

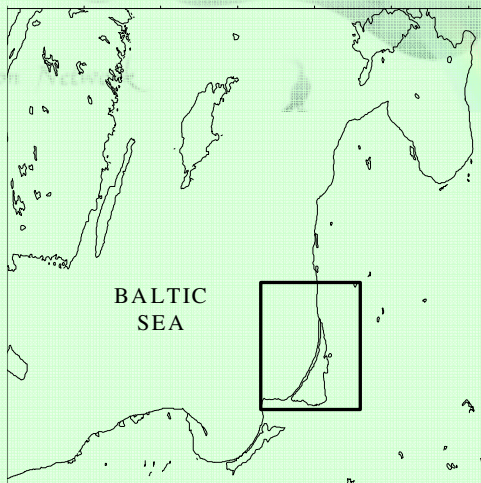
# Conservation of habitats, biodiversity and biological resources in the cross-border transitional system: the Curonian lagoon

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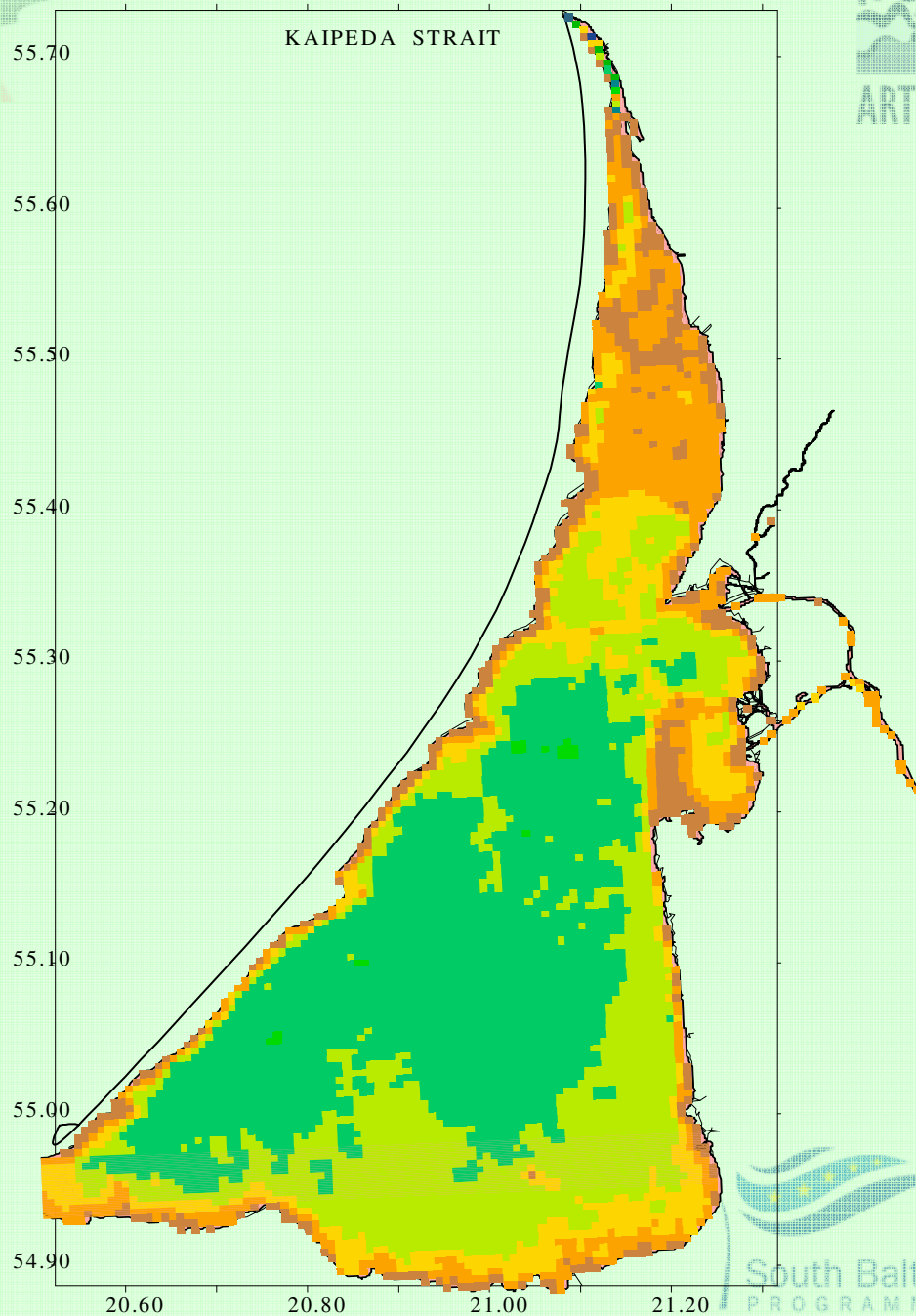
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Area: 1584 km<sup>2</sup>  
Volume: 6.2 km<sup>3</sup>  
Max depth: 5.8 m  
Mean depth: 3.8 m  
Salinity: 0-8 psu

