



**Eesti
Roheline
Liikumine**
Estonian Green Movement-FoE

Baltic Salmon in Estonia

Taavi Nuum

Estonian Green Movement - FoE



State of the stock

- Wild salmon populations in 9 Estonian rivers in the Gulf of Finland + Pärnu river
- Condition of wild stock is poor
- Production of wild smolt is very small in several rivers
- Parr densities are very low in many rivers
- Official catches of salmon in the area are low



State of the salmon rivers

- Kunda river – first dam 2km. Most of reproduction areas are inaccessible
- Selja river – the accessible distance for salmon is 34 km. Poor water chemical status.
- Loobu river – first dam 8 km from mouth important part of potential reproduction areas are inaccessible
- Valgejõgi – first dam 8 km, 90% of former reproduction areas are inaccessible
- Jägala river- first dam 2 km, rebuilt Linnamäe Hydropowerstation
- Pirita- first dam 14km, riverwater is used for providing drinking water for Tallinn



- Keila river – one of the index rivers in Estonia. First definite obstacle Keila-Juga waterfall 1.7 km from the river mouth. Upstream river unsuitable for salmonid reproduction. Below waterfall 3.5 ha.
- Vasalemma – first dam 4.5 km, important spawning grounds are upstream from dam, good chemical status.
- Pärnu – Sindi dam 14 km from river mouth

Sindi dam



Fish
Ladder
Does`nt
work





Fishing according fishery act

- **Line fishing** (one simple hand line)
- **Recreational fishing** The following items are fishing tackle:
 - 1) spinning reels, trolling lines, pulling devices, fly hooks, bottom lines, krunda, unanchored trimmers, hand lines or more than one simple hand line;
 - 2) harpoon guns and harpoons;
 - 3) hooks, which may be used at sea and on Lake Peipus, Lake Lämmijärv and Lake Pskov
 - 4) gill-net
 - 5) longline consisting of up to 100 hooks
- **Commercial fishing** longlines, gillnets and entangling nets, traps, seine nets and trawls

Possibilities to restrict salmon fishery



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- annual total allowable catch for internationally regulated fish species (salmon)
- Salmon and sea trout fishery in territorial and economical waters is regulated according to EU art 9 88/98/EU
- Restrictions for fishing gear
- No take zones
- Prohibited areas and periods for fishing



- Prohibited areas in marine waters. During a year closer to salmon rivers mouth then 1000m
- In Estonian rivers 100m downstream from dam is prohibited to fish
- In most of the Estonian salmon rivers it is prohibited to catch salmon in downstream part from first dam on river, except lamprey.



- Closed period for salmon and sea trout fishery in Estonian waters 1. sept – 31.oct(30.nov)
- Minimum catch size
 1. Salmon 55cm and 60cm
 2. Sea trout 45cm and 50cm
- Estonian salmon catch from coastal waters 2003. in example 10,112t



- Legal acts will be effective ones if
 1. Environmental awareness is high
 2. Strong supervision over fulfilment of the requirements of legislation regulating fishing



Poaching problems

- With fishery issues working approximately 40 inspectors in Estonia
- They are spread over 15 estonian countys
- 2-3 per each county
- Supervision of spawning ground is far from good status



- According to Estonian Fishery Act it is not allowed to fish with electrical fishing equipment
- It is not prohibited to trade publicly with electrical fishing equipment
- In reality electrical fishing equipment is used by poachers



- What are the tools in Estonia for decrease poaching
 1. Legislation change.
 2. Establishment of voluntary supervision network