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1	•	River restoration affects life-history trait composition of fish communities
2	•	Restoration changes the ratio of opportunistic-periodic-equilibrium strategists
3	•	Restoration outcome varies along the river continuum and successional
4		stages
5	•	Restored reaches show more similar trait composition then unrestored
6		reaches
7	•	A trait approach could be used to compare restorations across biogeographic

8 areas

1	Effect of river restoration on life-history strategies in fish communities
2	
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- 29 Abstract
- 30

Assessments of river restoration outcomes are mostly based on taxonomic identities of species, which may not be optimal because a direct relationship to river functions remains obscure and results are hardly comparable across biogeographic borders. The use of ecological species trait information instead of taxonomic units may help to overcome these challenges.

Abundance data for fish communities were gathered from 134 river restoration projects conducted in Switzerland, Germany and Finland, monitored for up to 15 years. These data were related to a dataset of 22 categories of ecological traits describing fish life-history strategies to assess the outcome of the restoration projects.

Restoration increased trait functional diversity and evenness in projects that were situated in the potamal zone of rivers. Restoration effect increased with the length of the restored river reaches. In areas with low levels of anthropogenic land use, the peak of the restoration effect was reached already within one to five years after the restoration and effect receded thereafter, while communities responded later in areas with higher levels of anthropogenic land use.

47 In the lower potamal zone, a shift towards opportunistic life-history strategists was observed. In the upper rhithral zone, in contrast, species with an opportunistic 48 life-history strategy increased only in the first five years of restoration, followed by a 49 50 shift towards equilibrium strategists at restorations older than 5 years. This pattern was more pronounced in rivers with higher level of anthropogenic land use and 51 longer restored river reaches. Restoration reduced the variability in community trait 52 53 composition between river reaches suggesting that community trait composition within these zones converges when rivers are restored. 54

55	This study showed how ecological traits are suitable to analyse restoration
56	outcomes and how such an approach can be used for the evaluation and
57	comparison of environmental management actions across geographical regions.
58	
59	Keywords: functional traits, functional diversity, fish life strategies, functional

60 composition, life-history traits, restoration success

61 **1. Introduction**

62

In recent decades, a great deal of energy has gone into counteracting the 63 degradation of rivers through river restoration measures (e.g. Thomas et al., 2015). 64 River restorations commonly aim at re-establishing natural reference conditions in 65 terms of habitat structure. According to the habitat template theory (Southwood, 66 1988), this approach is commonly expected to increase habitat functioning, diversity 67 and dynamics of stream assemblages (Palmer et al., 1997, Palmer et al., 2010). 68 69 Challenges for assessment of restoration outcome are multiple, often leaving the question open, if restoration efforts indeed lead to desired results. 70 Position within the river continuum, catchment size or discharge regime are 71 among the environmental variables that are discussed to influence restoration 72 73 outcomes (Stoll et al., 2016). Moreover, the effect of restoration can be enhanced when the restoration is conducted in highly anthropogenic conditions compared to 74 areas characterised by lower anthropogenic land use pressures (Lorenz and Feld, 75 2013; Feld et al., 2016). Restoration effects may be reduced in fragmented rivers, 76 affecting the dispersal capacity of the surrounding species pool (Stoll et al., 2014, 77 Kominoski et al., 2018). It is also well known that restoration outcomes can vary over 78 79 time, as succession processes affect the abiotic characteristic of restored river 80 reaches as well as the communities that establish (Stoll et al., 2014; Pilotto et al., 2018; Thomas et al., 2015). In fish communities, Höckendorff et al. (2017) showed 81 how post-restoration successional processes lasted approximately five to eight years 82 83 before reaching a level of relative ecological stability.

River restoration effectiveness is commonly assessed in terms of changes in
biodiversity, as species and communities integrate anthropogenic stressors in space

and time and therefore perform well as bio-indicators of the ecological status of an 86 ecosystem (Haase et al., 2016). Many successful regional bioindication tools, many 87 of them using fish communities, have been developed based on a taxonomic 88 89 reference system, calculating deviations from a set of species defining natural reference conditions (e.g. the German fish assessment "fiBs" (Diekmann et al., 90 2005b), or the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) developed for fish communities in the 91 92 USA (Karr, 1981)). A disadvantage of this common approach is that the results of these assessments are limited to comparisons only within more or less 93 94 homogeneous biogeographic areas (Menezes, 2010). Each of these schemes is built based on regional species lists, focuses on common regional ecological constraints 95 and is tied up to regional legislative regulations. This leaves a gap in the capacity to 96 evaluate environmental management actions, such as river restorations, at the trans-97 national and trans-continental scale. 98

By shifting focus from species identity towards ecological traits of a 99 community, comparison between highly diverse and biogeographically distinct river 100 reaches can be made. Ecological traits are universal and largely independent of 101 species taxonomic identities and biogeographic borders. Many studies showed that 102 functional diversity, rather than species diversity, enhances ecosystem functions 103 (Petchey and Gaston, 2002, Cadotte et al., 2011), and thus, ultimately, ecosystem 104 services. Trait changes may capture important shifts in ecological functioning not 105 reflected directly in the taxonomic assemblage (Ernst, 2006). Therefore, ecological 106 traits are better suited to assessing the ecological functioning of a river, and hence, 107 ecological restoration targets (Loreau et al., 2001; Mouillot et al., 2006; Thomas et 108 al., 2015). Functional roles of ecological traits could be used as a baseline for the 109 comparison of restoration outcomes. However, to date restoration assessment 110

based on community trait composition is still the exception, rather than the rule (but
see van Kleef et al., 2006; Höckendorff et al., 2017; Lima et al., 2018).

Stream assemblages are constrained by hydromorphological, geological and 113 physicochemical characteristics of river ecosystems, which function as 114 environmental filters (Poff et al., 1997; Lamouroux et al., 2002; Statzner and Bêche, 115 2010). The natural flow-regime paradigm postulates that adaptations of riverine 116 assemblages are dictated by patterns of variation in river flows and habitat 117 hydromorphology (Poff et al., 1997). These adaptations include for example 118 119 ecological traits that enable riverine fish to avoid being flushed away by water peak discharge in mountain reaches or that allow survival or fast recolonization after 120 oxygen depletion in lowland reaches (see Lytle and Poff, 2004). In fish, Winemiller 121 and Rose (1992) differentiated three life-history strategies, each of which reflect 122 demographical adaptations (i.e. juvenile survival, fecundity, reproduction) to a range 123 of environmental and ecological conditions. Opportunistic strategist fishes are small-124 bodied, with relatively short life spans, early maturation and more than one spawning 125 event per year characterised by low fecundity; they usually adapt to unstable and 126 disturbed habitat conditions. Periodic strategists are large-bodied fishes with longer 127 life spans compared to the opportunistic strategists, late female maturity, high 128 fecundity per spawning event, and low juvenile survivorship as they do not provide 129 130 parental cares; they inhabit periodically suitable habitats. Equilibrium strategists are usually associated with stable habitats and they show low fecundity per spawning 131 event and high juvenile survivorship providing parental care and producing large 132 eggs (Winemiller, 1989; 1992; Winemiller and Rose, 1992; Olden and Kennard, 133 2010). In river restorations, functional diversity of a river is maximized through the re-134 establishment of river functions that are considered natural in that reach and the 135

creation of new river functions (e.g. water retention capacity). In this sense,
restoration actions change the habitat structure (i.e. water flow patterns, bed
structures and course) of the river favouring fish life strategies that possess
functional traits which are better adapted to the new habitat conditions (Tullos et al.,
2009).

