



Document title	RETROUT project (2017-2020)
Code	6-3
Category	INF
Agenda Item	6 – Salmon and sea trout including HELCOM Recommendation 32-33/1
Submission date	2.11.2017
Submitted by	Secretariat

Background

RETROUT is a 3 –year project focusing on trout rivers, sustainable trout fishing tourism and trout river restoration. The 3,2 Meur project is funded via the Interreg Baltic Sea programme, started its work in October 2017 and will finish in October 2020. HELCOM is the lead of WP 4 on status and management of sea trout rivers and stocks.

The RETROUT Partnership consists of County Administrative Board in Stockholm (Lead Partner, SE), Royal Institute of Technology(KTH) (SE), Haninge municipality (SE), Baltic Environmental Forum Estonia (EE), University of Tartu (EE), NGO Estonian Fishing Tourism (EE), Kurzeme Planning Region (LV), Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment - "BIOR" (LV) , Klaipeda University (LT), Fishery service under the ministry of Agriculture of the republic of Lithuania (LT), National Marine Fisheries Research Institute (PL), Tourist Association "Northern Kashubia" Local Tourist Organisation (PL), Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission, HELCOM (Intergovernmental), Ventspils Regional Municipality (LV).

The aim of WP 4 is to assess the pressure of recreational fishing on sea trout stocks, to compile information on the status of sea trout rivers and stocks in the Baltic Sea region, to evaluate different river restoration methods and technological solutions and to recommend best practices and management options.

The gained experience will be synthesized in a dedicated Baltic Toolbox with a set of river restoration measures to be published as a HELCOM report with pan-Baltic recommendations, including a section with case studies. The main results will be translated into local languages for national dissemination.

In summary, the WP will:

- Develop a common, standardised methodology of habitat monitoring and electrofishing (4.1)
- Perform a scenario study including (4.2)
 - assessment of recreational fishing pressure
 - assessment of status of sea trout rivers and stocks
 - comparison of different management options
- Evaluate completed restoration projects to identify success factors (4.2)
- Demonstrate efficient river restoration measures and implementation methods (through demonstration projects) (4.3)
- Develop a Baltic Toolbox for River Restoration to be used at the pan-Baltic level and by local, regional and national authorities. (4.4)

The following face to face meetings are planned under WP 4:

- Monitoring and assessment method workshop in Lithuania (by June 2018)
- Pan-Baltic meeting on river restoration and trout management (period 6?)
- Study visits to demonstration sites in Estonia, Latvia/Lithuania, Sweden and Poland (exact number to be determined)

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to

- take note of the information,
- consider the possibility to coordinate FISH-M and RETROUT meetings.