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1. Year of the Salmon 2019.

NASCO (North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation) proclaimed the year 2019 as the “International Year of the Salmon”. The activities are supposed to last until the year 2022. Motto: „**Salmon and People in a Changing World**“. The opening event in Germany took place at Buisdorf on River Sieg, a tributary to the Rhine already in 2018. Among numerous other events a convention called „Salmo Albis“ was held at Bad Schandau on the Elbe River which we will be talking about later in this newsletter.

2. DAFV-Brochure: Year of the Salmon 2019.

Following NASCO’s proclamation of the “International year of the Salmon” the Atlantic Salmon had been appointed “Fish of the Year 2019” in Germany.

The DAFV (German Angling association) therefore released a brochure about the Atlantic Salmon.



Mrs. Christel Happach-Kasan PhD, president of the DAFV, presented the brochure in Berlin to the invited Members of Parliament and Representatives of Migratory Fishes Projects. Armin Weinbrenner, Wanderfische ohne Grenzen, was given the opportunity to report on “Historic Salmon Stocks in Germany” at this date. „Wanderfische ohne Grenzen“ also contributed to the brochure with a review on Salmon History in Germany. Please find more information [here](#).

3. 16.5.2020 World Fish Migration Day

The “World Fish Migration Day” wants to direct public interest to the fact that many fish species are extinct or severely endangered because the environmental conditions of their habitats

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don't suit their needs anymore. Fish stocks need to be able to migrate in order to survive. Regrettably the threats are getting bigger again: Instead of abolishing Hydropower Installations, in many locations new ones are being planned.

Please help and take action! Tell people about fishes and their habitats.

Plan **your event** on 16th or 17th of May 2020. Public fishing or stocking activities, presentations or information events, whatever you regard as helpful to inform the public about fishes, their life and needs is fine. Register your event under: <https://www.worldfishmigrationday.com/events>.

„Wanderfische ohne Grenzen“ will be happy to assist in planning or registering of an event.

For any questions or assistance with registering your event please contact us by Email: mail@wanderfische.eu or by phone +49 173 2970460.

4. Wanderfischampel presented to Minister of Environment of Lower Saxony.

While taking part in a meeting at the ASV Hillerse we had the chance to present our [Wanderfischampel](#) to the Lower Saxony Minister of Environment Olaf Lies. After having a quick look on the area Weser/Aller/Oker the Minister clearly wondered and stated: The situation at Bremen-Hemelingen has become worse!

This showed practically that this way of presentation is well and quickly understandable for those to decide. Unfortunately the statement of the Minister is not only for Bremen-Hemelingen but for a lot of further locations because of continued planning of new Hydropower plants.



Olaf Lies, Minister of Environment of Lower Saxony
at on-site inspection at Hillerse

5. Convention „Salmo Albis“ at Bad Schandau on River Elbe

This convention was part of the German Activities for the “International Year of the Salmon” Many representatives of authorities and salmon projects had followed the invitation of the Federal Office for Environment, Agriculture and Geology of Saxony.



The attendees of the convention at Bad Schandau / Elbe

Motto of the event: „It is about the complete River Elbe“. The pooling of the activities at the Elbe is supposed to bring further synergies to the good and long lasting efforts of the salmon and seatrout projects.

This is exactly what we are aiming at for the whole of Germany. So we really appreciated to get the chance to also give a presentation also at this event.

Please find the presentations of this event at:

<https://www.landwirtschaft.sachsen.de/aktuelle-informationen-14301.html>

Our presentation showed in the first part the reasons and developments that lead to the installation of NASF Germany in general and pointed out the objectives we follow. In the second half Thomas von der Heide presented the Wanderfischampel for the united River Mulde and the scope of activities connected with it.

6. Downstream migration explicitly respected in planning of fish pass!

At the Petri weir at Braunschweig on River Oker (Weser watershed) a fish migration installation is being built.

For the first time in this administrative area downstream migration is respected in planning explicitly. Before this total biological permeability was already stated even when only a fish pass was installed without taking in account special measures for downstream migration.



