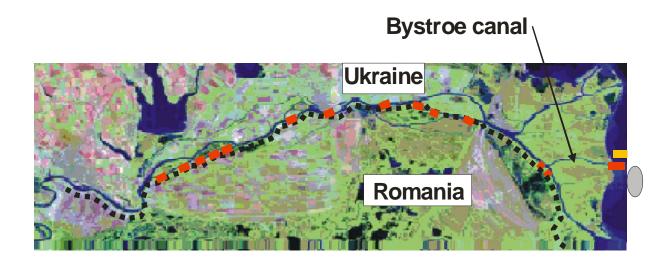


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DOCUMENTATION ON THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANT TRANSBOUNDARY IMPACT OF THE UKRAINIAN DEEP-WATER NAVIGATION CANAL DANUBE-BLACK SEA IN THE CONTEXT OF ESPOO CONVENTION, 1991

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DOCUMENTATION

ON THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANT TRANSBOUNDARY IMPACT AS A RESULT OF THE UKRAINIAN DEEP-WATER NAVIGATION CANAL DANUBEBLACK SEA, IN THE CONTEXT OF ESPOO CONVENTION, 1991

by Dr. Mircea Staras, Danube Delta National Institute, Tulcea, Romania

Part I

Considerations

Aim: To support Romanian expert's opinion within the Inquiry Commission of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo, 1991).

The role of the Inquiry Commission is to advise on whether the project "Danube-Black Sea Deep Water Navigation Canal in the Ukrainian sector of the Danube Delta" is likely to have a significant adverse transboundary impact.

Provisions of the ESPOO Convention

Convention's text:

Impact: "Impact" means any effect caused by a proposed activity on the environment including human health and safety, flora, fauna, soil, air, water, climate, landscape and historical monuments or other physical structures or the interaction among these factors; it also includes effects on cultural heritage or socio-economic conditions resulting from alterations to those factors".

"Transboundary impact" means any impact, not exclusively of a global nature, within an area under the jurisdiction of a Party caused by a proposed activity the physical origin of which is situated wholly or in part within the area under the jurisdiction of another Party;

Appendix I of ESPOO Convention

(List of activities that are likely to cause significant adverse transboundary impact).

"9) Trading ports and also inland waterways and ports for inland-waterway traffic ...for vessels of over 1,350 metric tons".

Appendix III of ESPOO Convention

(General criteria to assist in the determination of the environmental significance of activities not listed in Appendix I)

- (b) <u>Location</u>: activities which are located in or close to an area of special environmental sensitivity or importance (such as wetlands designated under the <u>Ramsar Convention</u>, national parks, nature reserves, ...)"
- (c) <u>Effects</u>: activities with particularly complex and potentially adverse effects, including those giving rise to serious effects on <u>humans or on valued species or organisms</u>..."

The Guidance of practical application of ESPOO Convention mentions that "activities that can make long-range impacts in transboundary context include activities potentially affecting migratory species ".

This documentation was performed focused on factors and elements defined by the convention and the Guidance of its practical application as having significant transboundary impact.

Statements and argumentation

Statement 1: Unlikely significant trounsboundary hydrological impact caused by phase I of the project, but likely significant transboundary impact by phase II

The statement is based on the results from four scenarios for predicting the changes in hydrology using Sobek hydraulic model with hidrologic data from 2001-2002 and data indirectly deduced from received Ukrainian reports (annex 1).

-Result no.1

There is no significant increase of water discharge upstream Bystroe and consequently of the Chilia branch (and border) caused by phase I (annex 1).

-Result no 2

There is a small decrease (1-2 cm) of the water level at the fork of Bystroe-Starostambulsky (annex 1).

-Result no. 3

Significant decrease of water discharge of Starostambulsky canal downstream Bystroe, mainly at high water levels (annex 1).

-Result no. 4

Significant increase of water discharge of Bystroe canal after phase I (annex 1).

The dredging works in phase II would result in increasing hydraulic section of the Chilia branch with $240~\text{m}^2$ on the average and an increase of water discharge outside normal fluctuations, by 6% at maximum levels and 7% at minimum levels. It is difficult to predict the effects of the likely changes of water distribution between Chilia, St. George, Sulina branches and inside the delta system.

Statement 2: Likely significant transboundary impact by effects of the loss of habitat in the Ukraine to the Romanian coastal area and littoral fauna by dumping dredged material into the sea.

According to the information we have from the Ukrainean team, the dredged material will be discharged into the sea, 5 km away the coast (Raport on scientific work, 2003, Inst. Env. Problems; Raport Univ. Harkov, 2004) or 8-10 km away the coast. (the 18th session – UNESCO, Paris 2004)

The received information about the dredged material into the sea: 2,331 mil mc (Raport Min. of Ecology, 2002), 2,155 mil mc (Raport Univ. Harkov, 2004 and Raport Inst. Env. Problems, 2003).

Likely impact on <u>littoral area fauna</u> through sediments transport to the Sulina mouth and coastal Romanian area by the North-South natural marine currents (Panin, 1996) and loss of habitat in the Ukraine to the Romanian oart of the delta. The sediments transport direction is obvious seen on satellite map (Annex 1).

Existing experience in the world proved that ,,dredging and filling disturbs benthic fauna, eliminates deep holes and alters rock substrates, all important for sturgeon" (Smith et al., 1997).

According to an Impact study made by Ukrainian Academy of Science (Romanenko ,2004, cited from Kotenko 2005, in press), ,, *According to calculations based on field analysis 5.14 million m³ of dredged river sediments will contain 7548.5 tons of oil products, 8.2 tons of polycyclic aromatic carbohydrates (PAC have high carcinogenic activity), 263.8 kg of DDT and its metabolites, as well as heavy metals (including 23.1 tons of very toxic cadmium), radioactive caesium etc. 2.33 million m³ of sediments dredged in the bar part and 1.17 million m³ of sediments of annual maintenance dredging will additionally contribute to this pollution".*

Statement 3: Very likely significant impact on fish migratory species, which in the ESPOO Convention context is a transboundary impact.

There are not comparative observations of this impact, because the migration start in spring and however this kind of impact generates long term effects. The existing

experience world wide provide sufficient support for this statement. The Ukrainian experts proved to have good knowledge in this respect and their impact assessment did not neglect or negate the impact of the projected navigation canal on sturgeons. The only question would be whether this undoubted impact has a transboundary character. The Guidance of practical application of the ESPOO Convention, UN/ECE clearly states "Activities that can make long-range impacts in <u>transboundary</u> context include activities potentially affecting <u>migrating species</u>."

By the same reason, the Bern Convention (1979) has taken into consideration the transboundary context referring to protected species: "The contracting parties are committed to coordinate their efforts for protection on natural habitats of the species listed in annexes 1 and 2 in the transboundary area" (art 4/4).

The following available information have been used for supporting the above statement:

 Report on scientific research work (environment assessment) of Ukraine Research Institute for Environment Problems, 2003:

"the rare species reophilic as sturgeons are more frequent here (Bystroe) than in other part.." " and " a significant migration down the river of young sturgeons occurs" and "the captures of shad represent 16,7-51% from the total of shad captures". (p.127), and: "penetration of salt water will adversely effect living conditions for freshwater and other hydrobionts (p.193), and: "A certain damage during the DNC (canal) creation may be inflicted on the fauna in connection with changing of hydromorphological parameters in the area of Bystry sand bar, which may result in disrupting fish migration routes.."

