

# Fish passages in Norway



**NORCE**  
Laboratory for Freshwater ecology  
and Inland fisheries (LFI)

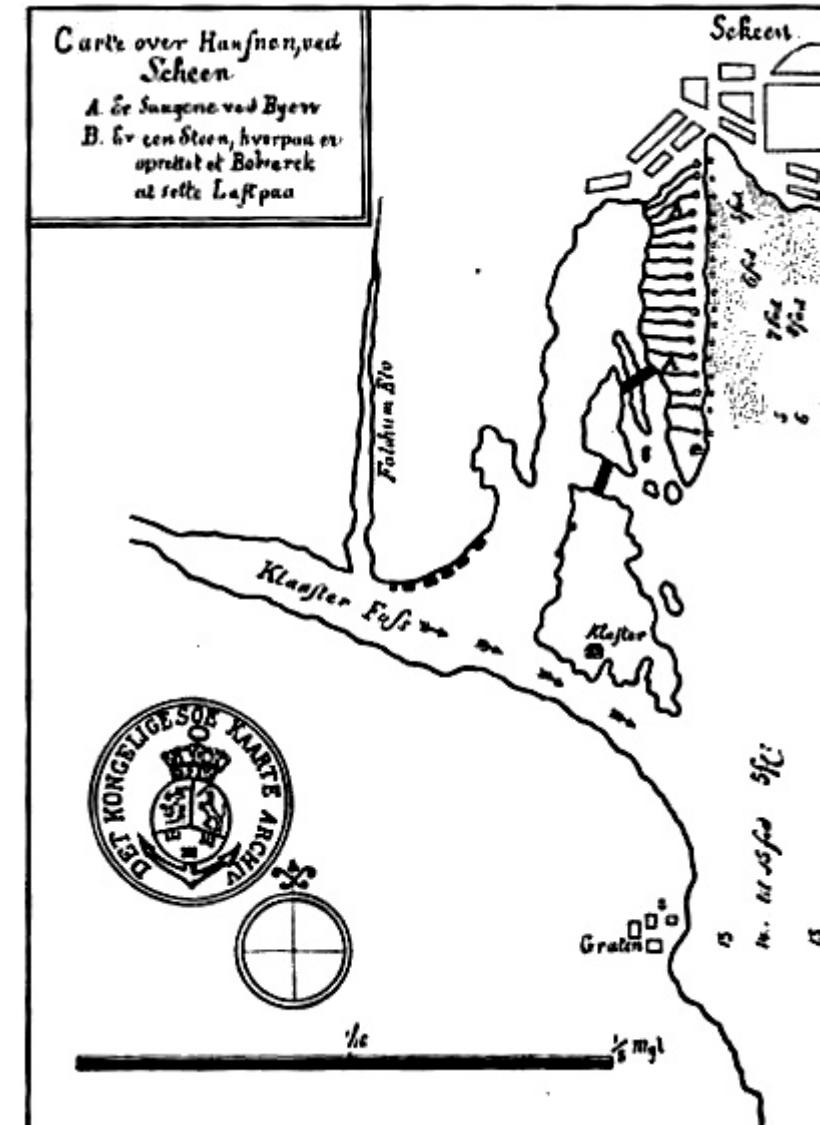


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<sup>1</sup> LFI, <sup>2</sup> Miljødirektoratet, <sup>3</sup>NINA