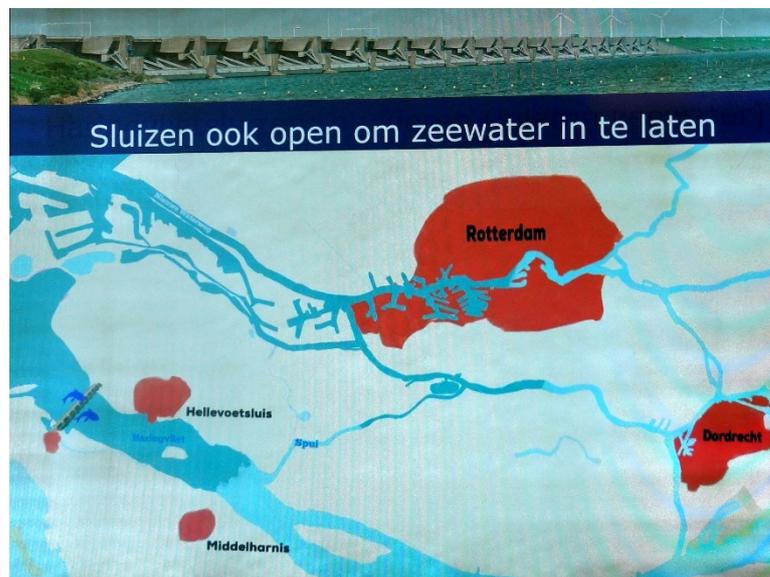
Preparations to start construction at the Petriwehr at Braunschweig

7. Haringvliet Rotterdam opened, but ...



Haringvliet in late summer 2018

The so called “Kierbesluit” has been implemented in 2019. It says, that the Haringvliet-sluices will be opened more often to a certain extent in order to allow brackish water conditions inside the Haringvliet and to allow migratory fishes to use this route into the River Rhein again. Niels Breve of the Dutch Angling Association yet says, that the opening is performed very hesitantly and that it can hardly be regarded an improvement of migratory conditions.



The dark blue area in the graphic should show the beginning of salination of the Haringvliet



Depiction of the partly opening of the sluices.
The last two graphics were part of the on-site presentation

8. Exchange with the NASF Organisations of other countries.

Since 2019 the partner organisations of the countries are in closer exchange than before. It is planned to bundle the activities to save the wild salmon stocks even better. Here's a list of the organisations of the countries:

- Denmark – Danish Salmon Foundation
- Ireland – Federation of Irish Salmon and Seatrout Anglers
- Migratory Salmon Foundation
- Germany – NASF Deutschland - Wanderfische ohne Grenzen e.V.
- France – NASF France

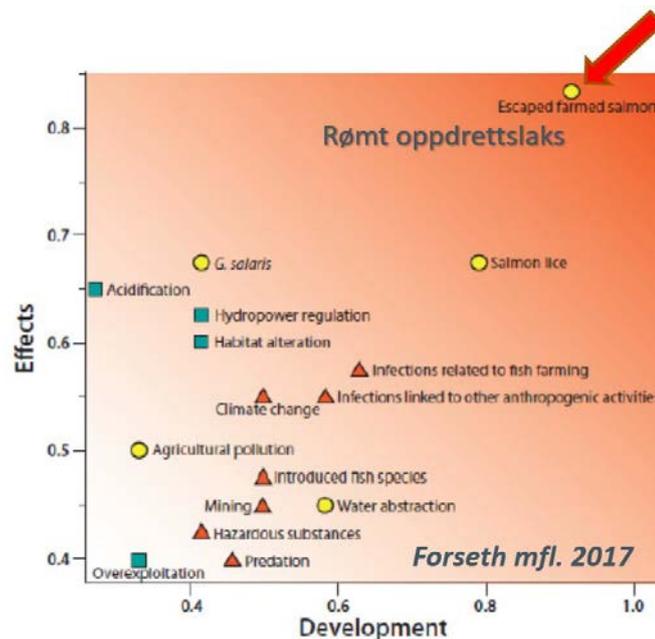
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- Iceland NASF Iceland
- Luxemburg –NASF Luxemburg
- Northern Ireland – NASF Northern Ireland
- Norway - [Reddvillaksen](#)
- Russia – [Russian Salmon Association](#)
- USA – [Grassy creek foundation](#)

One main issue in the North Atlantic is the negative impact of Salmon Farming in open netcages. Apart from the enormous contamination of the direct environment of the cages by release of waste directly into the Sea the most dramatic issue is the genetic impact of the escaped farm-fish on wild salmon populations.

An estimated remaining number of 500.000 to 1 million wild fish faces a similar magnitude of fish escaping annually from the open net-cages.

Therefor all NASF#s around the Atlantic fight for farming in closed containments installed preferably on the land.



Excerpt of a presentation of the independent Norwegian NINA institute showing the strong impact of farmed salmon on the wild stocks in comparison to other factors.

