

Rivernews — Water Newsletter — May 2022 Newsflashes and Dates Berlin, the 1st of May 2022



Registration: https://wfmd.splashthat.com/

Wild rivers or hydropower? Film evening "What fish want" at Patagonia in Berlin

Together with WWF Germany, Patagonia and flow:europe, the Living Rivers Foundation invites you to the Berlin premiere of the award-winning Christoph Walder film "Was Fische wollen. Last Chance for the Tyrolean Inn".

The film evening will be accompanied by a discussion with Theresa Schiller (WWF), Dr. Ruben van Treeck (Institute for Inland Fisheries), Olaf Lindner (German Angling Association) and Tobias and Tobias Schäfer (WWF), moderated by Michael Bender (Living Rivers Foundation).

World Fish Migration Day 2022 – 21st May 2022



The World Fish Migration Day takes place every two years and is organized by the World Fish Migration Foundation. It aims to raise awareness of the public about the importance of migratory fish and free-flowing rivers. Different organisations from the world are collaborating around the theme "Connecting fish, rivers and people". It focuses especially on

dam removal projects and the good practices to do so. World Fish Migration Day 2022 will host 600 events in 80 different countries, presenting 2 000kms of river restored or protected. The WFMD Hub will be held in Lisboa, Portugal on the 20 and 21st of May 2022.

You can register to this event here, contacting Herman Wanningen, Founder and Managing Director of the Foundation at: herman@fishmigration.org

You can find events happening in your area following this link: https://www.worldfishmigrationday.com/events/
You can find more about the World Fish Migration Foundation here: https://worldfishmigrationfoundation.com

"Petition on free-flowing river": 400+ organizations call for urgent action to save migratory freshwater fish to protect biodiversity, food sources, and livelihoods

402 Organisations from more than 86 countries have signed a petition, sent to Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat. This Petition aims to urgently create and implement a plan to restore and protect freshwater fish populations ecosystems. The average decline of 76% of diversity and abundance is putting at risk the life of hundreds of millions of people dependent on these species worldwide. The infrastructure developments, such as dams, weirs, sluices etc, are one of the main reasons of this decline. More than 100,000 of them in Europe are obsolete. Therefore the organisations call the CBD to take actions: permanently protect all remaining free-flowing rivers and remove obsolete river barriers by prioritizing high impacting barriers to restore river connectivity.

You can find the petition following this link: www.grueneliga.de/images/PDF-NewsletterENG/Open Letter COP15 WFMF 1.pdf

If you want to discover more on the CBD: https://www.cbd.int

Copernicus Report on year 2021

The Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) published the 5th Annual European Climate Status Report for 2021 on Earth's Day 2022. The report provides key indicators and detailed monitoring of climate conditions over Europe and the Artic. It also includes an update on summer heat waves in Southern Europe and a summary of the floods in Western Europe from last July.

For European Lakes, the Lake Surface Water Temperature (LSWT) is estimated in the warm season and compared to other data over the period 1995- today. The 2021 warm season LSWT anomaly show an increase in temperature (0,31°C above the average for 1996-2016 reference period). It is the seventh highest anomaly since the beginning of the record in 1995. All the seven anomalies occurred since 2010. European Lakes long-term warming rate is higher than the global rate: 0,38°C +- 0,03°C per decade against 0,24°C +- 0,01°C.

The River Discharge Measures between 2017 and 2021 show a negative Annual River Discharge Anomaly, meaning impacts for water supply, hydroelectricity power generation and species relying on the ecosystem.

You can discover more key events and single variables such as precipitation soil moisture or atmospheric circulation following this link: https://climate.copernicus.eu/esotc/2021

UBA selects groundwater as water body type of the year 2022

In Germany, around 70 percent of drinking water is obtained from groundwater and spring water. Our ecosystems, especially the forests, also depend on a sufficient amount of groundwater. In view of the last few dry years, measures must be taken to keep the available water in the landscape for longer. available water in the landscape for longer. In order to be able to continue to use groundwater as drinking water without expensive treatment without expensive treatment, significantly less nitrate and pesticides must be allowed to pesticides must be allowed to enter the groundwater.

To the UBA topic page on groundwater:

https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/themen/wasser/gewaessertyp-des-jahres/gewaessertyp-desjahres- 2022-groundwater There you will also find access to the virtual leaflet and the poster.

The Great Detox – Largest ever ban of toxic chemicals announced by EU

On the 25th of April, the EU Commission announced a Restrictions Roadmap, as part of the Zero-pollution goal in the EU Green Deal, aiming to ban 5,000 to 7,000 toxic chemicals by 2030. More than 200,000 chemicals are used in Europe, which three quarters of them in volume are hazardous. The impacts on human health and biodiversity are huge. Doctors even speak about "pre-polluted" born babies. Some of these notorious chemicals are accumulating in water, such as PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl chemicals), including drinking water. Across Europe, in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden have already observed it. They are also found in air, soil, plants and animals. The Restriction Roadmap should include PVC, PFAs, Bisphenols (including BPA), flame retardants and toxic chemicals in single use diapers.

