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The blue water footprint of the world's artificial reservoirs for hydroelectricity, irrigation, residential and industrial water supply, flood protection, fishing and recreation

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- Water consumption by dams and their reservoirs needs to be accounted for
- The global blue water footprint (WF) of 2235 artificial reservoirs is $66 \times 10^9 \text{ m}^3 \text{ y}^{-1}$
- This WF is attributed to beneficial reservoir purposes based on their economic value
- Domestic water supply and hydroelectricity generation contribute most to this WF
- 57% of the WF is located in non-water scarce and only 1% in year-round scarce basins

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