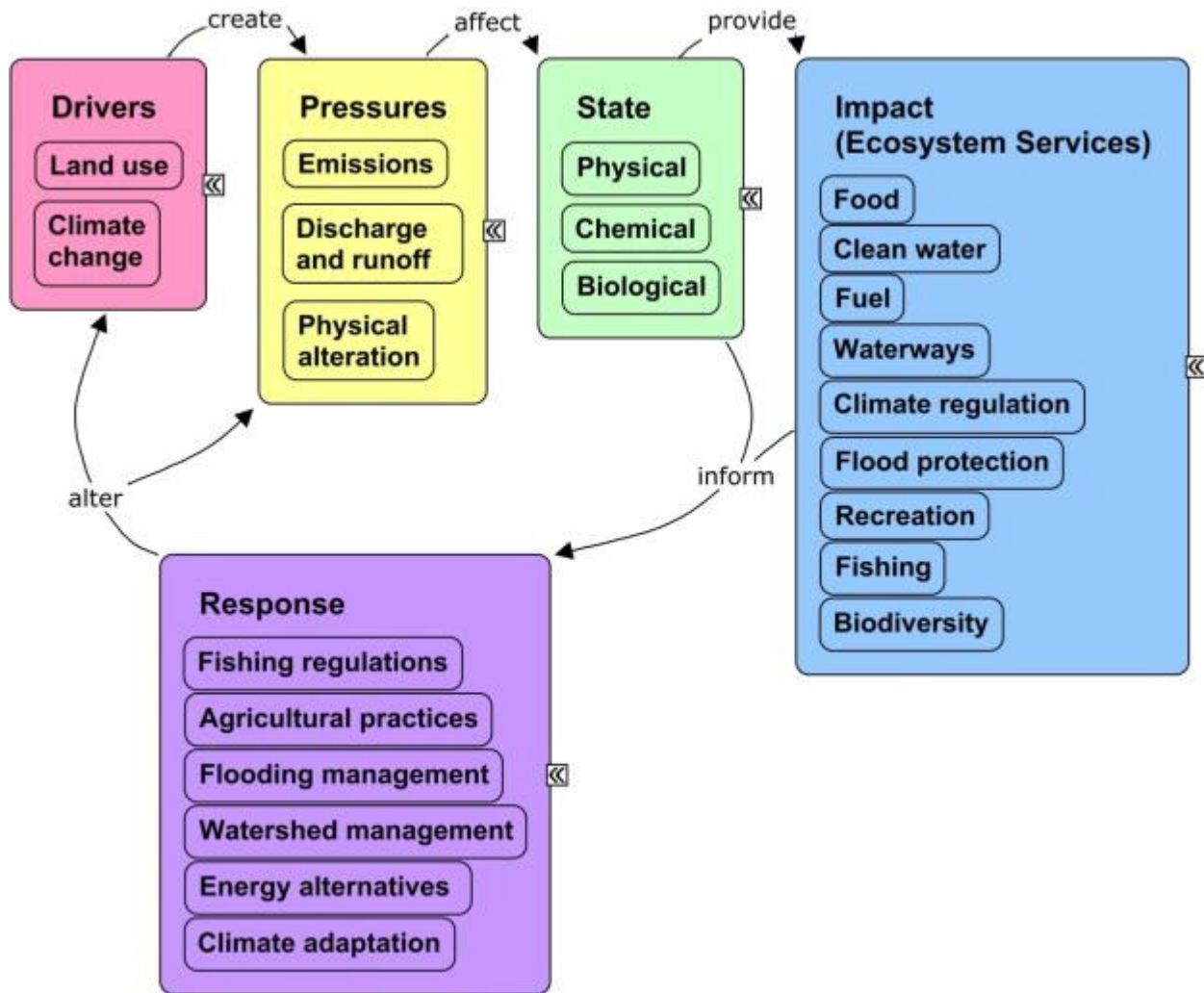


# Curonian lagoon

- Since 13 century till 1923 first with the Teutonic Order later within the Ostpreuseen.
- From 1923 to 1939 Northern part within the republic of Lithuania (semi – auotononomous Memelgebiet)
- From 1945 to 1991 under the USSR
- Since 1991 split between Lithuania and Russian federation



Average human population density in the area, 2005-2006



Curonian lagoon  
conceptual  
DPSIR model  
(modified from  
Rashleigh,  
Razinkovas &  
Pilkaityte *in  
press*)

# Habitats and their protection

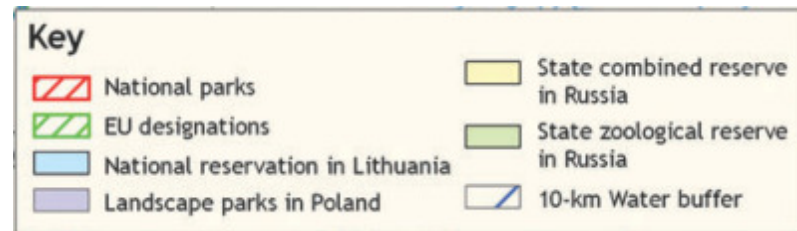
- Curonian spit is UNESCO heritage site
- Framework of protected territories
- Status is different in both countries, even for the National parks



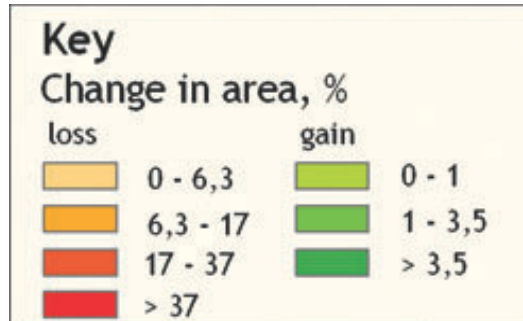
Co-operation exists between National parks on the Curonian spit, but mostly at the level of information exchange only. In 2005 common information system was created, but didn't work



## Protected areas



The whole Lithuanian part of the Curonian lagoon has been designated as NATURA 2000 area (both habitat and bird). Two of the oldest ornithological stations in area are there in Lesnoje (Russia) and Vente (Lithuania). Bird protection is important as migratory routes South-Nord pass the Curonian lagoon.



