

1. **Swim Ways of the World**

NASF Germany has translated the English original of the Poster “Swim Ways of the World” about the migratory fish species of the world, created and published by the [World Fish Migration Foundation \(WFMF\)](#), into German language. (poster in German and English attached). We are now official supporter of the WFMF.

Every two years WFMF celebrates the „World Fish Migration Day (WFMD). After having participated with two German events already in 2016 we will be official coordinators of the WFMD 2018 for all German events at this day.

2. **AMBER Project**

World Fish Migration Foundation participates in a Horizon 2020 European project called AMBER. One of the objectives of the project is to create a European Register for Migratory Obstacles using a smartphone app that allows all users to enter migration obstacles to the register. Find more information on [www.AMBER.international](http://www.AMBER.international).

We have agreed with Hermann Wanningen, chairman of the WFMF that NASF Germany will contribute to the AMBER project as external partner for Germany.

3. **Schleswig-Holstein – more hydropower and the Sea Trout project.**

There are activities going on to install more hydropower plants in the northernmost state of Germany. It must be our goal to prevent any more planning of hydropower plants. As soon as there's more information we'll let you know.

The building of new hydropower plants in Schleswig-Holstein from our point of view contradicts strongly the intensive efforts to save the Seatrout stocks performed by the state of Schleswig-Holstein doing research as well as the Landessportfischerverband Schleswig-Holstein (recreational fisheries organization) for their stocking and reintroduction activities.

Shortly we'll provide more detailed information on both issues reporting from our second meeting of the advisory board in September 2016.

4. **Rur (D/NL)**

On the River Rur, a tributary to the River Maas and not to be confounded with the River Ruhr which gave the name to the German “Ruhrgebiet” , a very good Salmon Reintroduction Project is working within the [Wanderfischprogramm in Nordrhein-Westfalen](#) (migratory fishes program in North Rhine Westfalia)

We'd like to put a special emphasis on the extremely detailed documentation of the development of the stocked fish and their cooperation with the Dutch partners.

At the mouth of River Rur in Roermond (Roer is the Dutch name of River Rur) upstream and downstream migration of fish has been monitored regularly and all around the year since 2009. Please find the monitoring results [here](#).

These kind of monitorings should be carried out at many other strategical positions in other river systems.

5. **Fish damages just by impoundments – more damages with additional hydropower**

Even insiders rarely knew that just a river impoundment could lead to big numbers of harmed or dead fish. Two recent studies now deliver reliable numbers for those damages. The investigations have been carried out at the "[Unkelmühle](#)" on River Sieg (D) and on River Maas in Linne (NL).

These new findings require a general rethinking when it comes to the assessment of impoundments – they have to be removed to enable conservation or sustainable reintroduction of fish stocks.

6. **Mulde**

River Mulde in Saxony-Anhalt and in Saxony, a tributary to River Elbe, has been an important Salmon River in former times. Based on the initiative of Thomas von der Heide and Peter Leisebein we started some very positive activities there.

We are attending the activities around the construction of the newly built fish pass in Dessau in a positive way. Also the contact to the "Landesverband sächsischer Angler" (Saxony Anglers Organization) turned out to be fruitful.

Supported by the Anglers we will promote the issue "permeability of River Mulde". The "Elbelachsprojekt" (Salmon project of River Elbe) stocks Atlantic Salmon in River Mulde.

Peter Leisebein and Thomas von der Heide have prepared an elaboration with proposals for the improvement of the permeability for the complete united River Mulde and presented it to the Anglers organizations.

7. **Forum "Fischschutz"**

This forum is an initiative of the German Ministry of Environment. (BMU). In this forum all issues connected with the influence of hydropower plants and other impoundments on fish are being discussed with relevant representatives (including hydropower companies) in workshops.

The results of these activities take direct influence on the way the issue "protection of fish species" is treated in all German federal states. The forum Fischschutz recognizes that the free permeability of the rivers is an essential element to implement self-reproducing and sustainable migratory fish stocks. Actually you can find the [Investigations at Unkelmühle/Sieg](#) on the homepage of the forum.

Wanderfische ohne Grenzen is now also represented in the Forum Fischschutz and will attend the meetings.

8. **Siegburg – Second meeting of the Advisory Board on 14. und 15. 9. 2016**

Fish monitoring and telemetry was the topic of this years' meeting.

Experts from all parts of Germany, Norway, Belgium and the Netherlands were present. The meeting went even better than we dared to hope. All attendants followed the complete two days with high interest and participation.

Even those who had been around in fish activities could to our delight gain new insights.

Quick result: Wanderfische ohne Grenzen will set up an information platform for monitoring and telemetry. There will be general information available and those who find marked or transmitter-equipped fish can easily get in touch with and deliver the data of the finding to the contact person of the organization in question.

9. **Roermond(NL) – Workshop Downstream Migration**

The World Fish Migration Foundation hosted under the umbrella of the IKS (International Commission for the Protection of River Rhine) a two days [Workshop on Downstream Fish Migration](#). Armin Weinbrenner and Stefan Ludwig took part in this workshop.

Short resume of the meeting:

- There is no technical solution for fish protection on hydropower plants for big rivers for downstream migration.
- Scientific knowledge in fish protection and fish migration although growing exponentially in these days is still not sufficient.
- Networking between the projects and the informational transfer is more important than ever.
- Every measure taken for fish protection has to be site specifically optimized. (for example a repelling device working with electrical voltage could in some cases be a good fish protection if it is installed properly)

More details to come.

10. **Planning of hydropower plants in many places**

In many places in Germany new hydropower plants are being planned or even built instead of being removed:

- Aller/Weser/D (Bannetze –Bau), Hademstorf (Vorplanung)
- Rur /Maas/D (Linnich)
- Mulde/Elbe/D (several locations)
- Schleswig-Holstein (see 2.)
- Leine/Weser (Dörener Wolle/Hannover)
- Taurach/Donau/A

...and so on ...

“Wanderfische ohne Grenzen” has to do everything to try and work for a change of direction for the use of hydropower in Germany. Very often authorities that have to deal with hydropower applications base their decisions on wrong conditions just because they lack the information.

We believe it to be our task to create transparency of knowledge and public awareness based on facts. If the same standards were applied for the planning and permission of a hydropower plant as for a wind power plant, not one more hydropower plant would be planned or even built.

11. **Media**

The German flyfishing magazine “Fliegenfischen” published an impressive report of our member Manfred Raguse on the devastating effects of salmon farms along the Norwegian coastline on the stocks of wild Atlantic Salmon titled: “Mit offenen Augen in den Untergang! ([With eyes open into the decline!](#))”

Extremely informative and worth reading.

The December edition of the German fishing magazine „Blinker“ published an interview with Armin Weinbrenner about hydropower and migratory fishes titled “Wandern ohne Grenzen” (Migrating without frontiers). Armin states clearly in this interview, that there is no alternative to the abolition of migration obstacles for the time being if we want to reestablish self-sustaining populations of migratory fishes. The interview has found a lot of recognition.