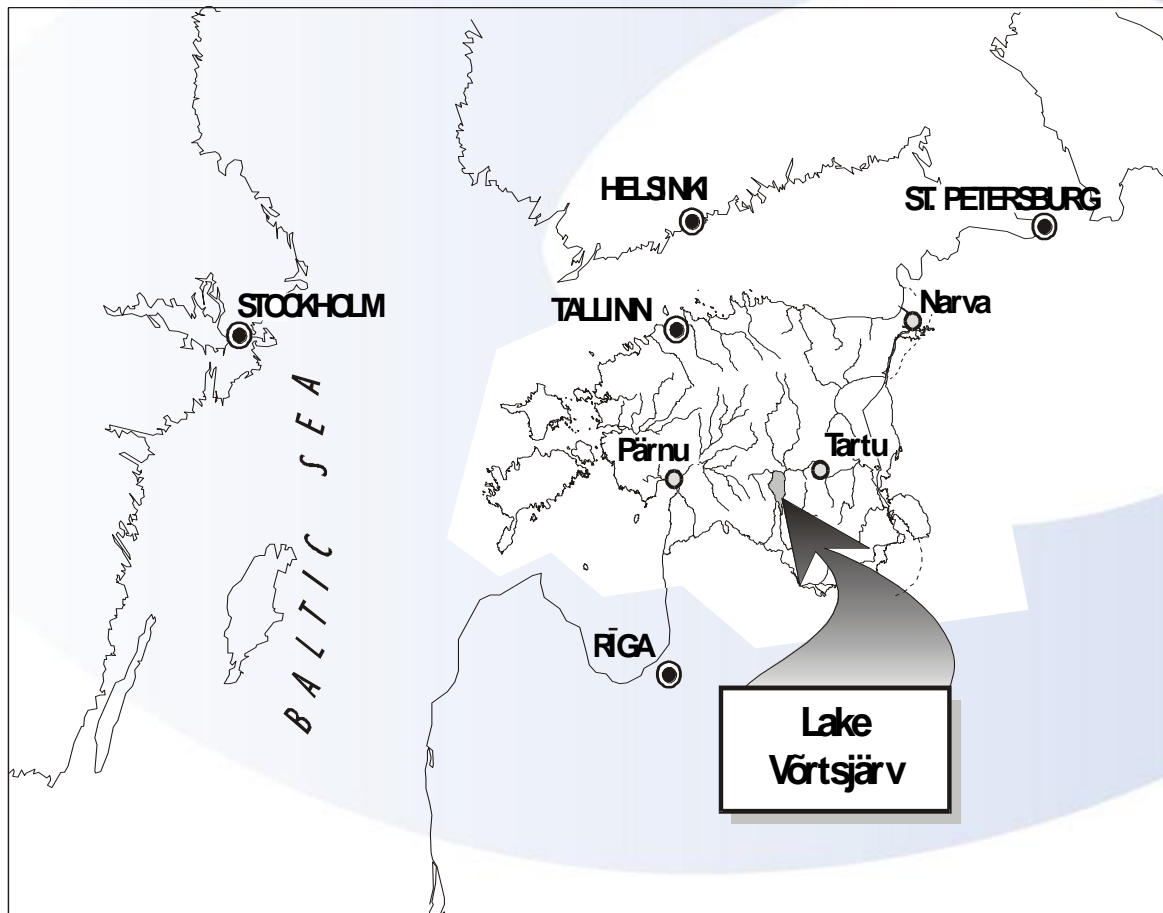


Lake Võrtsjärv, Estonia

Lake Võrtsjärv Fisheries
Development Agency

Jaanika Kaljuvee
Manager of the FLAG

Lake Võrtsjärv



Non-regulated shallow lake system rich in natural values

Natura 2000 (pSCI; SPA)

Biggest inland waterbody in Estonia

Surface area – 270 km²

Average depth – 2.8 m, max 6 m

Catchment area – 3374 km²

Average ice cover – 130 days

35 fish species - pikeperch, eel, bream, and pike are the most important commercial fishes



Võrtsjärv Fisheries Development Agency



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EUROOPA
KALANDUSFOND

Lake Võrtsjärv region

Number of inhabitants ca 18 000

Average population density - 6,7 p/km²

Share of children in population - 22,2%

Natural resources: peat, lake lime and lake mud, sand and gravel

Vegetation: bog forests, heath forests, bottom-land meadow and marsh meadows

213 bird species: bean goose, white-fronted goose, hen harrier, curlew, redshank, yellow wagtail, skylark, etc.



