

Proactive waterway management Presentation and discussion of activities planned in Austria

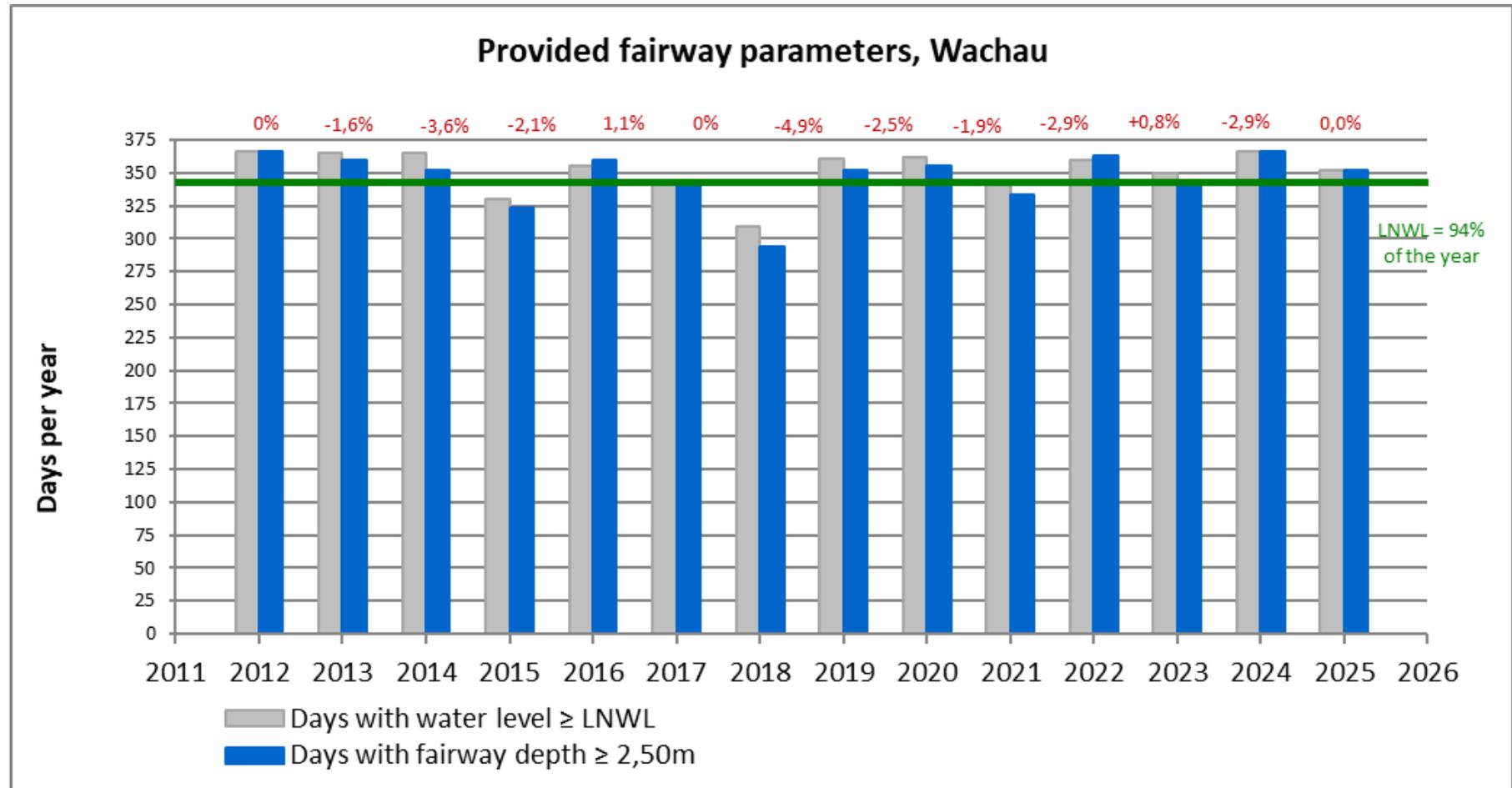


Simon Hartl, Head of Team Waterway Management, viadonau
Danube Commission, Expert Meeting on Hydraulic Engineering
5 March 2026

