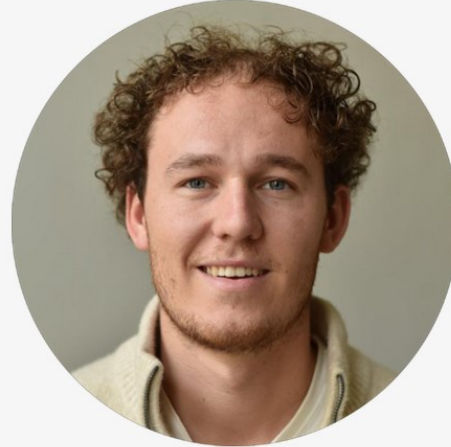




The Power of River Heroes

Progress, challenges and achievements on dam removal in Europe the last 10 years







Ministerie van Infrastructuur en Waterstaat



Wetlands INTERNATIONAL



Sportvisserij Nederland



OPEN RIVERS PROGRAMME



Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit

The Nature Conservancy



European Investment Bank

The EU bank



eea European Anglers Alliance



RESOURCES LEGACY FUND®
CREATIVE SOLUTIONS. LASTING RESULTS.

France

Saint-Etienne-du-Vigan Dam 1998 (Allier River)



Photo: Roberto Epple - European Rivers Network

Fish migration in a European perspective

Outlook study to evaluate four perspectives

Peter van Puijenbroek¹, Martin Kroes², Jos Diederiks¹, Pao Fernández Garrido³

¹ PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency
² Kroes Consultancy
³ World Fish Migration Foundation

Migratory fish are under great threats. Most of the migratory fish species are already in the IUCN Red list or are listed in 2 or 3 annexes of Nature 2000 directive. Major problems for fish migration pose the construction of dams for hydropower, irrigation or shipping. Besides goals for biodiversity, European policy on improvement and protection is desired for migratory fish. In our poster we elaborated four different perspectives for nature in the European Union (EU) by 2050, based on multiple visions that people and business have on nature. In the four perspectives are visions in respect to economy, culture, green economy and nature conservation worked out for their consequences to fish migration.

Connectivity is classified into three categories:

- Accessible from sea
- No barriers, but not connected with sea
- Inaccessible or poorly accessible
- Not yet evaluated

The rivers from sea indicated by 'accessible from sea' are free accessible to anadromous and catadromous fish species, up to the first migration barrier. Upstream the rivers are distinguished in two categories. The difference is to show the effect of one major dam or some dams in the main stream, which disconnects a major part of the river and the habitat potential upstream. Rivers that are not accessible due to several dams are red colored.



Source: Tecnomia



Source: Ebro River Basin Authority (2014)



DAM REMOVAL EUROPE

MOVEMENT OF ORGANISATIONS AND
CITIZENS MAINSTREAMING
DAM REMOVAL AS
A RIVER RESTORATION TOOL.