The main objective of this study was to investigate the potential of 141 142 implementing ecological traits to assess river restoration outcomes. We used trait data generated for 57 fish species collected over 134 restoration riverine projects 143 144 conducted in Switzerland, Germany and Finland. As a first step, we analysed changes in functional diversity and evenness patterns due to restorations. Secondly, 145 we assessed how restoration affects the proportion of the opportunistic-periodic-146 equilibrium strategists by changing the relative proportion (i.e. composition) of the 147 life-history traits associated to each fish strategy. For both diversity and 148 compositional analyses, we assessed how restoration effects relate to key 149 environmental variables, anthropogenic land use and typology of restoration actions. 150 All analyses were conducted along the longitudinal river gradient including the upper-151 and lower-rhithral zones (trout and grayling zones) and upper- and lower-potamal 152 zones (barbel and bream zones) (Huet, 1949; Illies and Botosaneanu, 1963). 153 154

155 **2. Methods**

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157 2.1 Data set

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For this analysis, we searched for quantitative fish data from river restorationprojects that were designed to serve the entire fish community, not just individual

species. Per restoration project, at least two datasets (restored and unrestored
control) were required. Based on a call for data in the personal networks of the
authors, we received the data from three different European countries (Switzerland,
Germany, and Finland).

The dataset includes a total of 134 restorations projects performed in 77 165 rivers. The projects were undertaken between the years 1989 and 2013. Data were 166 collected in a time frame spanning from 15 years before to 15 years after the 167 restoration. The monitoring schemes varied among the 134 projects including a 168 169 temporal before (i.e. unrestored)-after (i.e. restored) approach (78 projects) or a spatial impact (i.e. restored)-control (i.e. unrestored) approach (55 projects). In 1 170 project both approaches were used (full BACI design). Sites were distributed over a 171 latitudinal gradient from Northern to Central Europe (from 67° 37' N to 45° 53' N), 172 and an altitudinal gradient from lowland slow-flowing rivers to mountainous streams 173 in the pre-alpine regions (see Table S3). The dataset included at the same time 174 lower-order river reaches with average stream widths <3 m up to larger rivers with 175 average river width > 60m (see Table S3). 176

Fish data were collected using electro-fishing. Fish data from Switzerland 177 were provided by the cantonal administrations (environmental, fisheries, and hydro-178 engineering departments) upon email request, and some additional data sets were 179 extracted from scientific works, such as diploma theses and reports. Fish data 180 collection for Switzerland and Germany is fully described in Thomas et al. (2015). 181 Fish communities in Germany were sampled based on a standardised protocol 182 compliant with the European Water Framework Directive (Diekmann et al., 2005a) 183 (see methodological details in Stoll et al., 2013). Finnish fish data were gathered 184 from Finnish Fish Sampling Data Register, Natural Resources Institute Finland and 185

regional ELY centres, or compiled from reports (North Karelia TE Office 2001;

187 Vihtonen, 2009). In all the Finnish restoration projects, fish sampling was conducted

according to the Finnish electrofishing standard (Vehanen et al., 2013).

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190 2.2 Life-history strategies

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192 The composition of fish traits, informative for the opportunistic-periodic-equilibrium trichotomy of life-history strategies, was defined using 22 categories of seven 193 194 biological trait classes (Table 1) (see also Olden and Kennard, 2010 for similar approach). Fish trait information was obtained at the species level from the database 195 freshwaterecology.info (Grenouillet and Schmidt-Kloiber, 2006; Schmidt-Kloiber A. 196 197 and Hering D., 2015). Gaps were filled using the available data from literature (Kottelat and Freyhof, 2007) as well as electronic datasets (Pont et al., 2006; 2007) 198 and expert judgment of the authors. Each category was associated uniquely or as a 199 combination of opportunistic, periodic and equilibrium life strategies (Winemiller, 200 1989; 1992; Winemiller and Rose, 1992; Olden and Kennard, 2010) (see Table 1). 201 202

203 2.3 Calculations of trait abundance and functional diversity metrics

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Relative fish abundance in each site was standardised as catch per unit of effort (CPUE) per 200 m of river transect. This was done in order to have comparable fish relative abundances among the different projects. Our trait database was used to calculate a relative trait representation within each site based on CPUE of each fish species and whether or not a fish species had a certain trait (0/1).

Fish CPUE and the trait information matrices were then used to calculate Rao's 210 quadratic entropy (RaoQ) and Functional dispersion (FDis) as functional diversity 211 indices, using the FD package (Laliberté and Legendre, 2010) for R (R Core Team, 212 2015). RaoQ measures the distribution and the abundance of traits in the trait space 213 combining both functional richness and divergence (Botta-Dukát, 2005; Peru and 214 Dolédec, 2010). FDis measures the dispersion of species in trait space weighted by 215 216 their relative abundance (Laliberté and Legendre, 2010). Both indexes are useful explaining the relationships between biotic communities and environmental 217 218 constraints (Ding et al., 2017). Species Evenness Index (Eve) (Heip, 1974) was used as measurement of how uniformly are abundances of trait categories distributed in 219 the trait space. 220

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222 2.4 Surveyed environmental variables

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As the restoration effect might vary due to local environmental variability and to the 224 uniqueness of the different restoration projects, additionally to environmental 225 variables measured during the sampling event (e.g. altitude, length of the restored 226 river stretch, total sampled area), we calculated other variables that potentially can 227 influence the restoration outcome. As the ecological effect of the restoration can vary 228 229 over time (Höckendorff et al., 2017), the number of years since the restoration was realised, was included as an explanatory variable. Based on the work of Höckendorff 230 et al. (2017) and Palmer et al (2010), years since the restoration were pooled in 3 231 main categories to assess the effect of restoration from 1 to 5 years, from 6 to 10 232 years and from 10 to 15 years. Among all the projects, 20 different types of 233 restoration actions were identified. In order to achieve statistical replication, they 234

were categorized into three main groups: actions that aimed to restore riparian
section of the river (riparian actions); actions that aimed to restore the entire river
course including the river bed (river bed actions); actions that aimed to improve
longitudinal connectivity (connectivity actions) (see table S1) (see Simaika et al.,
2015 for a detailed methodological description).

