



# Living Lakes Eastern Europe Network Conference in Estonia

Sustainable Development of Lake Areas

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MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT



# **Estonian-Russian cooperation in the field of fisheries at the Lake Peipsi**

- The Lake Peipsi is fourth biggest lake in Europe.**
- The lakes of Peipsi, Lämmi and Pihkva are the border lakes between Estonia and Russia where fish stocks are managed jointly.**
- The first fisheries conditions studies in Lake Peipsi were made already in spring 1851 by Karl Ernst von Baer as in 1848 mass catches of young fish with small-meshed gear and a decrease in fish stocks were reported.**
- The fisheries investigations by K. E. Von Baer were the first of their kind in Estonia and in tsarist Russia. The results were used as a basis for a special fisheries law and regulations for Lake Peipsi which were implemented in 1850**



# **Estonian-Russian cooperation in the field of fisheries at the Lake Peipsi**

- The agreement between the Republic of Estonia and the Russian Federation concerning the cooperation in the field of conservation and management of the fishery resources in the lakes of Peipsi, Lämmi and Pihkva was signed in 4 May 1994 in Moscow.**
- In order to accomplish the aim of the agreement, an intergovernmental commission of fishing was established which meets as a rule twice a year.**
- The recommendations of the Commission shall be bound to the states after thirty days of adoption of its recommendations if during this period neither party has notified of its objection.**



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- At the autumn's session which takes place normally in November the recommendations for the total allowable catch by different species will be set for the next year.
- At the autumn's session also the recommendations for the first half of the next year will be arranged on the technical measures for conservation of fish stocks, scientific research and common control and enforcement procedures.
- At the spring's session which is performed usually in May or June according to the data on catches and latest scientific information, the quotas of the current year may be modified. The recommendations for the technical measures for the second half-year will be established.



# **Estonian-Russian cooperation in the field of fisheries at the Lake Peipsi**

- Economically the most important fish species managed in cooperation with Russia in the lakes Peipsi, Lämmi and Pihkva are pike-perch, perch, pike, freshwater bream, smelt etc.**
- At the moment in a relatively good shape are the stocks of pike perch and perch which gives the essential income for fishermen. The bream and pike stocks are as well in a good shape as other warm water species. The cold water species as vendace, peipsi white fish, burbot, lake smelt are in a poor state.**

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- Last year in the lakes of Peipsi, Lämmi and Pihkva the Estonian fishermen harvested 2008 tonnes of fish in total which is approximately 300 tonnes less than in the year of 2006.**
- Of these 2008 tonnes 890 tonnes of pike perch, 395 tonnes of bream, 345 tonnes of perch, 220 tonnes of roach and 112 tonnes of pike were caught. Together with Russia the total catch of these lakes constituted 6279 tonnes.**
- In the year of 2006, the commercial fishery in the lakes of Peipsi, Lämmi and Pihkva represented 81% of the total Estonian inland fishery and 48% of Estonian freshwater fishery included the Baltic Sea coastal fishery.**



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- There are approximately 530 fishers in the Estonian side engaged from which 90 are the owners of fishing rights.
- In order to improve the economic situation of fishers, the prices of the fish caught and sold by fishermen should increase. One of the possibilities is to distribute fish through the joint action of fishermen.
- *The economic welfare of the active fishermen would be increased if fishing capacity would be balanced with the fishing possibilities, taking into consideration actual living standards in Estonia.*
- *In general, the lake Peipsi has been a productive fish lake where in condition of reasonable management of fishery resources it ensures an expected income for commercial fishermen as well as the possibilities of fishing for recreational fishermen.*