

# Project description

## Fish Ethology Database

### «FishEthoBase»



## 1. Synopsis

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**Title: Establishing a global fish ethology database (FishEthoBase) on the species-specific behaviour and needs of fishes**

**Applicant: fair-fish international association** (fair-fish.net),  
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international@fair-fish.net, Skype: billohps,  
Bank account: fair-fish.net, IBAN: CH68 0900 0000 8503 8259 6,  
BIC: POFICHBEXX, Berne, Switzerland – tax exempt in Switzerland

**Contact person:**

Billo Heinzpeter Studer, president of fair-fish.net and director of FishEthoBase

**Place:** All cooperators are working in their home offices, in steady exchange with each other, meeting twice a year for working sessions.

**Time window:** April 2015 to December 2019

(The preparation phase from October 2013 till March 2015 has been facilitated by contributions from 5 foundations and 1 client as well as by wage sacrifices.)

**Total budget:** CHF 920'175 (USD 953'895)

**Already secured contributions:**

CHF 404'867 equity financing (44%) mainly by wage sacrifices

CHF 207'525 contributions from institutions, received or promised (23%)

**Contributions we are applying for:**

CHF 307'783 (USD 319'062) (33%)

**Short summary:**

How can we judge if a fish farm method is species-appropriate? Ethological observation in farming situations might provide pointers for improving fish welfare. But to avoid circular reasoning, we need the „calibration“ by studies in the wild from where the species stems.

FishEthoBase records all detectable ethological findings from the wild and from captivity – as a priority from the species which are farmed today. The database is open access, highlights the research gaps, encourages further research and enables ethologically based answers from practitioners and policy-makers.

The leading fish database FishBase.org welcomes FishEthoBase as a complement. In addition, we cooperate with the database on ornamental and laboratory fish species, fischwissen.ch.

**The ethological profiles of the first three species are online:**

<http://fishethobase.fair-fish.ch/en>

The next four species profile are under progress, to be published by end of 2015.

## 2. Introduction, problem and rationale of the project

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**The key problem in ensuring fish welfare consists of the very limited knowledge about behaviour and needs which the various concerned species act out in their natural habitats.**

Human use of terrestrial farm animals is confined to about ten species mainly, the breeding and husbandry of which can rely on 10'000 years of experience. In contrast, fish farming today embraces already about 450 species, and only 4 of them have been farmed for more the 100 years already: carp, eel, trout and cod. Even when it comes to frequently farmed species like trout, salmon, tilapia or shrimp, ethology is a rather a science full of not even asked questions than of helpful answers.

We know indeed how to fatten a maximum of fishes in a cubic metre of water. But we know very little about how a fish farm should be designed and managed to really satisfy the needs of the fishes.

Since the 1970s, the fish farming industry is growing by 7 to 9 each year, thus faster growing than any other food production sector. By the speed of growth, research to improve fish welfare is dragging behind all the more. This is what we intend to contrast with our global fish ethology database in order to foster the attention for ethological findings and further research.

Nowadays the welfare of fishes is presumed to be secured when they receive enough appropriate food, when the water quality corresponds the needs of the species, when the stocking density (kg per cubic metre) is not too high and stress and diseases can be avoided. That is what a fish farmers understands when he asserts that his fishes «are well». The fishes however have a different view on the subject for sure.

## 3. Relevance for animal welfare

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**The lack of ethological knowledge is concerning up to 100'000'000'000 farmed fishes annually** (not to mention the 1'000'000'000'000 fishes caught per year to feed the farmed fishes).<sup>1</sup>

**The crucial findings are the ones gathered in the wild.**

An example from pig breeding. Contemporary stems for a more species appropriate husbandry of pigs are based on findings which the Swiss ethologist Alex Stolba obtained in a groundbreaking study in the 1970s and 1980s while observing domestic pigs reintroduced into the wild. Stolba then developed a closed stable system which allows the pigs to act out all the needs and behaviour patterns which had turned out to be essential for pigs. Stolba's idea has since been adopted by several stable systems. Despite his early death, Stolba's lifework keeps inspiring many ethologists, agronomists and famers.