- **Scientific** paper: Nature conservation and shipping in the Danube Delta and Biosphere Reserve (Ukraine): weighing ecological values against economic interests (Kotenko, 2005, in press): ,, A significant portion of juvenile sturgeons descends by this branch" and ,, Many habitats of threatened and endemic species of animals and plants are expected to be completely destroyed or essentially modified" (Romanenko, 2002, cited from Kotenko, 2005, in press).
- Existing experience in the world proved that ,,dredging and filling disturbs benthic fauna, eliminates deep holes and alters rock substrates, all important for sturgeon" (Smith et al., 1997). In Vistula River the disappearance of sturgeon coincided with canalization of the lower course (Backiel et. al., 1985) whereas in US ,,in canalized riches many of large fishes such as sturgeon, paddlefish..have been almost eliminated" (Welcomme, 1985).

Bystroe canal is one of the two remained migration ways (Annex 1), and perhaps the most important, because sturgeons and Danube herring migrating into the Danube spend most of their life on the North-Western shelf of the Black Sea (Bacalbasa, 1990;1997). The protection dam of 1040 m length could act as a barrier for adult sturgeons and Danube herring coming from the main feeding area located in N-W of the Sea, for spawning migration in the Danube River through Bystroe canal. Sturgeon is an "urgent issue" for the whole Danube River Basin as stated by Bloesch (2003) and is one of the three most important topics which need transboundary cooperation (Bloesch et al., 2003).

The adverse transboundary impact of the project consists in habitat loss for young specimens, disruption of migration route and changes in migration pattern for adults.

Statement 4: Likely to very likely significant transboundary socio-economic impact

The impact on migratory fish and the social-economic impact on transboundary fishery are strong arguments in the position of Romanian side.

According to Bacalbasa (1990), the regulation and intense navigation of the Sulina branch reduced the importance of its fishery based on anadromous sturgeons and Danube herring, but Chilia and St. George branch remains important.

The Ukrainian reports <u>mention the impact on fishery</u> and the fact that the project anticipate compensatory measures but ignore Romanian fishermen.

Similar to Sulina canal, Pontic shad (*Alosa pontica*) and 3 sturgeon species will loose one of their migration ways in short term. The migration will be possible only on Sf. Gheorge branch. The Romanian fishermen who use to fish on Chilia branch and upstream will be affected.

Statement 5: Very likely significant transboundary impact on Biodiversity by habitat loss of strictly protected migratory birds

Natural values are transboundary ones and any local impact has a transboundary significance. The most species are present in both-parts of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve designated by UNESCO in 1998.

A total of 1689 plant species and 3460 animal species have been recorded in the Romanian territory of the Danube Delta, 2 plant species and 37 animal species are new for science.

The most of the species are present also in the Ukrainian part of the Danube Delta. According to the "Assessment with respect to the Environmental Impact...." issued by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine out of 257 species, 245 species affected by the new Bystroe canal and up to 5600 couples of birds nest in Bystroe canal area. Valued and strictly protected migratory birds nests on the island located in the area of dredging.

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)- strictly protected by Berna Convention) nested in the last years on the small islands at the mouth of the Bystroe canal only, Sendwich tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) nested in the last years in two places, one at Bystroe mouth (Platteew et al., 2004). Pied avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)-strictly protected by Berna Convention) population nests in both part of the Danube Delta but the main feeding area of Pied Avocet are located at the mouth of Bystroe canal (Platteew et al., 2004). The Ukrainian reports clearly stated the impact of dredging on benthic fauna- the basic food for Avocet.

Rare species of birds recorded only in Ukrainian Delta, contribute to the biodiversity richness of the whole Transboundary Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve. A complete List of migratory birds passing Bystroe area and their international protection status is presented in Annex II.

There are reasons to state that these colonies of very sensitive species of birds were damaged by noise disturbance but the existing information are contradictory: the Ukrainian NGO's protested and asked reactions from international organizations whereas during the meetings held in 2004 in Geneva and in Paris the official Ukrainian explanation was that a colony of ducks was washed off the island by waves. Moreover, the German captain of a dredge declared in a film that birds never nested on the island at the Bystroe mouth, whereas one of the best Ukrainian scientist from the Biosphere Reserve Authority declared the tern colony was destroyed by dredging activities. The author of the documentation trust scientists in this matter instead of politicians or crew staff.

Statement 6: Very likely significant transboundary impact of phase II of the project on water quality outside normal fluctuation range, biota and fishery

As mentioned in the Report on scientific research work, Ukrainian Research Institute for Environmental Problems (2003), the dredging works on Chilia arm would affect water quality, biota and fishery but would not have a transboundary impact. Having in view the dredging works during phase II will be carried out on the border line the above statement does not need argumentation.

a). Literature

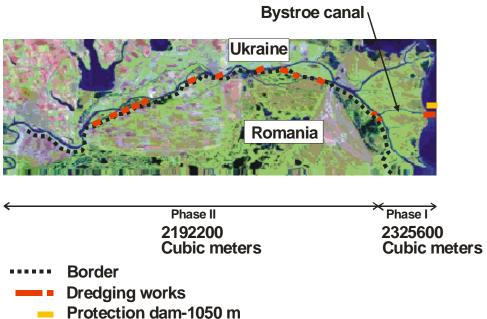
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Description of the project based on the received information

Project location: Secondary delta of the Chlia branch of the Danube Delta





Technical data according to Impact study of Ministry of Ecology, Ukraine, 2002

•Dredging works, 7322700 cubic meters

Removal of Bystroe mouth bar: 2331000 cubic m.

Dredging section Vilkovo-Sea: 506500 cubic m.

Dredging Chilia arm: 4485200 cubic m.

Technical data according to study of Harkov Univ., 2004

Phase I

Seaward canal and removal of both Bystroe mouth bars

-Length: 3 km -Wide: 100 m -Depth: 8,4 m

-Dredging volume: 2155600 cubic meters, damping at 5 km from the shoreline

-Protection dam, 1040 m length

Phase II

- Removal of 11 shallow bars from Chilia arm
- -Dredging volume: 2192200 cubic meters, transfer on river bank and deeper areas

Technical data according to the Report of Ministry of Ecology, Ukrainian Research Institute of Environmental problems, Kharkov, 2003

• Less quantity of soil excavated than stated in 2002, but the same data as from Harkov University

Technical data according to Ukrainian position document, 23 July 2004

Seaward canal and removal of both Bystroe mouth bar

-Length: 3 km -Wide: 100 m -Depth: 7,65 m

-Dredging volume: 1683000 cubic meters

-A protection dam

Removal of 11 shallow bars from Chilia arm

-Dredging volume: 1726000 cubic meters, transfer on river bank

Technical data according to presentation of Ukrainian Delegation in Geneva / 21 Sept.2004 and UNESCO 18th session, Paris, Oct.2004

- Dredging works at Bystroe bar (Phase I) and Chilia arm (Phase II)
- -Total amount of soil excavated at both phases: 2,4 mil. cubic meters
- -Protection dam, length 1050 meters

Data from Ministry of Transport and Communication of Ukraine / Delta-Pilot company, 2004 (CD)

• The length of the protective dam would be 2830 meters

Data from Harkov Univ. and Institute for Environmental Problems has been used for <u>deduction</u> of cross sections before and after dredging of Bystroe bar (phase I), necessary for hydrologic scenarios and for deduction of the increase the hydraulic section of Chilia branch by phase II of the project.

River hydrology

-Water levels

The dynamic of multi-annual monthly water level of the Danube at Tulcea (calculated on a period of 50 years), indicate an adverse Danube water level during last years. The ecological problems were recorded both in Romanian territory and Ukrainian territory.

