

ជាតិពណ៌រូបត្រីស្រុកយើង
Coloring fish in our country

Organized by
Wanders of the Mekong

ត្រីកន្ទួបខ្នុរ
Datioides undecimradiatus
Mekong tiger perch



WORLD FISH
MIGRATION DAY

BREAK FREE

2022 REPORT

[WORLD FISH MIGRATION DAY.COM](http://WORLDFISHMIGRATIONDAY.COM)

MADE POSSIBLE BY

#WORLD FISH MIGRATION DAY

#BREAK FREE

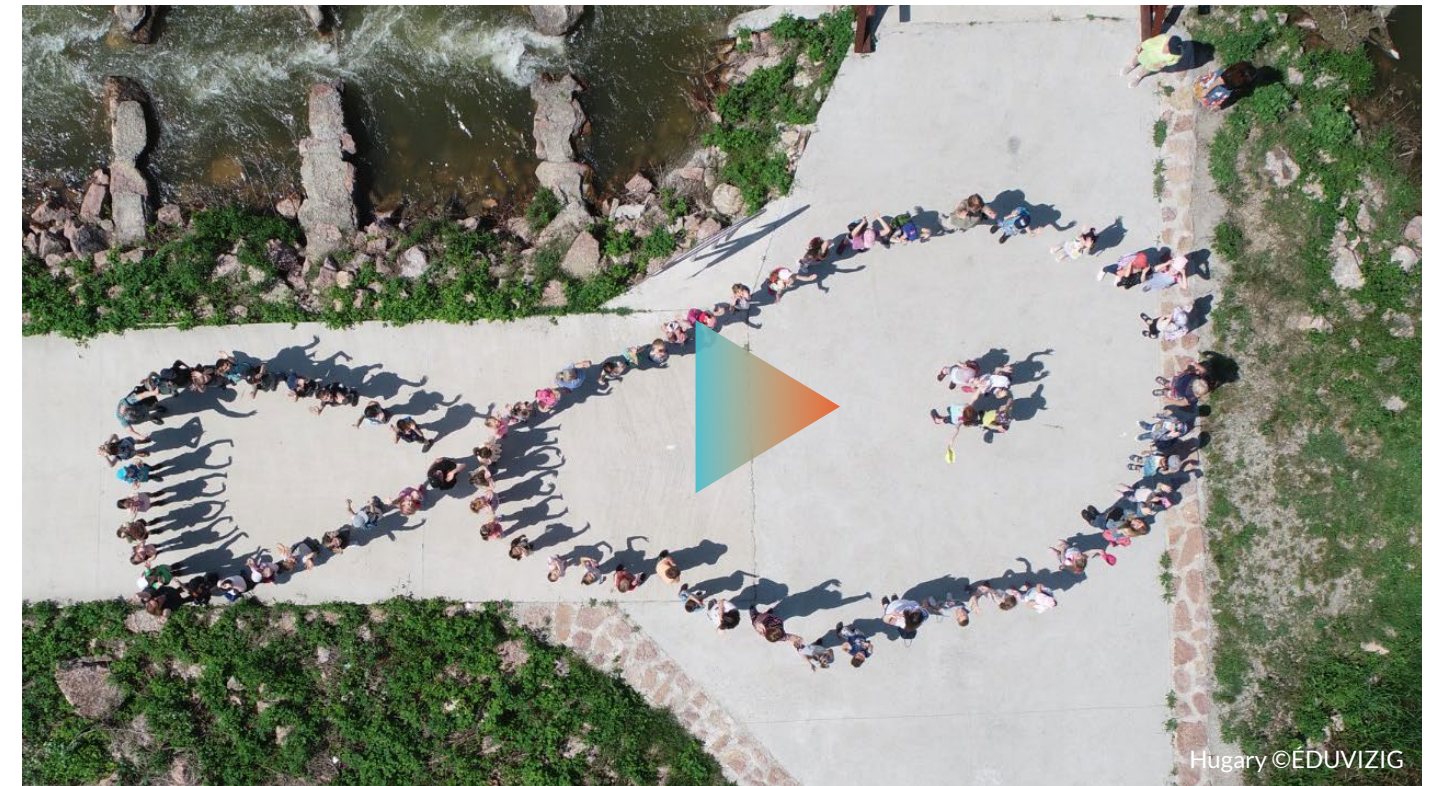


BACK ON TRACK AND BREAKING FREE



BREAKING FREE FROM BARRIERS LIKE DAMS AND CULVERTS

World Fish Migration Day (WFMD) culminates every two years in a global celebration to create awareness about the importance of migratory fishes, whose populations have declined on average by 76% since 1970's. This is extremely concerning not just for ecosystems, but also the hundreds of millions of people globally that depend on freshwater fisheries for their livelihoods, for food and economic stability.



