



Holmfoss Bridge

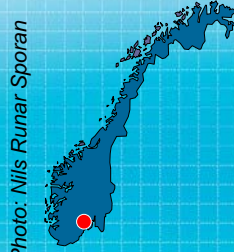
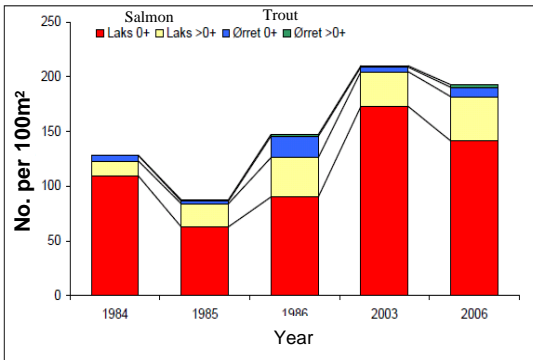


Photo: Nils Runar Sporan

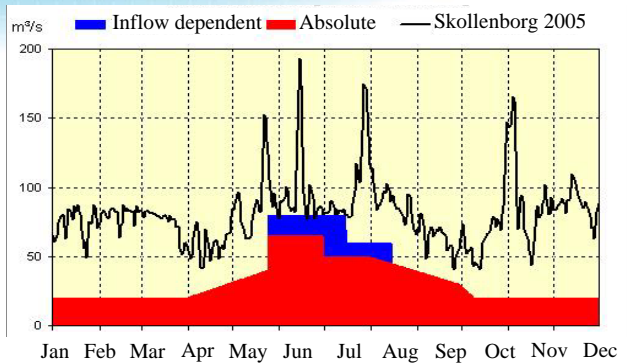
Anadromous stretch: 72 km of a total of 336 km
 Mean water flow: 111 m³/s (at Larvik)
 Catchment area before and after regulation: 5670/5682 km²
 Statkraft's reservoirs: Halne, Pålbu, Tunhovd and Rødbergdammen
 Statkraft's power plants: Nore 1, Nore 2, Pålbu og Rødberg
 River system affected by hydropower schemes since 1920.
 Statkraft's output: 1400 GWh, corresponds to the electricity consumption of approx. 70,000 households.
 Classification in the Water Directive: Not determined.

Density of young fish older than 1 year



Source: NINA

Minimum water flow at Skollenborg



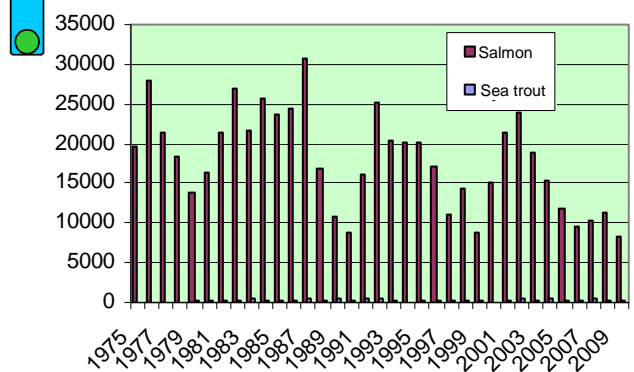
Source: NLB



Åbyfoss

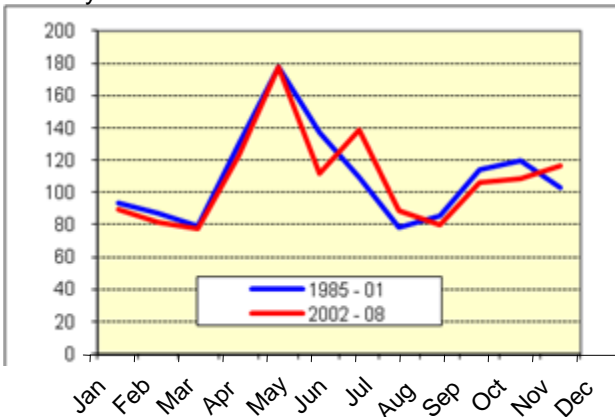
Photo: Nils Runar Sporan

Salmon and sea trout catches



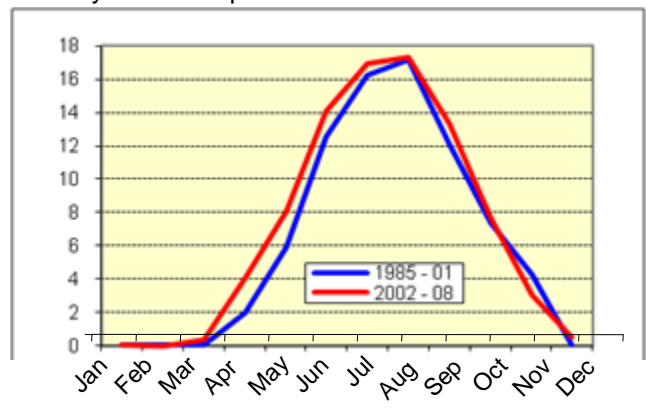
Source: SSB

Monthly mean water flow at Holmfoss



Source: NVE

Monthly mean temperature at Brufoss



Source: NVE

Data has been collected from the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE), Statistics Norway, NLB and Statkraft. The assessments shown as 'traffic lights' have been carried out by Statkraft Energi AS. The meaning of the traffic lights is as follows:



Good and stable status



Averagely good and/or variable status



Poor and unstable status

Important issues:

Numedalslågen is Norway's third longest river system and has been one of the country's 10 most important salmon rivers in terms of catch sizes for several years. The river was used extensively to float logs for timber from the 16th century until 1979.