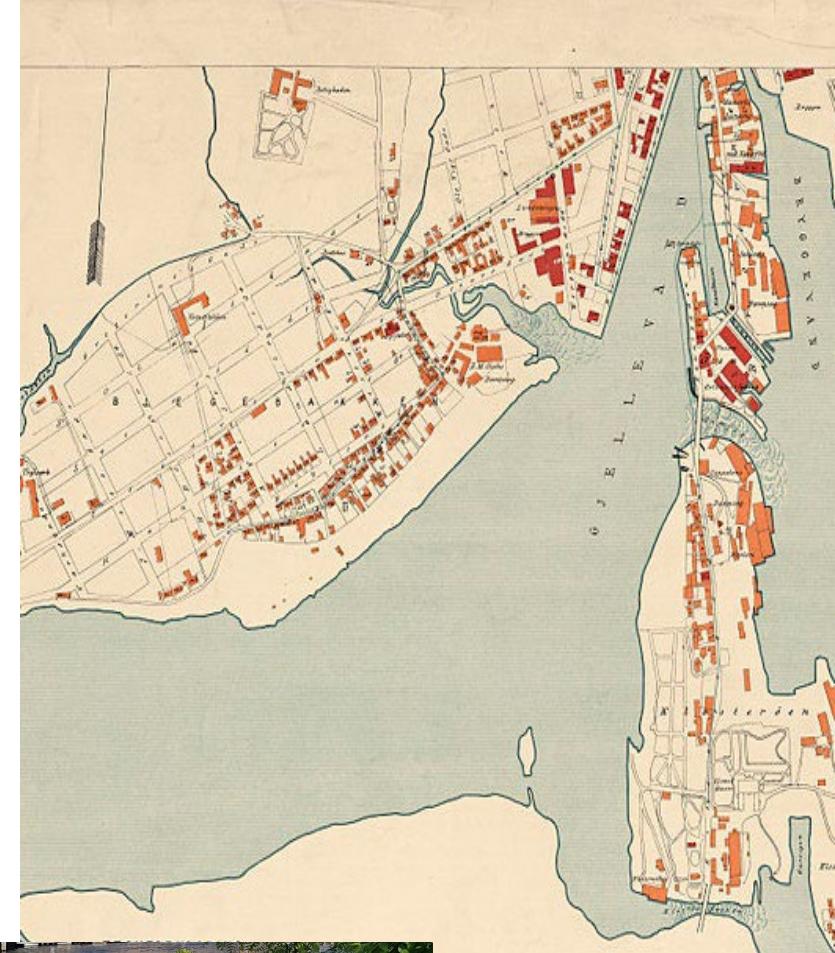
# Background

- Reduced fish populations in Europe due to fragmentation (Baletti et al. 2020).
- Norwegian laws aim to map artificial barriers and improve connectivity (DV 2018).
- Additionally many fish passages at natural barriers to increase habitat for anadromous fishes (Fjeldstad 2012).



# Background

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# Miljødirektoratets database

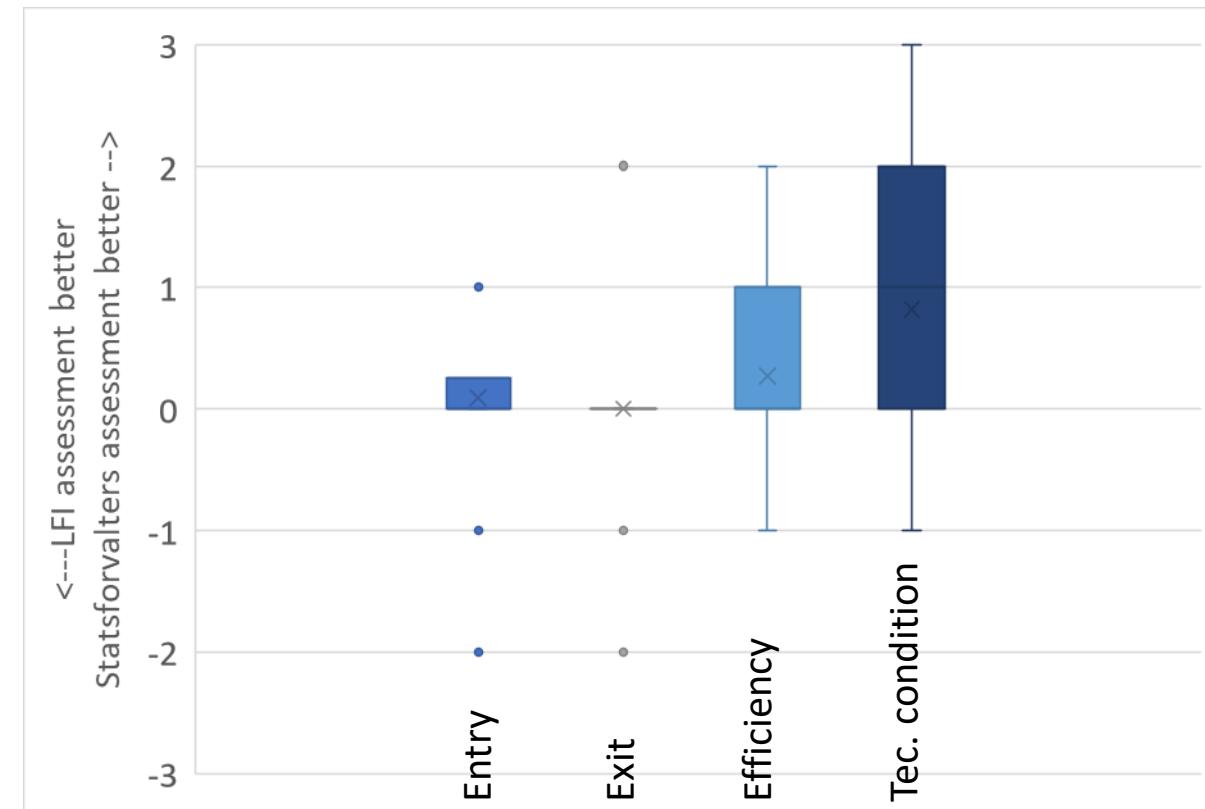
- Miljødirektoratet (2011): 536 fish passages,
  - Statsforvalterne: updated in 2020  
  - Different types, 433 analyzed



