

ICPDR
Via e-mail
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15.07.2015

Statement - Voice of the Danube

Dear Sir or Madam,
Dear colleagues and friends,

we want to state, the stakeholdermeeting “Voice of Danube” in Zagreb” has been a great success. Many thanks for the opportunity to exchange information and minds.

But please add in the results our following comments concerning river navigation and hydropower:

River navigation

By our conception the comment of a joint statement by navigation and environment is to less. Please accept, the damages by navigation are clear. Black-Sea-Gobies are brought by the ballast-water of modern vessels and the waves. Black-Sea-Gobies are spread already over entire Europe, feeding on Spawn and fry of our fish, the tiny predators are hiding in the rip-rap-banks of our rivers. In these stretches of the Danube there are already up to 80 pieces/m² of these small pests.

The waves by navigation are destroying spawn and fry on the few remaining nature-near zones. In the upper reaches of the Danube there are only a few of such zones left, in Austria for example the “Wachau” and the “Nationalpark Donauauen”, all together about 24% of the Austrian Danube. So we think it’s necessary to state clearly, in such sensitive zones any waves by navigation have to be prohibited.

So we ask to add to the point navigation:

River-navigation has to take care no more aquatic lifeforms can be brought in by ballast-tank-water, especially no Black-Sea-Gobies.

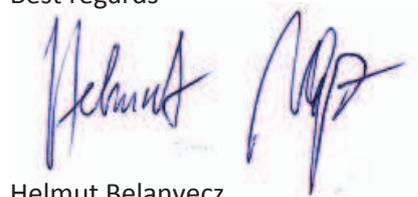
Waves are causing damages on fish-spawn and fish-fry, therefore waves have to be prohibited in the few remaining sensitive zones of the Danube in the upper reaches in Germany and Austria.

Hydropower

To the point hydropowerplants please add:

The downstream-migration at powerplants is not solved at all.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Helmut Belanyecz', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Helmut Belanyecz

Participant for the European Anglers Alliance (EAA) and
Österreichisches Kuratorium für Fischerei und Gewässerschutz