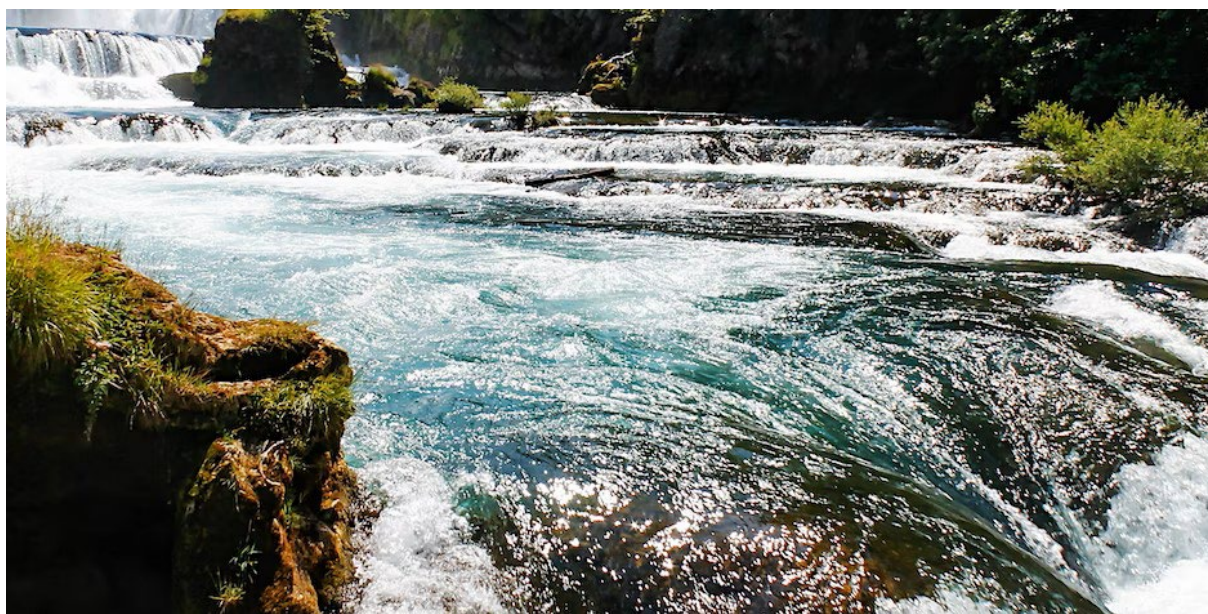




# Freshwater fishes in the context of the EU Biodiversity Strategy

*Draft Programme*

*Brussels, Committee of the Regions and online*



**24-25 November 2022**

**Organised by the Living Rivers Europe and the European Commission**

*Networking Event, Biogeographical Process*



**Living  
Rivers  
Europe**



**eaa**  
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**Wetlands**  
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Conservancy 



## **Opening Seminar on Fish and Rivers**

**24 November – 09:00-12:30 CET**

<b>Plenary session</b>		
<b>Time (CET)</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
<b>Chair:</b>	<b>Peter Gammeltoft (Danube Sturgeon Task Force)</b>	
8.45-9.00	<b>Opening online channel</b> for participants to test access to the session	
9.00-9.05	Welcome, short introduction Setting of the workshop	Chair
9.05-9.10	Opening and welcome	Roby Biber (Committee of the Regions)
9:10-9:20	Housekeeping	Team supporting the Natura 2000 biogeographical process
9.20-9.35	Setting the scene: rivers & fish	Sibylle Schroer (Scientific Coordinator Sustainability Research, Leibniz Inst. of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries)
9.35-9.45	EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 targets and the pledge and review process	Frank Vassen (DG-ENV D3)
9.45-10.00	Q&A Mentimeter	Chair & Frank Vassen (DG-ENV)
10.00-10.15	Status and trends, IUCN and Habitats Directive data on freshwater fishes, the red list for freshwater fishes, and what should the protected area target focus on?	Jörg Freyhof (IUCN Freshwater Fish Species Specialist Group)
10.15-10.30	Status and trends of rivers, dams, and river continuity	Carlos Garcia-De Leaniz (Prof. of Aquatic BioSciences & Director of the Centre for Sustainable Aquatic Research (CSAR), Swansea University)
10.30-10.45	Q&A	Chair
10.45-11.00	Coffee-tea break	
11.00-11.05	Opening	Team BGP
11.05-11.15	The Grayling as an example species: pressures affecting Grayling populations in Europe	Dr. Niels Jepsen (DTU-Aqua/ DK)
11.15-11.25	The Grayling as an example species: River restoration at times of multiple stressors. Are populations recovering?	Dr. Kurt Pinter (BOKU Vienna/ AT)
11.25-11.35	The importance of healthy fish stocks for the ecological quality of rivers	Prof. Dr. Carola Winkelmann (Univ. Koblenz-Landau/ DE)
11.35-11.45	Strategies for rivers and fish to cope with change – climate buffers	Frank Hoffmann (Naturmonumenten)
11.45-12.00	Transnational strategic actions the management of invasive alien freshwater fishes in the Iberian Peninsula	Frederic Casals - INVASAQUA ( <a href="https://lifeinvasaqua.com/en/">https://lifeinvasaqua.com/en/</a> )
12.00-12.10	Q&A	Chair
12.10-12.20	The process of developing the pledges from a Member State perspective - Belgium	T.b.c.
12.20-12.30	Discussion and wrap-up	Chair
12.30-13.30	LUNCH at the Meeting Room	

