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FAIRway Danube

Reports on Good Navigation Status

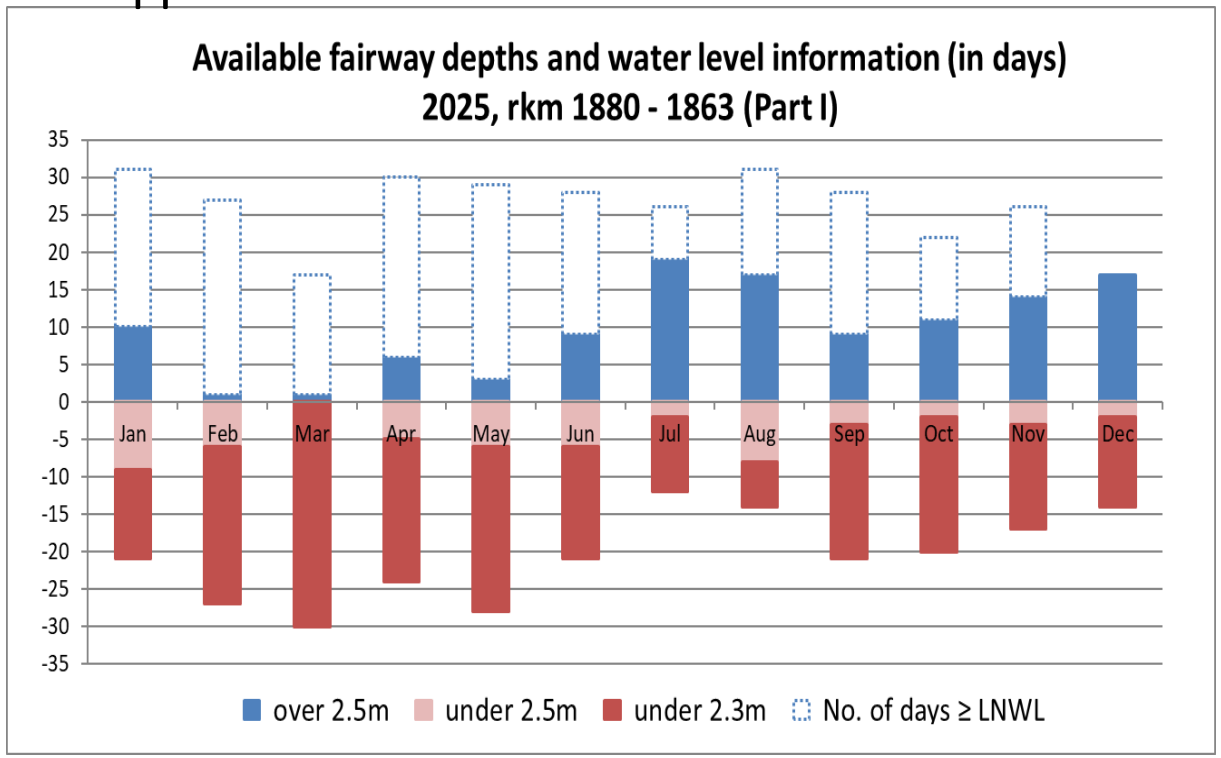
Review of 2025 and 2026 (preliminary)

Brussels, 04.11.2026 – Cristian Chirita / viadonau
Budapest, 12.11.2026 – Jasna Muskatirovic / DC

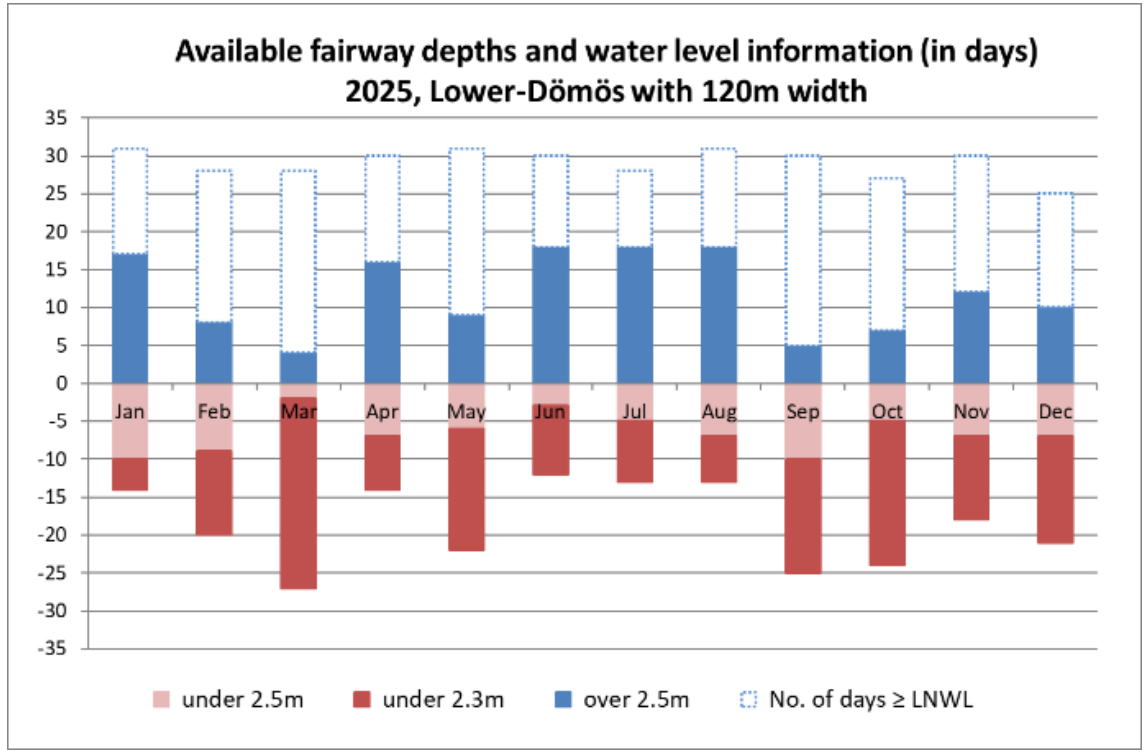
Status of TEN-T min. requirement: availability of the navigation channel (incl. hydrological conditions)

