



**ENVIRONMENTAL FLOW ASSESSMENT USING MULTIPLE DATA-DRIVEN  
NUMERICAL MODELS ON AQUATIC HABITANTS OF THE SELANGOR  
RIVER BASIN, MALAYSIA**

By

**HAIRAN MOHAMMAD HAROON**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra  
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Abstract of this thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra in fulfillment of the requirement of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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Rivers are essential ecosystems that provide freshwater and support biodiversity, but they are under threat from human activities such as pollution, channelization, abstraction, and damming. This study aims to assess the environmental flow of the Sg. Selangor River, which is necessary for the sustainability of aquatic ecosystems. The Sg. Selangor River basin in Malaysia is a crucial water resource, supplying water to over 60% of the population in the state of Selangor and the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur. The mean annual rainfall ranges from 2400 – 3000 mm, with a distinct wet season during the SWM (April-May) and NEM (Oct-Dec), while dry season in Jan-Mar and June-Sept. Although the basin receives abundant rainfall, drought is still a frequently occurring phenomenon. Various types of data analysis approaches and modelling techniques were adopted in this study, where both primary and long-term historical hydrological datasets were used. The water flow data analyzed covers a length of 60 years (1960 to 2020). The study utilizes hydrological and habitat simulation methods, including the Flow Duration Curve-Environmental Management Class (FDC-EMC), Indicator Hydrologic Alteration (IHA), Water Quality Index (WQI), and hydraulic-ecological simulation using PHABSIM and SEFA models. The Water Quality Index (WQI) scores for the river is 84.3 and 85.3 for normal flow and high flow condition, respectively which indicate a clean condition in the regulated system. Meanwhile, the Flow Duration Curve-Environmental Management Class (FDC-EMC) analysis of the 60 years' historical flow data suggested Sg. Selangor River be managed under EMC class C, with min-max flow values of 3.35 - 98.09 m<sup>3</sup>/s for optimum environmental flow requirement. The IHA analysis results that the minimum amount of flow or 99.9% exceedance flow in the pre-impact period is 0.69 m<sup>3</sup>/s, while for the post-impact period is 6.16 m<sup>3</sup>/s. In addition, the results suggest that the river flow is highly regulated by the dam operation, which affects the environmental flow maintenance and may not meet the required environmental flow requirements due to the constant rate of dam release. The particle size analysis reveals that

the river bed is dominated by sandy gravel and sands ranging between 0.18 to 4.00 mm, and the upper section near the dam is dominated by gravel and large sands, indicating active erosive flow. The habitat suitability criteria for *Hampala macrolepidota*, a native fish species, are used to define the inputs for the hydraulic-ecological simulation. The results indicated the HSC for the species' depth preference fell within 0.7 to 1.05 m as suggested by SEFA, while an exact value of 1.14 m was suggested by PHABSIM. Likewise, the velocity preferred by the species ranged between 0.6 to 0.9 m/s or the exact value of 0.786 m/s, as suggested by SEFA and PHABSIM respectively. However, this amount differs in various sampling stations. The flows amount of 6.2 m<sup>3</sup>/s, 14.5 m<sup>3</sup>/s, 2.5 m<sup>3</sup>/s, and 3.5 m<sup>3</sup>/s are needed in stations 2 to 5, respectively. Both PHABSIM and SEFA models provide reliable estimations of environmental flow, with SEFA suggesting an interval of Environmental Flow Allocation for better management flexibility and defining acceptable objectives to all stakeholders in the Sg. Selangor River. The findings of this study could contribute to the development of sustainable river basin management plans and improve the management of water resources in the Sg. Selangor River basin.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia  
Sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**PENILAIAN ALIRAN ALAM SEKITAR MENGGUNAKAN MODEL NUMERIK  
BERBILANG DATA TERHADAP PENGHUNI AKUATIK LEMBANGAN  
SUNGAI SELANGOR, MALAYSIA**

