

Never in use, standing still

***LEGAL CLUES IN RIVER RESTORATION AND DAM
REMOVAL***

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OBSOLETE DAMS AND LAW

Thousands of rivers obstacles clog our rivers.

Water Law fosters water appropriation, but ...

What does it happen when a water permit comes to an end?

Who is paying the bill?

Villalcampo dam, Douro river



Los Toranes dam, Mijares river



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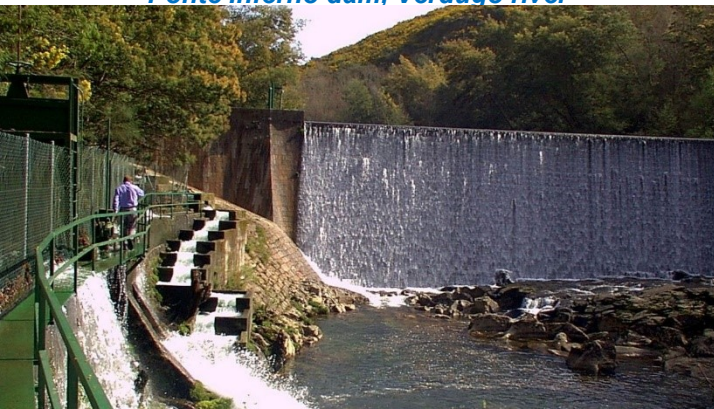
IT IS A MATTER OF TIME... But there are more:

Most of water permits, issued in the end of the 19th century and the first half of 20th century, are about to expire.

Up to a 75-year period of private use of public waters: Supreme Court and Council of State case-law.

Fisheries Law did protect rivers, but it was never enforced: flowerpot legislation.

Ponte Inferno dam, Verdugo river



El Torcido dam, Júcar river.



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Technical and security regulations: old and cracking dams. Get them repaired or put them down. Floodings.

Natura 2000 Network and conservation objectives: priority rules.

*Who is paying the piper to call the tune?: Water authorities impose permittees the cost of getting dams removed. **Case-law.***

Santa Engracia dam, Arga river



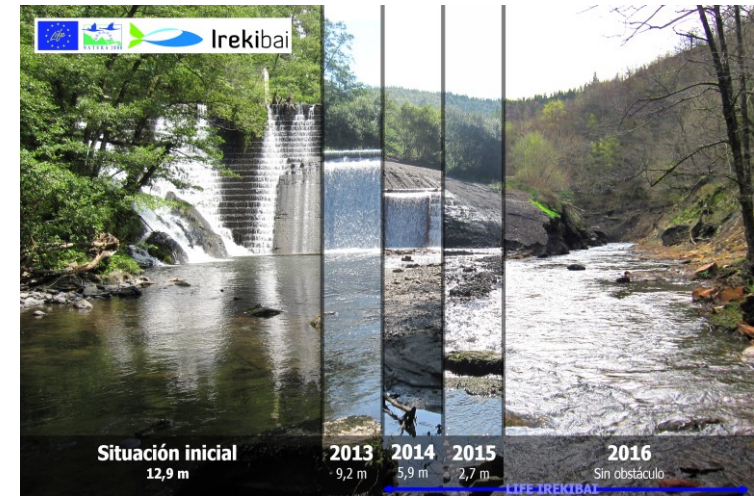
Pé de Viña dam, Eo river



**Hidden-subsidies in Energy Law, WFD full cost recovery:
*unlawful State aid.***

EU-funded projects: *LIFE: Cipriber, Irekibai, Divaqua and so on.*

**Sometimes is quite difficult
to find the owner and to claim liability.**



Yecla de Yeltes dam



“Manufacturas, S. A.” dam



Valdecaballeros nuclear power dam



Spanish Water and Administrative Law favor river restoration, but we lack sometimes political will.

Clues:

- **Natura 2000 Network**
- **Urban planning and floods.**
- **Warrants over permittees payment of works.**
- **Dam security and insurances.**
- **Public domain reserves.**
- **“Cleaning up” registers and archives.**
- **Save water: urban and agricultural uses.**



Bidasoa river

Manzanares river, Madrid.



**Sometimes, social pressure
pose serious obstacles to river restoration:**

**Scenery misconceptions: “lakes”, “waterfalls”, “natural
swimming pools”, “monuments”.**

Salto de Bierge



El Pelgo



“Natural swimming pool”



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THANKS SO MUCH



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