Sélune Dam Removals — Europe's Largest Dam Demolition, Followed by a 15-Year INRAE Monitoring Programme (Normandy, France)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · France

Quality score: 47/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

France removed the 36 m Vezins dam (2019-2020) and the 16 m La Roche-Qui-Boit dam (2022-2023) on the Sélune. INRAE monitoring found 87 eels and many lamprey nests above the old dams in 2023, plus salmon juveniles, and the river was about 2°C cooler in summer.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	3/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	2/3
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

French State (Préfecture de la Manche) with EDF; monitoring by INRAE Programme scientifique Sélune — accessed 2026-11-21

INRAE — Programme scientifique Sélune press kit — accessed 2026-11-21

Water News Europe — Sélune river revival after dam removal — accessed 2026-11-21

Office français de la biodiversité — Quand les rivières reprennent leur cours — accessed 2026-11-21

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