

STEPS FORWARD: OUTLINE OF THE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF RECREATIONAL FISHERIES IN LITHUANIA

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DEVELOPMENT OF RECREATIONAL FISHERIES IN LITHUANIA

Over a period of many years priority of Lithuanian inland waters fishery used to be given to commercial fishery and aquaculture, however, commercial fishery is becoming less and less important (currently on the initiative of the Ministry of Environment, some organizations of anglers and individual persons striven for complete prohibition of it), but recreational fisheries and sportfishery are becoming more and more important economically and socially.





DEVELOPMENT OF RECREATIONAL FISHERIES IN LITHUANIA

In 2002, 2006, 2005 and 2007, the public opinion and market research centre „Vilmorus“ carried out representative surveys of the population about recreational fisheries. A review of the social and demographic structure of Lithuanian respondents revealed the following tendencies:

- 1.5 million adult citizens go angling at least occasionally.
- In Lithuania, about 0.5 million people are active anglers (i.e. spend money on the form of recreation) and spent an average of 21.4 days per year on the hobby.
- Angling is more popular among men of young and middle age, as well as men still with unfinished education or higher education and medium or higher income.





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Recreational fisheries tendencies (II):

- **Women interested in recreational fisheries make more than a third of those polled.**
- **Financial situation of a household has an effect on recreational fisheries. Recreational fisheries are more popular in families with very low income and families with rather high income. For residents of Vilnius angling is a popular pastime, which is pursued once in a while by almost 2/3 of those polled in the Lithuanian capital.**





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Recreational fisheries tendencies (III):

- Lithuanian fishermen spend 128 million litas (240 litas/person) on fisheries per year.
- Financial flows in recreational fisheries are far higher than those in commercial fishing and aquaculture taken together.
- Differences between recreational fisheries of Lithuania and other states become exceptionally striking during comparison of data with any Western European country of a similar size.





DEVELOPMENT OF RECREATIONAL FISHERIES IN LITHUANIA

In an effort to change the situation without delay, the Lithuanian State Pisciculture and Fisheries Research Centre has drafted a project Scientific-Technical Development of Restoration Conditions of Fisheries Resources in Lithuanian and Russian Border Water Bodies No. 2006/289 (acronym – Trans-Boundary Fish) and was granted funding from INTEREG IIIA Neighbourhood Programme for Lithuania, Poland and the Russian Federation’s Kaliningrad Region (project implementation period - 09/2006-02/2008).





DEVELOPMENT OF RECREATIONAL FISHERIES IN LITHUANIA

Project partners include

- the Lithuanian State Pisciculture and Fisheries Research Centre (project manager - Algirdas Domarkas),
- the Kaliningrad State Technical University (project manager – prof. Sergey Shibayev),
- and the association of fisheries companies Lampetra (board chairman - Virginijus Domarkas).





THE OUTLINE OF THE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

For the matter of that with undergoing of rather radical changes in respect of angling (at the moment suggestions to change the law on Amateur Fisheries of the Republic of Lithuania are considered) and in order to develop the sector of fishery successfully, a well-designed strategy is needed.

One of the achievements of the project Trans-Boundary Fish - the outline of the strategy - was prepared. It is suitable for either all of Lithuania or the region next to the borders.





THE OUTLINE OF THE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

- 1. Development of a system for the collection of data about recreational fisheries.**
- 2. Expansion of the use of water bodies for recreational fisheries.**
- 3. Protection of fish resources.**
- 4. Restoration of fish resources.**
- 5. Improvement of the Law on amateur fisheries and accompanying legal acts.**





THE OUTLINE OF THE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

- 6. System for acquisition of fishing permits and licenses.**
- 7. System for investments in recreational fisheries.**
- 8. Promotion of angling and its positive aspects.**
- 9. Promotion of urban fisheries.**
- 10. Promotion of fisheries among young people, children and the disabled.**
- 11. Training of fishing guides and improvement of qualifications.**





THE OUTLINE OF THE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

- 12. Conditions for recreational navigation.**
- 13. Encouragement of incoming fishing tourism.**
- 14. International cooperation.**
- 15. State institution in charge of recreational fisheries.**
- 16. Accessibility and particularity of information about recreational fisheries.**
- 17. Public audit of implemented instruments.**





THE OUTLINE OF THE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

This strategy generally does not contradict the other similar strategies (e.g., designed programme on fishing tourism in the river Nemunas delta) or primary tendencies of this sector.

We hope that after the elections newly formed government of the Republic of Lithuania will pay some attention to the problems of the recreational fisheries sector.





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