

IP(09)12

***Protection, Restoration and Enhancement of Salmon Habitat
Focus Area Report***

EU-Denmark

Focus Area Report on Protection, Restoration and Enhancement of Salmon Habitat Denmark

Each Party or Jurisdiction will prepare a Focus Area Report by December 31, 2008, to provide an in-depth assessment of progress made and/or planned to address the elements identified within the Plan of Action. The proposed structure and contents of the Focus Area Report are as follows:

1. Introduction: Provide an overview of salmon rivers within the jurisdiction, with a map.

See map.

2. Describe the current status of salmon habitat and specify, to the extent possible, the quantity and quality of salmon habitat (historic and current).

The salmon habitats in Denmark are all influenced by human activities. In the Guden Å salmon disappeared in the 1920'ies because of a hydro power station. The present license runs to year 2012 and the Parliament shall decide either to close the power station and reestablish the river (i.e. removing the dam) or reduce the power station and build a bypass around the dam. A new salmon stock shall then be reestablished using offspring from river Stor Å.

In the rest of the rivers the problems are weirs, fish farms, power stations, straightening of spawning areas, sand transport, acid water and iron (ochre). In the Stor Å, Skjern Å, Varde Å and Ribe Å there are still original wild salmon; in the other four rivers sporadic spawning takes place as an effect from stockings.

3. Describe the process for identifying and designating priority/key habitat areas or issues to be addressed.

The Stor Å, Skjern Å, Varde Å and Ribe Å are part of the National Salmon Rehabilitation Plan and the other four rivers kept under observation.

4. Describe the activities and approaches used to share and exchange information on habitat issues, and best management practices, between relevant bodies within the jurisdiction.

River restoration projects are made by the local water authorities in corporation with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and fish management in corporation with the Ministry of Fisheries which gets scientific advice from the Danish Technical University; and the national Salmon Rehabilitation Plan is a corporation between the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Fisheries and the Danish Technical University. The EU Life project (The houting project) which runs from 2006 – 09 opens up for many spawning areas by removing weirs and closing fish farms.

5. Description of Plans: Describe work undertaken and/or planned to establish comprehensive salmon habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement plans, and the extent to which these plans:

- a. Identify impacts and potential risks to the productive capacity;

None

- b. Include procedures for implementation, in a timely fashion, of corrective measures;

N/A

- c. Place the burden of proof on proponents of an activity which may have an impact on habitat;

N/A

- d. Address how the risks and the benefits to the Atlantic salmon stocks are weighed with the socio-economic implications of any given project;

N/A

- e. Consider the effects of habitat activities on biodiversity in the area affected

N/A

- f. Take into account other biological factors affecting the productive capacity of Atlantic salmon populations.

N/A

- 6. Overview of Ongoing Habitat Activities: Summarize ongoing or planned habitat work to demonstrate progress in implementing the salmon habitat protection, restoration and enhancement plans identified above in item 5. Where possible, quantify the extent to which habitat has been restored or enhanced, or describe other criteria used to evaluate progress.

The following maps show the nine original Atlantic salmon rivers in Denmark, all situated in Jutland. Only river stretches relevant to salmon are shown.

The Guden Å has no original salmon left because of a hydro power station about 40 km from the outlet to the estuary; but smolts (100,000) are stocked every year.

All the other eight salmon rivers go to the North Sea, and in the Stor Å, Skjern Å, Varde Å and Ribe Å there are still original wild salmon; in the other four rivers sporadic spawning takes place as an effect from stockings.

The Stor Å, Skjern Å, Varde Å and Ribe Å are part of the National Salmon Rehabilitation Plan.

For each river there are two boxes: one shows the present passage condition; and the other shows present and potential spawning areas.

