Dam Removal Europe

Inspiring a movement
The terrestrial Living Planet Index

The marine Living Planet Index

Source: WWF, ZSL, 2014
Question fishways effectiveness

Noonan et al. 2012: “Low overall efficiency of passage indicated that most facilities need to be improved to mitigate habitat fragmentation…”

Brown et al. 2012: “It may be time to admit failure of fish passage and hatchery-based restoration programs and acknowledge that significant diadromous species restoration is not possible without dam removals.”
Working with Nature
France: 83,795 man-made obstacles

UK: 22,000 man-made obstacles

SWEDEN: 9,298 barriers
Present situation Europe

- 7000 large dams (>15 m)
- Unknown number of small dams & weirs (<15 m)

Dams removed in USA

Elwha Dam Removal on the Elwha River in WA, USA

Photo Source: US National Park Service
1,100 U.S. Dams Removed through 2013
Present situation Europe

Dam removals (*based on expert judgement*)

- FRANCE: 1,842
- SWEDEN: 1,404
- SPAIN: >200
- UK: ≈100
- FINLAND: ?
- NETHERLANDS: 30-50
- BELGIUM: ?
- GERMANY: ?
- SWITZERLAND: ?

Inspiring examples from Wales

Kentchurch Weir, Wales
Photo before: P. Gough
Photo after: P. Gough
Inspiring examples from France
Inspiring examples from Spain

**Before**

**After**

Aravalle Dam, Avila Spain
Photo before: Confederación Hidrográfica del Duero. Photo after: C.H. Duero
The “Niche” for Dam Removal Europe

• Create awareness in Europe about natural rivers and benefits of dam removal
• Work together on dam removal in Europe
  • European dam removal network
  • Cooperation between Europe - USA
  • Getting dam removal on EU agenda
• Inspire each other with demonstration projects
• Generate and share knowledge & experiences
Removing Retuerta Dam in Aravalle River (Ávila, Spain)
AMBER

Adaptive Management of Barriers in European Rivers

AMBER will apply adaptive barrier management to help reconnect Europe’s rivers, the smart way.

http://amber.international/
AMBER

Some of the goals:

- European *atlas* with all existing barriers
- Citizen science: smart phone app

http://amber.international/
Dam Removal Europe

GOALS:

- Create solid network
- Improve cooperation between Europe and USA
- Generate and share knowledge and experience.
- Inspire and encourage other
- Create awareness

HOW:

- Workshops and conferences
- Collect dam removal case studies
- Interactive map showing all dams removed in Europe
- Create a guide with dam removal best practice
- Documentary/movie
Many dams in European Rivers are old, abandoned and out of use. Together we can locate and remove them.
Let’s open the rivers for wildlife and people.

Read more

www.damremoval.eu