

European Sustainable Use Group (ESUG)

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REPORT FROM THE FISH CONSERVATION BREAKOUT GROUP

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APPROACH

- Identify knowledge base and ownership
- Identify threats
- Identify existing initiatives
- Identify stakeholders
- Identify opportunities
- Identify potential funders

KNOWLEDGE BASE AND OWNERSHIP

- Big disparity between developed and developing nations
- EU Water Framework Directive (government owned data)
 - Good ecological baseline to inform sustainable management

Angling associations

THREATS

- Lack of baseline data (How can you manage resources sustainably if you don't know what the resource is?)
- Invasive species (translocation)
- Dams (habitat fragmentation modification)
- Pollution
- Predation
- Overfishing

EXISTING INITIATIVES

- Education – Catch-&-Release best practice (e.g. <https://www.keepemwet.org/>)
- Angler monitoring of fish populations
- Smartphone apps
 - Barrier mapping
 - Priority species recording (mapping)
 - INNS recording (mapping)

STAKEHOLDERS

- Governments
- Anglers
- General public (ecosystem services)

OPPORTUNITIES

- Build/enhance biodiversity baseline
- Monitor emerging threats
- Design and roll out smart phone apps
 - Target developing countries
 - Capitalise on stakeholder engagement and citizen science

POTENTIAL FUNDERS

- World fish migration foundation (global assessment of barriers and diadromous species impacts)
- UN (Sustainable Development Goals)
- EU Environment Agency
- Individual small research grants
- PhD