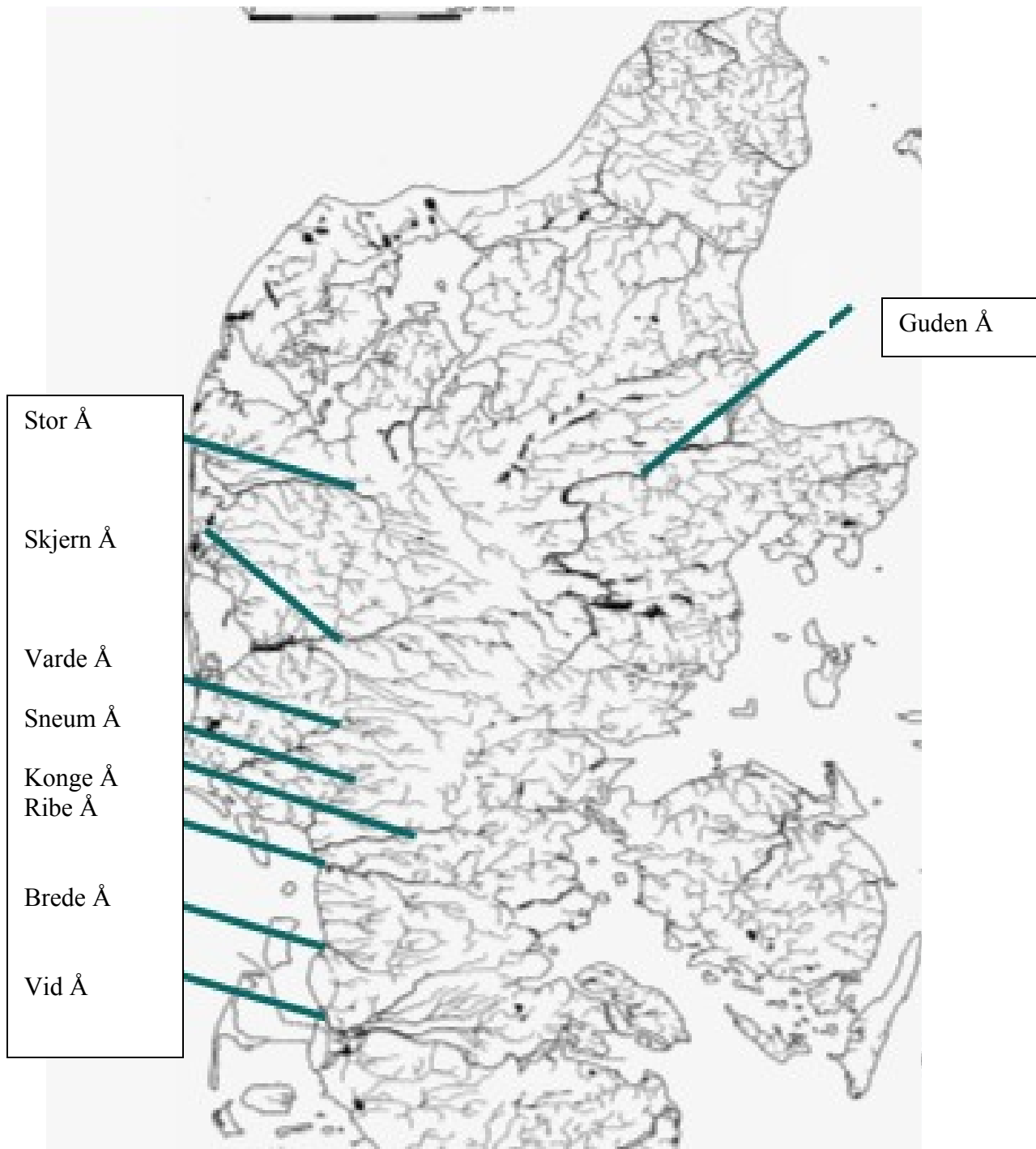


Fig 1. The nine original Atlantic salmon rivers in Denmark.