Change in area of  
semi-natural habitats  
1995-2000

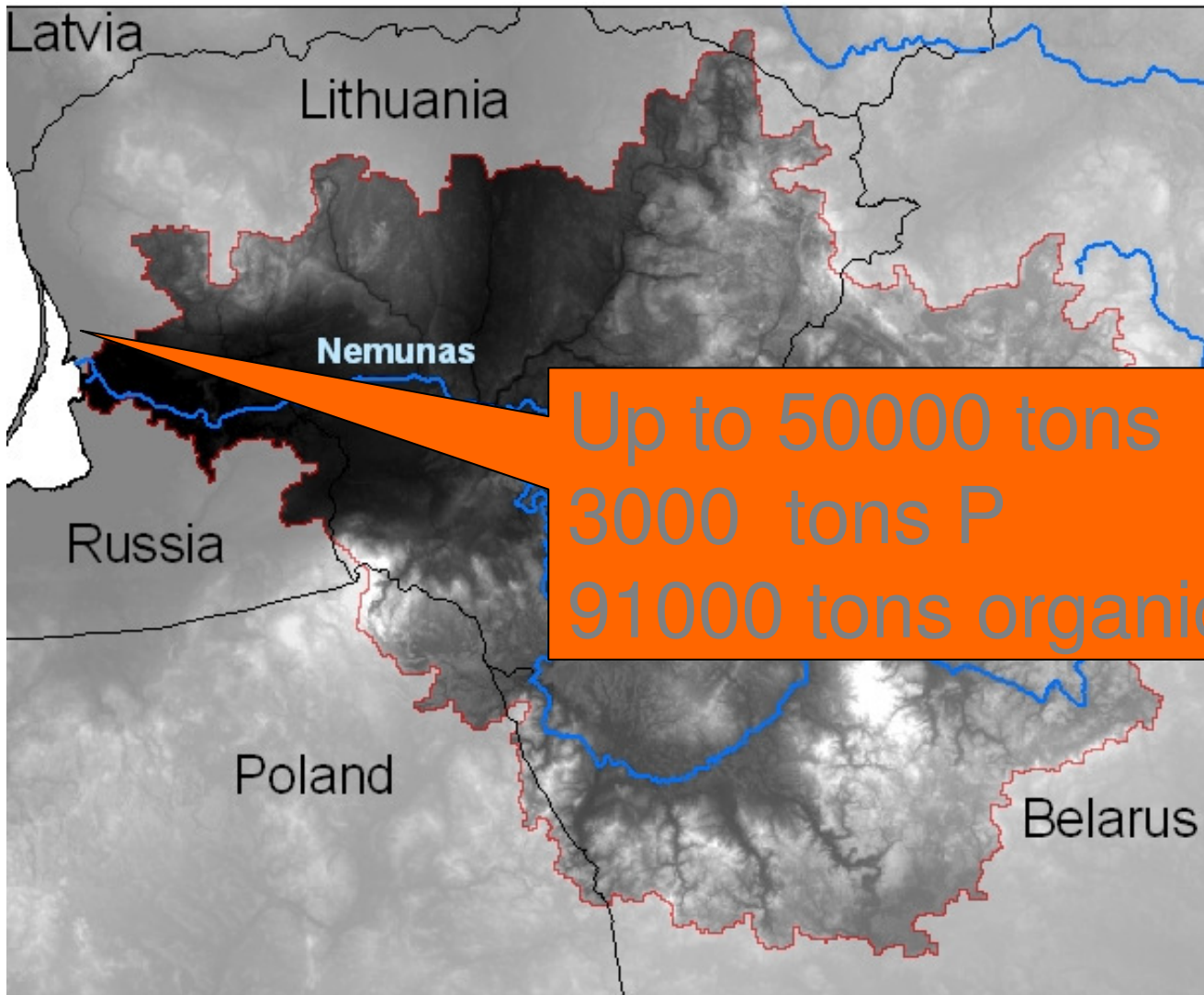




Vente ornithological station – oldest in Lithuania



Cyanobacteria bloom in the Curonian lagoon



**Total drainage area:**

1 00 460 km<sup>2</sup> – 98% belongs to the Nemunas River

Nemunas basin covers 75% of the public territory. Nemunas length 1013 km.

Basin area – 97 923,8 km<sup>2</sup>.

# Water quality

- Nearly totally depends on the Nemunas runoff which mostly belongs to Lithuania
- Programme to improve the water quality in the Curonian lagoon (part of the BSAP) was approved in 2006 by the Lithuanian government
- Nitrogen load reduction by 14% and phosphorus loads by 6% (according to the targets of the BSAP by 2010)

# Water quality: co-operation

- Nemunas river monitoring Information exchange working pretty well.
- No data exchange of monitoring information of the Curonian lagoon itself – mostly problem of different agencies responsible on the Russian side