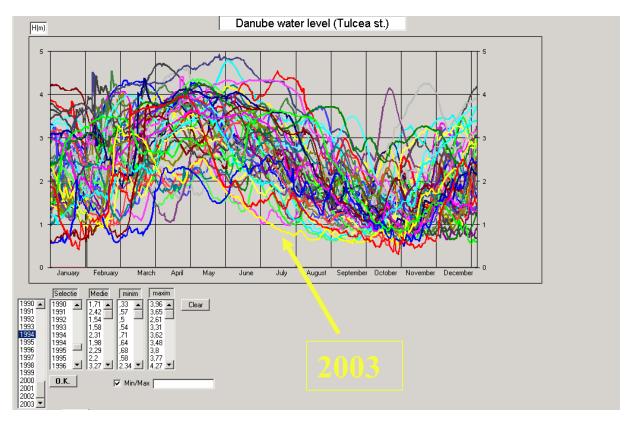


Fig.1. The dynamic of multi-annual monthly water level of the Danube at Tulcea

-Discharge

The medium flow of Danube River, calculated for the period 1921-1990 is 6570 mc/s. The maximum flow discharge absorbed by Chilia transboundary branch from Danube was 70% in 1895 (Alimazov et al., 1963).

During 1921-1990, the balance of the flow absorbed by Chilia decreased from 64% to 58% (Gastescu et al., 1999) and 52-53% in last years, according to the hydrological data, Romanian Waters.

Transboundary impact assessment

1. Hydrological impact assessment

Schematization for Bastroe (Phase I)

The General hydraulic model of Danube delta (Sobek/Delf Hydraulics, Holland) was updated by adding Chilia delta (Fig. 2).

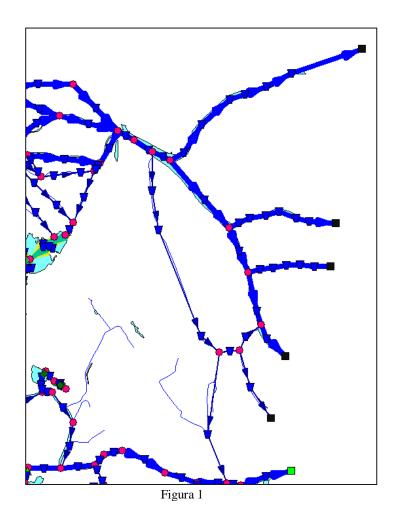
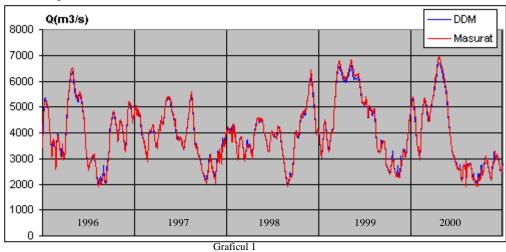


Fig. 2. Schematization of Chilia Delta hydrological system

The calibration for the Periprava-Vilkovo station model was satisfactory (Fig.3).

-Discharge calibration



-Water level calibration

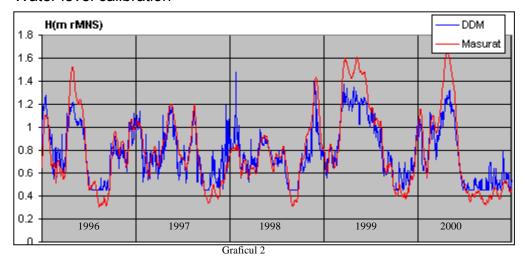


Fig. 3. Hydrological model calibration, Periprava station

After calibration, the model was run in order to evaluate the effects of works made during phase I, respectively the excavation of Bystroe bar canal from 4 to 8 meters, data from years 2001-2002.

-Result no.1

There are not significant changes of water discharge upstream Bystroe and consequently of the Chilia branch (and border) caused by phase I (Fig. 4). Unlikely significant transboundary impact by phase 1.

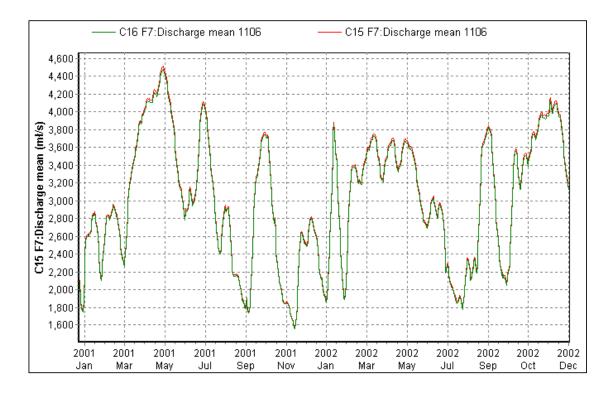


Fig. 4. Modeling of water discharge upstream Bystroe before and after phase I.

-Result no.2 There is a small decrease (1-2 cm) of the water level at the fork of Bystroe-Starostambulsky (Fig.5), but unlikely significant transboundary impact by phase I.

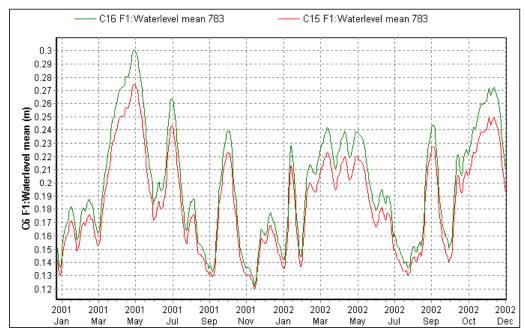


Fig. 5. Levels at the fork of Starostambulsky- Bystroe before and after phase I

-Result no. 3 Significant decrease of water discharge of Starostambulsky canal downstream Bystroe, mainly at high water levels (Fig. 6), but unlikely significant transboundary impact by phase L.

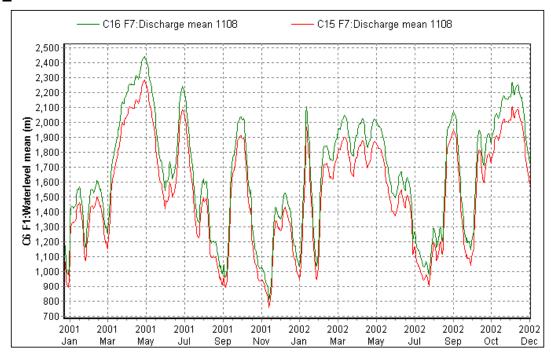


Fig. 6. Discharge modeling of Starostambulsky downstream Bastroe, before and after phase I

-Result no. 4 Significant increase of water discharge of Bystroe canal after phase I (Fig. 7), but unlikely significant transboundary impact by phase I.

