Hiitolanjoki Dam Removals — Three Hydropower Dams Taken Down to Reopen Spawning Rapids for Ladoga Landlocked Salmon (Finland)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Finland

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

A recreation-area foundation bought and removed three century-old hydropower dams on the Hiitolanjoki (2021-2023). Salmon nests appeared within weeks, and ELY Centre electrofishing found record juvenile densities of 200-400 per 100 m² at Kangaskoski by 2025.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	2/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	1/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-11-21

Etelä-Karjalan virkistysaluesäätiö (South Karelia Recreation Area Foundation) — accessed 2026-11-21

Dam Removal Europe — Ritakoski dam, River Hiitolanjoki — accessed 2026-11-21

Dam Removal Europe — Kangaskoski, first step towards a free-flowing Hiitolanjoki — accessed 2026-11-21

The Ecologist — Wild landlocked salmon return to Finland (2025) — accessed 2026-11-21

UPM — Support for dismantling the third dam on the Hiitolanjoki — accessed 2026-11-21

Cite this — Evidoria. *Hiitolanjoki Dam Removals — Three Hydropower Dams Taken Down to Reopen Spawning Rapids for Ladoga Landlocked Salmon (Finland)*. Persistent ID: a4b17a07-56d2-4b63-8e70-87476802f17f.