

# Internal Newsletter

## Rhine Salmon comeback campagne

October 23th, 2013



### Welcome and Grüezi to Basel

The Ministers of the Rhine States are shortly due to meet in Basel. Some of the main concerns of the NGO with ICPR observer status will be included on the conference agenda.

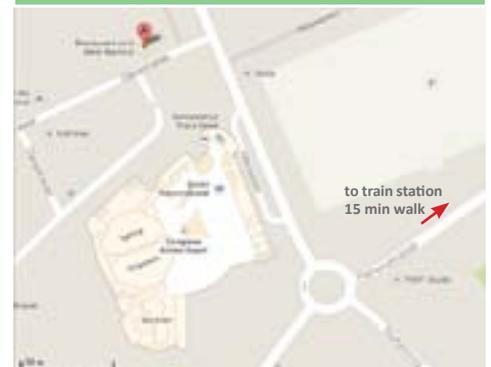
One of the key topics of the conference will be connectivity leading to ecological continuity – the main cause we are championing. The choice of Basel as conference venue was highly symbolic as it was here during the 2007 Bonn Ministerial Conference that the continuity of the Rhine through to Basel was called for and the resolution taken. However, little concrete progress has been made in the main waterway. All the more reason to make it the main cause of this year's Salmon Come Back campaign on October 28.

The various activities we have carried out since the spring have successfully contributed to placing the continuity of the Rhine on the agenda for the working groups and other ICPR meetings as well as for the French EDF (Electricité de France). Our direct interventions at the French Environment Ministry in Paris certainly had an impact.

We have every reason to believe that it should result in clear communication on the subject of full continuity as well as the production of a road map.

We hope that the French government will accept our demands and that the innovation and knowhow of EDF will give salmon a free run of the river by 2020.

To the NGO (ICPR Observer) and the action group : Meeting point at the Rhine Minister Conference in Basel, Oct. 28, 10h30, Restaurant Alte Warteck, Clara str. Riehenring, 100 m from Basler Congress Center (Messezentrum)



[salmoncomeback.org](http://salmoncomeback.org)

### Rhine Delegation attends International Salmon Conference in France

An official Rhine delegation participated in the International Salmon Conference held in France from October 10-12.

The Swiss members of the delegation were Ruedi Bösiger (WWF Switzerland) and Samuel Gründler (SFV) while Germany was represented by Jörg Schneider (Expert), Gerhard Bartl, Jörg Lange (Regiowasser/BBU) and Reinhart Sosat (LFVBW). The French delegates were Gérard Burkard (Saumon Rhin) and Robert Erb (Féd. Pêche Bas Rhin). Unfortunately, Jean

Wencker (Alsace Nature) and Stephan Stähler (Wolftal salmon hatchery) had to drop out at the last minute. The ICPR Chairman sent an interesting welcoming speech in which he praised the international cooperation between the Loire, Allier and Rhine rivers. There was a stimulating debate between experts unhindered by language barriers and as well as most instructive informal discussions with high-level EDF representatives during the Gala Dinner organised in honour of the Loire-Rhine cooperation. A further step forward in the technical cooperation between the Rhine and the Loire? A tour of the largest salmon breeding farm in Chanteuge by part of the delegation rounded off the

programme. Unfortunately, the visit to the Poutès dam had to be called off at the last minute due the sudden arrival of winter in the upper Allier valley. But there will be other occasions. EDF has announced that the 17 m dam, the last major obstacle for the salmon in the Allier (despite the installation of a lift), will be dismantled in 2015/2016 to make way for a 3.8 m weir which can be completely lowered.

The Conference organisers – the European Rivers Network and SOS Loire Vivante – would like to thank all the delegation members for their participation in this successful event which brought together 400 experts and high-level representatives.



# Rhine-Salmon Comeback

## River open to salmon in Brittany/ Normandy: a source of inspiration for the Rhine catchment area

Knocking down dams has become a popular pastime in France. The latest example is the decision to dismantle the 33 m high Vésin dam on the Sélune River in the vicinity of the Mont St Michel Bay. The project was presented at the Salmon Symposium in Brioude by the Seine-Normandy Water Agency.

A second lower demodulator dam is set to disappear from the horizon. What is behind this spectacular dismantling operation? Salmon. The Sélune is historically home to salmon and features on the list of rivers to be cleared. The EDF has a big job ahead of it.



Vezin dam

© J.P. Doron

When can we expect to see the same happen in Germany and Switzerland? For how long will we continue to see small power plants being built in rivers which form the migration corridor of fish?

## LAST MINUTE

The NGO NABU (Germany) is joining our coalition ! Welcome to our friends !

Editor

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## LARA heading for Basel

LARA, the 4 m long cardboard salmon is on the road again. It will start its journey on October 25 in Strasbourg and travel over land to Freiburg and Basel before getting on board a solar powered boat for the last few miles of its journey as far as the Middle Bridge ready for a symbolic welcome from the local townsfolk. To find out more, see the box on this page «To come».



© LARA

## Small hydroelectric power stations built in rivers : Better to convert than to build again

A good example is the power station in Willstätt on the River Kinzig where a major obstacle was overcome in the spring. The plant, boasting a brand new fish pass and offering considerable energy savings, was inaugurated in April in the presence Baden-Württemberg's Environment Minister. The Kinzig is now ready to welcome its first salmon. We can only hope that thanks to the reopening of the fish pass in Iffezheim and regular salmon restocking in Wolftal, we will once again see abundant salmon swimming in the Kinzig.

The Salmoncomeback campaign has been initiated by WWF Switzerland and coordinated on an international level by European Rivers Network. The campaign is supported by a growing broad coalition of NGOs.

## What happened this last months

March - July :

- Presentation of the campaign for potential coalition partners
- Presentation of our campaign and its goals to the French Ministry
- Meeting between NGOs and EDF top-management in Fessenheim (France)
- Launch of the petition in Switzerland (Media action in Basel and short 4 1/2 mn documentary broadcasted on Swiss Info (to be found on salmoncomeback.org)
- ICRP Plenary meeting in Koblenz : presentation of our action
- Participation in a documentary film (German TV)
- Big Jump events (information)

August :

- Full details of the campaign and petition sent to all Ministries of the Rhine basin countries
- Website [www.salmoncomeback.org](http://www.salmoncomeback.org) online
- Official launch of the petition in France, Germany, and the Netherlands

September

- 7: Publishing Salmoncomeback Newsletter #1
- Sept. 9 : First preparatory meeting of the Ministers conference in Mainz (content) with all NGOs with a ICPR Observer status.
- 11-12: Lobbying during the ICPR Workgroup Meetings (Fish group)
- 12: Preparatory meeting with the Green Rhine Corridor Network members

October

- 01 : Follow-up meeting «Kembs Dam»
- 10-12 : Rhine delegation to the international Salmon Symposium in France,

## To come

25 - 28 : A 4 meter long Salmon called LARA will travel from Strassbourg to Basel

- 25 : Media Action in Strasbourg (Alsace Nature /ERN/ BUND), 14 -17h, Place Corbeau-PlaceKleber
- 26 : Media action in Freinurg in B. (Regiowasser / ERN / BUND), 9h30-18h, Müstergasse
- 27. Media action in Basel (WWF CH /ERN), Mittlere Rheinbrücke, Zentrum and ZOO
- 28 : Media action and Rhine Ministers conference (WWF CH all NGOs)

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28 : Rhine Minister Conference, Basel / CH

November / December : Coalition Meeting / Debriefing,



with financial support of : **patagonia**