



Restoration of Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) within the Rhine system at the brink of failure !

And the reason why? 2.4 million Cormorants (*Ph. c. sinensis*) in Europe and tens of thousands along the Rhine protected by ideologically driven politicians in the governments, especially in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) who are denying any kind of sound cormorant-management by

- systematically disputing or underestimating Cormorant predation and most likely even preventing scientific investigations into its dramatic impact especially on migrating smolts.

Thus, wasting

- Millions of Euros for removing obstacles, river restoration, habitat improvements, salmon rearing and stocking etc.
- Millions of man hours, engagement and enthusiasm from volunteers all over the Rhine system.

We ask all salmon experts participating in this 33rd NASCO meeting:

- Do not let them fool you, don't let them sell you 300 returning adults to the Sieg or to the Fish ladder/counter in Iffezheim as a success. Concerning the efforts made, it is exactly the opposite.
- Ask them to tell you the truth! All of the experts from the administration as well as from the private sector are fully aware of the silent catastrophe, that is happening under the surface of the water but are forced to hush up if not to lose their funding or even their livelihood.
- Please take action, unanimously recommend realistic measures against cormorant predation from the natal streams along the smolt migration routes down to sea at the Haringvliet and the port of Rotterdam.
- Oblige your colleagues from the EU but especially from Germany and NRW to make a stand but assure them just the same of your full support as NASCO experts in demanding the politics to face the inevitable crossroads of either restoring the salmon or going on to pamper the cormorant and its devotees.

Delegates for NASCO, it is time to make a turn around, the future of the Salmon in the Rhine system is in Your hands!

Make a strong and unambiguous requirement to the parties along the River Rhine and especially to NRW to ultimately take their responsibility against NASCO's agreements and obligations.

Please keep all this in mind when visiting the exiting sites of great efforts and technical advance, e.g. Buisdorf weir, Iffezheim, where You will experience so great enthusiasm.

For details see the letter annexed - or on the web

http://www.lachsverein.de/pdf/startseite/letter_cormorant_minister_hp_english_2016.pdf

http://contra-kormoran.de/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/FcK2MKULNV_23Apr2016.pdf