

FITFISH WG2 meeting Groningen 24 June 2015

(ECOST-MEETING-FA1304-220615-054303)

Aim of the workshop

The workshop will contribute to the following action objectives (as formulated in the Work and Budget plan of the FITFISH action):

1. Evaluation of existing fish migration data, monitoring methodology for tracking migrant fish and bypass design, and the use of expertise within the platform to identify potential improvements
2. The use of the established research network to search for collaborative project opportunities
3. Transfer of knowledge between scientists, industry and policy makers

Agenda

The agenda of the workshop:

Time	Action
13:30-13:45	Introduction to the aims of the workshop
13:45-14:30	Round 1: Discussion groups of 4-5 people will be formed to discuss the current priorities in fish migration research. Each group will formulate 5 priorities.
14:30-15:00	Coffee / tea break
15:00-15:45	Round 2: Discussion in different groups and formulation of follow-up actions / research project ideas based on the priorities formulated in the first round of discussion.
15:45-16:00	Break
16:00-17:00	Plenary presentation and short discussion of the research ideas.
17:00-17:30	Planning of follow-up actions leading to research priority / project proposal formulation.
17:30-18:30	Break
18:30-21:00	Dinner

Participants

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Results

During the workshop discussions on the **top priorities for fish migration** research were discussed. Five groups of 4-5 persons were formed to formulate a maximum of 5 such priorities and written on a flip-over sheet. After the first round of discussion half of each group shifted to another group. The people that shifted questioned the priorities of the 'host' group to come to a further specification of the priorities. The transcriptions of the flip-over sheets can be found in annex I.

When trying to synthesize research priorities into the five most urgent needs, the following is proposed:

1. The need for incorporating genetic, physiological, and behavioural intraspecific variation in migration research;
2. The need for intricate knowledge of the physiology, behaviour and ecology of migratory species, including the relationship to their habitat for closing their life cycles;
3. The need for an integrated approach from genetics to physiology and behaviour to population dynamics, but also in relation with hydrology, spatial planning etc;
4. The need for guidelines and protocols for monitoring and evaluation;
5. The need for studies at different spatial and temporal levels, which requires the use of large datasets and better experiments.

Follow-up actions

1. The workshop participants will comment and correct the draft report;
2. Workshop members with common interests will identify concrete research ideas;
3. These research ideas will first be formulated as one-pagers after which appropriate funding bodies will be identified;
4. Results of this exercise will be discussed at following FITFISH workshops;
5. Preferably a review paper, identifying the research priorities will be written.