



Is there competition for the very lucrative Rhine River power plant concessions ?

The Kembs hydroelectric station was the first in the series of Rhine River power plants between Basel and Karlsruhe to have reached the end of its concession in 2007.

Several years of negotiations preceded renewal of the concession, which led to a major increase in the residual flows.

There was no competition between potential concession holders at the time, since EDF was the only candidate. The «market» has only recently opened up, meaning that EDF will no longer be able to obtain all new concessions almost systematically.

This change will also affect power plants on the Rhine and the «Grand Canal», whose concessions run out in the next few years. It's a sensitive topic in France, and the State still hasn't finalised the market liberalisation conditions. Is the government hoping to limit competition for EDF?

Regardless, it is theoretically possible that new players will come forward during the next concession renewals in Ottmarsheim (2028), Fessenheim and Vogelgrün (2032). **We'll find out soon, because concession applicants must express their intent 10 years in advance.**

EDF is no longer guaranteed to obtain the concessions, and will thus use all the means at its disposal to hold on to these new future concessions.

Beyond the risk of potential competition, EDF also has no guarantee of being reimbursed for the major investments that are needed to re-establish fish continuity.

As a result, EDF may attempt to delay the next major investments for Vogelgrün **if the State does not clearly define the rules for opening the market, which are essential to allow all concession holders to plan their long-term works and make risk-free investments.**

Vogelgrün : a bridge or tunnel for salmon?

EDF already stated at the Salmon Summit that it was seriously considering the Swiss solution of a «tunnel» for Vogelgrün.

This solution would guide the fish during the upstream migration towards the Old Rhine through a tunnel under the Vogelgrün lock. So the fishes can pass through the Vogelgrün obstacle on their own without any kind of adaptation.

It seems that EDF and the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) are discussing the feasibility of a tunnel. We'll hopefully learn what they decide during the next ICPR meeting on Vogelgrün issues on 22 March.

For more information: watch the presentation of Matthias Mende, IUB Engineering AG (CH) during the Salmon Summit: <https://vimeo.com/145923472>

Duration of concessions for the 10 hydroelectric plants on the Upper Rhine

Name	Start of the concession	Expiration of the concession	Concession
Kembs	1932	2007	EDF (F)
Ottmarsheim	1956	2028	EDF (F)
Fessenheim	1956	2032	EDF (F)
Vogelgrün	1959	2032	EDF (F)
Marckolsheim	1961	2037	EDF (F)
Rhinau	1963	2040	EDF (F)
Gerstheim	1967	2044	EDF (F)
Strasbourg	1970	2048	EDF (F)
Gambshiem	1974	2049	CERGA (F)
Iffezheim	1977	2052	RKI (D)

Source: ICPR, Report 158f, Restoration of Ecological Continuity for Fish Fauna on the Upper Rhine River, Summary Report on the Results of the Feasibility Study.



Rhine - Salmon Comeback

The 2015 «Salmon Summit», already online on our website



Salmon Summit 2015 - opening debate © ERN France

In October 2015, the city of Huningue (Alsace) hosted a high level Salmon Summit, organised by WWF Switzerland and ERN France.

More than 100 participants and speakers from 7 different countries attended this event, for which simultaneous interpretation was provided by ICPR.

«A salmon's life in the sea AND freshwater»

According to all the positive feedback, the symposium provided an excellent overview of problems and solutions throughout the Salmon's entire life cycle in the Rhine River Basin and the Ocean.

Once again, we would like to thank all the contributors, authorities, and organisations from Switzerland and the Alsace Region for their fascinating contributions and financial support. We were also very pleased with ICPR's patronage.

During excursions on the third day of the event, there was a great deal of interest in visiting the 6 km-long artificial river on the Island of Kembs.

As part of compensatory measures included in the renewal of its Kembs concession, EDF completely reactivated a former branch of the Rhine River.

For more information:

<http://alsace.edf.com>

«The French Ministry uninterested»

The French national bodies, unlike regional authorities and EDF, have shown no interest in this issue. Most notably, the Ministry of the Environment in Paris failed to send a high-level representative or provide any co-financing, offering only the weakest of apologies. **The Rhine is clearly not a priority in Paris.**

The Salmon Comeback campaign is a WWF Switzerland initiative, coordinated at the international level by the European Rivers Network (ERN). This campaign is supported by a growing coalition of NGOs.

World Fish Migration Day is a daylong global event to raise awareness about the importance of open rivers and migratory fish.

 **WORLD FISH MIGRATION DAY | MAY 21, 2016**



Local actions are being organised around the world. Events for the general public, research presentations, project inaugurations, etc.

Organise an event and add yours to the 129 events already registered.

www.worldfishmigrationday.com



www.salmoncomeback.org

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