Different level of anthropogenic land use pressures of the surrounding areas 240 can influence restoration outcome (Lorenz and Feld., 2013). To measure the extent 241 of anthropogenic landscape modification around each sampled location, land-use 242 243 data from a 10 km long and 200 m wide upstream buffer was computed (see Lorenz and Feld, 2013 for similar approach). Percent land use was derived at each site for 244 each category of level 3 of Corine Land Cover 2006 (Büttner and Kosztra, 2007) and 245 present in the buffer using a GIS system (ArcView GIS, ver. 3.3, Esri, 2011). In order 246 to synthesise land-use with measure of anthropogenic pressure, the different 247 categories of land use were combined into an Anthropogenic Index (AI) (Larsen et 248 al., 2010; Manfrin et al., 2013; 2016), which was calculated as: 249

250

AI = $\sum k_i p_i$

252

where k_i is the specific coefficient for each land-use category (1= no anthropogenic pressure; 2= low anthropogenic pressure; 3= medium anthropogenic pressure; 4= high anthropic pressure) and p_i is the relative frequency of each category inside the buffer. The k values attributed to the land use categories are shown in Table S2. The AI ranged between 1 (minimum anthropogenic pressure) and 4 (maximum anthropogenic pressure). The AI was calculated with 10,000 x 200 m buffer distance to reflect both local riparian features and larger scale patterns acting at catchment

level (see Lorenz and Feld, 2013). To differentiate river types in which restoration
effects may differ, we used the following environmental variables, extracted from
GIS: area (km²) of the catchment size upstream the restored site, the total length (m)
of the restored site and the altitude (m a.s.l.) at which the restoration was conducted.

265 2.5 Data analysis – Diversity metrics

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The main effect of restoration on fish trait indices RaoQ, Fdis and Eve was analysed 267 268 with linear mixed-effect (LME) models using the lme4 package (Bates et al., 2007) for R. Whether or not a site was restored, river zone, and their interaction were used 269 as fix factors in the model. River zonation was derived from the biocoenotic region 270 concept (Illies and Botosaneanu, 1963; see further details in Table S3). To account 271 for repeated sampling within each project and variability among rivers and locations 272 we used a random factor where "project" was nested in "river" which was nested in 273 "country". In case of significant "restoration" - "river zone" interaction, a post-hoc test 274 was performed to examine the effects of restoration within each river zone using a 275 LME model with the same random structure of the initial model. When necessary, 276 weights were applied to account for heterogeneity of the variance and temporal 277 autocorrelation was corrected for (Zuur et al., 2009b). To determine the optimal 278 279 autocorrelation structure (ARMA), residuals in each model were tested using an iterative process which included an Akaike Information Criterion assessment (Zuur et 280 al., 2009d). 281

Environmental variables underlying the main effect of restoration on the diversity metrics, were only analysed for the given river zone in which significant differences were found between restored and unrestored conditions. In this analysis,

difference in RaoQ, Fdis and Eve were assessed as deltas (restored – unrestored 285 value) between the two reaches restored and unrestored during the same time 286 (Control-Impact approach), the same reach before (unrestored) and after (restored) 287 the restoration, and between the reach before the restoration (unrestored) to which 288 we compared reaches monitored after the restoration multiple times (Before-After 289 approach). An LME model was used with fix factors "years since restoration" as well 290 as "AI", "catchment size", "altitude", "length of the restored reach" and their 291 interaction with "years since restoration". Number of restoration actions which fall 292 into the categories "river bed actions", "riparian actions" for each restoration project 293 and presence or absence of "connectivity actions" were also included as fixed factors 294 in the analysis. Fix factors were checked for multicollinearity with variance inflation 295 factor (VIF) and Pearson correlation analyses using the mctest (Imdadullah et al., 296 2016) and ppcor (Kim, 2015) packages for R. The random structure, similarly to the 297 main effect model (see above), considered projects nested in rivers nested in 298 countries. When necessary, independent size-related variables were log-transformed 299 to meet variance heterogeneity assumptions (Zuur et al., 2009a). Model interactions 300 and single fix factors were backward-selected using likelihood ratio tests against 301 reduced models (without the interaction or the fixed factor) (Zuur et al., 2009c). The 302 variance explained by each model was calculated as marginal (R²m) and conditional 303 (R²c) (Nakagawa and Schielzeth, 2013) using the MuMIn package (Barton, 2016) for 304 R. The distribution of residuals was assessed using gg-plots (Wilk and 305 Gnanadesikan, 1968). To control for inflated false discovery rates, we used 306 307 Benjamini-Hochberg corrected α -values (Waite and Campbell, 2006). 308

309 2.6 Data analysis – Trait composition

Differences in trait composition were computed as Bray-Curtis dissimilarities (Beals, 311 1984) on the relative abundances in trait categories in order to increase the influence 312 of rare species (Legendre and Gallagher, 2001). NMDS was used on the trait data to 313 visualise differences in trait composition between restored and unrestored reaches 314 among river zones. A two-way Permutational Multivariate Analysis of Variance 315 (perMANOVA) was performed to test for compositional dissimilarity among 316 "restoration" and "river zones" including their interaction. Where a significant 317 318 restoration-river zone interaction was detected, a one-way perMANOVA was performed within each river zone as a post-hoc comparison with the unique fix factor 319 "restoration". For each perMANOVA, 9999 Permutations were constrained within 320 321 rivers nested in countries to account for data dependency.

