



Location

The Açude-Ponte Weir is located in the Mondego River, inside the city of Coimbra. The Coimbra Fishway was installed in 2011, in the left bank of this river.

Motivation

Although weirs and dams fulfil important human needs (such as drinking water, irrigation, flood protection and energy production), they can also prevent migratory fish from reaching their reproduction and feeding grounds.

In some cases, like in the Açude-Ponte Weir, a well-designed fishway can minimize the barrier effect caused by the migratory blocking structure.

The Coimbra Fishway allows the migration of many fish species, contributing to their conservation. It also contributes to the sustainability of professional fishing, by improving conditions for fish species that are socioeconomically relevant, like sea lamprey and shad.



Returning the Mondego River to the fish

You have to see to believe!

The Coimbra Fishway allows the transposition of the Açude-Ponte Weir by migratory and other fish species.

The Fishway is equipped with an underwater viewing window, where people can witness - with their own eyes - the migration of many species, such as sea lamprey and allis shad.



Fish species in the Coimbra Fishway

Fish fauna of the Mondego River is quite rich, including threatened and highly protected species. Some of these species are also very important for socioeconomic reasons.

Migratory movements across the Fishway are mainly related to reproduction seasons, but the presence of the species can also result from movements in search of optimum habitats for protection, growth or feeding.

The species more frequently detected in the Coimbra Fishway are:

- **Sea lamprey**
- **Allis shad**
- **Twaiite shad**
- **European eel**
- **Thinlip grey mullet**
- **Iberian nase**
- **Iberian barbel**

Contacts:

Portuguese Environment Agency

Water Resources Department

Rua da Murgueira, 9/9A – Zambujal Ap. 7585

2610-124 Amadora

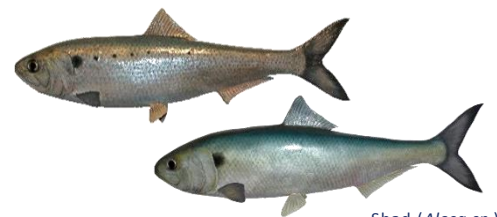
Phone no.: 21 472 82 00

E-mail: pppeixes-coimbra@apambiente.pt

<http://apambiente.wix.com/pppeixescoimbra>



Sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*)
Maximum length: 120 cm



Shad (*Alosa sp.*)
Maximum length: 85 cm



European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*)
Maximum length: 100 cm



Thinlip grey mullet (*Liza ramada*)
Maximum length: 50 cm



Iberian nase (*Pseudochondrostoma polylepis*)
Maximum length: 35 cm



Iberian barbel (*Luciobarbus bocagei*)
Maximum length: 60 cm