

Additional information

Summary description:

Populations of 15 species of fish are present in Tyrifjorden, including trout *Salmo trutta*. Karlsrudtangen and the lower reaches of the Sokna river are important as spawning grounds for smelt and pike *Esox lucius*.

A number of rare and red-listed species of plants, fungi (associated with woodland), mosses, charophytes and amphibia have been recorded within the five nature reserves. There are especially many nationally and regionally threatened plant species in the calcareous mires in Lamyra nature reserve. In addition several threatened vegetation types exist within the protected areas, such as rich areas of freshwater shore vegetation and aquatic vegetation.

Physical features of the catchment area:

Tyrifjorden is Norway's 5th largest lake and Storelva, which is among the largest rivers in southern Norway, has a watershed of around 8000 km², whereas Sokna has a catchment area of 640 km². The watersheds encompass everything from the farming communities in Sokna, Ådalen and Valdres to the wooded hillsides and mountains with several glaciers in Jotunheimen, within the counties of Buskerud, Oppland and Sogn og Fjordane. Most of the watershed consists of areas of basement rock, although there are large areas with a richer bedrock, e.g. the Cambrosilurian areas along Storelva, Randselva, the west side of Randsfjorden and large parts of the Valdres valley and upper reaches of the Dokka-/Etna watercourse, as well as areas of basic plutonic rocks in Jotunheimen. Moraine material which may be considerably thick covers most of the watershed, whereas in the valleys there are considerable glacial and alluvial deposits, especially in the lower parts of Begnadalen, in Ådalen and below Hønefoss.

The watershed stretches from the boreonemoral zone to the high alpine zone. Most of the area is coniferous forest, although there are large areas of mountain birch woodland, marshes and bare mountains in the north. There are large agricultural areas along Storelva, Randselva, the lower reaches of Etna and Dokka and along Begna in Valdres. There are also small towns (Hønefoss) and other dwellings. The climate within the watershed varies from slightly continental by Tyrifjorden to slightly oceanic in the west – with considerably higher annual precipitation and colder summers than lower down in the watercourse.

Ecosystem services:

The area is regionally important for recreational purposes for both swimming, fishing and birdwatching. The southern part of Averøya nature reserve is close to a camp site, and is subject to illegal boating and camping. Such a management problem results in disturbance to both breeding and resting birds in the area.

University of Oslo formerly used Averøya as a study site, and operated a bird observatory during the 1970's and 1980's wherein information was gathered on migration (through ringing) and on breeding birds.

The reserves are much used for bathing and fishing, whilst hunting is not permitted. Some water is extracted for irrigation of farmland from Juveren and Synneren. The meadows beside freshwater at Karlsrudtangen were formerly grazed by cattle, and grazing has recommenced as part of the local management plan. Averøya nature reserve is also grazed, although this is not recommended in the management plan. Livestock have been allowed to graze at Lamyra to reduce overgrowing of mire and bog areas.

The Hole and Ringerike branch of the Norwegian Ornithological Society (NOF) carry out annual monitoring of breeding and wintering waterbirds in Nordre Tyrifjorden, as well as recording of passage movements of pink-footed geese and great cormorants. Averøya Field Station is no longer in active use.

The area is a popular for birdwatching, and each spring local ornithologists organise an annual trip for members of the general public. The southern part of Averøya nature reserve (Sandtangen) is used for bathing/sunbathing by guests from the nearby Onsakervika Camping and from day visitors who come by boat. Some hobby fishing from boats takes place in Nordfjorden and in the oxbow lakes. See also RIS for individual sub-sites.

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