Status of main critical sections in 2012-2025

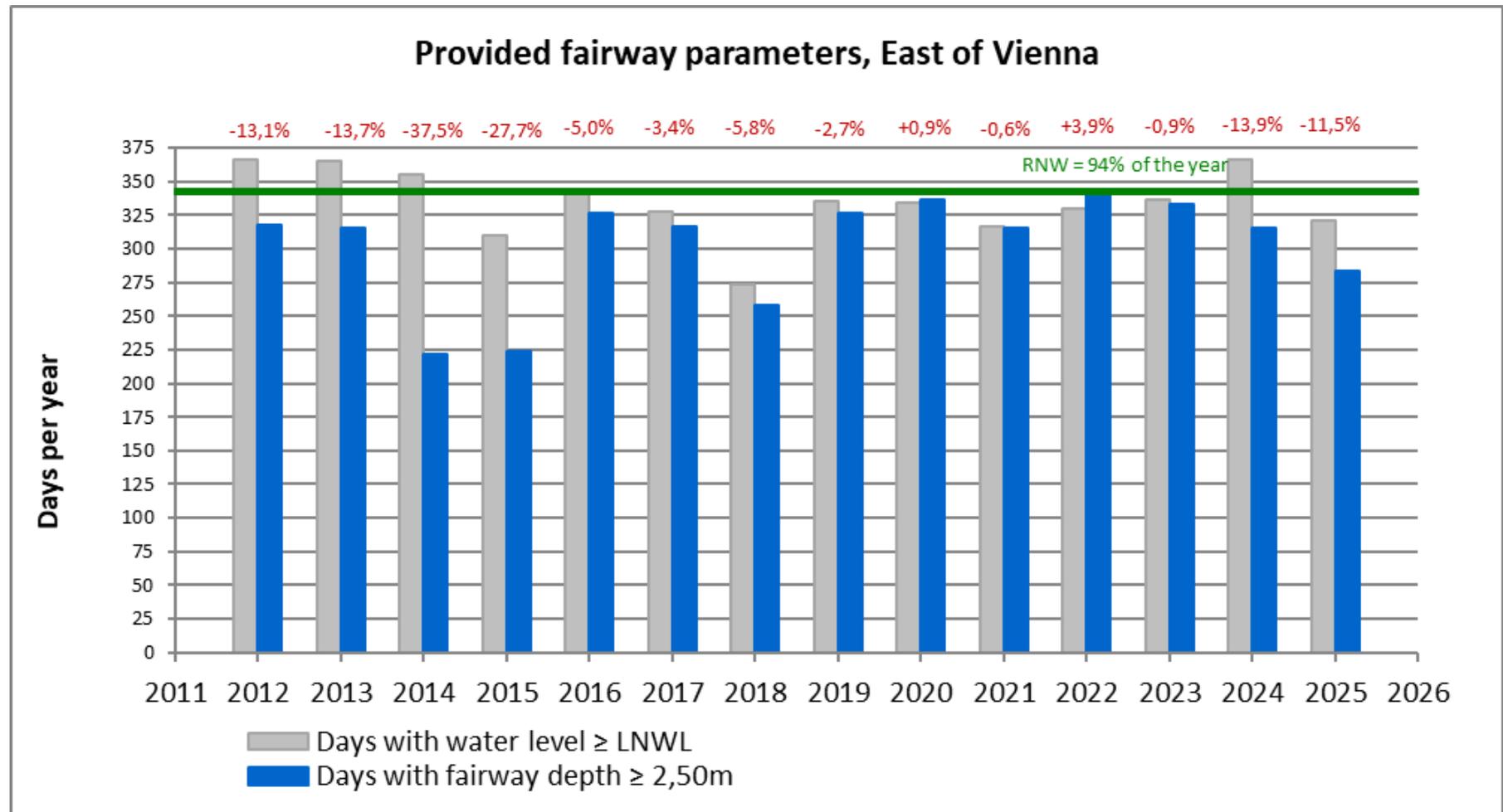
Status of main critical sections in 2012-2025

- Free-flowing section Wachau (352 days \geq 2,50m fairway depth)

