Annual Report 2017

World Fish Migration Foundation

Groningen

WORLD FISH MIGRATION
FOUNDATION

WFMD2018 Gabon © Marie-Claire Paiz, TNC

Happy Fish © Waddenvereniging

Connecting fish, rivers and people

General information

The World Fish Migration Foundation is registered in the Netherlands as 'Stichting Wereld Vismigratie', following Dutch regulations, KvK number 61884782. The foundation was initially registered to the address of J.H. Diemerstraat 19, 9728 VM, Groningen. From summer 2017, the address was moved to F. Leggerstraat 14, 9728 VS, Groningen.

The University of Groningen supports the aims of the foundation and provides the foundation with office facilities within the University. These offices are located in Linnaeusborg, Nijenborgh 7, 9747 AG, Groningen.

The World Fish Migration Foundation is a non-profit organisation that advocates for free flowing swimways for the sake of migratory fish. In 2017, the foundation had one director with supervision from an independent supervisory board. The supervisory board has three members:

Supervisory Board

P. Bon, chair
E. Lanting, member with focus on finance
D. van der Molen, member with focus on content

Board of directors

2017
H. Wanningen, director

2018
A. Berkhuysen, managing director
H. Wanningen, founder and director of strategy and development

From the Supervisory Board and Board of Directors

Thanks to the combination of committed employees and understanding and support from partners of the foundation, the foundation's projects for 2017 progressed well. There were challenges arising due to the fact that the director experienced a period of illness; the supervisory board has therefore looked for alternatives to strengthen the foundation, mainly on the organisational and managerial side. As a result, Arjan Berkhuysen took the position of managing director on the first of January 2018. Herman Wanningen, founder of WFMF, remains active as director of strategy and development. Together, they form the new board of directors and we feel confident that the foundation is ready again to make a difference for migratory fish all over the world.

On behalf of the supervisory board,

Peter Bon

Since 2014, the foundation has grown rapidly and evolved into what it is today based on learned experiences. In 2017, we learned that the foundation is vulnerable to sudden changes in availability of core employees but that team spirit and passion is high enough to allow us to keep producing high quality work and maintaining deliverable deadlines. We also learned that our partners are crucial for the success of the foundation because without their support we could not have celebrated the successes we will describe in this annual report.

This past year has been a year of preparation to write a new guide on best practices, recruit partners for the World Fish Migration Day 2018, create a long-term funding base, and design and create the communication tools for the wonderful Amber project. Looking back, the lessons learned and the investment in preparations were worth it. The team and partners have been fantastic and we are grateful for their drive and dedication to connect fish, rivers, and people.

Herman Wanningen and Arjan Berkhuysen

Our intended impact

We want to protect and conserve migratory fish worldwide! Many migratory fish need complete/large sections of a river system to fulfil their lifecycles and are a key component of healthy river ecosystems. Increasing impacts from upstream barriers, dams, pollution, and other habitat changes have massive effects on the survival of these migratory fish. Impacts can negatively affect ecosystems and ultimately cause devastating effects on human populations that depend on these fish as a primary food source.

The importance of these migratory fish, however, does not receive the attention that it requires. As such, the World Fish Migration Foundation was initiated as a non-profit organisation to help highlight these issues and provide support in solving them.

Mission

Through projects that facilitate rehabilitation, ecosystem protection, and communication on fish migration, we strive to:

- Restore migratory fish populations to healthy, abundant stocks
- Create more free-flowing rivers
- Connect and unify communities, specialists, industries, and governments to create a sustainable and happy environment for humans and fish alike

Goals

We aim to make a difference by:

- Contributing to the protection and development of migratory fish populations in river systems worldwide
- Facilitating communication between the worldwide fish migration expert community and key decision and policy makers
- Organising and stimulating the dissemination of knowledge about free-flowing rivers and dam removal concepts globally through an interactive online presence, conferences, and networking events

Intended impact

If we succeed, we want to see a growing number of new openings in rivers across the globe. We will campaign to facilitate more dam removal, and where removals are not possible, we will push for innovative solutions. During World Fish Migration Day in 2016, there were 15 events celebrating new openings in rivers. In 2018, we expect a similar number. It is our intent, however, that by 2030 we celebrate at least 1000 new openings a year.