Stolba's research approach is paradigmatic fort he task with which ethology in fish farming is confronted. It is not about growing the fishes as it were in the wild – this would be much easier by managing fisheries in a sustainable way. Instead, it is about designing fish farming in a new way so as to satisfy the needs of the species and to allow the behaviour patterns which they inherited from their progenitors.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://fishcount.org.uk/fish-count-estimates>

FishEthoBase wants to provide the knowledge for this purpose, so that fish farmers, policy makers and law enforcement agencies are enabled to foster fish welfare – or to renounce at the farming of a species if its welfare cannot be guaranteed in an artificial habitat.

## 4. Objective of the project

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FishEthoBase wants to

- gather the ethological findings scattered all over the world and dissipated in all sorts of issues, focussing on the main species in aquaculture, systematise them and make them available open access;
- help to supply the scientific basis to make fish welfare a core criterion of aquaculture;
- reveal research gaps and stimulate further research;
- develop scientifically based answers to the questions of practitioners, policy makers and law enforcement agencies (recommendations);
- provide information about welfare of farmed fishes to a broader public.

The objective of quinquennial project phase is to develop FishEthoBase to the point where

- it can be used by academia and field as an instrument;
- it provides for at least 20 of the main farmed species all available ethological findings in compact and scientifically comprehensible profiles,
- alongside with recommendations for the field and summaries for the public.
- Sustainability: Furthermore, it is a part of the project to ensure the long-term existence of FishEthoBase: through personal continuity, know-how security and link to a scientific institute or creating our own research institute.

## 5. Methods and realisation

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**Research:** The FishEthoBase team researches globally for published ethological findings in fishes. Gradually other authors shall be enabled to contribute their own findings directly, including also observations from fish farmers, fishermen, divers, etc.

All data in FishEthoBase are based on existing scientific studies, publications, and documented observations.

The focus of the research lies on farmed species. FishEthoBase however is in principal open other species as well. For ornamental and laboratory species, we agreed upon interlinking with the specialised website [fischwissen.ch](http://fischwissen.ch) in order to create synergies.

**Editing:** The findings gathered by research or communication become

- categorised by means of our list of relevant ethological indicators resp. of the describable elements of the observed behaviour,
- confronted with the data already established;
- edited according to our own guidelines (Operating Manual);
- complemented by the list of references, the recommendations for practitioners and the summary for a broader public.

Reading online access to FishEthoBase is free for all.

For comments and contributions an offline access is provided for registered users. Contributions are reviewed by the research team, discussed with the contributor and edited according to the Operating Manual. Co-authors approved by the research team will be supplied with a privileged online access.

Window	Target audience	Language(s)	Feedback
Scientific findings, backend	Research team and approved co-authors	EN	Full access
Scientific findings, front-end	Scientists and practitioners	EN	Comment function for registered users, edited
Recommendations	Practitioners (fish farmers, authorities, policy makers, NGOs, etc.)	EN plus, depending on the species, DE, FR, IT, ES and/or PT	Comment function for registered users, edited
Summaries: Description of the living of a specific species	Specialists looking for fast reading abstracts; interested laypersons	EN plus, depending on the species, DE, FR, IT, ES and/or PT	E-Mail

## 5.1 Preparative phase 2012-2014

The idea to establish a fish ethology database has been discussed first in spring 2012 with Rainer Froese, fishery biologist at IFM Geomar in Kiel, Germany, one of the fathers of the leading fish database FishBase<sup>2</sup>. After he generally motivated us to go on, we presented the idea to about hundred experts in ethology, fish biology or aquaculture. Their feedback encouraged us to realise it. Thanks to this and to the support of five foundations<sup>3</sup> and a first client, not to mention the team's partly renouncement at its remuneration, we were able to start in October 2013, long before the financing of the project had been secured, to research and draft the ethological profiles of five species.