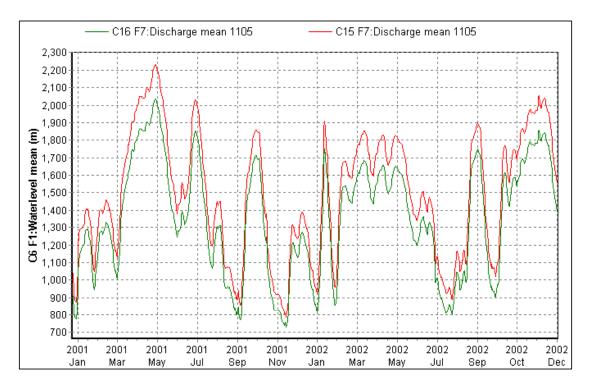


Fig. 7. Discharge of Bystroe canal before and after Phase I

According to Ukrainian information, dredging of 11 segments of the Danube River in phase II would result in 2, 19 million m³ of sediments and would affect a bottom area of 1,129 million m². By deduction, the average dredging stratum depth would be 2 metres. As the projected wide of the navigation canal is 120 m, the hydraulic section of the Chilia branch will increase with 240 m². As water velocity at low water level is 0,5 m/s and 1,0-1,35 at high water level, the water discharge of Chilia branch will increase by 120 m³/s at low levels and 324 m³/s al high levels. Comparing to the values of 1723 m³/s and 5605 m³ /s minimum and maximum discharges of Chilia (1996-2003 period), the water flow of Chilia branch would increase by 7% at minimum water levels and 5,8% at maximum levels. This effect will change the hydrology and water distribution between Danube branches outside normal fluctuations and has a potential significant impact on water circulation inside Romanian delta.

Conclusion: Unlikely significant trounsboundary hydrological impact caused by

phase I, but likely significant transboundary impact caused by phase II of the project

2. Assessment of the impact of sediments discharge/dumping

According to the information from the Ukrainean part, over 2 million cubic metres of dredged material will be (have been) discharged into the sea, 5 km away the coast (or 8-10 km away the coast, other report).

There are not available information on changes in water quality or enrichment in sediments in the Romanian territory, but there is the risk and probability for a significant impact on littoral area fauna through sediments transport to the Sulina mouth and

coastal Romanian area by the normal conditions of the natural North- South marine currents. The sediments transport direction is obvious seen on satellite map (Fig. 8).

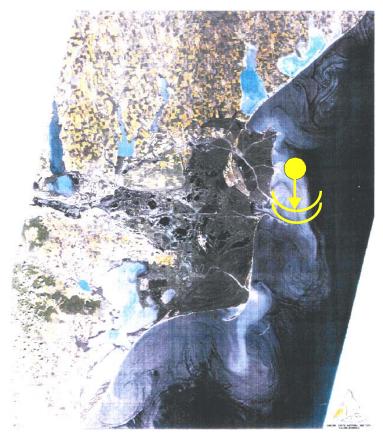


Fig. 8. Movement of sediments by natural N-S marine currents

Conclusion: Likely significant transboundary impact on Romanian coastal area and littoral fauna by movement of sediments and pollutants

3. Impact on fish migratory fish species

The adverse transboundary impact of dredging consists in changes in migration pattern of sturgeon species and Danube herring, disrupting fish migration routes, decrease in biodiversity, impact on threatened species and changes in species composition. The effects were stressed out and correctly argued by the Ukrainian reports, mainly the Report on Scientific Research work ,,Environmental Assessment within the framework of the project ,,Creation of the Danube –the Black Sea deep water navigable passage in the Ukrainian part of the delta", Institute for Environmental Problems, ,pag. 127-130. The adverse effects of penetration of the salt water on living conditions of freshwater biota are mentioned in the same report, pag. 193.

The adverse impact will not be obvious immediately. Some sturgeon specie became mature and migrate in the river at 7-8 years old, other at 14 years old. The migration season is long, almost all over the year, whereas fingerlings migrate downstream in summer. The existing experience world wide proved that ,, dredging and filling disturbs bethic fauna, eliminate deep holes and alters substrate, all important for sturgeon. Anecdotal evidence indicates that old river bottom not subject to maintenace dredging is preffered.." (Smith et al., 1997),

The foreseen compensatory measures by stocking are considered,, a short term

solutions unless they are coupled to plans for protecting and increasing levels of natural reproduction" (Birstein et. al., 1997).

Conclusion: Very likely significant impact on migratory fish species, which in the context of ESPOO Convention according to the Guidance of practical application (pag. 27) have transboundary long range implications.

4. Social-economic impact

The impact on migratory fish and the social-economic impact on transboundary fishery have raised a big concern inside the Romanian fishermen community.

According to Bacalbasa (1990), the regulation and intense navigation of the Sulina branch reduced the importance of its fishery based on anadromous sturgeons and Danube herring, but Chilia and St. George branch remains important.

The Ukrainian reports mention the impact on fishery and the fact that the project anticipate compensatory measures but ignore Romanian fishermen.

Similar to Sulina canal, Pontic shad or (Danube herring) (*Alosa pontica*) and 3 sturgeon species will loose one of their migration ways in short term. The migration will be possible only on Sf. Gheorge branch.

The Romanian fishermen who use to fish on Chilia branch and upstream will be affected.

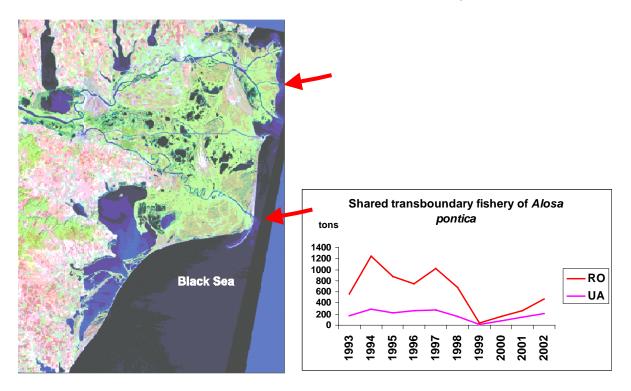


Fig. 9. The main migration ways of Pontic shad and sturgeon species

Conclusion: Likely / very likely significant transboundary social-economis impact

5. Impact on Biodiversity

Natural values are transboundary ones and any local impact has a transboundary significance. The most species are present in both-parts of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve designated by UNESCO in 1998.

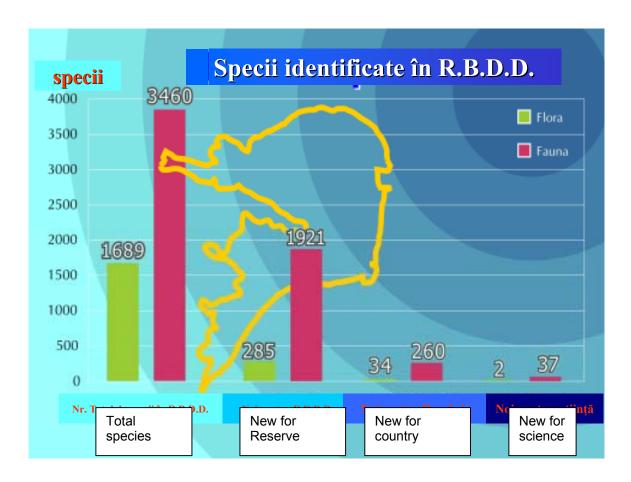


Fig. 10. Number of plant and animal species recorded in Romanian Danube Delta

A total of 1689 plant species and 3460 animal species have been recorded in the Romanian territory of the Danube Delta, 2 plant species and 37 animal species are new for science. The most of the species are present also in the Ukrainian part of the Danube Delta.

The most significant for the biodiversity of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve are the birds.

According to the Reports for Impact Assessment issued by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural resources in 2002 and 2003, out of 257 species of birds, 245 species are affected by the new Bystroe canal and up to 5600 couples of birds nest in Bystroe canal area. The same reports mentions ,,the probability of violations ecosystem character" is ,,very high" and ,,the practical possibility of compensating the predicted losses" is ,,very low".