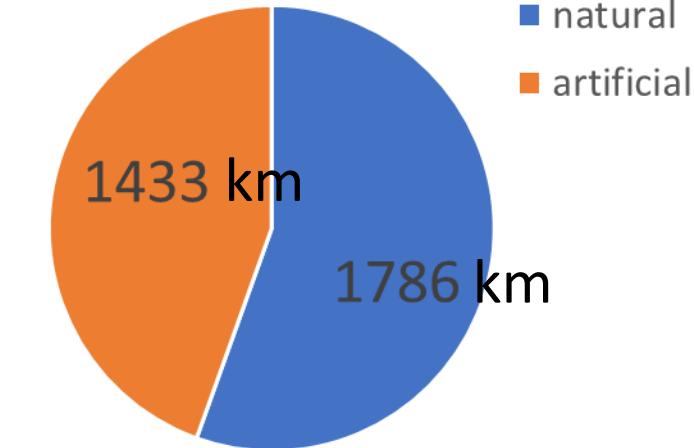
# Assessment differences

- 22 passages physical assessed
- Differences:
- Weir height/Energy dissipation
- Concrete condition / building structure

Safe downstream passage	Stats - forvaltere	LFI
yes	12	12
no	6	5
NA	4	5



# 3471 km river reopened/opened

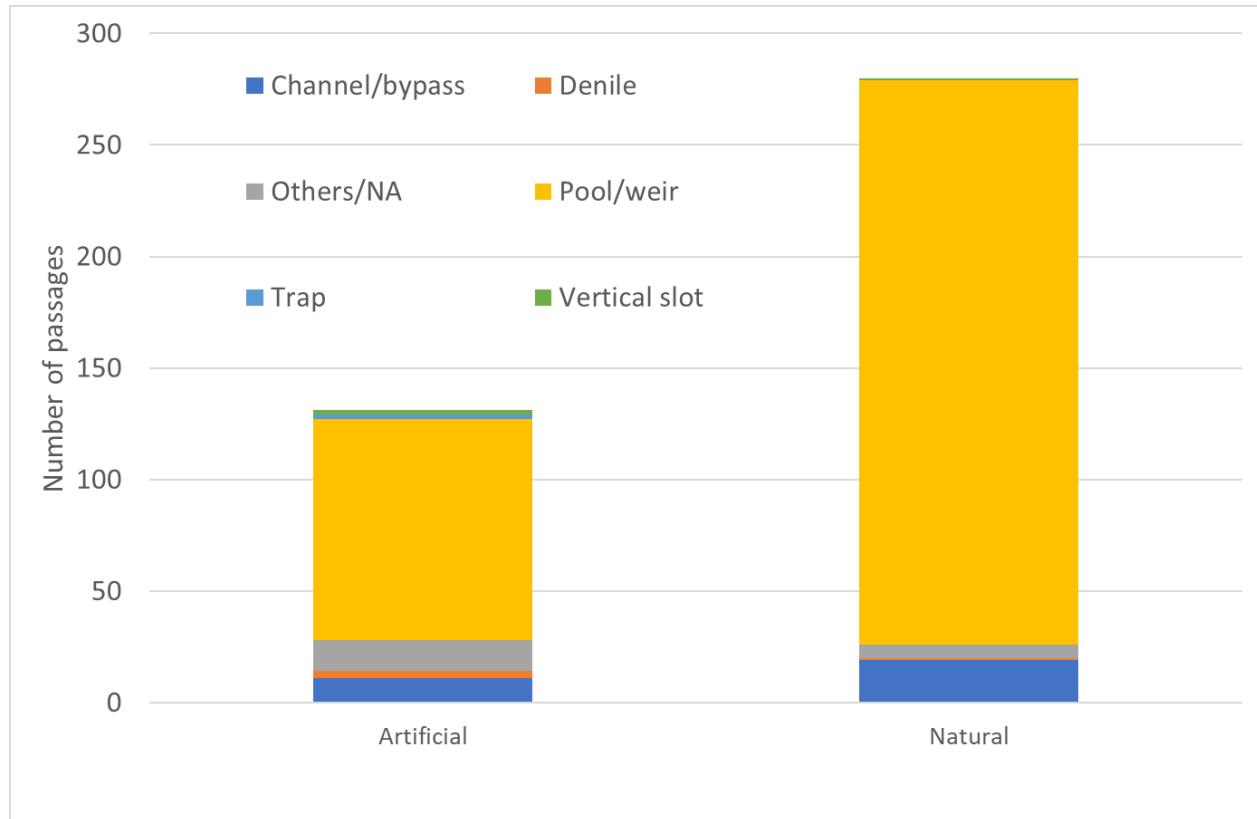


- An average passage opens:
- Artificial barrier: 11 km
- Natural barrier: 6 km

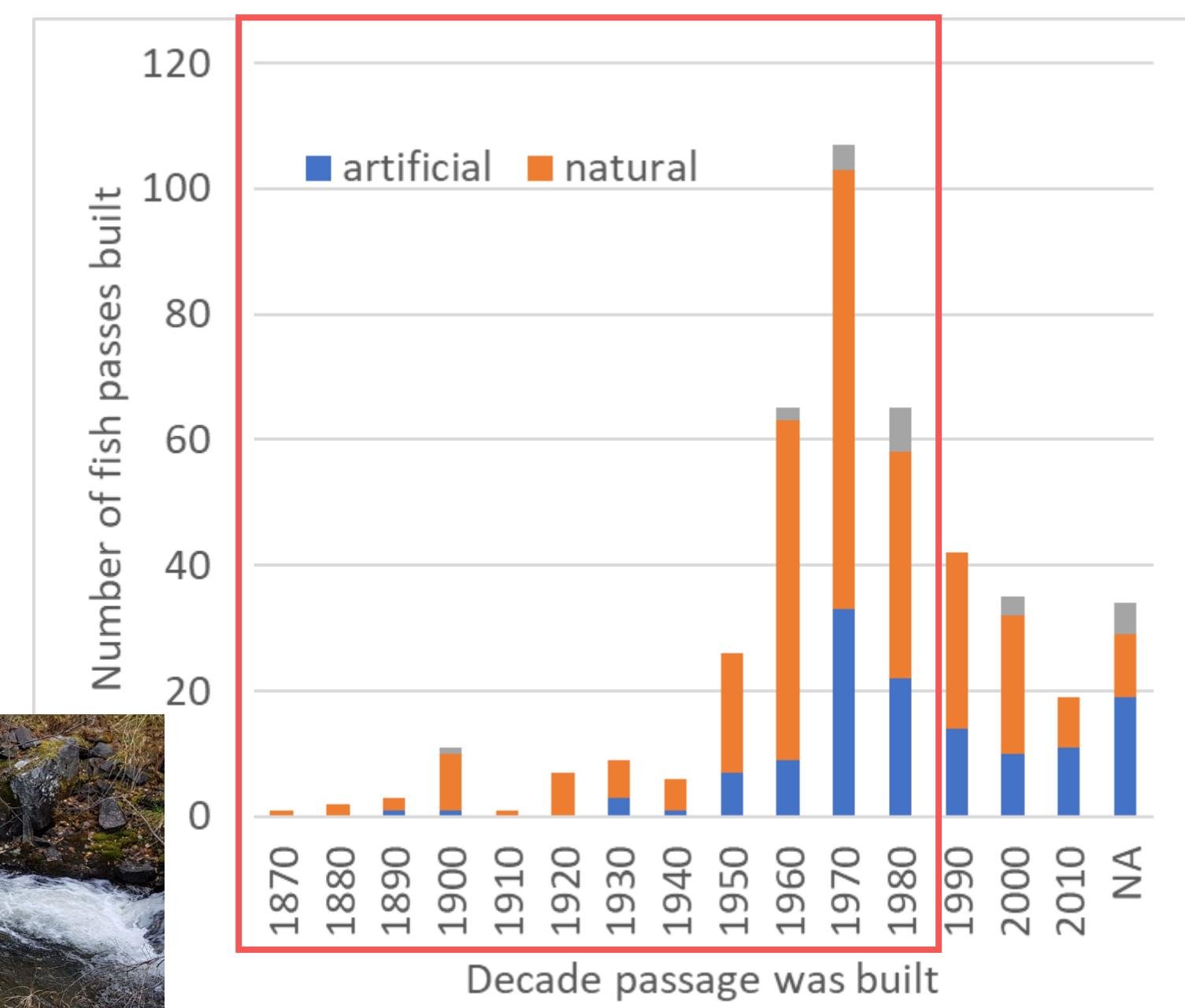
# Passage types

- Pool – weir pass:
  - 76 % past artificial barriers
  - 90 % past natural barriers
- 
- Height difference:

