# Significance of river continuity for fish populations

- A view and efforts of the SNFA

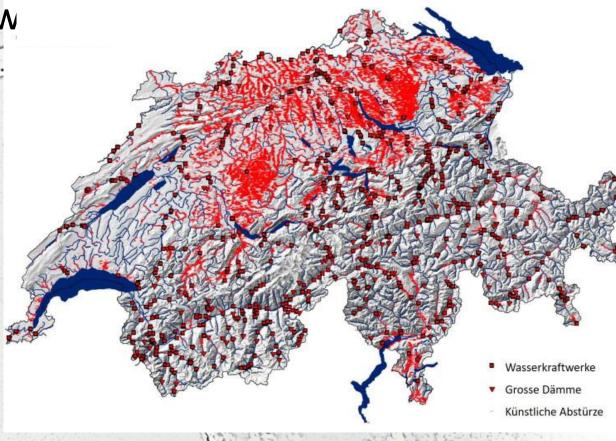




## Special case Switzerland – legal and financial basis

 Revised water protection law law 2011

- 0.1 cent/kWh -> funding
- Strategic planing 3 years
- Realization just started
- Menticulous constitution
  - longsome processes



> Great basis for overall river restoration projects

## Challenge and courage for dam removal

- Every location unique
- Pros of variation study
  - feasibility
  - cost-value ratio
  - investigation of dam removal
- Absence of confidence/ lack of courage (monument protection)
- Only few, but increasing numbers of dam removals in CH
  - > Novalty of dam removal processes need time





## Importance of data

- Monitoring data crucially important
  - -> help for communication
- Little knowhow about downstream migration
  - -> e.g. Stroppel Limmat
- Return of lake migratory trout after dam removal
  - > Data for public acceptance and political decisions

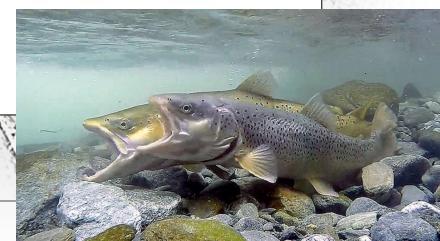
Im Auftrag des Bundesamtes für Umwelt (BAFU)

Massnahmenumsetzung Sanierung Fischgängigkeit Umfang und Methodenwahl von Wirkungskontrollen





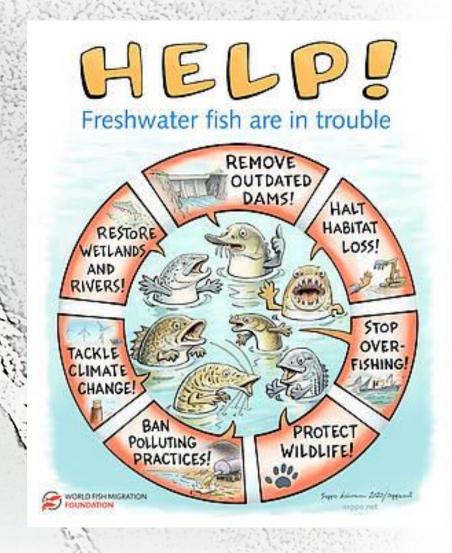




### Current status – need for action!

- Deadlines 2030 cannot be met
- Most authorities missed out on building up new ressources for new tasks
- Devastating situation, no time left -> need for action

> Public communication & political advances



### Public awareness

- Petition for speeding up improvement of fish migration
- 33'790 certified signatures
- Protecting fish instead of deadly turbines
- Info downside of hydro power



























16.05.2018 · 1472 Ansichten

#### Todesfalle für Fische: Streit um teure Sanierung der Kraftwerke

Jedes Jahr sterben in den Schweizer Wasserkraftwerken tausende Fische. Weil sie beim Abstieg in die Turbinen schwimmen. Bis 2030 muss dieser Missstand laut Gewässerschutzgesetz behoben sein. Doch wie jetzt Recherchen der Rundschau zeigen, fehlen für diese Sanierungen mehrere Milliarden Franken. Das politische Tauziehen um die teuren Bauten für die Fische beginnt.



MEHR VON RUNDSCHAU

Todesfalle Kraftwerk: Tausende Aale verenden grausam Aus Kassensturz vom 31.01.2017.

## Political advances – interpellations

- How should the restoration of up- and downstream migration of hydro power plants be realized on-time until 2030?
  - > Committment evaluation for long term funding
- Delay in the enforcement of ecological restoration of hydro power

plants

> Committment evaluation of processes and buildung of new personal in 2022



### Conclusions

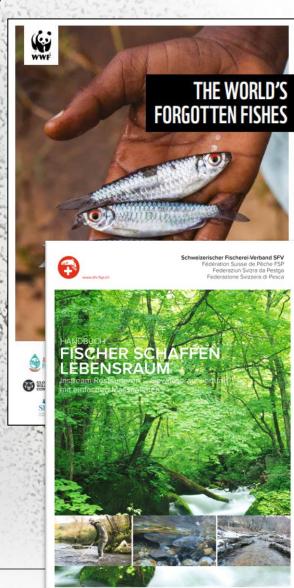
- Data and information most important for work in politics
- Improvement of interdisciplinary communication between natural and social sciences, NGO's and political decision makers
- Demonstration of the vast problems and importance of river continuitry
  - > Improvement of general acceptance for pushing river restoration, including dam removal



## Conclusion – importance of awareness

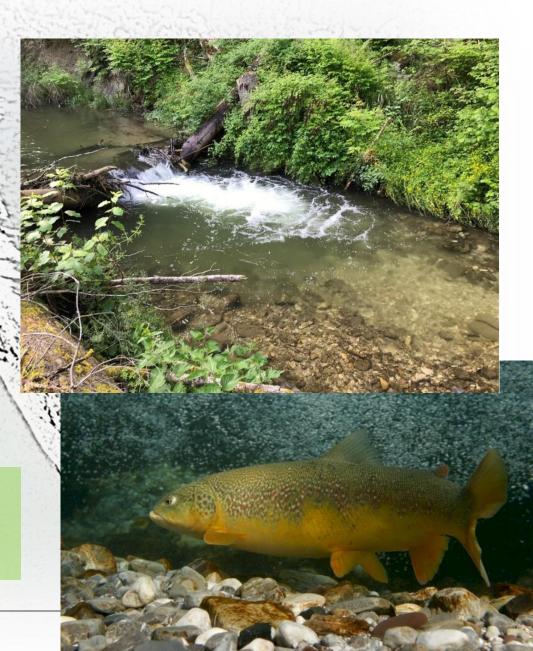
- Need to understand the the desastrous sitution of our river systems
- Need to understand and appreciate ecosystem processes for our own benefit
- Need to understand the consequences.
- Need to stop subsidizing small hydro power plants

> Every river restoration project counts



### Caution of dam removals

- Thorough evaluation of small dam removals
- Trade off between river continuity and retreat habitat
- Loss of deep pools due to dam removal (no replacement of habitat)
  - > Broad local asseessment necessary



Schweizerischer Fischerei-Verband SFV
Fédération Suisse de Pêche FSP
Federaziun Svizra da Pestga
p.ch
Federazione Svizzera di Pesca