569
Events

60m
People reached

63
Countries

Yecla de Yeltes dam, Spain © Herman Wanningen

Year in review

During 2017, the foundation worked on the following projects:

1 Swimways of the world: Finished
The concept of Swimways of the world was introduced and illustrated using a poster indicating main swimways of several fish species worldwide. The poster has been translated into different languages and distributed accordingly.

2 World Fish Migration Day 2018: In progress
The World Fish Migration Day is a unique project raising worldwide awareness of the importance of migratory fish species (e.g. eel, salmon, sticklebacks, and sturgeons) and healthy rivers. Raising awareness promotes and supports measures that reduce the number of barriers that migratory fish face when navigating through their migration routes. On the 21st of April 2018, the third edition of the World Fish Migration Day will be celebrated to increase awareness and cultivate a broader feeling of urgency about the current situation for migratory fish. In 2017, the foundation started to recruit potential participants and prepared communication tools like the website. The next edition after 2018 is planned for the 16th May 2020.

3 AMBER: In progress
In 2016, the European Union financed the Adaptive Management of Barriers in European Rivers (AMBER) project. This project seeks to apply adaptive management to the operation of dams and barriers in European rivers. The aim is to achieve a more efficient restoration of stream connectivity and address the ecological impacts of river fragmentation. The World Fish Migration Foundation is responsible for coordinating the communication aspects of the project and has promised to invest 71 man-months into its primary aims over a period of four years.

Most of the work in 2017 went into five sub-projects: (1) preparing the portal and smartphone app for the citizen science part of the project, (2) preparing material that promotes and explains the citizen science project, (3) finalizing educational material, (4) gathering existing databases of barriers in European rivers, and (5) writing newsletters.

4 Dam Removal Europe: In progress
One of the main goals of the foundation is to reduce river fragmentation. Many dams in European rivers are old, abandoned, and obsolete. Inspired by the Dam Removal in the USA, the Dam Removal Europe (DRE) project aims to start a network and movement to remove these dams. The project started in 2016 and is supported by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

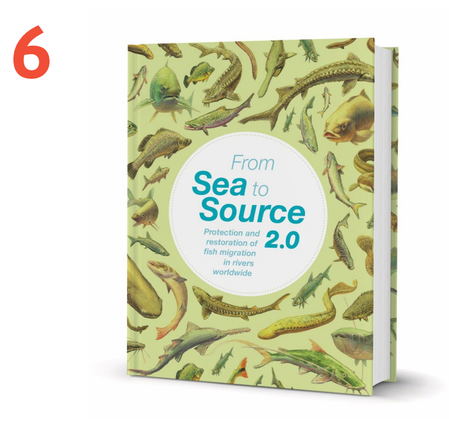
In 2017, we maintained and frequently updated the website. The site serves as a reference point for information about dam removal and helps connect practitioners, researchers, and other interested parties, including members of the public. In 2017, the third Dam Removal Europe workshop was held in Birmingham. This workshop led to new contacts for the network and potential partners. It was a joint development of DRE, the Severn Rivers Trust, and the Environmental Agency. We developed and sent out the first newsletter to a large network throughout Europe.

That year, we also grew in the number of supporters and the WWF agreed to support the project with extra funding (under the name of Living Rivers project, or sometimes called Dam Removal Europe 2) to increase the capacity of the amount of research and communication performed by DRE. The international partners agreed on the framework for a new dam removal policy report, which will be published in 2018.

5 LIFE IP Deltanatuur: In progress
The foundation is involved in a European research project called LIFE IP Deltanatuur. In this project, the World Fish Migration Foundation shares ‘best practices’ of water infrastructure on the theme of fish migration.