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Sungai adalah suatu ekosistem yang penting, berfungsi untuk membekalkan bekalan air bersih serta menyokong biodiversiti. Namun, sungai mengalami ancaman daripada aktiviti manusia misalnya pencemaran, aktiviti penyaluran dan pengambilan air serta pembinaan empangan. Oleh itu, kajian ini bertujuan untuk menilai aliran persekitaran di Sungai Selangor sebagai suatu keperluan kelestarian terhadap ekosistem hidupan akuatik. Lembangan Sungai Selangor di Malaysia adalah penting untuk membekalkan sumber dan bekalan air kepada lebih daripada 60% populasi penduduk di negeri Selangor dan juga di wilayah Kuala Lumpur. Bacaan purata tahunan hujan adalah dalam rangka 2400-3000 mm dengan musim hujan yang berbeza iaitu semasa monson barat daya (April-Mei) dan monson timur laut (Okt-Dis), manakala musim kemarau pada Jan-Mac dan Jun-Sept. Walaupun lembangan sungai menerima taburan hujan yang tinggi, musim kemarau juga merupakan fenomena yang kerap berlaku. Pelbagai jenis pendekatan analisis data dan teknik pemodelan telah diaplikasikan dalam kajian ini, di mana kedua-dua set data iaitu data primier dan set data hidrologi jangka masa Panjang telah digunakan. Data aliran air ini dianalisis untuk tempoh masa 60 tahun (1960 hingga 2020). Kajian ini memanfaatkan kaedah simulasi hidrologi dan habitat termasuk Kelas Pengurusan Keluk-Environmental Tempoh Aliran (FDC-EMC), Penunjuk Perubahan Hidrologi (IHA), Indeks Kualiti Air (WQI), dan simulasi hidraulik-ekologi menggunakan model PHABSIM dan SEFA. Skor Indeks Kualiti Air (WQI) bagi sungai ialah 84.3 dan 85.3 untuk keadaan aliran normal dan aliran tinggi untuk menunjukkan keadaan sungai bersih dalam sistem yang terkawal. Sementara itu, analisis Keluk Tempoh Aliran-Kelas Pengurusan Alam Sekitar (FDC-EMC) bagi data aliran sejarah 60 tahun menunjukkan Sungai Selangor perlu diuruskan dibawah kelas C EMC dengan nilai aliran min-maks 3.35 - 98.09 m<sup>3</sup>/s untuk keperluan aliran persekitaran optimum. Analisis IHA mendapati jumlah aliran minimum atau aliran melebihi 99.9% dalam tempoh pra-impak ialah 0.69 m<sup>3</sup>/s, manakala bagi tempoh pasca-impak ialah 6.16 m<sup>3</sup>/s. Tambahan pula, keputusan menunjukkan bahawa

aliran sungai dikawal oleh operasi empangan, yang menjejaskan penyelenggaraan aliran alam sekitar dan mungkin tidak memenuhi keperluan aliran alam sekitar yang diperlukan disebabkan oleh kadar pelepasan empangan yang berterusan. Analisis saiz zarah pula menunjukkan bahawa dasar sungai didominasi oleh batu kerikil berpasir dan pasir antara saiz 0.18 hingga 4.00 mm manakala di bahagian atas berhampiran empangan didominasi oleh batu kerikil dan pasir besar. Hal ini membuktikan berlaku aliran hakisan yang aktif. Kriteria kesesuaian habitat untuk *Hampala macrolepidota* iaitu sejenis spesies ikan asli telah digunakan sebagai input bagi simulasi hidraulik-ekologi. Keputusan menunjukkan HSC untuk kesesuaian kedalaman spesies berada dalam lingkungan 0.7 hingga 1.05 m seperti yang dicadangkan oleh SEFA, manakala nilai 1.14 m pula dicadangkan oleh PHABSIM. Selain itu, halaju yang bersesuaian oleh spesies tersebut adalah antara 0.6 hingga 0.9 m/s atau nilai tepatnya adalah 0.786 m/s, seperti yang telah dicadangkan oleh SEFA dan PHABSIM. Namun begitu, nilai ini berbeza pada setiap stesen persampelan. Nilai aliran iaitu 6.2 m<sup>3</sup>/s, 14.5 m<sup>3</sup>/s, 2.5 m<sup>3</sup>/s, dan 3.5 m<sup>3</sup>/s direkod pada stesen 2 hingga 5. Kedua-dua model PHABSIM dan SEFA telah menyediakan anggaran aliran alam sekitar yang boleh dipercayai. SEFA mencadangkan selang Peruntukan Aliran Alam Sekitar untuk pengurusan yang lebih baik dan fleksebliti serta menentukan objektif yang boleh diterima oleh semua pihak berkepentingan di Sungai Selangor. Dapatan kajian ini boleh menyumbang kepada pembangunan pelan pengurusan lembangan sungai yang mampan dan menambah baik pengurusan sumber air di lembangan Sungai Selangor.

