Fisheries management of Lake Constance:

An example for international cooperation

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Session III – Sustainable fisheries
Lake Constance
Morphometric Data

- Altitude a.s.l.: 395 m
- Total surface area: 571.5 km²
- Maximum depth: 254 m
- Volume: 48.5 km³
- Length of shoreline: 273 km
- Overall length: 63 km
- Overall width: 14 km
- Catchment area: 11,500 km²
- Mean outflow: ca. 370 m³/s
Lake Constance:

>1.6 Million inhabitants in the catchment area.
Lake Constance:
a successful story -

total Phosphorous during mixing periode
1951-2007

Quelle: Int. Gewässerschutzkommission für den Bodensee, 2007
Lake Constance:

> 6 Million tourist overnights.
Lake Constance:

> 4.5 Million people supplied with drinking water
Lake Constance:

> 55 000 leisure boats.
Lake Constance:

~140 professional fishermen

~ 13 500 Anglers

......
Fisheries management of Lake Constance:

- Since medieval times, laws and regulations exist.
5th July 1893:

The Agreement of Bregenz

The oldest known and still operational International fishery treaty
The Agreement of Bregenz
Conference of International Deputies for the Fisheries of Lake Constance (IBKF)

- The lake is treated as condominium

  - The nearshore region (< 25m water depth) remains in national responsibility.

  - The deeper parts are defined as the offshore region and are open to all fishermen.

  - Legal sizes, closed seasons and legal fishing gear are equal to all fishermen.
Systematic description of fishing gear

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOR A GIVEN NET THE FOLLOWING MINIMA AND MAXIMA ARE VALID:</th>
<th>EXAMPLE: DRIFTING GILL-NET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. mesh size at least...</td>
<td>40mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. diameter of netting yarn at least...</td>
<td>0,12mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. max. length of net</td>
<td>120m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. max. height of net</td>
<td>7m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. max. number of nets</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPLICATION TIME:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>31. March (12.00) – 15. October (12.00)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Monday to Thursday</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

REMARKS: No floating head-rope
Conference of International Deputies for the Fisheries of Lake Constance (IBKF)

Regulations about fishing methods
Stand 23. Juni 2006

Fisheries Management Policy
Stand: Oktober 2002

Present Standing Orders
Conference of International Deputies for the Fisheries of Lake Constance (IBKF)

- Constant yields
- Protection of fish stocks
- Consideration of the natural variety
- Nature conservation
Annual Catches

[t]

0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000 1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900 2000


others
Perch
Whitefish
The rehabilitation of migrating lake trout (Salmo trutta f. lacustris) stock

- Intensive fishery of immature age classes due to unqualified legal size
- Alternative management with rainbow trout.
- Construction of barrages and dams in rivers formerly providing spawning grounds
- Increased legal size (50cm) reducing of bycatches
- Rearing and stocking of autochthonous brood
- Construction of fishpasses
Market situation

Today:

- most fishermen have their own processing plants.
- the own catches are filleted and smoked.
- catches are sold directly to hotels, restaurants and private households.
Conclusion

- The international co-operation, now lasting over 110 years, has often proved its worth in managing the problems of the lake.

- The acceptance of biological facts, the responsibility for the common lake, and fair, objective and trusting co-operation have been, until now, the essentials of the work of the International Deputies' Conference.
Thank you for your attention!