6 From Sea To Source Guidance 2: In progress
A second edition of the From Sea To Source Guidance was prepared in 2017. The aim is to develop an international guide on fish migration issues based on the knowledge of an international consortium of experts. The guide will include an overview of the issues, examples of ‘best practices,’ and a methodology that will allow practitioners to improve fish migration in fragmented rivers. The project is funded through the help of many supporters, including numerous water authorities, WWF, and The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

In addition to these projects, the foundation contributed to the development of a Wadden sea Swimway project, a status report of migratory fish and a fish migration contact database.



Governance

By the end of 2014, The World Fish Migration Foundation was founded, registered, and supported by a Supervisory Board and Board of Directors. The role of the Supervisory Board in the foundation is to supervise the policies of the Board of Directors and assist them by providing advice.

In 2017, the supervisory and the director board met twice. They discussed three main issues:

- Vision and strategy of the foundation
- Financing the foundation for mid- and longer-term hiring and planning of employees
- Discussing the organisational structure of the foundation

The role of the Board of Directors is to manage the foundation and achieve the company's aims, strategies, policies, and results. The Supervisory Board holds the Board of Directors accountable for these achievements.

In 2017, the foundation had four people on the payroll, six external consultants, an intern, and four volunteers. All staff reported directly to the director. Each project had a project team and a project leader. However, the staffing had some changes during the year because of illness and one employee leaving the foundation for a change in career. After this, it became clear that the project funding for 2018 would be sufficient to search for a managing director that would make the foundation more stable for the years to come. The foundation hired Arjan Berkhuysen to fill this position in 2018.

The financial administration of the foundation is done by an external administration office.

Severn Rivers Trust
Fish parade in the town square, United Kingdom
© Mike Morris.

Risks and opportunities

In 2018, we will acknowledge the potential for the following opportunities and risks:

Opportunities
Firstly, we will take advantage of organisations far-reaching influence to cultivate a climate of growing interest on fish migration issues. Organisations like Patagonia, WWF, and the Dutch Anglers Association have indicated that they are willing to invest more resources on promoting the implications of river barriers. As recently mentioned in a front-page article of Dutch newspaper Leeuwarder Courant, fish migration is a hot topic. Having created an international network for World Fish Migration Day, the foundation is well-positioned to take an international lead in connecting the necessary people around the issue of dams and migratory fish.

Second, as the foundation has not been able to get the ANBI-status yet, there is still the opportunity for donations to be made tax-free. This has to be done by adjusting the administration and meeting the required standards.

Third, scientific knowledge base regarding migratory fish is still very limited compared to other animal groups, such as migratory birds. The foundation can play a catalysing role in connecting scientists and other related institutions and push for more ambition in knowledge about swimways. The foundation could collaborate with science institutions to develop a project proposal.

All these opportunities will be addressed in the strategic plan which is to be defined in 2018.

Risks
First, the foundation is unable to spend sufficient time exploring funding sources and often deadlines for potential grant applications are missed. On a similar note, the identification of, and application for, sources of funding requires substantial investment. There is a risk that investment in funding comes at the expense of the foundation's ongoing projects. Therefore, developing a strategy for funding applications and a clear timeline for proposal writing will be a top priority for the board of directors in 2018.

Second, the foundation operates through the funding of organisations such as the European Research Council (ERC) which currently funds the AMBER project. Such bodies are prone to sudden changes in funding priorities and financing ability. Again, the foundation should work towards having sufficient financial reserves to cope with sudden changes.

Lastly, we acknowledge that the foundation is still small, and as such is vulnerable to the loss of key employees, networks, and partners. The foundation should work towards having insurance, financial reserves, and contacts to mitigate such risks.

Future ambitions

2018 will be an intense year for the foundation, as it will celebrate the third World Fish Migration Day, launch the citizen science programme of the Amber project, publish a policy report for the Dam Removal Europe project, organise an international workshop on dam removals, and launch the second Sea to Source guidance worldwide. The foundation will also define its five-year strategy to develop the stability it requires. Fortunately, the past three years have demonstrated that the employees of the World Fish Migration Foundation deliver exceptional work in short periods of time. With the passion of the experienced employees and the ideas of the newly hired, the foundation will continue to grow and thrive as they all share is an intrinsic drive to make a difference. They contribute in a positive way to make a difference for nature, fish, and humans on a local and global level by starting new initiatives with people all over the world.