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This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

E-Flow	Environmental Flow
EFA	Environmental Flow Assessment
NEM	Northeast Monsoon
SWM	Southwest Monsoon
IBWT	Inter Basin Water Transfer
UTES	Underground Thermal Energy Storage
WFD	Water Framework Directorate
GES	Good Ecological Status
GEP	Good Ecological Potential
EFA	Environmental Flow Assessment
PHABSIM	Physical Habitat Simulation Model
RHYHABSIM	River Hydraulic and Habitat Simulation Method
RHABSIM	Riverine Habitat Simulation Model
SEFA	System for Environmental Flow Analysis
IFIM	Instream Flow Incremental Methodology
BBM	Building Block Methodology
DRIFT	Downstream Response to Imposed Flow Transformation
ELOHA	Ecological Limits of Hydrologic Alteration
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
IFG	Instream Flow Group
CAMS	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies
RAM	Resources Assessment and Management
NSPSF	North Selangor Peat Swamp Forests
DO	Dissolved Oxygen

EC	Electrical Conductivity
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
BOD	Biochemical Oxygen Demand
COD	Chemical Oxygen Demand
AN	Ammoniacal Nitrogen
WQI	Water Quality Index
WQV	Water Quality Variables
DOE	Department of Environment
DID	Department of Irrigation and Drainage
SIDO	Sub Index Dissolved Oxygen
NWQI	National Water Quality Index
GEFC	Global Environmental Flow Calculator
IHA	Indicators of Hydrological Alteration
LWR	Length Weight Relationship
NWQS	National Water Quality Standard
APHA	American Public Health Association
HDPE	High Density Poly Ethylene
FDC	Flow Duration Curve
EMC	Environmental Management Class
DRM	Desktop Reserve Model
EFC	Environmental Flow Components
WSL	Water Surface Level
HSI	Habitat Suitability Index
HSC	Habitat Suitability Criteria
HSCs	Habitat Suitability Curves

WSL	Water Surface Level
WUA	Weighted Usable Area
AWS	Area Weighted Suitability
CSI	Combined Suitability Index
GAM	Generalized Additive Model
MK	Mann-Kendal
LC	Least Concern
DD	Data Deficient
MCM	Million Cubic Meters
CD	Coefficient of Dispersion
DF	Deviation Factor
GSD	Grain Size Distribution
PSD	Particle Size Distribution
CCA	Canonical Correspondence Analysis
MSL	Mean Sea Level
VDF	Velocity Distribution Factor
SZF	Stage Zero Flow
SI	Suitability Index
Sg.	Sungai
GIS	Geographical Information System
H. macrolepidota	Hampala macrolepidota
NWRP	National Water Resource Policy
NAWABS	National Water Balance System
IRBM	Integrated River Basin Management

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

Freshwater is a vital resource for living beings and ecosystems that should be measured as a prerequisite for sustainable development (Kalvani et al., 2019). These resources are under increasing threat from human anthropogenic activities, both in terms of consumptive and non-consumptive use. The increasing demands for water are causing substantial flow alterations in rivers across the world. Flow alterations are directly linked to impacts on the physical and chemical properties and processes of rivers and consequent ecological changes (Linnansaari et al., 2013).

As the competing demands vary for water, most rivers in the world are used in many ways. Dams and reservoirs are constructed for several uses, such as to enable water diversion for irrigation, hydropower generation, and mitigating drought and flood disasters. The benefits may be very crucial for some stakeholders. Still, these developmental activities threaten the river's riparian ecosystems and ecological character by altering the river flow. As a result, it causes negative impacts on the livelihood of people dependent on ecosystem services. The negative implications for the affected people may relate to the loss of fisheries, health, nutrition, economic loss, and social and cultural dislocation (IUCN Vietnam, 2005).

