Danube Lifelines

ŐRSÉGI NEMZETI PARK

Raba

Hungary

Reconnection of an oxbow and fish habitat restoration

Aim:

- Design a restoration plan for reconnecting oxbows to the main river channel at both ends and ensure regular flow through the side arms
- Enhance communication between stakeholders, such as fishing associations and water authorities

Output:

- Restoration plan and authorization for revitalizing the oxbow
- Instructions for successfully reconnecting the oxbow to the mainstem to create new spawning habitats

Issues to be Addressed:

- Fish passes at hydropower plants currently have varying efficiencies
- Increase hydrological dynamics in oxbows and reduce sedimentation
- Improve habitat diversity and create new spawning and rearing areas for various fish species
- Enhance the conservation status of protected migratory fish species

Investigation Area:

- A 1.5 km long oxbow along the Rába River, separated from the main river in 1995
- The Rába is the largest tributary of the Danube in Hungary (catchment area of 10,113 km²)

Implemented Measures:

- Longitudinal connectivity improvements through fish passes (though currently of low efficiency)
- Mapping of oxbows and side arms

Stakeholders:

- Recreational users (fishing, boating)
- Hydropower sector

target species



10 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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