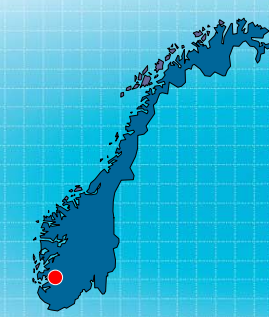


Environment status Suldalslågen

Last updated November 2009



Photo: Statkraft

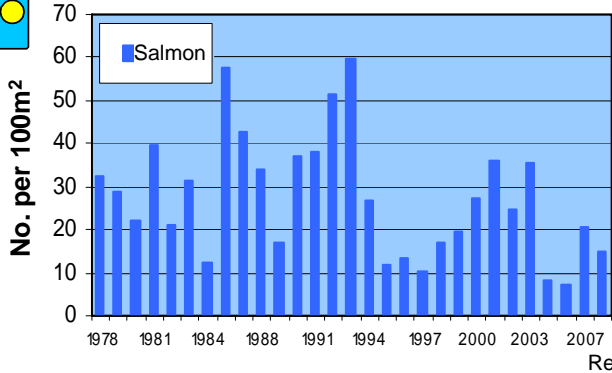


Exit dam Suldalslågen.

Length: 22 km
 Anadrome stretch: 22 km
 Natural catchment area: 1,458.1 km²
 Transfer field: 674.6 km²
 Mean unregulated water flow at Stråpa (top): 92.2 m³/s
 Mean water flow 2003: Stråpa (top) 33.3 m³/s, Lavika (bottom) 43.9 m³/s
 Water Directive: so far classified as heavily modified
 Power plants: Røldal-Suldal Kraft (Hydro Energi) and Ulla-Førreverkene (Statkraft Energi AS)
 Total energy output: 6,500 GWh, corresponds to the electricity consumption of 325,000 households.



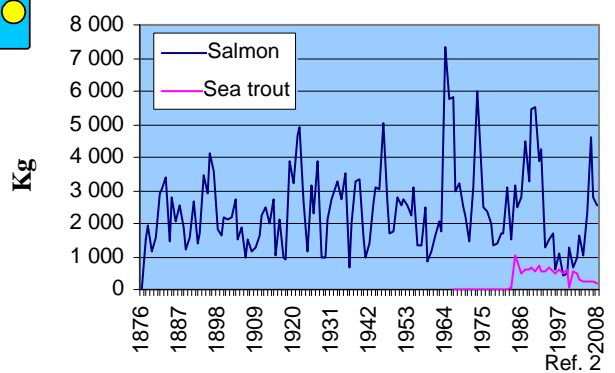
Density of young salmon older than 1 year



Ref. 1

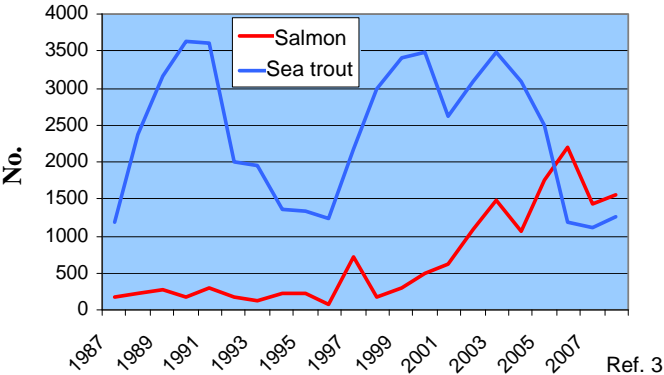


Salmon and sea trout catches



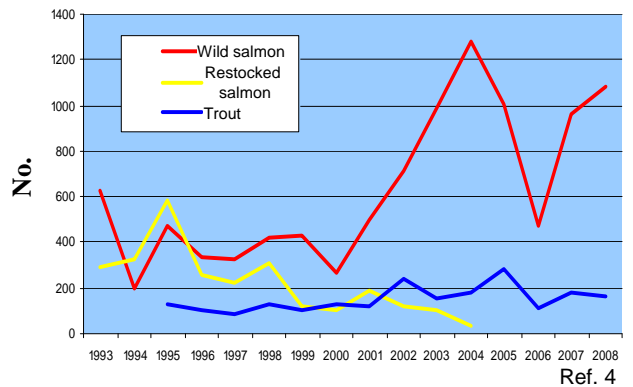
Ref. 2

No. of fish observed in the two salmon ladders in Sandsfossen. Video recording in the southern ladder from 2001.



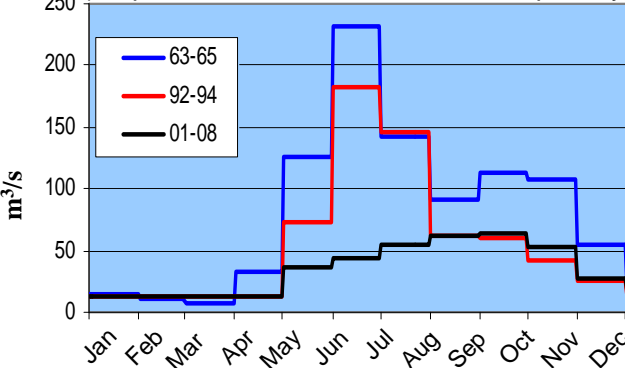
Ref. 3

Smolt production (No. of smolt caught in smolt traps)