This year WFMD was celebrated on the 21st of May with two main global Hubs, one at the Fish Migration River at the Afsluitdijk, in The Netherlands and the other one in Lisbon, Portugal, where the 7th Annual Dam Removal International Seminar was hosted by ANP | WWF Portugal, World Fish Migration Foundation, Agência Portuguesa do Ambiente, Wetlands International, the European Open Rivers Programme and The Nature Conservancy.

After the hard times of the COVID-19 global pandemic, we are all step by step getting our freedom back. This inspired the WFMD 2022 theme: "BREAK FREE", which can be interpreted in many ways:

Breaking free from COVID,

Breaking free from barriers like dams and culverts,

Breaking free with new innovations and actions to open up rivers and help migratory fishes completing their life cycle, and Breaking free of barriers that prevent us from doing what we really want to do...

[Visit the website](#)

WFMD2022 GOALS

In May 2022 we all did break free for WFMD. This day was again an enormous success and achieved the largest mobilization and awareness reach compared to any previous WFMD or similar water-oriented global celebration. We reached all of our goals including:

1. **Raise global awareness** about free-flowing rivers, migratory fish, their importance for nature and people and the surmountable threats they face.
2. Stimulate individuals and organizations all over the world to **show their success stories** about how we can improve the situation for migratory fish.
3. Motivate citizens and colleagues around the world **to work together** to protect and restore swimways of migratory fish.



Achieved goals

RAISED GLOBAL AWARENESS



A record number of 78 different countries (6 more than 2020) hosted 473 events. Moreover, nine new countries joined WFMD for the first time this year. We broke the record for numbers of events in Africa and Asia with 37 and 44 events in each continent, respectively.

Nine new countries that had never participated before joined WFMD2022: Burkina Faso, French Guiana, Ivory Coast, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Thailand, Togo, Uzbekistan, Zimbabwe.

The potential reach of these events exceeded all of the previous World Fish Migration Days as well, with almost 200 million people reached through social media posts (a preferred way of communicating WFMD) with

hashtag #WorldFishMigrationDay, events, creative contests, podcasts, news stories, radio shows, TV programs, newsletters articles, and more.

Events engaged a diversity of sectors and people of all ages, from local communities (74 %), practitioners/stakeholders (57 %) and decision makers (39 %), to children (51 %) and student events (42 %).

The Fish Flags art contest had a great role in increasing the reach with young generations and having a larger impact than previous years. In this year's WFMD, we also proudly celebrated that more than 1.000 km of rivers opened up and that events involved more decision-makers throughout the globe.

***A record number
of 78 different
countries hosted
473 events.***

Achieved goals
SHOWED SUCCESS STORIES



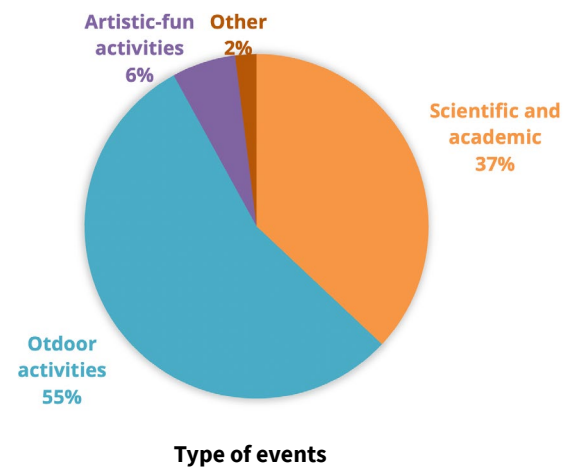
The proud winners of the first ever DRE award Portugal ©Sam Boireaud

The very first Dam Removal Award was also announced, which went to Hanna Ollikainen, CEO of South Karelia Foundation for the removal of the Kangoski Dam on Finland's Hiitolanjoki River! The 10,000 prize money will help with further dam removals in Finland.

