

Ayu of the Nagara River System

The upper and middle basin of the Nagara River



“Uka”, a traditional fishing method practiced for over 1,300 years

The Nagara River flowing through Gifu Prefecture is the “Satokawa” which has conserved the resources of its basin and has protected the good environment through proper management and activities to nurture forests and the regular cleaning by fishermen and citizen groups. Such efforts have contributed to the development of fisheries, agriculture and forestry along the basin.

Among them, inland fisheries, especially Japanese Sweetfish called Ayu are thriving, and many traditional fishing methods such as cormorant fishing have been passed down to future generations and also ayu-based food culture is deeply rooted in the area.

In addition, traditional crafts such as Mino washi paper and Gujo honzome dyeing have been carried on through sustainable use of the cyclical system.



Shoal net fishing, a typical autumn event on the Nagara River



“Honminoshi” paper registered as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage