

## Reintroduction and stock enhancement of European weatherfish (



A stocking program for the endangered European weatherfish (*Misgurnus fossilis* L.) was conducted in the German federal states of Rhineland-Palatinate and Hesse, southwest Germany. An initial monitoring enabled to identify local broodstock and to assess habitats regarding their ecological suitability for reintroduction. In a second step, broodstock were caught for artificial propagation and cultured fry were released in previously selected river sectors. Furthermore, reintroduction sectors were biannually monitored to assess stocking success. Within the study period (2014–2016), a total number of approximately 83,500 juveniles were stocked in three river sectors for reintroduction and approximately 85,000 juveniles were stocked in four other river sectors to strengthen existing populations. During the post-release monitoring, 45 individuals were recaptured in two sectors. The documented short-term reintroduction success (i.e. survival of released individuals) indicates appropriateness of the selected stocking strategy. Furthermore, the provided course of action might be transferred to further states or countries and thereby contribute to weatherfish conservation at larger scales.

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