

Environmental Public Monitoring System in Latvia



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experience of today and recommendations for the
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Legal basis

- **Law on Environmental Protection**
- **Regulation on Voluntary monitoring system signed by Minister of Environment adopted in May 1996**
- Voluntary inspectors are supervised and coordinated by state environmental inspectors

Legal basis for voluntary monitoring system

- Law on environmental Protection states:

Section 47. Public Control of Environmental Protection

- Public control of environmental protection and the utilisation of natural resources **shall be performed by public organisations, movements and inhabitants,** and its purpose shall be to follow the observance by natural persons and legal persons of the requirements of environmental protection regulatory enactments and the implementation of plans (programmes) in relation to environmental protection and the rational utilisation of natural resources.
- **The State Environmental Inspection may involve in the control of environmental protection and utilisation of natural resources public environmental inspectors.** The State Environmental Inspection may delegate to public environmental inspectors the right to draw up reports regarding administrative violations. The criteria for the nomination of public environmental inspectors, the regimentation of their work and sample of their identification document shall be approved by the Minister for Environment.

Main points covered by the Regulation

- Inspectors main task is to implement tasks of the Ministry of Environment in environmental protection, rational use of nature resources, regional development and ship exploitation issues
- To be the right hand of state environmental inspector

How to become a voluntary inspector

- You have to be 18 years old and without criminal violation history
- You have to submit application and statement
- You have to be aware of environmental legislation and Administrative Code
- You have to be trained in Environmental and legal issues
- You have to pass examination test and have a Voluntary inspector certificate
- You have to be under supervision of any of regional inspector

Main problems issues with public monitoring system now in Latvia

- TRAINING
- TRANSPARENCY
- REPORTING
- ACCOUNTABILITY

PROBLEM: Training

- TRAINING OF PEOPLE IS ESSENTIAL
- Training was previously organized by State Environmental Service
- **Now - Marine and Inland Waters Administration** (MIWA) is a structural unit of State Environmental Service of the Ministry of Environment
- BUT – CURRENTLY NOBODY DOES IT
- TRAINING IS NOT CONTINUOUS AND NOT UPDATED

Voluntary/public inspectors

- TWO TYPES of INSPECTORS –with or without right to issue administrative violation act
- Amount of inspectors – around 100 in 2005
- Are active only in river monitoring system (most of them are legal anglers, which is good for salmon and other fish protection, BUT
- Not active in other environmental related issues
- Reporting system of these inspectors is not clear

Illegal nets taken out by voluntary inspectors



NOW THE SYSTEM WILL CHANGE

- They will no longer have voluntary inspectors any more, but
- STATE AUTHORISED PERSONS
- Legislation and regulations are on the way
- Training also in on the way

conclusion

- There is much to do in the system to have it work properly