Similarity percentage (SIMPER) analysis (Clarke, 1993) was used to identify a 322 ranked list of trait categories that cumulatively contributed more than 70% to 323 significant (after one-way perMANOVA) differences between restored and 324 unrestored site. To assess shifts in life-history strategies between restored and 325 unrestored river reaches, we first computed a percentage of trait representation in 326 each site for the three fish life strategies (opportunist, periodic, equilibrium). This was 327 done by assigning a life strategy to each trait and calculating the weighted average 328 329 representation of that trait in the site, weighted by CPUE. Results were visualized in a simplex/ternary plot and shifts along each of the axes was tested separately using 330 a Fischer's exact test from the perm package (Fay and Shaw, 2010) for R. 331

Environmental variables underlying for the main effect of restoration on the trait composition, were only analysed when significant differences were found in post-hoc analysis for the given zone. Similarly to the analysis of the environmental

variables performed on the diversity metrics with LME, also for the analysis of the 335 composition, delta CPUE was calculated in each restored-unrestored paired 336 condition (see above) for each trait category. The resultant matrix of compositional 337 338 deltas was analysed using partial redundancy analysis (pRDA) using 9999 permutations and Euclidean distance (Oksanen et al., 2013). After VIF diagnostic for 339 multicollinearity, environmental constrains included in the RDA were "AI", "catchment 340 size", "altitude", "length of the restored site" and their interaction with "years since 341 restoration". Number of "riparian actions", "river bed actions" and presence or 342 343 absence of "connectivity actions" were also included. To account for the effect of country and rivers, these factors were partialled out from the pRDA. Permutational 344 (999 permutations) iterative test (anova) was used to assess the marginal effect of 345 each variable. 346

Analysis of β -diversity was also assessed as multivariate homogeneity of 347 groups dispersions (variance) between restored and unrestored reaches and among 348 river zones (interaction "restoration" x "river zone"). The measure of multivariate 349 homogeneity was calculated as the average distance of group reaches to the group 350 centroid in multivariate space. A permutational test of the model residuals (permutes 351 betadisper) was used to test if the dispersions (variances) of one or more groups 352 were different and to perform pairwise comparisons between restored and 353 354 unrestored condition among zones. We performed all compositional analyses using the vegan package (Oksanen et al., 2013) for R. 355

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357 3. Results
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359 3.1 Diversity metrics

361	Trait functional diversity measures varied between river zones (RAoQ: X ² =13.85,
362	p=0.003; FDis: X ² =13.96, p=0.003), but generally increased due to restoration
363	(RAoQ: X^2 =3.74, p=0.053; FDis: X^2 =4.22, p=0.039). However, the restoration effect
364	on functional diversity varied between river zones (interaction "restoration" x "river
365	zone"; RaoQ: X ² =9.44, p=0.024; FDis: X ² =11.53, p=0.009) (see complete LME
366	results in Table S4). An interactive effect of restoration and river zone was also
367	found for changes in trait evenness (X^2 =10.34, p=0.016). Analysis of individual river
368	zones revealed that restoration affected trait diversity similarly in lower-rhithral and
369	upper- and lower-potamal zone, although the increase in trait diversity from
370	unrestored to restored conditions was only significant in the upper-potamal zone
371	(RaoQ: X ² =12.28, p<0.001; Fdis: X ² =15.01, p<0.001; Eve: X ² =15.01, p=0.023; Fig.
372	2). In the upper-rhithral zone, in contrast, restorations tended to decrease functional
373	diversity and trait evenness.

374 Changes in functional diversity metrics and evenness between unrestored and restored conditions in the upper-potamal zone were influenced by the 375 combination of anthropogenic pressures (AI) and restoration age (interaction "AI" x 376 "years since restoration") (dRaoQ: X²=7.22, p=0.027; dFDis: X²=7.55, p=0.023) 377 (Table S5). In the first 5 years, functional diversity increased in the restored 378 379 compared to unrestored conditions independently from the AI (see Fig. S1). In older restorations, greater increases in trait diversity were observed in areas with larger AI, 380 while trait diversity receded in areas of lower AI (see Fig. S1). A second interactive 381 effect on functional diversity and evenness in the upper-potamal zone was found 382 between altitude and years from restoration (dRaoQ: X^2 =7.23, p=0.027; dFDis: 383 X²=6.54, p=0.038; dEve: X²=7.64, p=0.022) (Fig. S2, Table S5). In the first 5 years, 384

changes in trait functional diversity and evenness were more pronounced in rivers at 385 low altitudes; at greater restoration ages, restoration effects were more pronounced 386 in rivers at higher altitudes (see Fig. S2). Furthermore, greater changes in functional 387 diversity and evenness in the upper-potamal zone were observed at longer restored 388 site (dRaoQ: X²=6.03, p=0.014; dFDis: X²=5.87, p=0.015; dEve: X²=7.35, p=0.007) 389 (See Fig. S3) and in presence of restoration actions which were aimed to increase 390 river connectivity (dRaoQ: X²=15.07, p<0.001; dFDis: X²=13.39 p<0.001; dEve: 391 X²=9.73, p=0.002) (See Fig. S4). 392

393

394 3.2 Trait Composition

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Fish community trait composition varied between restored and unrestored conditions and among river zones ("restoration" x "river zone", $F_{3, 612}$ =4.05, p=0.002).

398 Composition between restored and unrestored reaches differed in the upper-rhithral

399 zone (F_{1, 276}=13.54, p=0.022) and in the lower-potamal zone (F_{1, 28}=5.21, p=0.044)

400 (Fig. 3). Trait categories associated with equilibrium life-history strategy increased by

401 10 % in the restored conditions in upper-rhithral zones (Table 2, Figure 4a, Fischer's

exact test p < 0.001). Traits associated to opportunistic strategists decreased by 9 %

in restored reaches (Table 2, Figure 4a, Fischer's exact test p = 0.001). In contrast,

in the lower-potamal zone trait categories associated with an opportunistic strategy

405 increased by 12% after restoration (Table 2, Figure 4b, Fischer's exact test p =

406 0.014), while trait categories related to equilibrium strategists decreased by 8 %

407 (Table 2, Figure 4b, Fischer's exact test p = 0.012).

408 Communities at restored reaches were more similar to each other than 409 communities observed at unrestored reaches ("restoration" x "fish zones"; F₇,

410 ₆₁₂=14.47, p=0.001). Restored reaches in the upper-rhithral (permutest: p<0.001),

411 lower-rhithral (permutest: p=0.048) and in the upper-potamal zone (permutest:

p=0.035) had lower value of β-diversity (lower variance) compared to the unrestored
reaches (see Fig. 5).

Analysis of the environmental variables showed that in the upper-rhithral zone 414 the effect of the restoration on the trait categories (delta values) varied between 415 416 years from the restoration and level of anthropogenic pressure ("years since restoration" X "AI": F_{2,155} = 3.62, p=0.009), years since restoration and length of the 417 418 restored site ("years since restoration" X "length restored site": F_{2,155} =6.62, p=0.001) and among the number of restorations actions that focus on river bed structure 419 $(F_{1.155} = 22.04, p = 0.001)$ and the riparian sector $(F_{1.155} = 4.62, p = 0.001)$ (Fig. 6a). 420 Especially reaches with longer restored stretch and higher level of anthropogenic 421 pressure showed shifts in trait composition towards an opportunistic strategy (fish 422 species with more than 1 generation per year (st2), short life span (sl1) and with 423 early female sexual maturation (ma1); Fig. 6a). In older restorations (6 to 10 years 424 since restoration), species with equilibrium and periodic life-history strategies 425 became more prevalent (fish species with late sexual maturity (ma4), large egg size 426 (ed3), parental care (nnh) and large bodies (bl3) (Fig. 6a). Especially restorations 427 that focused on riparian habitats led to trait shifts towards an equilibrium and periodic 428 429 life-history strategy (Fig. 6a).

