

# ***TRAP AND TRANSPORT AS AN OPTION AT THE IRON GATE ?***

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*EUSDR PA4 Workshop: Connecting the Dots for Migratory Fishes*

*Budapest, 8 October 2025*

# TRAP & TRANSPORT – THE SETTING

- „Catching fish/sturgeon and transporting them over an obstacle, usually by trucks“
- Done in some areas in North America especially with Lake Sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*)
- North American rivers:
  - Depth: <3m
  - Q: 50-85 m<sup>3</sup>/s
  - large sturgeon populations in limited volumes of water
- Danube:
  - Depth: 8-24 m
  - Q: ~5000 m<sup>3</sup>/s
  - sparse populations

# ***PROBLEMS WITH TRAP & TRANSPORT AT THE IRON GATE***

- Capturing of sturgeon
  - Danube wide and deep
    - Even if some sturgeon are tagged – **never the whole spawning run** – exact locating of single fish is hard and time consuming
  - Handling of sturgeon during spawning migration highly stressful
    - Capture & transport
    - 75% of Lake Sturgeon transported dropped back without reproducing
  - Sturgeon have to be removed from the river and transported (usually by trucks)
- Downstream migration
  - Sturgeon migrate back to the Black Sea after spawning
  - Downstream migration of juveniles not considered
    - High risk of turbine passage and mortalities & injuries!
- **Constant effort and costs necessary → Solution not sustainable**

# *WRAP-UP OF ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF T&T*

- High costs and constant effort necessary
  - Only a small part of the spawning run can be captured (if at all)
  - Massive risk through handling during the spawning run (abortion of spawning run due to stress)
  - Downstream migration not considered for neither adult nor juvenile sturgeon
    - High risk of turbine passage and mortalities!
- Trap and transport is inefficient
- Only a solution where sturgeon can bypass an obstacle independently is cheaper in the long run

# *Summary of DSTF Position*

- Trapping and transporting at the Iron gate dams of sturgeons would be counterproductive and entail a significant risk of abortion of spawning behaviour.
- For downstream migration, trapping and transport at the Iron Gate dams would also not be a viable option in the context of the Danube and the Iron Gates (extended duration of the downstream migration period, depth and size of the Iron Gate 1 reservoir) and would lead to significant perpetual operating costs.
- Trapping and transporting would disregard all species other than targeted sturgeon and can not serve as a functional fish passage solution designed to benefit multiple migratory species.
- It can be concluded that trap and transport is unsustainable and cannot be considered a solution, neither for sturgeon migration at the Iron Gate for upstream or downstream migration of sturgeons, nor for other migratory species.
- DSTF therefore opposes implementation of trap and transport as a solution for sturgeon migration at the Iron Gate dams.
- This does not exclude experimental set ups of transporting a strictly limited and controlled number of fish across dams to optimise further details of planning fish pass solutions such as the location of fish pass entrances.

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !***

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