

## Retuerta Dam, Spain

**Key issue** Limited complexities. Natural sediment release allowed.

**Project Name** Retuerta Dam Removal

**Country** Spain

**River** Aravalle River

**Dam purpose** Water supply intended for unbuilt urban development

**Year built** 1970s

**Project lead** Duero Basin Authority

**Project goals** Habitat connectivity for fisheries under the National Strategy for River Restoration

**Dam material** Concrete

**Dam measurements** 14m high, 55m wide

**Year removed** 2013

**Summary**

Removal of the Retuerta Dam is restoring fisheries and natural river processes in the Aravalle River in the municipality of Umbrías, Spain. The removal is one of many small and large barriers removed within the Duero River Basin to meet the goals of the National Water Strategy for River Restoration under the EUs Water Framework Directive.

The dam was 14 meters tall and 55 meters wide and among the tallest dams removed in Spain at the time of its removal. Reestablishing connected habitat for fisheries was the major project focus. The dam removal also reconnected natural river processes by allowing the natural release of sediment during and immediately following the removal and into the future.

Sediment in rivers plays an important role in building and maintaining river habitat, such as cobble bars and riffles. When a dam such as the Retuerta Dam is in place, sediment that would naturally move, especially during storm events, becomes blocked behind the dam and downstream habitat suffers. Dam removals such as this one rebuild habitat structures downstream in the river and reaching out to the salt marshes and estuary habitat.

**Additional information**

Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3\\_Fn1yZkqco](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_Fn1yZkqco)

Project website: <http://www.chduero.es/VerVideo-previo-aravalle-esp.aspx>

Dam Removal Europe: <https://damremoval.eu/portfolio/retuerta-dam/>