The users' association Numedals-Laugens Brugseierforening (NLB) is the river management license holder. All the hydropower producers on the river system are members of the NLB. There are 6 reservoir-fed power plants and 8 river power plants above the anadromous stretch. Pålbu Power Plant went into operation in 2007 and Rødberg Power Plant in 2009.

In 2001 the NLB was granted a new license which largely takes into account the water flow needs of the salmon. The anadromous stretch has priority over the reservoirs in the upper reaches of the river system. 47% of the catchment area is unregulated. This means that the lower reaches of the river are subject to natural variations in water flow.

Numedalslågen's anadromous stretch includes both rapids and slow-flowing sections. This means that the river has a rich biodiversity. 20 different species have been recorded in the river, which has a naturally small sea trout population. This is demonstrated in young fish counts, which are also aimed at salmon. A salmon ladder was built at Hvittingfoss in 1989. This has extended the anadromous stretch by 35 km.

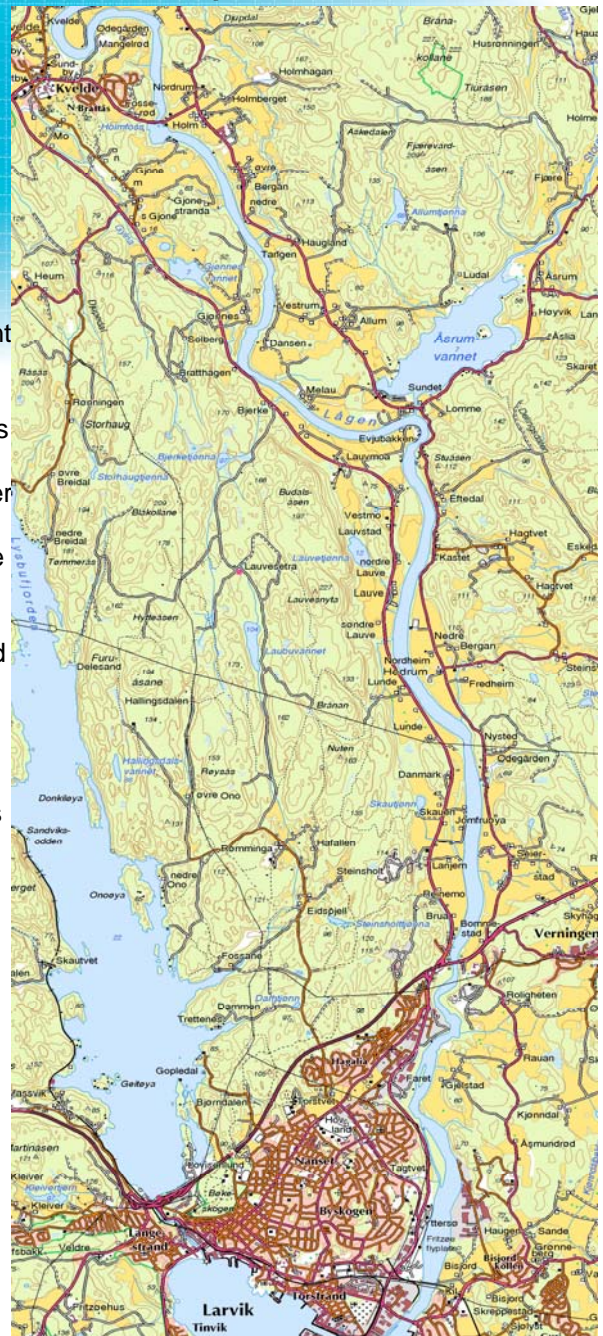
Salmon fishing in the Numedalslågen is well organized and is widely accessible to the public. In addition to rod fishing, historical methods, such as pot and float fishing, remain important.

The river system is under particular surveillance because the neighboring river system, Drammenselva, is infested with *Gyrodactylus salaris*.

In 2006 the NLB built a hatchery at Rødberg, which will meet the need for both compulsory and private restocking of trout in the Numedalslågen and regulated lakes in the management area.

For further information, see www.nlbvassdrag.no

Map: © Statens Kartverk/licence no. 2001/553



Lågen from Larvik to Kvelde and Holmfoss

Statkraft's assessment:

Hydropower regulation has had only a minor impact on the Numedalslågen. The Directorate for Nature Management has classified both the salmon and sea trout populations in category 5a, ie moderately or marginally affected. The river system probably has a naturally small population of sea trout. In addition to water flow, which is regulated by the new license terms, Statkraft Energi AS does not see any need for measures with respect to salmon or sea trout.

Relevant literature:

Ungfiskundersøkelse i Numedalslågen. Annual report 2006. NINA, Bjørn Mejdell Larsen

"Environment status reports for regulated river systems" are drawn up to give central and local government administrations, landowners and the public an updated overview of the river systems' environmental status, with particular emphasis on fish stocks.