Danube Lifelines

WWF

Danube III

Romania/Bulgaria

Define conservation strategies and improve protection of 5 threatened migratory fish species against poaching by working in 9 key fishing communities, law enforcement and decision makers

Aim:

- Test and demonstrate solutions to protect Pontic shad and sturgeon, focusing on habitats and migration periods
- Extend the sturgeon fishing ban in Bulgaria
- Declare new protected areas or integrate sturgeon and shad habitats into existing ones in Bulgaria and Romania
- Improve fishers' livelihoods in Romania and public perception in both countries

Output:

- Management recommendations for migratory fish species
- Protection of critical habitats
- Reduction of fishing pressure and poaching

Addressed Issues:

- Overfishing of Pontic shad and sturgeon
- Uncoordinated fishing bans between Bulgaria and Romania
- Poaching of sturgeon
- Lack of training and equipment for enforcement and judiciary
- Need to identify critical habitats and spawning periods

Investigation Area:

- Common Danube section between Bulgaria and Romania, including the Danube Delta
- Free-flowing section with intact connectivity but high fishing and poaching pressure

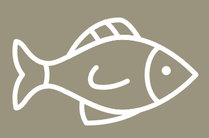
Implemented Measures:

- Sturgeon fishing ban (Romania since 2006, Bulgaria since 2011, expiring 2025)
- Seasonal bans for Pontic shad during breeding season

Stakeholders:

- NAFA, EAFA, Ministries of Environment, Police, Border Police, Judiciary
- Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Administration
- Professional fishers from Vetren, Gomotartsi, Belene (BG) and Borcea, Fetești, Galați, Jurilovca, Sf. Gheorghe, Sulina (RO)

target species



13 Present species

1 Missing but expected species

Anadromous species	***Acipenseridae***	
	Huso huso	
	Acipenser gueldenstaedtii	
	Acipenser stellatus	
	Clupeidae	
	Alosa immaculata	
	Alosa tanaica	
	Salmonidae	
	Salmo labrax	
Potamodromous species	***Acipenseridae***	
	Acipenser nudiventris	
	Acipenser ruthenus	
	Cyprinidae	
	Pelecus cultratus	
	Vimba vimba	
	Chondrostoma nasus	
	Barbus barbus	
	Rutilus virgo	
	Leuciscaus aspius	
	Leuciscus idus	
	Cyprinus carpio carpio	
	Ballerus ballerus	
	Salmonidae	
	Hucho hucho	
	Thymallus thymallus	
	Percidae	
	Zingel zingel	
	Zingel streber	
	Gymnocephalus schraetser	



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