

# Dunakiliti ship lock vs. fish lock experiment



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# Szigetköz presently

Reservoir

Cunovo Project

WFD HMWB and AWB

Floodplain 72,38 km<sup>2</sup>.

Dunakiliti Project

Navigation channel

Power Plant Gabčíkovo

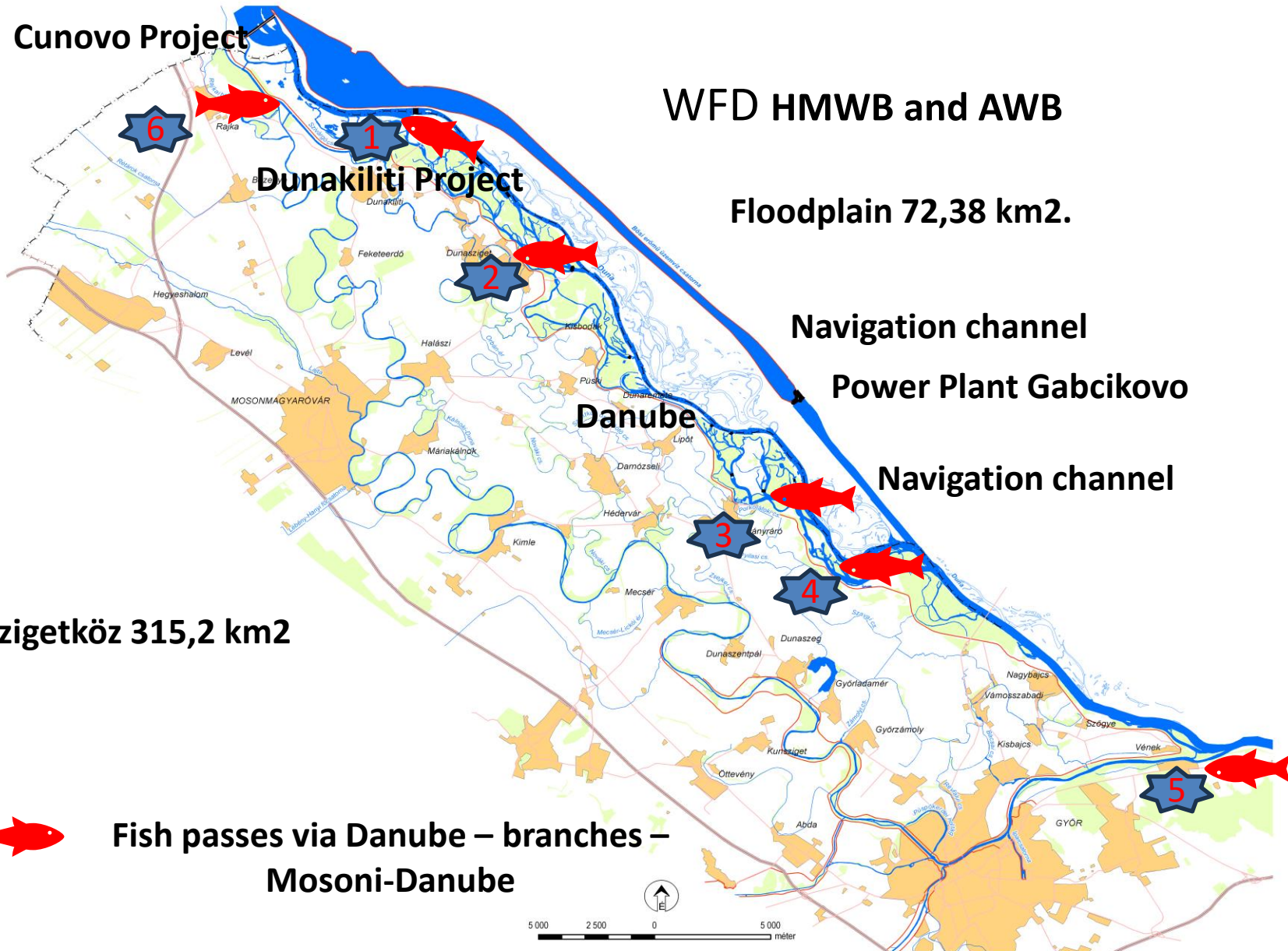
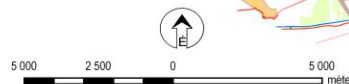
Navigation channel