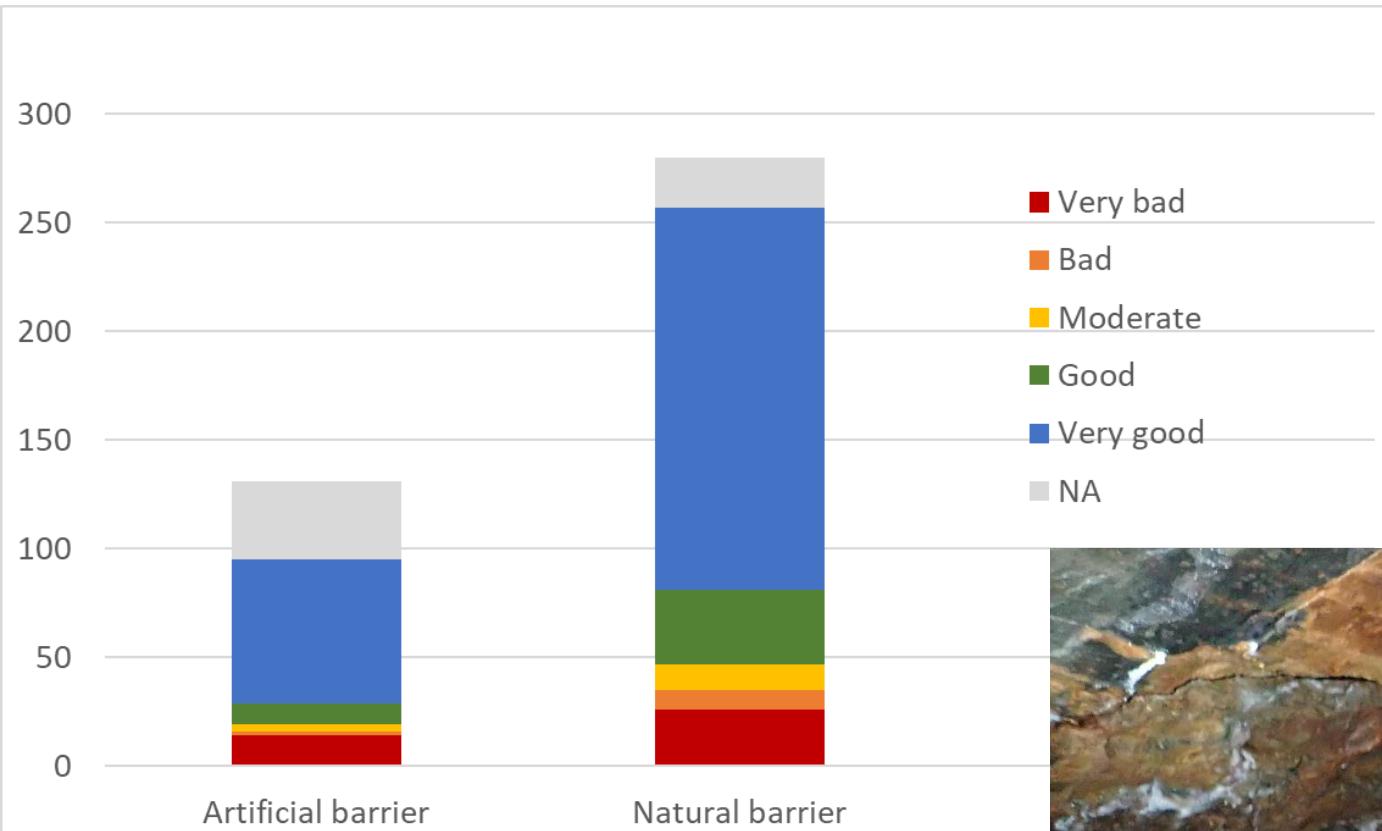
Height difference	Artificial	Natural
<= 50 cm	50%	62%
> 50 cm	9%	15%
NA	41%	24%



Decade built...



# Technical condition



bad or very bad:  
16 passages past artificial barriers  
35 past natural barriers



# Maintenance – artificial barriers

- 16 passages (4 %)
  - Elevation difference of 74 m
  - 750.000 NOK / m altitude for rebuilding<sup>1</sup>
  - 100.000 NOK / m altitude for maintenance
- 
- 56 Million NOK for rebuilding
  - 15 Million NOK for maintenance



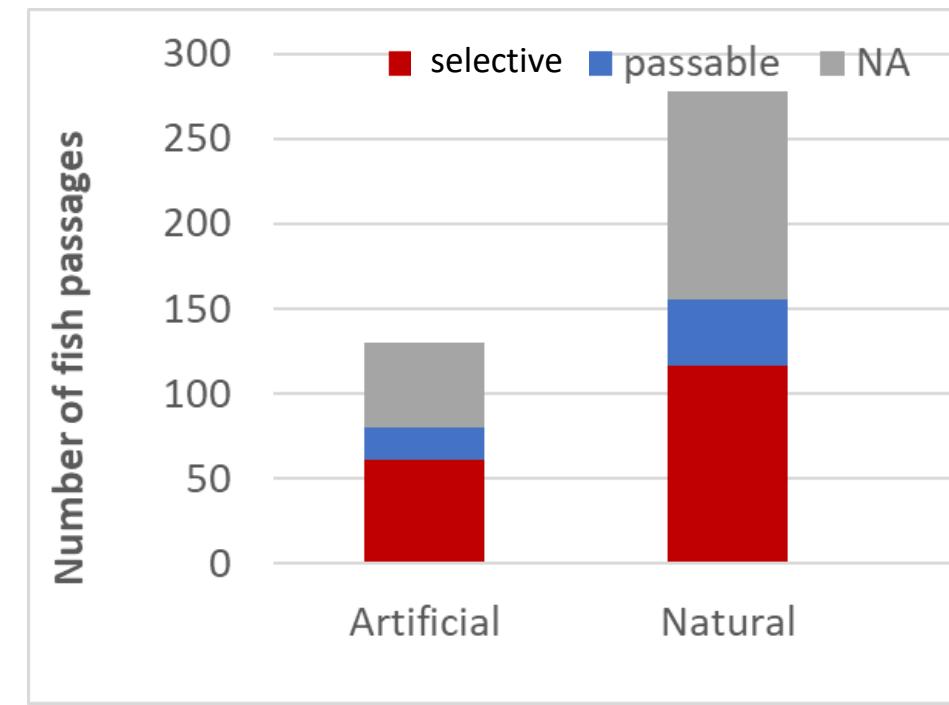
<sup>1</sup> Pulg et al. 2020. Effektivitet og kost-nytte forhold av fysiske miljøtiltak i vassdrag, inflasjonsjustert for 2022

