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ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Connecting Fish, Rivers and People!



WORLD FISH MIGRATION
FOUNDATION

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

WE ARE CONNECTING AND SHARING!

362 Events
in:

72 countries celebrating World
Fish Migration Day!

25.000km

We actively contributed, through the AMBER project and Dam Removal Europe, to the setting of a new EU biodiversity target to open up 25.000km of free-flowing rivers by removing dams.

nature

An article about 1.2 million barriers in Europe was published in Nature, the guardian and other major publications.

200 million

Reach with our media campaigns during WFMD2020. A resounding success for the event.

30%

Of WFMD events engaged and influenced policy makers. Policy change is a major component in the movement to save fish and rivers.

“Looking forward to another remarkable event, just attending last year’s WFMD was literally one of the high points of the entire year for us.”

Anne Shaffer

Coastal Watershed Institute (USA)



WE ARE CELEBRATING (ONLINE)!

1,500

Organisations worked together on World Fish Migration Day and attracted **34.000 attendees**.



Le Cren Medal for 2020 awarded by the Fisheries Society of the British Isles.

Global Swimways

a 24 hour webinar marathon attracted **2.000** attendees from over 100 countries.

DRE seminar

500 attendees joined for the first live dam removal ever during a webinar hosted from Sweden.

We have grown the WFMF movement to over **11,000 practitioners, scientists and policy makers**, who are engaged in our activities!

WE ARE OPENING RIVERS!

2,000km

During WFMD2020, we celebrated 2,054km of river opened to migratory fish.

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OUR WORK

OUR WORK

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR, HERMAN WANNINGEN

Over the past five years, WFMF has invested a great deal of resources in research, vision development, knowledge exchange and network development. In 2020, as we were adjusting to the COVID19 regulations, we were able to make significant strides in our global communications through online events and publications and establishing the dam removal movement in Europe.

The next five years are crucial for the upscaling of the Dam Removal Europe initiative towards a continent-wide movement. Our long term ambition is to develop this into a global phenomenon, together with World Fish Migration Day, one of WFMF's crowning achievements.

The successes of our young foundation are recognized on an international level. I'm very proud to see that as the founder of this foundation we are able to excite and inspire practitioners around the world. We are truly connecting fish, rivers and people and creating impact. Our team is dedicated to save migratory fish in rivers. And if you wonder why this is, just download the Living Planet Index report which we jointly published in the summer of 2020. Global migratory fish stocks have dropped by 74% in the last 50 years. The urgency is clear! It is now time to act! The next ten years will be crucial to scale-up solutions that have real impact and which will turn the tide. We believe that scaling up dam removal is the silver bullet for river restoration. We are dedicated to make a difference by catalyzing change!