In the lower-potamal zone the effect of the restoration on community trait composition was mainly affected by the presence of a restoration action which aim to increase river connectivity ($F_{1,13}$ =8.37, p=0.007), but no clear relationship to lifehistory strategy could be observed, as the effect of measures on connectivity is

associated with the first RDA axis, while the separation of traits belonging to different
life-history strategies is along the second RDA axis (Fig. 6b).

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437 **4. Discussion**

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In this study, we showed that ecological traits can be used to compare restoration 439 440 outcomes across different river types and across large geographical areas. Restoration actions have been shown to be able to influence ecosystem functions of 441 442 rivers through changing trait composition in macroinvertebrates (Frainer 2018). Here, we showed that, also in fish, changes in trait composition can aid in our 443 understanding of the secondary succession processes that take place in restored 444 river reaches. We showed how the location of the restoration on the rhithral-potamal 445 river continuum, as well as the level of anthropogenic pressures and the length of the 446 restored river stretch affected the speed of trait turnover in fish communities. Using a 447 functional approach with ecological traits, we were able to assess restoration 448 projects across multiple countries, overcoming taxonomical difference due to 449 geographical constrains on the local species pool (Olden and Kennard, 2010). 450 Restoration of hydromorphology is one of the key strategies employed in river 451 restoration, though short term monitoring schemes have yielded varying and 452 sometimes limited results (e.g. England 2018). We presented evidence that 453 hydromorphological restoration can increase functional diversity and change the 454 proportion of opportunistic-periodic-equilibrium strategists in riverine fish 455 communities using long-term monitoring data. In particular, this was the case in the 456 upper-potamal zone of rivers. Increases in functional diversity are widely believed to 457

increase the resilience of an ecosystem (Dukes, 2001; Bellwood et al., 2004). Higher

functional diversity is a sign of the success of restoration in stimulating self-459 organising of rivers and thereby creating diverse habitats with structural 460 characteristics favourable to a wide range of fish species. This is supported by the 461 changes away from equilibrium species and towards more opportunistic species in 462 the lower potamal zone. Higher river-floodplain connectivity with more pronounced 463 temporal dynamics, opens up temporary niches for opportunistic species to flourish 464 in temporary ponds and pools, and rearrangement of substratum in unchained rivers 465 leads to a continuous rejuvenation and provision of habitats in early succession 466 467 stages. Restorations also converged communities closer to the expected reference conditions of their respective surroundings. Hence, river reaches that were already 468 close to this potential target, which is typically the case in areas of low AI, showed a 469 470 relatively smaller and more immediate restoration effect. River reaches that were further away from natural reference conditions, which typically occurs in areas with 471 higher AI, showed greater effects, and effects took longer time to materialize. A 472 range of studies has already pointed out the role of the status of the surrounding 473 species pool for the colonization process at restored river reaches (Stoll et al., 2013; 474 Sundermann et al., 2011). 475

476

477 4.1 Dispersion of community trait composition

478

Restorations reduced the trait variability (as β-diversity) across restoration projects.
In this study, this was particularly true in the upper-rhithral zone for which restoration
projects analysed were biogeographically distant to each other including rivers from
Switzerland, Germany and Finland. Different types of degradation can lead to
different functional trait compositions between communities. The greater similarity in

trait composition at restored reaches, even in this set of restoration projects from
geographically distant locations, underpins that natural conditions for each river zone
are well defined and communities reflect these more homogenous conditions among
restored reaches. If proven universal, these river zone-specific trait compositions of
natural habitat conditions could serve as a robust and universal target for restoration
managers that allows for comparisons across biogeographic borders.

490

491 4.2 Restoration along the river continuum

492

Our results suggest that the effects of restoration depend on the position of a 493 restoration project along the river continuum. For the upper rhithral river reaches we 494 find different response patterns for trait diversity, life-history strategies and 495 496 succession dynamics compared to lower river reaches. Upper rhithral river reaches are naturally more uniform with less room for a great variety of traits. Anthropogenic 497 influences are known to hamper restoration of fish communities (Zajicek 2019). By 498 anthropogenic changes such as impoundment, extra (un-natural) habitat diversity is 499 created, allowing for a wider range of traits to persist in the system. Through 500 restoration, opportunistic traits are reduced, leading to a shift towards the more 501 natural and less functionally diverse rhithral-zone communities. This suggests that 502 503 restoring a river natural state is not necessarily associated with richer or more functionally diverse assemblages, especially in the upper rhithral zone. Degradation 504 in the upper rhithral zone is often associated with a deterioration of the sediment 505 quality, especially colmatation of the sediment interstitial (Scheuer et al., 2009). An 506 accessible and oxygenated interstitial zone however is crucial especially for low 507 fecundity equilibrium strategists in this river zone such as brown trout and bullhead. 508

509 Beside its role as the reproduction habitat, the interstitial zone is also a crucial refuge 510 for fish species during high discharge events. In degraded reaches flushing of fish is 511 more likely, which favours short lived, fast reproducing opportunists which can 512 recolonize flushed-out reaches more quickly.

513

514 4.3 Time since restoration, land use and environmental characteristics affect
515 restoration outcomes

516

517 The succession dynamics of the changes in trait composition of fish communities elicited by the restorations varied as an effect of anthropogenic pressures in the 518 adjacent catchment area and altitudinal position of the restoration project. In areas 519 520 with greater levels of anthropogenic pressure, the effect of the restoration on fish community functional aspects emerged later, but reached higher effect sizes. In 521 contrast to analyses focusing on taxonomical species (Palmer et al 2010), we 522 showed that, also in intensely used areas, improvements are possible by restoration 523 actions if enough recovery time is allowed. However, these improvements may have 524 started from a very low pre-restoration status. Here we observed a clear succession 525 of functional patterns where in the short term opportunistic species benefited, while 526 on the longer term equilibrium and periodic species became more prevalent. 527 528 Communities in rivers exposed to lower levels of anthropogenic pressures, and thereby probably already closer to natural conditions even in the degraded state, 529 experienced an initial increase of functional diversity. Opportunistic species are 530 efficient in building up sizeable populations guickly (Thomas et al., 2015), especially 531 in the situation of a temporal loss of more competitive, longer-lived equilibrium 532 strategist species due to the disturbance associated with execution of the restoration 533

(Tullos et al., 2009). Later, these communities experienced a gradual return to
values similar to the unrestored reaches. Within the altitudinal span from 25 m to 347
m a.s.l. in the upper potamal zone, reaches which are located at higher altitudes
seem slower to return to natural functional assemblages after the restoration event
than upper potamal reaches at lower altitudes.

