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Borut Jerse [00:00:10] I start to, actually it was in the moment is almost 40 years. When I started it was actually a friend of mine who is a very good fly fisherman. I started to fish with him. And then from that time I began, I am fishing more and more and especially fly fishing, or most, most fly fishing generally in Slovenia but also abroad. Well it's, I like fly fishing because it's, let us say very a sport, not sport, fishing is fishing. But it's in a close connection with nature, with fish and we are not from the very beginning, we are not only fishermen but also as a non-governmental organization. We are working a lot for protection of rivers and the environment especially fish especially domestic (unintelligible) fish species.

James Thull [00:01:32] Domestic would mean native?

Borut Jerse [00:01:34] Ah yes, uh, these are fish which are from here like Danube salmon. Hoochan which is specific for this region not only for Slovenia but also part of Germany, Austria and other former Yugoslavian countries. Then marble trout, marble trout is located in a very limited area on Sochi river and tributaries also partly in Italy but most in the rivers which are part of Adriatic Sea basin. Then we have our brown trout which is (unintelligible) also from here. Special type and then we help the type of Grayling, Adriatic grayling and Danube grayling but also different, other species white fish predators that is different. A lot of fish generally in Slovenia we have more than 90 fish species of which 20 on so-called threat list which are protected.

Borut Jerse [00:02:56] I think the system of uhh, freshwater fishing in Slovenia is very specific because most of the rivers and fish are managed by fishing clubs. Fishing clubs are non, non-governmental organizations which help contract with the state for managing of the rivers for 30 years. That's about, let's say 90, 94 percent of rivers are managed by clubs. There are 64 clubs in Slovenia and six, six percent of our rivers are managed by Fisheries Research Institute which is a state organization under the Ministry of Agriculture.

Borut Jerse [00:03:58] Well everybody can become a member of the club. When you are a member of the club you have not only a possibility to fish but you all also have obligations to work in the club. So members have to pay annual fee. And fee for license and they have to work different uh, number of hours in different jobs cleaning water, working in hatcheries a different kind of work in favor of water and fish. Also a party source so working in promotion or some other activities.

Borut Jerse [00:04:56] Slovenia [speaking Slovenian] is a specific country for fishing. We have many rivers, lakes, ponds, the water is relatively clean. Not so much polluted. Some of the rivers are first category or second. Most of the rivers are first or second category and especially there are plenty of fish in the river. Well.

Borut Jerse [00:05:48] I think that there are, there were a lot of changes. Actually first of all we are, uh, I'm 40 years older than I was when I began. That's also important change. So when I began, I remember I was very enthusiastic. I was fishing. Sometimes with friends all the day from the morning til the evening, then from year to year. I am fishing less and less. Maybe I go fishing for one, two, three hours not more now. And I changed very much also. I, uh... Practically now I do not take a fish even it's permitted to take one or two fish per day. More, I enjoy staying on the bank of the river looking river, fish, nature, so that's, there's a pleasure in all. And also, rivers I think, rivers also changed, uh, that's the fact. So, uh, maybe there are not so many, so, uh, still complete wild places where you

can go and fish because now fishermen are everywhere and we have quite a lot of fishermen not only from Slovenia, but also from abroad. Uh, you know, it's a very important measure from the state. The clubs should respect six year percent and annual fishing plans. And, fishing plans, fishing plans, have they have a limited number of fishing days so they cannot sell more than so many licences as it's written in the plan. They have obligation to repopulate the rivers. They are making so called inventization means people from the east do it from time to time come and see what the situation of fish population that you are. So it's quite serious management. What's very important to have a good level, a good quality of fishing.