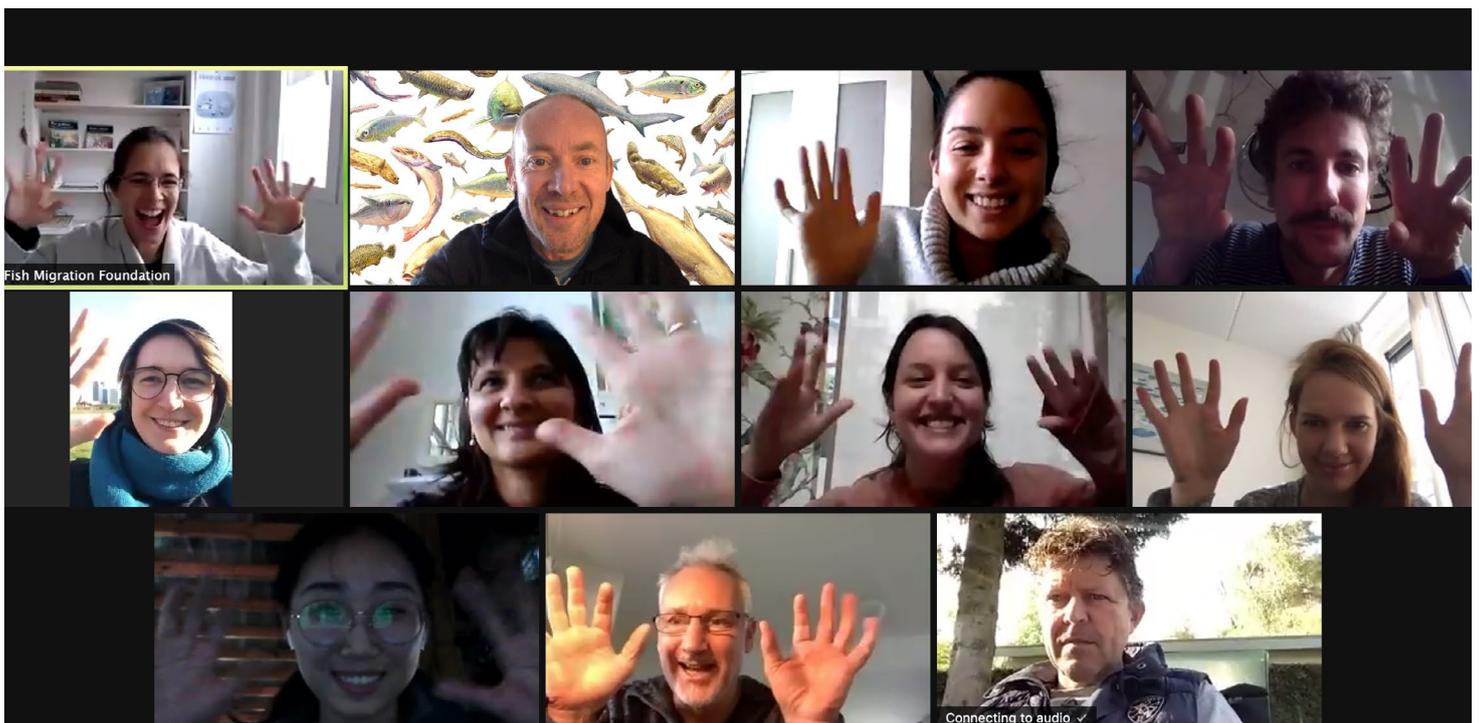
Herman Wanningen



BUILDING A GLOBAL MOVEMENT

In 2020 World Fish Migration Foundation continued building on a global movement for free fish migration. The supervisory board is proud that WFMF is being part of such a growing global movement. It is noted that a relatively small foundation has such a big influence on this issue. When the European Commission sets a target for restoring 25.000 km of free flowing rivers we recognise the lobby of WFMF. And with all the upcoming initiatives such as dam removals in Europe and the rest of the world we know that our foundation is succesfull to get this topic on top of mind of all concerned. We are confident that together with our partners we are going to make a difference the upcoming years.

Peter Bon, chair of the Supervisory Board



Part of the WFMF team during one of many video calls in 2020



PARTNERS AND CORPORATE DONORS

We thank all of our corporate donors, project sponsors and private donors. Through their support we are able to build the excitement of a growing movement and save migratory fish in rivers.

Below we have listed our corporate donors.



SPONSORS



Hoogheemraadschap van
Rijnland



Rijkswaterstaat
Ministerie van Infrastructuur en Waterstaat



Rijkswaterstaat
Ministerie van Infrastructuur en Waterstaat



provincie **HOLLAND ZUID**



Ministry of Agriculture,
Nature and Food Quality



Waddenvereniging



waddenacademie



provinsje fryslân
provincie fryslân



MISSION, APPROACH AND EXPECTED IMPACTS

Our mission is to save migratory fish in rivers and our global vision is to have rivers full of fish. In 2020, we sharpened our strategy and scaled up our work in three steps:

1. Connecting and sharing

Ensuring that scientists, practitioners, policymakers, anglers, and nature enthusiasts connect, cooperate, and share knowledge and tools.

2. Celebrating successes

Making river practitioners and citizens aware and inspiring them to join the movement.

3. Opening up rivers

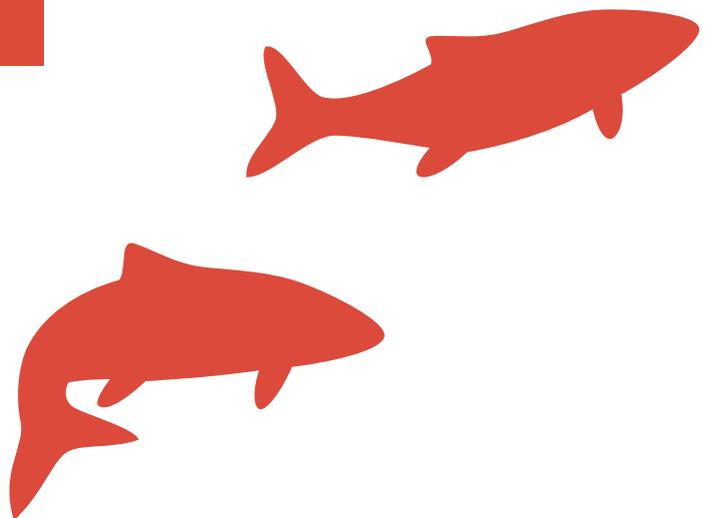
Creating resources for practitioners to open rivers on the ground.