Altitude is often correlated with slope, and thereby current velocity (Schulze, 2005). Both the natural sequence of riffles and pools as well as anthropogenic barriers to manage the flow in such river reaches contribute to a reduction longitudinal connectivity, impede free longitudinal dispersion (Aarts and Nienhuis, 2003). In these conditions, colonization events may be more stochastic and conducted mainly by nearby individuals (Stoll et al., 2014), thus take longer time showing delayed effects of the restoration.

546

547 4.4 Conclusions

548

This study demonstrates the usefulness of species traits in understanding general 549 processes that take place in communities after restorations are carried out. 550 Restoration effects at the level of community composition with regard to ecological 551 traits and life-history strategies followed the same patterns across a large geographic 552 area, spanning from boreal Northern Finland to the German lower mountain areas 553 and lowlands and to the Swiss Alps. We therefore believe that the use of ecological 554 traits, more than taxonomic information, would allow us to compare restoration 555 results across biogeographic regions. A better comparability of results is crucial to 556 learn from each other about experiences with different restoration approaches to 557 reach specific targets. This synthesis of practitioner knowledge on restoration 558

options is highly pertinent (Palmer et al., 2005; Bernhardt and Palmer, 2007). The 559 use of ecological trait information instead of species identities also matches well with 560 the common ultimate aim of river restoration to enhance the natural integrity and 561 functionality of rivers. Ecological species traits are more directly coupled to 562 ecological functioning than species identities, and thus trait-based approaches allow 563 a more direct interpretation of restoration results. In this pilot study we focused our 564 analysis exclusively on trait categories which are associated to the opportunistic-565 periodic-equilibrium life strategies, however other traits categories (e.g. feeding 566 567 behaviour) are available and can be implemented to further analyse the outcome of the river restoration. 568

This study also reconfirmed that succession processes at restored reaches 569 are non-linear and depend on the environmental context of where a restoration takes 570 place. Such general ecological patterns are difficult to perceive based on highly inter-571 annually variable taxonomic data, but easier to spot using functionally aggregated 572 data based on ecological traits. Too early evaluation of restoration outcomes can 573 furthermore be misguiding, as restoration effects on communities may vary (and 574 even may be opposite) in early and late succession stages. To further test the 575 functional patterns observed along the river continuum in this study, trans-continental 576 comparisons of restoration outcomes based on ecological trait information should be 577 conducted. If successful, this could help to define overarching robust references for 578 restoration managers. If proven to be universal, references based on community trait 579 composition may be developed to evaluate the naturalness of species communities. 580 Independent of taxonomic units, such an approach can be used for the evaluation 581 and comparison of environmental management actions, e.g. restoration projects, 582 across biogeographic regions. 583

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592	
593	

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595

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- 830

- 831 Table 1 Life-history traits used in the study as informative of the opportunistic-
- 832 periodic-equilibrium trichotomy fish life-history strategies: opportunistic (O), periodic
- (P), equilibrium (E), following Winemiller and Rose (1992) concept. For trait
- categories which were not falling specifically in one of the three life-strategies,
- multiple strategies were indicated as potentially suitable.

Trait Class	Trait Category	Code	Life-history
			strategy
maximum life span (years)	<8	ls1	0
	8-15	ls2	P/O/E
	>15	ls3	P/E
maximum body length (cm)	<20	bl1	0
	20-39	bl2	E
	>39	bl3	Р
female maturity (years)	<2	ma1	0
	2-3	ma2	E
	3-4	ma3	E
	4-5	ma4	E
	>5	ma5	Р
spawning time	1 per year	st1	P/E
	> 1 per year	st2	0
fecundity (no. oocytes)	< 55,000	fe1	O/E
	55,000 - 60,000	fe2	P/O/E
	> 60,000	fe3	Р
egg diameter (mm)	< 1.3	ed1	P/O
	1.3 - 2	ed2	P/O/E
	> 2	ed3	E
parental care	no parental care	nop	P/O
	protection with nest	pnh	E
	or hiding eggs		
	no protection with nest	nnh	E
	or hiding eggs		

Table 2 –Traits that contributed to the dissimilarity in community composition (SIMPER analysis) for restored and unrestored river reaches. Only river zones in which trait composition was significantly different (perMANOVA p < 0.05) between the restored and unrestored reaches are shown. For each category, contribution (with standard deviation) and relative cumulative contribution (up to 70%) to the group dissimilarity are shown as well as the average relative frequency (avg %) for the restored and unrestored conditions. Life-history strategies (O=opportunistic; P=periodic; E=equilibrium) for each trait category are included.

Diver zone	Trait class	Trait category	Contrib(0())	od	Cumul	Avg %	Avg %	Life-history
River Zone			Contrib(%)	sa	Contrib(%)	(Rest)	(Unrest)	strategy
Upper-rhithral	parental care	no protection with nest or hiding eggs	0.032	0.024	0.074	0.095	0.066	E
	egg diameter	>2 mm	0.032	0.026	0.147	0.110	0.075	Е
	body length	>39 cm	0.030	0.022	0.218	0.093	0.070	Р
	parental care	no parental care	0.029	0.024	0.287	0.030	0.061	0
	female maturity	4-5 years	0.030	0.022	0.355	0.090	0.076	E
	life span	8-15 years	0.028	0.020	0.419	0.091	0.074	P/O/E
	body length	<20 cm	0.028	0.021	0.483	0.042	0.061	0
	fecundity	<55,000 oocytes	0.024	0.021	0.540	0.114	0.096	O/E
	life span	<8 years	0.024	0.020	0.596	0.039	0.050	0
	egg diameter	<1. 3 mm	0.022	0.022	0.647	0.018	0.041	P/O
	fecundity	55,000 - 60,000 oocytes	0.020	0.020	0.694	0.020	0.037	P/O/E
Lower-potamal	female maturity	4-5 years	0.026	0.014	0.086	0.040	0.083	E
	body length	20-39 cm	0.026	0.015	0.171	0.041	0.085	E
	life span	>15 years	0.025	0.014	0.253	0.049	0.089	P/E
	body length	<20 cm	0.024	0.014	0.333	0.092	0.054	0
	fecundity	55,000 - 60,000 oocytes	0.022	0.015	0.407	0.075	0.099	P/O/E
	fecundity	<55,000 oocytes	0.019	0.012	0.469	0.050	0.015	O/E
	life span	<8 years	0.018	0.013	0.530	0.053	0.025	0
	female maturity	<2 years	0.018	0.012	0.588	0.047	0.018	0
	spawning time	1 per year	0.015	0.011	0.639	0.083	0.099	P/E
	spawning time	>1 per year	0.015	0.011	0.690	0.060	0.043	0
	egg diameter	<1. 3 mm	0.015	0.010	0.739	0.079	0.083	P/O



Fig. 1 – Study projects included in the study. The figure shows projects in which the same river reach was assessed before and after the restoration (BA) (squares), and projects assessed with a control – impact approach (CI) (triangles) in which an unrestored reach was compared to a restored one.