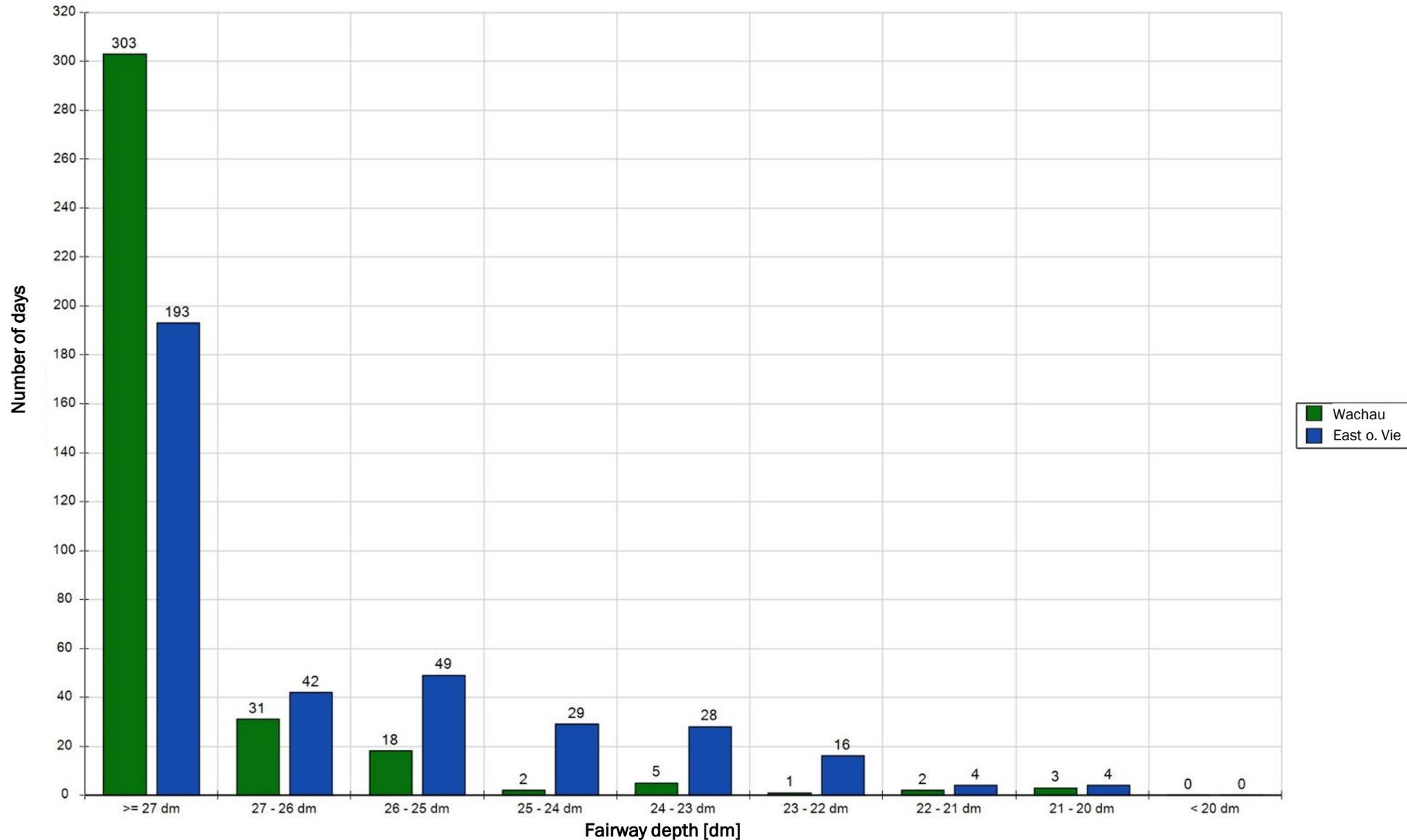


Status of main critical sections in 2012-2025

- Free-flowing section East of Vienna (284 days \geq 2,50m fairway depth)



Overview: Fairway depths - free-flowing sections 2025 **viadonau**



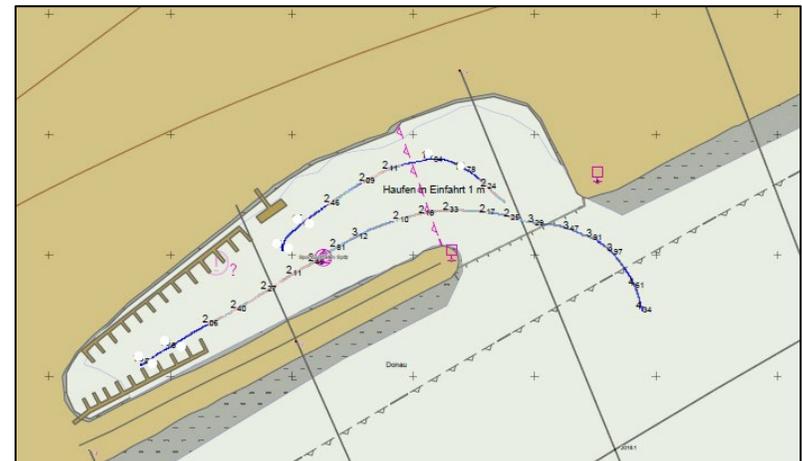
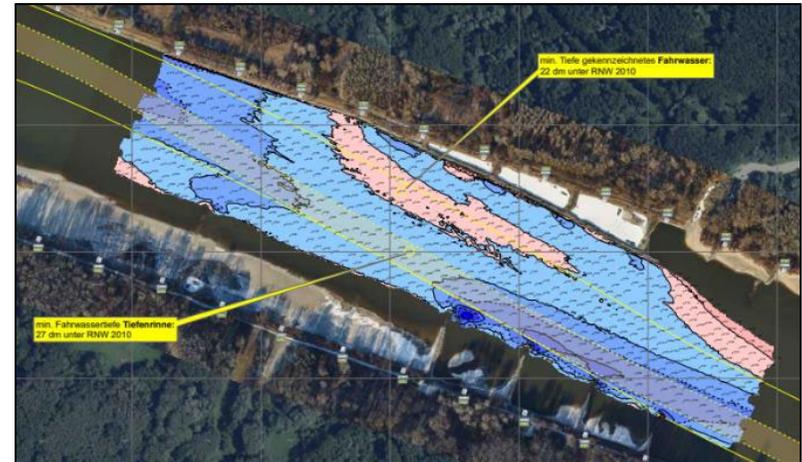
Re-verification of monitoring, rehabilitation and maintenance activities carried out in 2025

Monitoring activities 2025

- **Monthly multi-beam surveying** of the most important fords in the two free-flowing sections of the Austrian Danube; publication of results on the "fairway information" page of DoRIS (website and mobile app)
- **Single-beam surveying** of less important fords, lateral fairway sedimentation, mooring sites, and access to public ports

Basic pattern:

- trimonthly in the two free-flowing sections
- biannually in impounded river sections



Dredging activities 2025 – free-flowing section East of Vienna (gravel)

Location	River-km	Gravel
Hainburg	1 884.9 – 1 884.1	31 104 m ³
Orth	1 901.9 – 1 901.5	15 213 m ³
Rote Werd	1 897.4 – 1 896.6	12 583 m ³
Treuschütt	1 888.4 – 1 888.1	7 897 m ³
Bad Deutsch-Altenburg	1 887.3 – 1 886.8	4 433 m ³
Hainburg	1 884.7 – 1 884.3	9 592 m ³
Wildungsmauer	1 893.8 – 1 893.4	2 491 m ³
Regelsbrunn	1 898.9 – 1 898.4	7 447 m ³
Orth	1 901.9 – 1 901.5	6 601 m ³
Schanzl	1 885.6 – 1 884.6	12 573 m ³
Rote Werd	1 896.6 – 1 896.0	11 867 m ³
Treuschütt	1 888.2 – 1 888.1	1 336 m ³
Regelsbrunn	1 898.8 – 1 898.4	9 122 m ³
Orth	1 902.8 – 1 902.0	14 616 m ³
Hainburg	1 884.8 – 1 884.5	7 121 m ³