OUR GOALS FOR 2025:

1. Opening up 5,000 km of rivers through showcase projects.

2. Connecting 20,000 practitioners, scientists and policymakers, from local to global.

3. Celebrating 2,000 events at World Fish Migration Day in 2024.



WHAT WE DO

GLOBAL ACTIVITIES

WORLD FISH MIGRATION DAY



World Fish Migration Day is a global celebration focused on creating worldwide awareness about the importance of free-flowing rivers and migratory fish. On this day, thousands of organisations, groups, and communities organise local events to educate and excite people about migratory fish species in their regions and our collective reliance on healthy, free-flowing rivers. These events create greater understanding and awareness worldwide of issues regarding migratory fish and rivers.

World Fish Migration Day is the only global day dedicated to celebrating migratory fish; there is no other event in the world that focuses on this theme in conjunction with the necessity of free-flowing rivers. It is the mission of the foundation, its partners and supporters that this day reconnects people back to their rivers and the fish that inhabit them to protect these resources.

The goals of World Fish Migration Day are three-fold:

- 1. Raise global awareness about migratory fish, their importance for nature and people and their challenges in the face of many threats.**
- 2. Encourage individuals and organisations all over the world to show their success stories about how we can improve the situation for migratory fish.**
- 3. Motivate citizens around the world to work together to protect and restore swimways of migratory fish.**

In 2020, we celebrated the fourth WFMD on October 24th, achieving huge participation despite the limitations of the Covid pandemic. WFMF coordinated WFMD with the campaign theme of Love Flows and hosted a wide range of activities.

www.worldfishmigrationday.com

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Outreach

362 events in 72 countries | >1,500 organisations involved | 34,000 WFMD event attendees from 72 countries | >120 million people through events, media outlets and social platforms | >20 education materials in multiple languages | 8 international screenings of Love Flows | Over 60 article features | >30 newsletters

Team

9 partner organisations | 38 donors | 11 volunteers | 15 ambassadors including TV presenter Jeremy Wade

Impact

Through the events WFMD raised local, national and global awareness, influenced policymakers, stimulated opportunity for collaboration, inspired public involvement and showcased research | >2,000 Km of rivers opened



The Happy Fish in Brazil

WFMF is the concept originator and coordinator of this global event - one of the crowning achievements of the Foundation. In 2020, we celebrated the fourth WFMD on October 24th, achieving huge participation despite the limitations of the Covid pandemic. WFMF coordinated WFMD with the campaign theme of Love Flows and hosted a number of activities:

EUROFISHION SONG CONTEST

Attracted 39 international contestants for our song contest connected to World Fish Migration Day..

"the best global fish/river advocacy event ever"
- Laura Wildman, USA

www.eurofashion.com



MIGRATORY FISH AWARD

Art contest in cooperation with Wildlife Forever: 2,700 contestants from 32 countries.

The drawing on the left is made by one of the winners: Eli Sherman.

WFMD2020 WEBINAR MARATHON

On October 24 WFMD event organizers from all continents hosted webinars and zoom calls. Over 350 participants joined, connected and shared their enthusiasm for migratory fish and rivers. The event was followed by several thousands online.



DAM REMOVAL EUROPE

The WFMF has the ambition to open up rivers for migratory fish. Inspired by dam removal successes in the USA, WFMF was a driving force in the creation of the Dam Removal Europe (DRE) initiative. The partners in this initiative aim to activate practitioners around Europe to take down out-of-use dams. The WFMF coordinates the DRE initiative, showcasing and sharing successful experiences and lessons learned through a multitude of outreach measures to inspire others to remove dams in their country. We intend to make dam removal a viable measure for river managers across Europe. Step by step we are moving towards a global movement.

Dam removal is already taking place in some parts of Europe. These removals are local initiatives driven by enthusiastic community members and stakeholders. However, there are still thousands of obsolete dams fragmenting Europe's rivers!

