

# Danube River Basin Stakeholder Conference

## *Parallel Work Session III – Results*

### Hydromorphological Changes

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## General Remarks on Morphology in Roof Report

- **Morphology or 'heavy modification' are new, "immature" issues**
- **More exchange is needed**  
[this stakeholder conference is a good start]
- **Favourable assessment of treatment in Roof Report**
- **More focus on Environmental Integration**
- **Future item: Climate Change (JRC Report)**

## Themes – Morphological Changes

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- **Hydropower (old and new) and Navigation**
- **Flood Defence and Spatial Planning**
- **Longitudinal and Lateral Connectivity**
- **Sediments**
- **Sturgeon: "The Danube's Panda<sup>®</sup>" ?**
- **Assignments for ICPDR & next Roof Report**

## Hydropower (old and new) and Navigation

- **Hydropower and Navigation are supported by EU, but have no absolute priority**
- **Longitudinal barriers (fish(!), sediment(?)); mitigation is possible (not always applied)**
- **Effects depend on size, locality, design, operations, other infrastructure, ... (context)**
- **Need to differentiate 'old' & 'new', Solidarity, should do more Cost-Benefit-Analyses**

## Hydropower (old and new) and Navigation

- **Domino theory: 'One dam leads to another' and 'One fish passage leads to another'**
- **EU programme for Danube navigation will 'contradict/frustrate' WFD and good status**
- **"Modify the Ships, not the River!"**
- **EU energy liberalisation:  
Short planning horizon for hydropower**

## Flood Defence and Spatial Planning

- **Hydropower & navigation dams play role in flood defence**
- **Effects differ with region, geography, ...**
- **We need flood plains, they need floods; rivers need connection with 'their plains'**
- **Strengthen land use (or 'spatial') planning, areas deserving protection to be protected**

## Longitudinal and Lateral Connectivity

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- **Morphological changes and status reduce longitudinal and lateral connectivity**
- **Mitigation measures can reinforce both**
- **Research under way for better assessments (and trade-offs)**
- **(Re-)Connection needed to maintain protected areas and species (WFD/Habitat)**

## Sediments

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- **Sediments not addressed in Roof Report; ICPDR should draft addendum (overview)**
- **Deficit leads to stretches with bed erosion, reduces lateral connectivity**
- **Apparent loss at Danube mouth (delta)**
- **(Some) dams have neutral sediment balance, but need to distinguish coarse and fine**

## Sturgeon: "The Danube's Panda<sup>®</sup>" ?

- **Might Sturgeon be 'symbol' for the Danube ?**
- **Emotional appeal, measurable progress, tool for marketing (tourism); better than Eel**
- **Symbolic initiative at (both) Iron Gate dams**
  - **Fish passes do not (in themselves) restore the river, achieve 'good status'**
  - **Symbol would create 'political space' for measures in whole river system**

## Assignments for the ICPDR and next Roof Report

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- **Draft Roof Report addendum on Sediments**
- **Add "Outlook" section (future modification)**
- **Integration of Environmental Protection in**
  - **Energy policy (hydropower)**
  - **Transport policy (navigation)**
  - **Other policies (urban, tourism, ...)**
- **Commission should visit Rhine and study use of Salmon as a symbol for that river**

## Assignments for the ICPDR

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- **Member Countries to encourage & support**
  - ICDPR to promote seeing the whole river system
  - Inform about ongoing/planned research & results (especially on HMWB and ecological status)
  - More exchange among Member Countries (administration, stakeholders, ...)

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