



# Framework conditions for a sustainable waterway management in Germany

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Photo: WSV, Port of Rostock, Baltic Sea



Photo: Schäfer (BMVBS) River Rhine







Photo: E.H. Stanley, Wisconsin, U.S.





- Landscape



- Cultural heritage



- Natural habitat and migration corridor



Photos: WSV, River Rhine; Liebenstein (BfG), River Elbe; Haufe (IKSR), Salmon





## - Transport infrastructure and mode

### **Variety of functions and different user requirements**

→ Solutions that meet different demands – including environmental issues

➔ **Integrated and sustainable management approaches**

### **Strategic objectives of the Federal Waterways Administration**

- The environmentally friendly waterway as part of an integrated transport policy
- The waterway as an efficient traffic route AND habitat
- High priority for its environmentally friendly design
- Ensure the function of the waterway as economic area and habitat by **CONSENSUS**

## - Economic area

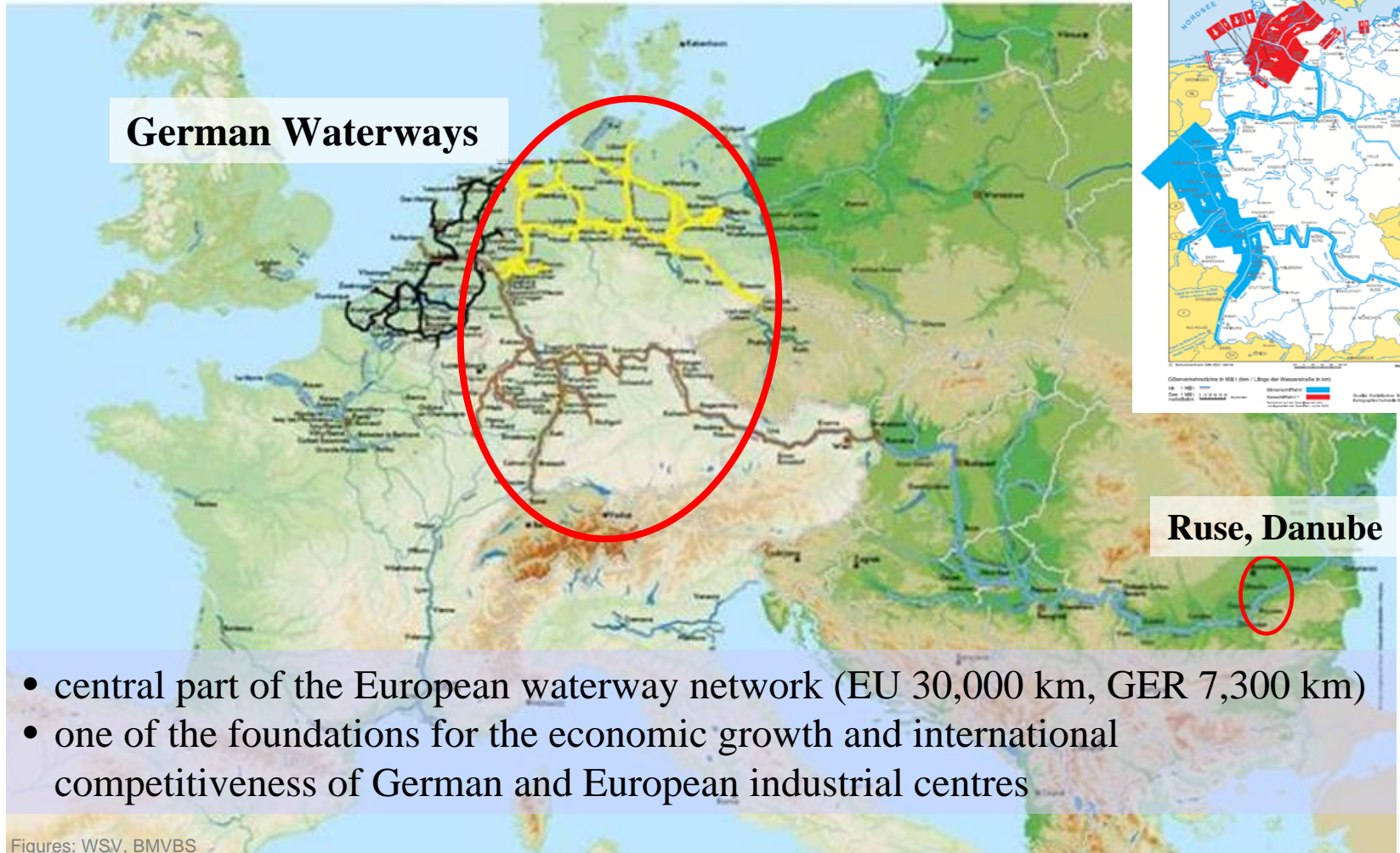
Photos: WSV, River Rhine, River Elbe, Port of Bremerhaven





