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**PORTATE MINIME PER LA CONSERVAZIONE DELL'IDROFAUNA
DEI CORSI D'ACQUA SOGGETTI A PRELIEVI IDRICI**

SUMMARY

LOWEST FLOWS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE HYDROFAUNA IN THE RIVERS SUBJECT TO WATER SUBTRACTIONS. - We examine some examples where water subtraction from river beds has been carried out without the necessary technical and scientific evaluation of the consequences. This approach represents a serious problem for the protection of the environment and, in particular, for the preservation of the hydrofauna.

The determination of the lowest residual flows ought to be the result of accurate studies aimed at determining the negative consequences of drastic reductions of water from river beds. Similar procedures are not enforced by Italian legislation, so the possibility of an inversion of tendency in the management of public waters is still remote.

It is opportune, however, to suggest a methodology based on the examination of the lowest annual natural flows, to indicate guidelines to be followed for the preservation of the hydrofauna. This method, although open to criticisms, can be a useful tool for the protection of the environment, as compared to those suggested in the past. In the meantime, we will be waiting for new laws enforcing scientific approach and accurate studies as basic support for projects involving water subtraction.