The overall ambition of DRE is to restore rivers in Europe to protect and reinforce high natural or cultural importance. Currently, there are many rivers in Europe that are fragmented by obsolete dams and weirs. Often, a lack of awareness, knowledge, support and funding for dam removals are bottlenecks to action. Therefore, DRE invests in the restoration of free-flowing rivers in Europe by joining and supporting dam removal projects and making dam removal a mainstream river management option.

By showcasing success stories to communities, governments and those in between, we are inspiring and activating others to open up more rivers. Together, we aspire to make dam removal a viable measure for river managers and to scale it up across Europe. Step by step, we are moving towards a global movement. Through this predominantly bottom-up process, we are creating a holistic approach to remove dams and reap the benefits. We can have healthy, free-flowing rivers full of fish for the benefit of all.

www.damremoval.eu

DAMBUSTERS

Dambusters documentary

a film showing great case studies of dam removals from across the world. This year a trailer was developed and the documentary will be launched in 2021. damremoval.eu/dambusters

AMBER

2020 marked the final year of the major Horizon 2020-funded AMBER project. WMF was a founder member of the consortium and was responsible throughout the 4- year project for a work package on Communication, Dissemination and Public Engagement through Citizen Science.

The EU Horizon2020 project, AMBER (Adaptive Management of Barriers in European Rivers), seeks to apply adaptive management to the operation of barriers in European rivers to achieve more effective and efficient restoration of stream connectivity. To do this, the project team has developed tools, models, and software that will allow hydropower companies and river managers to maximize benefits of adaptive management and minimize ecological impacts. This will improve energy security, help protect jobs, and

boost European competitiveness, particularly in rural economies, whilst improving the condition of rivers. This project will help preserve global biodiversity in rivers by decreasing fragmentation, promoting habitat connectivity, and evaluating the merits of different restoration actions through developed tools.

As a part of the project, we have: created the first assessment of stream connectivity across Europe to highlight where restoration is most needed; developed tools for guiding the restoration of river ecosystems; provided opportunities for real-time monitoring using citizen science; and demonstrated the first application of eDNA to help prioritise areas for conservation and barrier management.

www.amber.international

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Outreach

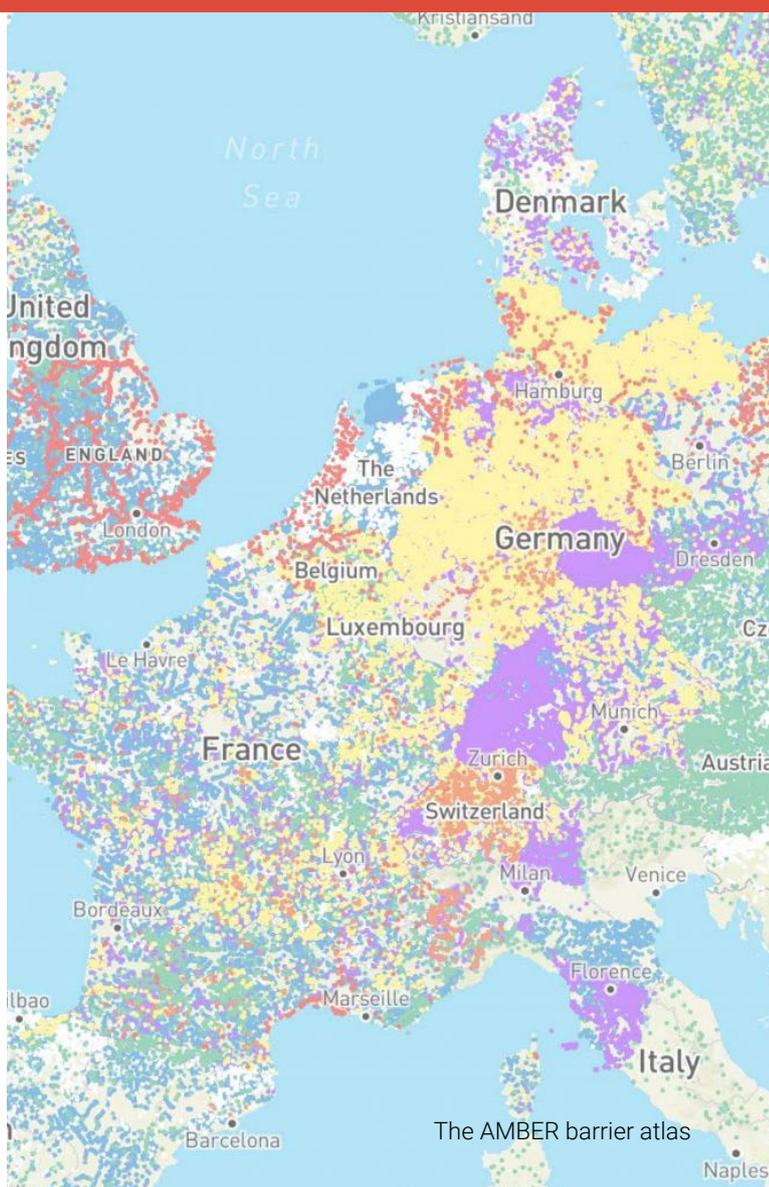
>1,400 users of the barrier atlas | 13,250 barriers recorded using the barrier tracker app | Reached over 70 million people through major publications | Average social reach of nearly 30.000 | EU Green Week 2020: Amber participated in the biggest annual environmental event, engaging thousands of individuals from Europe | At least 35 workshops and events were directly organized by the AMBER partners, involving more than 500 attendees throughout Europe.

