



Restoring free-flowing rivers in Europe by removing dams

CONNECTING FISH RIVERS & PEOPLE



WORLD FISH MIGRATION
FOUNDATION

FOUNDED IN 2014





Europe Hub

North America Hub

Asia Hub

South America Hub

Africa Hub

Oceania Hub

NEXT

WORLD FISH MIGRATION DAY

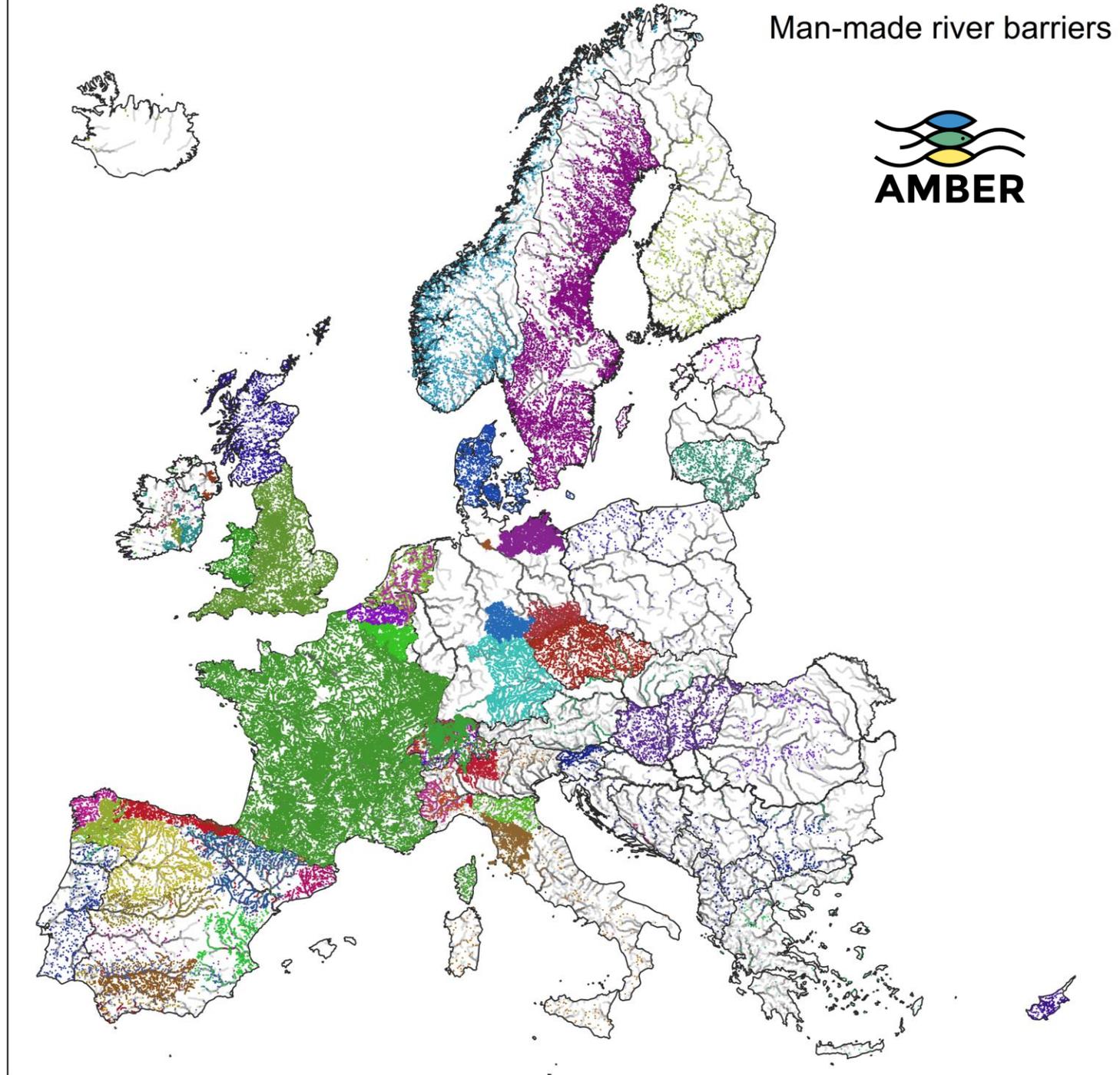
MAY 21, 2022



**WORLD FISH
MIGRATION DAY**

THE WORLD'S RIVERS ARE STUFFED WITH BARRIERS

>1.2 MLN
ESTIMATED BARRIERS
IN EUROPE ALONE





<https://portal.amber.international/>

TRACKING DAMS DOWN COLLEAGUES, CITIZEN SCIENCE & FLY FISHERMEN

Track barriers
with the barrier tracker
and help reconnect
European rivers

AMBER Citizen Science project
LET IT FLOW



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 689682.

A detailed illustration of various freshwater fish species, including a large salmon-like fish, a carp, a catfish, a long eel-like fish, and several smaller species, set against a warm, orange-to-yellow gradient background.

Living Planet Index for Migratory Freshwater Fish

worldfishmigrationfoundation.com/living-planet-index-2020/

PLEASE SIGN OUR PETITION!!



worldfishmigrationday.com/petition/

Seppo Leinonen 2020 / seppo.net

OUR INSPIRATION



PENOBSCOT RIVER (2012, USA)

ELWHA RIVER (2011, USA)



