Danube Lifelines

BOKU
Institute of Hydrobiology and Aquatic Ecosystem Management

Pielach

Austria

Demonstrate benefits of 2 recently implemented Nature-based Solutions for migratory fish habitats of the threatened Danube salmon

Aim:

- Demonstrate the benefits of Nature-based Solutions for migratory fish

Output:

- Post-monitoring of two newly implemented Nature-based Solutions
- Focus on improvements in connectivity, flood protection, and ecological status

Addressed Issue:

- Improve the fish migration corridor in the Pielach River
- Current habitat conditions and connectivity are impaired by hydropower infrastructure and flood protection measures

Investigation Area:

- Pielach River, a right tributary of the Danube in Austria
- Hosts one of Austria's last viable populations of Danube salmon,
- a threatened and endemic species with high recreational fishing value

Implemented Measures:

- Since 2019, the river has served as a case study in the LIFE Integrated Project (IP) IRIS (life-iris at)
- Full implementation of LIFE IP IRIS measures in the Pielach by 2025
- Construction of a bypass channel at a barrier upstream of the restoration site

Stakeholders:

- Water management authorities responsible for implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Floods Directive
- Angling associations and local communities
- Established stakeholder network from LIFE IRIS

target species

4 Present 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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