The selection of the first species to be described<sup>4</sup> resulted from growing request from initiators of new fish farming projects who were looking for information how to guarantee the welfare of their fishes. Therefore each ethological profile leads to recommendations for practitioners. The profile of the Atlantic salmon has even been developed by order of the initiator of an indoor salmon farm<sup>5</sup> who had contacted fair-fish.net already a year ago.

<sup>2</sup> [www.fishbase.org](http://www.fishbase.org)

<sup>3</sup> Stiftung Dreiklang (CHF 15'000), Zürcher Tierschutz (CHF 15'000), Elisabeth Rentschler-Stiftung (CHF 2'500), Europäische Tierschutzstiftung (CHF 2'000), Rüegg-Bollinger-Stiftung (CHF 500)

<sup>4</sup> European perch (*Perca fluviatilis*), Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), Sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*), Gilthead sea bream (*Sparus aurata*) and Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*).

<sup>5</sup> Swiss Alpine Fish AG (CHF 5'000)

Orders of this kind will remain an exception, as still most aquaculture projects are initiated by people with rather little sense for fish welfare. There is a true need for a consciousness shift that FishEthoBase wants to stimulate.

The high point of the preparative phase has been the invitation to present the FishEthoBase with a poster at two scientific conferences:

- at the beginning of September 2014 at the 6th International Conference on the Assessment of Animal Welfare at Farm and Group Level (WAFL) in Clermont-Ferrand, France
- at the end of September at the 21st FREILAND congress and the 26th congress of the International Society for Animal Husbandry in Vienna

## 5.2. Status quo: International Stakeholder Round realised

Actually we are working on the ethological profiles of seven species<sup>6</sup>. Three profiles which we deemed ready for publication had been set online by end of June 2015 when we launched the first international Stakeholder Round inviting 2000 experts around the globe from academia and field, closed by end of August (the analysis is under way). The remaining four profiles will be published by end of 2015 or in the first quarter of 2016.

In spring 2015, after having worked on Google spreadsheets, we were lucky to get a professionally programmed and designed website for the FishEthoBase, in up to six main European languages and with comment functions.

Again in spring we were able to reinforce the FishEthoBase research team and widen its scope of disciplines and geographical regions. After a widespread invitation for applications for a third post we decided to get all three top candidates on board as freelancers.

Actually, the team consists of the following persons:

<p><b>Project director</b> Billo Heinzpeter Studer</p> <p>as of 05/2012</p>	<p>born 1947, social psychologist (Univ. Zurich, abandoned after his PhD thesis had been destroyed by a house fire) and journalist, directed the Swiss farm animal welfare organisation kagfreiland from 1985 till 2001. Initiated in 1997 fair-fish in Switzerland which he directed until 2012. Manager of a project with artisanal fishermen in Senegal (2004–2011), since 2012 co-president of fair-fish.ch. Lives in Monfalcone (Italy) and Graz (Austria). Founder and president of fair-fish international association (fair-fish.net) since 2010 and member of its guideline commission.</p> <p>When pensioned in 2012, he decided to dedicate his time, energy and knowledge to the creation of FishEthoBase. Actually working on the editing of the species profiles, on the stakeholder dialogue and on opportunities to get FishEthoBase become more known and financed.</p>
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<sup>6</sup> In addition to the five species named under footnote 5, we started end of 2014 to research for studies on the world's most frequently farmed shrimp, the Pacific whiteleg shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*). The reason for this choice are first farm projects with this species in Switzerland which made fair-fish Switzerland launch a petition to demand the federal government to expand the scope of the Swiss Animal Protection law to shrimps. During a discussion with the Swiss Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (BLV) it became apparent that an ethological profile of *L. vannamei* would be helpful.

The seventh profile relates to Pikeperch (*Sander lucioperca*), a species coming into vogue in fish farming, e. g. as a branch of business for peasants in Switzerland, a trend which fair-fish criticised as peasants would lack the know-how in high tech fish farming. In the above mentioned discussion with the BLV, we agreed that here, too, an ethological species profile could help to improve.

