

Pilot region Bavaria

Altusried barrage

1. Ecologically sustainable operation of hydropower plants

The Bavarian electric power company, BEW, maintains and operates 35 hydroelectric power plants on the Lech, Wertach, Iller, Günz and Danube rivers, as well as biomass power plants and distance heating networks. BEW's aim is the ecologically sustainable operation of power plants. BEW is taking part in recharge.green in order to improve compatibility between the production of renewable energies and biodiversity conservation.

The actual realisation of such ideas in hydroelectric power plants is being tested in a pilot project on the Upper Iller river between Kempten and Memmingen in Bavaria. Focus is on the hydropower plant Altusried.

2. Case study for existing hydropower plants and fish passages at the river Iller

The main areas of interest are ecological connectivity at water-retaining structures and the protection of the fish population in accordance with the European Water Framework Directive.

Development of measures to improve fish population in Alpine Rivers in Bavaria (e. g. Iller, Lech, Danube) to alleviate the negative impacts of hydropower plants on river ecosystems

The objective of the pilot activity is to carry out a special monitoring of fish fauna at hydropower plants and to optimize the construction and operation of existing hydropower plants and fish passages to minimize negative impacts on fish.

3. Map



4. Training session for regional stakeholders

BEW will elaborate the ecological monitoring in close cooperation with the the relevant stakeholders, e.g. authorities, NGOs, politicians, local communities.

In 2014, BEW will organize a training session for regional stakeholders at the hydropower plant Altusried.



Pilot region Bavaria

Altusried barrage

5. Ideas and solutions to solve the conflicts

- Case study for existing hydropower plants and fish passages at the river Iller
- Survey of current fish populations and ecological status of the water body will help to define a reference state and a specific environmental policy guideline in accordance with the European Water Framework Directive.
- In a second step, the comparison of the current situation with the reference state will give an overview about the environmental status of the water body.
- Development of an evaluation criteria catalogue
- Identification / development of measures to reach the objectives of the policy guideline

