



**Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust**  
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**Press Release**

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**British and French Scientists collaborate to investigate the pre historic creature the lamprey**

Fisheries scientist from INRA the French National Institute for Agricultural Research will be visiting the river Frome in August to test the monitoring techniques they have developed for lampreys. Lampreys are eel like creatures that date back to pre-historic times and are designated as requiring protection under the European Union's Habitats Directive. They will be collaborating with British Scientists at the Game and Wildlife Research Trust who have a Fisheries Research facility on the River Frome near Wareham in Dorset. This work forms part of their cross border collaborative project called MorFish which is funded by the European Union's Interreg IVA Channel programme. Dylan Roberts the MorFish project manager said that "During their juvenile stage they live in submerged muddy margins of rivers so are very difficult to see let alone count, to manage them appropriately we must develop appropriate techniques to count them and monitor their distribution in rivers" For further information on the MorFish project please visit [www.morfish.org.uk](http://www.morfish.org.uk)

**The European Interreg IVA France (Channel) – England Programme 2007-2013** is the IV generation of the Interreg programme between France and England. Around the Channel, French and English cross-border territories share common challenges. Since 1990, the European Union has run the Interreg programme (strand A) which subsidises projects with cross-border partners willing to work together. Each border area thus becomes a forum for exchanges and orchestrated efforts between European neighbours. The programme has a total of 173.5 million euros in grant available through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

**The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust** is an independent wildlife conservation charity which carries out scientific research into Britain's game and wildlife. We advise farmers and landowners on improving wildlife habitats and we lobby for agricultural and conservation policies based on science. We employ 14 post-doctoral scientists and 50 other research staff with expertise in areas such as birds, insects, mammals, farming, fish and statistics. We undertake our own research as well as projects funded by contract and grant-aid from Government and private bodies. The Trust is also responsible for a number of Government Biodiversity Action Plan species and is lead partner for grey partridge and joint lead partner for brown hare and black grouse. For Information, contact: Morag Walker – Head of Media, Telephone – 01425-652381 (direct 01425-651000) Mobile – 07736-124097 [www.gwct.org.uk](http://www.gwct.org.uk)

**The Institut National De La Recherche-Agronomique (INRA)** INRA is the leading European agricultural research institute and one of the foremost institutes in the world for agriculture, food and the environment. It is also the second largest public research institute in France. Founded in 1946, the National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) is a public research institution under the joint authority of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research and the Ministry of Agriculture, Agrifood and Forests.

The research conducted at INRA concerns agriculture, food, nutrition and food safety, environment and land management, with particular emphasis on sustainable development. Government authorities, the farming and industrial worlds, and associations of citizens or consumers all have a crucial role to play in orienting, monitoring and valorizing research. INRA has an active partnership policy with: the socio-economic world: private companies, agricultural organisations, local authorities, public authorities which call upon the expertise of INRA scientists on the national, European and international levels. INRA is ranked 2nd in the world and 1st in Europe for publications in the agricultural sciences, and plant and animal sciences. It maintains scientific partnerships with major scientific research institutes worldwide, universities, and agronomy and veterinary schools, and is committed to helping build the European Research Area. It develops a large number of collaborative projects and exchanges with the scientific community in numerous countries in Europe, America, Asia and Africa. Human resources: 1,800 researchers, 2,500 engineers, 4,000 technicians and administrative staff, nearly 2,000 PhD students and more than 1,800 foreign students and researchers and approximately 2,000 interns hosted each year in research units. Organisation: 13 scientific divisions, 18 regional research centres, 6 metaprogrammes.

Budget: €881,61 million for 2013. Status: public scientific and technological establishment (EPST)

