



Odra river expansion Poland - request for cross-border public participation

Already since last year, various sections of the Odra river are being developed for navigation, for example in the area of the German-Polish border Odra river. These are financed to a large extent by EU subsidies.

The expansion measures massively damage the river and its animal and plant species and are useless for flood protection. And they are only the first part of the planned straightening and deepening of the Oder River in order to expand it for industrial shipping traffic following the large-scale project "Industrial Port Swinemünde". In order to prevent a repetition of the ecological catastrophe of summer 2022 in time, the habitats in the Oder would have to be protected now and in the long term. Instead, the Polish courts have ordered a halt to construction, and dredging continues unabated. We have documented the dredging work in recent months in pictures and video.

At the same time, and in a manner that is difficult for the public to understand, the next expansion stages for the planned industrial port in Swinoujście are being driven forward: According to EU law, cross-border participation of potentially affected parties is mandatory. Currently, the German side is participating in the "Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment for the Polish Shipping Program up to 2030". Here, authorities, but also associations and private individuals can submit objections to the expansion plans. The Polish navigation program includes not only construction measures on the Border Oder but also measures on other waterways in Poland that are tantamount to ecological overexploitation (especially on the Vistula). From the German side, however, only possible effects on the German side can be protested in this context.

Since this is a complex matter with extensive documentation, we have worked with biologists and water/environmental experts to formulate a professionally sound sample letter covering the most important points.

We ask that this letter be signed and sent to the relevant Polish agency. We hope for a large number of participants.

Sample letter for transboundary public participation to download

https://saveoderdie.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Musterbrief_Hinweise_SUP_SchifffahrtsprogrammPL2030_end.docx

Announcement Directorate General Waterways and Shipping:

https://saveoderdie.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/20230201_Bekanntmachung_GDWS_Auslegung_Umweltpruefung.pdf

The following should be noted:

- **important:** the submission deadline is March 2, 2023, which is soon. objections received after this date will not be considered
- in the letter, red marked places should be filled in individually (name, address, date in the letterhead, short note about personal concern at the beginning of the text, signature at the end)
- The letter can be sent as a letter or as an e-mail (see address and e-mail address in the letterhead) - for e-mailing: print out - sign - scan - send.
- If you still have some ideas, you can of course add individual additions or delete passages you do not agree with.

- if you follow the link in the headline of the letter, you can also have a look at the documents it is about (in german language, but partly badly translated).

We ask that you forward this and the following press releases to interested parties.

Hashtags: #SAVEODERDIE and #saveoder

Email: action@saveorderdie.net

Website: <https://saveorderdie.net/>

BUND Info Point Oderbruch: www.uferloos.de/bund-infopunkt-oderbruch/

The Kienitz citizens' initiative shows solidarity with the "Action Alliance Living Oder". This alliance of several environmental and nature conservation organizations has been fighting for the preservation of the unique ecosystem of the Oder for several years.

If you want to donate for the Oder, you can do it via the "Aktionsbündnis lebendige Oder" (<https://saveoder.org/>) here: <https://rewilding-oder-delta.com/spenden/>.

Your
BUND Info Point
Oderbruch