



FARNET TRANSNATIONAL SEMINAR FOR FLAGS
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FLAGS and local resource management

Technical provision for the protection of fish resources of the Ventspils region

North Kurzeme FLAG

NECESSITY OF THE PROJECT

- Society «Ventspils anglers club» was created to ensure the protection of the biodiversity of the water resources of Ventspils region
- The society consists of volunteers – nature activists
- Before the project the control of fish resources was more formal than effective:
 - only 1 inspector
 - fuel supply - 30 liters per month
 - the territory of the region is 2472 km²
- 20,000 pike-babies pay more than 4000 euros, the same amount of eggs comes from one spawned pike that can be saved from pouchers

TARGETS

- The main target of the project was to ensure the protection of fish resources of Ventspils region
- The club members were sure that successful and active protection of fish resources:
 - can activate small businesses by the coastal waters,
 - can lead to sustainable fish and nature resources,
 - can increase the number of tourists that are visiting the region for more than 1 day.

The first step to success was to ensure the technical support for more active raids in inland and coastal waters.

ACTIVITIES

1. The purchase of a boat for raids – durable boat with powerful engine, modern echo with side view function and a trailer for boat transportation.

Before the project club members used their private boats that were not suitable both technically (Venta length within the district is 50 km, with the current capacity checking stage more than 24 hours) and legally (for example, running lights).



ACTIVITIES

2. The purchase of a nature camera

The nature camera helps to protect certain places, such as the trout spawning places in rivers, and to monitor the territories during the night, especially in the places where illegal nets occur more often.

The club received a camera that was tested for noise and flash, and it was able to transmit the captured image on the network.

As evidence, the image does not fit, but it has an informative feature that there are currently violations in the river.



ACTIVITIES

3. The purchase of a device for night vision

The night vision device can also be used as binoculars per day (bright light does not deteriorate it), the infrared meter allows it to be used in full darkness as well as video recording is possible.

With such a camera, the club members are able to capture the situation "at-the-shore" (the widespread method is to put Ventas offshore netting, as well as to expect the boat to ride first and the net after it), and to avoid unexpected obstacles during night raids.

RESULTS

Since the end of the project:

165 inspecting trips were made.

Removed:

- 119 inland water nets - 6565 m long
- 300 m old nets from the sea within the cleaning of the sea from pollution
- 9 fish traps
- 6 illegal free floating fishing devices
- A lot of beaver dams on the spawning streams.

Seminars «Healthcare of trout rivers» for anglers, fishermen and other locals.



RESULTS

- Visiting local schools with a lecture about the water resources and fair fishing (circle of life of water insects and fish, barless hooks, catch&release). These lectures are paid from resource of the Fish fund of local municipality
- Annual local angling competition
- Partners in the project “Returning of million trouts” – 10 000 small trouts each year for the main trout rivers

RESULTS

The society also is involved in policy making process of Fishing rules in Latvia – preparing comments and offering some amendments in the Rules for the policy makers – to support the sustainable fishing policy.

Participated in development of the angler's handbook «Catch. But comply».

Worked as a consultants for the RETROUT (Interreg Central Baltics) project to build a fish route on River Rīva.

Facebook group: [Ventspils Makšķernieku klubs](#)

December 28, 2017: a big fishtrap (mostly for river lamprey) was finally lifted out.



Half way of destroying the dam. Spawning area is 1 km up the stream. This year fish appeared there in the middle of October, usually sea trouts came around Christmas.



Illegal activities discovered in trout spawning river Riva



A warning sign with a camera image on a bridge



Annual spring clean-up at trout spawning river territory



**We do it because we believe
Mother Nature will say “Thank you!”**



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