2025

Upper and Middle Danube



Slovakia



Hungary

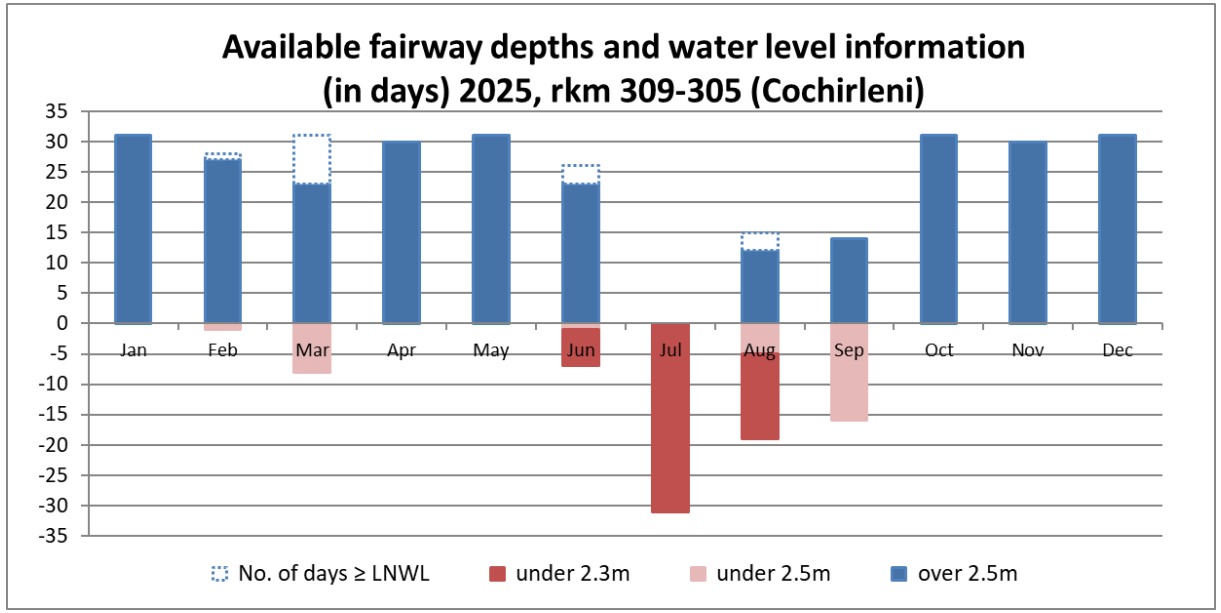
- SK sector upstream of Gabcikovo was the most limiting sector in 2025 - 248 days below 2,5 m
- Several Hungarian bottlenecks limited navigability in 2025

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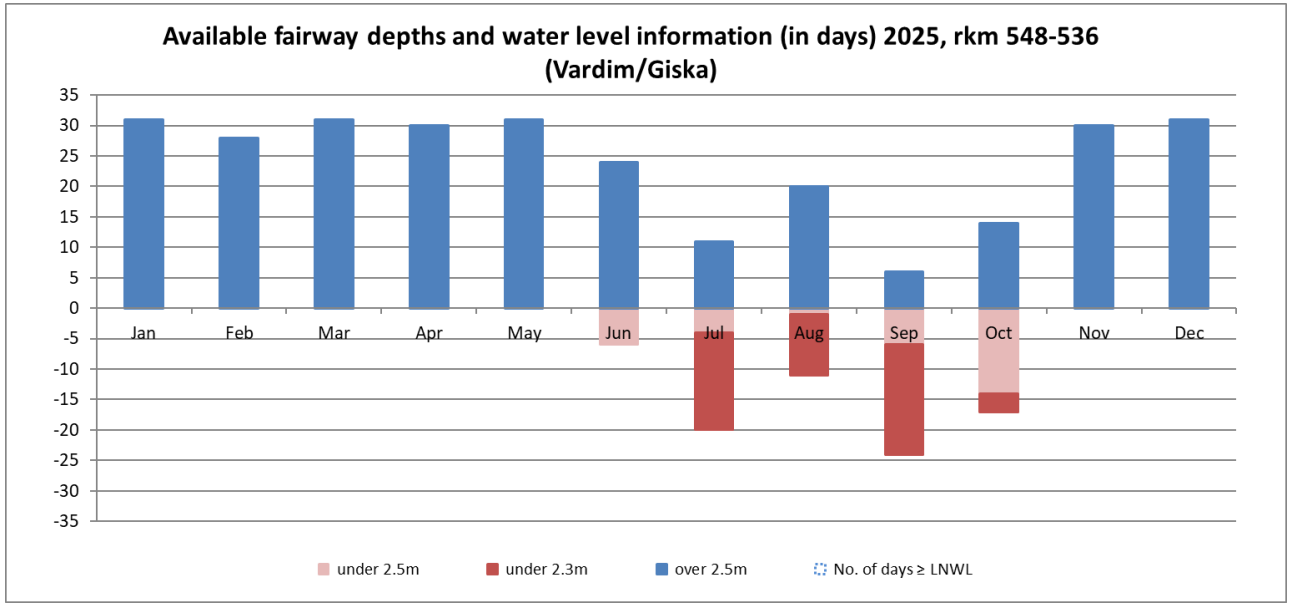
Status of TEN-T min. requirement: availability of the navigation channel (incl. hydrological conditions)