The current and projected water demand increment have caused intensified and complex conflicts among river development as water and energy resources and their conservation as biologically diverse ecosystems (Tharme, 2003). It causes stress on river ecosystems, biodiversity and human. So, water managers and policymakers face extreme challenges in providing an affordable and reliable water supply to meet worldwide demand (Sanderson et al., 2012). Therefore, large and small dams are constructed to meet the drinking water supply, irrigation, flood control, energy generation, and other human demands (Tharme, 2003). Approximately two large dams were built daily worldwide during the second half of the 20th century. The number of these dams has risen to more than 47,000, and additional 800,000 smaller dams by the year 2000, which block the world's river flow, and the numbers are increasing (Richter & Thomas, 2007; Schmutz & Sendzimir, 2018). Besides all these benefits, dams can cause interruption to natural flow regimes that have extensive impacts, including alterations in pristine hydrological dynamics, changes in biological production, spreading of biodiversity in space and time, and changes in services and functions of aquatic ecosystems (Agostinho, et al., 2008). As a result, the continuous decline of river ecosystems and loss of biodiversity are extensive.

Government agencies and stakeholders have accepted river restoration as a vital supplement to natural resources management and conservation (Wohl et al., 2005). However, restoring the pre-damming condition of a dammed river is impossible. Nevertheless, any efforts to improve the ecological conditions are called mitigation measures (Schmutz & Sendzimir, 2018). Conservation and management of large rivers to protect aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity is a relatively new task. Along the rivers, these systems are characterized by high habitat dissimilarities and species richness, which may be distinguished by large-scale fish migrations called ecological phenomena. On the other hand, the large size of riverine ecosystems is also caused by obstructing the implementation of conservation plans. Therefore, there is a consensus in the conservation community that plans and policies should be scale-appropriated (Arthington et al., 2004).

The amount and time of freshwater flows and levels required to sustain aquatic ecosystems that can support human cultures, economies, sustainable livelihoods, and wellbeing are called environmental flow or E-Flow (FAO, 2019; Liu et al., 2016). Moreover, the term Environmental Flow is defined by The Brisbane Declaration (2007) as "*Environmental flow describes the quantity, quality and timing of water flows required to sustain freshwater ecosystems and the human livelihoods and well-being that depend on these ecosystems*" (Brisbane Declaration, 2007). This definition spans the twin responsibilities of management, to balance the use and the protection of the water resource, i.e. it seeks to provide the flows that will protect ecosystems and the human use of those ecosystems. All water in excess of the Environmental Flow is the utilizable or "allocable" water that resource managers can allocate and divert to agricultural, industrial and domestic activities (FAO, 2019). Water has an economic value and should be exploited for the benefit of people, their subsistence and economic welfare. The environmental flow (e-flow) concept is at the core of many countries' water management strategies for the river system. Investigation of e-flow requirements for rivers of some countries is essential because of diminished flows and the creation of dry beds in many rivers in dry seasons. Knowledge of e-flow is necessary for understanding any river restoration and resuscitation task. E-flow is the water needed in a watercourse to maintain healthy ecosystems (Akter, 2010). Since rivers are the most important parts of the Environment, thus with the degradation of the Environment, rivers and their flow which are called Environmental flows, are also get affected. The ecological processes that are related to river flow and other features are providing goods, such as; the production of food and fiber, water purification, and other marketable goods; and services such as; flood mitigation and recreational activities (Arthington et al., 2004; Dyson et al., 2008).

The same concept was targeted by an older term called "instream flow", but nowadays, scientists prefer to use "environmental flow", as it covers a broader view of what should be assessed. Historical instream flow is mainly concerned with the physical environment of limited species. However, environmental flow assessment is a process trying to implement the Brisbane declaration into specific estimates of environmental water needed for ecosystem and human well-being. It will decide; whether to conserve an amount of water in the flow for



environmental uses, if yes, how much, and when; whether the negative impacts of an existing project on a stream or flow can be mitigated or not by releasing the environmental flows or restricting water withdrawals; how can the existing water projects be modified to improve the environmental conditions, whether to construct a new water project or not, if so, how? (Williams et al., 2019).

