

# Winter reed cutting in the backlight of the German legislation

-

## Demands of nature conservancy and commercial use

**RRR 2013**  
**Reed as Renewable Resource**  
Greifswald  
February, 14-16



**Dr. David Ritterbusch**  
Institute of Inland Fisheries  
Potsdam-Sacrow  
[david.ritterbusch@ifb-potsdam.de](mailto:david.ritterbusch@ifb-potsdam.de)

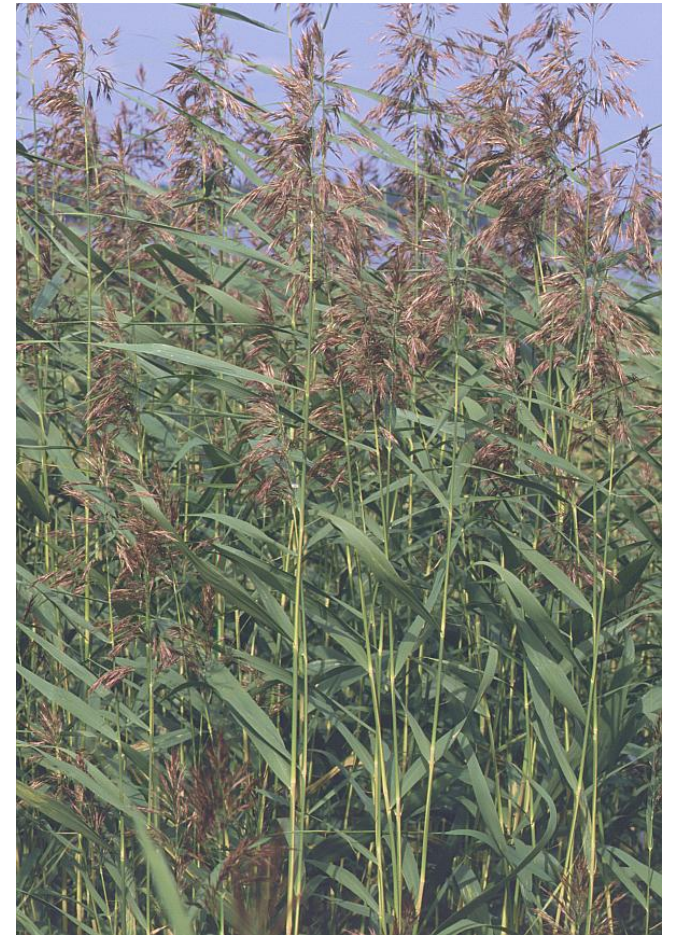
# Aim of the study

**Winter reed cutting traditionally was a source of income for fishermen. Can we re-establish it?**

**1) Legal background**

**2) Sustainability**

**3) Economic feasibility**



# The German Federalism

Some things you should know...

... and that will make you wonder.



# Federal Republic of Germany

- **Has 16 states with a more or less independent legislation and organization**
- **Some federal laws can be modified by the states (e.g. The Federal Act for the Protection of Nature)**
  - So we have 1 federal law and 16 state-specific ‚translations‘ of the law for nature protection (close, but different)
- **Has state-specific laws without a federal regulation**
  - So we have 16 fishery laws (different)



# The legal framework

Reed cutting in winter – allowed or forbidden?

Depends on...



# The Federal Act for Protection of Nature

- Reed stands are specially **important biotopes** and have special legal protection
- Anything that harms or could harm reed stands is forbidden
- The withdrawal of plants needs be reasonable
- The withdrawal of plants with a commercial background needs to be permitted by the Environmental Authorities
- Reed cutting is forbidden between March and September. Reed cutting has to be done in sections.
- Special fishery laws are not affected
- It is forbidden to destroy habitats of specially **protected species**

# Sorry...?!?

- **Reed cutting is forbidden!**
  - **Unless you have a special permission**
  - **and fulfill the law, of course**
  - **It might be difficult to get a permission**
  - **Environmental authorities usually are neutral to positive**

→ **bad conditions for commercial use**

# **No rule without exception - Brandenburg**

- **Fishery law of the state of Brandenburg: Reed cutting is part of fishermens rights, if**
  - **It's ecologically acceptable**
  - **Cutted parts are dead**
  - **cutting is mentioned in the management plan or the authorities are informed**

**→ better conditions for commercial use**



# Summary of legal situation



# **Commercial reed cutting in the backlight of the German legislation**

- **Requieres a special permission**
- **Is limited to partial cutting, annual cutting is not supported**
- **Currently, authorities are supporting reed cutting – but this may change if the use is intensified**
- **Reed cutting is dependent on the decisions of nature conservationists**