2025:

Lower Danube – Romania & Bulgaria



Romania



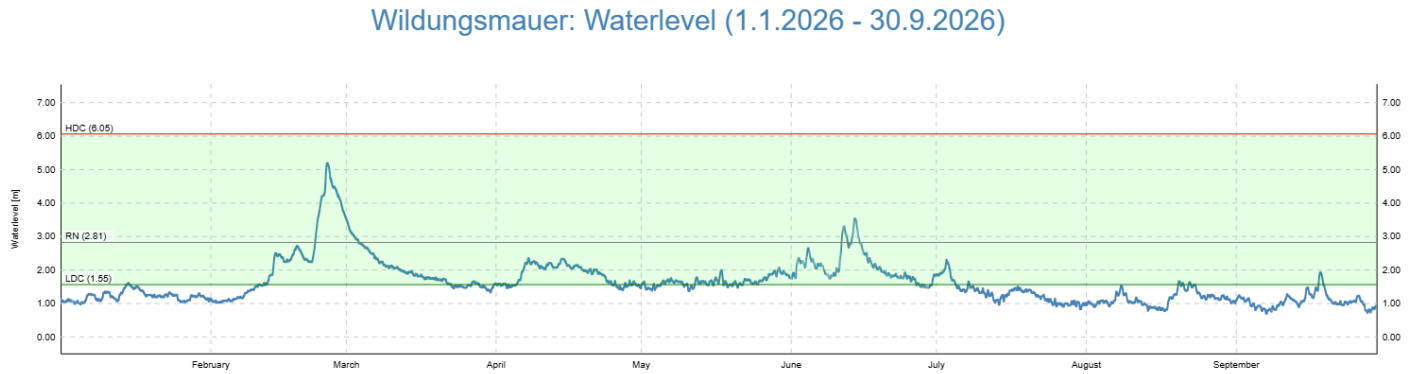
Bulgaria

- Extensive low water period in summer
- Proactive exchange of information by APPD and AFDJ helped to decrease the number of grounded vessels

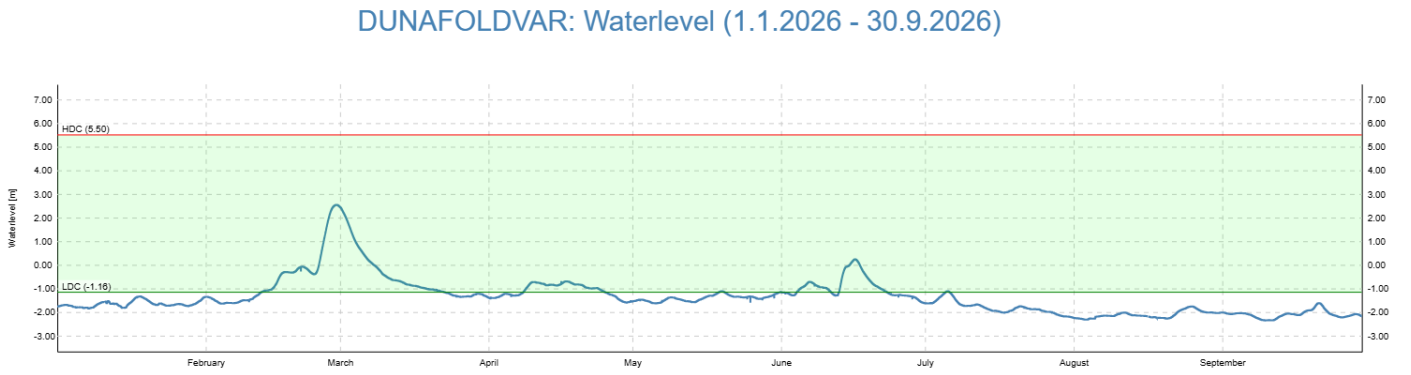
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Hydrological conditions 2026

