



The Houting-project

The second largest nature restoration project in Denmark

By Hans Ole Hansen – OLE@sns.dk
Danish Forest and Nature Agency
www.houting.dk

The houting is a salmonid with a very characteristic pointed 'snout'.

Like salmon the houting lives and matures in the sea - but in the autumn it ascends the larger watercourses to spawn.

Threatened species

The houting definitely belongs amongst the rare species. It only lives in the Danish sector of the Wadden Sea area, having disappeared from Germany and the Netherlands.

The biggest problems are the lack of access to spawning areas and lack of nursery areas.

Taken as a whole, the entire population of houting in Denmark – and thereby in the world! - has been estimated to be about 7000 spawners. Therefore, the houting is totally protected.

Furthermore, the houting has been designated as a special priority species in the EU Habitat Directive – as a consequence Denmark has an imperative duty to protect the species and improve its survival.

Now, to save this fish species from complete extinction the Danish Forest and Nature Agency has initiated the Houting Project in four rivers in south-western Denmark.

It is the second largest nature restoration project in Denmark – only exceeded by the restoration of the River Skjern.

In the four rivers the project will

Given the international importance of the species the EU-LIFE fund financially supports the Houting-project with 8 million € of a total budget of 13.4 million €.

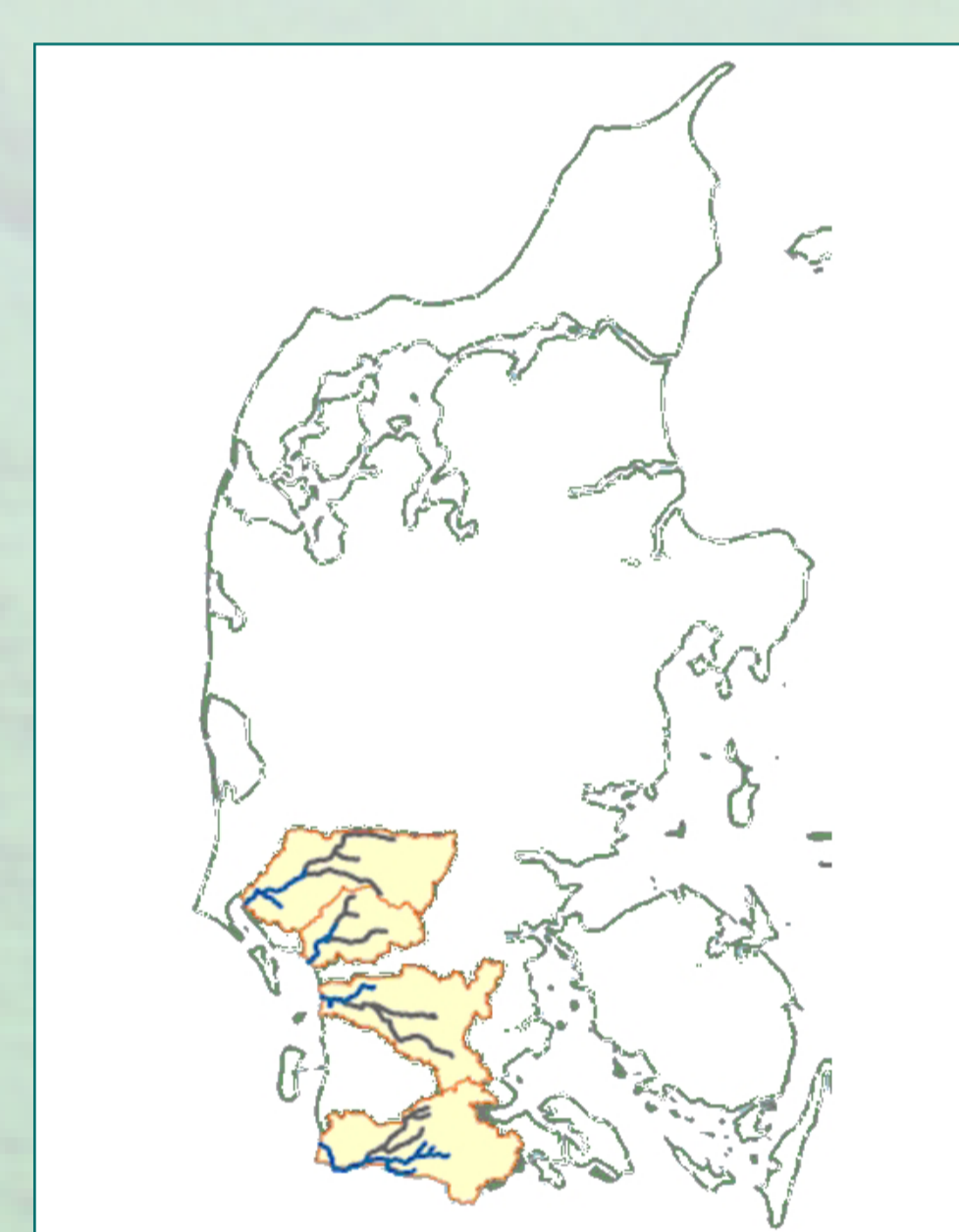
The project will:

- Remove 13 obstacles
- Give access to additional 130 km new river habitats
- Eliminate mortality of drifting fry past fish farms
- Create new spawning grounds
- Restore approx. 30 km river
- Create 500 ha new nursery areas
- Purchase of commercial netting rights

The houting has a natural leading part in the Houting-project... But many other animal and plant species will gain as the houting's habitats and survival are ensured – species as e.g. salmon, lampreys and otter – and maybe even the white stork.



The houting may reach 60 cm and more than 10 years of age



LIFE Nature works to conserve natural habitats and the wild fauna and flora of European Union interest, according to the Birds and Habitats directives, thus supporting implementation of the European Union's nature conservation policy and the Natura 2000 Network.