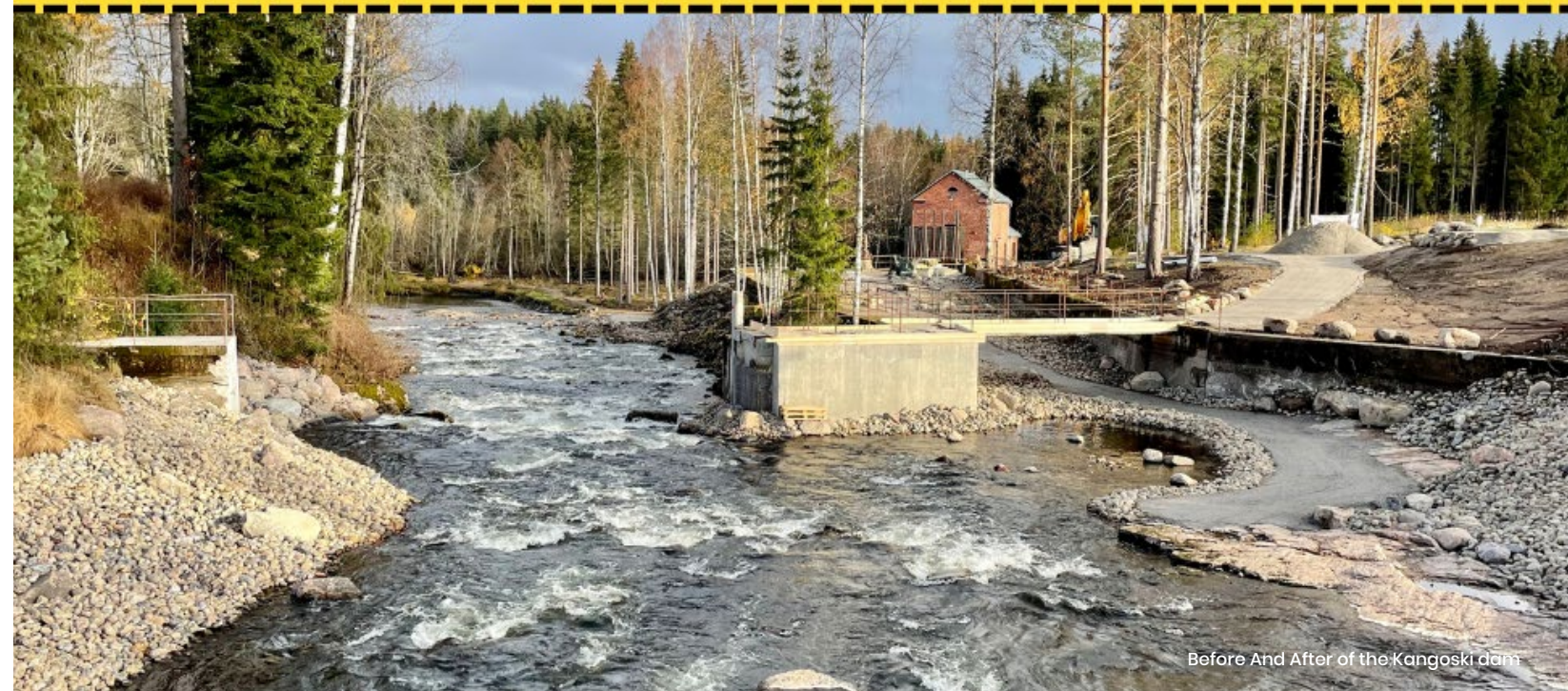
WFMD helped to showcase the work that different organizations around the world make for our migratory fishes and rivers. Global events took on many forms this year; many with a strong scientific and academic tone (37 %) that included webinars, conferences, book or guide launches, talks at schools and universities, open houses activities at visitor centers and workshops.

Others focused on outdoor activities (55%) such as river or coastal clean-ups, camp trips, citizen science activities near rivers, fish and river restoration monitoring, fish releases, fishway visits, kayaking/canoeing and boating activities, river restoration project visits (barrier, removals, fishways, levees), dam removal inaugurations and outdoor school activities near rivers.

In addition, events focused on inspiring through artistic-fun activities (6 %) like concerts, performances, theater plays, exposition in museums and aquariums, festivals, film and documentary screenings and even an escape room game at a laboratory!



BEFORE & AFTER



Before And After of the Kangoski dam



For this year's WFMD more than 3.000 organizations worked together to connect fish, rivers and people across the globe.

Achieved goals

WE WORKED TOGETHER

We connected with events throughout the WFMD week such as interviews with participants in Bhutan, USA, Czech Republic and Colombia. We hosted a 1.5hr [Live Show webinar](#) from a studio in the Lisbon Science Museum with MC Chris Bowser (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation). He visited with practitioners on five continents (New Zealand, Mongolia, The Netherlands, South Africa, Colombia and Hawai'i).

He was joined with celebrity special guests: Jeremy Wade (from River

Monsters – Animal Planet), Zeb Hogan (from Monsters Fish – National Geographic Wild) and Larry Dwayne, last year's Eurofishion winner, rapper and environmentalist from Kenya. For the first time in the history of WFMD, there was an open zoom link where organizers could join in and connect with other WFMD participants. This idea was extremely fun and a great success. We all had a chance to connect with different organizations from different countries and to listen to their stories and events they were celebrating.