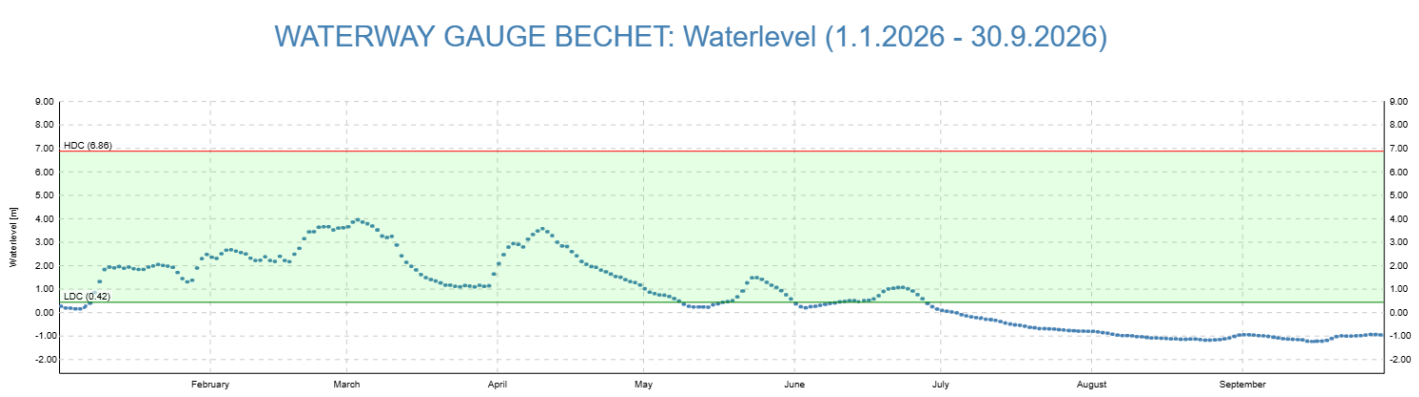
Upper Danube (Wildungsmauer)



Middle Danube (Dunafoldvar)



Lower Danube (Bechet)

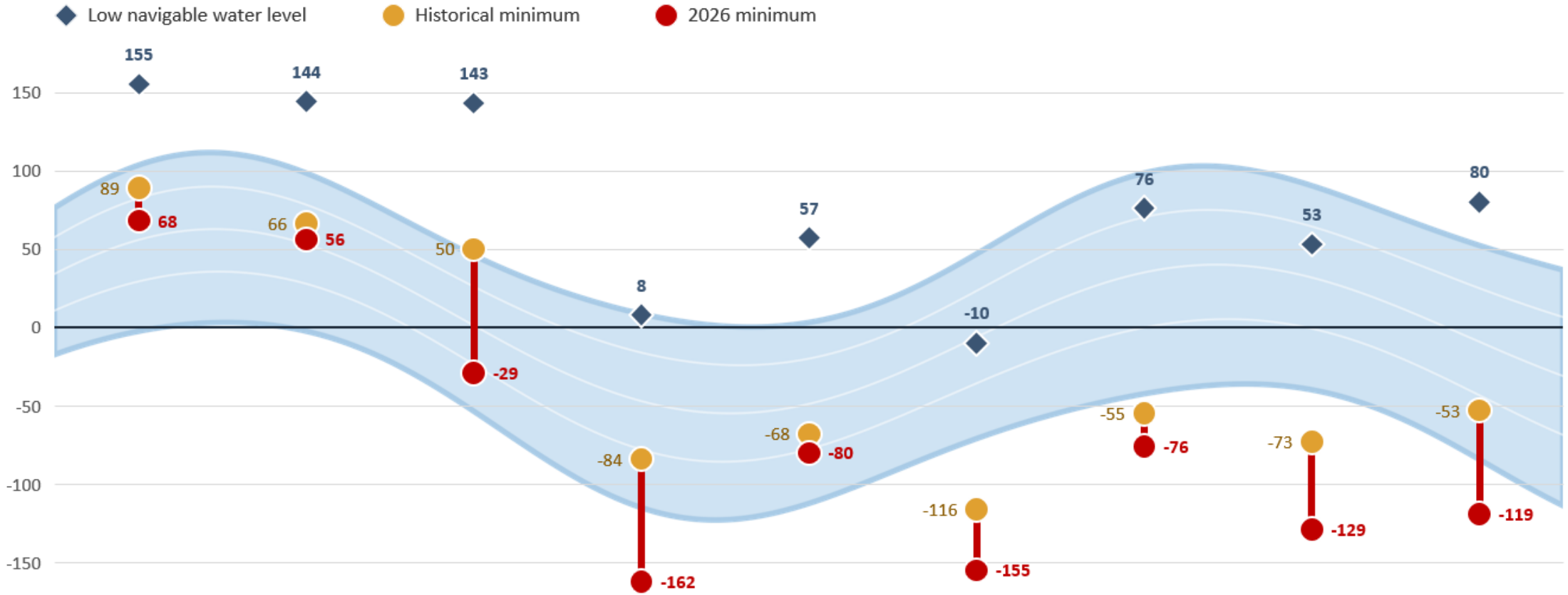


- Overall: extreme low water levels for large parts of the year
- Upper and Middle Danube: low water period started in fall 2025, some relief in Spring 2026, dire situation during summer and fall
- Extreme low water level on the Lower Danube especially throughout June - September

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2026 Minimum Water Levels vs. Historical Record

Selected Danube gauging stations, upstream to downstream (level at gauge, cm)



	Wildungsmauer	Bratislava-Devín	Mohács	Batina	Novi Sad	Corabia	Svishtov	Ruse	Silistra
	Austria	Slovakia	Hungary	Croatia	Serbia	Romania	Bulgaria	Bulgaria	Bulgaria
Below historical (cm)	-21	-10	-79	-78	-12	-39	-21	-56	-66

Levels are relative to each gauge's own zero: compare within a station, not between stations. River background is illustrative.