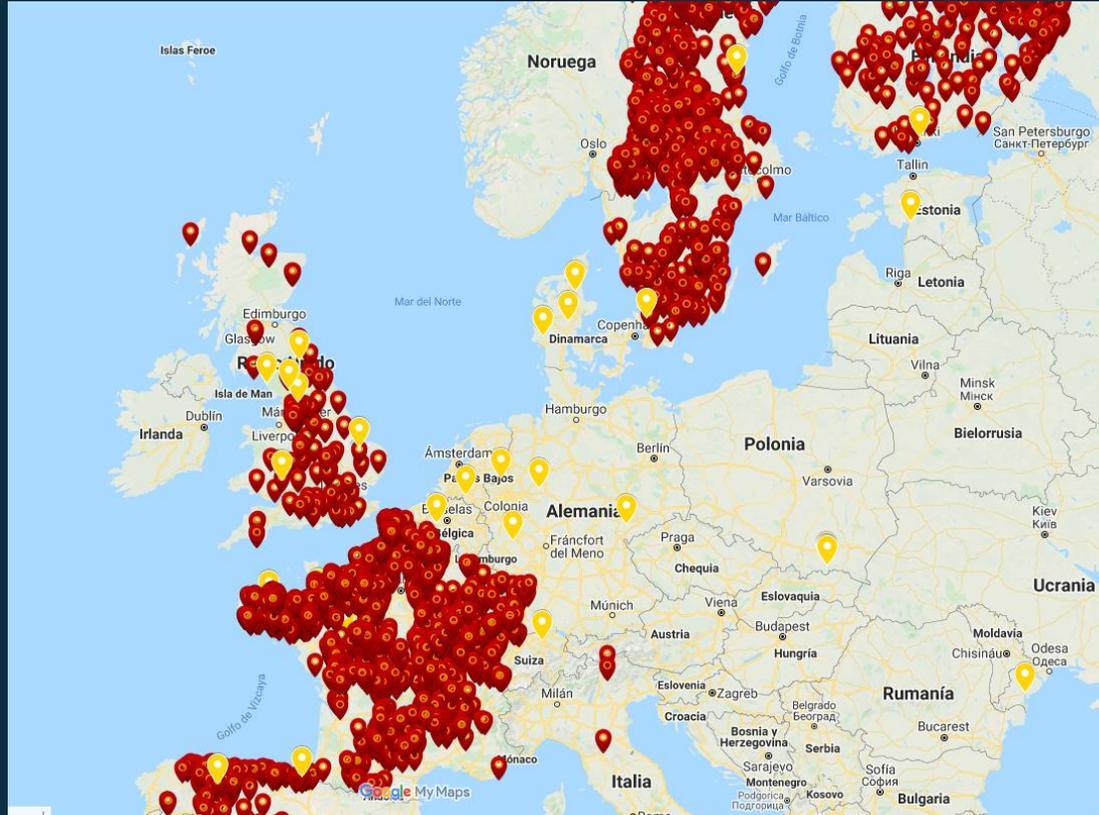
2016

MOVEMENT TO SUPPORT

PRACTITIONERS



<https://damremoval.eu/>



Source: Dam Removal Europe Map

*** Collapsed + man removed**

FRANCE	>2.400*
SWEDEN	>1.600*
FINLAND	>500
SPAIN	>300
UK	>200
NETHERLANDS	>50
ESTONIA	>5
ITALY	3
SWITZERLAND	1
GERMANY	hundreds (no inventories)
DENMARK	hundreds (no inventories)

OUR STRATEGY

**BUILDING A MOVEMENT OF PROUD
RIVER PRACTITIONERS & ENABLE
THEM TO REMOVE DAMS**



CONNECTED RIVERS

International seminar on scaling up dam removal
as a river restoration tool in Europe

Lisbon, Portugal

19 - 21 May 2022

Organized by:





LITHUANIA



PUBLIC RESISTANCE



FINLAND DAM REMOVAL POLICY



SPAIN DAM REMOVAL POLICY



FRANCE DAM REMOVAL POLICY





[Dam removal](#)

[Documentary/ movie](#)

[News](#)

DamBusters

By [Dam Removal Europe](#) | [February 2, 2021](#) | [No Comments](#)



Jesús De La Fuente

Spain

Authentic Celtic Galician. He's set on a mission of restoring the O Verdugo river and returning the salmon back to the lush valleys and mountains of northern Spain.



Roberto Epple

France

"Papa Panda" for the original French activists protecting the Loire river in France. Known as the father of dam removal in Europe. The voice of wisdom to guide our #DamBusters. A chameleonic river hero fluent in several languages and driving force of the European Rivers Network.



Jone Leščinskaitė

Lithuania

After all her work in the ground advocating for river restorations and getting trained in Sweden, the local Government created a position only for her. This groundbreaking move translates to the complete removal of the outdated Salantai Dam in rural Lithuania.



Karolina Gurjazkaitė

Lithuania