Team

20 partners involved in the Consortium

Impact

The AMBER Barrier Atlas will be invaluable in supporting the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and it's aim of restoring at least 25,000 km of EU rivers to a free-flowing state. It will do this by providing a comprehensive overview of river barrier locations and type, and by facilitating targeted barrier removal to optimise value for money. Best practice guidance on adaptive barrier management in Europe: a magazine and three Policy Briefings summarising the policy implications of work carried-out by AMBER



Many species of migratory fish play a crucial role in ecosystems and in support human populations by providing nutrition and income. Despite their importance, little is known about the status of many of their populations and their conservation needs. Moreover, migratory fish are rapidly being eliminated from much of their natural range through unsustainable development involving river barriers.

In 2020 Cambridge Conservation Initiative funded a pilot study to map the global Swimways to identify potential priority areas, foster international cooperation and create awareness. WFMF works together with the IUCN, Cambridge University and UNEP WCMC. The project aims to balance conservation of migratory fish with human development in and around rivers. It will be the first step towards connecting fish, rivers and people globally using our concept of 'Swimways' – pathways along which fish need to migrate. The Swimways concept is based on the successful concept of Flyways, which has helped to protect migratory birds for the last eighty years.

This project will achieve its aims by working towards the following objectives:

www.globalswimways.com

1. Classify and map the world's freshwater fishes according to their migration patterns.

2. Develop a tool allowing policymakers and river managers to assess the impact of future infrastructure development on migratory freshwater fish.

3. Advocate for the conservation of migratory fishes with relevant decision-makers.

4. Raise awareness of the societal benefits of migratory fish species and their vulnerability to future infrastructure developments.

As part of this flagship project, scientists will create the first global map of fish migration routes, identifying migration hotspots or swimways and develop a new tool that highlights the presence of migration routes near existing or planned infrastructure. They will work with industry, governments and other organisations on the vulnerabilities and values of migratory fishes. The long-term ambition is to develop an updated global overview of migratory fish and Swimways (with input from international experts) and to integrate this as part of World Fish Migration Day. This is intended to provide decision-makers with relevant up-to-date information and to stimulate international information exchange, collaboration and awareness.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Outreach

