

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

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The Curonian lagoon is the largest lagoon in Europe (over 1200 km³) shared between the Russian federation and Lithuania. The area consists of a number of protected territories and quite recently is proposed to be established as biosphere reserve to protect the habitats important for the protection of fish and cyclostom species (twait shad (*Alosa fallax*), salmon (*Salmo salar*), ziege (*Pelecus cultratus*), asp (*Aspius aspius*) and river lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*)). There are also two National parks covering the whole area of the Curonian spit – barrier island separating the lagoon from the Baltic Sea. So far it is the only protected territory in the Russian part of the lagoon. The Lithuanian part of the Curonian lagoon has been designated the NATURA 2000 area (both habitat and bird one) and contains Nemunas Delta Regional park and Svencelė botanical reserve.

The presentation will describe and discuss the major environmental protection issues from the ARTWEI Project trans-boundary cooperation perspective including the present stakeholder agreements focusing on combatting eutrophication and persistent pollution, sustainable use of fishery resources, preservation of biological diversity, endangered species and habitats.

Presentation from the ARTWEI project