<p><b>Research coordinator and sub-director</b> Dr. Jenny Volstorf</p> <p>as of 09/2013</p>	<p>born 1982, Dr. rer. nat., studied primarily psychology (Univ. Chemnitz) and continued her education at the Max Planck Institute for education research (Berlin) to invest then her research capacities in favour of the improvement of the welfare of so-called production animals. Freelance scientific author, contributing for FishEthoBase since 2013 and its research coordinator since 2015. Lives in Berlin, the self-declared vegan capital of Europe.</p> <p>Established the profiles of Tilapia, Atlantic salmon and Sea bream, actually working on the profiles of Sea bass and Whiteleg shrimp.</p>
<p><b>Researcher</b> Dr. Ana Roque</p> <p>as of 12/2014</p>	<p>born 1965, Dr. med. vet., studied at the University of Lisbon and did her PhD at the Institute of Aquaculture of the University of Stirling. Since 2004 researcher at the Instituto de Investigación y Tecnología Agroalimentarias (IRTA) in Barcelona. Disposes of longtime experience in international research projects on health and wellbeing of fishes and crustaceans. Portuguese living with her family in Catalonia.</p> <p>Reviewed the profile of Sea bream, actually works on the profile of Whiteleg shrimp.</p>
<p><b>Webmaster</b> Reto Gassmann</p> <p>as of 02/2015</p>	<p>born 1971, operations engineer, exceptionally gifted web programmer who hosted fair-fish.ch for years already when in 2014 offering the development of the web-based database. Actually working on improvements and extensions after the first stakeholder dialogue.</p>
<p><b>Researcher</b> Dr. Corinna von Kürthy</p> <p>as of 04/2015</p>	<p>born 1979, made her PhD in 2015 at the University of Berne on reproduction and behaviour of Cichlides in the lake of Tanganyika. Earlier she had made her diploma in marine biology after studies at the University of Kiel (Prof. Rainer Froese) and at the Australian Institute of Marine Science in Darwin. German living in Berne</p> <p>Reviewed the Tilapia profile, actually works on the Perch profile.</p>
<p><b>Researcher</b> Kerstin Glaus</p> <p>as of 04/2015</p>	<p>born 1984, Master of Science in Sustainable Development and BSc in biology, both at the University of Basle. In her master thesis (Prof. Patricia Holm) she analysed the by-catch problem in artisanal fishery in the Fiji's and is going to make her PhD on the subject in 2016. Living in Benken SG.</p> <p>Reviewed the Atlantic salmon profile, actually works on the Perch profile.</p>
<p><b>Researcher</b> Tanya Slosberg</p> <p>as of 07/2015 (internship)</p>	<p>made her Master of Science in 2012 at the Florida Institute of Technology after having got her BSc in biology and marine sciences at the University of Tampa, Florida. Her master thesis explored the possibility to reduce farming impacts under high stocking density. Swiss-US double citizen, living in Lucerne since 2014, took the chance of an internship with FishEthoBase. Actually working on the Pikeperch profile besides a full-time job.</p>

## 6. Evaluation and implementation

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We expected to discover many **parts unknown** when researching for knowledge on fish ethology. Already our preparative work has made evident the lack of scientific fundament to rate the species-appropriateness of a specific fish farm. In FishEthoBase, the parts unknown are marked as «NO DATA FOUND YET». Parts unknown prevail even when it comes to most frequently farmed shrimp species *Litopenaeus vannamei* or to the second-most frequently farmed fish species *Oreochromis niloticus*. With all species investigated so far we found many and huge gaps of ethological knowledge.