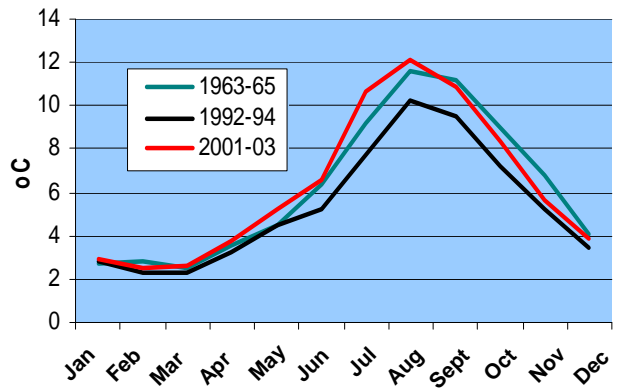


Ref. 4

Mean monthly and proposed water flow at Stråpa. (Proposed shown as actual water flow per day)



Mean water temperature at Stråpa



Data has been collected from the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE), Statistics Norway, the County Governor's Office 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



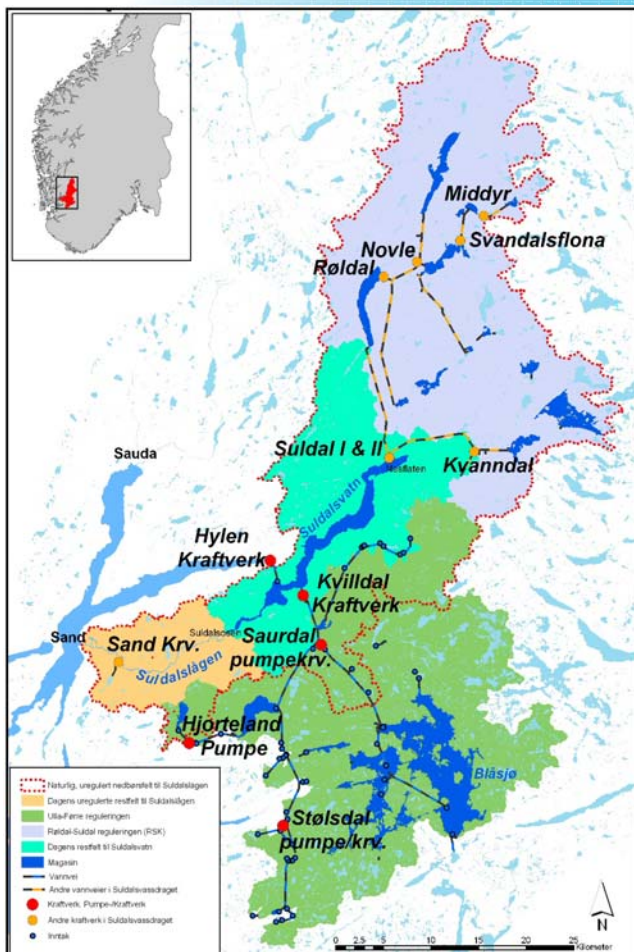
Averagely good and/or variable status



Poor and unstable status

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reduction in water flow variations through the year in the river. In 1974 the Storting voted to build the Ulla-Førreverkene power plants.

This was supported by a majority of Suldal district council. The power plants went into operation in the period 1980-86.

Environmental surveys and measures:

Wide-ranging scientific surveys and monitoring have been undertaken. The objective was to draw up river management measures which would protect the salmon and the interests of other parties with respect to the river system. The results of these underpinned Statkraft's application in 2004 for a new river management regime. NVE put in a somewhat different proposal and a final decision will be taken in 2010. Environment-based river management is the most important habitat-improving measure adopted for the Suldalslågen. At the behest of the authorities, Statkraft has been restocking the Suldalslågen since 1988. Restocking measures have varied, in recent years fry have replaced smolt, and restocking the river has been replaced by release into the sea. The river has been fully limed since 1997.



Important issues:

Suldalslågen is internationally famous for having a lot of large fish among its salmon population. The river was initially regulated in 1965 when Hydro Energi built the Røldal-Suldal power plants at the top of the river system. This led to two salmon-rich rivers which ran into the Suldalsvatn lake drying up and a

Two salmon ladders have been built at Sandsfossen, where fish migrating upriver have been counted. The upriver migration figures are presented on the website of the landowners association, Suldal Elveigarlag (www.suldalslagen.com).

Statkraft's assessment:

Trial river management schemes, monitoring and a large number of surveys of the salmon population and the management schemes which are most favourable to salmon have been carried out over many years. The same management scheme has been used since 2001. Surveys show that the development of the salmon stock is as expected since the growth of young salmon is larger and the smoltage is reduced. The Directorate of Nature Management has classified the salmon stock to have a reduced production of young fish and the sea trout stock as moderately influenced with needs of special considerations. Statkraft regards the salmon stock to potentially be classified as moderately influenced.

Relevant literature:

1. SÆGROV, H. & K.URDAL 2009. Surveys in Suldalslågen October 2008 and January 2009. Rådgivende Biologer AS, report 1183, 64 pages.
2. Statistisk sentralbyrå
3. LURA, H. 2009. Registration of salmon and sea trout in Sandsfossen in 2008. AMBIO Miljørådgivning AS. Report nr. 25539-1, 19 pages
4. GRAVEM, R.R. & H.GREGERSEN 2009. Smoltmigration of salmon and sea trout in Suldalslågen in 2008. SWECO Grøner AS. Report nr. 142841-1, 27 pages

"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.

This fact sheet has been drawn up in cooperation with:



For more information, see www.statkraft.no

