



Eiropas Komisijas LIFE Vides programmas līdzfinansētā projekta
**“Ūdens struktūrdirektīvas un Biotopu direktīvas harmonizācijas adaptācija un integrētas darbības
saldūdens kvalitātes uzlabošanai Salacas upes daļbaseinā”**
(LIFE IS SALACA)
Granta vienošanās 101114155 — LIFE22-ENV-LV-LIFE IS SALACA

Deliverable D2.1

Work plan of freshwater habitat improvement

Summary



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Summary

This deliverable contains information on the progress of LIFE IS SALACA Activity T.2.1. and provides the work plan for improving the accessibility, quantity and quality of habitats for ecologically vulnerable fish species to be implemented in Activity T.3.1. The most significant factor affecting the quality and availability of habitats for ecologically sensitive fish species in Salaca is the overgrowth of the riffles with dense stands of helophytes. The potentially most effective solution to reduce the proportion of helophyte overgrowth quickly, and to increase the area and quality of riffles suitable for salmon and other ecologically sensitive species, is river cleaning, or the removal of the "turf" formed by helophyte roots from the river.

Cleaning of riverbed is an invasive process that can have a significant impact on both the river and its natural values, as well as the river bank. To minimise the negative impacts of river cleaning and maximise the positive impacts, careful preparation is required. To fully prepare for the cleaning of the river, the experience of similar projects carried out in Latvia in previous years, as well as the evaluation of the results of the research on the river and its fish fauna carried out within the LIFE IS SALACA and other projects, was gathered during Activity T.2.1. During the implementation of this activity, to find the best solutions for the most efficient way of carrying out the cleaning work, the opinion of the partners on the potentially most effective way of carrying out the work was also gathered.

During the implementation of the activity, riffles have been identified where LIFE IS SALACA will carry out the cleaning of riverbed. In these riffles, it is necessary to remove the "turf" formed by the helophyte root system from the river using an excavator equipped with a special bucket. The removal of pebbles, stones and gravel from the river should be minimised during the cleaning process. Removed "turf" and other substrate must be placed on the river bank or islands, but the placement of the substrate must not adversely affect the natural values of the river bank or islands. It is not permitted to place the substrate in protected biotopes or in the habitats of protected species and the relief of the river bed and the shoreline must not be disturbed during the cleaning. To reduce the impact of the work on the spawning migration, spawning and egg development of salmon and other ecologically sensitive fish species, the cleaning work must be carried out between 15 July and 15 September.