# Passable for target species?

- Species-or size selective<sup>1</sup> for at least 1 local species
- 47 % past artificial, 15 % passable
- 42 % past natural barriers

- Eel, Lamprey, inland fish
- Juvenile salmon, trout

• <sup>1</sup>Fjeldstad et al. 2018

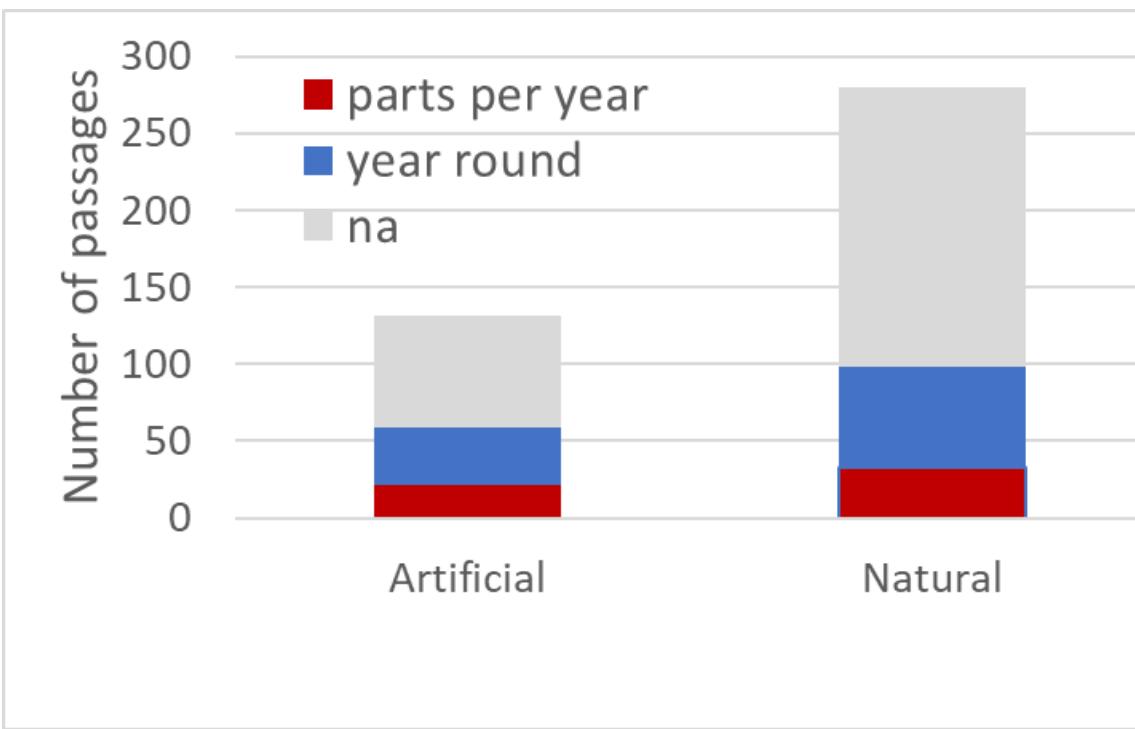


Høyegga



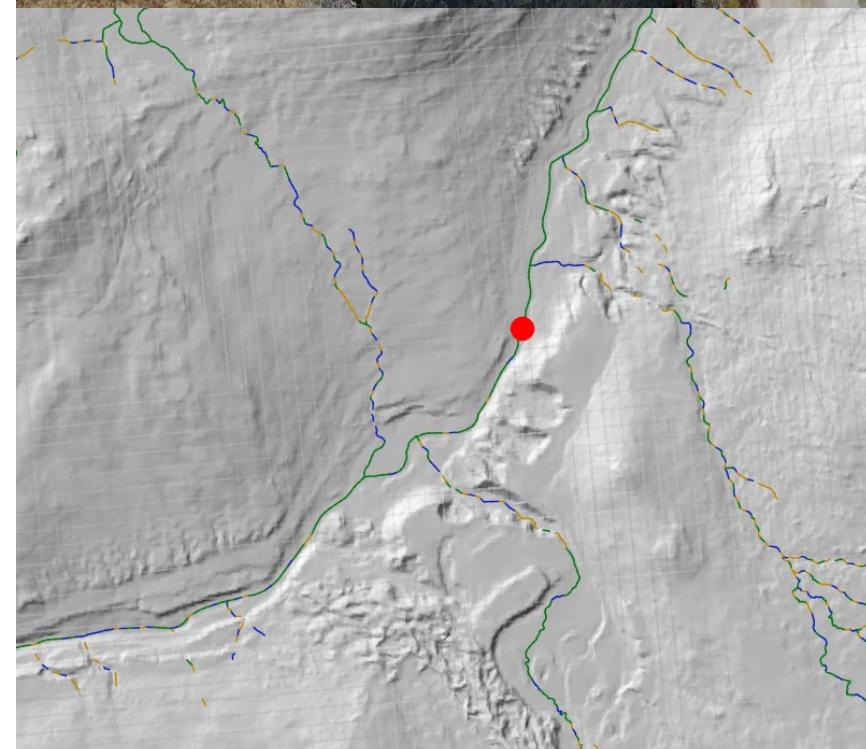