Port entrances and mooring sites		
Bad Deutsch-Altenburg mooring site	1 886.8 – 1 886.6	2 833 m ³
Lobau port entrance	1 916.6 – 1 916.5	1 100 m ³
Albern port entrance	1918,4 – 1918,2	7 196 m ³

Maintenance dredging - gravel

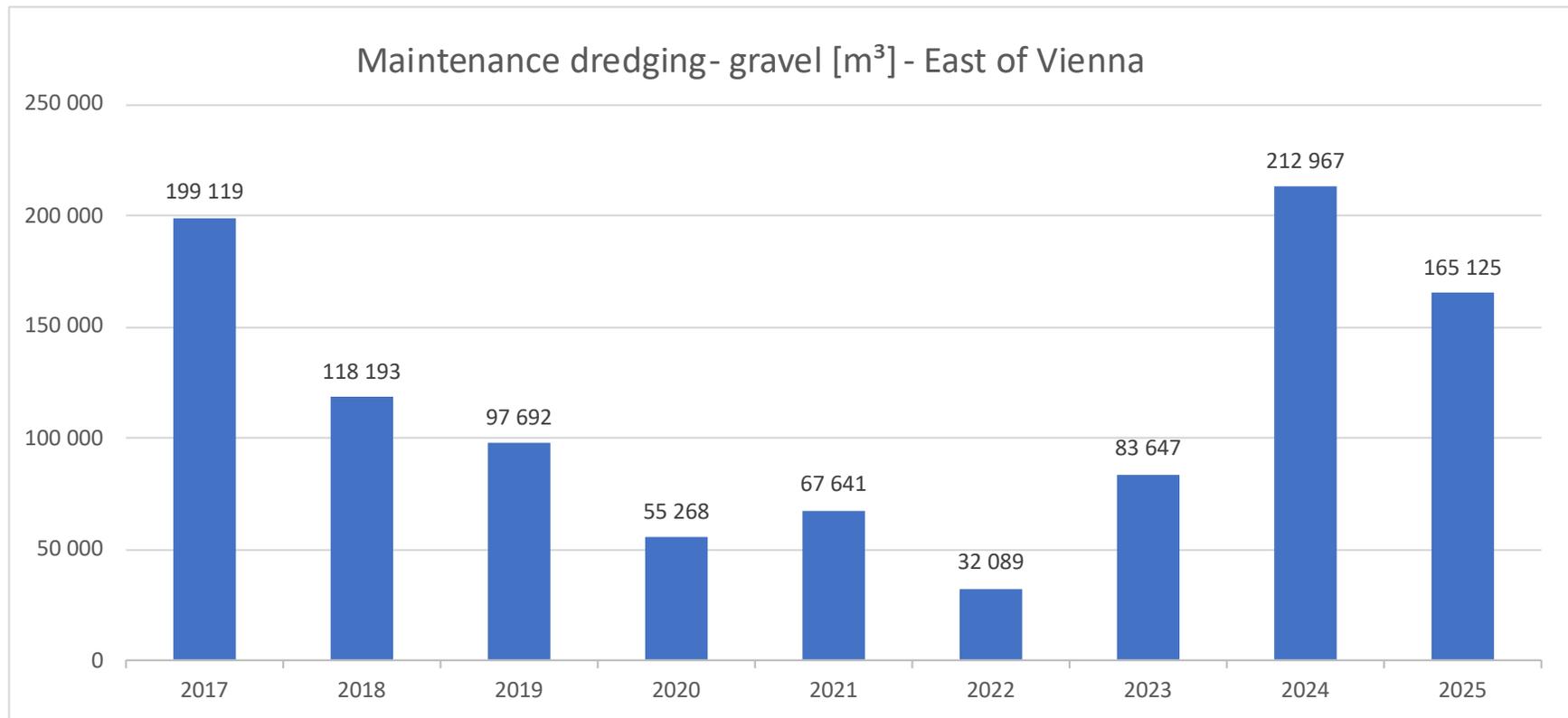
165 125 m³

Location	River-km	Gravel
Bedload trap Treuschütt	1 888.4 – 1 887.7	30 128 m ³
Bedload trap Hainburg	1 885.0 – 1 884.2	82 250 m ³