"Our event was so fun, it was educational, with a moving speaker, and engaging for all ages. We held the outside event near two dams and had several river tours as well."

- Christine Force
(Royal River Alliance) USA

OUTREACH AND IMPACT NUMBERS

200 Million

People engaged through media

473

Events

78

Countries

3,100

Organizations involved

70,000

WFMD Event Attendees*

+1,000

Kilometres of Rivers Opened Up

*This number is based on survey responses and the number of event attendees is likely higher.

EVENTS AND OTHER HIGHLIGHTS



Mud Ball Festival. Alianza Nacional Rios y Cuenclas de Costa Rica. ©Alianza Nacional Rios y Cuenclas de Costa Rica

COSTA RICA



River clean up at 21 locations. River Clean Up Lithuania and ©Green Policy Institute.

LITHUANIA



Celebrate a new happy fish location. Patagonia. Living Rivers Foundation. ©WWF Germany.

GERMANY



Escape Game. ©GÉPOG (Groupe d'Etude et de Protection des Oiseaux en Guyane)

FRENCH GUIANA



Memorial of Freshwater Discovery Pioneer in Michigan ©Shorkel Michigan.

USA



Festival that included: BMU scouts competitions, Beach cleaning, awareness Sessions and a traditional Drama group dance/ Performance.

©The Nature Conservancy

TANZANIA



Evento en Rio Serpis (Gandia, Valencia) ©Virginia Garófano

SPAIN



Tahuna Torea Kayak Day ©EMR- Tahuna Torea

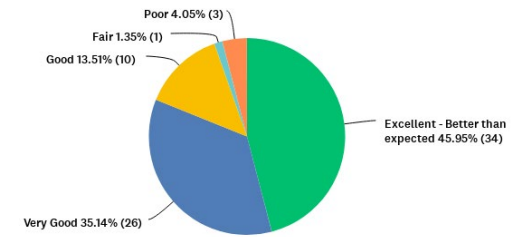
NEW ZEALAND

Successes And Impact

WFMD2022 WAS A SUCCESS

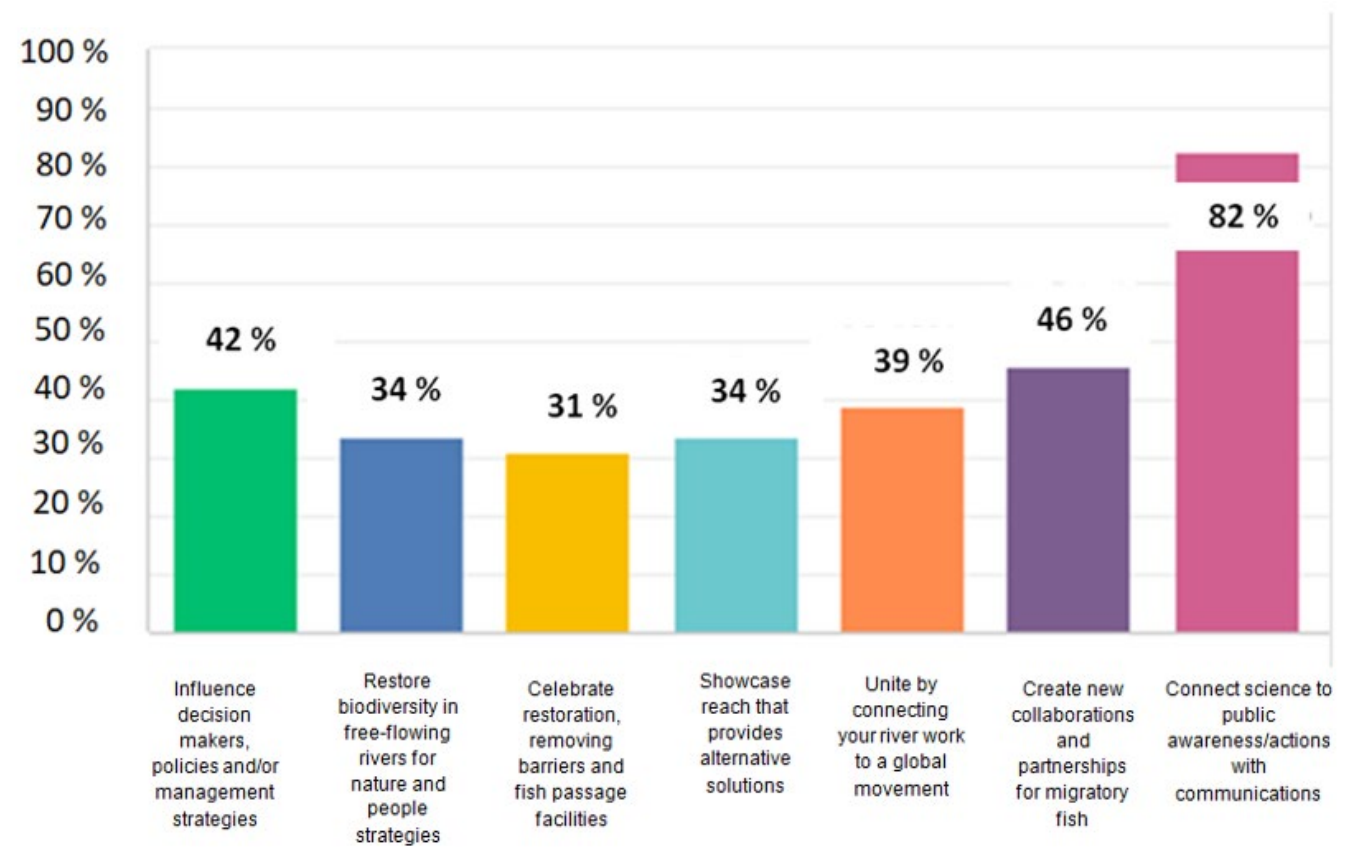
During and after WFMD an immense amount of positive feedback was shared on social media and sent to the WFMD team. We followed up with a survey to evaluate the highs and lows of the local events. Overall, from the 74 organizers surveyed, **95 % of the organizers regarded their events as being a great success**, with most events ratings between good to better