A document providing more information on the "Great Detox" is available here: h.emg0crftk6qx

Lagoon Mar Menor – Popular Legislative Initiative

The lagoon Mar Menor located in Murcia, Spain is under great risk due to surrounding agriculture. These fruits and vegetables are mainly sent to countries like Germany, France and the UK. You can find a short report on our website: https://grueneliga.de/images/PDF-NewsletterENG/WaterNewsletterDec21.pdf

Therefore the working group, called "Legal Clinic" and directed by Teresa Vicente, professor in the area of philosophy of law of the Department of Fundamentals of Legal and Constitutional Order of the University of Murcia, proposed to launch a Popular Legislative Initiative (ILP). This ILP aims to give Mar Menor its own legal personality, a first in Europe but an already existing protection in Latin America and Oceania. As the amount of signatures mandatory has been reached, the Congress of Deputies evaluated the proposal and led to 274 votes in favor of processing Proposition of Law for the recognition of legal personality to the Mar Menor lagoon and its basin. The risk of a reduced scope in the draft law lie in the next proposal of amendments by each parliamentary group, and especially from those who initially refused the ILP. The procedure may be delayed due to this reason, between others.

You can find the Summary of the ILP Mar Menor, approval in Congress (Spain) written by the organisation "Ecologistas en Acción Región Murciana" following this link: www.grueneliga.de/images/PDF-NewsletterENG/Mar Menor PLI summary EN.pdf

Background information on ecological disaster are available here: In English:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/337495391_SYNTHESIS_REPORT_ON_THE_C_URRENT_STATE_OF_MAR_MENOR_LAGOON_AND_ITS_CAUSES_IN_RELATION_TO_THE_NUTRI_ENT_CONTENTS

In Spanish:

https://www.ecologistasenaccion.org/133667/valoracion-de-la-ley-de-proteccion-integral-del-mar-menor/

For more information you can also contact marmenor@ecologistasenaccion.org

UN 23: Global Online Stakeholder Consultation: Themes for interactive dialogues

From 22nd to 24th March 2023 will be held the next UN Water Conference in New York, USA. With the theme "Water for Sustainable Development 2018- 2028" the conference aims to enforce cooperation and partnerships, and to implement and promote the sustainable development (social, economical and environmental) and integrated water resources management. Beside the six plenary meetings and the opening/closing ceremonies, five interactive dialogues will take place.

In a social dimension, the stakeholders call for the recognition of water and sanitation as a human right, stressing that the gender gap in water should be a priority to be addressed. Inclusion, equity and education have also been a central question in this consultation. The issue of rising conflicts due to water scarcity was also highlighted. Economic considerations were focusing on water reuse, especially in the industry, on financing, investment and infrastructure with a systematic shift in finance, the circular economy, affordable water for all, promoting public-private partnerships supporting SDG6 implementation, transboundary water cooperation and addressing information gaps in water-related decision making. From an environmental perspective, the links between water and climate, agriculture (Water-Energy-Food Nexus) and pollution, as well as water and sanitation in urban areas were discussed. Digitalisation, data and technology are also important to manage and conserve water resources, address water scarcity and climate resilience.

You can find the Summary Report of this consultation following this link: $\frac{\text{https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-}{04/FINAL\%20UN\%202023\%20Water\%20Conference\%20Stakeholder\%20Online\%20Consultation\%20report\%20\%281\%29.pdf}$

« Willi und die Wunderkröte": from 12 May 2022



In Willi and the Wunderkröte, Willi Weitzel embarks on an adventurous journey through Egypt, Bolivia and Panama to explore the habitats of frogs. He is instigated by his 11-year-old neighbour Luna (Ellis Drews), who is fighting for the frog pond in her village. So, the seemingly insignificant little pond is at the centre of the big questions of nature conservation, sustainability and the power of community action.

In Willi and the Wunderkröte, Willi not only teaches young audiences about the importance of the (real) amphibian world, but also tells the fictional story of a girl who refuses to be intimidated, fights for a cause and tries to

convince her village neighbours with her powers of persuasion and tenacity. Luna thus stands for a generation of children and young people who are committed to ecological issues at an early age and who remind adults to treat the world with more care.

Willi and the Wunderkröte is a production of Filmtank and Interactive Media Foundation (IMF), funded by MOIN Film Production Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein, Media- and Film Society Baden-Württemberg, Mitteldeutscher Media Production and the DFFF. The film was made in cooperation with Frogs &Friends, a non-profit association that campaigns for amphibians.

