

The Escaut river: Tereos fully committed to restoring aquatic environments

On 4 September 2023, Tereos launched the first stage of an Escaut river restoration project, approved by the government departments, following the incident in Escaudoeuvres in 2020. This major programme includes a range of methods to restore aquatic environments, with the aim of creating ten hectares of natural habitats conducive to fish breeding.

Following the incident involving a ruptured dyke which resulted in a leak from the Escaudoeuvres sugar factory's settling pond, Tereos presented a major restoration project of the Escaut environment to government departments.

The main objective of this programme is the restoration of aquatic environments spanning ten hectares of habitats that are favourable and functional for fish breeding. This consists of creating spawning grounds, notably by reconnecting or restoring the Escaut's oxbow lakes. This is an extensive project that will amount to at least 2.5 million euros.

After several consultation meetings between the cooperative and all stakeholders (the Hauts-de-France body of the *Fédération de Pêche* [French fishing federation], local authorities, administrative bodies and all public bodies concerned), the first phase of the project was approved by the prefecture of northern France on 4 August 2023, allowing construction to start on 4 September.

The initial work will be carried out on the site known as "*le Bras de Rodignies*", the Rodignies oxbow lake, in the communes of Château-l'Abbaye and Flines-lès-Mortagne (both in French Department 59). It is anticipated that this work will be completed by January 2024.

The next steps regarding the restoration of the Escaut river are currently being considered. The Tereos teams have been and remain fully committed to proposing a restoration project that is capable of meeting the challenges head on.

About Tereos

Tereos is a cooperative union with 11,200 cooperative members, with a recognised know-how in the processing of beet, sugarcane, cereals and potatoes. Through 43 industrial sites, presence in 15 countries and the commitment of its 15,800 employees, Tereos supports its customers close to their markets with a broad and complementary range of products. In 2022/23, the Group posted revenues of €6.6 billion.

Press contacts

Tereos

Aneta Lazarevic

+33 (0)6 27 16 10 89

aneta.lazarevic@tereos.com

.becoming

Raphaël Tassart

+33 (0)6 26 02 44 30

tereos@becoming-group.com