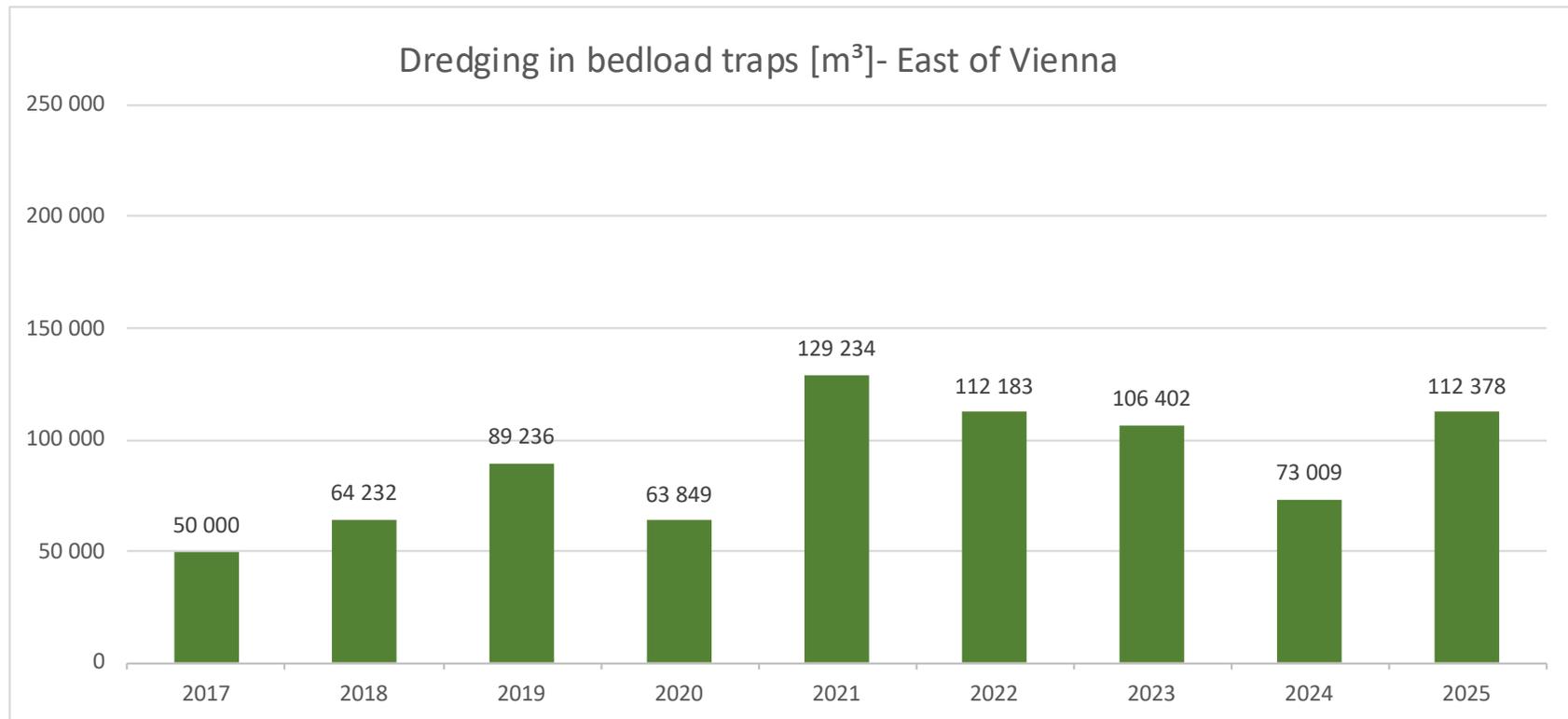
Dredging of bedload traps - gravel

112 378 m³

Dredging activities 2017-2025 – free-flowing section East of Vienna



Dredging activities 2017-2025 – free-flowing section East of Vienna



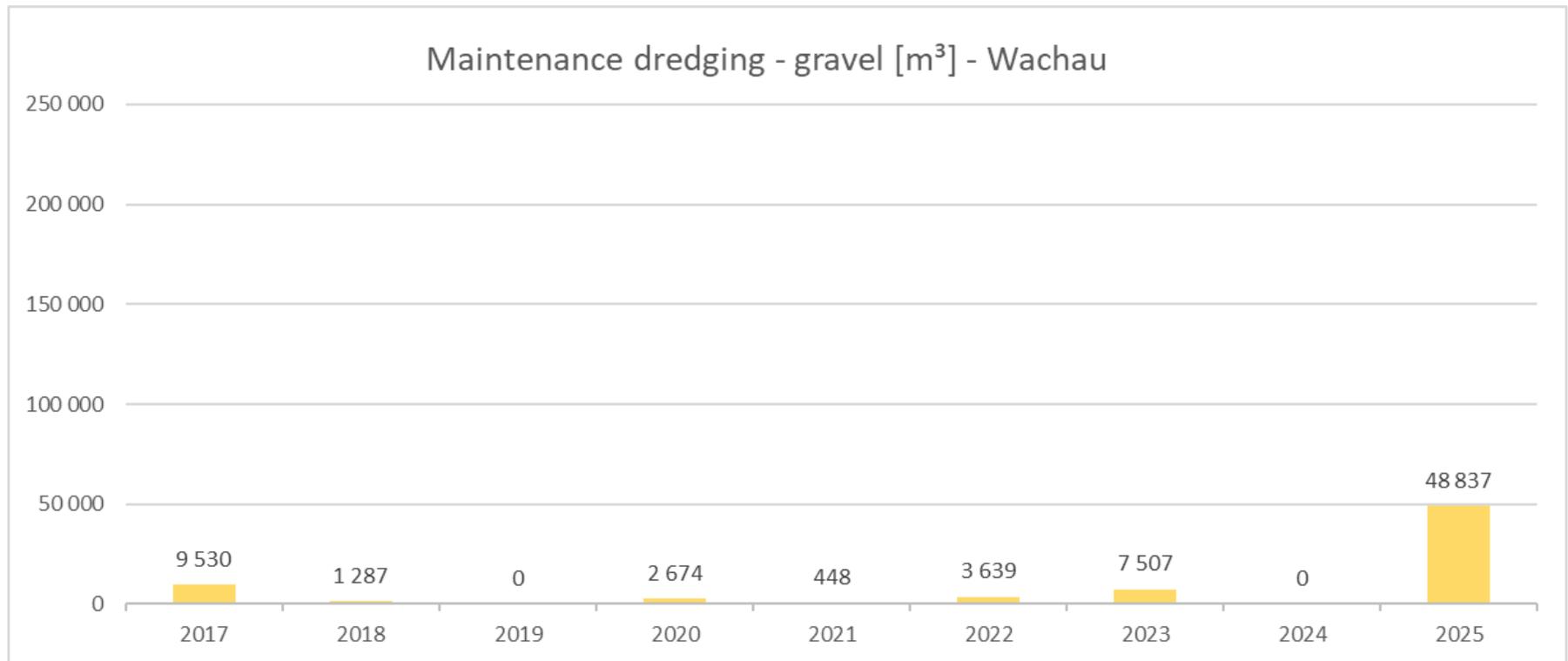
Dredging activities 2025 – free-flowing section Wachau (gravel)