Fig. 2 – Boxplots showing Rao's quadratic entropy (RaoQ) and Functional dispersion (FDis) as functional diversity metrics together with species evenness Eve (c) in restored and unrestored conditions in the four longitudinal river zones (number of river reaches analysed are shown). Significant (LME) effect of restoration is indicated in the upper-potamal zone. (* = p < 0.05; *** = p < 0.001).



Fig. 3 – Trait composition of restored (R) and unrestored (U) conditions among longitudinal river zones is illustrated using a non-parametric Multidimensional Scaling plot (nMDS). Ellipses represent 95 % confidence intervals. Significant (perMANOVA) effect of restoration is indicated in the upper-rhithral and lower-potamal zone. (* = p<0.05).



Fig. 4 – Ternary plot showing the relative proportion of opportunistic, periodic and equilibrium strategists for restored (pink dots) and unrestored (blue dots) river reaches for the upper-rhithral (a) and lower-potamal (b) zones in which significant variation in trait composition (1-way perMANOVA) was found. Coloured triangles and error bars represent centroid means and 95% confidence limits for restored (pink) and unrestored (blue) reaches. Trait proportions were calculated using only those trait categories that significantly contributed to the observed dissimilarity between unrestored and restored sites (SIMPER analysis).



Fig. 5 – Distance from centroid in nMDS (as measure of β -diversity) on community trait composition in restored and unrestored conditions in the four longitudinal river zones (cf. Fig. 3). Significant restoration effects are indicated (*** = p<0.001; * = p<0.05). Box plots depict the 25, 50 and 75 percentiles, and whiskers the highest and lowest values excluding outliers.



Fig. 6 – RDA plot depicting the relation between trait categories (as delta CPUE, calculated in each restored-unrestored paired condition) and environmental variables for the upper-rhithral (panel a) and lower-potamal (panel b) zones. The first two components of the RDA (with proportion explained in brackets) are included in each plot. Arrows represent significant environmental variables (anova: p<0.05): years since restoration (1-5y; 6-10y; 11-15y), number of actions that aimed to restore riparian section of the river (Rip act in the plot); actions that aimed to restore river bed structures (Riv act); actions that aimed to improve longitudinal connectivity (Con act). Interactive effects are shown for years since restoration with anthropic index (AI) and length of the restored river reach (length). Trait categories are color-coded according to the association with opportunistic (red), periodic (green) and equilibrium (blue) fish life strategies, or to a combination of them (orange = opportunistic/periodic; light blue = equilibrium/periodic; gray = opportunistic/equilibrium/periodic). See Table 1 for the trait category codes and relative opportunistic-periodic-equilibrium association.

Supplementary Material

Table S1 – Restoration actions were grouped in riparian, river bed and connectivity categories.

Categories	Restoration actions
Connectivity	Elimination of artificial barriers
	Mouth rehabilitation
	Transformation piping
Riparian	Creating shade shore edge strips
	Creation of gravel bars
	Creation of still water zones (pounds, lakes, backwaters)
	Elimination of embankments
	Introduction of deadwood
	Networking and floodplain reconnection
	Widening
River bed	Artificial bedload entry
	Creation of riffles and pools
	Deflectors flow diverter
	Diversify the river flow current
	Elimination of artificial structures
	Raising of the river bed
	Re-braiding of the water course
	Recreation river channel
	Re-meandering

Table S2 – Corine Land-use categories (code and description) (level 3) included in the 10 km length upstream buffer. A coefficient (k) was attributed to each of the categories based on the level of anthropogenic pressure in each category (1= no pressure; 2= low pressure; 3= medium pressure; 4= high pressure). The sum of each proportional area of each category multiplied by the correspondent coefficient k gives the anthropogenic index (AI) used for the analysis.

Code	Category description	k value
FTYP313	Mixed forest	1
FTYP324	Transitional woodland-shrub	1
FTYP512	Water bodies	1
FTYP311	Broad-leaved forest	1
FTYP321	Natural Grassland	1
FTYP322	Moors and heatland	1
FTYP332	Bare rocks	1
FTYP333	Sparsely vegetated areas	1
FTYP511	Water courses	1
FTYP412	Peat bogs	1
FTYP523	Sea and Ocean	1
FTYP411	Inland marshes	1
FTYP421	Salt marshes	1
FTYP312	Coniferous forest	2
FTYP243	Land principally occupied by agriculture, and natural vegetation	2
FTYP141	Green urban areas	2
FTYP211	Non-irrigated arable land	3
FTYP242	Complex cultivation patterns	3
FTYP231	Pastures	3
FTYP221	Vineyards	3
FTYP222	Fruit trees and berry plantations	3
FTYP142	Sport and leisure facilities	3
FTYP112	Discontinuous urban fabric	4
FTYP121	Industrial or commercial units	4
FTYP111	Continuous urban fabric	4
FTYP124	Airports	4
FTYP122	Road and rail networks and associated land	4
FTYP131	Mineral extraction sites	4
FTYP123	Port Areas	4
FTYP132	Dump sites	4

Table S3 –Number of projects as well as average width, catchment size and altitude are shown for each country according with the longitudinal river gradient used to classify the zones in the study. The longitudinal gradient was broken down according to the river biocoenotic region (Illies and Botosaneanu, 1963) and fish zonation (Huet, 1949) concepts using differentiation into rhithral (upper- and lower-) and potamal (upper- and lower-) zones. In Europe, potamal river reaches only occur in Central to Southern Europe, while in Northern Europe the potamal zone rarely occurs or is limited to the lowermost river section.

