

# LET IT FLOW!

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON DAM REMOVAL | 22-23 MAY 2019



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REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT



INTERNATIONAL  
YEAR OF THE SALMON

# MAY 22

**The Ministry of Environment and The Environment Agency of Estonia** will present the dam removal strategy for their country and the dams removed until now. Our special guest Bob Irvin, president of American Rivers, will present the current status and the future of dam removals in USA.

We will learn about the dam removal situation in Finland and Denmark and we will hear three special dam removal cases from Sweden, Finland and Spain. There will be a round table discussion.

08.45- 09.30

## Registration

09.30-09.40

## Official Opening

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*Environment Agency of Estonia*

09.40-10.00

## Dam Removal Europe and dam removal campaign Finland

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**Sampsa Vilhunen** *WWF (Finland)*

10.00-10.40

## Overview of dam removals in Estonia

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**Sander Sandberg, Olav Ojala & Hanno Zingel**  
*Ministry of Environment (Estonia)*

10.40-11.20

## From Monkey-wrenching to Mainstream: 30 years of dam removal and river restoration in the USA.

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**Bob Irvin** *American Rivers (USA)*

## Break

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11.40-12.00

## Dam removal in Finland: Reasons, goals, status and social perspective.

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**Jukka Jormola** *Finnish Environment Institute (Finland)*

12.00-12.20

## Barrier removal. The Danish perspective!

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**Kim Birnie-Gauvin** *Denmark Technical University (Denmark)*

12.20-12.40

## Dam removals in Basque Country

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**Aitziber Urquijo Luengo** *Basque Water Agency (Spain)*

## Lunch

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13.40-14.00

## Removal of the Tikkurila Dam – From barrier to breeding place

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**Otso Lintinen** *Ramboll (Finland)*



14.00-14.15	<b>Restoration of Pärnu River Basin and introduction of the first fieldtrip</b> <b>Küllli Tammur</b> <i>Environment Agency of Estonia</i>
14.15-14.30	<b>Remediation of Purtse River Basin and introduction to second fieldtrip</b> <b>Raimo Jaaksoo</b> <i>Ministry of Environment (Estonia)</i>
14.30-14.50	<b>River connectivity, habitats and water quality towards restored ecosystem services in Rönne å River</b> <b>Ivan Olsson</b> <i>County Administrative Board of Skåne (Sweden)</i>
14.50-15.10	<b>Open for new challenges – fishes and people at crossroads.</b> <b>Meelis Tambets</b> <i>Wildlife Estonia</i>
<b>Break</b>	
15.30-15.50	<b>Dam Removal updates from Europe</b>
15.50-16.30	<b>Round table discussion</b> led by <b>Hanno Zingel</b> , <i>advisor of Ministry of Environment of Estonia</i>
16.30-16.35	<b>Wrap-up</b>
16.35-17.15	<b>Love Flows Documentary (Estonian Premiere)</b>
17.15	<b>END</b>





**MAY 23**

## TWO ON-SITE EXPERIENCES

## SINDI DAM

The removal of the **Sindi Dam** is part of the project “Restoration of Pärnu River Basin” – the purpose is to remove 7 – 8 barriers (two of them already gone) in the river basin altogether. The Sindi Dam was a 151 m wide and 4.5m high dam and the first migration barrier within the river (14 km from the sea). The Pärnu River Basin in Estonia covers an area 20% the size of Estonia. The river is 144 km long but together with the tributaries (270 rivers and streams) it makes up a 3,300km river basin. Pärnu River is the biggest historical salmon river in the country with a potential twice as big as the other rivers altogether to improve salmon populations. Once the project is complete, this will effectively open up the 3,300 km of river basin in Estonia. That makes it the largest river restoration project in Europe to date.



### Sindi Dam Location

## PURTSE RIVER

The **Purtse River** and its tributaries, the Kohtla River and the Erra River, are some of the most polluted watercourses in Estonia. The Purtse River basin is located in North Estonia. Length of the river together with its tributaries is 101 km and the basin is 1,094 km<sup>2</sup>. The extensive pollution of the rivers began with the extraction and processing of oil shale at Kohtla-Järve and Kiviõli oil shale chemical plants and it continued throughout the entire Soviet period. The overall objective of elimination of residual pollution is to ensure a safe environment for humans and a favorable environment for living nature.

Please note: After the Sindi Dam visit, we will go to Purtse River, which it's 207 km away, a 2 h 40 min ride. It is possible to come back through Tallinn at around 17:00 for those traveling back home that day.



### Purtse Location

# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

## SEMINAR LOCATION

[Strand SPA & Conference Hotel](#)

A.H. Tammsaare pst 35  
80010 Pärnu Estonia +372 4475370



*Map of Pärnu with the location of the venue*

## ACCOMMODATION

You can stay in the same hotel of the conference. Also, there are plenty of other hotels nearby, if you enter "Pärnu, Estonia" in Booking.com you will find many good deals too.

## TRANSPORT AND TRAVEL TO PÄRNU

**From Tallinn Airport to Tallinn Bus Station** by [tram or by bus](#) , stop Bussijaam.  
<https://www.tallinn-airport.ee/en/transport/leaving-the-airport/>

**From Tallinn Bus Station to Pärnu** [by bus](#).  
<http://www.bussijaam.ee/en/services-and-building-plan/>

**How to get around and what to do in [Pärnu](#).**  
<https://visitparnu.com/en/>

## REGISTRATION

The registration fee includes: lunch (2x), coffee/tea, and 1 dinner (incl 3 drink tickets).

## FOR QUESTIONS RELATED

For questions related to the seminar please contact:  
Pao Fernández Garrido [pao@fishmigration.org](mailto:pao@fishmigration.org)

## DAM REMOVAL WEBSITE

[www.damremoval.eu](http://www.damremoval.eu)