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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

McMillen Furthers its Efforts to Reconnect European Rivers With the Addition of Project Manager Ruben Rocha

*Proven partners from World Fish Migration Foundation Reunited at McMillen to Assist in
Reconnecting Rivers Across Europe*

Boise, ID, April 15, 2025—McMillen strengthens its European presence with the recent addition of seasoned project manager Ruben Rocha. This strategic hire reinforces McMillen's dedication to advancing river connectivity throughout Europe. Rocha's arrival also reunites him with Herman Wanningen, Founder of World Fish Migration Day and a prominent advocate for river restoration, who joined McMillen earlier this year as European Market Lead. Their collaboration, which began at the World Fish Migration Foundation, brings this dynamic duo back together to address critical challenges in river restoration.

Rocha is from Cape Verde, a small island nation off the coast of West Africa, where his passion for aquatic ecosystems restoration began. Rocha's career began as a senior technician at the National Institute for Agricultural Research and Development, focusing on the biological and ecological management of dams. It was during this role that Rocha realized the importance of removing obsolete dams, believing that when structures no longer serve their intended purpose, they shouldn't just be abandoned. What started as managing dams eventually expanded to removing obsolete ones, with a focus on environmental restoration, safety, and facilitating fish migration.

Rocha brings a wealth of experience to McMillen, having worked on numerous movements in the field of dam removal and river restoration. His work includes influential roles at the World Fish Migration Foundation, Dam Removal Europe, Dam Removal Africa, Scaling Up Dam Removal and WWF Portugal. Each of these initiatives focuses on removing obsolete dams across

Europe and Africa that no longer serve a beneficial purpose, hinder fish migration, or pose public safety concerns. With his extensive experience and dedication, Rocha is well-positioned to lead McMillen's efforts in transforming river systems for future generations.

Reflecting on his new role with McMillen, Rocha shared, “For me, ecosystems restoration is not just a job, it’s a lifelong passion that started in Cape Verde and has taken me across Europe and Africa. Every river restoration is a step toward healthier ecosystems, thriving fish populations, and resilient communities, in a fast-changing world. At McMillen, I’m excited to work alongside dedicated experts to restore free-flowing rivers and create a future where nature and people flourish together.”

McMillen is an employee-owned engineering, environmental, and construction firm dedicated to water resources. Specializing in the dam, energy, fisheries, natural resources, and infrastructure markets, they are committed to developing solutions that carefully balance the needs of the environment and communities they serve. They are known for understanding the complex interconnection of ecosystems and offering comprehensive guidance to achieve their clients’ unique objectives throughout all project phases.

To learn more about McMillen, visit www.mcmillen.com. For additional information on Ruben Rocha’s work with World Fish Migration Day, Scaling Up Dam Removal, Dam Removal Africa, and the Dam Removal Europe movement, visit www.worldfishmigrationday.com and www.damremoval.eu.

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