9. News from River Mulde in the Elbe watershed

a) Wanderfischampel - Mulde, Zwickauer Mulde Chemnitz completely recorded

The evaluation of migration obstacles in the Mulde watershed has been updated and extended. For all 40 sites starting from the area where young salmon are stocked at Zwönitz/Würschnitz covering Chemnitz and Zwickauer Mulde down to the Mouth into the Elbe evaluations are now available on our website at:

http://wanderfische.eu/images/PDF/Wanderfischampel/Status_vereinigte_Mulde_Che_mnitz.pdf .

These evaluations were handed on to the concerned Saxonian Federal Authorities together with tangible proposals in October 2019. It is available as project proposal at:

http://wanderfische.eu/images/PDF/Mulde/Projektvorschlag_Mulde_a.pdf

b) River Window Mulde

„Wanderfische ohne Grenzen“ initiated presentations and consultations for the installation of information-centers for migratory fishes at locations Friedersdorf and Grimma. Meetings were held with the federal government of Sachsen-Anhalt and with the project partners at site.

c) Including the issue migratory fishes into transregional tourism concepts.

To implement migratory fishes into educational and tourism concepts has been picked up by the „European Metropolitan Area Middle Germany“.

Actually an application for a respective general concept is being prepared. The potential study “salmon of River Mulde” shall be a part of it.

The installation of Migratory Fishes Information Panels along hiking and cycling tracks at the Nature Conservation Area River Mulde is actually being discussed with the representatives of Nature Conservation Area Dübener Heide. In 2020 there will be more tangible coordinations.

d) Wonderfishes-Wanderfishes

To complete existing material of information we decided the acquisition of fish models (Salmon and eel in 5 stages of lifecycle) for stationary and mobile presentation. Our respective project proposal has been subsidised by Freistaat Saxony with 5000,--- €

After searching quite a while we finally found a Munich designer who is already experienced in the manufacturing of fish models and who finds interest in our conservational issue. We have already seen first drafts.

10. Workshop of Forum Fischschutz on 3.and 4.12.2019

The 8th workshop of the forum took place in Augsburg dealing with the issues: Objectives of fish conservation, monitoring and function control. We would have very much liked to take part and to report on the results but the small amount of tickets was gone directly after the date was published. Please find the presentations [here](#).

11. Patagonia Film „Artifishal“ about the destiny of Salmon

Disturbing practices of stocking Pacific Salmon species in the whole of the Pacific Area and the disastrous impact of open net cages for Salmon farming in the Pacific and the Atlantic where the issues of this elaborately produced emotional documentation by the Outdoor Company Patagonia.



Questions and Answers after the film at the Passage Cinema in Berlin

Stocking of Pacific Salmon Species in contrary to the known European Projects with Atlantic Salmon is performed on an industrial scale.

Huge plants for production of stocking material for salmon are being installed everywhere in order to be able to constantly stock salmon.

European Projects usually aim to build up natural stocks by initial stocking of hatchery salmon. At the American Westcoast without regard of eventually well adapted natural stocks salmon are constantly confronted with genetically homogenized stocking material and finally eliminated.

The documentation presents the issue of salmon farming in the Pacific as well as in the Atlantic region. Genetic bastardisation of fauna through netcage escapees threaten the wild salmon stocks in both oceans.

As an example the famous salmon river Alta in Northern Norway is shown. The former big salmon river today produces only small and middle size fish since it is genetically impacted by farmed salmon. Please have a look yourself. The documentation is available on:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XdNJ0JAwT7I>

At the release events of the documentation in Germany (Berlin (2x), Hamburg, and Munich(2x)) NASF Germany was present to give an introduction to the issue and answer questions after the show.

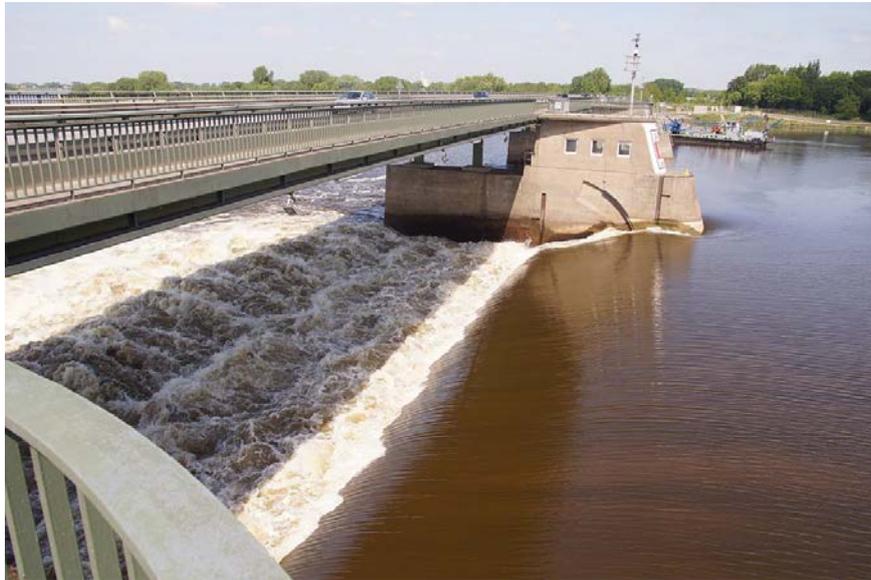
12. Documentation of 15 years of Salmon project on Rivers Aller and Oker in the Weser watershed

