



The lake's services are priceless

October 1, 2025 | Andri Bryner

Topics: Society

The Lake Lucerne Supervisory Commission is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Last Friday, 26 September, invited guests, including government councillors from the five cantons bordering the lake, met with Federal Councillor Albert Rösti at Eawag in Kastanienbaum.

The Lake Lucerne Supervisory Commission (AKV) was founded in 1985 as an inter-cantonal body to monitor the water quality of Lake Lucerne, track scientific developments and make recommendations for the protection of the lake. Over the past four decades, the commission has made important contributions to safeguarding and improving the ecological quality of Lake Lucerne.



Lake Lucerne, seen here from the Frönapstock, is priceless. (Christian Maugg)

Free and yet priceless

At the anniversary event, speakers discussed the past, present and future of the lake. Sandro Patierno, Deputy Governor of the Canton of Schwyz and President of the Supervisory Commission, opened the event: "Let us work together to ensure that Lake Lucerne and its catchment area remain a liveable recreational area for future generations," emphasised the President of the AKV. Eawag Director Martin Ackermann agreed: "Lake Lucerne is free, but it is priceless. Only through a vibrant partnership between research, administration and politics can we all contribute to its sustainable protection," he said. With regard to the current pressure to save money, he added: "Identifying problems at an early stage and taking the right measures based on this is certainly cheaper than repairing damage afterwards – if that is even possible."

Bernard Wehrli, who worked at Eawag for over 30 years and is now professor emeritus at ETH Zurich, looked back on key scientific and social debates, such as phosphorus management, fish diversity, and the renaturation of shores and tributaries – "there is still work to be done here" – as well as dealing with "good and bad" animals and plants in Lake Lucerne.

As the highlight of the event, Federal Councillor Albert Rösti, Head of the Federal Department

of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC), congratulated the commission and addressed the participants. He emphasised the importance of Lake Lucerne as an ecological and cultural asset of national significance, expressed his gratitude for the valuable cooperation between the cantons of Central Switzerland and the federal government, but also made no secret of the fact that balancing the demands of use and protection is sometimes no easy task.

[Lake Lucerne Supervisory Commission website](#)

Cover picture: FOEN Director Katrin Schneeberger and her boss, Federal Councillor Albert Rösti, talking to Eawag Director Martin Ackermann at the AKV anniversary in Kastanienbau. (Photo: Christian Maugg, AKV)

Picture gallery, all by Christian Maugg, AKV



Contact



Martin Ackermann

Director

Tel. +41 58 765 5122

martin.ackermann@eawag.ch

<https://www.eawag.ch/en/info/portal/news/news-detail/the-lakes-services-are-priceless>