Danube

Szigetköz 315,2 km<sup>2</sup>







Fish passes via Danube – branches –  
Mosoni-Danube





# Dunakiliti area and the floodplain water dotation works

# Dunakiliti area

- Dunakiliti weir 
- Shiplock 
- Rock ramp 
- Water abstraction 





**Low water situation  $\Delta h$  3-4 m.**

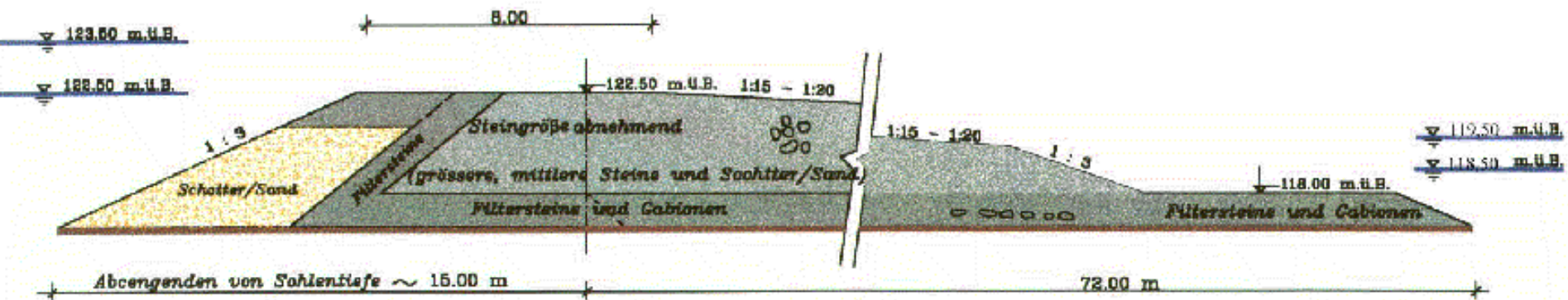




High water situation  $\Delta h$  over 1 m.



# 1. Dunakiliti Danube rock ramp 1995 $\Delta h$ 3,50 m.





**2. Cikola branches vs. Danube Denkpál 1997**  
 **$\Delta h$  3,80 m.**





### 3. Ásványi branch vs. Danube 2015 $\Delta h$ 2,90 m.



### 4. Bagamér branch vs. Danube 2015 $\Delta h$ 3,35 m.





**5. Vének Duna – Mosoni-Duna 2023  $\Delta h$  2,0 m.**



**6. Rajka Mosoni-Duna – Floodplain – Duna 2015  $\Delta h$  2,70 m.**



# „What does the return of sturgeon mean for fish pass design and river restoration?“ (Luke Hussey)

Many of the fish passes constructed today designed to accommodate comparatively smaller migratory fish.

The morphological size of adult sturgeon means they would demand much larger passes, which would in turn require a greater proportion of river flow (e.g. attraction water)! ICPDR – ICPER exchange of experiences Atlantic sturgeon Elbe Geestacht/Danube sturgeon .

Migration into a new changed habitat (e.g. reservoir), will be suitable spawning-ground for sturgeon species “site fidelity”? Problematic survival questions? Downstream migration?

In the face of climate change, facilitating the migration of these large fish becomes yet more problematic!

