

Shitara Dam destroys the Toyo River and nature

Shitara dam has been planned to be constructed in the upstream of the Toyo River, a limpid stream famous for ayu and trout fishing. The nature of limpid streams is upwelling from forests and running through mountains and valleys continuously. Dammed streams could turn into muggy water. A smelly dam could cause death to creatures living in limpid streams. It is critical to keep the ecosystem by sweeping away gravel with swollen water. A dam, however, impounds gravel.

In the streams sinking in the dam, there are nekogigi or stumpy bagrid catfish, one of endangered and protected species which can live only in the rivers around Ise/Mikawa Bay. The Toyo River is the largest habitat of nekogigi in Aichi prefecture. Nekogigi cannot live in a dam with muggy water. Moreover, its habitat may be disrupted by little flow of the downstream where the provision of gravel is cut. One of the limpid streams could turn into a drain with muggy water coming from the dam.



(Nekogigi, nocturnally indigenous species)

The upper stream of the Toyo River is a botanical treasure house!

The area to be sunk is inhabited by nekogigi along with species including dragonflies, fireflies, dojo loaches, rhacophorus frogs, and dormice. It also covers territories of Mountain-Hawk eagles, one of the large raptor species. Moreover, the area is inhabited by creatures which can live only in streams with rich nature such as mandarin ducks, water kingfishers, ruddy kingfishers, river kingfishers, brown dippers, and water shrews, also by animals which serve as prey for Mountain-Hawk eagles including copper pheasants, hares, and raccoon dogs. Some raptor species set as a reference index of the ecosystem including oriental honey buzzards, grey-faced buzzards, Northern Goshawks, and sparrow hawks also live in this area. It is our responsibility to keep the nature of the Toyo River which rich nature has been maintained without major river works. The state has spent a lot of money on environmental research without demonstrating effective measures.

設案ダムの建設中止を求める会 Against Shitara Dam Construction



(Above: Mandarin ducks, Below: Mountain-Hawk eagle)

Dam kills Mikawa Bay's ecosystem!

Seagrass beds can be created in the shallow sea bottom where sufficient sunlight gets into and algae grow actively. Eelgrass and algae can serve as prey for fish/shellfish, and ultimately grow waterfowls and larger animals.

This precious shallow sea bottom has been destroyed by landfill constructions to make dying Mikawa Bay polluted. Impoundment by the dam decreases the level of fresh water coming from the mouth of the Toyo River to Mikawa bay and weakens the estuary circulation which is one of the characteristics of inner bays. As a result, biological productivity in intertidal flats and seagrass beds has been weakened and thus fish/shellfish productivity has been broken down. Mikawa Bay could get more polluted due to less seawater exchanged by oceanic water.

If less freshwater is provided to Mikawa Bay because of impoundment, more hypoxia occurs in summer.

Moreover, if sand accreted at the dam stops the provision of gravel to the river mouth, the remaining shallow sea bottom may be eroded and the environment for Japanese short-neck clam may be deteriorated. The construction of Shitara Dam, which delivers a final blow to Mikawa Bay's dying ecosystem, must be stopped.



(Rokujogata, shallows nearby the river mouth of Toyogawa, where lots of shell larvae are reproduced)

E-mail: ichinok7@mx3.tees.ne.jp URL: <http://www.no-dam.net/>