



OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE SAMARCH PROGRAM

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The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust - GWCT

Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique - INRA

The SAMARCH project

- **Dylan Roberts GWCT – SAMARCH project manager**

- ✧ Funding
- ✧ Background
- ✧ Partnership
- ✧ Aims and objectives

- **Dr Marie Nevoux INRA – French partner leader**

- ✧ Describe the four technical workpackages

SAMARCH

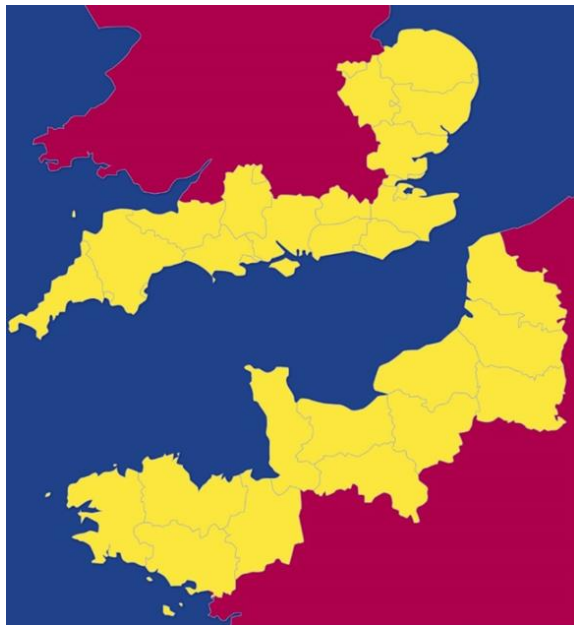
SAlmonid MAnagement Round the CHannel 2017 – 2022

www.samarch.org



Funding

- 69% EU Interreg Channel VA Programme 2015 – 2022
- Eligible areas in Yellow



Salmonids – why are they important?

- Indication of healthy rivers
- Angling for salmonids is worth some £1.2billion a year in Europe
- Value in commercial fishing in estuaries and off the coast
- High level of EU protection because stocks are under stress – salmon have declined by 70% in 30 years
- Important food source for wildlife



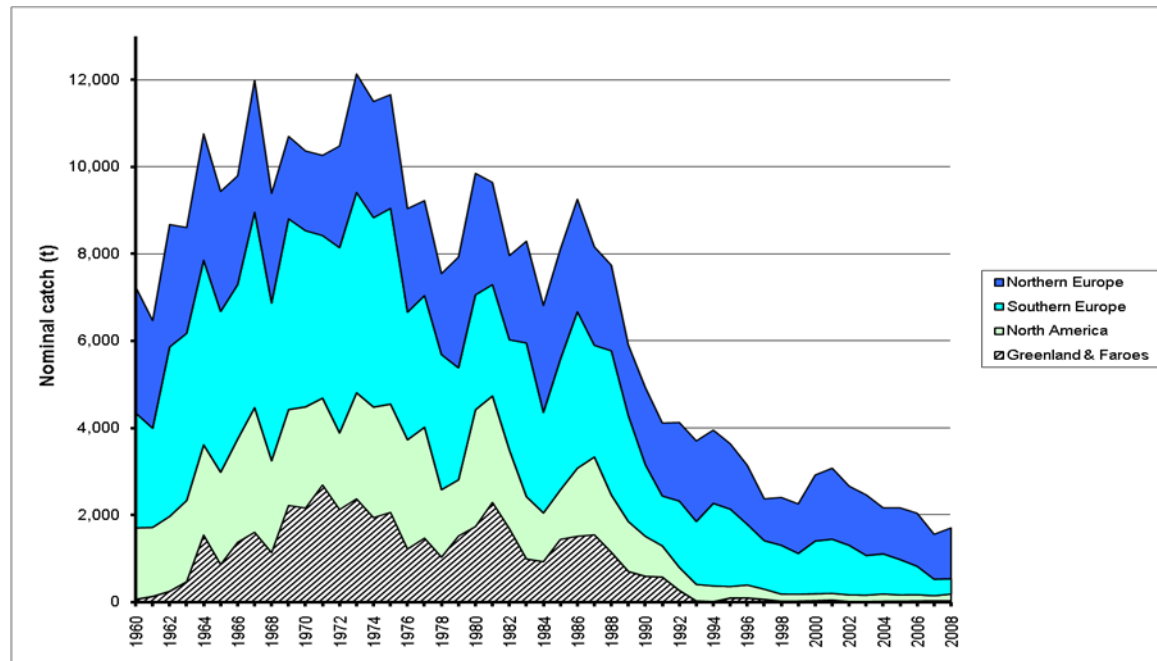
(C) WDCS/Charlie Phillips

Ten Partners – five UK and five French

1. **GWCT – Lead Partner**
2. **Exeter University**
3. **Bournemouth University**
4. **Salmon and Trout Conservation**
5. **Environment Agency**

6. **Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique - INRA**
7. **Agrocampus Ouest**
8. **Agence Française pour la Biodiversité**
9. **Bretagne Grands Migrateurs**
10. **Normandie Grands Migrateurs**

