



Dear colleagues,

As we head into autumn, the river restoration movement keeps growing across Europe. The Dam Removal Europe network is happy to share a new round of updates and inspiring opportunities, as well as our plans for Dam Removal Day. 🌊



Dam Removal Day 2026

Across Europe, there is growing recognition that healthy, free-flowing rivers are essential for biodiversity, water security and resilient communities.

Every river reconnected tells a story:

- 🐟 Improved habitats for fish and wildlife
- 💧 Healthier freshwater ecosystems
- 🦶 Stronger resilience for people and nature

This Dam Removal Day, 8 October 2026, we celebrate 10 years of organisations, practitioners, communities and policymakers helping make this progress possible.

Together, we're building momentum for healthier rivers across Europe.

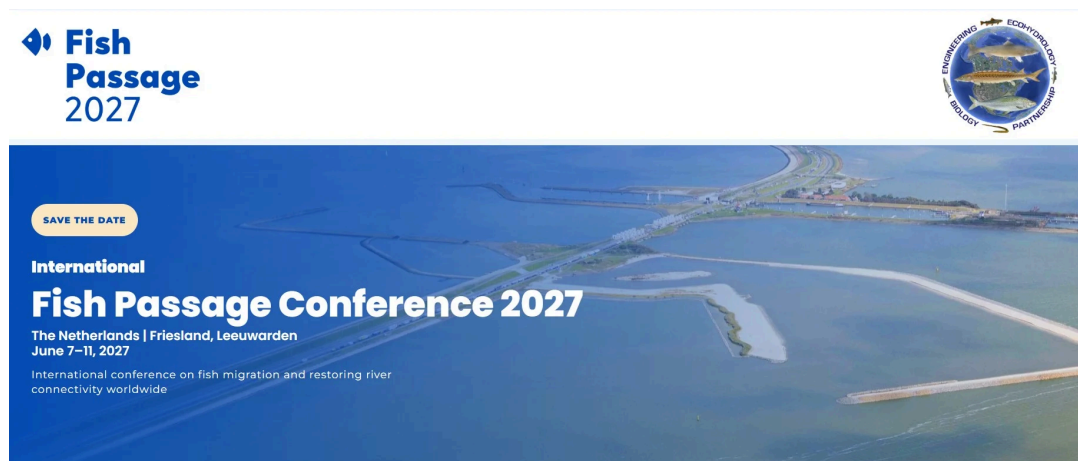
#FreeFlowingRivers #RiverRestoration #DamRemovalEurope



Fish Passage Conference 2027

Researchers, practitioners and other experts from around the world will come together in Leeuwarden (Netherlands) from 7 to 11 June 2027 to focus on fish migration and aquatic connectivity in the Fish Passage Conference 2027. The conference will coincide with the opening of the [Fish Migration River in the Afsluitdijk](#), a unique project aiming to restore the connection between the Wadden Sea and Lake IJsselmeer for migratory fish. During the conference, participants will have the opportunity to visit the project area and experience it first-hand.

[Submit your abstract](#) for your research, project, innovative solution, or practical case by **31 October 2026**. If your research doesn't fit under the umbrella of the conference topics mentioned on the website, please [submit your proposals for session topics](#) till **30 September 2026**. The conference topics, submission guidelines and all relevant information are available on the [Fish Passage Conference 2027 website](#). For questions about the abstract and session topic submission processes, please contact foivos.mouchlianitis@ifm.org.uk.