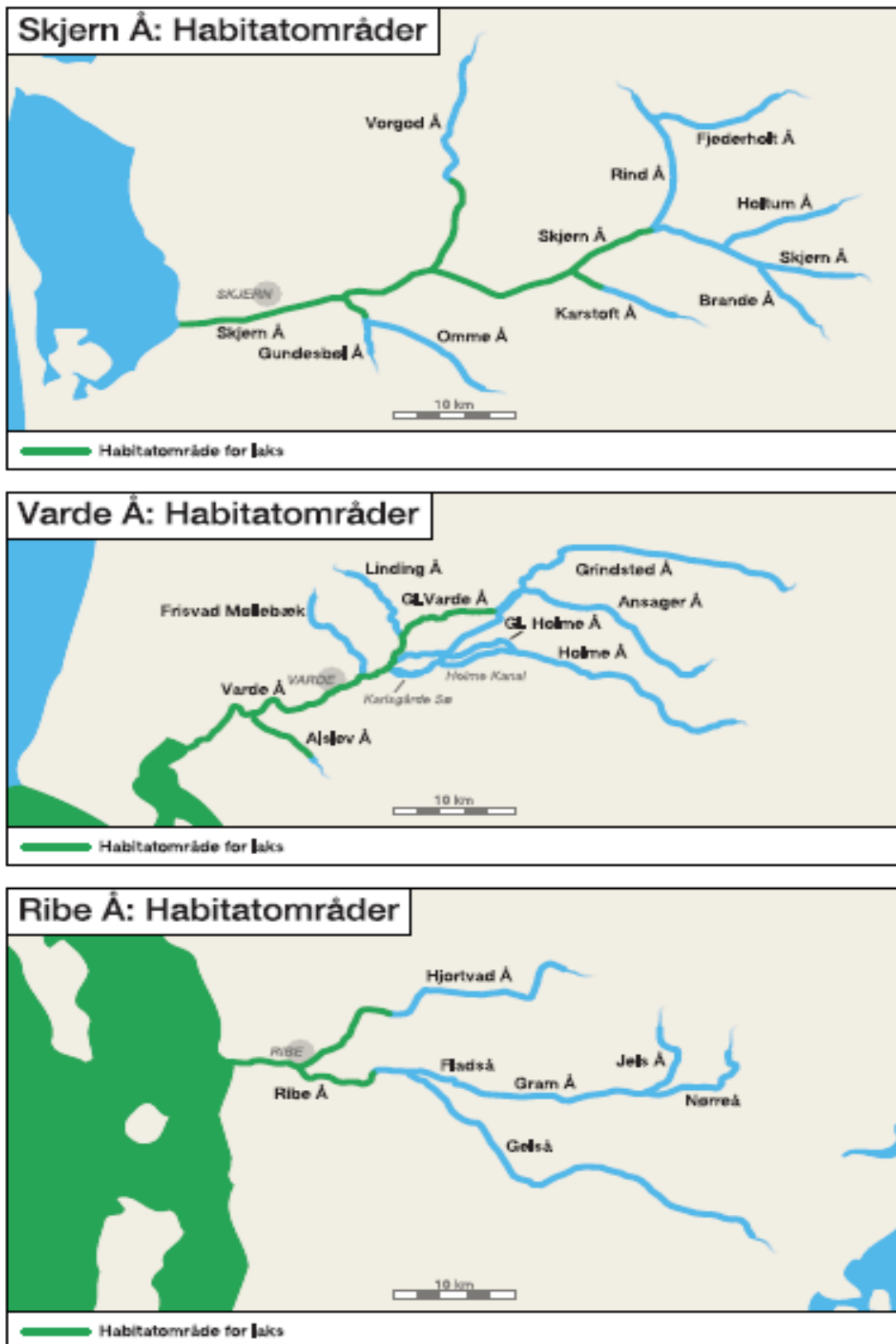


Fig 2. EU approved habitat areas for salmon in Denmark.

