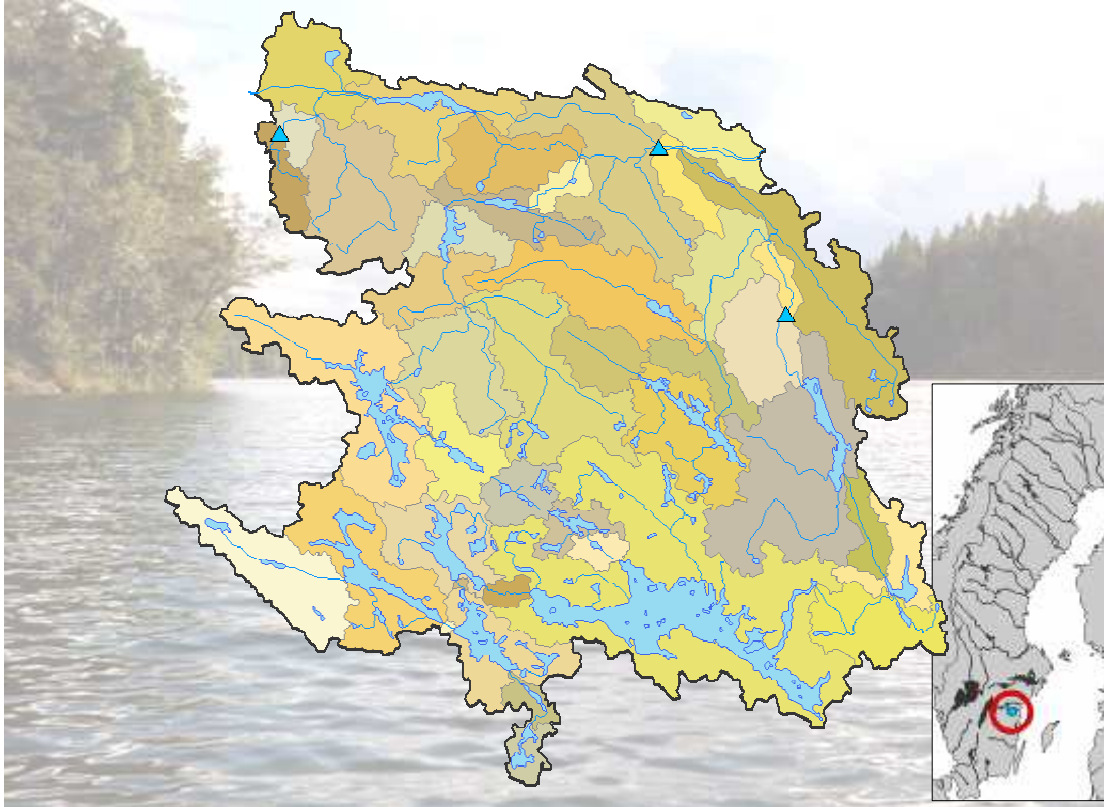


Söderköpingsån River, Sweden



The Söderköpingsån catchment (882 km²) is mainly situated in Östergötland county in south central Sweden. It consists of a hilly forested south with several lakes and a more populated north with more agriculture, it drains to the Baltic sea through the narrow Slätbaken bay. In the catchment there are several populated areas, mainly in the municipalities of Söderköping, Åtvidaberg and Gusum. The catchment is covered by 60% forest, 31% arable land and 9% lakes. It includes a few municipal wastewater-treatment plants, about 5500 non-urban inhabitants and 900 summer houses.

The whole area is affected by nutrification, some toxins and constructions from early industry, mines and dams. Today there area no major active industry or mining in the area although sources of nutrification remains mainly in the more populated northern part and particulary from agriculture in the north-west.

The catchment consists of two main branches, Hällaån River and the smaller Storån/Lillån River. Hällaån starts in a forested area in the south and reaches the outlet at Söderköping River though a series of narrow lakes. Its southern part is dominated by forest and the Lake Yxningen while in the north there are more nutrient rich fields.

Storån/Lillån flows through the lakes Hövern and Asplången and connects to Hällaån River just before the outlet in Söderköping River. This catchment is more dominated with agricultural areas in the north while there are still much forest in the southern parts. Also, the canal "Göta kanal" runs through the northern part of the catchment and connects briefly to Storån River in the Lake Asplången. The canal then runs parallell to Storån and Söderköpingsån to the sea.