



**Report issued by the
President of the ICPR**

2012 - 2013

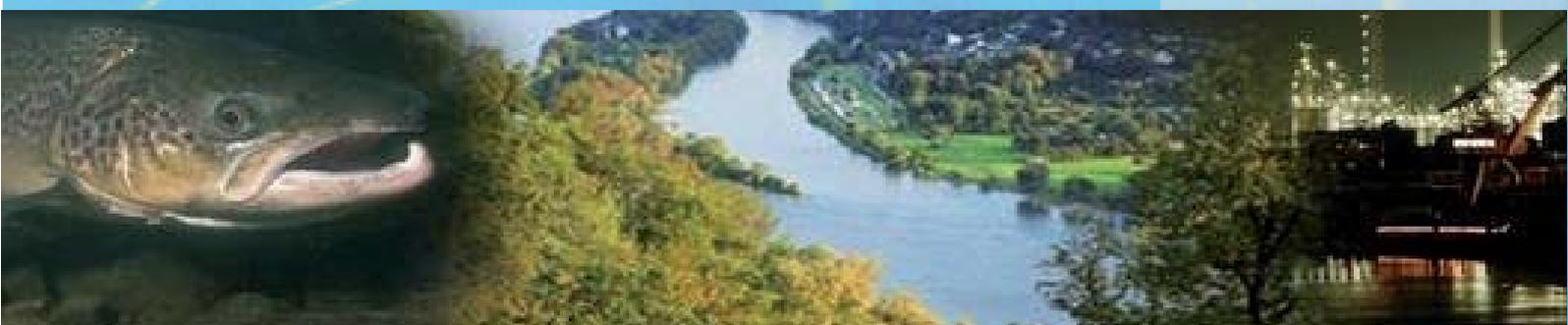


Internationale
Kommission zum
Schutz des Rheins

Commission
Internationale
pour la Protection
du Rhin

Internationale
Commissie ter
Bescherming
van de Rijn

Report No. 210



Imprint

Publisher:

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ISBN-Nr 978-3-941994-44-7

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Preparation of the conference of Ministers 2013

Upon invitation of the Swiss government, the 15th Conference of Rhine Ministers will be staged in Basel on 28 October 2013 in order to draw a balance of activities so far and to determine the cornerstones for the future. In addition, basic decisions concerning the second management plan to draft according to the WFD and the first flood risk management plan according to the Floods Directive must be taken.

In 2012, the PLEN-CC had set up an SG-MIN group to prepare the Conference of Ministers and the corresponding documents.

On 6 June 2013, a meeting between the President of the ICPR and NGOs was staged at the ICPR in Koblenz during which the President outlined the contents of the communiqué.

Following the 15th Conference of Rhine Ministers, the ICPR will stage the 6th International Rhine Symposium on the issue of "Monitoring in great River Districts" in Basel. This symposium is completely dedicated to the international UN year of water cooperation. The comparison of ongoing monitoring programmes along great European rivers is supposed to give an important impetus for future work.

Balance of the present state of the Rhine and its catchment – joint progress report for 2012/2013

A brochure to be published on the occasion of the Conference of Rhine Ministers in October 2013 describes success so far due to measures implemented and aimed at improving the state of the Rhine and its catchment.

The brochure will inform on the most important results and trends of chemical and biological water quality analysis and the effects of restoration measures taken. Furthermore, it will present progress with respect to the implementation of the Action Plan on Floods going on since 1998. The different contributions of the working groups Ecology, Water Quality/Emissions and Floods are issues the PLEN-CC13 will agree upon under agenda point 5.

Further coordinated implementation of the WFD: Update of the inventory according to the WFD

Based on the first inventory according to the WFD of 2005, the principal need for updating its part A, i. e. the catchment > 2,500 km² was outlined within the ICPR. It has been decided, which working group is to do what work and by when and what maps have to be updated. The Small Strategy Group (SG-K) is in charge of updating the inventory.

During the first half of 2013, the Small Strategy Group (SG-K) met twice to discuss this issue. Since the states or federal states will not proceed with the required updating of data in WasserBLICK before the autumn of 2013, it did not seem to make sense to present a first document to the PLEN-CC 2013. The SG-K will discuss an advanced draft on 13 November 2013.