COORDINATED BY WFMF

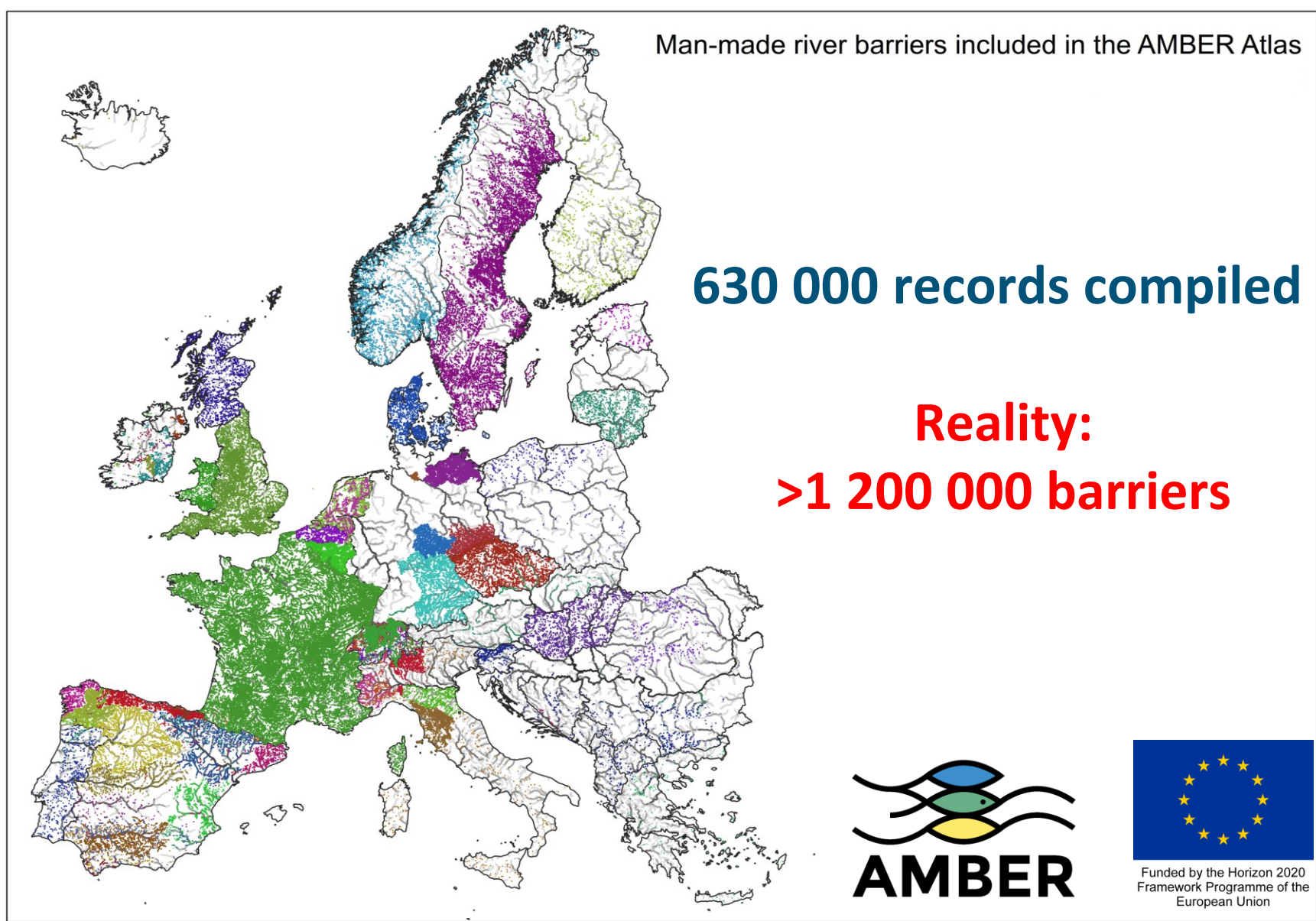




**Dam Removal Europe International Seminar 2016
(León, Spain)**

First kick-off partner meeting (Poland, 2016)



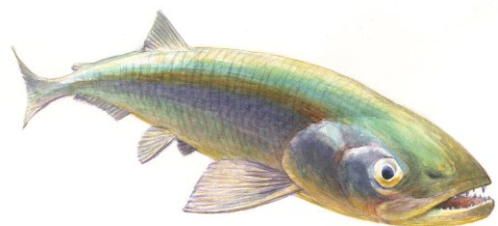
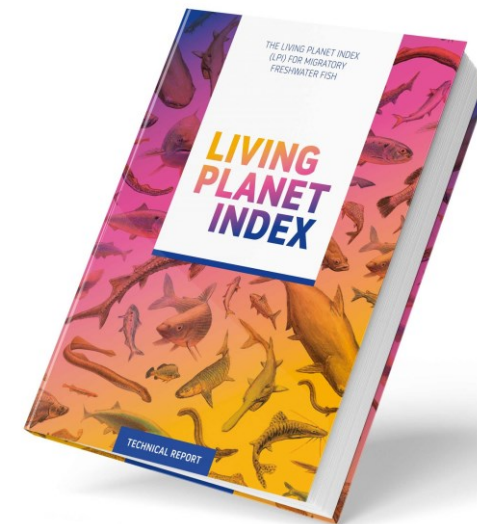