The foundation is also proud to be able to build on strong existing relationships with partners who make the high ambitions of the foundation for migratory fish possible. Access to extensive networks and sources of funding through partners like WWF, TNC, the Angling Association, and various water authorities have shown to be a key for success. In 2018, the foundation will invite its partners to design the strategic plan for the coming years together to ensure the success of future endeavours.

Annual financial report 2017 World Fish Migration Foundation

Result
The result of the foundation for the financial year 2017 is EUR 19.344 negative.

Equity
The equity of the foundation is not available for free distribution and can only be used in accordance with the goals of the foundation as described in the statutes. The change in equity over the 2017 financial year can be fully allocated to the result over the same period.

Balance sheet

(before result allocation)

Amounts in euro's

	Explanation	31-12-2017	31-12-2016
Fixed assets			
Inventory	(1)	954	-
		954	-
Current assets			
Receivables	(2)		
Work in progress		-	10.000
Accounts receivable		-	10.503
Other receivables		-	1.499
		-	22.002
Cash in Bank	(3)	292.058	264.294
Total assets		**293.012**	**286.296**
Equity	(4)	-/- 18.740	604
Short-term liabilities	(5)		
Accounts payable		36.746	14.586
Taxes		6.342	12.486
Other liabilities		268.664	258.620
		311.752	285.692
Total liabilities		**293.012**	**286.296**

Revenues and expenses 2017

Amounts in euro's		Explanation Actual 2017	Actual 2016
Revenues			
Grants and revenues from activities	(6)	334.919	336.740
Other revenues		4.997	-
Total revenues		339.916	336.740
Expenses			
Attributable to activities	(7)	285.828	303.893
Depreciation		117	-
Personnel expenses	(8)	55.626	15.131
Travel expenses		9.830	6.909
Other management expenses	(9)	7.417	13.923
Interest and banking expenses		442	420
Total expenses		359.260	340.276
Balance of revenues and expenses (Bottom line)		-/- 19.344	-/- 3.534

The balance of revenues and expenses over the year 2017 of EUR 19.344 negative has been deducted from the equity of the foundation.

Cash flow over 2017

Amounts in euro's	Actual 2017	Actual 2016
flow from operational activities		
- Revenues	279.416	300.388
- Paid expenses including interest	-334.925	-328.278
Total cash flow from operational activities	*-55.509*	*-27.890*
Advance Amber	83.275	252.614
Mutation of cash in bank	**27.766**	**224.724**
Initial balance of cash in bank	264.292	39.570
Final balance of cash in bank	**292.058**	**264.292**

The cash flow statement has been prepared following the direct method. Only those mutations that have led to a change in the cash in bank have been taken into account.

Explanation of the Financial Statement

The accounting policies used in the preparation of this annual report are discussed below. These policies are, unless stated otherwise, applicable throughout the reported period. Numbers are reported in euro's.

The annual report is recorded on May 1st, 2018.

General principles

Basis for the setup
The annual report of the foundation is recorded according to the laws of 'Title 9, Book 2' of the Civil Code (Burgerlijk Wetboek).

Basis for the accounting principles

General
Unless stated otherwise, the valuation of assets and liabilities as well as determination of the result are made at historical cost.
Income and expenses are allocated to the related reporting year regardless of the moment of receipt or payment. Profits are taken only when realised on the balance sheet date.
Liabilities and possible losses originating before the end of the reporting year are taken into account if they are known before the preparation of the annual report.

Final Budget
An asset and an obligation are netted off in the financial statements only if and insofar as it is legally possible to settle both items and settle them simultaneously and it is the firm intention to settle the balance as such or both items simultaneously.

Estimates
To be able to apply the principles and rules for the preparation of the annual accounts, it is necessary that the management of the foundation form an opinion on various matters and make estimates that may be essential for the amounts included in the annual report. If it is necessary to provide the insight required by Section 2: 362 paragraph 1 of the Dutch Civil Code, the nature of these judgments and estimates, including the associated assumptions, is included in the notes to the relevant financial statements items.
These estimates have been made to the best of the board's knowledge, but the actual outcomes may ultimately differ from those estimates.

