



**Report of the President of the ICPR  
to the PLEN-CC14  
1st and 2nd July 2014,  
Luxemburg**

Internationale  
Kommission zum  
Schutz des Rheins

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pour la Protection  
du Rhin

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Commissie ter  
Bescherming  
van de Rijn

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International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR)

Kaiserin-Augusta-Anlagen 15, D 56068 Koblenz

P.O. box 20 02 53, D 56002 Koblenz

Telephone +49-(0)261-94252-0, Fax +49-(0)261-94252-52

Email: sekretariat@iksr.de

[www.iksr.org](http://www.iksr.org)

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## **Report of the President of the ICPR to the PLEN-CC14**

**1st and 2nd July 2014, Luxemburg**

### **Initial conditions**

In the Plenary Session, the President of the ICPR annually reports on the most important activities of the Commission in the past year.

### **Presentation**

President of the ICPR, Gustaaf Borchardt

### **Draft resolution:**

The PLEN-CC14 takes note of the report of the President concerning the year of sessions 2013-2014 and releases it for publication on the ICPR website [www.iksr.org](http://www.iksr.org).

## **Report of the President of the ICPR to the PLEN-CC14 mid 2013 - mid 2014**

### **Results of the conference of Ministers 2013**

Upon invitation of the Swiss government, the 15th Conference of Rhine Ministers was staged in Basel on 28 October 2013 in order to draw a balance of activities so far and to determine the cornerstones for future activities. The focal points of the conference were:

- a. A distinct schedule for the restoration of free fish migration in the Rhine. By 2020, salmon should again be able to access the Rhine tributaries in the Basel region;
- b. Enhance new innovative downstream migration techniques at transverse structures in order to restrict the loss of fish in turbines (young salmon, eel, etc.);
- c. Further initiatives in the Rhine catchment and at a European level to avoid and reduce micro-pollutant inputs from urban and industrial wastewater into rivers;
- d. Draft a preliminary ICPR climate adaptation strategy for the Rhine catchment based on the assessment of existing studies on the discharge regime (floods and low flow) and on water temperature.

### **European Riverprize**

On 12 September 2013, the "International RiverFoundation" awarded the first IRF - European Riverprize to the ICPR. The decision of the 2013 jury of European experts was taken in favour of the ICPR which was able to give evidence of clear lead, maturity and an integrated, complex approach to river basin management. At the same time, the ICPR has successfully met challenges and locally, evident results have been achieved concerning the state of the river, its flora and fauna. Due to this award, the ICPR will automatically figure among the candidates of the final round for the award of the Thies International Riverprize in Canberra in September 2014.

The prize money will be used to draft an ICPR website for children/youngsters (age 8 - 14 years).

Concerning the Twinning component of the European Riverprize, discussions are going on with GEF (sponsor), the UN-ECE and IRF.

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

A brochure 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 informs on the most important results and trends of chemical and biological water quality analysis and the effects of restoration measures taken. Furthermore, it presents progress with respect to the implementation of the Action Plan on Floods going on since 1998.

## **Further coordinated implementation of the WFD: Draft of the 2. river basin management plan according to the WFD**

Since the states and German federal Länder have not been able to update data in WasserBLiCK in time, the ICPR decided, in March 2014, not to publish an update of the 1st inventory of 2005 according to WFD. Some of the already drafted sub-products will be integrated into the draft of the 2nd river basin management plan according to the WFD for the IRB Rhine (part A). This plan will be drafted by October/November 2014 and, by 22 December 2014, it will be available on the ICPR website for the public participation.

## **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](http://www.iksr.org)). On 22 March 2014, the second coordinated report on the Floods Directive ("Report on the Drafting of Flood Hazard Maps and Flood Risk Maps in the International River Basin District 'Rhine'") was published on [www.iksr.org](http://www.iksr.org) and put at the disposal of the member states for their reporting to the EU (according to the Floods Directive, Article 6).

In this connection, the ICPR Rhine Atlas published in 2001 will be updated and extended to the Alpine Rhine, Lake Constance, Lake IJssel and the coastal areas. This enables a uniform representation of flood hazards and flood risks along the entire main stream of the Rhine. The accomplishment of the updated, digital Rhine Atlas based on national data is planned for the summer 2014. The data will also be used for the HIRI project (see below).