Location	River-km	Gravel	Port entrances and mooring sites		
Weißenkirchen Furt	2 014.1 – 2 013.5	13 026 m ³	Loiben	2 007.1 – 2 007.0	1 104 m ³
Weißenkirchen Furt	2 014.0 – 2 013.5	6 314 m ³	Dürnstein	2 008.3 – 2 007.7	7 005 m ³
Rotenhof Furt	2 005.7 – 2005.3	13 821 m ³	Weißenkirchen	2 013.4 – 2 013.0	7 569 m ³

Maintenance dredging - gravel

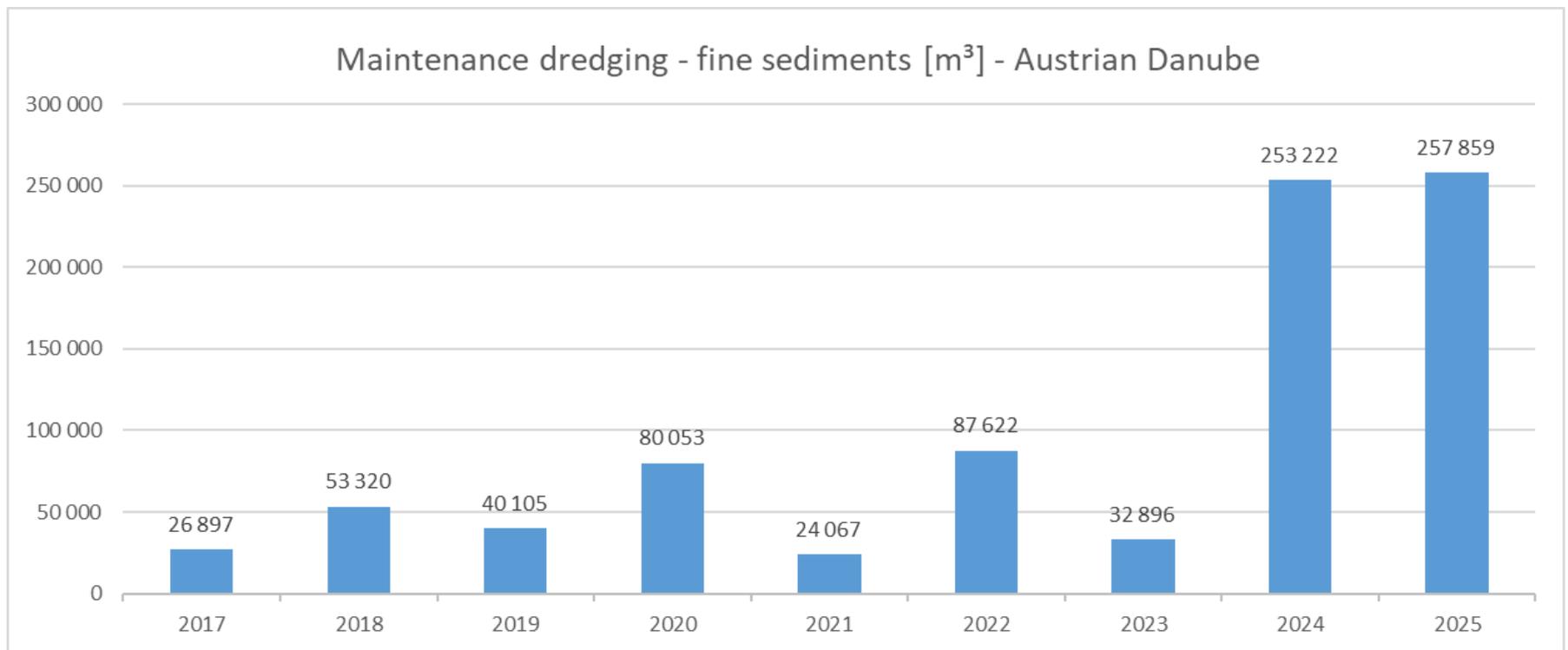
48 837 m³

Dredging activities 2017-2025 – free-flowing section Wachau



Maintenance dredging activities 2025 (fine sediments) **viadonau**

Dredging activities 2017-2025 – Austrian Danube

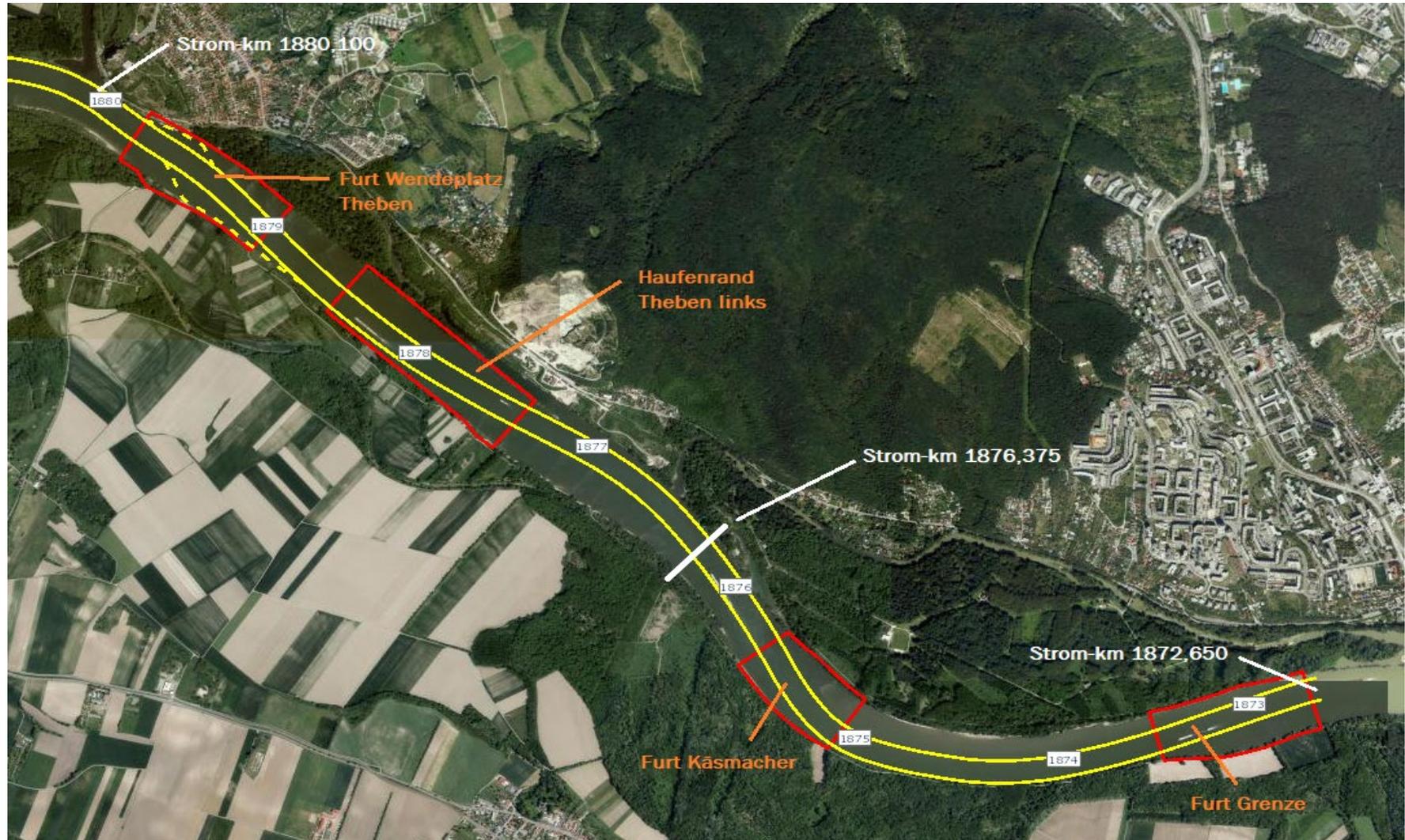


New organisation of maintenance works in the common border stretch Austria-Slovakia

- **viadonau permanently takes over the maintenance dredging and marking of the fairway** for the section from river km **1.880,100 (Morava estuary)** to **1.876,375 (no alternating works)**
- **Approval of the Slovak side** during the 33rd meeting of the permanent Austrian-Slovak Border Water Commission (May 2025)
- **Maintenance dredging:** viadonau dredges the upper section, including the ford and turning area at Theben/Devín as well as the lateral sedimentation at Theben/Devín, while the Slovak Waterways Administration (SVP) carries out maintenance dredging in the lower section of the border stretch
- **Objective:** more efficient planning and implementation of maintenance measures

