

Bushy willow as fish habitat (Belgium)

In the scope of several river restoration projects including a European one (LIFE Walphy), river banks were planted with willows. They were selected among different Walloon ecotypes on the basis of features such as bearing or density, which make them good refuge habitats for fish fauna. A suitable bearing allows fish refuge against predators and helps temperature regulation.



Several years after planting, it was interesting to go back to the field to follow their recovery, growth and bearing.

Habitat quality was assessed for the different ecotypes. Some grew in a suitable way being fully operational regarding the considered criteria. Others showed slower growth but are expected to gain in density in the future.