Despite the positive environmental impacts such as green energy production, groundwater recharge, and many more of large dams, it has been amongst the most drastic issue that threatens natural flow regimes and dependent ecosystems (Jayasiri et al., 2017; King & Brown, 2018). Moreover, environmental flow is essential for sharing benefits, poverty reduction, and sustainable development, but water allocation for environmental uses is still challenging. Construction and investment in water resources infrastructures such as dams and reservoirs for water storage, irrigation, flood control and others are vital for economic growth. However, their improper plan, design, and operation can impact the volume, pattern, and flow quality, which can degrade the downstream ecosystems and communities. At the same time, aquatic life depends on the quality and quantity of the flowing water. Any changes in the flow may result in significant changes in ecosystem processes and services. Therefore, all stakeholders need to grab their attention to downstream impacts to achieve sustainable development (Hirji & Davis, 2009). It is also projected that climate change can affect the supply and demand of water resources, which can also impact the water for the environment. For example, the estuarine processes which depend on freshwater environmental flow will be affected by the saltwater intrusion due to sea-level rise. In some countries, climate change adaptation relies on building dams and reservoirs to secure against increased variability of rainfall and runoff. However, it will further increase the risk of adverse impacts in the downstream ecosystems unless the impacts are properly assessed and managed (Hirji & Davis, 2009).

In such a situation, ecosystems lying downstream will be under the threat of losing their functions. Therefore, releasing a sufficient amount of flow is vital to the downstream to maintain ecosystem sustainability (Jayasiri et al., 2017), and it is of most importance to assess the environmental flow of a river to ensure the sustainability of downstream communities, ecosystems, and fish life in the river. There are more than 200 methods for assessing the environmental flow of a river (O'Keefe & Tom, 2009). The most beneficial methods are grouped into four categories: hydrological, hydraulic rating, habitat simulation, and holistic methodologies (Tharme, 2003).

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

Humans' life without rivers is not possible. Humans rely strongly on rivers from their inhabitants on the earth's surface, as the rivers provide them with drink, food, and sites for settlement. In addition, humans have relied on rivers for cleaning, waste removal and decomposition, transportation, commerce, and

recreation (Karr & Chu, 2000). The global concerns over the need for sustainable water management have increased due to the rapid water change and food insecurity over the last two decades. Rapid population growth, economic development, climate change, and other causes are among the main drivers of water availability and use alteration. They result in the risk of extreme high and low flows, flow regimes and water quality alteration, and surpassing water demands from the renewable water supply (Pahl-wostl et al., 2013).

The natural flow regimes of the river are heavily modified and altered by damming as 50,000 large dams, and an estimated 80,000 smaller dams have been built during the last century, generating low flows and grabbing the high flood pulses. In addition, the increasing demand for irrigation, hydropower generation, and the growing population's domestic and industrial use leads to reduced river discharge. Furthermore, climate change also contributes to the changes in flow regimes, as the decrease is seen in many rivers worldwide (Dutta et al., 2017). One of the most significant environmental challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is having enough water for human usage without compromising the related ecosystems. Compared to the year 2000, the agriculture sector will need 70% more water by 2050 so that enough food will be provided for a population of more than 9 Billion (Pastor et al., 2014).

During the last three decades, the very rapid development of Malaysia is leading to many folds' increase in urbanization in major cities. Along with this, industrialization and agricultural expansion have also rapidly turned land use of primary forests into cash crops and industrial, commercial, and urban centers. As a result of these developments, the river systems are stressed and reached the carrying capacity of water supply, and become vulnerable to water stress and droughts. The concentration of pollutants, due to the agricultural, industrial, commercial, and transportation activities, has reached their limits, especially during the low flow conditions, and many rivers have become polluted, some of which are not rehabilitable (Chan et al., 2003). The significant changes to the hydrological and hydraulic characteristics of catchments are due to the urban areas' paved areas. Therefore, flash floods' frequency is increasing yearly (Hasan et al., 2019). On the other hand, rapid flow and disturbance of hydrological characteristics also lead to droughts and water deficit that causes freshwater shortages in many parts of the country (Huang et al., 2016).