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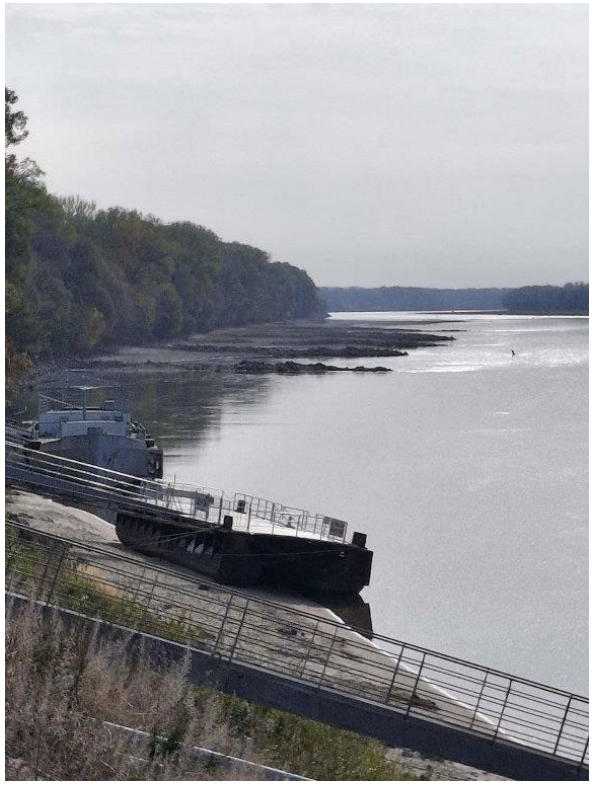
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Impressions from historic low water 2026

Austria and Slovakia



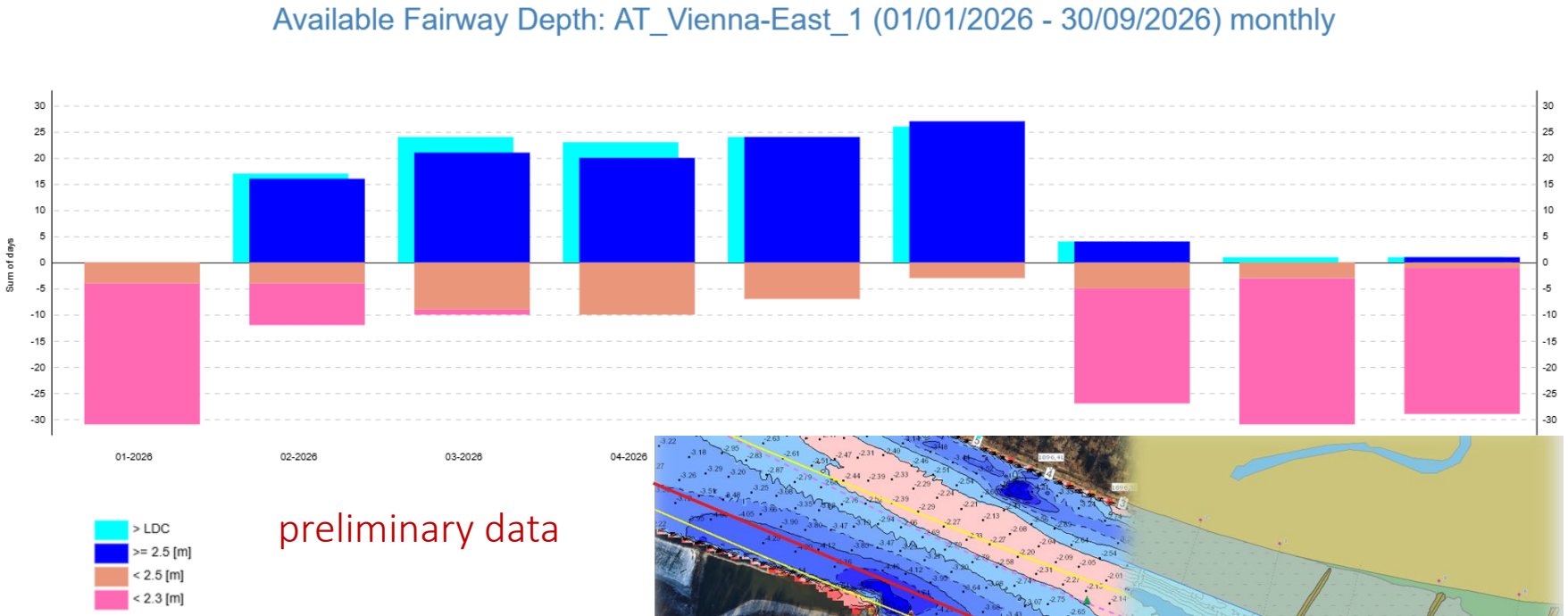




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Status of TEN-T min. requirement: availability of the navigation channel (incl. hydrological conditions)