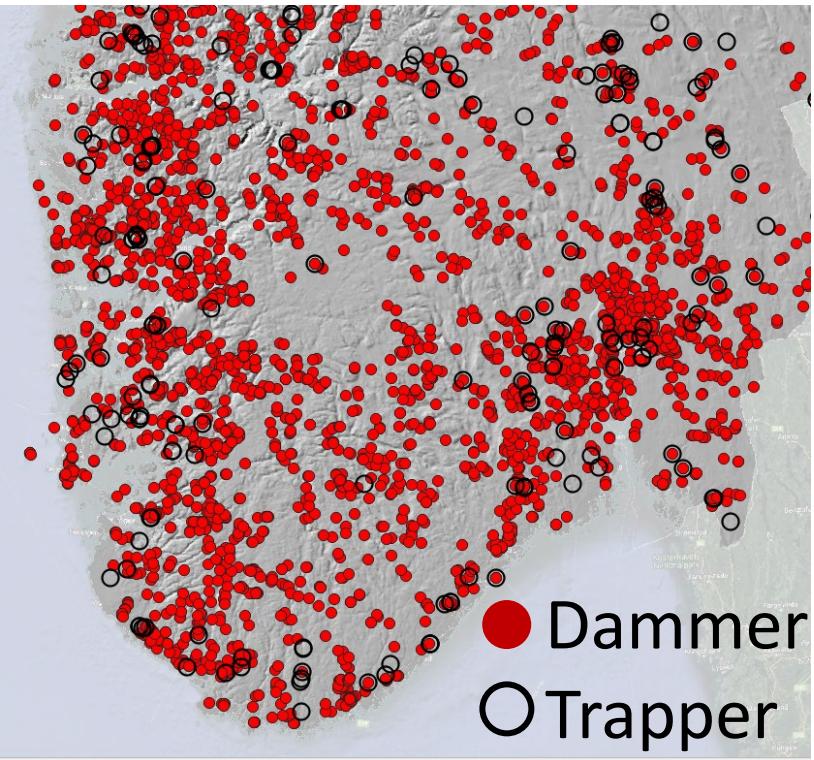
# Year round operation?

- Only opened during salmon spawning migration:
- 16 % of artificial barriers (54 % unknown)
- 12 % of natural barriers (65 % unknown)



# Artificial barriers without upstream passage?

- >4000 dams, additionally: weirs, sills
- ~500 fish passages



NAH...