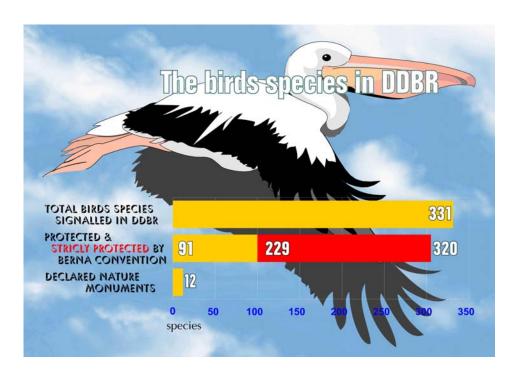


Fig. 11. Protected and strictly protected bird species by Berna Convention from the common transboundary Biosphere Reserve



Fig. 12. Transboundary distribution of bird colonies for gulls, terns, waders, Charadriiformes (strictly protected by Berna Convention), in 2001 and 2002 (Platteeuw et al., 2004)

Great White pelican nests in Romanian delta only, close to the border (8-9 km).

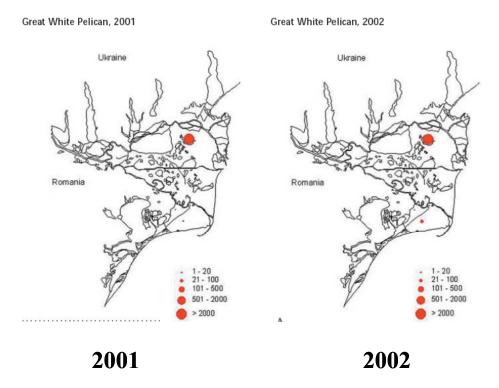


Fig. 13.. Rosca-Hrecisca-the largest Great White pelicans colony in Europe

But feeding area covers the whole Transboundary Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, including the Ukrainian territory (Platteew et al., 2004)

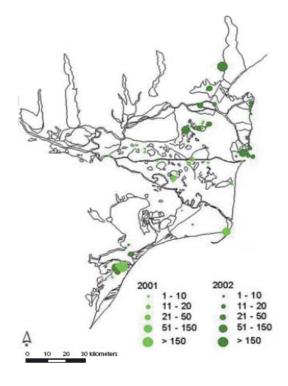


Fig. 14. Great White Pelican, feeding distribution

Pied avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*-strictly protected by Berna Convention) population nests in both part of the Danube Delta (Platteew et al., 2004).

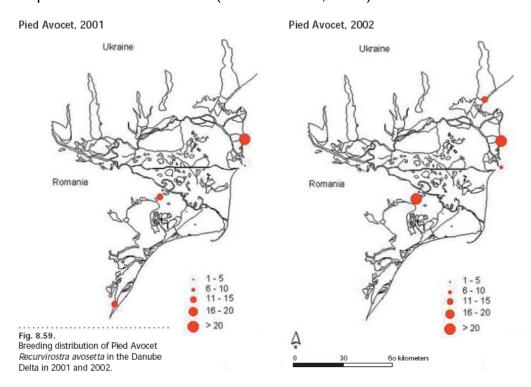


Fig. 15. Pied avocet (Recurvirostra avosetta) nesting places

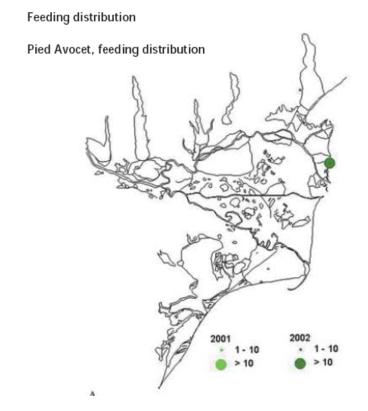


Fig. 16. Main feeding area of Pied Avocet at the mouth of Bystroe canal (Platteew et al., 2004)

The main food of Avocet -aquatic invertebrates, will be (have been) affected by dredging as stated in the Ukrainian reports and resulted from modeling sediment movement along to Ptichya island- the feeding area.

Rare species of birds as Gull-billed Tern have been recorded only in Ukrainian Delta, contributing to the biodiversity richness of the whole Transboundary Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve.

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*- strictly protected by Berna Convention) nested in the last years on the small islands at the mouth of the Bystroe canal only (Platteew et al., 2004).

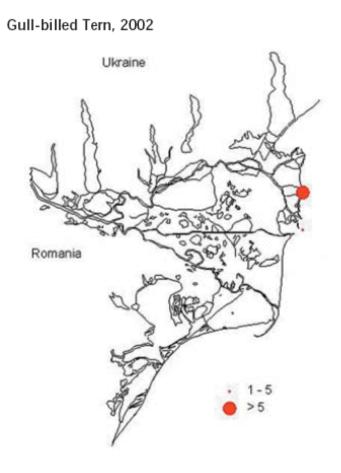


Fig. 17. Gull-billed Tern (Gelochelidon nilotica) nesting at the mouth of Bystroe canal

Other migratory bird colonies strictly protected, located in the area: Sandwich tern (Sterna sandvicensis)

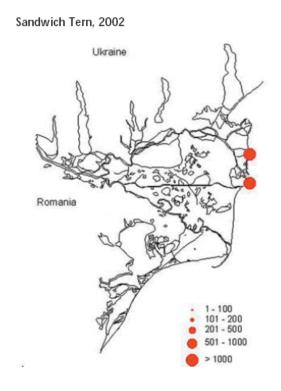


Fig. 18. Location of Sterna sandvicensis colonies

A complete list of migratory birds and the international protection status is presented in <u>Annex II</u> of the documentation



Fig. 19. Dredging works and bird's reaction as a result of noise disturbance close to the Ptichya colony at Bystroe mouth, 2.07.2004



Fig. 20. View from tern colony at Ptichya on 16.07.2004

Official Ukrainian explanation: it was a colony of ducks and due to a very severe storm everything were washed off the island by waves. Ducks do not nest on Ptichia island but species of tern, strictly protected by Bern Convention, some of them unique in the transboundary Biosphere Reserve.

Question: why the egg shells were not washed out by waves?.

According to Ukrainian NGO's and the Ukrainian scientists from Danube Biosphere Reserve-Vilkovo, Ptichya colony was destroyed by noise disturbance from dredging activities (WWF film), even the dredge crew stated that birds never nested on island.

Beside valuable birds, Bystroe area is an important habitat for other migratory animals. The last record of the Black Sea seal (*Monachus monachus*)-strictly protected by Bonn Convention on migratory species, was on Bystroe canal (Zajcev et. al., 1997).

Conclusion: Very likely significant transboundary impact on migratory strictly protected birds and other strictly protected animals.

Summary

- 1 Unlikely significant transboundary hidrologic impact by phase I, but likely significant by Phase II
- 2. Likely significant transboundary impact because of the sand/mud dumping;
- 3. Likely/very likely transboundary social-economic impact on the Romanian fishery
- 4. Very likely significant transboundary impact on migratory fish and birds;

Annex 2 MIGRATORY BIRD SPECIES RECORDED ON NORTH – EASTHERN PART OF the DANUBE DELTA

The bird species what have been observed in Romanian territory, and their route (migration way) between breeding places and wintering places pass on North - Eastern part of Danube Delta, transiting Bystroe area.

The data are from quoted references and the maps from Rudescu's book: "Migratia pasarilor" (The Birds Migration) respectively from Academy publications - Aves volume.