2026 - Upper Danube (Austria | Slovakia)



preliminary data

- Implementation of <u>recommended track</u> in Austrian inland ENCs
  - centre line of the defined deep channel for the shallow sections of the Austrian Danube

- In total, only a few days above the average water level in March and June
- AT: Priority proactive dredging to a width according to LOS 1 (deep channel)

- <u>SK:</u> ca. 82,000 m^3 dredged so far in 2026 in the sector upstream of Gabčíkovo and the common SK/HU Danube

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Impressions from historic low water 2026

Hungary and Croatia



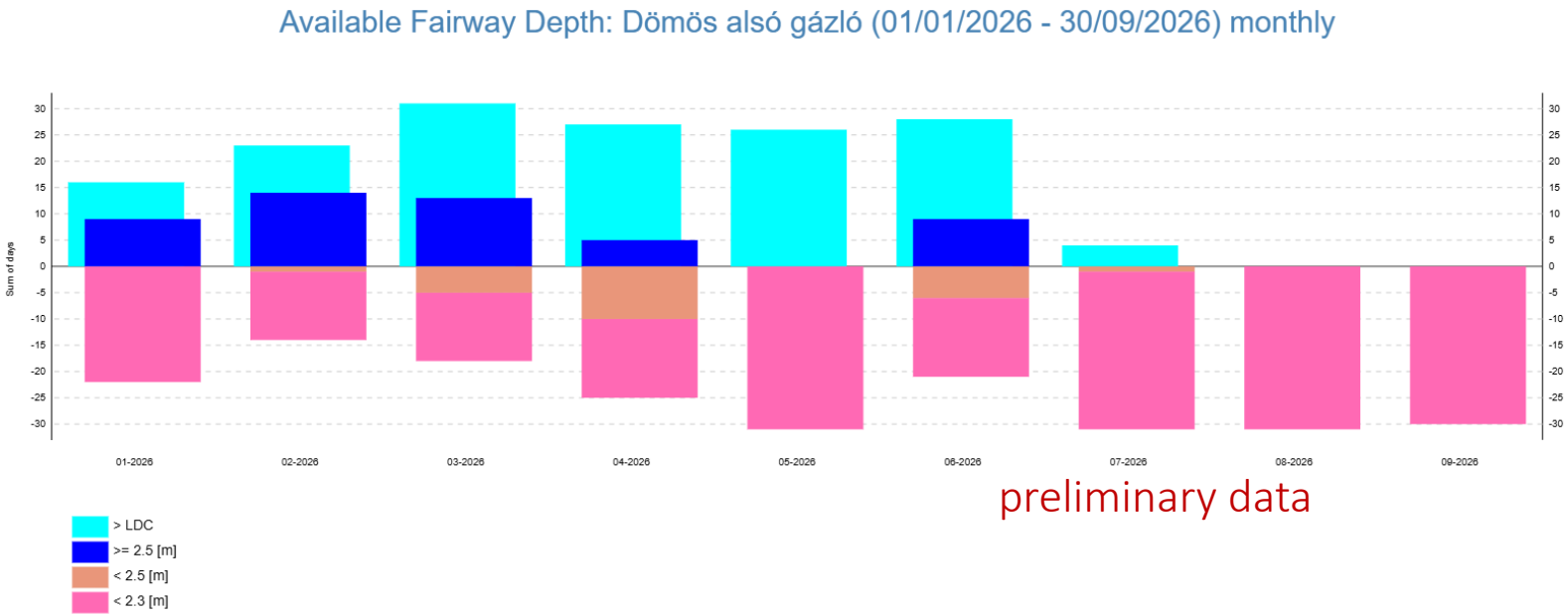


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Status of TEN-T min. requirement: availability of the navigation channel (incl. hydrological conditions)

2026 – Middle Danube (Hungary)





