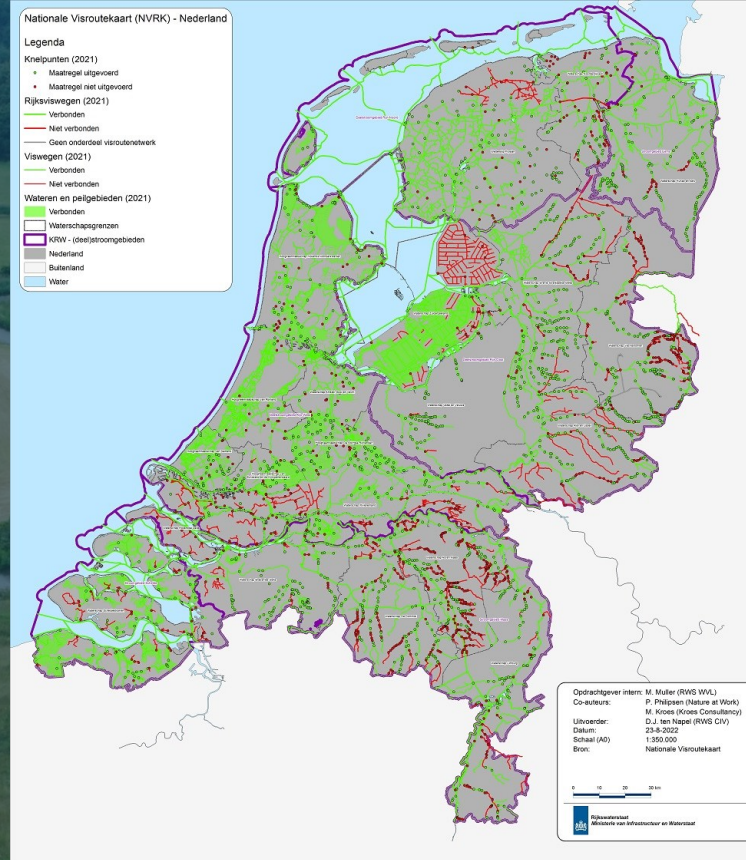
IN LINE WITH EU BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY



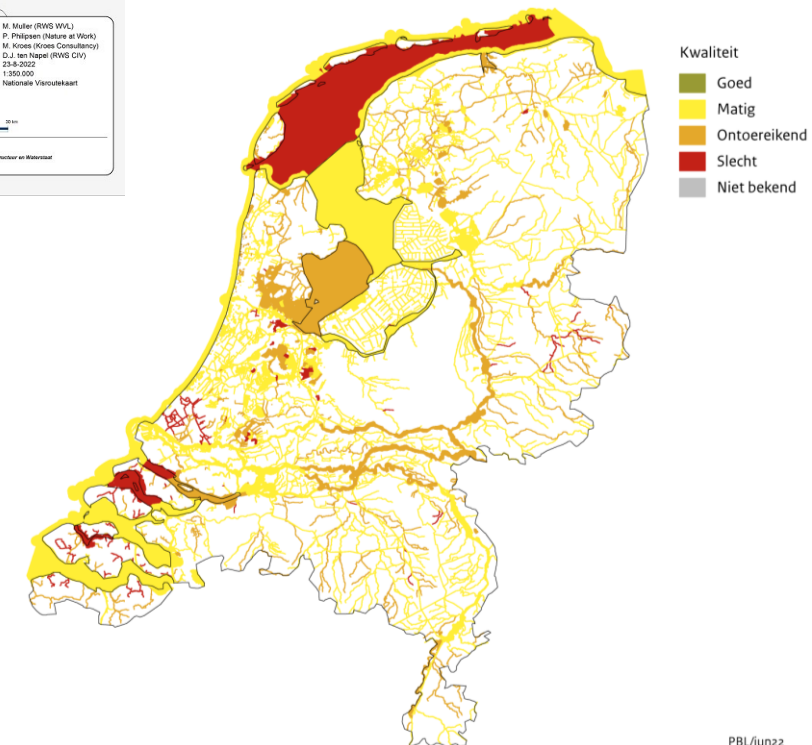
THE NETHERLANDS

NATIONAL FISH ROUTE MAP BOTTLENECKS IN CONNECTIVITY

WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE MODERATE TO POOR ECOLOGICAL QUALITY



ecologische kwaliteit, Kaderrichtlijn Water, 2021





FREE FLOW PROJECT NL

AIM: TO MAP THE POSSIBILITIES
FOR RESTORATION OF FREE-
FLOWING TRAJECTORIES IN THE
MAAS, RHINE, SCHELDT AND EMS.