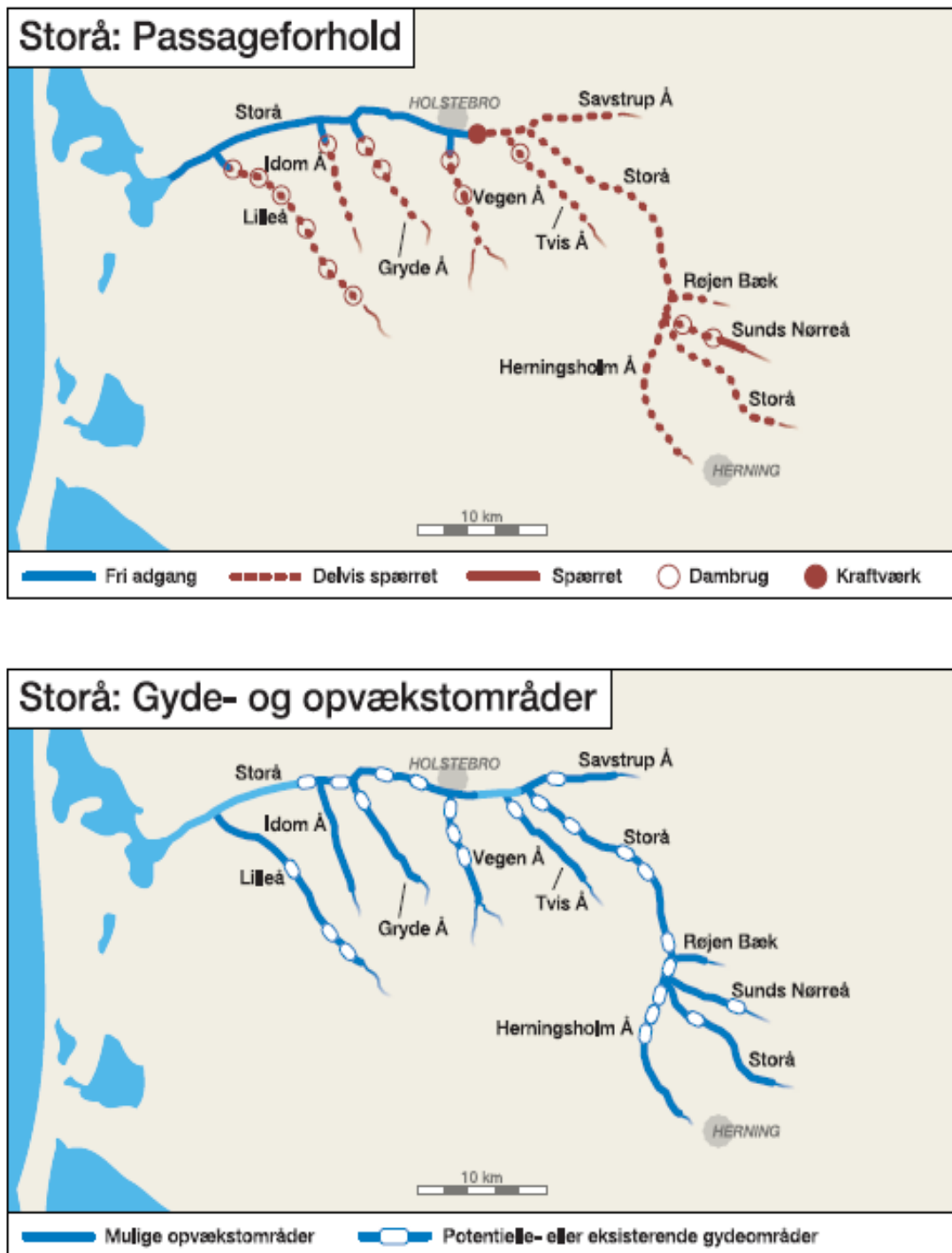


Fig 3.

Present passage condition (box one); blue line: free access; dotted red: partly access, red line: no access, open circle: fish farm and red circle: hydro power station.

Spawning and growth up areas (box two); dark blue line: possible spawning areas; dotted blue line: potential and existing spawning areas.



Fig 4.

Present passage condition (box one); blue line: free access; dotted red: partly access, red line: no access, open circle: fish farm and red circle: hydro power station.

Spawning and growth up areas (box two); dark blue line: possible spawning areas; dotted blue line: potential and existing spawning areas; red star: registered salmon fry.