## ***Parallel Session A, 24 November – 13:30-16:30 CET***

**Session A: Pledges for strict protection of freshwater ecosystems in the context of the EU Biodiversity Strategy**

<b>Parallel session A</b>		
<b>Time (CET)</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>Moderator: Frank Vassen (DG-Environment)</b>		
13.30-13.35	Chair	Welcome; Explanation of the work process
13.35-13.50	Tobias Schäfer (WWF Germany)	The need for strict site protection in the context of freshwater ecosystems
13.50-14.05	Marina Piria, Univ. of Zagreb	Is recreational fishing compatible with strict site protection?
14.05-14.10	Short break	
14.10-16.00	Facilitated workshop, in smaller groups	
16.00-16.10	Short break; back to plenary	

## ***Parallel Session B, 24 November – 13:30-16:30 CET***

**Sustainable use of fish populations listed on Annex V of the Habitats Directive**

<b>Parallel session B</b>		
<b>Time (CET)</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>Moderator: Peter Gammeltoft</b>		
13.30-13.35	Chair	Welcome; Explanation of the work process
13.35-13.50	Dasa Zabrcic, the Fisheries institute of Slovenia - t.b.c.	Sustainable recreational fisheries and measures for vulnerable species (focus: Annex V species)
13.50-14.05	Jacco van Rijssel, Wageningen Marine Research/Naturalis	Research, trends and fisheries impact on Annex V species in the Netherlands
14.05-14.10	Short break	
14.10-16.00	Facilitated workshop, in smaller groups	
16.00-16.10	Short break; back to plenary	

<b>Plenary session</b>	
<b>Time (CET)</b>	<b>Topic</b>
16.10-16.20	<i>Report back to plenary, group(s) Session A</i>
16.20-16.30	<i>Report back to plenary group(s) Session B</i>
16.30	<i>Chair: Closure of the session</i>
16.30-18.00 - Networking drink	

### ***Parallel Session C, 25 November – 09:00-12:30 CET***

The importance of connectivity for migratory fish species and ecosystem processes

<b>Parallel session C</b>		
<b>Time (CET)</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>Moderator: t.b.c.</b>		
9.00-9.05	Chair	Welcome; Explanation of the programme
9.05-9.15	Herman Wanningen, (World Fish Migration Foundation) (online)	Dam removal to restore connectivity
9:15-9:25	Sibylle Schroer, (Sustainability Research, Leibniz Institute on Freshwater ecology and Inland Fisheries)	Fish mortality at hydropower plants
9.25-9.35	Peter Philipsen, Nature at Work (Rijkswaterstaat NL)	The GIS based National Fish roadmap (in the Netherlands), a road network to help fish migrate (and navigate) highly fragmented and densely populated areas (like harbours and coastal areas around cities)
9.35-9.40	Short break	
9.40-11.30	Facilitated workshop, in smaller groups	
11.30-11.40	Short break, back to plenary	

### ***Parallel Session D, 25 November – 09:00-12:30 CET***

Main drivers of decline of the 'forgotten' fish species – what do we know? Prioritising actions

<b>Parallel session D</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>Moderator: Sergiy Moroz</b>		
9.00-9.05	Chair	Welcome; Programme and work process
9.05-9.20	Carlos Romão (European Environment Agency) (online)	Major pressures on freshwater fish species
9.20-9.35	Lynne Barratt (NEEMO monitor/LIFE program)	Restoration measures and overview of LIFE projects targeting freshwater fish species
9.35-9.40	Short break	
9.40-11.30	Facilitated workshop, in smaller groups	
11.30-11.40	Short break, back to plenary	

<b>Plenary session</b>	
<b>Time (CET)</b>	<b>Topic</b>
11.40-11.55	Report back in plenary Session C
11.55-12.10	Report back in plenary Session D
12.10-12.25	Discussion, further steps and concluding remarks
12.25-12.30	Closure of the workshop

