Setting WFD objectives in Natura 2000 areas with hydropower plants

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WFD status in Swedish River water bodies from 3rd RBMP:s

Data from VISS (Water Information System Sweden) 2022-01-13.
Significant pressure in Swedish River water bodies from 3rd RBMP:s – dominating types

Data from VISS (Water Information System Sweden) 2022-01-13

Hydropower plant in Jonsered river Säveån

Photo: Anna Erwander
Assessment of conservation status in biogeographical regions
Habitats directive (HD)
Article 17 reporting 2019

Status

• Habitat type 3210 **Fennoscandian natural rivers**
  • Unfavourable status and deteriorating

• Species 1029 Freshwater pearl mussel
  • Bad status and deteriorating

Pressures:

• Hydropower plants
• Former log driving routes
• Water extractions
• Road crosses
• Climate change

- Parliamentary agreement 2019
- 100% renewable energy from 2040

- Electricity from hydropower is projected to continue to increase slightly to 2040
  - No new hydropower plants
  - Higher production efficiency
Swedish national plan for sustainable hydropower

- Decided by Swedish government 2020
- Permits revised according to the objectives of
  - Water framework directive
  - Habitats directive (N2000)
- ≈ 2 000 hydropower plants
- ≈ 450 N2000 areas
- Hydropower plants revised in groups at river basin level (ca 200 groups)
- Time period 2022 – 2040
Balancing protection of water ecosystems and the need of increased renewable electricity

- Maximum loss of electricity production 1,5 TWh distributed over river basins
  - Guidelines to water district authorities when characterising HMWB and setting WFD objectives
- Exemptions article 4 WFD must not compromise HD objectives
- Exemption article 6.4 in HD likely needed to be applied
  - Can only be decided by the government
- Compensatory measures likely needed to ensure no further loss of habitats and species
Thank you for your attention

Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management