To **point out parts unknown** (*terra incognita*) is an absolutely essential scientific act of pioneering, as the historian Yuval Noah Harari explains in his "Brief History of Humankind"<sup>7</sup>:

*"By the discovery of America, Europeans learned to attach greater significance to new findings than to old traditions (...) Not only cartographers but scientists of all disciplines learned to draw maps with parts unknown, something that could not have been drawn before. They learned to admit that their theories were far from being perfect and that there were a lot of things about which they knew nothing whatsoever. Parts unknown exerted a fascination on Europeans and they set about infilling them one after the other."*

### 6.1 Options for the use of FishEthoBase

The knowledge presented by FishEthoBase can be used

- **by academia:** Intensification of knowledge exchange, creation of networks on species or issues, stimulation of congresses, etc.
- **by the field:** consultancy for fish farmers, aquaculture associations, responsible authorities, guideline committees, environmental and animal welfare organisations, etc.
- **by media:** basic information for journalists, expert opinion before publication, etc.
- **in education:** Fundament for **formation in fish welfare** of law enforcement officers, fish farmers, fishermen, courses for amateur fishermen, etc.

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<sup>7</sup> "A Brief History of Humankind", 2011, chapter 15.

Passage cited and translated from the German edition, 2013, page 353  
English edition: "Sapiens. A Brief History of Humankind", 2014.



## 7. Monitoring of performance

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Checkpoint	Deadline	Goal
<b>1 Production</b>	each September	4 new and complete species profiles are online
<b>2 Quality</b>	each April	stakeholder round with academia and field to assess and improve our offer
<b>3 Quantity</b>	each September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>yearly increase of mute and commenting users</li><li>present FishEthoBase at 1 scientific/branch congress per year (poster or presentation)</li></ul>
<b>4 Sustainability</b>	December 2017 December 2018 July 2019	Concept and budget for longtime continuation, completed by a plan B Agreements for the implementation of the concept are signed Starting to build-up of the new structure



## 8. Timetable

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<b>2015</b>	<b>Jun</b>	Stakeholder round, invited: 2000 experts, published: 3 species
	<b>Sep</b>	Analysis of stakeholder feedback, definition of correcting actions Media release: Aug 22, Tag der Fische (DE)
	<b>Oct</b>	E-Mailing to stakeholders: analysis report and invitation to use FishEthoBase
	<b>Oct</b>	Media release: Oct 4, Worlds Animal Day Team meeting in Zürich
		<b>6 published species profiles</b>
	<b>Nov</b>	Poster/presentation: 47. Intl. Tagung Angewandte Ethologie, D-Freiburg
<b>2016</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>8 published species profiles</b>
	<b>Apr</b>	Team meeting Media release
	<b>May</b>	Second stakeholder round
	<b>Jul</b>	Poster/presentation: 50. Intl. ISAE-Congress Applied Ethology
	<b>Aug</b>	Analysis of stakeholder feedback, definition of correcting actions Media release: Aug 22, Tag der Fische (DE)
	<b>Sep</b>	<b>10 published species profiles</b> E-Mailing to stakeholders: analysis report and invitation to use FishEthoBase
	<b>Oct</b>	Team meeting Event on Oct 4, Worlds Animal Day
<b>2017</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>12 published species profiles</b>
	<b>Apr</b>	Team meeting Media release
	<b>May</b>	Third stakeholder round
	<b>Aug</b>	Poster/presentation: Intl. Congress Fish Biology
	<b>Sep</b>	<b>14 published species profiles</b>
	<b>Oct</b>	Team meeting Media release or event on Oct. 4, Worlds Animal Day
	<b>Dec</b>	Calculated concept for long-time continuation, incl. Plan B
<b>2018</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>16 published species profiles</b>
	<b>Apr</b>	Team meeting Media release
	<b>May</b>	Fourth stakeholder round
	<b>Sep</b>	<b>18 published species profiles</b> Poster/presentation: Aquaculture Europe 2018
	<b>Oct</b>	Team meeting Media release or event on Oct. 4, Worlds Animal Day
	<b>Dec</b>	Agreements signed according to continuation concept
<b>2019</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>20 published species profiles</b>
	<b>Apr</b>	Poster/presentation: World Aquaculture 2019 Team meeting Media release
	<b>May</b>	Fifth stakeholder round
	<b>Jul</b>	Starting to set up the continuation structure
	<b>Sep</b>	<b>22 published species profiles</b>
	<b>Oct</b>	Team meeting Media release or event on Oct. 4, Worlds Animal Day
	<b>Dec</b>	Inauguration of the continuation structure and its team