Coordinated implementation of the Floods Directive (FD) in the IRBD Rhine

The first step of implementation according to the Floods Directive, the determination of flood risk areas in the IRBD Rhine was accomplished by spring 2013 with a report

coordinated within the ICPR including two survey maps and was published on the ICPR website (www.iksr.org).

The next steps within the implementation of the Floods Directive concern the establishing of flood hazard and flood risk maps for all previously defined flood risk areas in the IRBD Rhine (part A, catchment > 2,500 km²). In this connection, the ICPR Rhine Atlas published in 2001 for the main stream of the Rhine on a scale 1:100,000 will be updated and extended to the Alpine Rhine, Lake Constance, Lake IJssel and the coastal areas. This enables a **uniformed representation of flood hazards and flood risks along the entire main stream of the Rhine.**

Last year, the PLEN-CC12 had agreed upon a tender and performance specification issued by the working group H and its expert group HIRI concerning the "Development of an Instrument to Determine the Reduction of Flood Risk taking into account Types of Measures und Assets of Protection of the FD and Calculations concerning the Evidence of reduced Damage Risks due to Floods (Action Plan on Floods, 1st action target)" and upon the equivalent tendering procedure. Following proposals of Dutch, German, French and Swiss suppliers, and upon mutual agreement, a contract has been passed with a German-Dutch engineering consultant firm.

At present, the WG H is intensively working on the draft of a Flood Risk Management Plan according to the Floods Directive. This draft is to be accomplished by the end of 2014, and will be published and thus be subjected to the public participation procedure. The coordinated management plan to be drafted aims at reducing future detrimental effects on human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activities.

Strategy for micro pollutants

Since 2008, the ICPR is working on a draft strategy on micro pollutants (urban and industrial wastewater).

In the meantime, evaluation reports for seven groups of substances (medicinal products for human use, biocidal products and anti-corrosive agents, oestrogens, radio contrast agents, odoriferous substances, complexing agents and industrial chemicals) have been published on the ICPR website and aim at presenting a concise summary of the scientific and technical facts and to point out gaps of knowledge.

Also, the ICPR work on micro pollutants has met great interest at EU level and the ICPR products accomplished so far have several times enhanced the equivalent EU activities.

An important milestone is the summary report on the "Integral Assessment of Micro Pollutants and Measures Aimed at Reducing Discharges of Urban and Industrial Wastewater" which was published in the beginning of 2013. Some conclusions of this work will be integrated into the communiqué of ministers.

Implementation of the Master Plan Migratory Fish Rhine

During the year under review, the WG Ecology and its EG FISH have drafted an important report on the implementation of the Master Plan Migratory Fish. On the one hand, this report presents success so far within the reintroduction of migratory fish into the Rhine catchment in a comprehensive and vivid manner, on the other hand it also elaborates on existing problematic issues. It is a good basis for the activities ahead concerning the opening of fish migration routes in the main stream of the Rhine and in the programme waters as far as the Basel area. This also applies to other programme waters such as the Moselle. During an on-site visit, this year's PLEN-CC will study the ongoing work aimed at partly opening the Haringvliet sluices in the estuary. In addition, the working group Ecology has established a report on the national implementation of the EU Eel Regulation. Interesting information on different non-indigenous goby species from the Black Sea area which have immigrated to the Rhine system via the Danube and the Main-Danube-Canal will complete the picture.

Aspects of climate change in the Rhine catchment

With the publication of the "Study of Scenarios for the Discharge Regime of the Rhine" in 2011, the first results from a big catchment related to gauging stations and concerning changes in the discharge in the near and far future possibly due to climate change have been presented. On this basis, potential consequences of climate change for water resources (e.g. during floods and draughts) can be better estimated. For the ICPR they serve as a basis for drafting internationally coordinated adaptation strategies.

In the meantime, the working group Water Quality/Emissions has drafted an interesting report on the modification of water temperatures in the Rhine between 1978 and 2011. On the one hand, this report indicates a distinct rise in water temperatures during this period and on the other hand it documents the effects of the decommissioning of the first power plants in 2011.

