

Salmon in Lithuania



Current population

- According to the investigations initiated by governmental institutions, the amount of salmon is varying from 0,1 – 9,5 individs per 100 square meters (average 0,4 ind/m²).
- The largest density of salmon has been counted in the river of Vokė 9,5 ind/m² (tributary of Neris) the lowest density – in the river of Neris)

- The amount of salmon spawning nests has increased by 2-3 times in tributaries of Neris.
- The situation has been improved because of large amount of smolts of different ages released into the rivers.
- The efficiency of fish-culture activities is estimated as follows:

- Rivers:
- Vilnia (6,1 %), Siesartis (21,2 %), Voke (73 – 77%).
- In larger rivers the efficiency was low: varying from 0,1 – 6,1 % in Neris and Sventoji.

Problems and obstacles

- Dams and small/large scale HPP
- Poaching
- Fishery

HPP

- Up to the moment the number of protected rivers is stable, but with change of political situation the HPP supporters are keen to start a new lobby campaign.
- The number of fish ladders is increasing very slowly, the HPP owners are not keen to implement sustainable development principles.
- The HPP is treated as a renewable power source without bad impact to environment.

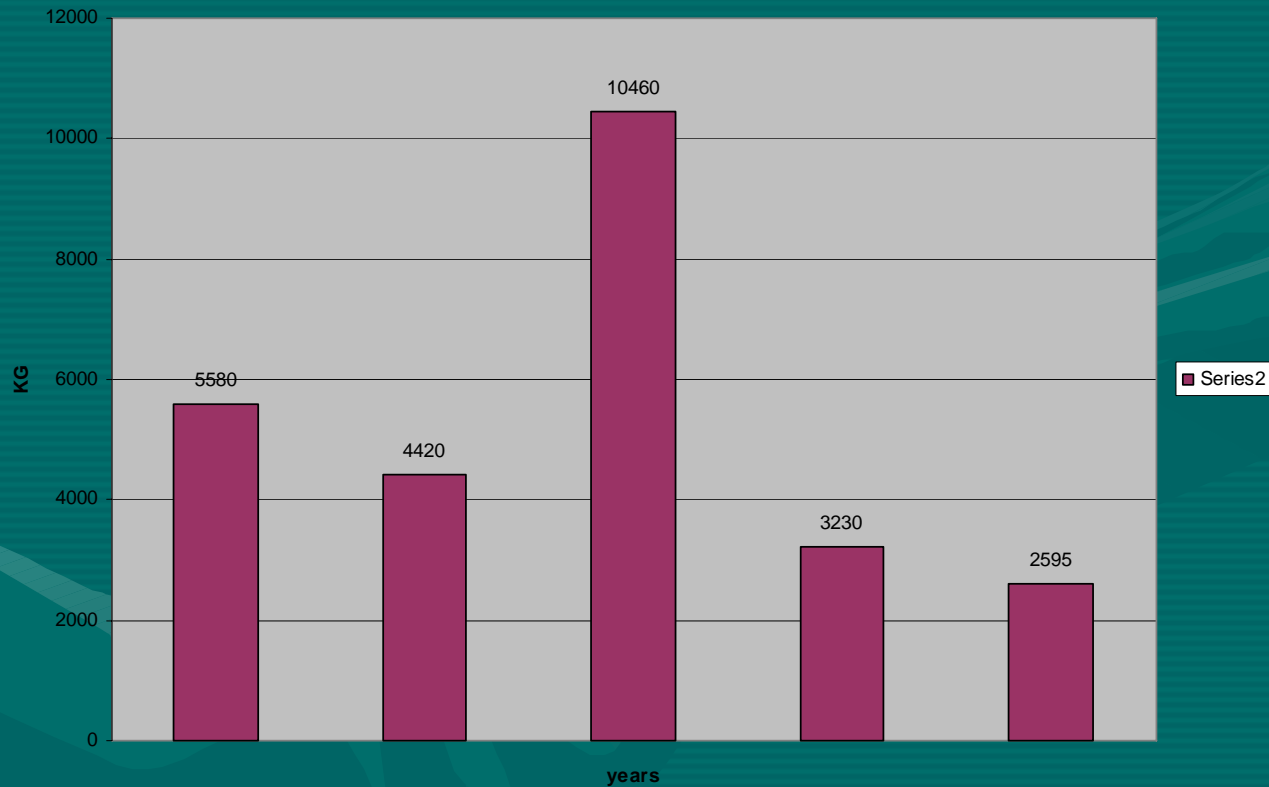
Poaching

- Poaching is prevalent in all the length of salmon populated rivers starting with Curronian lagoon.
- Because of the lack of control in Curronian lagoon the largest part of salmon is lost.
- In case the poachers do not face the officers of environmental protection, they do not declare the caught salmon as well as the other species of fish.

Fishery

- The number of active fishermen is decreasing.
- The number of caught salmon has decreased:

Salmon fishery progress



Measures taken

- The control of the rivers is enforced during salmon spawning time. The rivers and the banks are controlled by environmental protection officers, police and army forces. The efficiency has been estimated to be very high. Not a single poacher could manage to kill a single salmon.
- (according to the statistics and conclusions given by Ministry of Environment)

From the point of view of NGO's

- The action “Salmon 2005” as well as the earlier events were carried out only in the basin of river of Zeimena.
- All the rest parts of Neris and Nemunas basin has a weak control.
- The most significant part of Salmon is killed in Curronian lagoon by poachers and fishers.