



Media Contact:  
Lindsey Owen  
Director of Marketing  
+1 (817) 751-4290  
[lowen@mcmillen.com](mailto:lowen@mcmillen.com)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **From Advocacy to Action: Herman Wanningen Joins McMillen to Drive European River Connectivity Efforts**

*World Fish Migration Day Founder Herman Wanningen Launches McMillen's European Expansion to Tackle 150,000 Obsolete Dams and Weirs*

**Boise, ID, February 19, 2025**—McMillen is pleased to announce the appointment of Herman Wanningen, a world-renowned ecologist, entrepreneur, and leader in river connectivity and fish migration, as their European Market Lead. Wanningen is also set to help expand the company’s efforts in Europe, spearheading the opening of their second European office in The Netherlands.

Wanningen is best known as the founder of World Fish Migration Day and the initiator of the Dam Removal Europe movement. Launched in 2014, World Fish Migration Day has grown into a bi-annual global event that raises awareness about river conservation and fish migration. The initiative has inspired thousands of organizations worldwide to host special outreach events celebrating migratory fish and healthy rivers.

In 2015, Wanningen started the Dam Removal Initiative, which has been instrumental in promoting and mainstreaming the removal of old and obsolete dams across Europe. This movement has gained significant traction, highlighting the critical need to address the estimated 150,000 obsolete dams in Europe that are not providing beneficial use or could be a public safety concern.

After a decade of successfully raising global awareness about river conservation and fish migration through these movements, Wanningen is now taking on a new challenge with McMillen. This move allows him to directly address the pressing issue of river connectivity in Europe, a cause he has passionately championed for years. Wanningen states, “Now that barrier

removal is becoming an accepted river restoration tool in Europe there is a big need for a specialized company that works European wide and knows how to manage complex demolition projects.”

“I'm thrilled to welcome Herman to my team of thought leaders” said Marissa Emmons Vice President of BD and Strategy. “His expertise and understanding of the barrier removal landscape in Europe, combined with our technical skills in delivering these projects from start to finish, will be a powerful combination. Together, we'll make a real difference in reconnecting rivers and improving public safety.”

McMillen is a full-service engineering, construction management, environmental, and self-performing construction firm in the dam, energy, fisheries, natural resources, and infrastructure markets. A firm dedicated to water resources, they are committed to developing solutions that carefully balance the needs of the environment and communities they serve—from engineering and field studies to stakeholder negotiations and construction execution. They are known for understanding the complex interconnection of ecosystems and offering comprehensive guidance to achieve their clients’ unique objectives.

To learn more about McMillen, visit [www.mcmillen.com](http://www.mcmillen.com). For more information on Herman Wanningen's work with World Fish Migration Day and the Dam Removal Europe movement, visit [www.worldfishmigrationday.com](http://www.worldfishmigrationday.com) and [www.damremoval.eu](http://www.damremoval.eu).

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