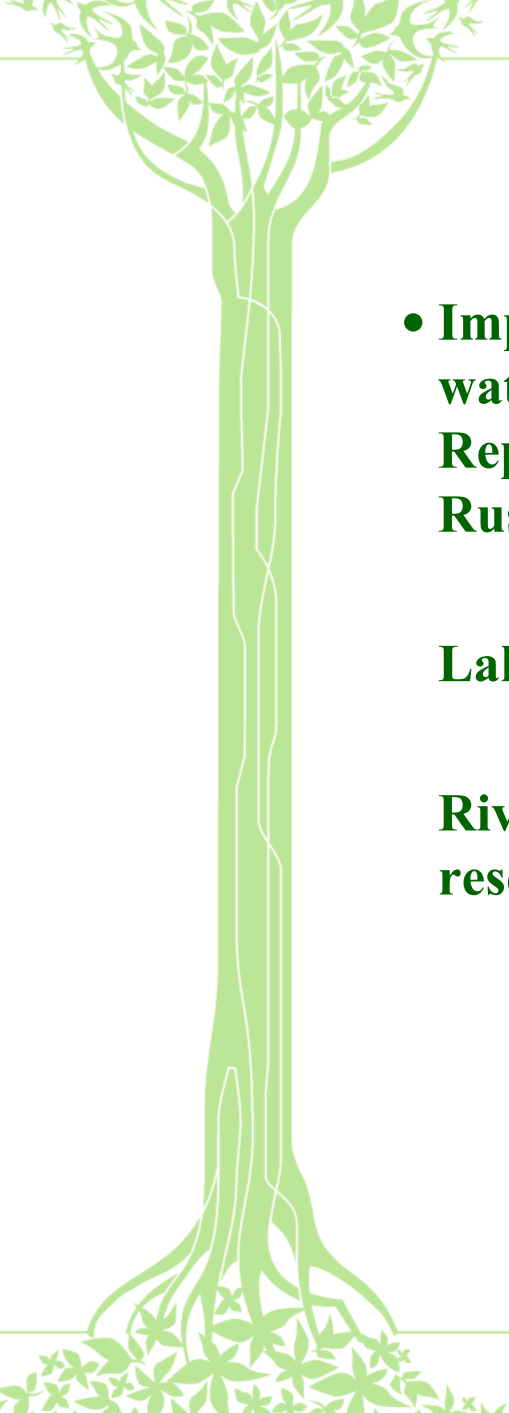




*Estonian–Russian transboundary  
water cooperation*

**Harry Liiv**  
**Deputy Secretary General on**  
**Environmental Management**  
**Estonian Ministry of the Environment**

MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

- 
- **Important transboundary water bodies between Republic of Estonia and Russian Federation are:**

**Lake Peipsi**

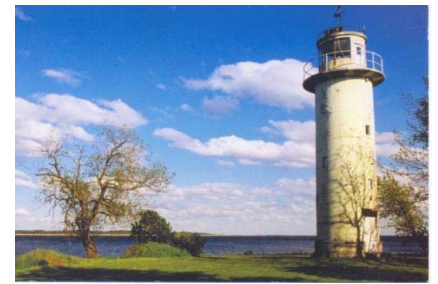
**River Narva and Narva reservoir**



MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

# Lake Peipsi

- **Lake Peipsi is fourth largest lake in Europe and at the same time it is largest transboundary lake in Europe**
- **Total area of Lake Peipsi on its average water level is 3555 km<sup>2</sup>, 44 % of the lake is situated in Republic of Estonia and 56 % in Russian Federation**
- **Lake Peipsi is the best fish lake in the world**



# River Narva

- **River Narva has energetic importance: on the river there is Narva hydroenergy plant which belongs to Russian Federation with total power 125 MW**
- **On the Republic of Estonia there are two powerful energy plants with total power 2400 MW. Water uptake from River Narva is used for cooling purposes at the energy plants**
- **Water uptake from River Narva is used for producing drinking water in Narva (which population is 70 000)**





---

## **Joint commission between Republic of Estonia and Russian Federation**

- **In 1997, a joint Estonian-Russian water commission was created after signing of an intergovernmental agreement on the protection and sustainable use of transboundary water bodies between the Republic of Estonia and the Russian Federation.**



## **Joint commission between Republic of Estonia and Russian Federation**

- **organizes exchange of monitoring data between the parties in accordance with the agreed monitoring program;**
- **defines priority directions and programs of scientific studies on protection and sustainable use of transboundary waters;**
- **agrees on common indicators of quality for transboundary waters, methods of water testing and conducting analyses;**
- **facilitates cooperation between agencies of executive power, local governments, scientific and public interest organizations, as well as other institutions in the field of sustainable development and protection of transboundary waters;**
- **ensures publicity of discussions of questions related to the use and protection of the transboundary waters.**



---

# **Joint commission between Republic of Estonia and Russian Federation**

**Practical work in two working groups:**

- 1) Working group on integrated water resources management**
- 2) Working group on monitoring, assessment and research**



---

## **Main achievements**

- **Organisation of comprehensive co-operation, the same understanding of problems and the same targets**
- **Systematical exchange of information about situation in water management and water quality**
- **Approaching of principles and criteria about situation of water bodies**
- **Joint monitoring on Lake Peipsi and on Narva reservoir based on agreed monitoring programme**
- **Elaboration of water management plans in both side**





---

## What more is needed?

- **In the field of co-operation between local authorities, tourism companies and NGO-s it seems that there are possibilities, that are not used yet.**
- **Besides well known tourism attractions, such as Pskov, Petseri, Tartu and Narva, there are other less known recreational possibilities in the smaller places near Lake Peipsi in Estonia and in Russia.**
- **It seems that there should be better co-operation between nature protection areas, including wetland areas Emajõe Suursoo and Rembda (Remdovski).**



---

## **Benefits from good status of lake**

- **It is essential to achieve good status of the lake by 2015, this will open more opportunities for tourism and recreational activities because on the one hand clean lake attracts more tourists and on the other hand its fishery opportunities will be much better and this also attract tourists.**



---

## **Problems and questions to be solved**

- **Eutrophication**
- **Great concentration of phosphorus in lake**
- **Very bad nitrogen and phosphorus balance in water**
- **Changes in fishery and their conditions**



## **Next steps**

- **There is need for target oriented and co-ordinated joint efforts**
- **This is ensured by compilation and realization of water management plans**
- **On Estonian side Peipsi sub basin water management plan will be ready and adopted by the Estonian Government next year**
- **There has been initiated a lot of practically applicable studies about the reasons of the status of Lake Peipsi and for working out measures to resolve problems.**
- **stop nutrients inflow to lake – need for renovation and building of waste water treatment plants, including phosphorus removal.**



---

## Conclusions

- **Main target for the upcoming years of the joint Estonian-Russian transboundary water commission is to elaborate water management plans and to realize the measures stated there.**
- **With joint efforts we should be able to change the status of the lake.**