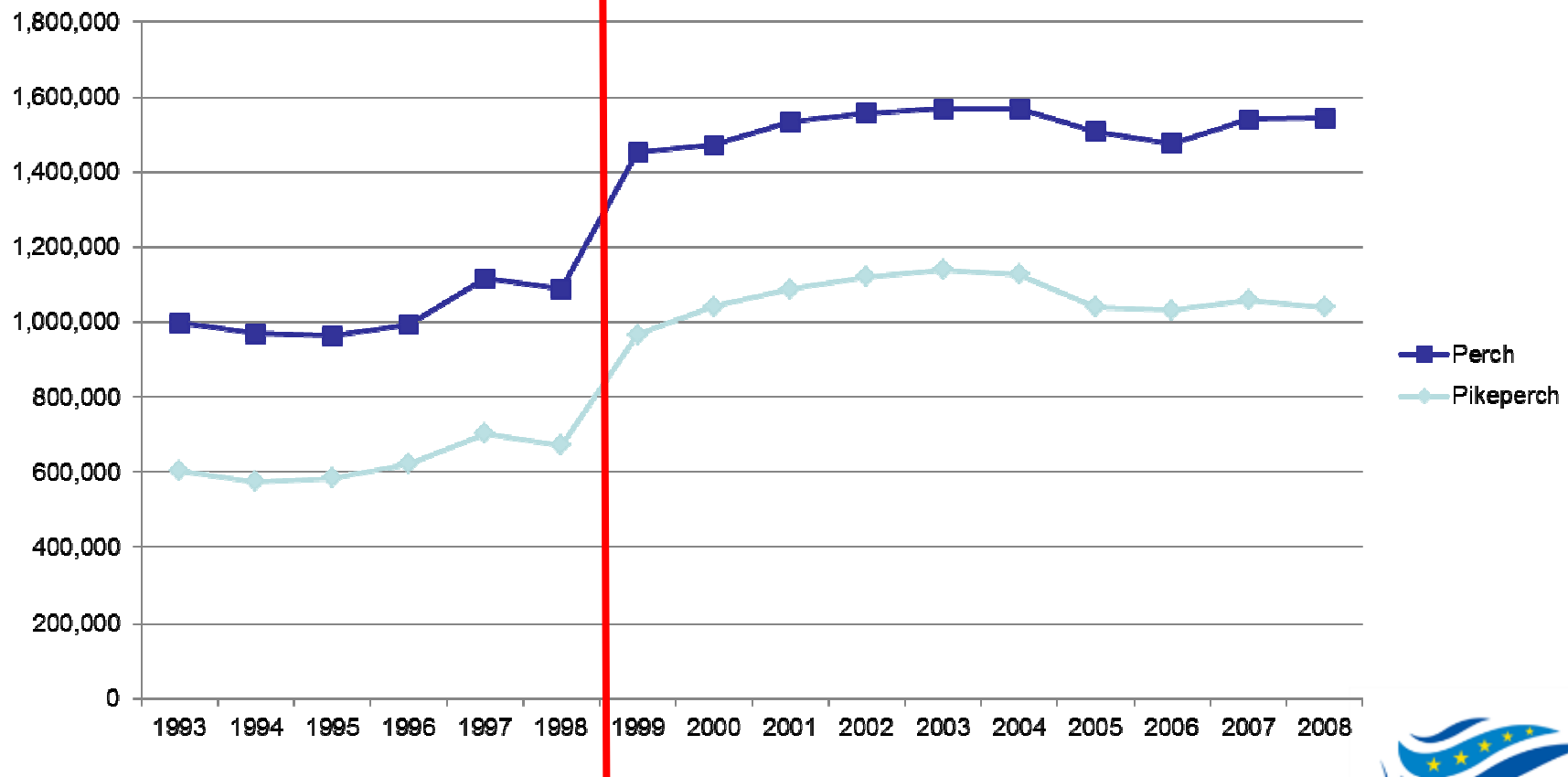
# Fishery recourses and their regulation

The Curonian Lagoon is the most productive fishery within the Lithuanian territory. The amount of fish caught in the Lithuanian part of Curonian Lagoon is ~ 1,300 – 1,500 tons and the amount caught together in Russian part reaches up to 3,000-4,000 tons per year