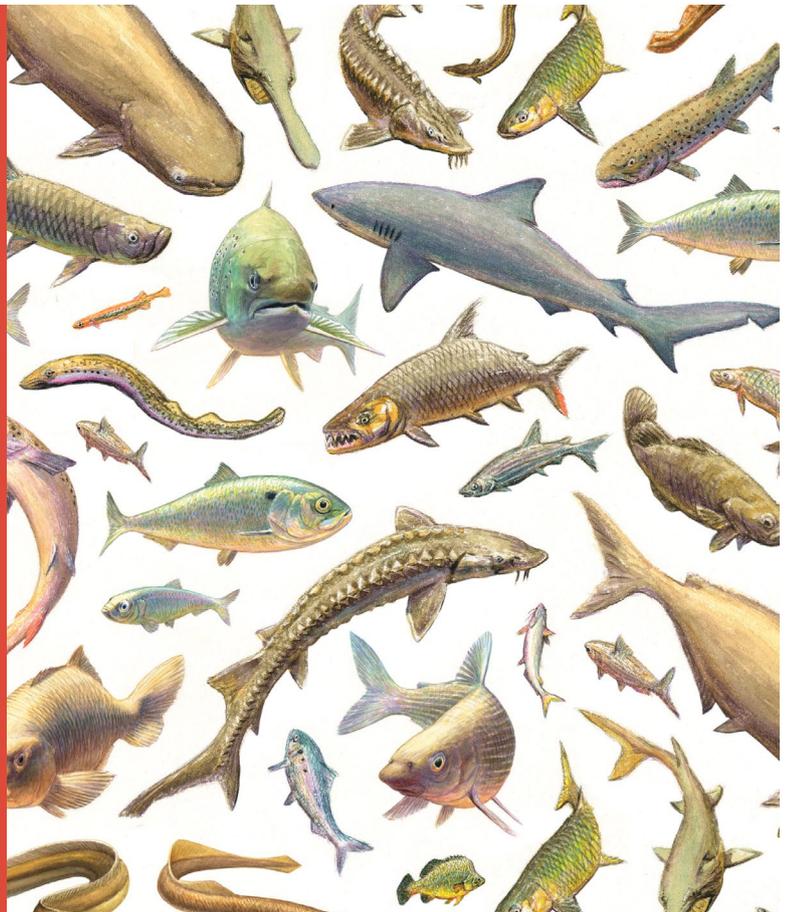
24-hr Global Swimway marathon with 2,000 attendees and >1,300 Youtube views | 2 in-person workshops | Living Planet Index resulted in 9 article features and a global reach of >80 million people

Partners and supporters

4 partners including IUCN and UNEP-WCMC | 18 organisations with advisory role

Impact

Engaged with CMS policy representatives | stimulated worldwide interest and support of Global Swimways | initiated discussions to create a globally approved Swimway Standard | demonstrated possibilities of mapping Global Swimways | identified potential to incorporate into CMS Atlas and connectivity fact sheet | website & map development | submitted 1 peer-reviewed publications in recognized journal



AFRICAN SWIMWAYS

African countries are experiencing a huge rise in dam construction on river systems. This is in stark contrast to Europe and North America where river practitioners are investing in dam removal and engaging the public to better understand the importance of free-flowing rivers on fish migration. In Africa, there appears to be little specific fish migration policy on a continental or national level. There is a big need for basic knowledge to map the routes of migratory fish, to create status reports, and to create plans to save and restore fish populations in rivers.

Thus a project was initiated with the aim to bring together fish and river experts to create awareness, share experiences from different countries and mobilize local organizations and communities to take action to save migratory fish and free-flowing rivers on the African continent.

The ambition is to get this theme onto the political agenda and create commitment to make change.

In 2020, with co-funding from WWF and Reaching Rivers, the Eastern African Swimway was initiated and successfully contributed to the development of >1000 people network in Africa.

www.reachingrivers.com/africanswimways/

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Outreach

Hosted two online seminars with >400 attendees | Website development | Building a network of >1,000 people

Partners and supporters

5 partners | 15 organisations with advisory role

Impact

Set up an advisory group | stimulated continent-wide interest and support | Demonstrated that there is enough data to map migration routes in Africa | generated support and a movement of >1,000 people | simulated continent wide knowledge exchange through webinars.



OUR TOOLS

BARRIER TRACKER

Through the AMBER project, the World Fish Migration Foundation created with partners the Barrier Tracker phone application. The app has helped to get the AMBER Atlas right, mapping barriers in European rivers. It allows users to take a picture of a barrier within a river, record some details about the barrier (type, size, working conditions, presence of a fish pass, etc.) and its location. This data is then up-loaded to our database and placed as a layer on our Atlas. Users can go out in their own back yards, hiking along nearby rivers to record barriers that otherwise might not be recorded!

By having these data in each of the participating countries, we can validate if predicted densities (as a result of missing or incomplete databases) of barriers are, in fact, true. The barriers recorded with the Barrier Tracker app can be viewed on the AMBER Citizen Science Portal. This can help inform how we can best manage barriers for a healthy river. We are currently looking if the app could be of use for regions other than Europe too.