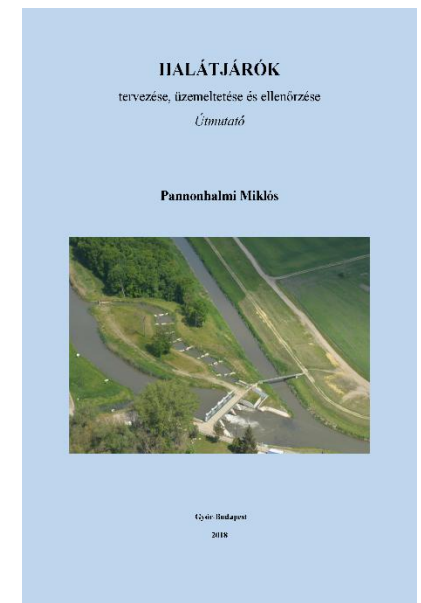
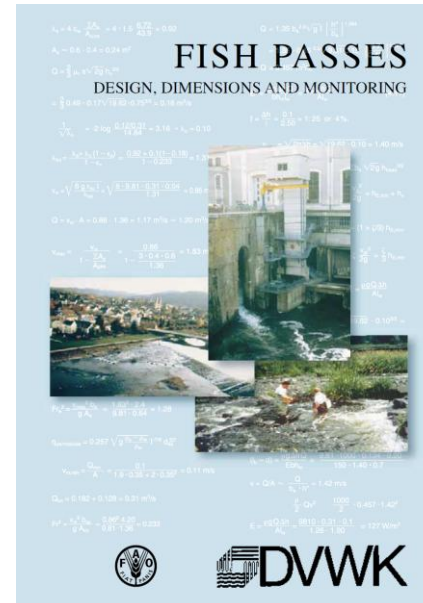
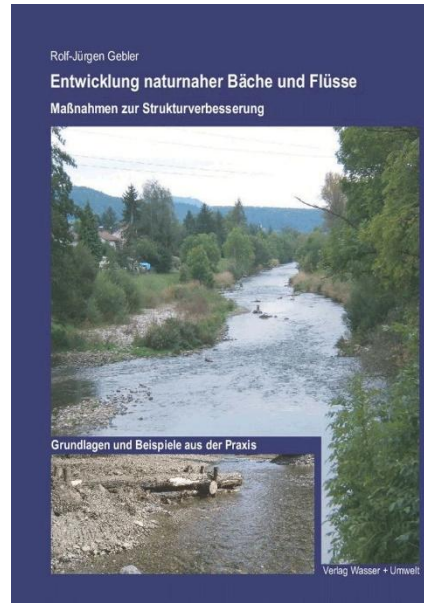
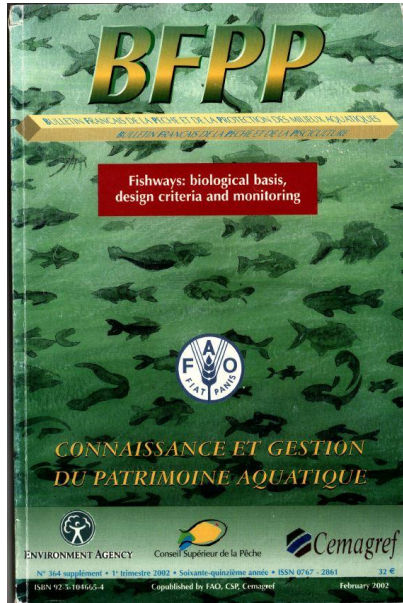




# Restoration principles NWA

1. Design the system for minimum maintenance.
2. Design a system that utilizes natural energies.
3. Design the system with the hydrologic and ecological landscape and climate.
4. Design the system to fulfill multiple goals, but at least one major objective and several secondary objectives.
5. Design the system as an ecotone.
6. Give the system time.
7. Design the system for function, not form.
8. Do not overengineer restoration design.