NORCE

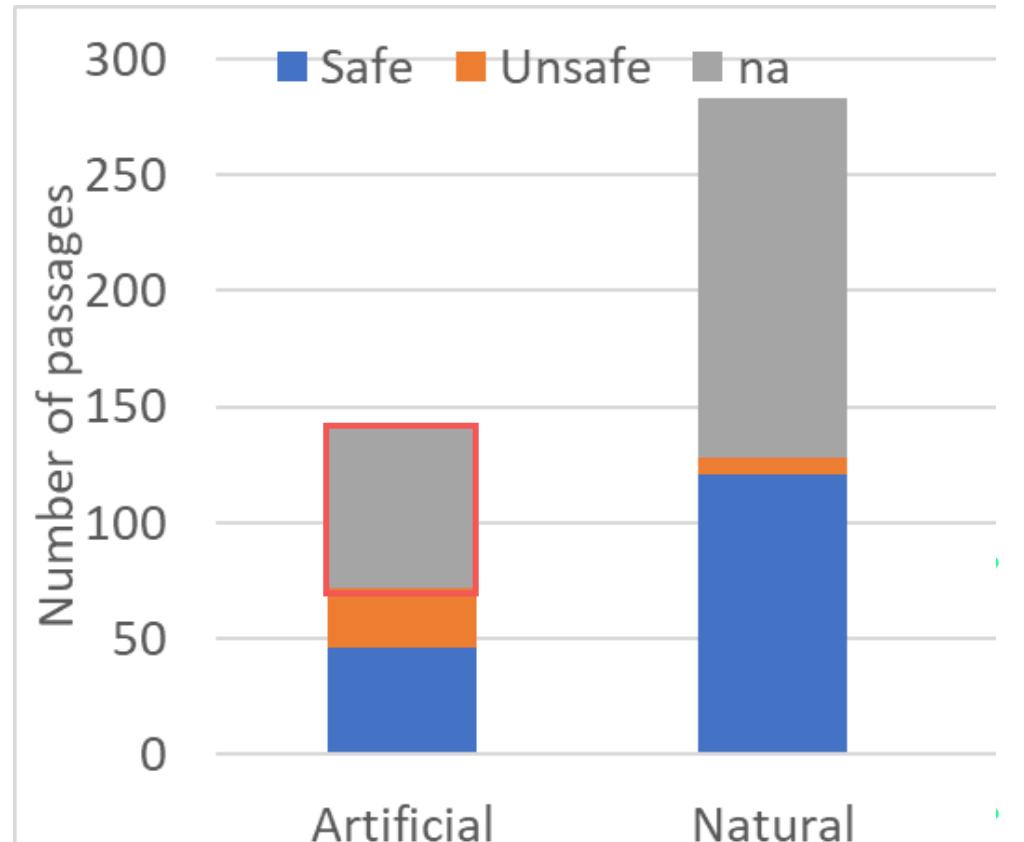


# Unsafe Downstream passage

- Artificial barriers: 19 % (25), 47 % unknown
- Natural barriers: 3 % (7), 54 % unknown



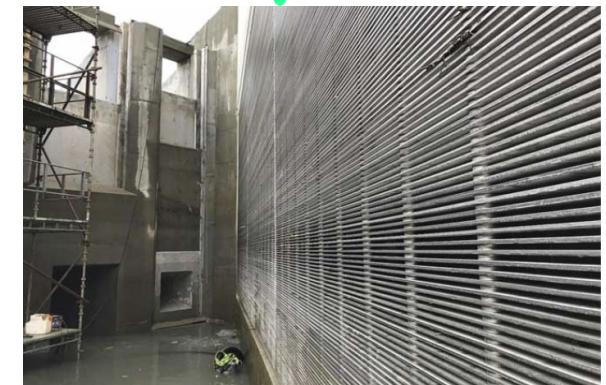
Bilde:  
F. Kroglund



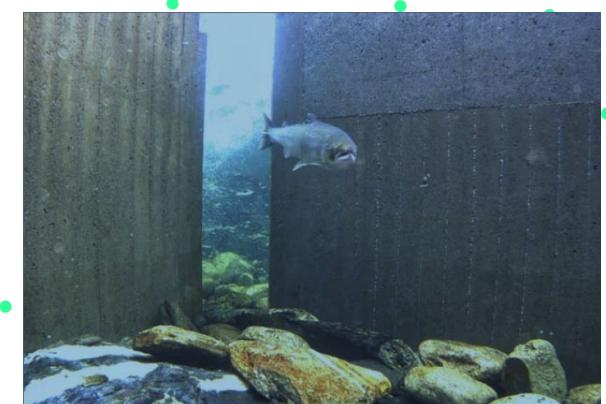
# Good practice



Vertical slot pass



12 mm B-screen ( $74 \text{ m}^2$ )



Mohn-fish counter

- Palmafoss  $30 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$
- Eel, trout, salmon
- Fish passage  $0.8\text{-}4 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$
- Bypass  $2.7 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$
- B-screen 12 mm
- Power company: Voss Energi
- Concept: NINA, SINTEF, Multiconsult, NORCE LFI

# Good practice

- Tolga 60 m<sup>3</sup>/s
  - Salmonids, inland fish
  - Fish passage 5 m<sup>3</sup>/s
  - Bypass 4 m<sup>3</sup>/s
  - alpha-screen 15 mm
- 
- Power company: Hafslund ECO
  - Concept: Norconsult, NINA



Double vertical slot pass. Picture: Norconsult



Alpha screen, 15 mm, 120 m<sup>2</sup> Picture: Norconsult

# Takeaways

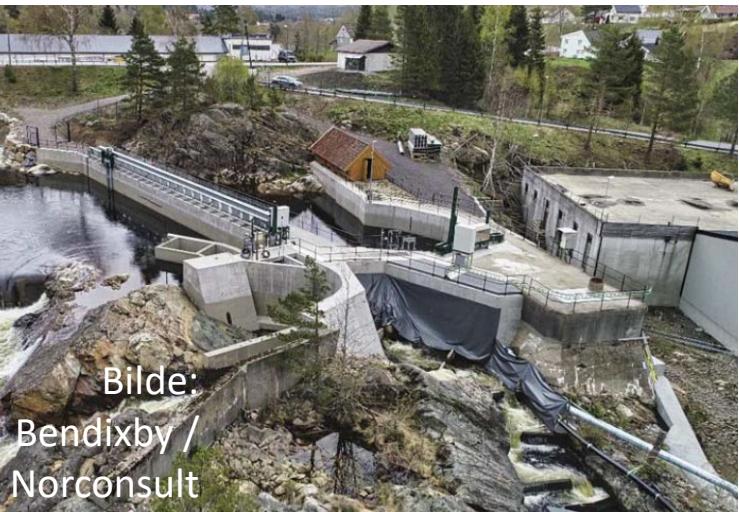
- Need for better overview over artificial barriers (incl. sills)
- Up- and downstream
- Need for refurbishments, sometimes easy solutions possible
- Awareness rising: year-round operation, whole fish community



# TAKK!



- **Miljødirektoratet** for cooperation
- **Statsforvalterne** for data
- **FishPATH** for research funding



Bilde:  
Bendixby /  
Norconsult



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