

Project Nordanstig



Objective

Sweden's first coastal municipality with completely uninterrupted watercourses and, within reasonable economic frameworks, restore limnic environments focusing on the streams of the watercourses, thereby preserving and strengthening the populations of salmon, trout, European whitefish, grayling, eel and river crayfish, and other species.

History

From the 17th century, salmon fishing in Harmångersån, the municipality's largest watercourse, was taxed for its stock of salmon fish. Until Harmångersån was regulated around 1900, salmonids migrated far up in the water system. The river is described in the report *Riches around Running Water - The Economic Value of Environmentally Sound Hydropower* as one of the country's 33 priority watercourses.

Nordanstig

In the municipality there are 5 rivers of varying lengths, as well as a number of smaller streams flowing into the sea, with good reproductive possibilities for salmonids. Within the municipality there are 740 km of running water and, including the lakes, a total of 85 km² of inland waters. The municipality has a solid fisheries restoration plan, developed after the inventory of 150 watercourses, and adopted in 2014. The municipality has 6 active fishing areas cooperating in a well-functioning fisheries conservation area. There is a hatchery, where up to 60,000 alevins are hatched annually from local parent material to strengthen stocks of trout.

Challenges

Four small scale hydro power plants with a total annual output of approximately 13.7 GWh in Harmångersån constitutes obstacles for migrating fish, both up- and downstream. In addition, there are a number of minor obstacles spread throughout the municipality. Harmångersån has been harshly cleared from stones due to earlier log-driving and is in need of recovery. In addition to put stones back in the stream, there is a need for spawning bed restoration in accordance with the labor-intensive Hartijoki method.

Prerequisites and opportunities

Two of the power plants in Harmångersån does not have the necessary permits, and contact with the current owner has been taken for possible future purchases. The municipality has decided to ask the county administrative board to submit an application for re-licensing of the permits for the other two power plants in Harmångersån. If the objective is met, it is expected to create conditions for many new jobs in the tourism industry, and only Harmångersån's potential in angling and tourism is estimated to provide increased gross revenue of SEK 30 million per year.

Needs

Examine the possibilities of getting Harmångersån assigned to a national project and the possibility of support for the project - are there any requirements for how such a project is to be implemented and possible partners to get support from or increase the possibility of receiving support? Depending on the level of ambition chosen for rehabilitation, the cost is estimated to be ≥ 40 million (SEK).