"Ex.?" (extinct?) - Annex 1 -

Nr. crt.	Species	International Conventions	Phenology in Romania	Geographical Origin
1	Anthropoides virgo	(Annex 2) Br.II /Bn.II	(Annex 3) Ac	(Annex 4) Mo
2	Falco cherrug	Br.II /Bn.II/W	MP	Мо
3	Neophron percnopterus	Br.II/Bi.I	OV, ?C	M

"E" (endangered) - Annex 1 -

Nr. crt.	Species	International Conventions (Annex 2)	Phenology in Romania (Annex 3)	Geographical Origin (Annex 4)
1	Aquila heliaca	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I/W	MP	Е
2	Eudromias morinellus	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	P, OV	Α
3	Oxyura leucocephala	Br.II /Bn.I/Bi.I	OI, ?C	M
4	Pelecanus crispus	Br.II /Bn.I,II/Bi.I/W	OV	Мо

"V" (vulnerable) - Annex 1 -

Nr.	Species	International	Phenology in	Geographical
crt.		Conventions	Romania	Origin
		(Annex 2)	(Annex 3)	(Annex 4)
1	Accipiter nisus	Br.II	S, Oi	Тр
2	Alauda arvensis	Br.III	MP	Мо
3	Alcedo atthis	Br.II /Bi.I	MP	E
4	Anas penelope	Br.III /Bi.II	P, OI	S
5	Anas querquedula	Br.III /Bn.II/Bi.II	OV, P	Тр
6	Anas strepera	Br.III /Bn.II/Bi.II	OV	Тр
7	Anthus campestris	Br.II /Bi.I	OV	Мо
8	Anthus cervinus	Br.II	Р	Α
9	Anthus pratensis	Br.II	P, OV	Е
10	Anthus trivialis	Br.II	OV	Е
11	Apus apus	Br.III /Bn.II	OV	Е
12	Ardea cinerea	Br.III /Bn.II	OV, RI	Тр
13	Ardea purpurea	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV	M
14	Ardeola ralloides	Br.II /Bi.I	OV	M
15	Asio otus	Br.II/W	S	Тр
16	Athene noctua	Br.II/W	S	Мо
17	Aythya nyroca	Br.III /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV, RI	E
18	Branta ruficollis	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I/W	OI	Α
19	Burhinus oedicnemus	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV	M
20	Buteo buteo	Br.II /Bn.II	MP	Тр
21	Buteo lagopus	Br.II	OI	Α

22 Calandrella brachydactyla	Br.II /Bi.I	OV	Мо
23 Calidris alpina	Br.II /Bn.II	Р	Α
24 Capella media	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	Р	E
25 Caprimulgus europaeus	Br.II /Bi.I	OV	E
26 Charadrius alexandrinus	Br.II /Bn.II	OV	Мо
27 Charadrius dubius	Br.II /Bn.II	OV	Мо
28 Charadrius hiaticula	Br.II /Bn.II	Р	Α
29 Chlidonias hybridus	Br.II /Bi.I	OV	M
30 Chlidonias leucopterus	Br.II /Bn.II	OV	Е
31 Chlidonias niger	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV	Е
32 Ciconia ciconia	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV	Е
33 Circus aeruginosus	Br.II /Bi.I	OV, RI	Мо
34 Circus cyaneus	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OI	E
35 Coccothraustes coccothraustes	Br.II	S	E
36 Columba oenas	Br.III /Bn.II	OV	E
37 Coracias garrulus	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV	E
38 Corvus corax	Br.II	S	Тр
39 Coturnix coturnix	Br.III /Bn.II	OV	E
40 Cuculus canorus	Br.III	OV	Тр
41 Delichon urbica	Br.II	OV	Тр
42 Dendrocopos major	Br.II	S	Тр
43 Dendrocopos minor	Br.II	S	Тр
44 Dendrocopos syriacus	Br.II /Bi.I	S	M
45 Dryocopus martius	Br.II /Bi.I	S	S
46 Egretta alba	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV, RI	Ch
47 Egretta garzetta	Br.II /Bi.I	OV, KI	M
48 Emberiza hortulana	Br.III /Bi.I	OV	E
49 Erithacus rubecula	Br.II	OV, RI	E
50 Falco columbarius	Br.II /Bi.I/W	OV, KI	S
	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I/W	OV	Mo
51 Falco naumanni	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I/W		
52 Falco peregrinus		S, OI OV	Tp
53 Falco subbuteo	Br.II /Bn.II/W		Tp
54 Falco tinnunculus	Br.II /Bn.II/W	MP OV	Тр
55 Falco vespertinus	Br.II /Bn.II/W	OV	Mo
56 Ficedula parva	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV	S
57 Gavia stellata	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OI	A
58 Gelochelidon nilotica	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV	M
59 Glareola prantincola	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV	M
60 Grus grus	Br.II /Bn.II	P, ?C	E
61 Haematopus ostralegus	Br.III	OV	Тр
62 Himantopus himantopus	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV	Mo
63 Hippolais pallida	Br.II	OV	M
64 Hirundo daurica	Br.II	OV	?/I-A
65 Ixobrychus minutus	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV	E
66 Lanius collurio	Br.II /Bi.I	OV	E
67 Lanius excubitor	Br.II	MP, OI	Тр
68 Lanius minor	Br.II /Bi.I	OV	Е
69 Lanius senator	Br.II	Ac	M
70 Larus canus	Br.III /Bn.II	OI	S
71 Larus genei	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	Ac, ?OV	M
72 Larus melanocephalus	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV	M
73 Larus minutus	Br.II	P, ?C	S
74 Limicola falcinellus	Br.II /Bn.II	Р	S

75 Limosa limosa	Br.III /Bn.II	P, ?OV	Мо
76 Lullula arborea	Br.III/Bi.I	OV	E
77 Luscinia megarhynchos	Br.II	OV	E
78 Lymnocryptes minimus	Br.III/Bn.II/Bi.II	Р	S
79 Melanocorypha calandra	Br.II /Bi.I	MP	M
80 Mergus albellus	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OI	S
81 Mergus merganser	Br.III/Bn.II	OI	Тр
82 Mergus serrator	Br.III/Bn.II	OI	S
83 Merops apiaster	Br.II /Bn.II	OV	M
84 Milvus migrans	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV	E
85 Motacilla flava	Br.II	OV	Тр
86 Muscicapa striata	Br.II	OV	E
87 Netta rufina	Br.III /Bn.II	OV, RI	M
88 Numenius arquata	Br.III /Bn.II	OV	Е
89 Nycticorax nycticorax	Br.II /Bi.I	OV	M
90 Oenanthe oenanthe	Br.II	OV	Тр
91 Oriolus oriolus	Br.II	OV	Е
92 Passer hispaniolensis	Br.III	OV	Е
93 Pelecanus onocrotalus	Br.II /Bn.I,II/Bi.I	OV	Мо
94 Perdix perdix	Br.III/Bn.II/Bi.II	S	E
95 Pernis apivorus	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV	E
96 Phalacrocorax pygmeus	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV, RI	M
97 Phoenicurus ochruros	Br.II	OV	Мо
98 Phoenicurus phoenicurus	Br.II	OV	E
99 Picus canus	Br.II /Bi.I	S	E
100 Platalea leucorodia	Br.II/Bn.II/Bi./W	OV	E
101 Plegadis falcinellus	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV	M
102 Pluvialis squatarola	Br.III	Р	Α
103 Podiceps auritus	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	Ac	S
104 Podiceps cristatus	Br.III	OV, RI	Тр
105 Podiceps nigricollis	Br.II /Bn.II	OV, RI	E
106 Porzana porzana	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV	E
107 Recurvirostra avosetta	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV	Мо
108 Remiz pendulinus	Br.II	MP	Мо
109 Riparia riparia	Br.II	OV	Тр
110 Saxicola torquata	Br.II	OV	Мо
111 Scolopax rusticola	Br.III/Bn.II/Bi.II	P, OV	E
112 Sterna albifrons	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV	E
113 Sterna caspia	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	Р	Тр
114 Sterna sandvicensis	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV	M
115 Streptopelia turtur	Br.III /Bn.II	OV	E
116 Strix aluco	Br.II/W	S	E
117 Sylvia borin	Br.II	OV	E
118 Tachybaptus ruficollis	Br.II	OV, RI	E
119 Tadorna tadorna	Br.II /Bn.II	OV, RI	Мо
120 Tringa glareola	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	Р	S
121 Tringa totanus	Br.III /Bn.II	P, OV	Мо
122 Turdus merula	Br.III	MP	E
123 Upupa epops	Br.II	OV	E
124 Vanellus vanellus	Br.III	OV	Мо