than expected. The rest (5%) considered the outcome of their event poor or fair because they would like to have more time to prepare their events, advertise to get more attendees, or had poor weather conditions. Luckily most had a large number of visitors, good involvement from the guests and countrywide impact.



Overall, how do you think your event went?

IMPACT ACHIEVED WFMD 2022



Results from Survey asking participants to specify what impact they achieve with their events in 2022

[VIEW ALL EVENTS](#)

If you want to see more pictures and feedback from the rest of events click the button on the left to go to our WFMD2022 archive.

Successes And Impact

WE CONNECTED SCIENCE TO PUBLIC AWARENESS WITH COMMUNICATION



Voces de la naturaleza –
Edición Peces migratorios.
Paraguay ©Para La Tierra

Survey results were similar to what we have seen for previous WFMDs, according to the this year's survey, 82% of the events hosted helped raise local or national awareness – a crucial first step in restoring rivers and bringing back migratory fishes. This was made possible by many different groups: researchers, biologists, ecologists, politicians, students from schools to universities, local communities, foundations, NGOs, water authorities, scouts groups, research institutes, non profits organizations, water keepers, fishermen associations, angling clubs, museums or aquariums,

Paraguay

At the mouth of the Ñeembucú stream children learned through art projects about the cycle of migratory fishes and about the challenges they have to face. Fundación Para La Tierra. Paraguay. (photo above)

Poland

Different activities with children and their parents were hosted: art contest Happy Fish, quizzes, fish species identification, etc. Raba River (Osieczany village). (See photo right page).

Malaysia

A degraded mangrove area was rehabilitated by a volunteer public group. Malaysian Nature Society.

"raising children and their grandmothers' awareness"

- Ewa Sufin-Jacquemart (Fundacja Strefa Zieleni). Poland



World Fish Migration Day at Raba River
(Osieczany village)
Poland ©Joanna D. Wójcik



42% of events directly influenced and engaged decision-makers, policies and/or management strategies. We think policy is a key component in the movement to save fishes and rivers.

Successes And Impact

WE INFLUENCED DECISION MAKERS, POLICIES AND/OR MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Portugal
[The 7th Dam Removal International Seminar](#) (organized by WFMF in cooperation with WWF Portugal-APA) hosted talks from a diversity of politicians and decision makers such as the advisor for free-flowing river restoration in Sustainable development and Strategic Change Group in the Ministry of Environment in Lithuania; Senior Project Manager at Environment Agency from the UK; Fisheries Technical Specialist at Environment Agency from the UK; President of the Portuguese Environmental Agency; Vice-President of the Portuguese Environment Agency; and the Policy officer at the Directorate General for Environment of the European Commission.

Paraguay
 The Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development from Paraguay declared the World Fish Migration Day 2022 (May 21st) as a National Environmental Interest Day.

Mongolia
 The Nature Conservancy partnered to host a half-day conference focused on the value of free-flowing rivers and how they may be threatened by agricultural, damming, and mining projects that could impact core values of the Mongolia's people and ecosystems for the amazing taimen and local communities throughout including in Russia and China. It was attended by representatives of most of Mongolia's water authorities, government officials, and speakers from around the country and the USA.