On 30 and 31st January 2013, a **workshop** on the "**Effects of climate change on the Rhine river basin district**" was staged in Bonn (Ministry of Environment). The new results of further studies have confirmed the bandwidth already presented in the Study of Scenarios in 2011. During this workshop, findings of the Working Groups S, B and H were discussed on an interdisciplinary level and placed into the context of similar work from other river catchments.

Model simulation calculations for the future development of Rhine water temperatures until 2050 resp. 2100 are under elaboration.

Some cornerstones for an adaptation strategy for the Rhine catchment already exist and the strategy will presumably be concluded in 2014.

Further activities

MTBE/ETBE discharges into the Rhine

Furthermore, during the PLEN-CC in Vaduz it was discussed that the delegations of the ICPR and the Central Commission for the Navigation on the Rhine and of the CDNI convention (Convention on the Collection, Deposit and Reception of Waste Produced during Navigation on the Rhine and Inland Waterways) had jointly stated that MTBE/ETBE discharges mainly originate from navigation and that the Convention on waste from navigation (CDNI) which entered into force on 1st November 2009 is sufficient as an internationally valid legal instrument in order to avoid the problem of such illegal discharges from navigation.

During the last two years, further activities of all participating delegations have led to a distinct decrease of the number of reports on MTBE-/ETBE discharges.

Cooperation with representatives of the NGO with observer status

Within the ICPR, contacts with observers are of basic importance for water policy in the Rhine watershed. This has again been proven by the active participation of the NGOs in the activities of working and expert groups during the year under report. In this connection, the vivid exchange of information with the NGOs on June 6, 2013 with ample participation from sides of the NGOs is to be mentioned.

This exchange of information again showed, how many committed and well informed interest groups actively work in the entire Rhine catchment, from the source of the river in the Alps to its delta in the Netherlands and in the catchments of states involved through tributaries, such as the R. Moselle which support our aim to further water protection in the Rhine catchment.

In this spirit, the co-operation with the Dutch branch of the WWF beginning with the PLEN-CC13 and the CHR as intergovernmental organization (IGO) is expressly welcomed.

Annex

Annex 1 to this report includes a survey of the activities of the secretariat beyond everyday organisation of meetings, coordination and assessment of ICPR work and which belong to the domain of public relations.

The list includes lectures of the President and members of the secretariat for different visiting groups from all over the world, lectures on the occasion of congresses, seminars and the participation in other events.

Recent publications (July 2012 – July 2013)

ICPR technical reports are found under www.iksr.org

ICPR technical report no. 204: Present State of Knowledge on possible Consequences of Changes of the Discharge Pattern and Water Temperature on the Rhine Ecosystem and possible Perspectives for Action

ICPR technical report no. 203: Strategy on Micro Pollutants - Integrated Assessment of Micro Pollutions and Measures aimed at reducing Inputs of Urban and Industrial Wastewater

ICPR technical report no. 202: Evaluation Report on Industrial Chemicals

ICPR technical report no. 201: Report of the President of the ICPR 2011 – 2012

ICPR technical report no. 200: "Action Plan on Floods" 1995 -2010 Action Targets, Implementation and Results - Summary Balance

ICPR technical report no. 199: Evidence of the Effectiveness of Measures aimed at reducing Flood Levels of the Rhine - Implementation of the Action Plan on Floods 1995 - 2010 including an Outlook for 2020 and 2020+

ICPR technical report no. 198: Low Water Periods in the Rhine Catchment in 2011

ICPR technical report no. 197: Warning and Alarm Plan Rhine – Reports 2011

ICPR technical report no. 196: Evaluation Report on Complexing Agents including 196A Substance Data Sheet on Complexing Agents

ANNEX 1

Events at the ICPR secretariat or in which the secretariat participated

Visitors' groups in the ICPR secretariat

10.08.12	Interview: Japanese professor: Climate Change in River Basins
27.08.12	WSV candidates
05.09.12	Delegation from Iraq
06.09.12	Mozambique Zimbabwe
13.09.12	High ranking delegation from Benin
13.09.12	Chinese student
26.09.12	Students of the TU Delft
17.10.12	Sichuan Province, China
22.10.12	Guandong, China
29.10.12	Seomjin River Environment Management Council (Korea)
13.11.12	Peru (GIZ)
20.11.12	Korea
26.11.12	Beijing
25.01.13	Niger
29.01.13	Interview: Princeton Univ. USA
24.04.13	AECOM China
13.05.13	India
27.05.13	UNESCO
24.06.13	WSD trainees
27.06.13	PAN-African group (GIZ)