### 1.3 Research Objectives

The main objective of this study is to assess the flow released from the Sg. Selangor dam and its relationship with the relevant aquatic ecosystems downstream of the Sg. Selangor dam, and recommend an amount of flow that is necessary for the sustainability of the targeted fish species which is *Hampala macrolepidota*. To accomplish this goal, the following specific objectives have been fulfilled:

1. To assess the environmental flow requirements of Sg. Selangor River for physical habitat based on the hydrological index methods.
2. To estimate the physical habitat preference and water quality condition for targeted fish species in different flow regimes setting.
3. To determine the optimum environmental flow and physical habitat preference of the target fish species in the Sg. Selangor River based on the physical habitat simulation method.

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

During the study, the following specific questions aroused from the above problem statement and following the research objectives will be answered:

1. What amount of flow is needed in the Selangor River for river sustainability?
2. What is the habitat preference and water quality requirement for targeted fish species?
3. What is the amount of optimum flow to sustain the downstream ecosystems and ensure the growth of targeted fish species?

#### **1.5 Scope and Limitation of Study**

The study aims to investigate the amount of environmental flow that needs to be released from the Sg. Selangor dam to conserve and sustain the downstream aquatic ecosystems. The study has focused on evaluating the high and low flows of the Sg. Selangor river under certain flow variations in different seasons downstream of the Sg. Selangor dam. Furthermore, this study integrates hydrological and habitat simulation methods and results from various modelling software such as; GEFC, IHA, PHABSIM, and SEFA to recommend the optimum e-flow through various aspects. For this purpose, the historical hydrological data and the data collected from Seven sampling stations during normal and high flows condition are used. Thus, this study will provide valuable insights into the impacts of Sg. Selangor dam on the streamflow and its targeted fish species, which can help in the re-operation of the dam to sustain the downstream aquatic ecosystems.

The limitation of this study is missing a fieldwork and sampling in low flow conditions. As the initial plan for the sampling and fieldwork was designed for all

three flow conditions, but unfortunately due to the COVID-19 situations and movement control orders, we were not able to implement our initial plan of three fieldworks. The rainfall data analyzed for the climatic conditions of the river basin is only for 15 years which is relevant to post impact period and there is no long-term and complete set of data available from any station in the study area, however it is not affecting the findings of this study. Moreover, the fish data analyzed in this study is minimal which creates issues in plotting habitat suitability curves, therefore, it is recommended for other studies to conduct fish sampling in all flow conditions.

## 1.6 Significance of Study

Flow regime alteration, water extraction, and water infrastructures have resulted in the decline of the riverine and wetland habitats and the loss of freshwater biodiversity that has led to the field of environmental flow (Arthington et al., 2018). The emerging field of environmental flow has many achievements as a protection approach to rehabilitate ecosystem services, ecological integrity, and aquatic biodiversity by managing freshwater flow regimes (Arthington, 2020; Arthington et al., 2018). Environmental flow assessment is essential in understanding the significant impacts of reservoirs and dams on aquatic biota and ecosystems by determining the rivers' flow regime. The significant impacts of reservoirs and dams on flow regimes can be concluded as a decrease in high flow magnitude and an increase in low flow magnitudes through time. In addition, the frequency of high flow and low flow variability can also be reduced; however, their duration will be increased (Zhang et al., 2015).

One of the proposed approaches to mitigate the adverse environmental impacts of dams is the reoperation of the dam while controlling the magnitude and timing of flow releases for environmental conservation. For achieving this goal, environmental flow is among the proposed approaches. The restoration of crucial ecosystem processes needed for aquatic biodiversity can be achieved by mimicking natural flow dynamics by controlling the timing, quality, and quantity of water released from the dam. However, on the other hand, the allocation of water for environmental uses is a highly disputed process around the world (Hirji & Davis, 2009), especially in developing countries (Tegos et al., 2009). Moreover, the rapid expansion of dam construction around the world is closely followed by the research progress of e-flow, which aims to ensure the minimum flow for critical habitats below the large dams for at least a single species (Hao et al., 2021). As a result, many methods have been established to study e-flows. The hydrological and habitat simulation methodologies are adopted for this study. It assesses environmental flow based on a detailed analysis of quantity and suitability of instream physical habitat, primarily targeted fish species (Tegos et al., 2017).

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