



# WORLD FISH MIGRATION DAY

May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016

CONNECTING FISH, RIVERS AND PEOPLE

[www.worldfishmigrationday.com](http://www.worldfishmigrationday.com)

## WHAT IS WORLD FISH MIGRATION DAY (WFMD)?

WFMD 2016 is a one day event to create worldwide awareness of the importance of freshwater migratory fish and open rivers for the general public, especially students and their teachers, resource managers and engineers, and commercial and recreational anglers, as well as those individuals who influence public policy that affect rivers. It is a global initiative with activities organized to reach these audiences.

Around the world, coordination and promotion is done through local activities inspired, supported and coordinated by a central office of the World Fish Migration Platform in Washington DC (USA).

At the individual event level, organizations undertake the development of an activity to raise awareness and involve local people and media about fish migration and open rivers. Local events include a range of activities: field trips, events at a school or aquaria, the opening of fishways, races, food festivals, etc. At this local level, the logo and central message of the WFMD, **Connecting fish, rivers and people**, will be used to connect sites around the world. The day will start in New Zealand and will follow the sun around the world, ending in Hawaii.



### VISION

World Fish Migration Day (WFMD) 2016 will raise global attention to the need for restored river connections for migrating fish to achieve healthier fish stocks and more productive rivers. WFMD 2016 will bring a greater understanding worldwide to the issues around migratory fish to the general public and those individuals who influence fishery and water management policies. Raising awareness and creating commitments, at multiple levels, to improve the health of our rivers is essential to change behaviors and make progress in restoring rivers and in avoiding catastrophic mistakes when developing new resources.



## WHY DO WE CARE?

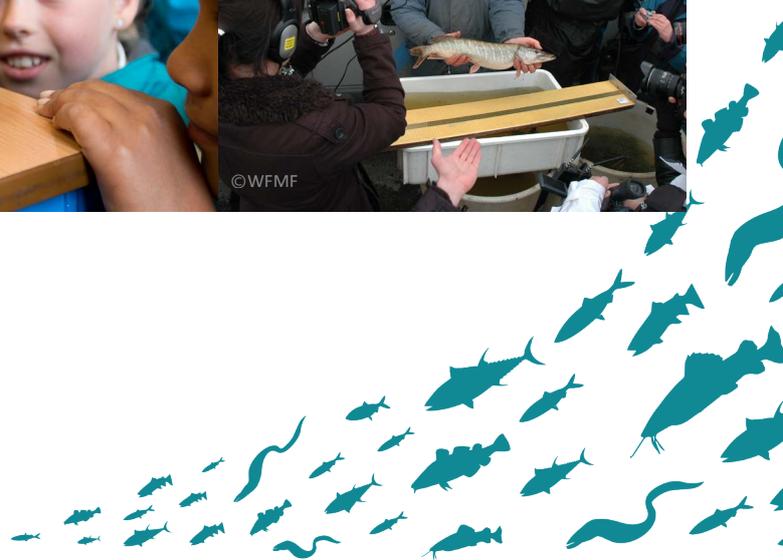
Humans have been using and modifying rivers for millennia to improve our quality of life. Rivers provide many services: water supply, irrigation, navigation, flood control, hydropower, fishing and more. However, these activities are often carried out at a high environmental cost: **river and fish stock degradation**. We have caused river fragmentation, water quality deterioration, flow regime modification, and habitat alteration and destruction, collectively leading to decline in fish stocks. We also build barriers, such as weirs, dams and sluices for water management, hydropower and land drainage. These barriers in rivers and on coasts prevent fish migrations for reproduction, feeding and other purposes. Currently, migratory fish that require access to and within our freshwater ecosystems are threatened around the world and **the majority of native commercial and recreational fish stocks are declining rapidly**.

Many species like salmon, shad, giant catfishes, dourada, sturgeons and eels migrate between the sea and the rivers to complete their life cycle. Other species must make extensive migrations within their home rivers to reach critical habitats. Free migration routes for fish are crucial to their survival. If they cannot reach their breeding ground, the species will decline and eventually become locally or globally extinct. This fate has already fallen on many fish species all over the world.

Around the globe, millions of people rely on freshwater migratory fish as a primary food source and for their livelihoods. For example in the Mekong River basin, 50 million people depend on the river and the food it provides for nutrition and an income. In other areas migrating fish or their offspring provide critical forage for other commercially or ecologically important freshwater and marine species. The collapse of many fish stocks has a devastating effect on the food security of these people, which includes millions of the world's poorest people.



WFMD 2014 events



## WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Conservationists, engineers and natural resource managers are working together to improve migration options for fish in rivers and deltas. It is our shared responsibility to find solutions and restore free fish migration. We are working to recover healthy rivers and prevent future degradation and species extinction. We do this to improve ecological conditions, which we owe to future generations, and to ensure the sustenance of the millions of human lives that depend on rivers. To accomplish this brighter future, we need to start by educating people and raising awareness of the current situation as well as solutions to the problems. World Fish Migration Day 2014 proved to be an effective strategy for raising awareness at local, regional, national to international levels. We want to grow this strategy even more, reaching more people with more stories, examples and solutions in 2016.

### THE GOALS OF WFMD

Activate citizens and our colleagues around the world to join in the celebrations and take action.

Create commitments for free flowing rivers and open swimways for migratory fish.

Create awareness for the importance of migratory fish and healthy-productive rivers among the general public, experts, river managers, fishery associations, NGO's and politicians around the globe.

Foster partnerships, dialogue and cooperation around fish migration.

Highlight local, national and international organizations working to restore and protect migrating fish.

Stimulate agreements to develop improvements or avoid negative impacts to key river resources between NGO's, governments and commercial enterprises.

### WFMD KEY MESSAGES

Connecting fish, rivers and people.

Freshwater migratory fish are the primary source of protein and livelihood for millions of people around the world.

Barriers such as weirs, dams and sluices threaten fish migration.

When fish migration is blocked, fish stocks become depleted and this can result in loss of key protean sources for millions of people and degrade rivers and nearby marine ecosystems.

Highlight local, national and international organizations working to restore and protect migrating fish.



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# HOW CAN PEOPLE GET INVOLVED?

## 1 ORGANIZE AN EVENT

Participating organizations will organize their own events (e.g. activity sessions, field events workshops or talks) and outreach communication, under the umbrella of WFMD. Promotional material will be available to download from the website and can be shared with visitors. The WFMD partnership is responsible for central coordination, international publicity and maintaining the website. The projects will be highlighted on the website, social media and in the press. Register events online [here](#).

## 2 PARTICIPATE IN A LOCAL EVENT

Events are being organised around the world and details of local events are listed on the WFMD website. There are a range of activities being organised, and the local organisations strongly encourage more people to take part in their planned events. Find out more [here](#).



## 3 SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT WFMD2016

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to keep up to date with all the latest WFMD activities and share the news with colleagues, friends and family. Get word of local events and our key message to media outlets and include politicians, resource agencies, schools, energy and food source businesses (fishing communities, processing, food sales, restaurants, etc.). Use #WFMD2016 on social media.

## SUPPORTERS OF WFMD

A wide range of organizations worldwide supports the WFMD. At this moment there are more than 40 organizations involved. A list of these organisations can be found [here](#).

## PARTNERS OF WFMD



## SPONSORS OF WFMD



## CONTACT

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