Longitudinal zonation	Country	N° of Projects	avg. width (m)	avg. catch size (Km²)	avg. altitude (m a.s.l.)	Biocoenotic regions	Fish zones
Upper rhithral	СН	15	4.21	48.55	448.67	Epi- and Meta-rhithral	Trout
	DE	19	4.25	77.93	155.96		
	FIN	24	7.07	1029.58	103.65		
_	avg.	58	6.15	718.80	158.30		
Lower rhithral	DE	22	11.59	372.60	156.17	Hypo-rhithral	Grayling
	FIN	26	35.24	4665.33	69.40		
_	avg.	48	29.33	3592.15	91.09		
Upper potamal	DE	20	25.88	1651.25	77.44	Epi-potamal	Barbel
Lower potamal	DE	9	62.65	3041.00	68.35	Meta-potamal	Bream

Table S4 – Statistic summary for LME model of the main effect of the restoration
among longitudinal river zones for the functional diversity metrics (RaoQ, FDis) and
species evenness (Eve). In the table are included only the factors selected after
model backward, for which p value was <0.06. Marginal (R²m) and conditional (R²c)
variance of the model are indicated, as well as likelihood ratio statistic (X²), degree of
freedom (df) and significance (p).

Metric	Selected factors	R ² m; R ² c	X ²	df	р
RaoQ	Restoration*Zonation	0.10; 0.45	9.44	479	0.024
	Zonation		13.85	479	0.003
	Restoration		3.74	479	0.053
Fdis	Restoration*Zonation	0.09; 0.42	11.53	479	0.009
	Zonation		13.96	479	0.003
	Restoration		4.22	479	0.039
Eve	Restoration*Zonation	0.01; 0.28	10.34	479	0.016

- 10 Table S5 Statistic summary for LME model of the restoration drivers for the upper-
- 11 potamal river zone for the delta (restored-unrestored) functional diversity metrics
- 12 (dRaoQ, dFDis) and delta species evenness (dEve). In the table are included only
- the factors selected after model backward, for which p value was <0.05. Marginal
- 14 (R²m) and conditional (R²c) variance of the model are indicated, as well as likelihood
- ratio statistic (X²), degree of freedom (df) and significance (p).

Metric	R ² m; R ² c	Selected factors	X ²	df	р
dRaoQ	0.55; 0.59	Age:log(AI)	7.22	44	0.027
		Age:log(Altitude)	7.23	44	0.027
		log (Length rest)	6.03	8	0.014
		Connectivity actions	15.07	44	<0.001
dFDis	0.58; 0.62	Age:log(AI)	7.55	44	0.023
		Age:log(Altitude)	6.54	44	0.038
		log (Length rest)	5.87	8	0.015
		Connectivity actions	13.39	44	<0.001
dEve	0.50; 0.76	Age:log(Altitude)	7.64	44	0.022
		log (Length rest)	7.35	8	0.007
		Connectivity actions	9.73	44	0.002

17





Fig. S1 – Linear relation between delta (restored-unrestored) values of RaoQ and FDis and log transformed Anthropic Index (AI) over the three age categories (1-5 years; 6-10 years; 11-15 years) in the upper-potamal river zone.



Fig. S2 – Linear relation between delta (restored-unrestored) values of RaoQ, FDis and Eve and log transformed altitude (m) (LAI) over the three age categories (1-5





29 Fig. S3 – Linear relation between delta (restored-unrestored) values of RaoQ, FDis

- 30 and Eve and log transformed length of the restored river reach (m) in the upper-
- 31 potamal river zone.



33

34 Fig. S4 – Comparison of delta (restored-unrestored) values of RaoQ, FDis and Eve

- and absence or presence of restoration actions that aimed to increase longitudinal
- 36 connectivity in the upper-potamal river zone. Box plots depict the 25, 50 and 75
- 37 percentiles and whiskers the highest and lowest values excluding outliers.
- 38
- 39

Table 1 - Life-history traits used in the study as informative of the opportunisticperiodic-equilibrium trichotomy fish life-history strategies: Opportunistic (O), Periodic (P), Equilibrium (E) following Winemiller and Rose (1992) concept. For trait categories which were not falling specifically in one of the three life-strategies, multiple strategies were indicated as potentially suitable.

Trait Class	Trait Category	Code	Life-history strategy
maximum life span (years)	<8	ls1	0
	8-15	ls2	P/O/E
	>15	ls3	P/E
maximum body length (cm)	<20	bl1	0
	20-39	bl2	E
	>39	bl3	Р
female maturity (years)	<2	ma1	0
	2-3	ma2	E
	3-4	ma3	E
	4-5	ma4	E
	>5	ma5	Р
spawning time	1 per year	st1	P/E
	> 1 per year	st2	0
fecundity (no. oocytes)	< 55,000	fe1	O/E
	55,000 - 60,000	fe2	P/O/E
	> 60,000	fe3	Р
egg diameter (mm)	< 1.3	ed1	P/O
	1.3 - 2	ed2	P/O/E
	> 2	ed3	E
parental care	no parental care	nop	P/O
	protection with nest	pnh	E
	or hiding eggs		
	no protection with nest	nnh	E
	or hiding eggs		

Table 2 –Traits that contributed to the dissimilarity in community composition (SIMPER analysis) for restored and unrestored river reaches. Only river zones in which trait composition was significantly different (perMANOVA p < 0.05) between the restored and unrestored reaches are shown. For each category, contribution (with standard deviation) and relative cumulative contribution (up to 70%) to the group dissimilarity are shown as well as the average relative frequency (avg %) for the restored and unrestored conditions. Life-history strategies (E=equilibrium; P=periodic; O=opportunistic) for each trait category are included.

River zone	Trait class	Trait category	Contrib(%)	sd	Cumul	Avg %	Avg %	Life-history
					Contrib(%)	(Rest)	(Unrest)	strategy
Upper-rhithral	parental care	no protection with nest or hiding eggs	0.032	0.024	0.074	0.095	0.066	E
	egg diameter	>2 mm	0.032	0.026	0.147	0.110	0.075	E
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	female maturity	4-5 years	0.030	0.022	0.355	0.090	0.076	E
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	body length	<20 cm	0.028	0.021	0.483	0.042	0.061	0
	fecundity	<55,000 oocytes	0.024	0.021	0.540	0.114	0.096	O/E
	life span	<8 years	0.024	0.020	0.596	0.039	0.050	0
	egg diameter	<1. 3 mm	0.022	0.022	0.647	0.018	0.041	P/O
	fecundity	55,000 - 60,000 oocytes	0.020	0.020	0.694	0.020	0.037	P/O/E
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	body length	<20 cm	0.024	0.014	0.333	0.092	0.054	0
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	fecundity	<55,000 oocytes	0.019	0.012	0.469	0.050	0.015	O/E
	life span	<8 years	0.018	0.013	0.530	0.053	0.025	0
	female maturity	<2 years	0.018	0.012	0.588	0.047	0.018	0
	spawning time	1 per year	0.015	0.011	0.639	0.083	0.099	P/E
	spawning time	>1 per year	0.015	0.011	0.690	0.060	0.043	0
	egg diameter	<1. 3 mm	0.015	0.010	0.739	0.079	0.083	P/O

Figure 1 Click here to download high resolution image







a) upper-rhithral









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