Intensive work on the Flood Risk Management Plan according to the Floods Directive is going on. The draft of this plan must be accomplished by end 2014 and it will be published with a view to the public participation. The flood risk management plan, the overriding aspects of which are to be coordinated, aims at reducing future detrimental effects of floods on human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activities.

During the year under report, calculation methods have been determined within the contract signed for the period January 2013 to end 2014 on the "Development of an Instrument to Determine the Reduction of Flood Risk taking into account Types of Measures and Assets of Protection" (HIRI project). Also, the instrument has been further developed.

The results of calculations of the modification of flood probability due to flood retention measures implemented and planned will be integrated into the HIRI project.

## **Implementation of the Master Plan Migratory Fish Rhine**

According to the mission confided by the Conference of Rhine Ministers 2013, information is being compiled on the state of knowledge concerning the protection and downstream migration of fish in the Rhine catchment. Within the 2nd river basin management plan for the Rhine, part A, two maps on "Big transverse structures in the Rhine Basin" and an estimation of the passability of these transverse structures have been drafted for (i) upstream migrating fish (e.g. salmon) and (ii) downstream migrating fish (e.g. eel). At present, the map "Master Plan Migratory Fish Rhine: Passability of Programme Waters" published in the 1 river basin management plan is being updated.

The interpretation of data from salmon programme waters in the Rhine catchment indicates that the number of returners has been diminishing since 2007 (except for the R. Sieg system). Also, in most programme waters, natural reproduction did not live up to expectations. At the time being, new findings for possible reasons are being compiled. In this context, the exchange with salmon experts for the marine environment (e.g. from ICES<sup>1</sup> and NASCO<sup>2</sup>) is of great importance. The target is to further improve the strategy aimed at building up the stock of salmon on the basis of a multi-factor analysis.

In a letter addressed to the operator of the Rhine power plant Iffezheim, the President of the ICPR expressed his concern about the longstanding malfunctioning at the Iffezheim fish passage during the mounting of the 5th turbine (April 2009 until October 2013).

## **Chemical and ecological quality**

### ***Chemical quality***

Among others, the programme „Rhine 2020“ on the sustainable development of the Rhine requires a periodical update of the list of substances relevant for the Rhine according to the state of knowledge and taking into account the environmental quality targets of priority substances and priority hazardous substances of the WFD (2000/60/EC) and of the OSPAR priority substances. The list of Rhine substances 2014 takes into account these aspects and, particularly, findings concerning monitoring activities of the states beyond their legal obligations.

A comprehensive publication on [www.iksr.org](http://www.iksr.org) describes the present state of implementation of the Sediment Management Plan in Switzerland, Germany, France and the Netherlands.

Furthermore, existing international water quality assessment systems have been compiled with (i) EU environmental quality standards (EQS), (ii) environmental standards for the Rhine catchment (EQS Rhine) and (iii) ICPR target values and were brought together into one comprehensive assessment concept. The report on the assessment of Rhine water quality for the period 2009 to 2012 based on this concept will be accomplished in the 2nd half of 2014.

### ***Ecological quality***

Presently, the results of the national biological inventories within the "Rhine Monitoring Programme Biology" compiled in individual reports of the fish fauna, macrophytes, macrozoobenthos, diatoms and phytoplankton in the Rhine are summarized and will be jointly assessed. The most important results will be integrated into the draft of the 2nd river basin management plan for the IRB Rhine.

Furthermore, a "Concept for Success Control concerning the Habitat Patch Connectivity along the Rhine 2015" has been drafted. In this connection, the question which remote sensing imagery resources may be used to achieve a comprehensive quantitative success control will be further looked into. Data and information on measures and projects implemented and planned since 2005 in the key areas of the habitat patch connectivity along the Rhine were compiled and serve as a basis for this success control. A short survey report with one or 2 projects serving as an example per section of the Rhine are currently under preparation, focussing on synergies when implementing the WFD and the Habitats and Birds Directive, on the Floods Directive and drinking water protection.