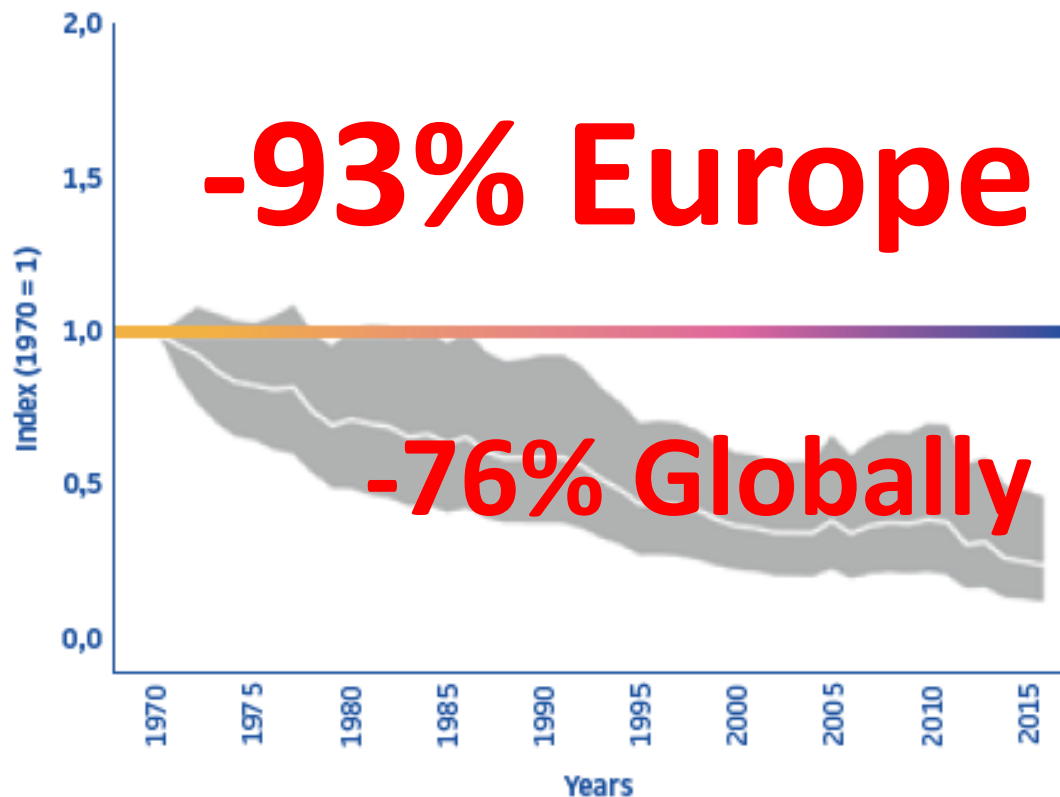
ZSL
INSTITUTE OF
ZOOLOGY



LIVING PLANET INDEX FRESHWATER MIGRATORY FISH



Cambridge
Conservation
Initiative



Download:

[worldfishmigrationfoundation.com
/living-planet-index-2020/](http://worldfishmigrationfoundation.com/living-planet-index-2020/)



EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030

“Restoring at least 25.000 km of rivers to be free-flowing”

- Nature and biodiversity
- Biodiversity Strategy
- Nature and biodiversity law
- Species protection
- Natura 2000
- Green infrastructure
- Knowledge and data

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

The European Commission has adopted the new [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and an associated Action Plan \(annex\)](#) - a comprehensive, ambitious, long-term plan for protecting nature and reversing the degradation of ecosystems.

It aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030 with benefits for people, the climate and the planet. It is also the proposal for the EU contribution to the upcoming international negotiations on the global post-2020 biodiversity framework.

