

*Fish passes
and law
in France*



An evolution of the protection of migratory fishes

1° Migratory species protected in France by legal measures

- Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*)
- Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*)
- Sea trout (*Salmo trutta trutta*)
- Rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)
- Sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*)
- Marine lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*)
- Fluvial lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*)
- Alice shad (*Alosa alosa*)
- Twaite shad (*Alosa fallax*)
- European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*)
- Pike (*Esox lucius*)

2° Evolution of the French policy

- 31 May 1865 (law) : classification of rivers or part of rivers where dams will be equipped with a « ladder »

7 decrees (1904, 1905, 1921 [2x], 1922 [2x], 1924)

- 1976 : National salmon plan (Ministry of Environment)
- 1981 – 1986 : National migratory fishes plan (Min. of Env.)

2° Evolution of the French policy

- 29 June 1984 (fishing law) : the law strenghts the previous law
 - List of rivers or part of rivers where any river works must be equipped with a fish pass
 - Obligation of result (both run-up & downstream course)
 - Heavy penalties if the obligations are not respected
 - 6 decrees (1989, 1990, 1991, 1995, 1999, 2002)
 - Lists of migratory species (1986, 1989, 1990, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2002)

Nota : on unclassified rivers, Administration can order to build a fish pass if required by the impact study (based on the 1976 Nature Protection law or the 1992 Water law)

2° Evolution of the French policy

➤ 1991 - 1995 : National amphidromous fishes plan (Min. of Env.)

➤ 1994 : COGEPOMI

(management committee for migratory fishes) in each hydrographic district

➤ 2005 : a new Water law referring to the WFD

Lists of rivers :

- forbidding new hydropower plants
- ordering fish passes (ecological continuity)

3° Some problems in France

- Funds for fish passes (from 0% to 10s%) :
 - Own funds
 - Water Agencies
 - Conseil régional
 - River contract
 - (if general interest ; scale = river bassin)

- Downstream passage of fishes :
 - Spacing between the bars of the trash rack is reduced from 5 – 8 cm to 2 – 5 cm

- Water frame directive :
 - River ecological continuity

Thank you !

For more information, please contact :

Hugues ALBANEL, Vice President

Olivier ROUSSEL, Managing Director

Groupement des Producteurs Autonomes d'Energie hydroélectrique

Tel (0033) 1 56 59 91 24 - gpae@infonie.fr