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<sup>1</sup> International Council for the Exploration of the Sea – [www.ices.dk](http://www.ices.dk)

<sup>2</sup> North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization - [www.nasco.int](http://www.nasco.int)

***Pollutant content of biota/fish***

After publishing a report on the pollutant content of fish by end 2011 (ICPR report no. 195), the ICPR has drafted a "Pilot Programme for Measurements of the Pollutant Content of Biota/Fish in the Rhine Catchment". It claims to largely cover legal requirements of European water law, of the legislation on foodstuffs and health legislation at the same time. The long term target is, to achieve comparable results on the pollutant content of biota/fish for the above mentioned legal areas and to reduce the required analytics to a reasonable cost level.

**Aspects of climate change in the Rhine catchment**

Based on the publication of the "Study of Scenarios for the Discharge of the Rhine" of 2011, the potential effects of climate change on water management (e.g. during floods and low flow) could be estimated. The working groups have looked into further specific effects, e.g. on ecology and water temperature. The global results will be integrated into the on-going draft of an internationally coordinated adaptation strategy to climate change.

The report on the changes in Rhine water temperatures during 1978 to 2011 was published in 2013 as ICPR report no. 209. It shows a distinct rise in water temperatures within the period mentioned and already documents the effects of the phasing out of the first power plants in 2011. At the end of 2013/beginning 2014 the estimation of the effects of climate change on the development of future Rhine water temperatures based on climate changes was accomplished and published (ICPR reports no. 213 and no. 214). These reports include a prognosis on possible changes of Rhine water temperatures by 2050 and 2100.

**Further activities*****Cooperation with representatives of the NGO with observer status***

Contacts with observers to the ICPR are of great importance for water policy in the Rhine river basin district. This has again been proven by the active participation of the NGOs in the 15th Conference of Rhine Ministers including a spectacular salmon action in Basel as well as the permanent presence and constructive participation in the working and expert groups during the year under report. In this connection, the exchange of information with the NGOs staged on 5 June 2014 in Koblenz is worth mentioning.

The exchange of information including written statements handed in beforehand has shown, how many highly engaged, technically well informed interest groups are active in the entire Rhine catchment and support our target to further improve water protection in the Rhine catchment. In this connection, the newly established cooperation with the "European Network of Freshwater Research Organisations" (EurAqua) is explicitly welcomed.

***Public relations work***

Annex 1 to this report includes a survey of the different public relations activities of the secretariat beyond the permanent tasks of every-day organisation of meetings, coordination and assessment of ICPR work.

The list includes lectures of the President of the ICPR and of the staff of the secretariat for various visitors' groups from all over the world, the participation in and lectures during congresses, seminars and other events and gives an overview over publications in technical magazines and/or contributions to reports of other organizations.

Furthermore, the ICPR receives requests for information and interviews at university level (among others for Bachelor and Master Studies or publications) which prove the increasing interest in transboundary cooperation in the field of water management.

## **Recent publications (July 2013 – July 2014)**

**Brochures:** The Rhine and its Catchment: An Overview

### **Implementation of the Floods Directive:**

Report on the Determination of Potentially Significant Flood Risk Areas in the International River District Rhine

Report on the Drafting of Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Maps in the International River District Rhine

**Folder:** Micro-Pollutants

### **ICPR technical reports are found under [www.iksr.org](http://www.iksr.org)**

**ICPR report no. 214:** Estimation of the Effects of Climate Change Scenarios on future Rhine Water Temperature Development – Extensive Version

**ICPR report no. 213:** Estimation of the effects of climate change on future Rhine water temperature development, based on climate scenarios - short version

**ICPR report no. 212:** Implementation of the Sediment Management Plan

**ICPR report no. 211:** Seasonal pollution of the Rhine with plant protection agents Isoproturone wave 2011

**ICPR report no. 210:** Report of the President of the ICPR 2012 – 2013

**ICPR report no. 209:** Development of Rhine water temperatures based on validated temperature measurements between 1978 and 2011

**ICPR report no. 208:** Immigrated goby species in the Rhine system

**ICPR report no. 207:** National Measures according to the EU Eel Regulation (EU regulation no. 1100/2007) in the Rhine catchment 2010-2012