A small reintroduction project for salmon and sea trout has released a documentation of its activities this year. The documentation represents an interesting book of facts not only for regional migratory fishes projects with its 286 pages covering the local activities on Rivers Aller, Oker, Schunter and the formerly well known salmon river Örtze, transregional developments in Germany and finally international information.



13. Fish Migration at Geesthacht (River Elbe) thoroughly deteriorated

It started with messages about limitations in ship traffic on River Elbe in the area of Geesthacht and then quickly turned into a catastrophic development for fish migration in the River.



The fishway on the South bank has been filled up with earth completely



The fishpass on the South bank is now – other than on the photo – completely filled up with earth

Chutes that were built specially to improve sturgeon migration by creating a directing current and of a dimension unusually big for German fishways, have been closed now on the Northern bank.



The directing current chutes on the photo just above the fishpass entry (bottom), made to improve traceability of the new fishpass on the North bank are now also filled up and blocked.

This development is extremely negative for the fishes. The background is the delapidation of the entire weir-/bridge-construction which now has to be refurbished in a perennial project. A further negative impact on the fish fauna are the low water levels due to sparse precipitation this year.

For the benefit of the fishes hope remains, that this massive and important migration obstacle for River Elbe will be reconstructed at least to the former state for fish migration very quickly.

14. 12.000 Salmon on a 3 kilometer stretch on River Rhine within half a year...?

...we merely couldn't believe it, but this text fragment doesn't leave a lot of space for interpretation and doubt:

bert schwere Thaler ertragen hat ^d). Ungefähr vier Stunden weiter den Rhein hinunter fängt bei Niederspei, einem am linken Ufer gelegnen Trierischen Dorf, ein neuer Trieb an, und geht von da zum Städtchen Rens hin, wo er sich auf die Braubacher Seite einleckt. Dieser Salmenfang wurde kurz vor 1478 entdeckt, und in eben diesem Jahr vertrug sich Churfürst Johann von Trier mit Graf Philipp von Katzenelenbogen über den gemeinschaftlichen Genuß desselben, der jedem zur Hälfte fallen sollte: nachher nahm Hessen seinen von Katzenelenbogen ererbten Theil von Trier zu ziehen ^e). Auch hier hat sich der Ertrag in neuern Zeiten sehr verbessert. Gegenwärtig gehn von jeder Seite jährlich fünf kleine Schiffe, jedes mit vier Mann, also zusammen 40 Fischer, auf den in dieser Gegend des Rheins gefährlichen Fang aus. Sie zahlen beiden Herrschaften, vom Neujahr bis zum Jacobstag, von jedem Fisch drei leichte Kreuzer, und doch hat allein die Darmstädtische Hälfte an dieser geringen Anlage in einem Jahr wohl schon 600 Gulden ertragen, woraus man auf die Menge der gefangenen Salmen schliessen kann ^f). Der Vertrieb des Fisches, der bis

Quelle : Wenck 1783

From New Years Day until the 25th of July (Jacobs day) there is a statement for the village of Niederspei (today: Spay) that allows conclusions about the number of caught fish.

A „Gulden“ was the equivalent of 60 „Kreuzer“ at this time (source: Noback 1833). If for one fish three light „Kreuzer“ were paid and 600 „Gulden“ had been the revenue on one side of the river, it means that 12.000 salmon were caught! ...well, what does this number signify for the whole River Rhine at this time, or even earlier?

In the light of todays returner numbers - a dazzling number!

text sources:

Wenck 1783, *Hessische Landesgeschichte*, Seite 153

Noback 1833 : Nobacks Handbuch der Münz-Bank-und Wechselverhältnisse aller Länder und Handelsplätze

Please find further historic data on our website-databank: www.db.wanderfische.eu

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Johannes-Giesser-Straße 8, 71364 Winnenden, Germany
Tel.: 0171 6952870
E-Mail: mail(at)wanderfische.eu

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