# Backgrounds



Measures for ensuring fish  
migration at transversal structures  
Technical Paper



# Proposal for junction Danube and Navigation Channel



Image © 2025 Airbus  
Image © 2025 CNES / Airbus

Google Earth



# Proposals for development Dunakiliti area



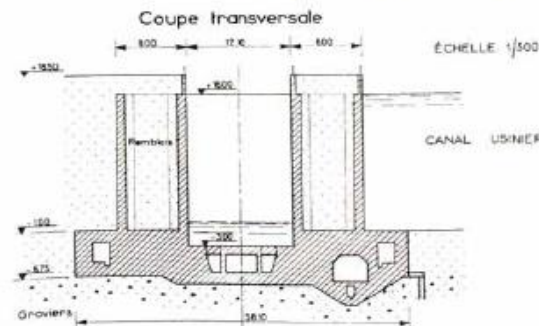
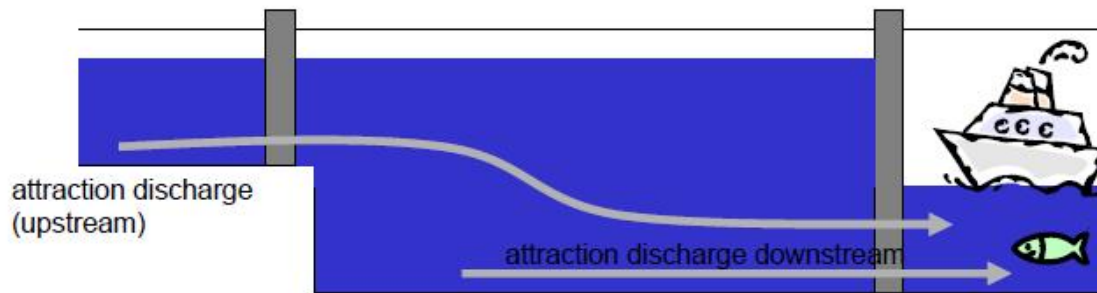
Slot fish pass

Ship lock modification+  
attractive water



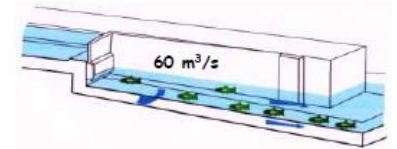
# Ship lock vs. Fish lock

Passage of migrating fishes using ship locks is usually accidental and unintended. The ship locks are generally located in relatively calm zones. Sufficient attraction water flow needed for migrations behavior of fishes. In spite of all precautions numerous locks have proved to be efficient, or totally inefficient. The maintenance of locks must be changed or use locks out of regular operation. Overall, fish locks are considered inefficient and might only serve as alternative passage for particular species such as sturgeons.

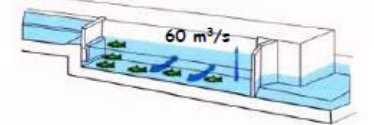


## Attraction process in the lock

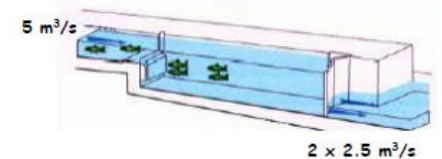
1 - (Phase 1)



2 - (Phase 2)