**ICPR report no. 206:** Progress Report on the Implementation of the Master Plan Migratory Fish in the Rhine Bordering States 2010-2012

**ICPR report no. 205:** Warning and Alarm Plan Rhine – Reports 2012



## Events at the ICPR secretariat or in which the secretariat participated

### Balance 2013 - 2014

	When	What	Where
1.	16 July 2013	Visitors' group: Korea - Ministry of Environment	Koblenz
2.	26/27 August 2013	Meeting of General Secretaries	Koblenz
3.	11-13 September 2013	European River Restoration Conference (European RiverPrize)	Vienna.
4.	18-19 September 2013	CHR Plenary Session (Gerhard Brahmer)	Wiesbaden
5.	23-24 September 2013	UNECE-Workshop "River Basin Commissions and Other Joint Bodies for Transboundary Water Cooperation: Legal and Institutional Aspects" (including lecture)	Geneva
6.	24-25 September 2013	Colloquium "Uncertainties of hydrological forecasting - quantify, reduce, communicate" - BfG	Koblenz
7.	27 September 2013	Visitors' group: different states from the Middle East	Koblenz
8.	1 October 2013	ICPMS colloquium: Biological Continuity	Trier
9.	2 October 2013	Visitors' group: Delft University	Koblenz
10.	8 October 2013	Visitors' group: China - Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology	Koblenz
11.	16-17 October 2013	WG F 14 (and lecture)	Bruxelles
12.	18 October 2013	Visitors' group: Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia and Montenegro	Koblenz
13.	19 October 2013	UN day - Information stand on the market place in Bonn	Bonn
14.	23 October 2013	Final event: FLOW-MS	Trier
15.	28-31 October 2013	GEF International Water Conference, Twinning contribution: European Riverprize	Barbados
16.	11 November 2013	Visitors' group: Lake Tchad Commission	Koblenz
17.	12-14 November 2013	Conference, Mekong River Commission (and lecture)	Bangkok, Thailand

	<b>When</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>Where</b>
18.	14 November 2013	River Restoration in the Rhine basin (and lecture)	Zutphen, NL
19.	21 November 2013	ICPE workshop: Flood Risk Management Plan (and lecture)	Magdeburg
20.	21-22 November 2013	DWA - Hochwassertage (Flood Days) (and lecture)	Cologne
21.	29 November 2013	International Meuse Commission - Plenary Assembly	Luxemburg
22.	2 December 2013	DWA event on the Flood Risk Management Plan (and lecture)	Hennef/Bonn
23.	9-10 December 2013	ICPMS Plenary Assembly	Mousson
24.	11 December 2013	Visitors' group: Huai He River Commission	Koblenz
25.	12-13 December 2013	UNECE: Implementation Committee	Geneva
26.	21-22 January 2014	Forum: Fish Protection & Downstream Fish Migration	Augsburg
27.	11 February 2014	CDNI - Working Group G	Strasbourg
28.	21 February 2014	Visitors' group: Students University of Tours (F)	Koblenz
29.	6-7 March 2014	GFZ symposium (including poster)	Potsdam
30.	24 March 2014	Visitors' group: Thailand	Koblenz
31.	26-28 March 2014	CHR 'Spring Seminar': 'Socio-economic influences on the discharge of the River Rhine' and Plenary Assembly	Bregenz
32.	31 March - 1st April 2014	EU WG F and Workshop on transboundary issues (and lecture)	Budapest
33.	1 April 2014	Visitors' group: China (Liaoning)	Koblenz
34.	9 April 2014	ICPDR-Workshop: FRMP (and lecture)	Brno
35.	9-10 April 2014	Second UNECE-Workshop: River Basin Commissions and Other Joint Bodies for Transboundary Water Cooperation: Technical Aspects (and lecture)	Geneva
36.	11 April 2014	Meeting with delegates from Iraq	Geneva
37.	22 April 2014	Visitors' group: Kongo	Koblenz

