

NEW GUIDANCE ON FISH AND EEL PASSAGE SOLUTIONS AT FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

AECOM

Environment
Agency

Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

THA
AQUATIC

UNIVERSITY OF
Hull International
Fisheries Institute
HIFI

Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru
Natural
Resources
Wales

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Major barriers to fish and eel migration increase mortality and injury so it is vital to ensure they have safe passage for their long term sustainability.

The Environment Agency is collaborating with AECOM and a research team comprising THA Aquatic Ltd, and Hull International Fisheries Institute (HIFI) to:

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“Develop a new guide and supporting tools which synthesise existing research, guidance and practical experience to help the planning / appraisal, design, construction and maintenance of fish and eel screens, deterrents, passes and fish-passible pumps.”

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BUILDING ON WHAT WE KNOW

This new guide will build on existing guidance such as the 'Eel Manual' to provide much needed updated advice on choosing appropriate passage and deterrent measures in a range of situations based on the options available, expected performance and whole-life costs.

To achieve this, it will synthesise recent experience and good practice gained in planning, installing and maintaining passage and deterrent measures at land drainage and flood risk management structures. This includes pumping stations, weirs, locks, sluices and tidal outfalls across the UK and abroad.

The guide will also capture the latest scientific research, including field trials by HIFI and the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), providing valuable insights into eel behaviour and passage / deterrent performance at pumping stations.



PRACTITIONER-LED APPROACH

Production of the new guide is being guided by a Project Advisory Panel comprising end-user representatives from organisations such as the Environment Agency, Natural Resource Wales; Internal Drainage Boards, Lead Local Authorities and Natural England.

The new guide is being developed through:

- Review of guidance currently available in the UK and internationally
- Desk study assessment of recent research on passage and deterrent measures
- Workshop with both practitioners and fisheries scientists to identify key issues, questions and information needs
- Gap analysis between information needs and currently available guidance
- Site visits and interviews with those responsible for managing structures
- Detailed case studies on the selection of optimal deterrent and passage measures and funding mechanisms
- Development of an intuitive Decision Support Tool (DST) to help practitioners identify the most suitable option
- Workshop to help ensure the new guide is user-friendly.



TIMETABLE

Work on producing the new guide started in November 2016 and is due to be completed and disseminated by spring 2018.

NOVEMBER
2016

WINTER
2018

WHO IS THE NEW GUIDE FOR?

The primary audience of the new guide will be the flood risk management authorities (RMAs). It will cover both the development of new flood risk management and land drainage structures as well as modification of existing structures in both inland and coastal settings.

It will also be relevant to anyone interested in passage and deterrent measures, especially as it is intended to help link fisheries science with practical implementation.



PROGRESS TO DATE

To date the following have been undertaken as part of the study:

- Project initiation workshop, held in February 2017 and attended by a range of organisations
- Detailed literature review
- Visits of 50 sites across the UK and the Netherlands
- Interviews with around 50 practitioners, suppliers and technical specialists
- Review of costings of passage solutions at more than 100 sites in order to develop relationships that will inform the cost benefit aspects of the DST
- Derivation of case studies showing good practice, lessons learnt and illustrating how to navigate through available guidance
- Development of the draft DST

GET INVOLVED!

The DST will help users identify suitable fish passage options at their site and provide evidence of business cases. Now that we have developed a draft DST we would like to present this to you and would welcome your feedback on the tool itself.

To do this we invite you to attend our “User Testing Workshop” on the 18th July in Central London (from 10 a.m./ venue tbc). There will also be an opportunity to feedback on the proposed structure of the upcoming Guide itself.

If you would like to attend the User Testing Workshop please don't hesitate to contact:

Omar Sholi
Principal Water Scientist, AECOM
omar.sholi@aecom.com

Owen Tarrant
Principal Research Scientist, Flood & Coastal Risk Management Research, Environment Agency
owen.tarrant@environment-agency.gov.uk