"R" (rare) - Annex 1 -

Nr. crt.	Species	International Conventions	Phenology in Romania	Geographical Origin
		(Annex 2)	(Annex 3)	(Annex 4)
1	Accipiter gentilis	Br.II	S	Тр
2	Acrocephalus dumetorum	Br.II	Ac, ?C	?/T
3	Anser erythropus	Br.II /Bn.II	Ac	A
4	Apus melba	Br.II	OV	M
5	Aquila clanga	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	P, ?C	Е
6	Aquila pomarina	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV	Е
7	Arenaria interpres	Br.II /Bn.II	Р	Е
8	Asio flammeus	Br.II/Bi.I/W	OI, ?C	Тр
9	Ciconia nigra	Br.II/Bn.II/Bi.I/W	OV	Е
10	Circaetus gallicus	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV	Е
11	Crex crex	Br.II /Bi.I	OV	Е
12	Gavia arctica	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OI	S
13	Gavia immer	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OI	Α
14	Glareola nordmanni	Br.II /Bn.II	Ac	Мо
15	Haliaeetus albicilla	Br.II /Bn.I/Bi.I	MP	Тр
16	Hieraaetus pennatus	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	P, OV	Е
17	Pandion haliaetus	Br.II /Bn.II	Р	Тр
18	Phalaropus fulicarius	Br.II /Bn.II	Ac	A
19	Phalaropus lobatus	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	Р	Α
20	Pluvialis apricaria	Br.III/Bn.II/Bi.I	P, RI	A
21	Porzana parva	Br.II /Bn.II	OV	Е
22	Porzana pusilla	Br.II /Bn.II	OV	Е
23	Puffinus yelkouan	Br.III	Ac	Α
24	Rallus aquaticus	Br.III	MP	Е
	Stercorarius parasiticus	Br.III	Ac	Α
	Stercorarius pomarinus	Br.III	Р	Α
27	Tadorna ferruginea	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV	Мо

"I" (indeterminate) - Annex 1 -

Nr.	Species	International	Phenology in	Geographical
crt.		Conventions	Romania	Origin
		(Annex 2)	(Annex 3)	(Annex 4)
1	Anser brachyrhynchus	Br.III/Bn.II	OI	Α
2	Anser fabalis	Br.III/Bi.II	OI	Α
3	Circus macrourus	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	P, ?OV	Мо

"K" (insufficiently known) -Annex 1 -

Nr. crt.	Species	International Conventions (Annex 2)	Phenology in Romania (Annex 3)	Geographical Origin (Annex 4)
1	Accipiter brevipes	Br.II/Bi.I	OV	M
2	Acrocephalus agricola	Br.II	OV	E
3	Acrocephalus melanopogon	Br.II/Bi.I	OV	M
4	Acrocephalus paludicola	Br.II	Ac, ?C	E
5	Acrocephalus palustris	Br.II	OV	E
6	Acrocephalus scirpaceus	Br.II	OV	E
7	Anser caerulescens	Br.III	Ac	A

8 Aythya marila	Br.III/Bn.II/Bi.II	OI	Α
9 Bombycilla garrulus	Br.II	OI, Ac	S
10 Botaurus stellaris	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV, RI	Mo
11 Branta bernicla	Br.III	Ac	A
12 Bubo bubo	Br.II/Bi.I/W	S	Тр
13 Bubulcus ibis	Br.II	OV	I/Af
14 Calidris alba	Br.II /Bn.II	P	A
15 Calidris canutus	Br.III/Bn.II	Ac	A
16 Calidris temminckii	Br.II /Bn.II	P	A
17 Carduelis cannabina	Br.II	MP	E
18 Carduelis flammea	Br.II	OI	E
	Br.II	OV	
19 Carpodacus erythrinus	Br.II	S	Tp E
20 Certhia brachydactyla 21 Certhia familiaris			
	Br.II	S	E
22 Cettia cetti	Br.II	S	M
23 Charadrius asiaticus	Br.III	Ac	Mo
24 Charadrius lescheaulti	Br.III	Ac	Mo
25 Charadrius vociferus	Br.III	Ac	Mo
26 Chettusia gregaria	Br.III	Ac	Тр
27 Circus pygargus	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV	E
28 Clangula hyemalis	Br.III	OI	Α
29 Cygnus columbianus	Br.II/Bi.I	Ac	A
30 Dendrocopus medius	Br.II/Bi.I	S	Е
31 Emberiza melanocephala	Br.II	OV	M
32 Eremophila alpestris	Br.II	OI, OV	Α
33 Ficedula albicollis	Br.II /Bn.II/Bi.I	OV	E
34 Ficedula hypoleuca	Br.II /Bn.II	OV	E
35 Hippolais icterina	Br.II	OV	Е
36 Hoplopterus spinosus	Br.III	Ac	Мо
37 Jynx torquilla	Br.II	OV	Тр
38 Larus hyperboreus	Br.III	Ac	Α
39 Larus ichthyaetus	Br.III /Bn.II	Ac	Мо
40 Larus sabini	Br.III	Ac	Α
41 Limnodromus griseus	Br.III	Ac	S
42 Limosa Iapponica	Br.III /Bn.II/Bi.I	Ac	Α
43 Locustella fluviatilis	Br.II	OV	Е
44 Locustella naevia	Br.II	OV	Е
45 Loxia curvirostra	Br.II	S	S
46 Luscinia Iuscinia	Br.II	OV	Е
47 Luscinia svecica	Br.II/Bi.I	P, OV	M
48 Marmaronetta angustirostris	Br.III/Bi.I	Ac	E
49 Melanitta fusca	Br.III	Ac	S
50 Melanitta nigra	Br.III/Bi.II	Ac	S
51 Miliaria calandra	Br.III	MP	E
52 Milvus milvus	Br.II/Bi.I	Р	Е
53 Montifringilla nivalis	Br.III	Ac	A
54 Motacilla citreola	Br.II	Ac	S
55 Nucifraga caryocatactes	Br.II	S	S
56 Numenius phaeopus	Br.III /Bn.II	P	S
57 Numenius tenuirostris	Br.II/Bn.I/Bi.I/W	Ac	S
58 Oenanthe hispanica	Br.II	OV	M
59 Oenanthe pleschanka	Br.II	OV	Mo
60 Otis tarda	Br.II/Bn.II/Bi.I/W	S	Mo
Olio tarda	D, D.1, D1, VV	<u> </u>	IVIO

