

Catfish are back in the River Helge å

Survey fishing shows that releases have been successful



The European catfish (*Silurus glanis*) was a common fish in the River Helge å in the past. The species disappeared in the 1960s due to pollution. The water quality has now improved, and European catfish were released into the river in 1999, 2011 and 2012.

The European catfish is a selected species in the national work to conserve threatened species. The Vattenriket Biosphere Office has carried out survey fishing over the past four years to find out how many European catfish there are at present.

This survey fishing indicates that the European catfish has once again become established in the Lower River Helge å. However, genetic analyses indicate that only a few catfish have spawned. Therefore, it is important to follow-up the development of the population.

Other species of fish were also caught in the survey fishing for European catfish. Thus, the monitoring of European catfish has also resulted in knowledge being acquired concerning other species. This knowledge can be used as a basis for measures for other species.