

# Master thesis in EU-funded project offered: “Multiple human pressures and their impacts on fish assemblages in the Austrian DRAVA catchment”

In the frame of the EU-funded project “**MARS – Managing Aquatic ecosystems and water Resources under multiple Stress**” (<http://www.mars-project.eu>) we offer a topic for a master thesis.

## **Background**

The Drava basin in Austria has good water quality, but hydropower utilization and associated morphological alteration are key pressures affecting fish assemblages and related aquatic ecosystem services.

## **Objectives**

- As several scientific studies investigated this basin and some restoration actions were taken in the Drava river in the last years, the first step is to collect and summarize all available information in a “Drava project MATRIX”.
- Next, based on extensive data from the national river basin management plans (NGP) 2009 and 2015, GIS analyses on various spatial scales should be conducted and empirical models should be developed/tested to link hydromorphological pressures with fish assemblage metrics.
- Information gathered should also be linked with another master thesis on aquatic ecosystem services - recreational fishing value.

## **Skills**

- ArcGIS knowledge
- Basic database understanding (data structuring) and analytical skills
- Knowledge in and interest on fish-ecological questions
- Autonomous working

## **Start**

September/October 2014



University of Natural Resources and  
Life Sciences, Vienna  
Department of Water, Atmosphere  
and Environment  
Institute of Hydrobiology and  
Aquatic Ecosystem Management  
Max Emanuel-Straße 17  
1180 Wien  
[www.boku.ac.at/ihg](http://www.boku.ac.at/ihg)



[www.mars-project.eu](http://www.mars-project.eu)

## **Contacts:**

Rafaela Schinegger

[rafaela.schinegger@boku.ac.at](mailto:rafaela.schinegger@boku.ac.at)

Tel.: 01 – 47654 – 5223

Stefan Schmutz

[stefan.schmutz@boku.ac.at](mailto:stefan.schmutz@boku.ac.at)

Tel.: 01 – 47564 – 5202