61	Parus lugubris	Br.II	S	M
62	Parus palustris	Br.II	S	Е
63	Phalacrocorax aristotelis	Br.III	Ac	Α
64	Phoenicopterus ruber	Br.III/Bi.I	Ac	Мо
65	Phylloscopus bonelli	Br.II	Ac	S
66	Phylloscopus collybita	Br.II	OV	Тр
67	Phylloscopus sibilatrix	Br.II	OV	Е
68	Phylloscopus trochilus	Br.II	P, OV	Е
69	Plectrophenax nivalis	Br.II	OI	Α
70	Prunela modularis	Br.II	OV, RI	Е
71	Regulus ignicapillus	Br.II	MP	Е
72	Regulus regulus	Br.II	MP, OI	E
73	Rissa tridactila	Br.III	Ac	Α
74	Saxicola rubetra	Br.II	OV	E
75	Serinus serinus	Br.II	OV	M
76	Somateria mollissima	Br.III/Bi.II	Ac	Α
77	Stercorarius longicaudus	Br.III	Ac	Α
78	Stercorarius skua	Br.III	Ac	Α
79	Sterna paradisea	Br.II/Bi.I	Ac	Α
80	Sturnus roseus	Br.II	OV	M
81	Sylvia atricapilla	Br.II	OV	E
	Sylvia communis	Br.II	OV	E
83	Sylvia curruca	Br.II	OV	E
84	Sylvia nisoria	Br.II/Bi.I	OV	E
85	Sylvia rueppelli	Br.II/Bi.I	Ac	M
86	Tetrax tetrax	Br.II/Bi.I	Ac	M
87	Tringa hypoleucos	Br.II /Bn.II	OV	Тр
88	Tringa ochropus	Br.II /Bn.II	Р	S
	Tringa stagnatilis	Br.II /Bn.II	P, OV	Мо
	Turdus philomelos	Br.III	OV	E
	Turdus torquatus	Br.II	OV	E
	Turdus viscivorus	Br.III	MP	E
	Tyto alba	Br.II/W	S	E
94	Vanellochettusia leucura	Br.III	OV	Мо
95	Xenus cinereus	Br.III/Bi.I	Ac	S

"nt" (not threatened) - Annex 1 -

Nr. crt.	Species	International Conventions (Annex 2)	Phenology in Romania (Annex 3)	Geographical Origin (Annex 4)
1	Acrocephalus arundinaceus	Br.II	OV	Е
2	Acrocephalus schoenobaenus	Br.II	OV	Е
3	Aegithalos caudatus	Br.II	S	Тр
4	Anas acuta	Br.III/Bn.II/Bi.II	P, OI	S
5	Anas clypeata	Br.III/Bi.II	P, OV	Тр
6	Anas crecca	Br.III/Bi.II	P, OI, OV	Тр
7	Anas platyrhynchos	Br.III/Bi.II	MP, OI	Тр
8	Anser albifrons	Br.III/Bi.II	OI	Α
9	Anser anser	Br.III/Bi.II	MP	Мо
10	Aythya ferina	Br.III/Bi.II	MP	Е
11	Aythya fuligula	Br.III/Bi.II	OI, OV	S
12	Bucephala clangula	Br.III	OI	S
13	Calidris ferruginea	Br.II /Bn.II	Р	Α

15 Carduelis carduelis Br.II S, OI E	14 Calidris minuta	Br.II /Bn.II	Р	Α
The continue of the continue				
17 Carduelis spinus Br.II MP, OI E			·	
18 Columba palumbus			_	
19 Cygnus cygnus	-			
20 Cygnus olor			·	
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		Br.II	OV, RI	
	46 Turdus pilaris	Br.III	MP, OI	S

Out of DDBR Red List

Nr. crt.	Species	International Conventions (Annex 2)	Phenology in Romania (Annex 3)	Geographical Origin (Annex 4)
1	Aquila chrysaetos		S	Тр
2	Aquila nipalensis		Ac	Мо
3	Branta leucopsis			Α
4	Buteo rufinus		P, OV	Мо
5	Corvus c. cornix		S	E
6	Corvus frugilegus		S, OI	E
7	Corvus monedula		S	E
8	Garrulus glandarius		S	E
9	Falco eleonorae			М
10	Lanius isabelinus			Мо
11	Larus cachinnans		S	Тр
12	Larus fuscus		P, OI	Α
13	Larus marinus		Ac	Α
14	Passer domesticus		S	Тр
15	Pica pica		S	E

16 Sturnus vulgaris	MP	E
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Abbreviations which represent the inclusion of the species in the respective conventions have been annexed, if need was, besides the actual extinction range of each species in the territory:

Br.I = species included in the Annex 1 of the Bern Convention (European strictly protected plants)

Br.II = species included in the Annex II of the Bern Convention (European strictly protected animals)

Br.III = species included in the Annex III of the Bern Convention (European protected animals)

Bn.I = species included in the Annex I of the Bonn Convention (migratory birds, worldwide threatened)

Bn.II = species included in the Annex I of the Bonn Convention (migratory species worldwide having an unfavorable conservation status, need agreements for conservation)

H = species included in the European Council Directive no.92/43/1992, referring natural habitats and wild flora and fauna conservation (species considered to need special conservation areas)

W = species included in the Convention of trading endangered wild flora and fauna species (Washington – 1973), which enforces special practices for commerce.

Bi.I = bird species included in the European Council Directive no.79/409 from 1979, referring the wild birds conservation (endangered and vulnerable, which need special conservation measures, forbidden to be hunted and captured).

Bi.II = bird species included in the European Council Directive no.79/409 from 1979, referring the wild birds conservation (allowed to be legal hunted).

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Possible mitigation measures in Romania

- Extension of aquatic habitat areas for birds and fish by wetland restoration The areas marked with red in the following scheme represent the areas which could be reconnected at hydrological regime of the Danube River and reverted to wetlands (DDNI

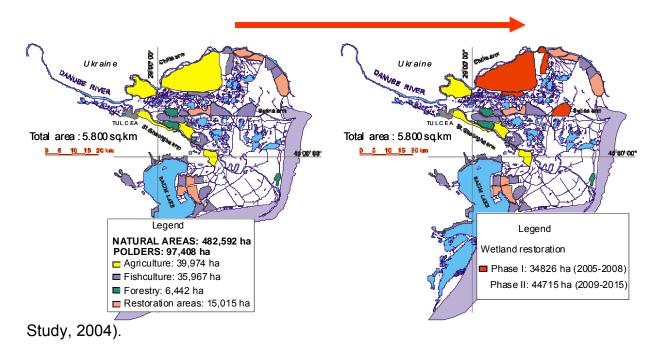


Fig. 22. Possible wetland restoration measures in the Romanian Danube Delta

-New brackish water habitats-key habitat for sturgeon feeding, could be created between Sulina and Sf. Gheorghe arms by restoration of the former water outlet from Rosu lakes to the Black Sea.

(More technical and financial details in ,,Study on environmental and social-economic consequences caused by building Bystroe navigation canal from Ukrainian Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, Danube Delta National Institute, 2004.)

-Stocking measures with sturgeon fingerlings are still under debate, having in view the costs and risks. Enhancement stocking may temporarly increase adult abundance, but it may alter the genetic bases (Kynard, 1997).

However, "very best stocking programs can only provide short term solutions unless they are coupled to plans for protecting and increasing level of natural reproduction" (Birstein, 1997).

Another viable and sustainable alternative would be the protection of adult sturgeons during spawning migration by increasing of prohibition period, but this measure should be agreed by all riverine countries of the Lower Danube.