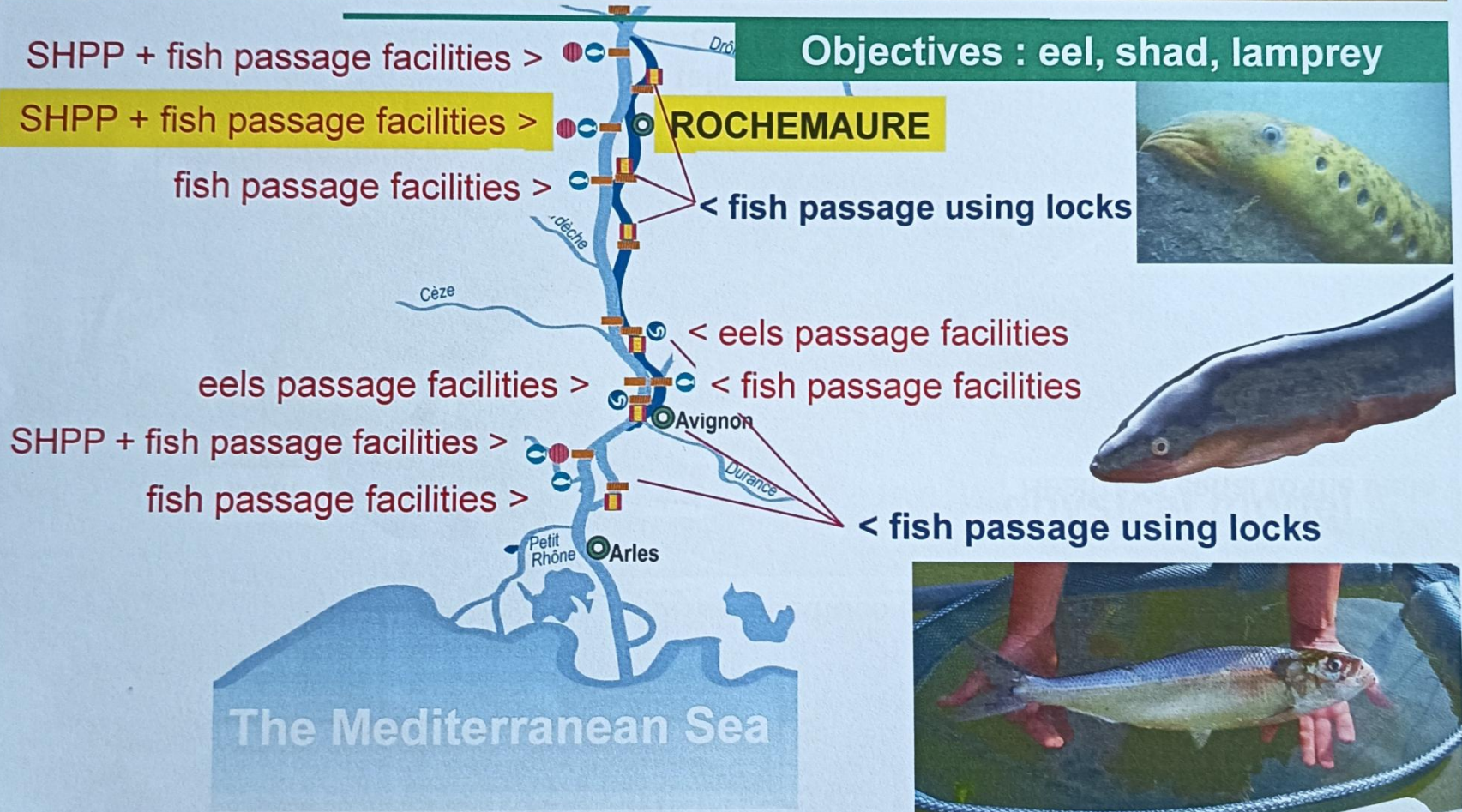
3 - (Phase 3)





Compagnie Nationale du Rhône  
L'ÉNERGIE À L'ÉTAT PUR

# Strategy for fish migration on the Rhône River





# Use of navigation locks for fish passage

## French experience Rhone

The ship locks are normally in the undisturbed water space, no attraction water for fishes, noisy area, manoeuvre place. River Rhone there are a chain of ship locks. Using the River Information System (RIS) the locks have a fish locks modus. Attraction water discharge up to 60 m<sup>3</sup>/s. Interesting alternative to do „**all mitigation measures**” principle.



**Dunakiliti ship locks  $\Delta h$  5,70 m.  
Lenght 125 m. Width 24,1 m.**



**Experiment stages/attraction water**





# Water velocities measurements

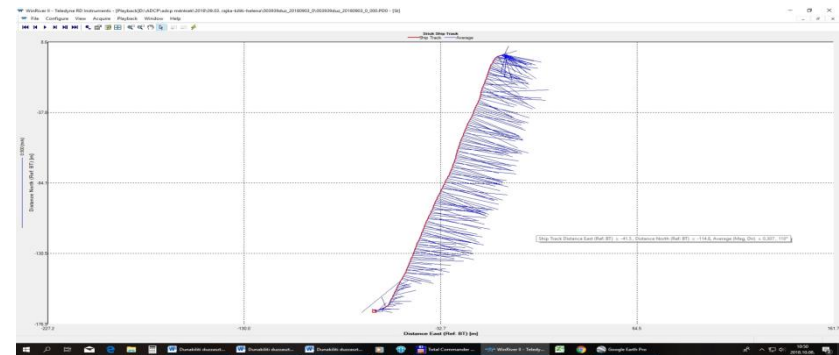
## Up- and down-streams of the works 10 series