Dates preview 2022 International:

25 April – 8 May	UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15)
2022	https://www.unep.org/events/conference/un-biodiversity-conference-cop-15
Kunming, China	
11 May 2022	Wild rivers or hydropower?
19:30	« What fish want. Last chance for the Tyrolean Inn" Movie evening and
Patagonia Store	discussion.
Berlin – Münzstr.10	Registration: https://wfmd.splashthat.com/
16 May 2022	Sustainable Development and water: cross-sectoral, transboundary
16:15 – 17:45	and multi-level governance arrangements
Henry-Ford-Bau,	https://www.fu-berlin.de/campusleben/kalender/2022/05/20220516-oh-
FU Berlin	stockholm-fischer.html
19 – 21 May 2022	Dam Removal Europe International Seminar 2022
Lisbon, Portugal	https://damremovalseminars.eu
Samstag, 21 May	World Fish Migration Day
2022	https://www.worldfishmigrationday.com
23 May 2022	Water for life and food: synergies between SDGs 2 and 6 and human
16:15 – 17:45	rights
Henry-Ford-Bau,	https://www.fu-berlin.de/campusleben/kalender/2022/05/20220523-oh-
FU Berlin	stockholm-mehta.html
30 May 2022	Blue Community Berlin since 2018: Our Water - All Clear Now?
16:00 - 18:00	Alternative Nobel Prize winner Maude Barlow provides information abou
Rathaus	the global project Blue Community and opens the Blue Community Berlin
Charlottenburg	exhibition.
Otto-Suhr-Allee 100	Registration to dorotheahaerlin@gmx.de
(Subway: Richard-	

30 May 2022 17:00 – 19:00 bUm – Space for engaged civil society Paul-Lincke-Ufer 21	What will happen when Berlin builds? Between circulation with brains and construction waste without end. New building plans of the Berlin Senate and growing mountains of rubble in public spaces - How can sustainable building be achieved in the future? Climate and resource protection, cityscape, quality of life. Panel discussion. Registration required. Free admission. Get-together afterwards. https://allesimfluss.berlin/events-cleanups/aif-podiumsdiskussion-bauschutt
1 June 2022 9:00 – 14:00 Berlin Representation of the Saarland in the Minister Garden 4	Natural climate protection as an opportunity Action programme on natural climate protection, science, land use and finance, Bundestag. Registration: www.NABU.de/chance
2 June 2022 Frankfurt am Main, Germany	55 th Water Management Law Discussion Group: "Securing and overbuilding water pipes" www.wasserrecht.uni-trier.de
Sonntag, 5 June 2022	World Environment Day 2022 https://www.bmuv.de/service/veranstaltungen/veranstaltung/internationaler-tag-der-umwelt-weltumwelttag
7 – 9 June 2022 Telford, UK	Flood and Coast 2022 https://www.floodandcoast.com
12 June 2022 11:00 – 19:00 Berlin, Festmeile at the Brandenburger Tor	Environmental Festival Of the Grüne Liga Berlin. The Environmental Festival is dedicated this year to the elixir of life: water. With a stage programme and stands. www.umweltfestival.de/
24 – 30 July 2022 Barby – At the ferry http://www.elbe-saalecamp.de/html/anfahrt.html	Outlook Elbe - 30th years of commitment to living river landscapes International Elbe-Saale Camp 2022. In 2022, the Elbe-Saale Camp will enter its 30th year. A good occasion to look back as well as forward. A warm invitation to all friends of free-flowing rivers! http://www.elbe-saale-camp.de/
23 August – 1 September 2022 Stockholm, Sweden	World Water Week 2022 https://www.worldwaterweek.org
5 – 6 October 2022	3 rd Symposium "Vital waters in Baden-Wüttemberg" www.vitale-gewaesser-bw.de
6 – 8 December 2022 Paris, France	UN- Water Summit for Groundwater https://www.un-igrac.org/agenda/un-water-summit-groundwater
Wednesday, 22 March 2023	World Water Day

22 March – 24 March	United Nations 2023 Water Conference
2023	https://sdgs.un.org/un-2023-conference-water-action-decade

The Rivernews / Water Sheet is published by the Living Rivers Foundation in cooperation with the GRÜNE LIGA e.V., Federal Contact Point Water / Water Policy Office, Michael Bender at Haus der Demokratie und Menschenrechte, Greifswalder Straße 4, 10405 Berlin, Germany

Phone: +49 30 / 40 39 35 30 Fax: 20 44 468 E-mail: wasser@grueneliga.de; Internet: http://www.wrrl-info.de





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The responsibility for the content of this publication lies with the authors.