

# CONNECTING FISH, RIVERS AND PEOPLE

24th May 2014



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## For people working on rivers, water and migratory fish

We want to invite you to take part in World Fish Migration Day 2014 on the 24th May. This international event calls attention to the need to safeguard free flowing rivers and to restore the connections in rivers for migratory fish.

### WHY DO WE CARE?

Migratory fish (like salmon, trout, shad, lamprey, giant catfish, sturgeon and eel) are threatened worldwide by barriers such as weirs, dams and sluices built for water management, hydropower and land drainage. This makes it difficult for fish to reach their spawning grounds, and can conceivably cause species extinction.

Millions of people around the world rely on these fishes as their primary source of protein and for their livelihoods. Water managers and conservationists are striving to protect and improve fish migration routes between and within rivers, deltas and the oceans. These 'fish highways' are vital for their survival.

World Fish Migration Day is held to improve the public's understanding of the importance of free flowing rivers and migratory fish routes for fish. Raising awareness, sharing ideas, securing commitments and building communities around river basins are essential aspects of fish passage and river restoration. On this day, we will connect celebrations and events that start in New Zealand, and follow the sun; ending as the sun sets on the west coast of North America.

More than 250 locations will be connected worldwide. We are looking for organizations that want to join this inspiring initiative. There is already an exciting array of events planned, varying from a fish way tour in the Kruger National Park (South Africa) to walks along the River Kuma (Japan) to observe the dam removal project to talks, seminars and kids' activities planned in many countries around the world.

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORGANIZE AN EVENT?

Participating organizations will organize their own event (e.g. activity sessions, workshops or talks) and outreach communication, under the umbrella of the World Fish Migration Day. Educational material will be available to share with visitors. Wanningen Water Consult & LINKit consult, partnering with WWF (NL), The Nature Conservancy (USA) and the IUCN SSC/Wetlands International Freshwater Fish Specialist Group, will take care of the central coordination, international publicity and maintain the main website. The projects will be highlighted on the website, social media and in the press. On the day itself, the offices of water authority 'Amstel, Gooi and Vecht' (Amsterdam, The Netherlands) will serve as the headquarters of WFMD.

For more information

Web [www.worldfishmigrationday.com](http://www.worldfishmigrationday.com)  
Facebook [www.facebook.com/WorldFishMigrationDay](http://www.facebook.com/WorldFishMigrationDay)  
Twitter [twitter.com/WFMD2014](https://twitter.com/WFMD2014)  
Instagram [instagram.com/fishmigrationday](https://www.instagram.com/fishmigrationday)



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