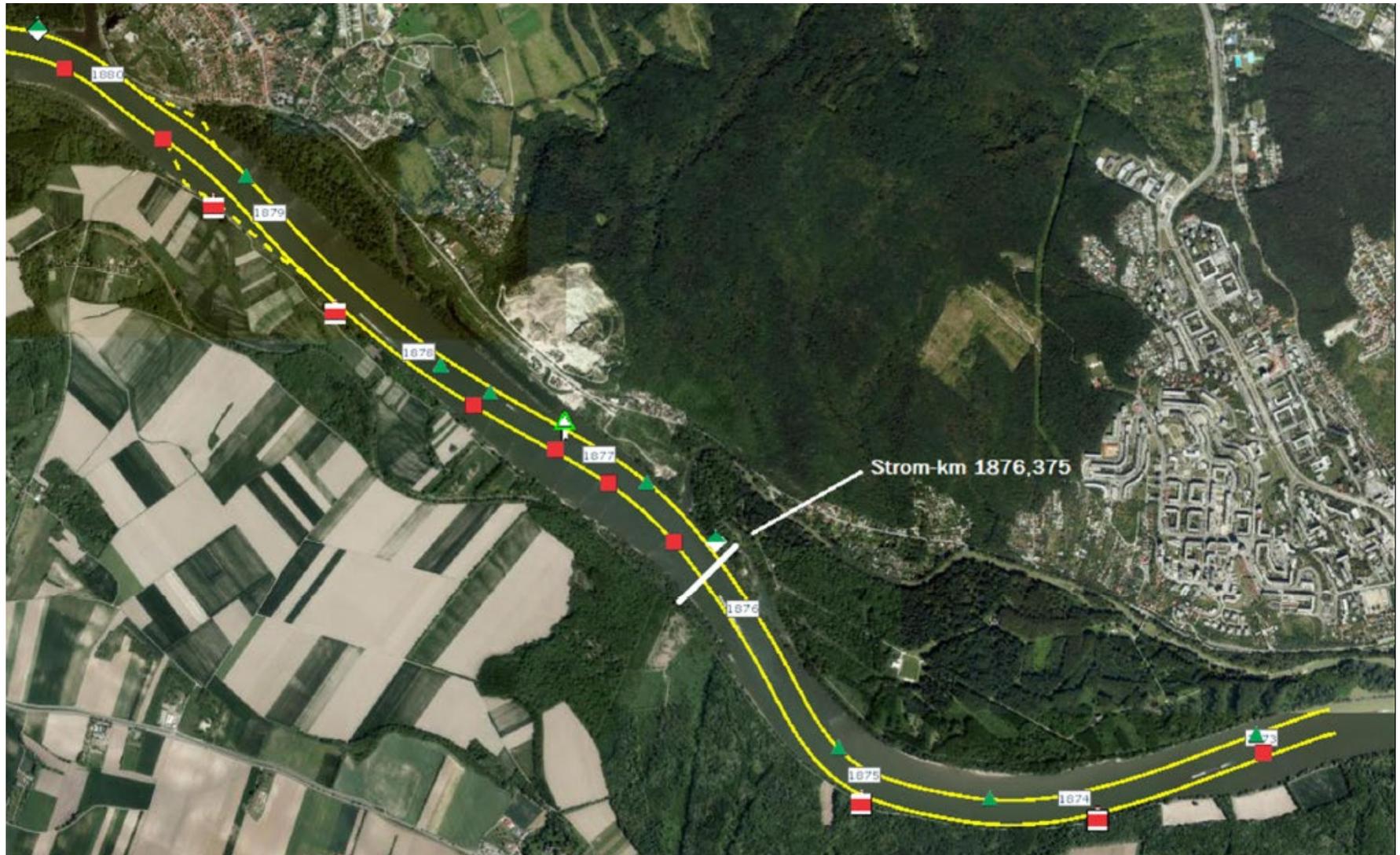
-> New regulation came into effect on 1 January 2026!

New organisation of maintenance works AT-SK: Maintenance dredging



New organisation of maintenance works AT-SK: Fairway marking

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Exchange of the navigation buoys: 12/02/2026

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Planned activities to ensure navigation in 2026

Planned activities to ensure navigation in 2026

- Activities to be defined in detail until the **dredging briefing session taking place on 18 June 2026** in coordination with the Supreme Navigation Authority
- **Maintenance dredging (fords):** Up to 50 000 m³ of gravel in fords in the two free-flowing sections of the Austrian Danube (Wachau and Danube east of Vienna); up to 72 000 m³ of fine sediments for access to public ports and mooring sites (estimation)
- **Managing of bedload traps:** Dredging and upstream dumping of up to 105 000 m³ of gravel to mitigate riverbed erosion in the free-flowing section of the Danube east of Vienna; the bedload traps cover the area of two important fords (Hainburg and Treuschütt).

Operational expenditures for conducted activities in 2025 and budget needs in 2026

Operational expenditures for conducted activities in 2025 and budget needs in 2026



Need areas	Operational expenditures	Operational budget					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 (provisional)	2026
Minimum fairway parameters (width/depth) ^{1,2} (maintenance dredging)	2 158 797	2 209 995	2 452 921	2 566 324	4 155 803	4 102 908	2 473 871
Surveying of the riverbed	879 431	867 800	936 998	1 008 652	1 002 995	946 290	1 055 050
Water level gauges	1 048 584	1 007 054	1 119 734	1 253 557	1 087 320	1 091 523	1 182 878
Marking of the fairway	625 853	682 465	726 780	535 389	783 390	815 310	797 615
Information on water levels and forecasts	78 935	58 299	52 938	46 208	46 467	41 979	55 504
Sum (Euro)	4 791 600	4 825 613	5 289 371	5 410 130	7 075 975	6 998 009	5 564 919
Costs for dumping dredged material upstream	1 619 884	1 048 460	1 650 345	1 702 817	1 784 521	1 880 949	1 826 416
Costs of clearance of waterway after floods Sept. 2024					2 488 678	2 939 590	
Costs of flexible low water regulation infrastructure					103 548	200 340	505 113
Grand total (Euro)	6 411 484	5 874 073	6 939 716	7 112 947	11 452 721	12 018 888	7 896 448
1 This amount includes only dredging expenditures, not the additional expenditures resulting from dumping the excavated material further upstream.							
2 Costs resulting from the dumping of excavated material further upstream.							

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