

All the pressing questions on fish migration

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Salmon smolt migrating out of the Vosso water system. Credit: Bjørn Barlaup, NORCE

It's not 20 questions—it's even more: Now researchers have identified 100 pressing questions on fish migration.

An international team of researchers, lead by Robert Lennox at NORCE

(Norwegian Research Centre), have developed the list of questions, published in a paper by the journal *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*.

Fish migration is of high ecological importance, and many [human populations](#) depend on predictable migrations of fish for their subsistence and livelihoods.

At the same time, fish [migratory behavior](#) is under significant threat, Lennox and his co-authors point out.

To ensure a [sustainable future](#), researchers therefore need to identify the pressing questions, and answer them in the years to come.

"Despite knowledge that migration is critical to both ecosystems and humans, there are still many unsolved challenges facing migratory fish. Physical barriers, pollution, fisheries, and many other stressors—such as [climate change](#)—impact fish migration on a daily basis," says first author Lennox.

He is a senior researcher and fish biologist affiliated with NORCE at LFI, the Laboratory for Fresh water ecology and inland fisheries in Bergen, Norway.

Form the basis of future fish migration research—Worldwide, mounting threats to migratory fishes are outpacing our understanding of these species and their behavior, meaning that research is crucial. Our work at NORCE LFI has a strong focus on Norway's migratory species such as trout and salmon and this paper helps us contextualize the problems we face on the global scale, says Lennox.

"Hopefully this paper will highlight how important and relevant these questions are and help spur action to protect these special resources," he adds.

Both fundamental and applied scientists who study [fish](#) migrations in marine and freshwater environments, worked to identify the final 100 questions.

"The 100 questions that we envision will form the basis of future [fish migration](#) research to fill knowledge gaps, and help protect these critically important species," Lennox says.

More information: Robert J. Lennox et al. One Hundred Pressing Questions on the Future of Global Fish Migration Science, Conservation, and Policy, *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* (2019). [DOI: 10.3389/fevo.2019.00286](#)

Provided by NORCE

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