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EUROOPA
KALANDUSFOND

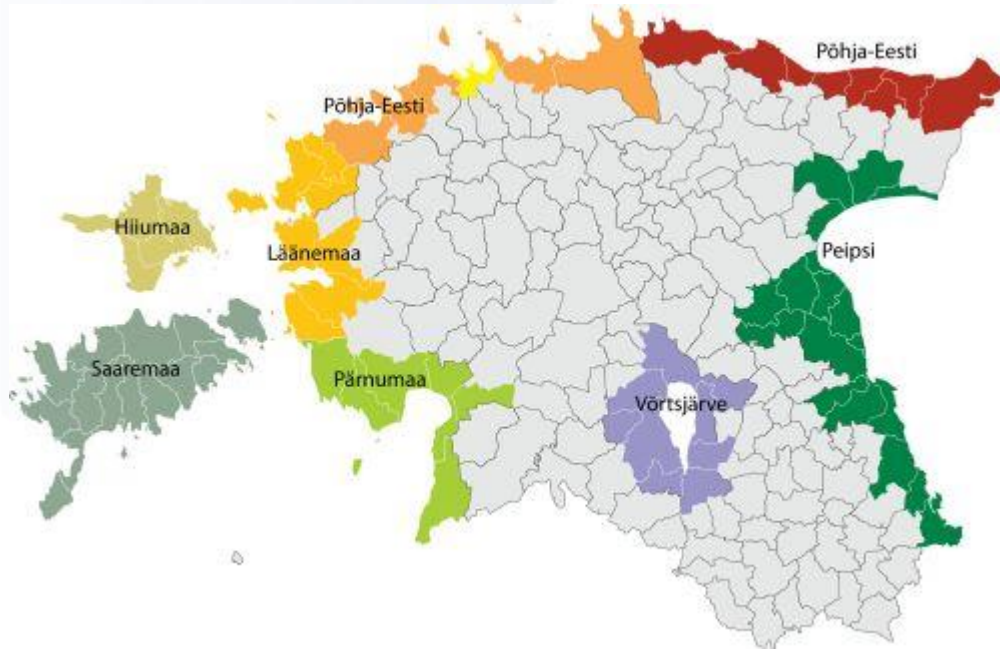
Estonian Fisheries Groups Network

Deep sea and coastal fishing, inland fishing and fish farming

Estonia has set up local action groups in eight fishery areas.

General objectives and the main tasks of the groups (FLAG`s) are:

- sustainable development of fishery,
- development of the strategic plan of the areas,
- exchange of knowledge, experience and information,
- initiation of cooperation



Võrtsjärve Fisheries Development Agency



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Estonian Fisheries Strategy

Strategy for 2014-2020 – sustainable use of fish stock:

- **Restoration of spawning areas**
- **Elimination of migration barriers**
- **Knowledge-based use of fish stock**
- **Optimisation of catch load**

Strategy for 2007-2013 - the diversity of the fisheries sector must be preserved:

- **To increase the income of fishermen**
- **To balance fishing possibilities and capacities**
- **To place more value on fish –processing**
- **To develop fish farming as unused potential**



MTÜ Võrtsjärve Kalanduspiirkond



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Fishery and its problems

- **Profitability of fishery depends mainly of the stocks of eel, pike and pikeperch**
- **Eel catch is affected by the volume of restocking**
- **No licenced harbors and shipping places**
- **Too many professional fishermen in the region (ca 49) – fish catch is too low per one fishermen**
- **Unprocessed fish sale, which gives less income**
- **No co-operation traditions between fishermen (fragmented communities, disagreements)**
- **Lack of financial recourses (investments, project`s co-financing)**
- **Low market prices, catch restrictions, short catch season**
- **Fishermen have their „main“ job**
- **Alternative activity for fishermen – tourism (one possibility)**



FLAG budget for projects 2009-2013

TOTAL: € 880 216

- Fishing-related tourism in costal villages – **35.79% - 315 029.05 EUR**
- Local fish processing and distribution – **35.79% - 315 029.05 EUR**
- Fishery related training activities — **6,28% - 55 297.93 EUR**
- Diversification of activities - **10.42% - 91 715.64 EUR**
- Harbours – **11.72% - 103 120 EUR**



Vörtsjärv Fisheries Development Agency



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Living Lakes Network member since 2002

Living Lakes koostööpartnerid

● Liikmed ja kandidaadid

● Partnerliikmed

● Auliige



www.globalnature.org



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Estonia'n Hidden Treasure 2010

Lake Võrtsjärv –

The best EDEN Destination in Aquatic Tourism

Võrtsjärv won over the jury with its strong, diverse tourist products, well-functioning cooperative networks and preservation of rich traditions.

- All winners present their attractions annually at the European Tourism Forum in Brussels.
- Formal EDEN network



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Fish and Handicraft Fair



Handicraft Network

Online shop: www.estcraft.com





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Unique art of fish skin! – wall pictures made of fish skin

Unique objects of art made of fish skin! A good idea to present it as a gift to a fisherman! The skins of the various fish species living in our waters have been used in making fish skin pictures. The majority of fish have been caught from the largest inland water body of Estonia – Lake Võrtsjärv. All the pictures have wooden frames.

You are also welcome to come forward with your [special requests!](#)

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Euro (EUR)

Product	Quantity
Products: 0	Sum: 0

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"Moon"

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24 EUR [Add to cart](#)

Traditional boat construction and tours on
traditional sailing boat „kale“



Fishermen everyday-life, local fish food



Tourism Packages

Taste Lake Vörtsjärv – main focus on traditional fishing and fish food





Thank You and Welcome!

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