Details:

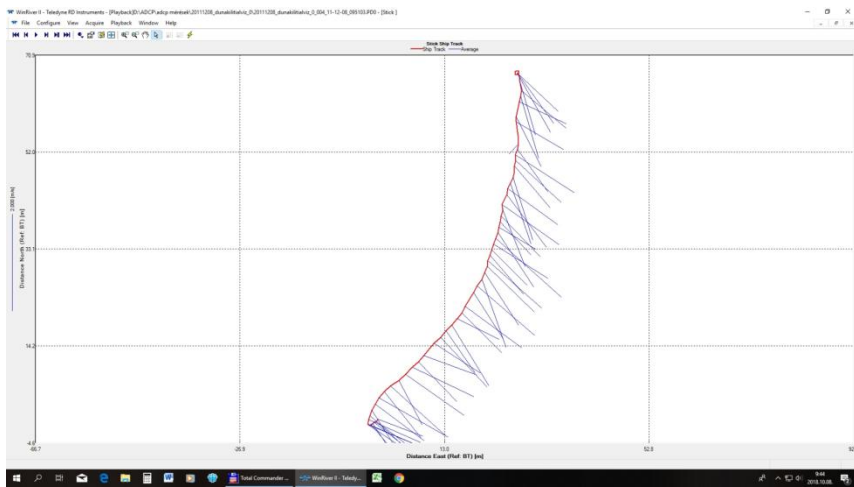
- gate,
  - sluice,
  - openings,
  - positions,
  - cross sections,
- in NTDWA paper

Dunakiliti weir upstream Velocities vectors: bank 0,2 m/sec,  
middle 0,3 m/sec



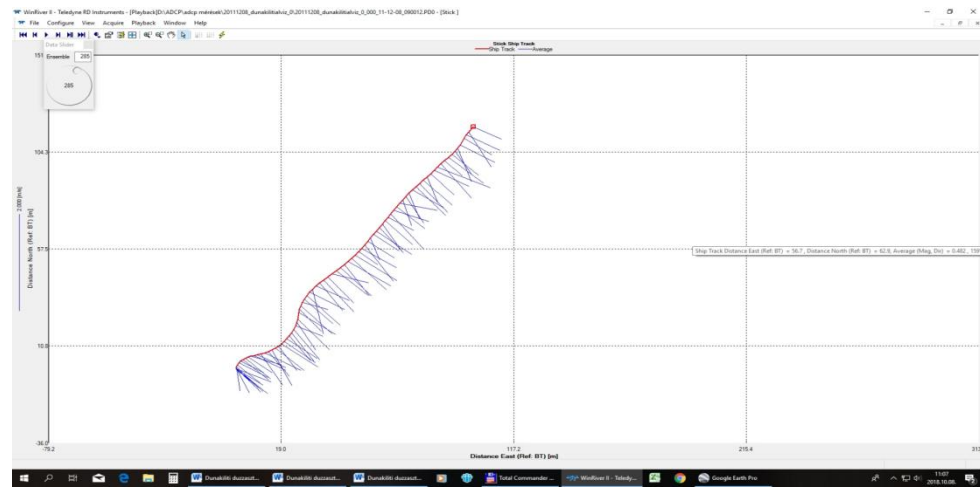
Downstream 20 m.

Velocities vectors: bank 1,2 m/sec, middle 1,5 m/sec



Downstream 400 m.

Velocities vectors : bank 0,6 m/sec, middle 0,8 m/sec



# First results

*Alburnus alburnus*, *Rutilus rutilus*, *Neogobius*,  
*Gymnocephalus cernua*





Fishes are not stupid, some are very sophisticated, not wronger - not like of us - they're just simply different. /Max-Planck Inst./

# Thank you for your attention