This expert and well prepared young activist single handed the first dam removal ever in Lithuania. She is working to bring more awareness on a national level and enable river practitioners to restore free-flowing rivers by removing dams.



Külli Tammur

Estonia

Little did she know, as the daughter of an Estonian park ranger, that the impact of growing up around forest and rivers will have her years later as the front woman working inside the government restoring over 3,000 Km's of river streams. Her amazing work set an example all over Europe.



Jasper Pääkkönen

Finland

Each movie needs a movie star! Jasper Pääkkönen not only bounces between movie sets in Europe and Hollywood, he's the initiator for dam removal in Finland. His star power has been in the service of rivers for over 10 years. Passionate fly fishermen and Patagonia Brand Ambassador.



Sampsa Vilhunen

Finland

Advocating for rivers from 9 to 5, DJ-ing all over European venues during the summer, and fly fishing across wild Finland every chance he gets, that's Sampsa. WWF staff member, creating campaigns and a tangible impact of restored rivers in Finland.





Environment

Biodiversity strategy for 2030

...at least 25,000 km of rivers will be restored into free-flowing rivers by 2030 ⁽⁴⁷⁾ through the removal of primarily obsolete barriers...

As part of this plan, the Commission will propose binding [nature restoration targets](#)  by the end of 2021.



€42.5 million to remove dams

Open Rivers Programme

Restoring endangered European rivers.

<https://openrivers.eu/>

I'M DONE HERE!
I RETIRE!

FREE
AT LAST!

DAMSTERDAM

DAM

THANK YOU!

 DAM
REMOVAL
EUROPE

Pao Fernández Garrido & Herman Wanningen
pao@fishmigration.org