Global Petition
 Calling for Urgent Action to Save Migratory Freshwater Fish. 402 organizations from 86 countries signed a petition to support the ambition to save migratory freshwater fish to protect biodiversity, food sources, and livelihoods.

Spain
 A guided tour along the four fishways built in the Arlanzon River in Burgos to get the attention of decision makers and politicians.

Ghana
 A conference, exposition/exhibition/ selling and Slam on Fish Migration dealt with the following topics: ecology of fish migration, legislation and crossing infrastructures for fish migration. Some politicians and environmental agency workers attended that conference.



WE RESTORED BIODIVERSITY IN FREE-FLOWING RIVERS FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE



Coastal Cleaning For Migration!
Turkey ©Meriç Albay

34 % of the events of this WFMD restored biodiversity in free-flowing rivers for nature and people. Some examples of this type of events are: fish releases, reforestation of river basins and coastal clean ups.

Cambodia

Release of a Stingray of 400 pounds and 13 feet back in the Mekong River. Wonders of the Mekong, community of Koh Preah and the Royal University of Agriculture and the Royal University of Phnom Penh. (See photo right page).

Turkey

Restoration and maintenance of a coastal free of pollution and good health. Hosted by DenizTemiz Derneği/ TURMEPA. (See photo above)

Ethiopia

River basin restoration with vegetation. Debre Tabor University. (See photo right)



Legal and Appropriate Fishing for Sustainable Utilization
of Fish in Rib Dam
Ethiopia ©Desalegn Alene



Release of Giant Freshwater Stingray
Cambodia ©Chhut

Successes And Impact

WE CELEBRATED RESTORATION, REMOVING BARRIERS AND FISH PASSAGE FACILITIES



The celebration of river restoration and barrier removals took an important role this year as the theme was "BREAK FREE". A total of at least 1000km of free flowing rivers were opened in WFMD2022

United States of America

Over the past five years, the China Lake Alewife Restoration Initiative in Maine has removed dams and built fishways at six dams on Outlet Stream in Vassalboro, reconnecting China Lake to the Sebasticook River all the way to the ocean. Eventually the restored run is expected to total close to a million returning adult alewives. The Sebasticook has the world's largest run of river herring, about 6 Million/year! Hosted by Maine Rivers.

United States of America

Pelletier Dam Removal. Removing this dam will restore access for brook trout and other fish and wildlife to about 37 miles upstream of the dam. Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. (See photo right page).

Uzbekistan

Most streams, rivers, canals, water reservoirs and lakes are fully regulated in Central Asia due to the development of intensive irrigated agriculture and hydrotechnical construction. For this event a workshop was devoted to understanding the impact of human activity on fish migration in Central Asian waters. Hosted by NRU TIIAME

Europe-wide Dam Removal Factsheet launched. The Living European Rivers Initiative

This includes facts and figures about dam removal and how it is the most important restoration measure to restore rivers in Europe. It shows the benefits of barrier removals not just for fish and communities, but also for improving greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity and safety. Hosted by WWF. Europe.

[Download the factsheet here](#)





A field trip for appreciating migratory organisms in the Shi-Jai-Kou creek of the Hengchun Peninsula in the Pingtung County, Taiwan ©Soil and Water Conservation Bureau

34% of the events showcased some forms of fish passages, school activities and conferences through science research and connection with the local communities of different ages.

Successes And Impact

WE SHOWCASED REACH THAT PROVIDES ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

Taiwan

A field trip for appreciating migratory organisms in the Shi-Jia-Kou creek of the Hengchun Peninsula in the Pingtung County. Hosted by Soil and Water Conservation Bureau. (See photo above).

Cambodia

Art activities for children were set up during World Fish Migration Day at the Bophana Center in Phnom Penh. The objective of this event was to let people know that we have to be responsible fish eaters and care for their rivers if we want to continue having this important source of sustenance. Hosted by Young Eco Ambassador. (See photo right page).

Burkina Faso

Commitment from the national dam committee to better collaborate with fish specialists to consider building fish passes in future dams, while finding solutions for improving the current dams. Hosted by IUCN, University of Ouagadougou Joseph Ki-Zerbo, University of Ouahigouya, INERA, Directorate General Fishery Resources, Fishermen organization, Fish processors women association, Water Resources Commission, Fishery Commission. (See photo right).