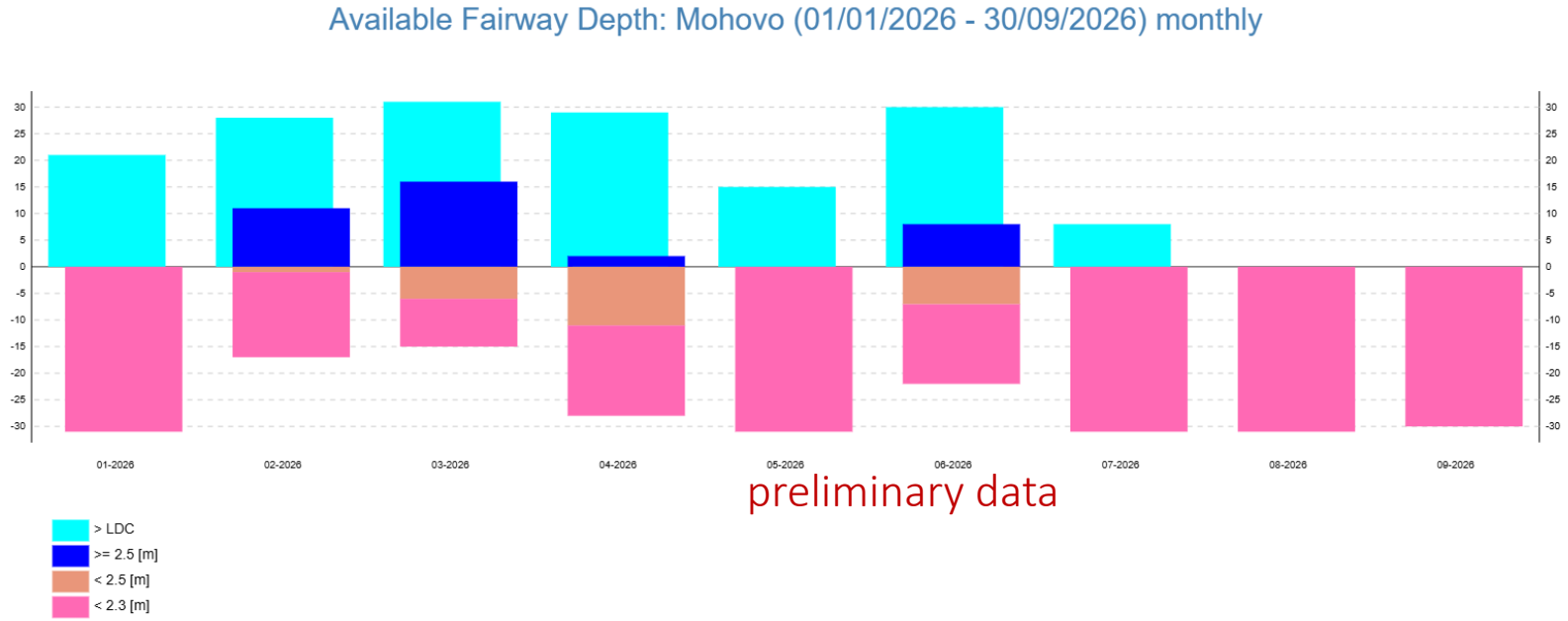
- Challenging hydrological conditions lead to low fairway availability throughout the whole year
- Extreme low flow in the starting in the summer months and continuing to fall
- Fairway availability primarily dependent on discharge

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Status of TEN-T min. requirement: availability of the navigation channel (incl. hydrological conditions)

2026 - Middle Danube (Croatia)





HR:

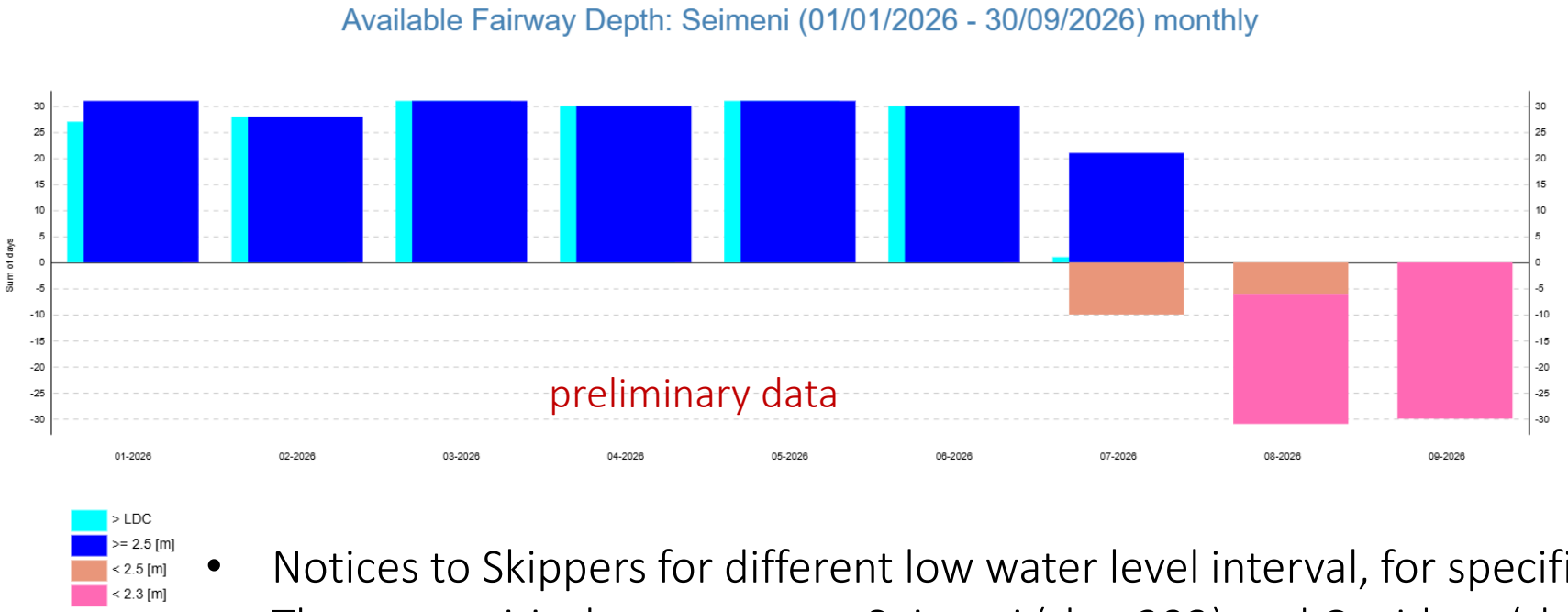
- Below-average discharge throughout the whole year posed problems for fairway availability
- No dredging on the Danube in 2026
- Sava and Drava also affected by low water levels
- Dredging Sava: around 16,500 m^3
- Dredging Drava: around 42,000 m^3