# Fishery recourses and their regulation

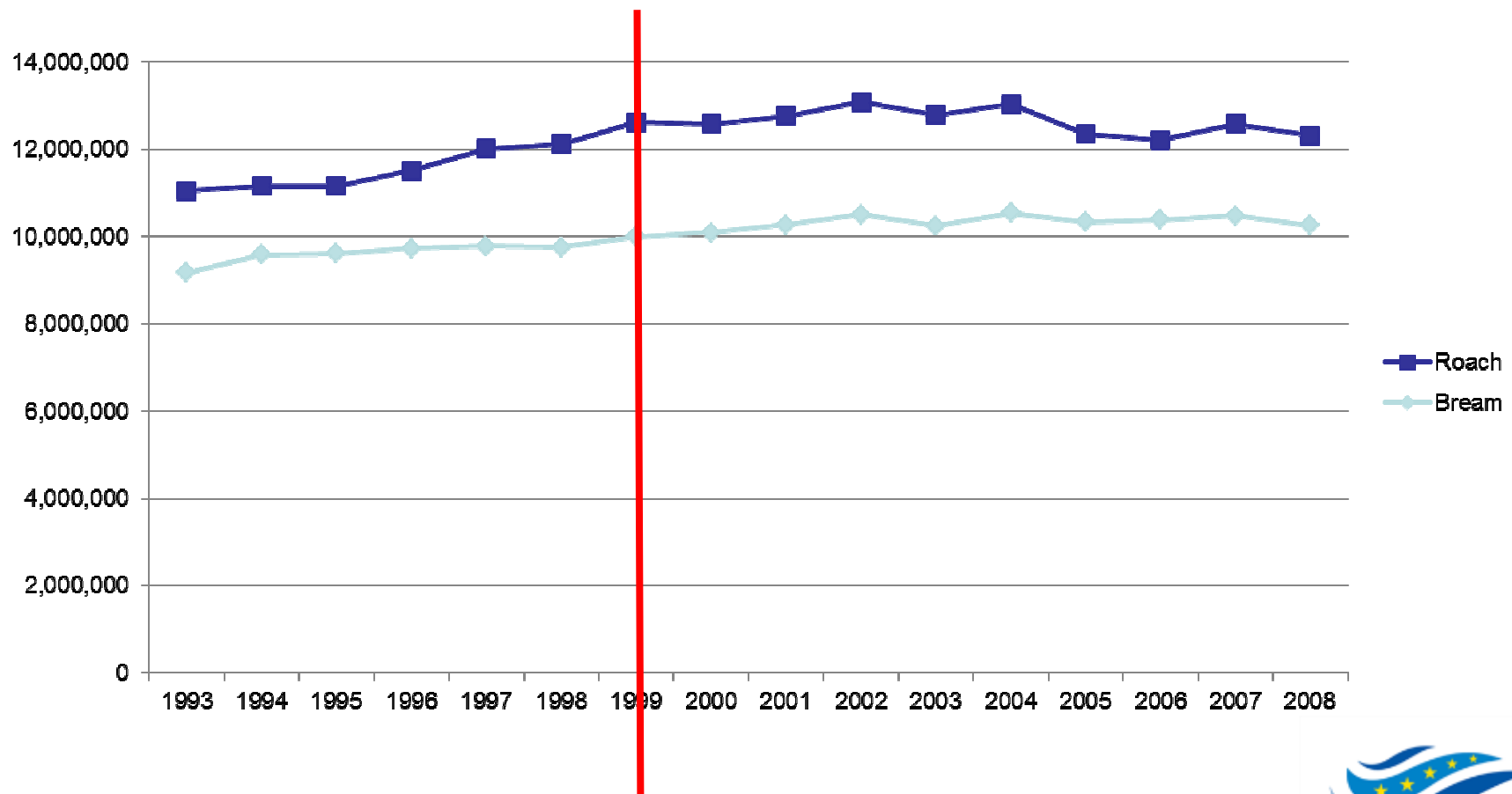
- Since 1998 joint Lithuanian – Russian commission on fishery stock management
- Meetings 2x year
- Main activities – quotas, stock rehabilitation (whitefish nursery – was that practical???), regulation of dredging in Nemunas delta

# Predatory commercial fish (estimated stock)





# Demersal commercial fish stock



# Conclusions

- There is a significant difference in legislative backgrounds between Russian federation and Lithuania – still many issues could be solved only in Moscow
- The most successful co-operation exists in the biological resources conservation
- Sectorial research and protection administration differences makes co-operation always difficult even at the data exchange level
- EU initiated neighborhood programme PL-RU-LT gives new opportunities as conservation is one of the priorities