# **Nature conservancy vs. commercial use?**







sources on request

## **The rules**

- **Winter cutting from October to February**
- **Cut in sections only**
- **Do not harm the reed stand**

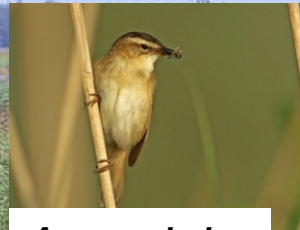
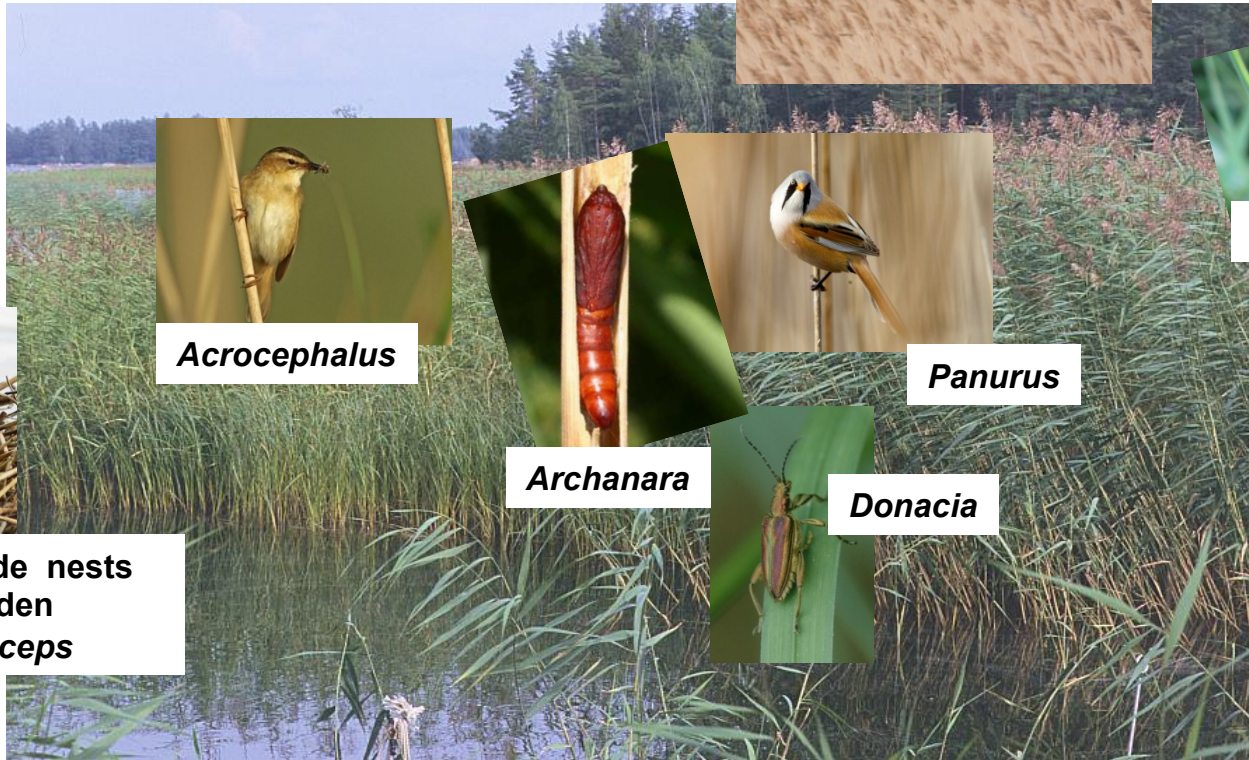
## **The effects** (all are both positive and negative)

- **Removal of transversal structures (partial)**
- **Removal of vertical structures (partial, temporal)**
- **Habitat diversification (general)**





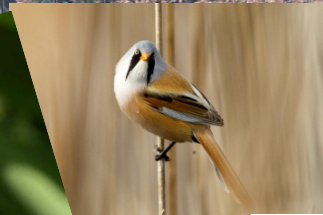
**Birds with lake-side nests  
who like to be hidden**  
*Anas, Anser, Podiceps*



***Acrocephalus***



***Archanara***



***Panurus***



***Donacia***



***Circus aeroginosus***



***Clubiona***

## **Conclusions – Winter reed cutting**

- **commercial use is limited by legal restrictions**
- **has adverse effects on some species**
- **but can support others by diversification**
- **Commercial use is promising on a small scale and in close cooperation with nature conservancy**

# Future work

1) Legal background

**2) Sustainability**

species specific literature survey

experiment

positive effects of winter harvest

**3) Economic feasibility**

**contact: David Ritterbusch**

david.ritterbusch@ifb-potsdam.de

033201 406-39