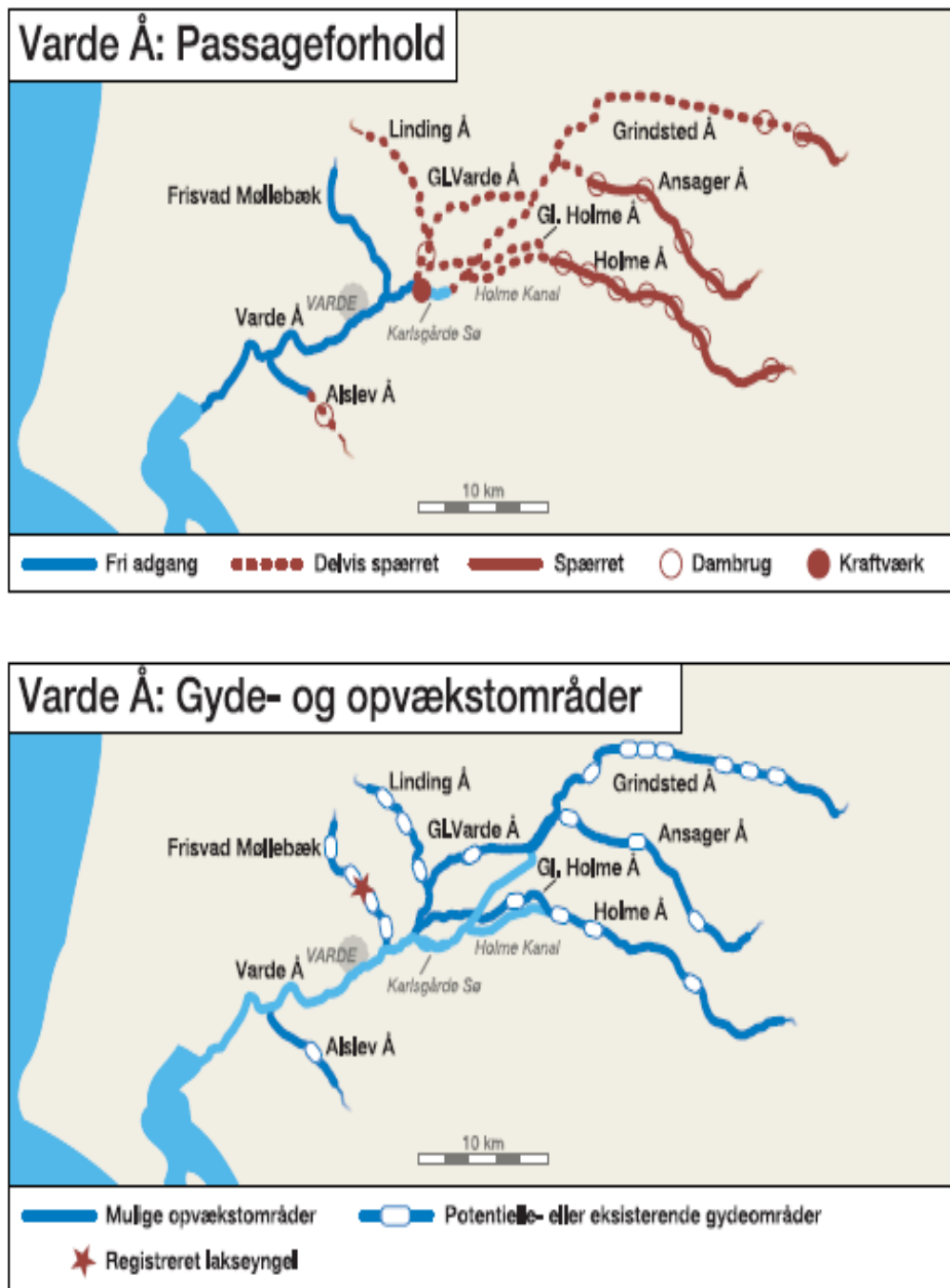


Fig 5.

Present passage condition (box one); blue line: free access; dotted red: partly access, red line: no access, open circle: fish farm and red circle: hydro power station.

Spawning and growth up areas (box two); dark blue line: possible spawning areas; dotted blue line: potential and existing spawning areas; red star: registered salmon fry.



Fig 6.

Present passage condition (box one); blue line: free access; dotted red: partly access, red line: no access, open circle: fish farm and red circle: hydro power station.

Spawning and growth up areas (box two); dark blue line: possible spawning areas; dotted blue line: potential and existing spawning areas.