Participation in events

27./28.08.12	Meeting of general secretaries, Vienna
12.09.12	German-Chinese symposium on water issues, Cologne
19.09.12	PILLS (Pharmaceutical Input and Elimination from Local Sources Pills) - Final Conference, Gelsenkirchen
26./27.09.12	ICPDR FP Meeting, Graz
16./17.10.12	WG F 12 + WS Climate Change, Bruxelles
23.10.12	International ICPMS-workshop "Towards a transboundary integrated implementation of EU Directives", Trier
29.-31.10.12	Water Shortage and Climate Adaptation in the Rhine Basin, Kleve
7./8.11.12	2. Ecological Colloquium, Koblenz
14.11.12	Annual conference of the Hochwassernotgemeinschaft (HWNG), Neuwied
23.11.12	Plenary assembly of the Meuse Commission, Neuwied

30.11.12	Conclusion of the INTERREG project Upper Rhine, Strasbourg
04.12.12	Elbe seminar Floods, Magdeburg
06.12.12	Visitor's group Mekong Commission, Esch/Alzette Luxemburg
06./07.12.12	KLIMWA symposium, Würzburg
10./11.12.12	ICPMS plenary assembly, Daun
11.02.13	CDNI/IKSR 2. MTBE/ETBE, Strasbourg
12.02.13	CDNI-G, Strasbourg
13./14.02.13	EU-Central Asia Strategy - Platform for Environment and Water, Bishkek -Kirgistan
20./21.02.13	UNECE Core group "CC adaptation in transb. basins", Geneva
27.02.13	Meeting HKV-BW (HIRI project), Karlsruhe
06./07.03.13	BfG colloquium bioaccumulation, Koblenz
14./15.03.13	AMICE Final Conference, Sedan
21.03.13	Panel discussion at the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development, Bonn
22.03.13	German Federal Press Conference: UN day of Water Cooperation, Berlin
17.04.13	CHR meeting, Luxemburg
18./19.04.13	WG F 13 + Workshop, Dublin
16.05.13	Colloquium "FLYS goes WEB", Koblenz
24.05.13	Opening Polder Wörth/Jockgrim, Neupotz
04./05.06.13	UNECE – Implementation Committee, Geneva
11./12.06.13	UNECE Workshop on transboundary water cooperation - Latin American and Pan-European regions, Buenos Aires
20.06.13	5th Forum on the FD implementation, Neustadt/Weinstr.
25.-27.06.13	UNECE/Water convention workshop "Water and climate", Geneva
11.07.13	Congress Trace Material in the aquatic Environment - Ministry of Environment BW/ DWA, Mannheim

Publications in technical reviews

Where	What	When
Journal <i>Wasserwirtschaft</i> , ISSN: 0043-0978, volume 101, no. 11, p. 21-26	International Coordination within the Flood Risk Management Plan – Example of the ICPR and the ICPMS	Published in 2012
	André Weidenhaupt; Anne Schulte- Wülwer-Leidig; Daniel Assfeld	
Hydrobiologia, The International Journal of Aquatic Sciences, special issue: "Impact of human activities on biodiversity of large rivers"	From a sewer into a living river: The Rhine between Sandoz and Salmon	January 2013
	Nathalie Plum & Anne Schulte- Wülwer-Leidig	
Journal "Environmental Information Systems", 2nd edition	"Transboundary environmental information, the example of the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine"	January 2013
	Adrian Schmid-Breton	
KW Korrespondenz Wasserwirtschaft (DWA)	Balance of the Action Plan on Floods 1995-2010 and Outlook	January 2013
	Adrian Schmid-Breton & Anne Schulte-Wülwer-Leidig	
KW Korrespondenz Wasserwirtschaft (DWA)	Evidence of the Effectiveness of Measures aimed at reducing Flood Levels of the Rhine - Implementation of the Action Plan on Floods 1995 - 2010	January 2013
	Andreas Meuser & members of the EG HVAL	