	<b>When</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>Where</b>
38.	7 May 2014	Visitors' group: Indonesia	Koblenz
39.	8-9 May 2014	Rhine Mekong Symposium (and lectures)	Koblenz
40.	13-14 May 2014	CDNI - Working Group G	Strasbourg
41.	12 - 16 May 2014	ICES - Salmon Working Group WGERAAS (and presentation)	Copenhagen
42.	15 May 2014	FP7 Project Solutions – Stakeholder board (Luc Zwank)	Basel
43.	15-16 May 14	UNECE: Implementation Committee	Bologna
44.	4 June 2014	50 years Moselle Commission	Trier
45.	1-4 June 2014	ASEM seminar on river basin management (and lecture)	Tulcea, Rumania
46.	05 June 2014	Visitors' group: UNESCO-IHE students	Koblenz
47.	23-26 June 2014	OSPAR Plenary Assembly	Cascais

#### **Publications in technical magazines and contributions to reports of other organizations**

	<b>Where</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>When</b>
	Danube Watch	European Riverprize	Editions 3/2013 p. 11-12
	Aqua Viva (CH) special edition: Focus on Fish Migration	The ICPR programme on migratory fish	Edition 5/2013 p. 36-37
	Hydrobiologia	From a sewer into a living river: the Rhine between Sandoz and Salmon	Edition 2014/729 p. 95-106
	ICES - WGERAAS	Interim report of the Working Group "Effectiveness of Recovery Actions for Atlantic Salmon", chapter "Rhine"	May 2014
	NASCO – North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization	Annual Progress Report on Action taken under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2013, chapter "Rhine"	June 2014



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## **Recent publications (July 2013 – July 2014)**

**Brochures:** The Rhine and its Catchment: An Overview

### **Implementation of the Floods Directive:**

Report on the Determination of Potentially Significant Flood Risk Areas in the International River District Rhine

Report on the Drafting of Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Maps in the International River District Rhine

**Folder:** Micro-Pollutants

### **ICPR technical reports are found under [www.iksr.org](http://www.iksr.org)**

**ICPR report no. 214:** Estimation of the Effects of Climate Change Scenarios on future Rhine Water Temperature Development – Extensive Version

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**ICPR report no. 212:** Implementation of the Sediment Management Plan

**ICPR report no. 211:** Seasonal pollution of the Rhine with plant protection agents Isoproturone wave 2011

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**ICPR report no. 209:** Development of Rhine water temperatures based on validated temperature measurements between 1978 and 2011

**ICPR report no. 208:** Immigrated goby species in the Rhine system

**ICPR report no. 207:** National Measures according to the EU Eel Regulation (EU regulation no. 1100/2007) in the Rhine catchment 2010-2012

**ICPR report no. 206:** Progress Report on the Implementation of the Master Plan Migratory Fish in the Rhine Bordering States 2010-2012

**ICPR report no. 205:** Warning and Alarm Plan Rhine – Reports 2012

## Events at the ICPR secretariat or in which the secretariat participated

### Balance 2013 - 2014

	When	What	Where
1.	16 July 2013	Visitors' group: Korea - Ministry of Environment	Koblenz
2.	26/27 August 2013	Meeting of General Secretaries	Koblenz
3.	11-13 September 2013	European River Restoration Conference (European RiverPrize)	Vienna.
4.	18-19 September 2013	CHR Plenary Session (Gerhard Brahmer)	Wiesbaden
5.	23-24 September 2013	UNECE-Workshop "River Basin Commissions and Other Joint Bodies for Transboundary Water Cooperation: Legal and Institutional Aspects" (including lecture)	Geneva
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14.	23 October 2013	Final event: FLOW-MS	Trier
15.	28-31 October 2013	GEF International Water Conference, Twinning contribution: European Riverprize	Barbados
16.	11 November 2013	Visitors' group: Lake Tchad Commission	Koblenz
17.	12-14 November 2013	Conference, Mekong River Commission (and lecture)	Bangkok, Thailand

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20.	21-22 November 2013	DWA - Hochwassertage (Flood Days) (and lecture)	Cologne
21.	29 November 2013	International Meuse Commission - Plenary Assembly	Luxemburg
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34.	9 April 2014	ICPDR-Workshop: FRMP (and lecture)	Brno
35.	9-10 April 2014	Second UNECE-Workshop: River Basin Commissions and Other Joint Bodies for Transboundary Water Cooperation: Technical Aspects (and lecture)	Geneva
36.	11 April 2014	Meeting with delegates from Iraq	Geneva
37.	22 April 2014	Visitors' group: Kongo	Koblenz