## 9. Budget and financing plan

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	TOTAL
Costs	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD	USD
Expense project director/editor 50%)	59'711	49'759	39'807	39'807	39'807	228'892
Expense scientific coordinator (50% job)	27'990	37'319	37'319	37'319	37'319	177'267
Expenses scientific freelancers (totally 60%)	44'783	59'711	69'663	69'663	69'663	313'483
Translations (summaries, recommendations)	8'293	8'293	8'293	8'293	8'293	41'466
Travel costs (2 team meetings per year)	3'110	3'110	3'110	3'110	3'110	15'550
Free access to FishBase, incl. Counselling	13'186	13'186	13'186	13'186	13'186	65'931
Share of office rent	3'110	3'110	3'110	3'110	3'110	15'550
Office equipment	648	648	648	648	648	3'240
Cost and maintenance of IT equipment	2'592	1'296	1'037	1'037	1'037	6'997
External programming of database	5'183	3'110	3'110	3'110	3'110	17'623
Hosting database	1'555	1'555	1'555	1'555	1'555	7'775
Fundraising, Crowd-Funding, Marketing	4'147	5'183	5'183	5'183	5'183	24'880
Literature, subscriptions	2'592	2'592	2'592	2'592	2'592	12'958
Participation at scientific congresses	1'555	1'555	1'555	1'555	3'110	9'330
Miscellaneous, reserve	2'592	2'592	2'592	2'592	2'592	73'473
<b>Cost total CHF</b>	<b>181'046</b>	<b>193'019</b>	<b>192'760</b>	<b>192'760</b>	<b>194'315</b>	<b>953'899</b>

Financing plan	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	TOTAL
<b>Equity financing</b>						
• Wage sacrifice of director	37'941	27'990	18'038	18'038	18'038	120'044
• Wage sacrifice of scientific coordinator	9'897	12'440	8'293	8'293	8'293	47'217
• Wage sacrifice of scientific freelancers	26'870	29'856	29'026	23'221	23'221	167'261
• Wage sacrifice of external web programmer	2'073	1'037	1'037	1'037	1'037	6'220
• Share of office rent offered by fair-fish.net	3'110	3'110	3'110	3'110	3'110	15'550
• Cost + maint. of IT offered by fair-fish.net	2'592	1'296	1'296	1'296	1'296	7'775
• Crowd Funding	7'775	10'367	10'367	10'367	10'367	49'241
• Sales of services	5'183	5'183	10'367	10'367	10'367	41'466
<b>Total equity financing</b>	<b>95'441</b>	<b>91'277</b>	<b>81'533</b>	<b>75'727</b>	<b>75'727</b>	<b>419'706</b>
percentage of equity financing	53%	47%	42%	39%	39%	44%

Contributions	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	TOTAL
• Zürcher Tierschutz (2015: residue of 2014)	12'440	15'550				
• Schwyzer-Winiker-Stiftung	20'733					
• Stiftung Dreiklang	20'733					
• Husi-Stiftung	24'387	3'654				
• Pending application: Haldimann-Stiftung	10'367	31'100	31'100	25'916	15'550	114'032
• Promised: Fed. Office Food and Veterinary		34'209	34'209	34'209	34'209	136'838
• Application to be sent yet		19'178	46'131	57'016	68'937	
<b>Total contributions</b>	<b>88'659</b>	<b>103'691</b>	<b>111'440</b>	<b>117'141</b>	<b>118'696</b>	<b>539'628</b>

<b>Total financing</b>	<b>184'101</b>	<b>194'968</b>	<b>192'972</b>	<b>192'869</b>	<b>194'424</b>	<b>959'334</b>
Cost covering	101.7%	101.0%	100.1%	100.1%	100.1%	100.6%

Dark red figures = applied for      orange figures = yet to apply for

The budget has been calculated in CHF on September 3, 2015,  
when 1 CHF = 1.04 USD (and 1 CHF = 1.06 EUR)

Currency rate changes will be mainly effective on dark green figures

### **Comments to budget and timetable:**

According to the budget the project disposes of 2'280 working hours per year. Half of it will be needed for:

- to actualise and augment already established Beta species profiles (goal: Alpha version),
- to conduct and analyse stakeholder rounds,
- to treat, discussing and editing further comments during the year,
- for team meetings,
- participate at congresses, media contacts.