Inventory (1)
The inventory is valued at purchasing price less a straight-line depreciation on basis of the estimated economic lifecycle or lower realisable value.

Receivables (2)
The receivables are valued against the nominal value, where necessary deducting a provision for irrecoverable debts

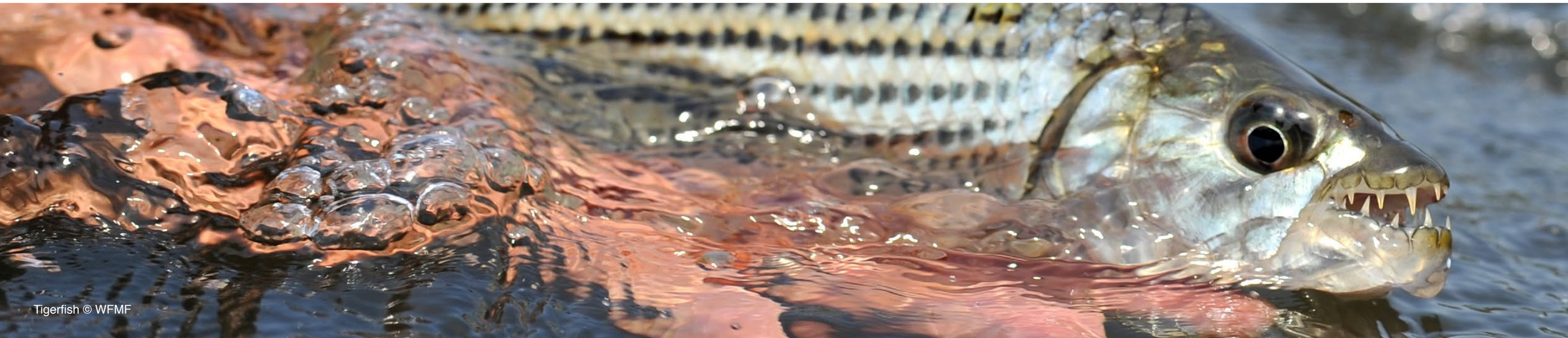
Other assets (3)
The cash in bank is valued against a nominal value and are at the disposal of the foundation.

Equity (4)
The general reserve serves to guarantee the continuity of the foundation and is built from the appropriation of surpluses that originate from the difference between revenues and actual expenses. In case of a deficit this will be charged to the general reserve.

Short-term debts (5)
Short-term debts are valued at nominal value and have a term of less than one year.

Corporation tax
The foundation is exempt from corporate tax.

Events after the reporting date
The annual report is adjusted for the effects of events taking place between the balance date and the approval date of the annual report. Important events that indicate circumstances originating after the balance date are explained but do not result in an adjustment of the annual report itself.



Tigerfish © WFMF

Explanation of the balance

(1) Inventory

	Explanation	2017	2016
Situation per 1 January		-	-
Plus: investment		1.071	-
Minus: depreciation		-/- 117	-
Situation per 31 December		954	-

(2) Receivable

	Explanation	31-12-2017	31-12-2016
Work in progress		-	10.000
Receivables from debtors	(2.1)	-	10.503
Other		-	1.499
		-	**22.002**

The expected term of the receivables is less than one year.

(2.1) Receivables from debtors

	31-12-2017	31-12-2016
Nominal value of the receivables	-	15.438
Minus: Provision for uncollectability	-	-/- 4.935
	-	**10.503**

(3) Cash in bank

	31-12-2017	31-12-2016
Triodos Bank, current account	292.034	263.430
Paypal, current account	24	863
	292.058	**264.293**

The cash in bank is at the free disposal of the foundation.

(4) Equity

The course of the equity is shown in the overview below:

	2017	2016
Situation at the beginning of the financial year	604	4.138
Minus: result yet to be allocated	-/- 19.344	-/- 3.534
Situation at the end of the financial year	**-/- 18.740**	**604**

The foundation's equity is not available for free distribution and can only be used in accordance with the objectives of the foundation as described in the statutes.

