Mitigation, compensation and restoration of habitats in constructed rivers
- nature-like bypass channels

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Contents

- RESTORE-project
- Measures for heavily modifies water bodies – how to gain good or maximum ecological potential?
- Nature-like bypass channels – several advantages for ecology
- Conflict between hydro power and connectivity - need for strategies about continuum and fish passes
- Case studies: Oulujoki and Mustionjoki Rivers
The **RESTORE-project**

- The *RESTORE* project encourages the restoration of European rivers towards a more natural state.
- Initiated by the European Centre for River Restoration ECRR
- Co-ordinated by Environment agency, UK
- North Region co-ordinator, SYKE
- Presents best examples of river restoration in Europe
- Main tools: webpages, newsletter and wiki database of best practises

Restoring Europe’s Rivers
What can the required mitigation measures in the Water Framework Directive consist?

Definitions for maximum, good and moderate ecological potential for heavily modified or artificial water bodies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Maximum ecological potential</th>
<th>Good ecological potential</th>
<th>Moderate ecological potential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biological</td>
<td>The values of the relevant biological quality elements reflect, as far as possible, those</td>
<td>There are slight changes in the values of the relevant biological quality elements as</td>
<td>These values are significantly found under good quality.</td>
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<tr>
<td>elements</td>
<td>associated with the closest comparable surface water body type, given the physical</td>
<td>compared to the values found at maximum ecological potential.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>conditions which result from the artificial or heavily modified characteristics of the</td>
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<td></td>
<td>water body.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morphological</td>
<td>The hydromorphological conditions are consistent with the only impacts on the surface</td>
<td>Conditions consistent with the achievement of the values specified above for the biological</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>water body being those resulting from the artificial or heavily modified characteristics</td>
<td>quality elements.</td>
<td>quality elements.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>of the water body once all mitigation measures have been taken to ensure the best</td>
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<td>approximation to ecological continuum, in particular with respect to migration of fauna</td>
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<td>and appropriate spawning and breeding grounds.</td>
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</table>
**Nature-like bypass channels – several advantages for ecology**

**Impact**
- Loss of connectivity
  - fish, good/weak swimmers
  - invertebrates
- Loss of reproduction habitats
  - damming rapids to stagnant condition
  - dredged and filled channels
- Discharge patterns
  - regulation
  - dry old channels
  - fish pass flow summer/winter

**Mitigation or compensation**
- Fish passes
- Nature-like bypass channels
- Constructing new compensative side channels
  - spawning channels
  - rearing channels
  - restoration of dredged rapids
- Environmental flows
  - Minimum flows in hydropower permits
  - Requirements for migration and juvenile habitats
Experience outside Europe
- mitigation measures in Canada since 1950’es
Voluntary PR of British Columbia Hydro

Spawning channel for Sockeye (Red Salmon) *Oncorhynchus nerka*
Weaver Creek, discharge 0.43 m$^3$/s,
depth 0.24 m, gradient 0.065%

Rearing channel for Chinook (King Salmon) *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*
and Steelhead (Rainbow trout) *Oncorhynchus mykiss*
Seton river, discharge 1.12 m$^3$/s,
depth 0.38 m, gradient 0.1%
Juvenile production in new river arms

**Constructed side channel** for
Pink Salmon *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha* and  
Coho (Silver Salmon)  
*Oncorhynchus kisutch*,  
Chilliwack River
Spawning and rearing channel for Atlantic salmon
- Dunglass side channel, Conon river, Scotland

- Gradient 0.33 %, minimum flow 0.5 m³/s, length 1 km
- Juvenile production: age 0+ 160 individuals /100m², age 1+ 70 individuals/100 m² (much higher than in rivers normally)

Photo: Simon McKelvey
Nature-like bypass channels
– combination of fish passes and reproduction channels

- Sågarsfors, Siuntionjoki River, Finland
New bypass channels

- Rupperswil, River Aare, Switzerland
- Nature-like fish pass combined with spawning and rearing habitats
- Fulfils best requirements of renewable energy in CH
- Used as reference for Rheinfelden bypass in the Rhine – 800 m long, 15 m3/, completed autumn 2011
Fish pass strategy for Finland 2011

- Proposed in *Water Management Plans*
- Change of policy to promote fish passes in stead of stockings
- Priorities of rivers with natural reproduction areas
- Opposition among residents of heavily constructed rivers, which were left outside
- All other stakeholders promote the strategy
- Nature-like bypasses are preferred
Case 1: Planning of bypasses in heavily modified rivers
- Montta bypass plan, Oulujoki River

- Length 650 m, mean gradient 1.7%, maximum 5%

Järvenpää L., Jormola J. & Tammela S. 2010 Planning of bypass channels in a constructed river – Bringing Salmon back to River Oulujoki (English summary and figure texts) www.ymparisto.fi
• Merikoski fish-pass in Oulu City and bypass plan for Montta power plant and remaining 5 dams
Flow and habitat modeling of planned bypass channels: to gain maximum habitat area and quality with limited discharges. *Simo Tammela 2008*

- 2D flow model, spawning area, gradient 0.25%, 1 m³/s
  Velocity 0.3-0.4 m/s  Depth 0.3-0.4 m
- Habitat modeling with bottom substrates, quality for Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* spawning, discharge 1 m³/s
Case 2: Billnäs bypass plan, Mustionjoki River

- Salmon until 1950’ies
- Weak stock of freshwater pearl mussels
- 4 powerplants with almost total damming
- Only 3.5 ha of rapid area left
- Wide catchment could be opened with fish passes
- 0.9 ha new reproduction area in 4 bypass channels would be possible
Billnäs power plant

- Bypass plan:
- 7 m/320 m
- Gradient 2,2 %,
- Reproduction habitats for salmon and pearl mussel
- Ideal location of entrance
Accepted in the land use plan of the cultural environment with national value

Finnish Consulting Group FCG, June 2011
Conclusions

- Bypass channels with reproduction habitats fulfil the demand of mitigation with several benefits
- Maximum habitat area and value with optimal discharge can be estimated by modeling
- Loss of energy can be minimized even if small discharge is needed year round for habitats
- Tools: Voluntary PR of power companies, Green energy requirements of labeling, permitting
- Conflicts between migratory fish and renewable energy can be solved (?)