

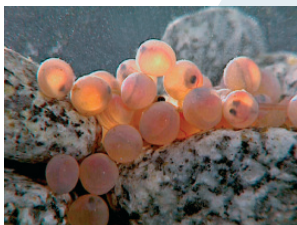
WHAT IS IT ABOUT?



Atlantic salmon typically is a symbol of clean water in an intact environment. The registered association „Der Atlantische Lachs e.V.“ (The Atlantic Salmon Association) has a vision: to restore salmon populations from the sea to the rivers in Germany. It is a challenging task requiring a lot of funding, expertise and dedication.



Help us in making this vision a reality. It is only in collaboration that we can make it possible!



THE AIMS

The Atlantic salmon has become extirpated in many tributaries throughout Europe. Some of the reasons of the decline of salmon populations are poaching, river „corrections“ and habitat degradation imposing negative effects on the migration corridors and the spawning sites. Changes in the river Rhine delta after the construction of sluices and dykes as well impose significant problems. One of the associations aims also is the improvement of the water quality particularly in spawning rivers. In order for this project to succeed an intensified cooperation with many social and economic groups and stakeholders has become a major task. And you are invited to help and to cooperate with us.

THE SUCCESS



The first step of the „return of the salmon“ has taken place already. The reintroduction process of salmon into the rivers Elbe, Weser and the river Rhine has already shown promising results. But there are other fish species, too, such as river and sea lamprey, shad, sea trout and eel, which will also benefit from the improved water quality and the habitat rehabilitation measures. Through the intensive level of work in the public domain, the public and political awareness of the importance of fish and water ecology has been enhanced. One example of the enormous efforts made to restore the habitat connectivity in the river Rhine was the completion of a fish pass at the weir of Gamsheim in the Upper Rhine by summer 2006.

Progress of the activities can be followed continuously on our homepage www.lachsverein.de

Left: 1. Stripping of ova/eggs; 2. Incubation system; 3. Hatching eyed eggs
Center: 1. Hatchery building; 2. Fish pass; 3. TV-Team; 4. Electrofishing for returners; 5. Release of salmon
Right: 1. Unite for first feeding; 2. Visitors; 3. Wild returner
Back: 1. Jumping returner; 2. Fish ramp at the Buisdorf weir; 3. Parr; 4. Release control

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THE PROJECTS

- Salmon Centre

One of the milestones of the project is the construction of the Salmon Centre in 2001 on the premises of the energy provider Mark-E at the Hasper Dam (Hasper Talsperre) near the city of Hagen. The operator of this facility is the „Lachszentrum Hasper Talsperre e.V.“. By operating in the public domain, this project enables us, among other objectives, to increase the hatchery production of salmon ova and juveniles for stocking purposes under optimised conditions - including the raise of offspring of wild returned adult salmon.



- Work in the Public Domain

In 2006, a CD-Rom was produced for schools, showing the activities and goals of the salmon reintroduction program, as well as the life cycle of salmon. By now, 4,500 free copies have been distributed to schools across the country. The most recent version can also be downloaded on our homepage www.lachsverein.de. The association also organises scientific presentations, meetings and guided tours to the salmon centre for educational institutions, such as universities and schools.



- Cooperation

We collaborate with numerous other salmon reintroduction initiatives and institutions, such as the Migrating Fish Program (Wanderfischprogramm) Northrhine-Westfalia and project managers and consultants of the states of Rhineland-Palatinate, Hesse and Lower Saxony. Updated information is provided through our international contacts, particularly with Dutch, Danish and Belgian experts and scientists.