Conference, exposition/selling and Slam on Fish Migration Burkina Faso ©IUCN



Celebrating World Fish Migration Day Cambodia ©YOUNG AMBASSADORS

Successes And Impact

WE UNITED BY CONNECTING YOUR RIVER WORK TO A GLOBAL MOVEMENT



Fish Window Campaign
UK ©Unlocking the Severn, Barbara Evripidou

An amount of 39% of the organizers got united by connecting their river work to a global movement. A fishway visit, conferences and coastal clean-ups are some examples of this theme.

United Kingdom

This year, new fish passes have unlocked the River Severn for the May Fish Migration for the first time in nearly 180 years! Unlocking the Severn. (See photo above).

Kyrgyzstan

Half-day conference held to spread awareness of the fish migration challenges, its importance, worldwide efforts and potential to engage in

similar activities. Center for Civic Engagement at the American University of Central Asia (See photo page 15).

Algeria

Clean up on the mouth of the Oued Mazafran and sensibilisation activities for children with Centre National de Recherche et de Développement de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture and Association Sportive Wifak Kolea (See photo right page).

India

The Nethravathi River is the lifeline of Dakshina Kannada district originating in the western ghats and reaching Arabian sea in the west. College of Fisheries Science, Gumla BAU Ranchi Jharkhand (See photo page 25).

"Conserving lake Tanganyika is conserving the people of lake tanganyika, their fish biodiversity and their culture"

- Peter Limbu
(The Nature Conservancy). Tanzania



Oued Mazafran mouth clean up
Algeria ©M. Salim DJERRAH and M. Yazid AOUISSI



46% of the participants created new collaborations and partnerships with different organizations in order to save migratory fishes. One of these examples was the event we hosted in Lisbon in cooperation with APA-WWF Portugal.

Successes And Impact

WE CREATED NEW COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR MIGRATORY FISH

Colombia

Raising awareness about the importance of free-flowing rivers and migratory fishes, in these times of climate emergency, and continuing to promote the World Fish Migration Day which is to CONNECT FISH, RIVERS AND PEOPLE. Hosted by Neotropical Cuenca, Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje, SENA, SENNOVA and TECNOACADEMIA. (See photo above).

Australia

Hosted by Cairns OzFish Unlimited Chapter, in partnership with Dawul Wuru's Yirrganydji Land and Sea Rangers, Cairns Airport, Terrain NRM, Wet Tropics Waterways and James Cook University researchers, the event is part of a global series celebrating fish life and raising awareness about fish migratory habits. Hosted by OzFish Unlimited. (See photo right).



IMPACT RESULTING FROM CELEBRATING WFMD SINCE 2014

Here is some feedback from some of the organizations who have been involved with WFMD since 2014:

There has been new passage developments on the Columbia River dams that specifically help Pacific Lamprey migrate safely

- Dave'y Lumley - Yakama Nation Fisheries. United States.

"Lake Tana was recognized as a Biosphere Reserve"

- Abebe Getahun - Addis Ababa University, Bahir Dar University, Debre Tabor University, Bahir Dar Fish and Other Aquatic Life Research Center. Ethiopia.

"Angling regulations and river restoration efforts have occurred attempting to rehabilitate Yukon River drainage salmon run."

Kevin Fraley - Midnight Sun Fly Casters. United States.

"New regulations to conserve fishes"

Letro - Nature Conservation Division. Bhutan.

"The National Environmental Standards for Freshwater 2020 introduced minimum fish passage design standards for consents as well as setting rules for the construction of culverts, weirs, fords, and dams to meet the requirements for fish passage set out in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020."

Sjaan Bowie - Department of Conservation. New Zealand.

"National surface water restoration program has been established and the measures for particular barriers or affected river sections are included within national river basins plans, "economically significant aquatic species" concerning diadromous fish, were mentioned in that plans."

Ewa Leś - Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB). Poland.

FISH FLAGS COMPETITION

This year we wanted to make something different from the past three years with our partner Wildlife Forever, instead of a drawing contest or Song contest, we held a Fish Flag Contest! Our 15 judges from 9 countries (with Zeb Hogan as the head judge) had no easy task to choose the winners between 159 submissions from 14 countries from 5 continents. There was also a special category from The Netherlands, where 50 participants entered from schools across the country. The awards ceremony formed part of the Dutch hub at the Afsluitdijk Waddencentrum.

We were thoroughly impressed with each and every one of the entries! In our minds, everyone was a winner. To see the entries, check out our website and see what creative artwork these young students created celebrating fish! During the WFMD Live Show we announced the winners of the 2022 Fish Flag Contest!

According to the survey, the kids that participated were very happy and excited with this contest.

[VIEW ALL SUBMISSIONS](#)

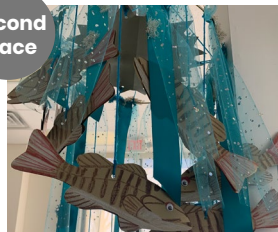
5-12 years old

Winner!



