Remarks and observations regarding the damming project on the Glomma, Norway

The project of constructing a hydroelectric dam on the Glomma - an emblematic watershed of Norway, would cause a major ecological shift and would generate numerous significant and longterm impacts on the functioning of the whole river and the halieutic tourism.

Indeed, this dam would artificially modify the water flow during (eclusées) or drains, impacting numerous species of fish and invertebrates. These water releases would resuspend large quantities of organic matter that would cover the bottom of the watershed, which would destroy areas used for reproduction and all organisms that are sensitive to clogging from sediment overload (the benthic macrofauna).

Sediment transport would be interrupted, leading to an accumulation of sediments upstream, a sediment deficit downstream and the clogging of nursery areas. This would also favor erosion and would deepen the riverbed upstream compromising the "ripisylve watershed" connection and the availability of certain habitats.

This manmade structure would constitute a major obstacle to the ecological continuity of the whole watershed.

In addition to undeniable environmental impacts on this aquatic ecosystem, which is in contradiction with the European Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC) on water that targets the maintain or return to a good ecological state, this dam project would considerably weaken the internationally renowned halieutic tourism and would impede its future development.

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