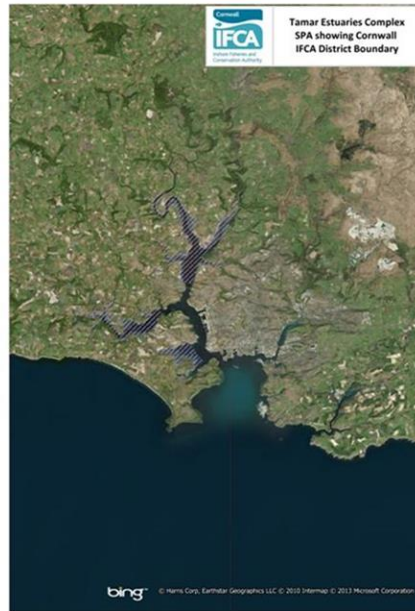
Salmon populations have declined by 70% since the 1970's



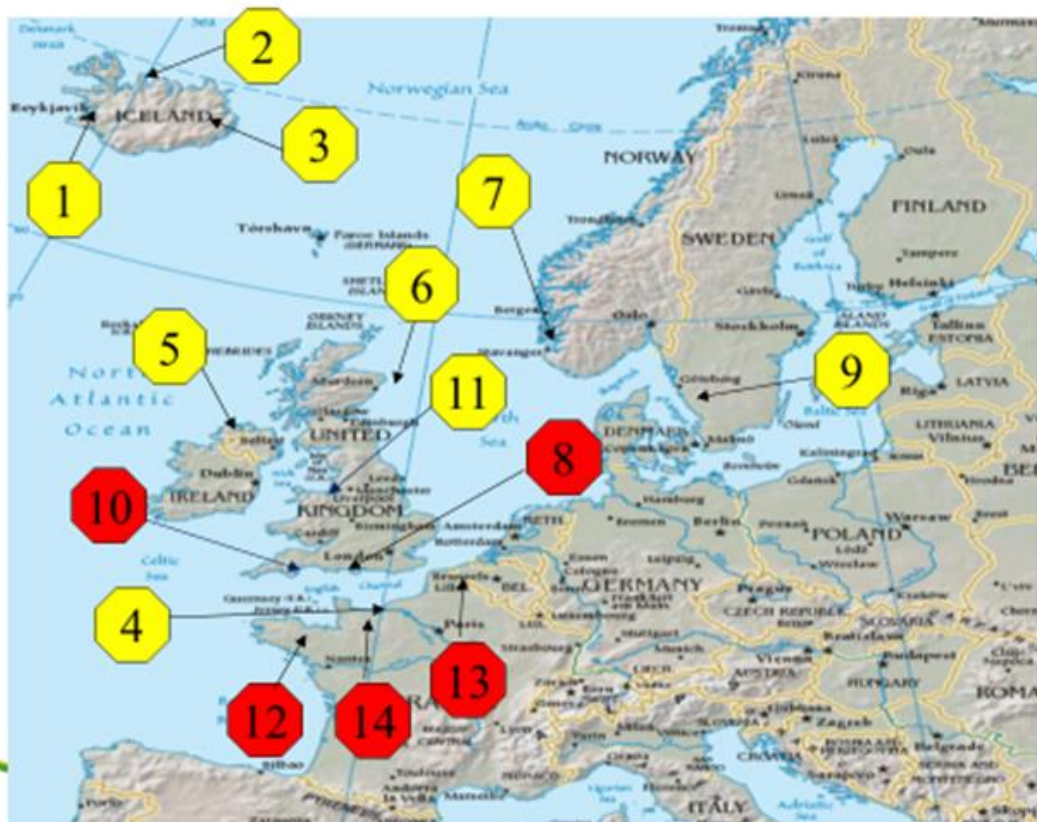
SAMARCH aims to improve the management of salmonids in the Channel's estuaries and coastal waters

Survival of salmon in the sea has declined from around 20% to 5% since the 1970's

River Tamar Estuary



The five salmon index rivers in SAMARCH



1. Ellidar (Iceland)
2. Midfjarda (Iceland)
3. Vesturdalsa (Iceland)
4. Nivelles (France)
5. Bush (Ireland)
6. North Esk (Scotland)
7. Imsa (Norway)
8. Frome (UK)
9. Lagan (Sweden)
10. Tamar (UK)
11. Welsh Dee
12. Scorff (France)
13. Bresle (France)
14. Oir (France)

Four technical workpackages

- **WPT 1 - Tracking of salmon and sea trout through estuaries and coastal waters**
- **WPT 2 - New salmonid management tools based on genetics**
- **WPT 3 - Improving salmonid stock assessment tools**
- **WPT 4 - Stakeholder engagement, policy and training**

Improve current and develop new policies for the management of salmonids in transitional and coastal waters



SAMARCH Stakeholder events

- SAMARCH Project launch in England in January 2018
- SAMARCH Forum - Normandy May 2018
- SAMARCH Stakeholder meeting in England in 2019
- SAMARCH Forum - Brittany 2020
- SAMARCH Conference in England 2021

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WP T1 - Tracking of salmon and sea trout through estuaries and coastal waters