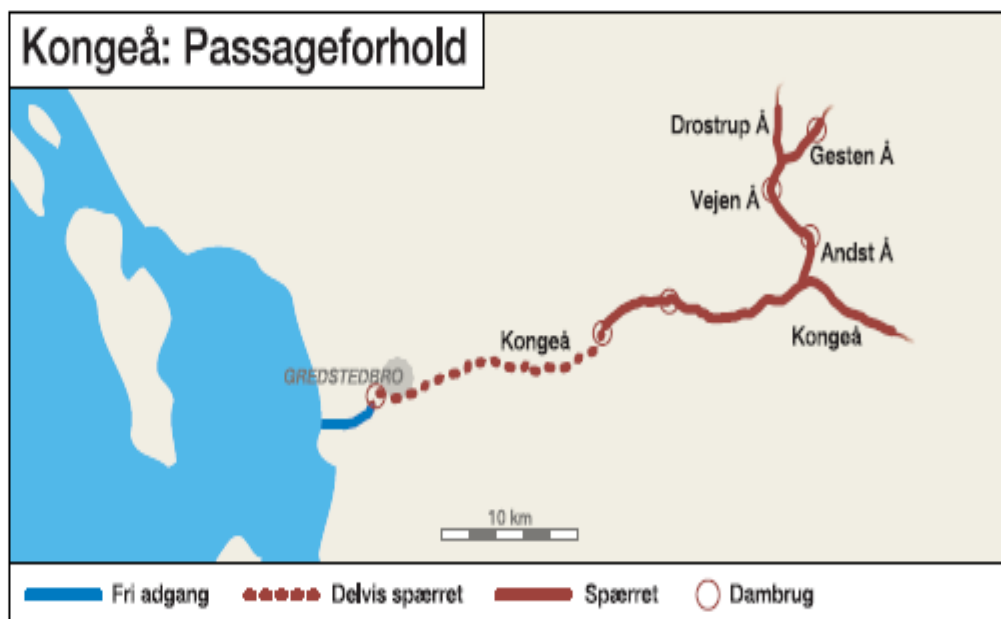


Fig 7.

Present passage condition (box one); blue line: free access; dotted red: partly access, red line: no access, open circle: fish farm and red circle: hydro power station.

Spawning and growth up areas (box two); dark blue line: possible spawning areas; dotted blue line: potential and existing spawning areas.

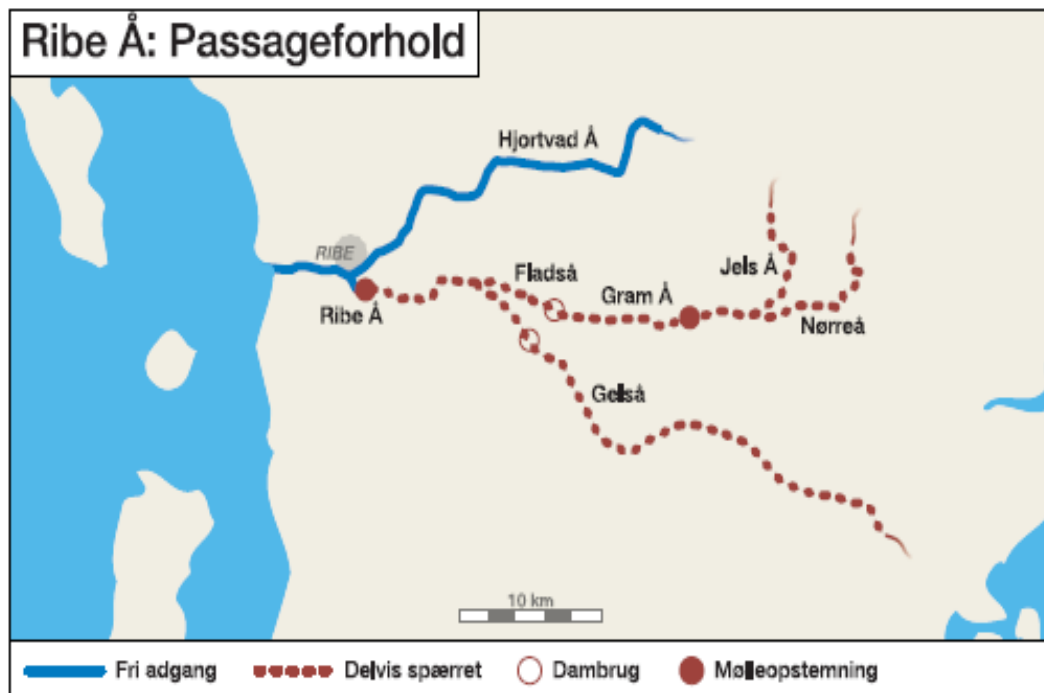


Fig 8.

Present passage condition (box one); blue line: free access; dotted red: partly access, red line: no access, open circle: fish farm and red circle: hydro power station.

Spawning and growth up areas (box two); dark blue line: possible spawning areas; dotted blue line: potential and existing spawning areas; red star: registered salmon fry.