In the post-COVID context, the Biodiversity Strategy aims to build our societies' resilience to future threats such as climate **change** impacts, forest fires, food insecurity or disease outbreaks, including by **protecting** wildlife and **fighting** illegal wildlife trade.

A core part of the [European Green Deal](#), the Biodiversity Strategy will also support a green recovery following the pandemic.

Main elements of the Strategy for 2030

The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including:

- Establishing a larger **EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea**, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value.
- An **EU Nature Restoration Plan** - a series of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the EU by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss.
- A set of measures to **enable the necessary transformative change**: setting in motion a new, strengthened governance framework to ensure better implementation and track progress, improving knowledge, financing and investments and better respecting nature in public and business decision-making.



Norway blows up hydro dam to restore river health and fish stocks

January, 2022

Meet
Tore Solbakken





DAM
REMOVAL
EUROPE



Photo: APCR

Spain

APCR

Fishermen's Association for the Conservation of the Rivers



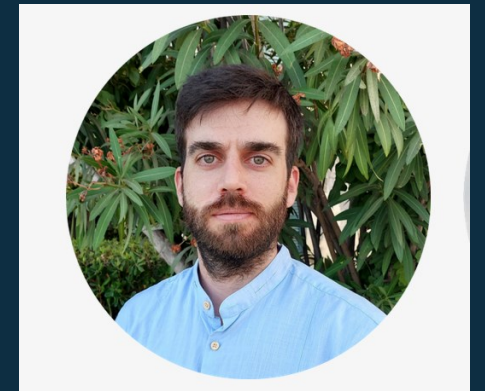
Nacho Rojo







DAM REMOVAL PROGRESS 2023



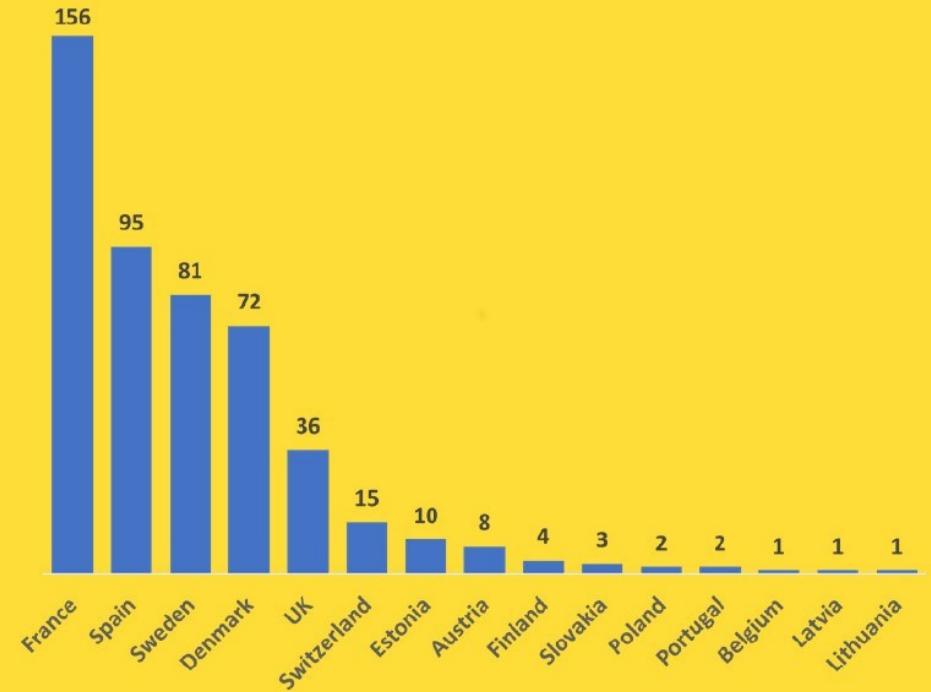
Foivos Alexandros
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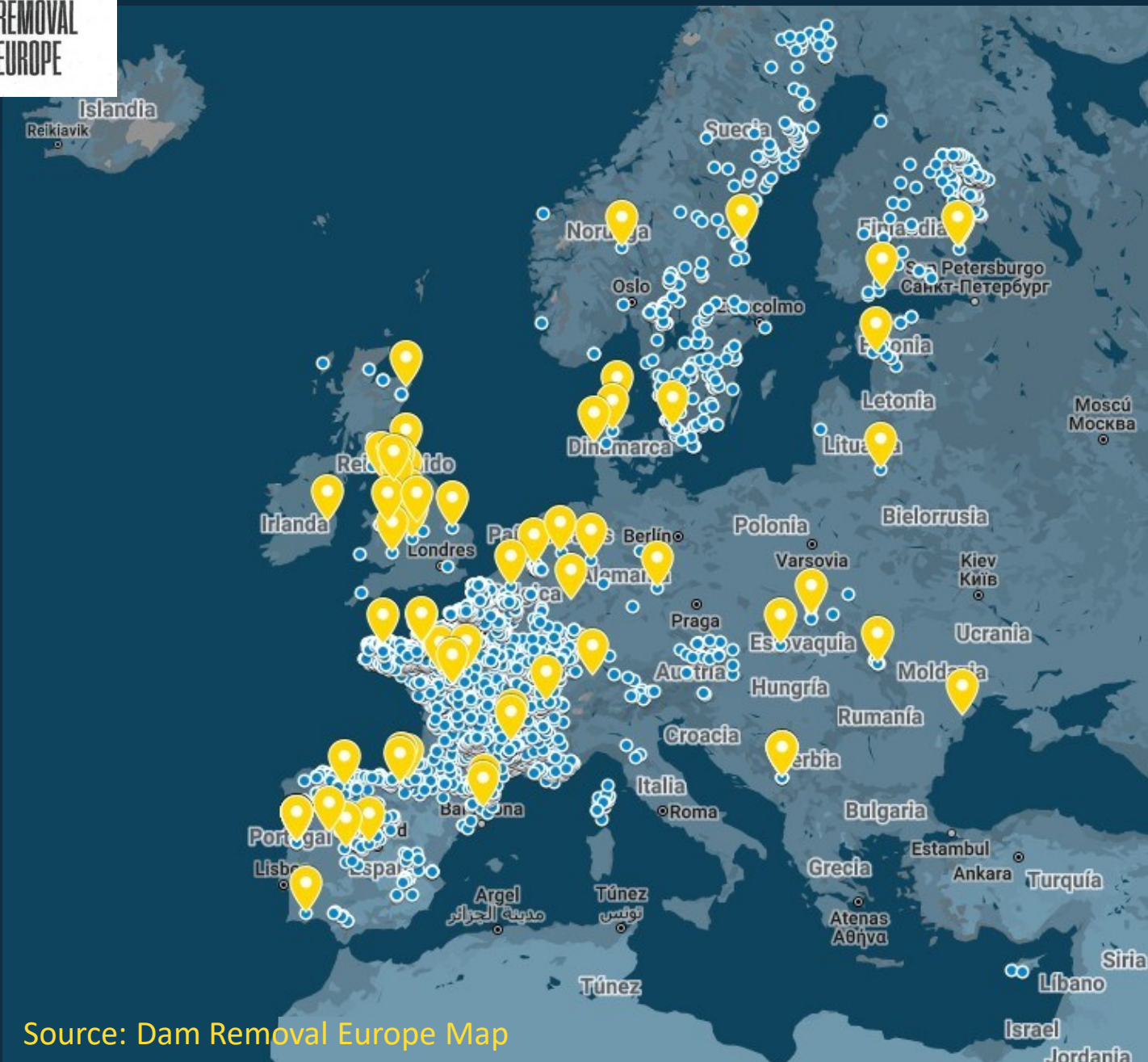
www.damremoval.eu



4th year breaking record

YEAR	NUMBER OF REMOVED BARRIERS	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES
2020	101	11
2021	239	17
2022	325	16
2023	487	15