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38.	7 May 2014	Visitors' group: Indonesia	Koblenz
39.	8-9 May 2014	Rhine Mekong Symposium (and lectures)	Koblenz
40.	13-14 May 2014	CDNI - Working Group G	Strasbourg
41.	12 - 16 May 2014	ICES - Salmon Working Group WGERAAS (and presentation)	Copenhagen
42.	15 May 2014	FP7 Project Solutions – Stakeholder board (Luc Zwank)	Basel
43.	15-16 May 14	UNECE: Implementation Committee	Bologna
44.	4 June 2014	50 years Moselle Commission	Trier
45.	1-4 June 2014	ASEM seminar on river basin management (and lecture)	Tulcea, Rumania
46.	05 June 2014	Visitors' group: UNESCO-IHE students	Koblenz
47.	23-26 June 2014	OSPAR Plenary Assembly	Cascais

#### **Publications in technical magazines and contributions to reports of other organizations**

	<b>Where</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>When</b>
	Danube Watch	European Riverprize	Editions 3/2013 p. 11-12
	Aqua Viva (CH) special edition: Focus on Fish Migration	The ICPR programme on migratory fish	Edition 5/2013 p. 36-37
	Hydrobiologia	From a sewer into a living river: the Rhine between Sandoz and Salmon	Edition 2014/729 p. 95-106
	ICES - WGERAAS	Interim report of the Working Group "Effectiveness of Recovery Actions for Atlantic Salmon", chapter "Rhine"	May 2014
	NASCO – North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization	Annual Progress Report on Action taken under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2013, chapter "Rhine"	June 2014



## **Report of the President of the ICPR to the PLEN-CC14**

**1st and 2nd July 2014, Luxemburg**

### **Initial conditions**

In the Plenary Session, the President of the ICPR annually reports on the most important activities of the Commission in the past year.

### **Presentation**

President of the ICPR, Gustaaf Borchardt

### **Draft resolution:**

The PLEN-CC14 takes note of the report of the President concerning the year of sessions 2013-2014 and releases it for publication on the ICPR website [www.iksr.org](http://www.iksr.org).

## **Report of the President of the ICPR to the PLEN-CC14 mid 2013 - mid 2014**

### **Results of the conference of Ministers 2013**

Upon invitation of the Swiss government, the 15th Conference of Rhine Ministers was staged in Basel on 28 October 2013 in order to draw a balance of activities so far and to determine the cornerstones for future activities. The focal points of the conference were:

- a. A distinct schedule for the restoration of free fish migration in the Rhine. By 2020, salmon should again be able to access the Rhine tributaries in the Basel region;
- b. Enhance new innovative downstream migration techniques at transverse structures in order to restrict the loss of fish in turbines (young salmon, eel, etc.);
- c. Further initiatives in the Rhine catchment and at a European level to avoid and reduce micro-pollutant inputs from urban and industrial wastewater into rivers;
- d. Draft a preliminary ICPR climate adaptation strategy for the Rhine catchment based on the assessment of existing studies on the discharge regime (floods and low flow) and on water temperature.

### **European Riverprize**

On 12 September 2013, the "International RiverFoundation" awarded the first IRF - European Riverprize to the ICPR. The decision of the 2013 jury of European experts was taken in favour of the ICPR which was able to give evidence of clear lead, maturity and an integrated, complex approach to river basin management. At the same time, the ICPR has successfully met challenges and locally, evident results have been achieved concerning the state of the river, its flora and fauna. Due to this award, the ICPR will automatically figure among the candidates of the final round for the award of the Thies International Riverprize in Canberra in September 2014.

The prize money will be used to draft an ICPR website for children/youngsters (age 8 - 14 years).

Concerning the Twinning component of the European Riverprize, discussions are going on with GEF (sponsor), the UN-ECE and IRF.

