

Project Update: July 2016

Four months have passed since the update and we decided its a great time to update the Rufford about the project.

Since we haven't been catching fishes in February and March 2016 while it was the main spawning period, we took the time to check the information and carried field trips for spawning grounds. Due to high water levels and murky water we haven't been able to see any fishes spawning, but we managed to see several juvenile fishes about 4 – 4.5 cm long in May when the weather was better and water levels dropped so it was a sign that the Danube salmon spawned on that area earlier in the year. For now we have three designated locations with juvenile fish as evidence of the spawning grounds.

From the middle of April 2016 we started fishing again and carried out four field trips throughout April, May and June with only two specimens caught. We changed the fishing from early morning and day to early evening and night fishing to get better results. I have been also invited for the ceremony in catching Danube salmon in Bosanska Krupa as a part of the fishing competition "U potrazi za Kraljicom Une" (In search of the queen of the Una river). The river and areas around were a fishing zone those 2 days. In total 9 hours of fishing brought 25 fishes, the largest was 110cm and that was in a river which is 2.2 km long. All fishes were handled with extra care and after the length being taken all were released back into the water.

The team decided to move lectures and movie to the end of August since we got the chance to dive with Danube salmon in an area that is upstream our designated research point. That area is a river for fishing in Bosanska Krupa and the only place on the river where Danube salmon are protected for over 15 years. In the river they have healthy population of specimens with which we can dive and that population will be taken as reference population for our research. It is our opinion that the diving and filming there will help better understand behaviour and will give us more and better chance to prepare the lectures and the movie which will greatly impact the general public. We also continued to film all the way our research area and to prepare the short 30 minute movie which could be a little longer since we got a lot of nice data to show to public.