(5) Short-term debts

	Explanation	31-12-2017	31-12-2016
Debts to suppliers		35.690	14.586
Taxes	(5.1)	6.342	12.486
Other debts	(5.2)	268.664	258.620
		311.752	**285.692**

All debts have a term of less than one year. There is no payment of interest on the debts.

(5.1) Taxes

	31-12-2017	31-12-2016
Sales tax	2.197	6.319
Income tax	3.778	6.167
	6.342	**12.486**

(5.2) Other debts

	Explanation	31-12-2017	31-12-2016
Contributions received in advance	(5.2.2)	264.886	252.614
Reservation for holiday allowance /-days		3.778	5.361
Overige Other		-	645
		268.664	**258.620**

(5.2.2) Contributions received in advance

Profits on projects are only taken when the projects have been completed or partial payments have taken place. Losses on projects are accounted for when foreseeable on the balance sheet date. A positive difference between incurred project costs and received subsidies / other contributions is recognized in the balance sheet under the item "Prepaid contributions". The balance sheet item as at year-end 2017 included € 156,296 contributions received in advance under the EU Amber project and € 54,875 under the EU Dam Removal Europe 2 project

Explanation of the statement of income and expenditure 2017

(6) and (7) income and expenditure of activities

	2017			2016		
Project	**Income**	**Expenditure**	**Result**	**Income**	**Expenditure**	**Result**
WFMP/Swimway/ WFMD 2016	5.887	5.887	-	123.026	148.575	-25.549
WFMD 2018	57.998	57.998	-	-	-	-
Sabie river vision	-	-	-	-	5.147	-5.147
Samen voor de aal (RAVON) (Together for the eel)	-	-	-	4.500	6.006	-1.506
Dam removal EU - 1	50.087	50.087	-	39.545	32.262	7.283
Dam removal EU - 2	20.125	20.125	-	-	-	-
Amber	179.593	130.501	49.091	66.607	53.395	13.212
Vismarkt (Fishmarket)	52	52	-	75.084	48.701	26.383
Noordzeekanaal (North Sea Canal)	-	-	-	15.321	4.081	11.240
From sea to source	15.328	15.328	-	2.500	341	2.159
Life	5.850	5.850	-	8.658	5.047	3.611
Guardians of the sea	-	-	-	1.499	338	1.161
	334.919	285.828	49.091	336.740	303.893	32.847

(8) Personnel expenses

	2017	**2016**
Gross salaries including holiday allowance	52.464	15.010
Insurances	2.710	-
General personnel expenses	452	121
	55.626	**15.131**

This item relates to personnel expenses that are not directly attributable to projects. The increase compared to 2016 can be attributed to (one-off) higher expenses for general management of the foundation. The average number of employees of the foundation in 2017 is 3.6 FTE (2016 3.0 FTE).

(9) Other management expenses

	2017	**2016**
IT and telephone	3.995	4.012
Office expenses	667	693
Administration	1.665	2.910
Housing	30	4.800
Advertising and representation	43	352
Insurances	182	182
Other	835	974
	7.417	13.923

Assets and liabilities excluded from the balance sheet

Remuneration for the board and Supervisors
Because the management of the foundation a traceable to one natural person, explanation of the remuneration is not forthcoming.

The supervisors of the foundation do not receive any remuneration for their activities.

Signing of the annual accounts

Groningen, 31 August 2018

Supervisory Board,

P. Bon
Chairman

E. Lanting
Member

D. van der Molen
Member

Management
World Fish Migration Foundation, on their behalf

H. Wanningen
Director Strategy and Development

A. Berkhuysen
Managing Director

Other information

Proposal for the appropriation of the result for 2017
It is proposed that the foundation's result for 2017 of EUR 19.344 negative is to be deducted from the general reserves of the foundation

Events after the balance sheet date with significant financial consequences for the legal entity
In the preparation of the annual report for 2017 there were no events after the balance sheet date with significant financial consequences for the foundation.