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Status of TEN-T min. requirement: availability of the navigation channel (incl. hydrological conditions)



2026 - Lower Danube (Romania)



- Notices to Skippers for different low water level interval, for specific Danube sectors
- The most critical sectors were Seimeni (rkm 293) and Capidava (rkm 280).
- Dredging: around 750,000 m^3 in the Danube and 38,400 m^3 in the maritime Danube
- Dredging framework contract valid until June 2027 with a volume of 900,000 m^3/ year
  Documentation for new framework contract was started

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Impressions from historic low water 2026

Romania and Bulgaria

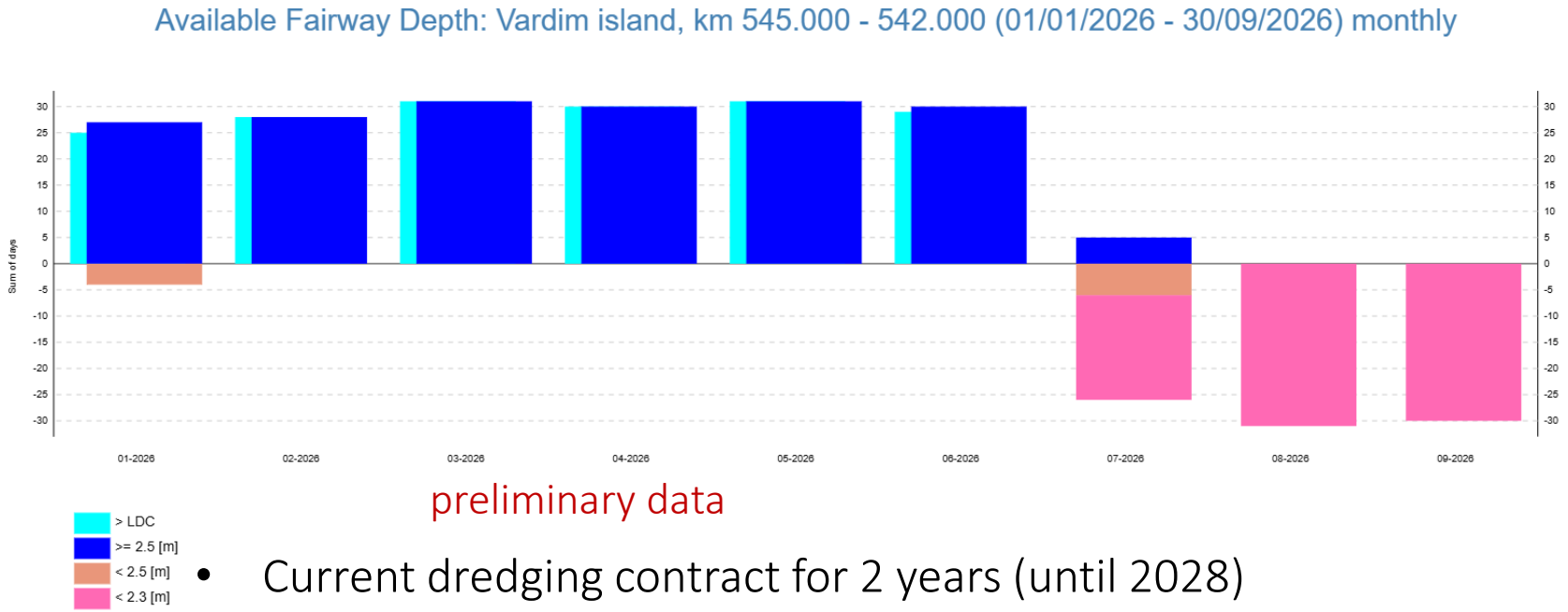




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Status of TEN-T min. requirement: availability of the navigation channel (incl. hydrological conditions)

2026 - Lower Danube (Bulgaria)





preliminary data

- Current dredging contract for 2 years (until 2028)
- Total dredged quantity of 173,345 m^3 in 2026 at Batin, Belene, and Somovit, mainly in June and September
- RO and BG regular Meetings with naval authorities,
  daily email with information on min available depth, starting with 06th of July

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FAIRway Danube

Thank you for your attention!

FAIRway Danube II
LinkedIn

FAIRway Danube II
Website

Cristian Chirita

Senior Expert
Cristian.Chirita@viadonau.org
T +43 664 80842 1637

Stefan Schwarzmayr

Future Professional
stefan.schwarzmayr@viadonau.org
T +43 664 80842 1640