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

A brochure 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 informs on the most important results and trends of chemical and biological water quality analysis and the effects of restoration measures taken. Furthermore, it presents progress with respect to the implementation of the Action Plan on Floods going on since 1998.

## **Further coordinated implementation of the WFD: Draft of the 2. river basin management plan according to the WFD**

Since the states and German federal Länder have not been able to update data in WasserBLICK in time, the ICPR decided, in March 2014, not to publish an update of the 1st inventory of 2005 according to WFD. Some of the already drafted sub-products will be integrated into the draft of the 2nd river basin management plan according to the WFD for the IRB Rhine (part A). This plan will be drafted by October/November 2014 and, by 22 December 2014, it will be available on the ICPR website for the public participation.

## **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](http://www.iksr.org)). On 22 March 2014, the second coordinated report on the Floods Directive ("Report on the Drafting of Flood Hazard Maps and Flood Risk Maps in the International River Basin District 'Rhine'") was published on [www.iksr.org](http://www.iksr.org) and put at the disposal of the member states for their reporting to the EU (according to the Floods Directive, Article 6).

In this connection, the ICPR Rhine Atlas published in 2001 will be updated and extended to the Alpine Rhine, Lake Constance, Lake IJssel and the coastal areas. This enables a uniform representation of flood hazards and flood risks along the entire main stream of the Rhine. The accomplishment of the updated, digital Rhine Atlas based on national data is planned for the summer 2014. The data will also be used for the HIRI project (see below).

Intensive work on the Flood Risk Management Plan according to the Floods Directive is going on. The draft of this plan must be accomplished by end 2014 and it will be published with a view to the public participation. The flood risk management plan, the overriding aspects of which are to be coordinated, aims at reducing future detrimental effects of floods on human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activities.

During the year under report, calculation methods have been determined within the contract signed for the period January 2013 to end 2014 on the "Development of an Instrument to Determine the Reduction of Flood Risk taking into account Types of Measures and Assets of Protection" (HIRI project). Also, the instrument has been further developed.

The results of calculations of the modification of flood probability due to flood retention measures implemented and planned will be integrated into the HIRI project.

## **Implementation of the Master Plan Migratory Fish Rhine**

According to the mission confided by the Conference of Rhine Ministers 2013, information is being compiled on the state of knowledge concerning the protection and downstream migration of fish in the Rhine catchment. Within the 2nd river basin management plan for the Rhine, part A, two maps on "Big transverse structures in the Rhine Basin" and an estimation of the passability of these transverse structures have been drafted for (i) upstream migrating fish (e.g. salmon) and (ii) downstream migrating fish (e.g. eel). At present, the map "Master Plan Migratory Fish Rhine: Passability of Programme Waters" published in the 1 river basin management plan is being updated.

The interpretation of data from salmon programme waters in the Rhine catchment indicates that the number of returners has been diminishing since 2007 (except for the R. Sieg system). Also, in most programme waters, natural reproduction did not live up to expectations. At the time being, new findings for possible reasons are being compiled. In this context, the exchange with salmon experts for the marine environment (e.g. from ICES<sup>1</sup> and NASCO<sup>2</sup>) is of great importance. The target is to further improve the strategy aimed at building up the stock of salmon on the basis of a multi-factor analysis.

In a letter addressed to the operator of the Rhine power plant Iffezheim, the President of the ICPR expressed his concern about the longstanding malfunctioning at the Iffezheim fish passage during the mounting of the 5th turbine (April 2009 until October 2013).

## **Chemical and ecological quality**

### ***Chemical quality***

Among others, the programme „Rhine 2020“ on the sustainable development of the Rhine requires a periodical update of the list of substances relevant for the Rhine according to the state of knowledge and taking into account the environmental quality targets of priority substances and priority hazardous substances of the WFD (2000/60/EC) and of the OSPAR priority substances. The list of Rhine substances 2014 takes into account these aspects and, particularly, findings concerning monitoring activities of the states beyond their legal obligations.

A comprehensive publication on [www.iksr.org](http://www.iksr.org) describes the present state of implementation of the Sediment Management Plan in Switzerland, Germany, France and the Netherlands.

