Implementation of the WFD in the lower Rhine delta

Roadmap for fish migration: successes of our regional approach in the Rhine-West sub basin, The Netherlands

INBO, Bucharest, 13 November 2014
River basins in Europe

Rhine-west sub basin

Schelde
Maas
Rijn

River basins in Europe
Rhine-West Regional Water Council

Rhine-West sub basin water authorities:

- 2 ministries
- 4 provinces
- 8 water boards
- representatives of 170 municipalities
WFD: intensive multi-level cooperation ...
The Rhine-West Water Council and partners

THE ROAD TO HEALTHY WATER
Rhine-West Region

- Main gateway, economically and ecologically
Rhine-West Region

- Main gateway, economically and ecologically
- Habitat fragmentation: 520 barriers
Rhine-West Region

ROADMAP
FOR FISH MIGRATION IN THE DUTCH DELTA

Belemmeringen vismigratie

Kunstwerk
- gemaal; windmolen
- sluis
- stuw

Bron: WIS, 1990
Rhine-West Region

- Main gateway, economically and ecologically
- Habitat fragmentation: 520 barriers
- Sharp decline in migratory fish stocks
• Main gateway, economically and ecologically
• Habitat fragmentation: 520 barriers
• Sharp decline in migratory fish stocks
• Focus on opening up migration routes instead of lifting single barriers
Rhine-West Region

- Main gateway, economically and ecologically
- Habitat fragmentation: 520 barriers
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- Focus on opening up migration routes instead of lifting single barriers
- Rhine-West successful **joint approach:** Roadmap for fish migration
Roadmap fish migration

Methods & Results:
• In workshops making good use of local knowledge fish experts ALL water authorities
• Analysis different individual fish migration approaches
• Joint vision on fish migration (ecological role of region within the river basin)
ROADMAP FOR FISH MIGRATION IN THE DUTCH DELTA
Pictures of successes in Rhine-west sub basin ...
Roadmap fish migration prioritizing method:

Detailed roadmap
• Highways (blue)
• Regional waters (red)
• Local waters (yellow)
• Top30 prioritity measures (mainly at junctions highways and regional waters)
Roadmap fish migration research & monitoring:
• Routes rather than individual measures
• Quantitative effect Top30 measures on restoration of fish stocks, ie European Eel
• Good ecological status is indicated by healthy fish stocks, particularly migratory fish like Eel
From Regional Roadmap to River Basin approach

1. Regional approach *complements* Masterplan ICPR
2. Making good use of regional fish expert knowledge
3. Dissemination of Rhine-West Roadmap method
4. Compare with other North Sea deltas
5. Joint Rhine River Basin Roadmap approach on regional, national, international level