Until 2023

FRANCE	>3600*
DENMARK	1450
SWEDEN	>850
SPAIN	>800
FINLAND	>500
UK	>250
AUSTRIA	>250
GERMANY	>100
NETHERLANDS	>30
ESTONIA	>20
ITALY	20
SWITZERLAND	>15
UKRAINE	>15

* Naturally removed + man removed

Source: Dam Removal Europe Map

France

Managing water resources, protecting wetlands and biodiversity: the role of small dams in Europe

Opinion of French scientists on Article 7 of the draft European "restoring nature" regulation providing for the destruction of water reservoirs on 25,000 km of European rivers

Dear Member of Parliament

We were recently alerted to a bill entitled "restoring nature", article 7 of which provides for the destruction of water reservoirs described as "barriers" along 25,000 km of European rivers.



Spain



The Guardian

Wed 12 Jul 2023 16.45 CEST

EU passes nature restoration law in knife-edge vote

MEPs back law to place recovery measures on 20% of EU's land and sea by 2030 by dozen votes



Members of the European parliament react as they take part in a voting session on the EU nature restoration law. Photograph: Frederick Florin/AFP/Getty

An open letter signed by 6,000 scientists said opponents of the law “not only lack scientific evidence, but even contradict it”. They highlighted studies showing that restoring nature would improve food security, help fisheries, create jobs and improve biodiversity.

“We are systematically hearing misinformation,” said Guy Pe’er, a conservation biologist at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, who was first author of the letter. “Lobby organisations can generate as much misinformation as they want. But when policymakers are going against the science, we need to step in.”

Communication and awareness campaigns

DONALD DUCK LOVES TO TAKE DAMS OUT TOO

Inspired by a story from Finland



San Marcos Weir during removal works in 2013 (Leon City, Spain)



Source: Duero River Basin Authority (Spain)

Usual river flow ranges from 2-20m³/s

Before removal 2012: 165 m³/s

After removal 2014: 307 m³/s



Source: Duero River Basin Authority (Spain)



GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA

VICEPRESIDENCIA
CUARTA DEL GOBIERNO

MINISTERIO
PARA LA TRANSICIÓN ECOLÓGICA
Y EL RETO DEMOGRÁFICO

CONFEDERACIÓN
HIDROGRÁFICA
DEL DUERO, O.A.



CONFEDERACIÓN HIDROGRÁFICA
DEL DUERO

Before and after removal of Colonia del Río Dam, December 2023 (Catalonia, Spain)



UNDAMMED Project.

Funded by the State Agency for Research from Spain and the "NextGeneration" Programme from the EU

Source: Catalan Water Agency

Pärnu River (Estonia)



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BERLIN

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Leading
Travel Trade
Show*



GOOD
TRAVELGUIDE



NOMINEE

Pärnu, Estonia



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Author: Ministry of Environment of Estonia



Tori vald

15th January of 2024, p. 30 main conclusions:

- *Ministry of Culture cannot oblige the Environmental Office to grant or nullify water permits.*
- *If cultural and environmental interests collide, the supreme power is environmental rules (from EU Habitat Directive 6.4)*





€42,5 millions to demolish river barriers through Great Europe

Open Rivers Programme

Restoring endangered European rivers.

www.openrivers.eu



**OPEN
RIVERS
PROGRAMME**

Scaling up dam removal: implementation plan for SE Europe



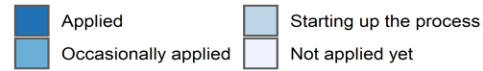
What is the DRE helpdesk?