www.amber.international

IN 2020 WE HAD A TOTAL OF 13,250 RECORDED BARRIERS TRACKED IN EUROPEAN RIVERS

Track barriers with the barrier tracker and help reconnect European rivers

AMBER Citizen Science project
LET IT FLOW

Record a New Obstacle

View Map

Barrier Type

CHECK PHOTO ^

DAM WEIR CULVERT

FORD SLUICE RAMP

OTHER

Available on the Google play

Available on the iPhone App Store

www.amber.international

MIGRATORY FISH FACTSHEETS

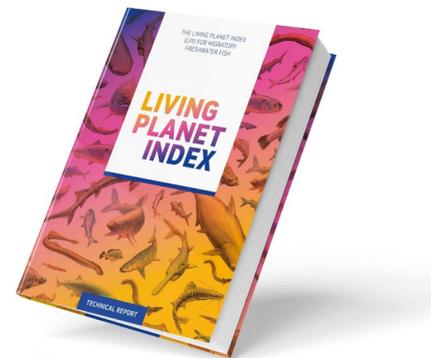
A new educational game translated into English, Dutch and German. WFMF launched the game by handing free packs to two special schools in The Netherlands as presents during the first Covid lock down.



LIVING PLANET INDEX

The Living Planet Index for Migratory Freshwater Fish is the first comprehensive global report on the status of migratory fish. The technical report finds migratory freshwater fish are under immense threat from human-made impacts and urgent action is required to halt and then reverse the alarming decline.

Further work and research are needed on the global status and trends of migratory fish, especially given their economic, environmental, cultural, and recreational importance around the world. Additionally, more research and trials on effective management strategies are needed to protect populations around the globe. The collaborators on this report hope that these findings will encourage countries to prioritize freshwater protections and effective management strategies.



HAPPY FISH NETHERLANDS

The Happy Fish is a symbol for people, organizations and projects that aim to create free migration for fish populations. This symbol unites initiatives, projects and people from all over the globe that wish to enable free passage for migratory fish. In the Netherlands the Happy Fish story began at the Afsluitdijk, where the new Fish Migration River development has begun. Happy Fish continues to share the message in the Netherlands at the Afsluitdijk Waddensea center, within the Blijevis.nl website, at schools, within nature areas and fish migration projects. WFMF coordinates the partnerships, knowledge exchange and sharing information through the Blijevis activities.

www.blijevis.nl



The Happy Fish statue in Canada
©Christina Little

FUTURE AMBITIONS

By 2030 we want to celebrate at least two river openings per day! There is still a lot to do to get there. Our aims for the upcoming five years are:

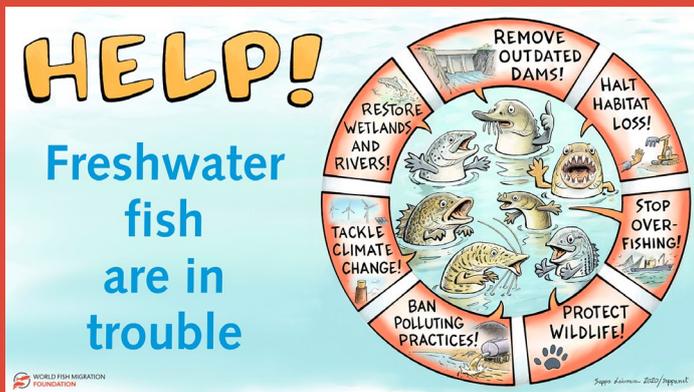
- **Connect with at least 20,000 practitioners, scientists and policymakers, from local to global.**
- **Continue growing the World Fish Migration Day event to reach 2,000 events in 2024.**
- **Open up 5,000 km of rivers through showcase projects before the end of 2025.**
- **Stimulate funding mechanisms for dam removal.**

WFMF is enabling river practitioners to remove dams and save rivers! We are providing showcases, tools and international experts. We excite a growing movement by celebrating dam removal, migratory fish and free-flowing rivers. We connect fish, rivers and people from local to global. This is us, this is WFMF!

Besides our goals in the next year we are also aim for more structural finance to give the foundation the opportunity to grow. One way is to seize the moment and attract funds and donors. Another way it to develop scalable business models.

For 2021, we will continue to connect, share, celebrate and support opening rivers! We expect many more highlights by connecting practitioners, sharing knowledge and tools. Some of these include:

- **Initiating 10 dam removals in Europe.**
- **Expanding the Dam Removal Europe coalition and movement and replicate dam removal as the silver bullet for restoring rivers**
- **Co-organising online events to share lessons learnt from all over the globe**
- **Launch the new World Fish Migration Day website**
- **Launching the first map of Global Swimways.**





FINANCIALS

FINANCIALS

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AUDITOR'S REPORT

1.1 ENGAGEMENT

In accordance with your instructions we have compiled the annual account 2020 of your company, including the balance sheet with counts of € 214,439 and the profit and loss account with a result of € 84,282.