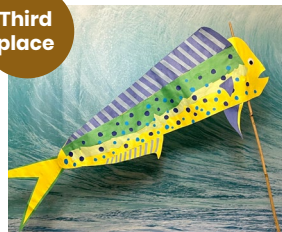
Rose Lee, 9 - USA
Three-Spined Stickleback

Second place



Elijah Massey, 9 - USA
Smallmouth Bass

Third place



Claire Chou, 9 - USA
Dorado

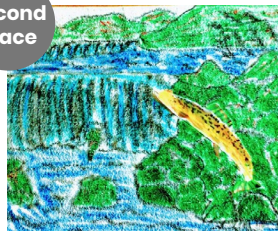
5-12 years old (The Netherlands)

Winner!



Mei-Ling, 9
The Netherlands

Second place



Nico, 11
The Netherlands

Third place



Jasmijn, 10
The Netherlands

13-18 years old

Winner!



Yanjun Mao, 13 - China
Steelhead Trout

Second place



Alex Yang, 18 - USA
Largemouth Bass

Third place



Jeason Junior Idjoumet, 18 - Gabon
Carangidae



Third place winner in age 13-18 years old,
Jeason Junior Idjoumet, 18
Gabon Carangidae

WFMD and Wildlife Forever, together with [18 proud partners](#) made this happen.

CONCLUSIONS

WFMD saw a record-breaking number of countries (78), 6 more than any previous year and we had 9 new countries involved.

Organizers set up an even broader diversity of events. We were pleasantly surprised by the amount of creativity and effort that went into new types of events, like the Escape Room Game. It also highlighted the creativity of our young audience during the Fish Flags Art competition and the ways so many participants joined during weeks and hours leading up to the Live Show program featuring world-famous fish celebrities. In future years, we will tap into the needs of all stakeholders, maximizing engagement and excitement for WFMD. We will continue to strengthen connections for people and rivers through virtual and live events. This celebratory global movement is growing, creating healthier rivers full of fish and happier human communities that depend on and love them.

WHAT IS NEXT?

The sixth anniversary of World Fish Migration Day will be on May 21st, 2024. We will continue CONNECTING FISH, RIVERS AND PEOPLE by growing our network more broadly globally, enabling our partners to convert excitement and knowledge into action. We will continue shining a global spotlight to inspire more organizations to celebrate their aquatic life, dam removals, fishway inaugurations, river protection, and enabling policies and programs about removing barriers and making our rivers flowing free and healthy. We will also continue to grow the creative contests. Moreover, we already know that you missed Eurofishion this year so it will come back again!

We also hope to see these numbers on the next WFMD:

1,000 EVENTS

100 COUNTRIES

400 MILLION PEOPLE IN GLOBAL REACH

5,000 KM OF RIVER RESTORED/PROTECTED

1ST LIVING PLANET INDEX FOR RIVERS

1ST GLOBAL DAM REMOVAL STATUS REPORT

Suggestions from WFMD participants on how to improve:

"How do you improve perfection?"

- Martin Ruiz. Snorkel Michigan. United States.

"It should be celebrated every year"

Sale Alebachew. Debre Tabor University. Ethiopia.

"World connection between events: Projection of each event into the global world event"

- Paulo Constantino. proTEJO - Movimento pelo tejo. Portugal.

"To set up online participatory games"

- Loreto Villamayor. Parque Nacional Sierra de Guadarrama. Spain.

"Communicating with kids to participate and also certificates for attendees"

- Saeed Shafiei Sabet. University of Guilan. Iran.

THANKS TO THE TEAM THAT WFMD 2022 POSSIBLE

Herman Wanningen, Kerry Brink, Elena Cebrián Alfaya, Nicole Friedman, Tim Wanningen, Tom Dragt, Bas Deelman, Sam Boireaud, Mike Dijkstra, Robin Bronswijk, Joshua Royte, Fabian Paf, Chris Bowser, Eva Nauta, Karma Wangchuk, Ruth Kabera and Pao Fernández Garrido.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL RECRUITERS FOR REACHING OUT TO PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD AND INSPIRING THEM TO JOIN

Japhet Tembo, Adela Baratech Sánchez, Md Muzammel Hossain, Kirsten Joy Harma and Joel Betts

AND ALL THE PARTNERS THAT SUPPORT WFMD YEAR BY YEAR:

www.worldfishmigrationday.com/partners-donors/



World Fish Migration Foundation
F. Leggerstraat 14
9728VS Groningen
info@fishmigration.org
www.fishmigration.org