General Enquiries:
Pao Fernández Garrido, pao@fishmigration.org
Kerry Brink, kbrink@wwf.nl





Implementation Dam Removal as River Restoration Tool

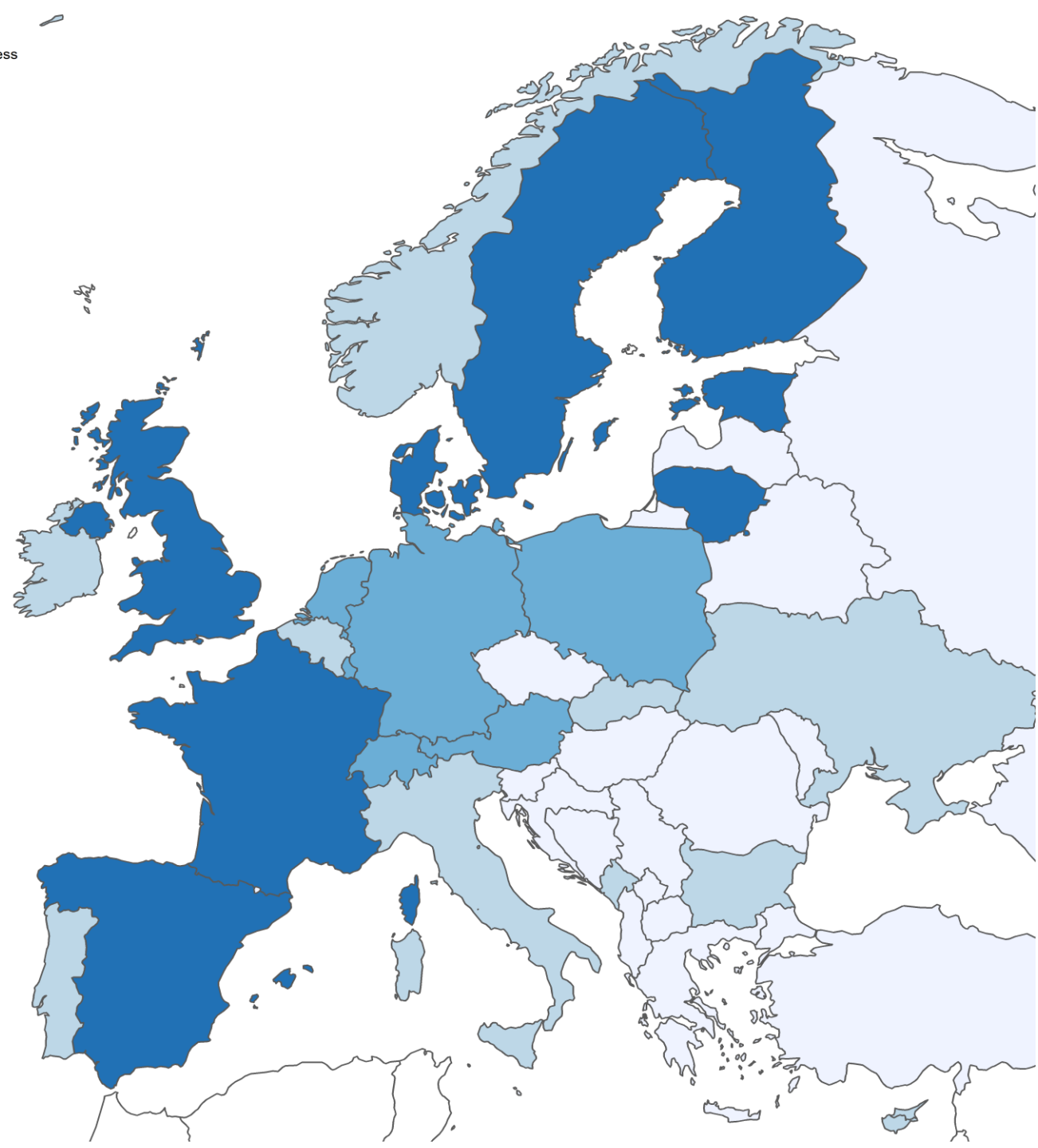


STATUS IMPLEMENTATION DAM REMOVAL

8 COUNTRIES

**IMPLEMENTED DAM REMOVAL AS A RIVER
RESTORATION TOOL**

**WE AIM TO IMPLEMENT IT IN
ALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES**





I'M DONE HERE!
I RETIRE!

FREE
AT LAST!

DAMSTERDAM

DAM

**Thank you for all for
your amazing work!**

 DAM
REMOVAL
EUROPE

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