Borut Jerse [00:08:29] Well, our Fishing Association members of the associations are fishing clubs. So Slovenia Fishing Federation has 64 members and uh, uh Fishing Association must be a service for these clubs. So as they are taking care for education of youth fishermen education of, uh, fishermen and their romantic questions means protection of waters. So we are fighting for example against hydropower plants. This...sometimes hydropower plants think to be uh, to everywhere in... But we are fighting to preserve some parts of rivers from the, from new hydropower plants. For example like Oppisotia first class tourist destination and it's impossible to enter these hydropower plants and we are very successful because now it's not allowed to build hydropower plants upper from most Sochi. was also some other rivers which are very important even small rivers for a population or for domestic species. We are, one of the most important function is also promotion of fishermen here and abroad. We are participating in the different specialized fishing fairs in different countries. So we also give services in different questions like legislation, communication with the state. So everywhere where fishing clubs need to have some support because sometimes fishing clubs are not strong enough to cover all these different opportunities. Well, European Anglers Alliance it's organization which we'll celebrate next year twenty five's, 25th anniversary of its activity. That's the organization which members are Fishing Federation from different European countries. The Slovenia fishing association also one of the members of this alliance. In the moment, I am also the member of the board of this organization. They are very active in different sectors of protection of water and fish like fighting against hydro power plants and especially against plant, hydro power plants which do not have fish passes, then for the protection of fish like, from salmon on down to Danube salmon or marble trout or brown trout in Slovenia. Also very strong to the, for the protection of eel which is very endangered fish species in Europe and also we are working closely in communication. We organize three or four times a year conferences in European Parliament. I am also responsible for communications inside the organization. So in the moment I am still quite active or so in this international organization.

Borut Jerse [00:12:50] Also, you know agriculture is sometimes not very friendly to us. The quality of the water especially often agricultural is the reason of pollution and this climate change, that's the common problem of the earth so. If, even now you can see the temperature here at this time are absolutely not normal. Normally middle of November the temperature should be about zero not 20. Like we feel now. Now we have the temperature which are. More normal for the middle of October or earlier. So different of things are in the moment interesting for some common activities uhh, actually to be much stronger to fight. But still we are not. If you compare our industrial sites to Europe. We are not very strong against the whole system of electricity hydro power plants. But the voice of non-governmental organizations is very important I think somehow you know politicians often prefer money than nature but we have to fight to tell them also somehow we should respect that also nature has a price, let us say. Which will be very important maybe more important than money in future.

Borut Jerse [00:14:49] Yeah I can say it's better and better from year to year. So now we felt. Quite lot of as a fisherman especially a good part of activity inside the Association is orientated towards young people. So we are working already in primary school then we are organizing youth camps especially for fly fishing and also general camps. We organize different activities and I think interest is bigger and bigger.

James Thull [00:15:36] All right.

Borut Jerse [00:15:37] Still it you know still the, still fishermen are in, let's say, more older Than younger. That I noticed everywhere maybe a situation you Slovenia are some other neighbor countries is better than for example than I know in England. But still we do not have enough. New. Young fishermen because you know the consequence and so this. internet and other activities is so strong that it's difficult to fight.

Borut Jerse [00:16:26] That's right. I remember for example from our camp for youth fishermen that. The most interesting thing for this young people was not fishing but when a go with a biologist. To discover the world in a river so was it under stone and find flies, nymphs. And then that's a shrimps, small shrimps. That was always the most important the most interesting thing on these camps. Actually. The situation nature because you can read something but if you could if you see it's quiet differentI think that's this education you're right that we lead the way as they will. Be older as they will know much more than if they learned something from newspaper or media or someone. Fishing story is. But there are plenty of fishing stories. You know. I like to remember the very beginning. You know when I. Began to fish. So. And from the very beginning it was very difficult to learn the right grip for casting you know. And it was sometimes important to cast a longer long casts. But then I was I remember I saw fish. Taking flies and rising there but my cast was not long enough. That's a nice story well from the current I was fishing some neighbor countries and I was fly fishing in the States when we travelled to the states. And I was fishing twice in Russia. And maybe you one fishing in Siberia was very interesting for me. Actually the most interesting from all this fishing abroad was this fishing in Siberia. We went from Magadan on (unintelligible) thousand kilometers by helicopter to a river. Yamada River I remember and that was a very simple lodge but the fishing was fantastic and nature. We were actually we were alone there. No other. Nobody us. Six seven of them plus these five or six Russians with us. That was interesting.

Borut Jerse [00:19:46] In the moment I do not know. Maybe it's for me somehow. Very interesting. Should be fishing in New Zealand. I've heard a lot about fishing in New Zealand. Specially for big brown trout. But actually you know any fishing is interesting. You know everywhere you go you discover something you enjoy. So also sea fishing should be interesting also fly fishing in the sea.

Borut Jerse [00:20:28] I think my wish is that people will decide to begin fishing. I'm sure that they will find a lot of pleasure. And actually I like all activities in the nature so fishing is one of these activities which I can recommend to anybody.