FREE FLOW MAP

LOOKING FOR FREE-FLOWING
TRAJECTORIES AND BIODIVERSITY
HOTSPOTS

WITH 12 WATER AUTHORITIES





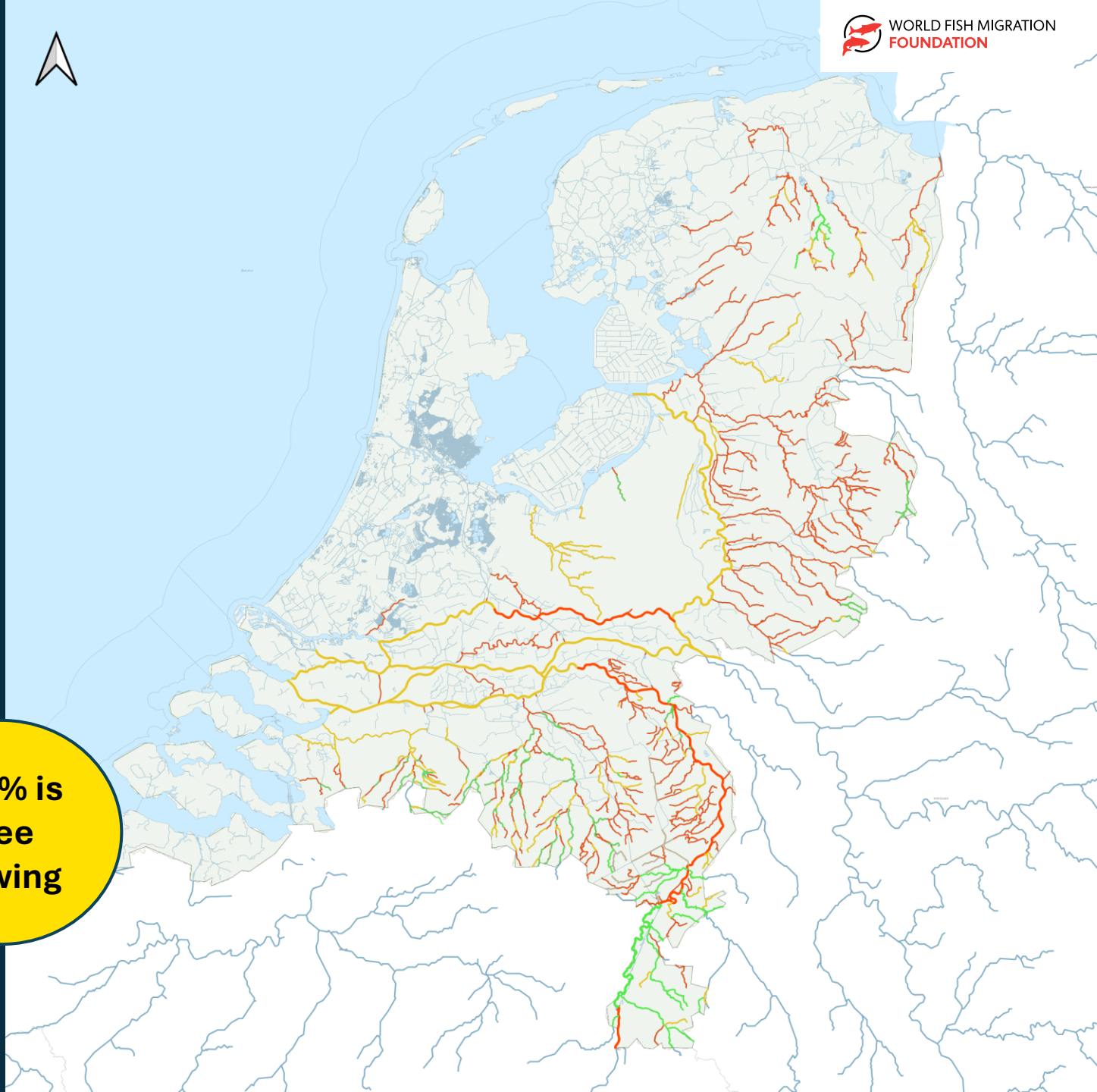
FREE FLOW MAP

GREEN: FREE FLOWING TRAJECTORIES

YELLOW: PARTLY FREE FLOWING TRAJECTORIES

RED: REGULATED TRAJECTORIES

**<10% is
free
flowing**



FREE
FLOW



WORLD FISH MIGRATION
FOUNDATION

HERBERG

COP Beken
&
Rivieren
Free Flow
←

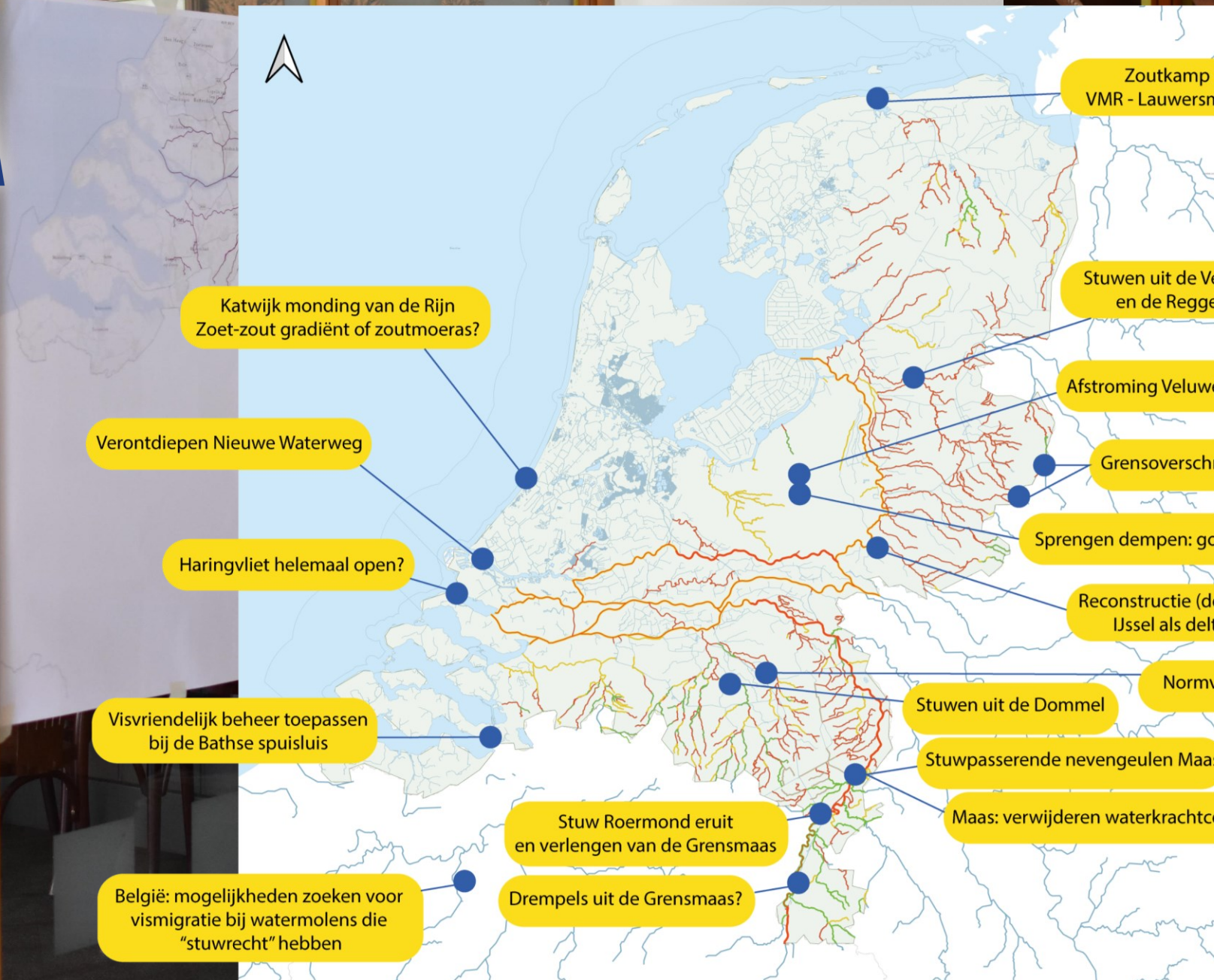




FREE
FLOW



FREE FLOW



Katwijk monding van de Rijn
Zoet-zout gradiënt of zoutmoeras?

Zoutkamp
VMR - Lauwersmeer

Stuwen uit de Vecht
en de Regge

Verontdiepen Nieuwe Waterweg

Afstroming Veluwemassief vertragen

Haringvliet helemaal open?

Grensoverschrijdende beken

Sprengen dempen: go of no-go?

Reconstructie (deel) van loop Oude
IJssel als delta bij Doesburg

Visvriendelijk beheer toepassen
bij de Bathse spuisluis

Normvrij beekdal Aa

Stuwen uit de Dommel

Stuwpasserende nevengeulen Maas

Maas: verwijderen waterkrachtcentrales

Stuw Roermond eruit
en verlengen van de Grensmaas

België: mogelijkheden zoeken voor
vismigratie bij watermolens die
"stuwrecht" hebben

Drempels uit de Grensmaas?



FREE FLOW





FREE
FLOW







FREE FLOW PROGRAM NL

2025 - 2030

THE DUTCH CONTRIBUTION TO THE EU BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

DEVELOP PILOT PROJECTS AND SCALE UP FREE FLOWING RIVERS

DEVELOP AND ENRICH KNOWLEDGE BASIS

FURTHER DEVELOP AND STRENGTHEN (LEARNING) COMMUNITY



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