## Voies navigables d'Europe • Europäische Wasserstrassen European waterways • Europese Waterwegen

### German Waterways



Figures: WSV, BMVBS



## The Federal Waterways...

- 7354 km (4636 river-km)

### ...and their administration

- Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs
- ➔ Federal waterways and shipping administration
- ➔ institutes for scientific and technical support  
(e.g. Federal Institute of Hydrology, Federal Waterways Engineering and Research Institute, Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Institute)

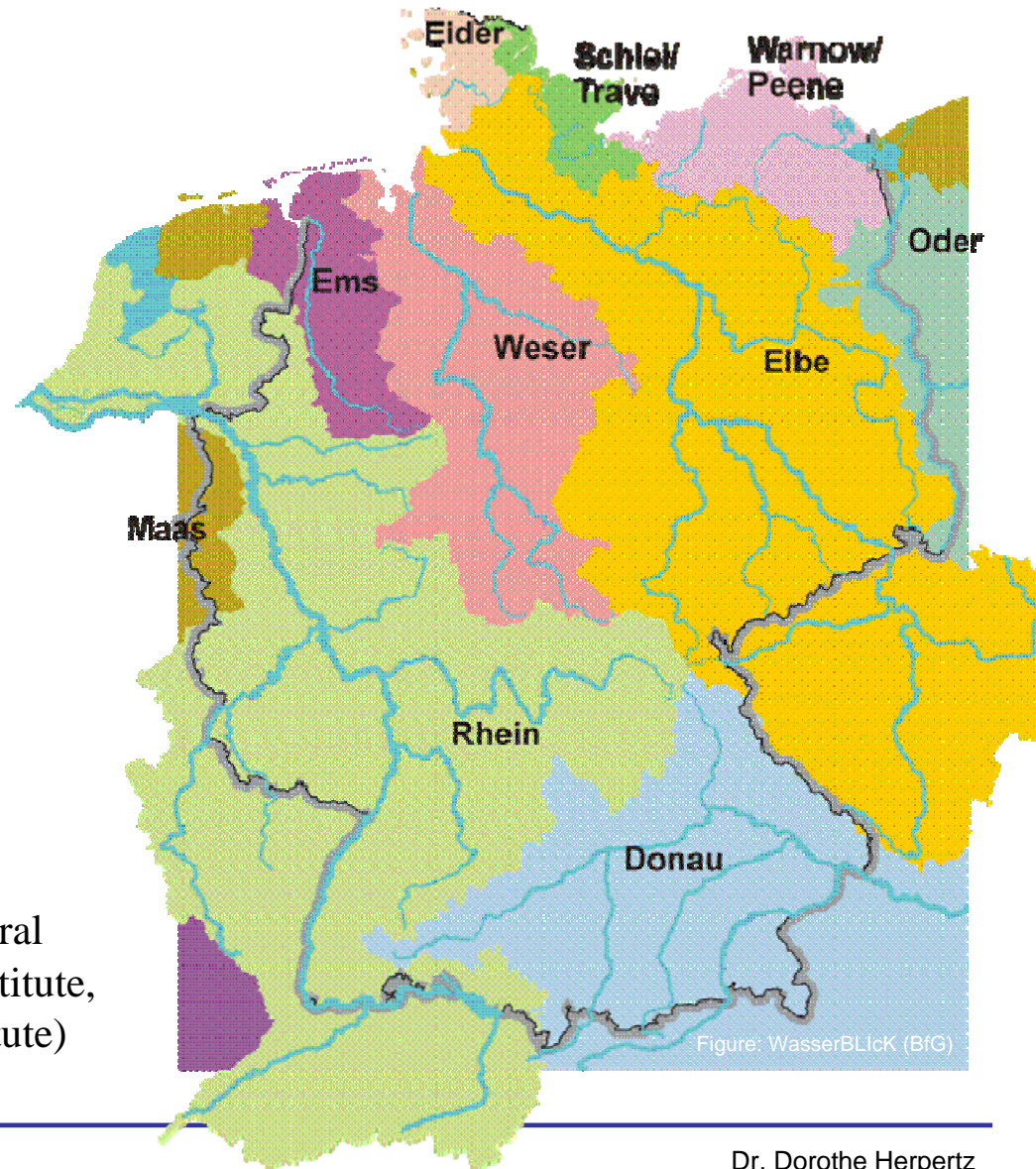


Figure: WasserBLick (BfG)





# A story of complexity –The German responsibility framework for waterway management

## Governmental level - Competences and tasks of the Federal Waterways Administration

- The Federal waterways and shipping administration is owner of the Federal waterways
- Sovereign task for **upgrading and maintenance of waterways for transport purposes**  
→ environmental requirements along waterways always have to be considered
- Owner's responsibility for the **maintenance of waterways for water management purposes**
- Sovereign task of the preservation and restoration of the **longitudinal continuity** of federal waterways (will come into force 01.03.2010)

## Regional level – Competences and tasks of the 16 Federal States

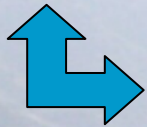
- Nature conservation and general environmental management for all waters – including waterways!
  - Responsibility for waterway maintenance solely for the purpose of prevention of water pollution
  - Responsibility for all measures of flood control
  - Responsibility for upgrading measures along waters solely for the purpose of renaturalization
- ➔ As far as waterways are affected by measures taken by the Federal States, the consent of the Waterways and Shipping Administration is required.