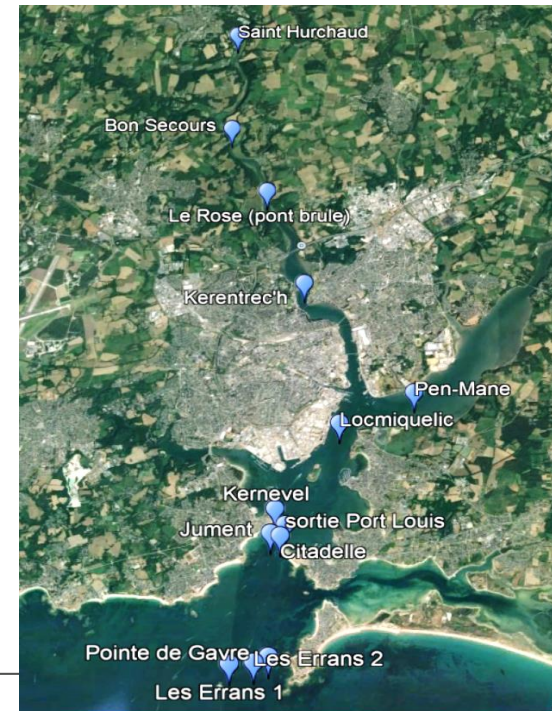


- Aim – To describe the movement, space use and mortality
- Acoustic tracking of smolts in the spring
(360 salmon + 360 sea trout) * 4 estuaries * 2 y



- Information on the location, transition times and survival of salmon and sea trout smolts through the estuary

Tracking devices on the Scorff



WP T1 - Tracking of salmon and sea trout through estuaries and coastal waters

- Aim – To describe the movement, space use and mortality
- Tracking kelts with data storage tags in winter
300 sea trout * 3 estuaries * 2 years



- Location, transition times, swimming depth and survival of sea trout kelts through the lower river, estuary and back into the river

£50 REWARD

IF YOU FIND A SEA TROUT WITH A TAG

THERE IS AN **ELECTRONIC TAG**

PLEASE KEEP THE WHOLE FISH AND CONTACT

GAME & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TRUST
CÉLINE ARTERO
Email : tags@gwct.org.uk
Phone : 01929 401 896 / 07525 913 086

WITH **DATE AND LOCATION** OF THE RECOVERY

WP T2 – New management tools based on genetics

- Aim – To create an integrative map describing the movement of sea trout and its use of the marine environment
- Collect trout samples across the Channel
30 fin clip * 80 rivers
- Build a common genetic data base to identify the rivers of origin of sea trout caught at sea



WP T2 – New management tools based on genetics

- Aim – To create an integrative map describing the movement of sea trout and its use of the marine environment
- Collect trout samples across the Channel
30 fin clip * 80 rivers
- Combine genetic and seascape data into a map of suitable area for trout migration



WP T3 - Improving salmonid stock assessment tools

- Aim: new abundance estimates incorporating changes in migration behaviours and the environment
- Analyse historical scale collections
 - growth at sea: 17 000 fish
 - sex-ratio: 20 000 fish
- Track marine survival with pit tags



WP T3 - Improving salmonid stock assessment tools

- Aim: new abundance estimates incorporating changes in migration behaviours and the environment
- Update knowledge on salmon and sea trout dynamics
- Refine the models used to manage salmon in the UK and France

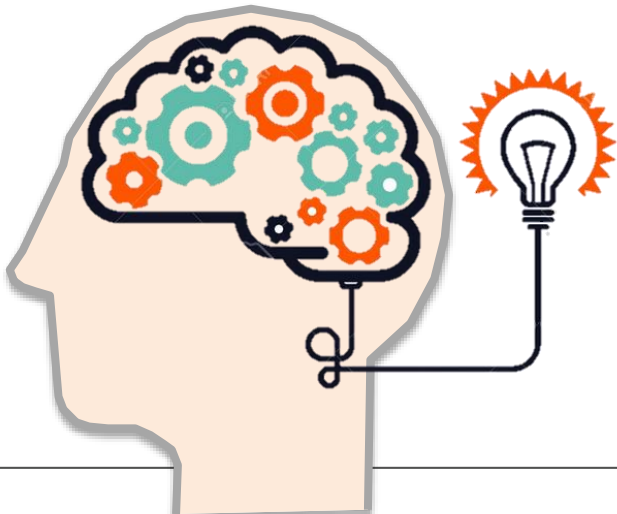
WP T4 - Stakeholder engagement, policy and training

- Aim: develop new policies for the management of salmonids in transitional and coastal waters of the Channel and Nationally
- Engage with key stakeholders and anglers
- Train the managers of tomorrow



WP T4 - Stakeholder engagement, policy and training

- Aim: develop new policies for the management of salmonids in transitional and coastal waters of the Channel and Nationally
- Digest SAMARCH project outputs for stakeholders



WP T1 – habitat use in estuary and coastal waters
WP T2 – habitat use and movement across the Channel
WP T3 – change in life cycle and abundance

**Provide recommendations to fishery management
and coastal planning**

Thank you! Merci beaucoup !