Furthermore, existing international water quality assessment systems have been compiled with (i) EU environmental quality standards (EQS), (ii) environmental standards for the Rhine catchment (EQS Rhine) and (iii) ICPR target values and were brought together into one comprehensive assessment concept. The report on the assessment of Rhine water quality for the period 2009 to 2012 based on this concept will be accomplished in the 2nd half of 2014.

### ***Ecological quality***

Presently, the results of the national biological inventories within the "Rhine Monitoring Programme Biology" compiled in individual reports of the fish fauna, macrophytes, macrozoobenthos, diatoms and phytoplankton in the Rhine are summarized and will be jointly assessed. The most important results will be integrated into the draft of the 2nd river basin management plan for the IRB Rhine.

Furthermore, a "Concept for Success Control concerning the Habitat Patch Connectivity along the Rhine 2015" has been drafted. In this connection, the question which remote sensing imagery resources may be used to achieve a comprehensive quantitative success control will be further looked into. Data and information on measures and projects implemented and planned since 2005 in the key areas of the habitat patch connectivity along the Rhine were compiled and serve as a basis for this success control. A short survey report with one or 2 projects serving as an example per section of the Rhine are currently under preparation, focussing on synergies when implementing the WFD and the Habitats and Birds Directive, on the Floods Directive and drinking water protection.

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<sup>1</sup> International Council for the Exploration of the Sea – [www.ices.dk](http://www.ices.dk)

<sup>2</sup> North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization - [www.nasco.int](http://www.nasco.int)



### ***Pollutant content of biota/fish***

After publishing a report on the pollutant content of fish by end 2011 (ICPR report no. 195), the ICPR has drafted a "Pilot Programme for Measurements of the Pollutant Content of Biota/Fish in the Rhine Catchment". It claims to largely cover legal requirements of European water law, of the legislation on foodstuffs and health legislation at the same time. The long term target is, to achieve comparable results on the pollutant content of biota/fish for the above mentioned legal areas and to reduce the required analytics to a reasonable cost level.

### **Aspects of climate change in the Rhine catchment**

Based on the publication of the "Study of Scenarios for the Discharge of the Rhine" of 2011, the potential effects of climate change on water management (e.g. during floods and low flow) could be estimated. The working groups have looked into further specific effects, e.g. on ecology and water temperature. The global results will be integrated into the on-going draft of an internationally coordinated adaptation strategy to climate change.

The report on the changes in Rhine water temperatures during 1978 to 2011 was published in 2013 as ICPR report no. 209. It shows a distinct rise in water temperatures within the period mentioned and already documents the effects of the phasing out of the first power plants in 2011. At the end of 2013/beginning 2014 the estimation of the effects of climate change on the development of future Rhine water temperatures based on climate changes was accomplished and published (ICPR reports no. 213 and no. 214). These reports include a prognosis on possible changes of Rhine water temperatures by 2050 and 2100.

### **Further activities**

#### ***Cooperation with representatives of the NGO with observer status***

Contacts with observers to the ICPR are of great importance for water policy in the Rhine river basin district. This has again been proven by the active participation of the NGOs in the 15th Conference of Rhine Ministers including a spectacular salmon action in Basel as well as the permanent presence and constructive participation in the working and expert groups during the year under report. In this connection, the exchange of information with the NGOs staged on 5 June 2014 in Koblenz is worth mentioning.

The exchange of information including written statements handed in beforehand has shown, how many highly engaged, technically well informed interest groups are active in the entire Rhine catchment and support our target to further improve water protection in the Rhine catchment. In this connection, the newly established cooperation with the "European Network of Freshwater Research Organisations" (EurAqua) is explicitly welcomed.

#### ***Public relations work***

Annex 1 to this report includes a survey of the different public relations activities of the secretariat beyond the permanent tasks of every-day organisation of meetings, coordination and assessment of ICPR work.

The list includes lectures of the President of the ICPR and of the staff of the secretariat for various visitors' groups from all over the world, the participation in and lectures during congresses, seminars and other events and gives an overview over publications in technical magazines and/or contributions to reports of other organizations.

Furthermore, the ICPR receives requests for information and interviews at university level (among others for Bachelor and Master Studies or publications) which prove the increasing interest in transboundary cooperation in the field of water management.

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