1.2 ACCOUNTANT'S COMPILATION REPORT

The financial statements of Stichting Wereld Vismigratie at Groningen have been compiled by us using the information provided by you. The financial statements comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 2020, the profit and loss account and the cash flow statement for the year 2020 with the accompanying explanatory notes. These notes include a summary of the accounting policies which have been applied.

This compilation engagement has been performed by us in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standard 4410, "Compilation engagements", which is applicable to accountants. The standard requires us to assist you in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Civil Code. To this end we have applied our professional expertise in accounting and financial reporting.

In a compilation engagement, you are responsible for ensuring that you provide us with all relevant information and that this information is correct. Therefore, we have conducted our work, in accordance with the applicable regulations, on the assumption that you have fulfilled your responsibility. To conclude our work, we have read the financial statements as a whole to consider whether the financial statements as presented correspond with our understanding of Stichting Wereld Vismigratie. We have not performed any audit or review procedures which would enable us to express an opinion or a conclusion as to the fair presentation of the financial statements.

During this engagement we have complied with the relevant ethical requirements prescribed by the "Verordening Gedrags- en Beroepsregels Accountants" (VGBA). You and other users of these financial statements may therefore assume that we have conducted the engagement in a professional, competent and objective manner and with due care and integrity and that we will treat all information provided to us as confidential.

2. AUDIT

This audit includes the annual account for 2020 of the World Fish Migration Foundation, including the balance sheet with counts of € 214,439 and the profit and loss account with a result of € 84,282.

3 GENERAL

3.1 Company

The World Fish Migration Foundation is a non-profit organisation that advocates for free flowing swimways for the sake of migratory fish.

3.2 Board

On December 31, 2020 the board of supervisors consists of:

P. Bon
E. van der Bilt
A. Buijse

On December 31, 2020 the board of directors was formed by:

H. Wanningen

3.3 Appropriation of the nett result 2020

The profit for the year 2020 amounts to € 84,282 compared with a profit for the year 2019 of € 23,554.

The proposed appropriation of result is disclosed under other disclosure.

4. FINANCIAL POSITION

The balance sheet can be summarized as follows:

	<u>12/31/2020</u>	<u>12/31/2019</u>
Long term funds:	€	€
Corporate capital	104,607	20,325
Long term investments:		
Tangible fixed assets	6,091	5,845
Working capital	<u>98,516</u>	<u>14,480</u>

This amount is applied as follows:

Receivables, prepayments and accrued income	133,903	18,195
Cash and cash equivalents	74,445	128,996
	<u>208,348</u>	<u>147,191</u>
Debit: Short-term debt	109,832	132,711
Working capital	<u>98,516</u>	<u>14,480</u>

We will gladly provide further explanation upon request.

Sincerely yours,

C.G. Bultema, Accountant-Administratieconsulent
AaaBee Accountants B.V.

FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Balance sheet as at December 31, 2020

	12/31/2020	12/31/2019
ACTIVA	€	€
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible fixed assets		
Equipment	6,091	5,845
	6,091	5,845
CURRENT ASSETS		
Receivables, prepayments and accrued income	133,903	18,195
Cash and cash equivalents	74,445	128,996
	208,348	147,191
	214,439	153,036

	<u>12/31/2020</u>	<u>12/31/2019</u>
	€	€
PASSIVA		
EQUITY		
Other reserves	104,607	20,325
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade creditors	8,099	16,461
Taxes and social securities	33,882	14,839
Accruals and deferred income	67,851	101,411
	<u>109,832</u>	<u>132,711</u>
	<u>214,439</u>	<u>153,036</u>

2. PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT OVER 2020

	Actuals 2020	Actuals 2019
	€	€
Income		
Grants and revenues from activities	596,624	410,387
Other Revenues	44,142	99,091
Sum of Income	640,766	509,478
Expenses		
Acquisition income		
Attributable to activities	29,022	14,417
Management and administration		
Employee expenses	480,452	374,633
Amortisation and depreciation	2,415	1,638
Other operating expenses	43,926	94,717
	526,793	470,988
Balance before financial income and expense	84,951	24,073
Other operating expenses	-669	-519
	84,282	23,554
Appropriation of the results		
Other reserves	84,282	23,554



WORLD FISH MIGRATION
FOUNDATION