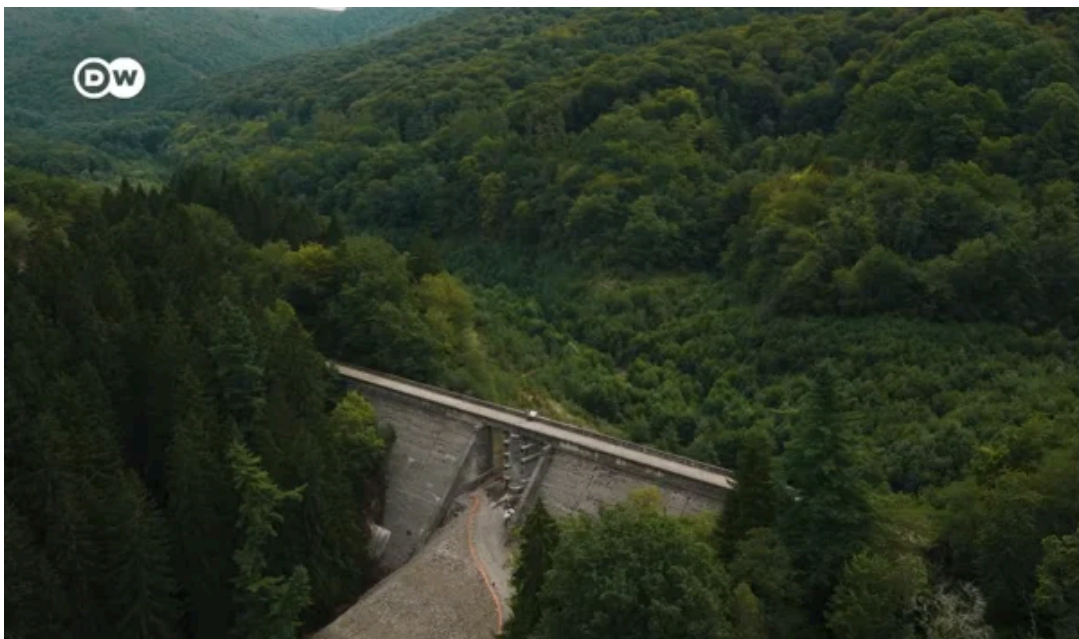


Submit an abstract or propose a session topic here!



Why we should be destroying more dams – a documentary

On September 18th, 2026, a new [documentary](#) touching on the importance of restoring free-flowing rivers and the need to maintain or remove existing barriers was published on the DW Planet A YouTube channel. The journalist Janek Speight investigates the impact of removing old barriers using the Enobieta Dam as a case study. This was a large dam that previously secured drinking water in San Sebastian (Northern Spain) yet became obsolete within the first 30 years of its use. This documentary, facilitated by Dam Removal Europe, features Prof. Arturo Elosegi Irurtia from the University of the Basque Country, the leading scientist behind the removal of the Enobieta Dam.



[Watch it here!](#)



Hands Off Nature petition to strengthen European environmental regulations

The [#HandsOffNature](#) NGO coalition has launched a big petition to defend EU nature laws, including Europe's main water protection law, the **Water Framework Directive**, from the ongoing deregulation madness. If you are against the weakening of environmental protections, [sign the petition now](#) and add it to your organization's website. So far, over 900,000 citizens have signed the petition. The more we are, the bigger chances we have to pressure decision-makers! The deadline to sign is the **20th of October**; It will take you 1 minute to say 'MY HEALTH AND NATURE ARE NOT UP FOR SALE'.



Sign the petition now!



Article 9 Analysis of the Draft National Restoration Plans

In line with the EU Nature Restoration Regulation, Member States have submitted (or are in the process of finalising) their draft National Restoration Plans. These plans will shape restoration efforts across Europe in the years ahead and provide an important indication of each country's level of ambition.

The Living Rivers Europe Coalition is currently assessing how Member States have addressed the free-flowing rivers target under Article 9 of the Regulation. We would greatly appreciate your support in reviewing the draft plans.

If you would like to contribute to the analysis of your country's National Restoration Plan, please get in touch with Julia.boverhoff@tnc.org.



How do the Nature Restoration Regulation and the Water Framework Directive address barrier removal?

Watch this [video](#) (made by us!) exploring the next steps for river connectivity under two of the most important pieces of EU legislation for our work: the Nature Restoration Regulation and the Water Framework Directive. With Member States submitting their draft National Restoration Plans this September, and River Basin Management Plans in December, this video explains the upcoming timeline, and what DRE is doing to contribute.

Watch the video here!



Removing every barrier advances healthier rivers, increases biodiversity, and fosters stronger communities. As river restoration gains momentum throughout Europe, we are thrilled to witness new projects, partnerships, and opportunities arising within the network.

Thank you for joining us on this journey! Together, we are enabling rivers to flow freely once more.

The Dam Removal Europe Team

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