# Joint responsibility → Cooperation and cross-linking is essential!

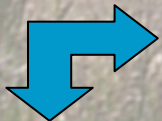
Other waterway users



**Federal Environment  
Ministry**



Legislative body;  
Representing Germany  
for all general “water  
issues“ on international  
level



**Interest groups**

**Nature  
Conservation &  
Water management  
by Federal States**

exchange of  
information

and data

joint responsibility



# On the way to balance navigational AND environmental requirements in waterway management

## Target:

Sustainable management **practices** that allow for an efficient use of rivers/estuaries as waterways AND for achieving good ecological conditions

## Conceptual approach:

- Identifying the technical scope of action with regard to maintenance and development measures
- Develop and implement comprehensive guidance to incorporate environmental regulations in waterway management practice (→ Ms Sommer)
- Use of practical experience

## Principles:

- Creating new (secondary) habitats of high ecological value
- Endeavouring a system-related approach







## Some current conceptual steps...

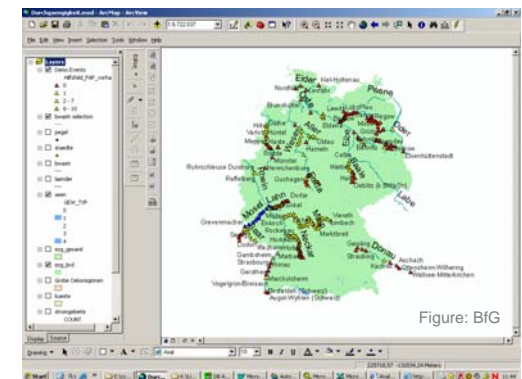
### Concept for action concerning maintenance for transport & water management purposes

- elaboration of guidelines
- identification and localization of specific measures
- internal and external cross-linking & communication



### Concept for action concerning preservation and restoration of the longitudinal continuity of federal waterways

- prioritizations of measures to be taken
- set-up of a versatile information and data base
- biological and technical foundations
- economic considerations
- inclusion of the requirements given by management plans and programmes of measures according to WFD
- internal and external cross-linking and cooperation





## Flood channel on island habitat



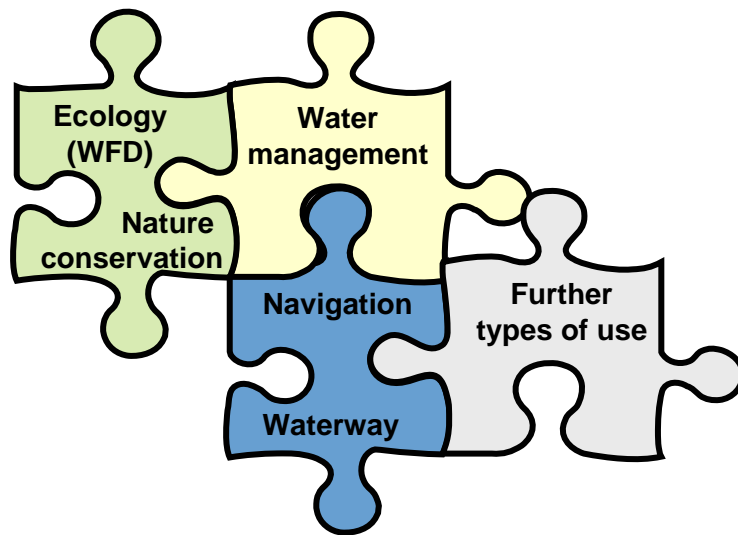




## Conclusion and outlook

**There are solutions for balancing environmental AND navigation requirements.  
An integrated sustainable waterway management is possible.**

- Technological, biological and organisational measures
- Transparent planning processes and cooperation



### **Problem awareness:**

- Effective and efficient solutions require a certain extent of time, know how and resources
- Make use of opportunities
- Accept limits
- Be willing to compromise

### **Key:**

- Intensive cooperation, cross-linking, transparency  
→ authorities, technical institutions, stakeholders  
→ at national and international level
- Target opportunities and common features



# Thank you very much for your attention

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Alternative groyne design at the River Elbe (Photo: A. Anlauf, BfG)