The other half of the available hours will allow us to establish 4 news species profiles per year. Given our experience so far, we calculate at least 350 working hours until a new profile can be set online in a Beta version.

## **10. References, cooperation**

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The expertise of the FishEthoBase cooperators is described on pages 5-6. References are available on request.

We are happy to count on collaboration with

- FishBase.org<sup>8</sup>
- Fischwissen.ch<sup>9</sup>
- Swiss Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (BLV)<sup>10</sup>

We are open for cooperation with

- scientists
- fish farmers, fishermen
- professional organisations and responsible authorities
- guideline committees, environmental and animal welfare organisations



Billo Heinzpeter Studer  
12 September 2015

Attachment:

- fair-fish international association's annual report 2013/2014

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<sup>8</sup> interlinking to be discussed yet – see letter of support on page 12

<sup>9</sup> interlinking to be discussed yet

<sup>10</sup> letter of support on page 12

Von: **Rainer Froese** rfroese@geomar.de  
Betreff: Re: FishEthoBase  
Datum: 3. Juni 2015 17:08  
An: international@fair-fish.net

Liebe Kollegen bei Fair-Fisch,

Als Koordinator von FishBase begrüße ich die FishEthoBase als spezifische Ergänzung in den Bereichen Ethologie, Aquakultur und Fish Welfare. Eine Datenbank mit diesem Fokus gibt es bisher nicht. Fischverhalten ist in FishBase nur zum Teil und unsystematisch enthalten. Auch der Versuch, die Aquakultur einzelner Arten in FishBase-«Profiles» zu erfassen, ist bisher nicht gelungen, da wir nie genug Autoren gefunden haben.

Was als FishEthoBase heute vorliegt, ist ein exzellenter Anfang. Eine engere Zusammenarbeit zwischen den beiden Datenbanken ist in beiderseitigem Interesse.

Rainer Froese  
FishBase Koordinator

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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra



Département fédéral de l'intérieur DFI  
Office fédéral de la sécurité alimentaire et  
des affaires vétérinaires OSAV  
Protection des animaux

CH-3003 Berne, OSAV

Fair-fish international association  
A l'attention de Monsieur le Président  
Billo Heizpeter Studer  
Zentralstrasse 166

8003 Zurich

Référence/Numéro de dossier: 2015-09-01/06  
Votre référence:  
Notre référence: flo  
Dossier traité par: Fabien Loup  
Berne, 01 septembre 2015

#### Projet: Ethologische Fisch-Datenbank „FishEthoBase“

Monsieur le Président

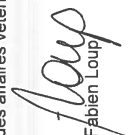
Comme convenu lors de notre séance du 14 août dernier, par la présente, je vous confirme que notre Office vous a promis de soutenir le projet intitulé « Ethologiques Fisch-Datenbank „FishEthoBase ». Dans la mesure du possible et selon la situation budgétaire de la Confédération et de notre Office, nous suivrons le modèle que vous avez proposé dans la demande de soutien financier du 3 mars 2015. Celui-ci se compose de 4 tranches de CHF 33'000 réparties sur 4 ans, la première étant versée en 2016.

Une fois le budget 2016 accepté, nous vous communiquerons les modalités de paiement.

Pour terminer, nous aimerions encore une fois souligner l'aspect positif de votre projet en matière de protection des animaux. Cette banque de données permettra à un maximum de personnes de s'informer sur la manière de détenir les poissons de façon respectueuse de l'espèce, que ce soit au niveau privé ou professionnel.

Avec nos meilleures salutations

Office fédéral de la sécurité alimentaire et  
des affaires vétérinaires

  
Fabien Loup

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