

## Ecological rehabilitation of the river Meuse, the fish fauna and its habitat

Jean Claude Philippart

University of Liège  
Laboratory of Fish Demography and Aquaculture  
Department of animal ethology-Aquarium-Museum  
22 quai Van Beneden  
B-4020 Liège

The communication shortly reports on several fish rehabilitation programmes which have been undertaken in the R. Meuse and its tributaries in Wallonia since the early eighties. It mainly focuses on four actions :

- I) Rehabilitation of migratory salmonids : enhancement by stocking of the sea trout, *Salmo trutta*, population in phase of recovery following an improvement of the Meuse water quality in the seventies and reintroduction of the Atlantic salmon, *Salmo salar* (Meuse 2000 Project) in the Ardennes.
  - II) Improvement of fish migration through the building of new efficient fish passes in the navigation weirs (specially in the Meuse upstream of Namur).
  - III) Captive breeding of running water cyprinids (*Barbus barbus* as target species, *Leuciscus cephalus*, *Leuciscus leuciscus*, *Chondrostoma nasus*) and rebuilding of populations using hatchery-reared fish.
  - IV) Determination of the habitat requirements of fish species of the trout, grayling and barbel zones and conservation, improvement and restoration of key habitats (specially spawning and nursery grounds and hiding places).
-