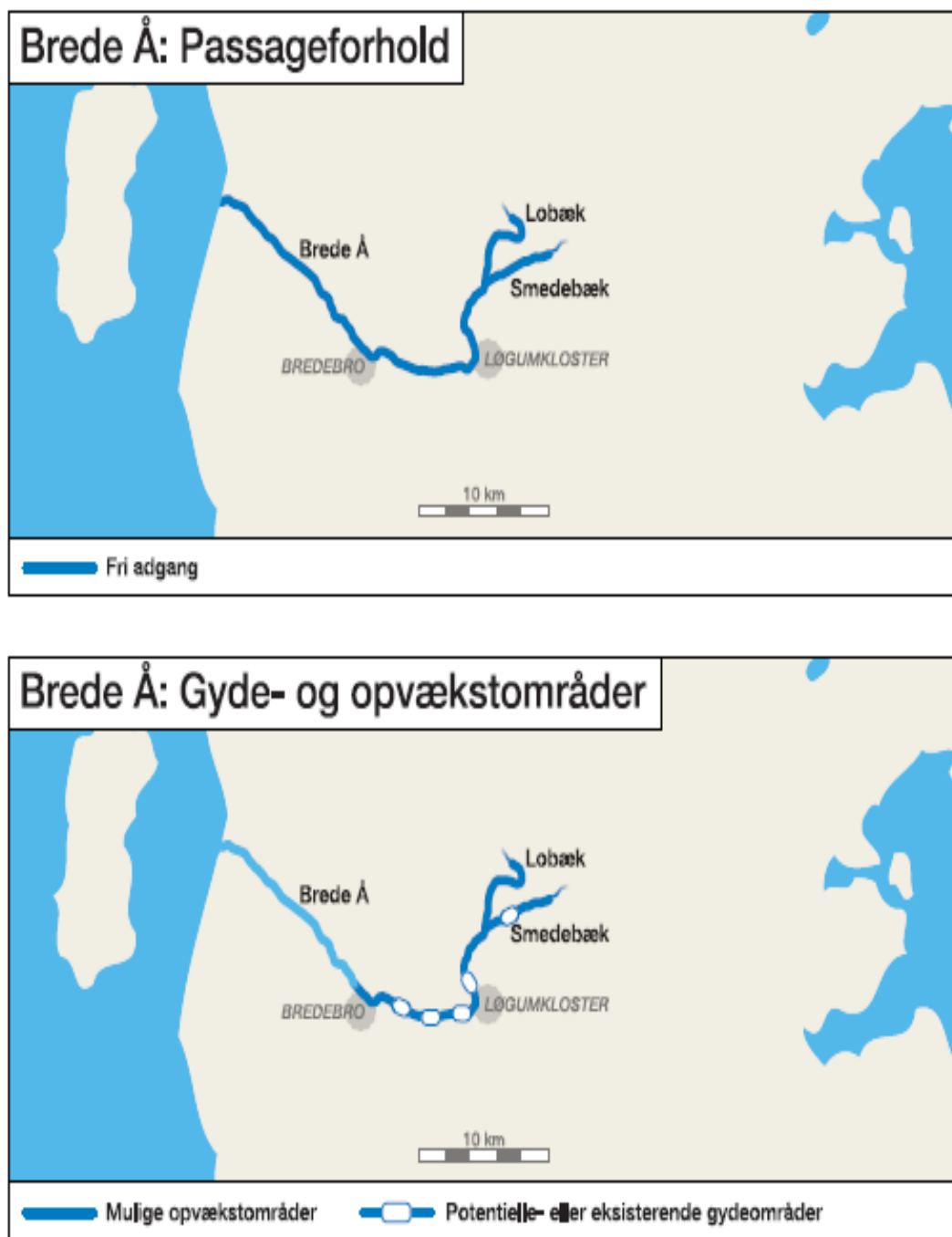


Fig 9.

Present passage condition (box one); blue line: free access; dotted red: partly access, red line: no access, open circle: fish farm and red circle: hydro power station.

Spawning and growth up areas (box two); dark blue line: possible spawning areas; dotted blue line: potential and existing spawning areas.



Fig 10.

Present passage condition (box one); blue line: free access; dotted red: partly access, red line: no access, open circle: fish farm and red circle: hydro power station.

Spawning and growth up areas (box two); dark blue line: possible spawning areas; dotted blue line: potential and existing spawning areas.

