



# **FISHERIES SERVICE**

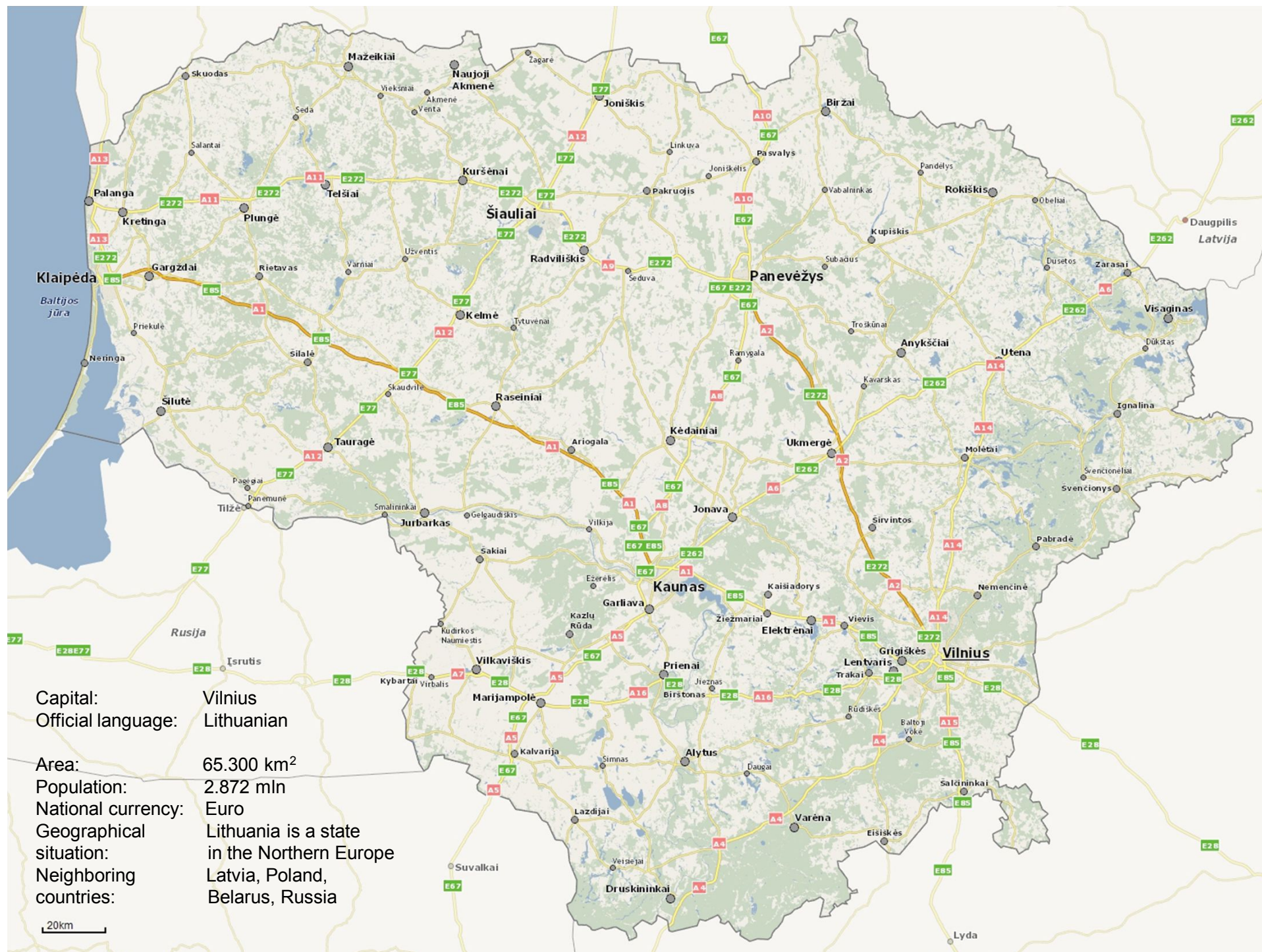
**UNDER THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**



## **European eel restoration activities in Lithuania under the implementation of Lithuanian European Eel Management Plan**

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**Szarvas 2018**



Capital: Vilnius  
Official language: Lithuanian  
Area: 65.300 km<sup>2</sup>  
Population: 2.872 mln  
National currency: Euro  
Geographical situation: Lithuania is a state in the Northern Europe  
Neighboring countries: Latvia, Poland, Belarus, Russia

# Eel Fisheries Management in Lithuania

*Main state institutions responsible for fisheries management:*

The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) of the European Union (EU).

The Ministry of Environment is responsible for the control of exploitation of fish stocks in inland waters, including the Curonian Lagoon.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment which, within their respective competence, organize the recovery of fish stocks and fisheries research in Lithuanian waters.





## Eel Fisheries Management in Lithuania (II)

In 18/09/2007 Council of Europe approved **Regulation No 1100/2007** establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel, which obliged each EU Member State to adopt measures for the restoration of European eel (*Anguilla anguilla* L.) resources.

22.9.2007

EN

Official Journal of the European Union

L 248/17

**COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1100/2007**  
**of 18 September 2007**  
**establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel**

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32007R1100&qid=1526208762922&from=EN>

Implementing the requirements of the Regulation the **Lithuanian European Eel Management Plan** was prepared and approved by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2009.

## Eel Fisheries Management in Lithuania (III)



The work of improving the conditions for spawning, migration and restocking of protected fish species lies within the Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture responsibility.



## Implementation of the European Eel Management Plan in Lithuania 2011-2018

In 2010 implementing Lithuanian Eel Management Plan the Fisheries service prepared the European Fisheries Fund project “Implementation of the Eel Management Plan in Lithuania” for 2011-2015. Project budget - 1,44 mln Eur.



In 2016 another EU financed project “Restoration of European eel resources in Lithuania” was prepared for the implementation period of 2016-2022. Project budget - 1,58 mln Eur.



## Eel Projects activities in Lithuania

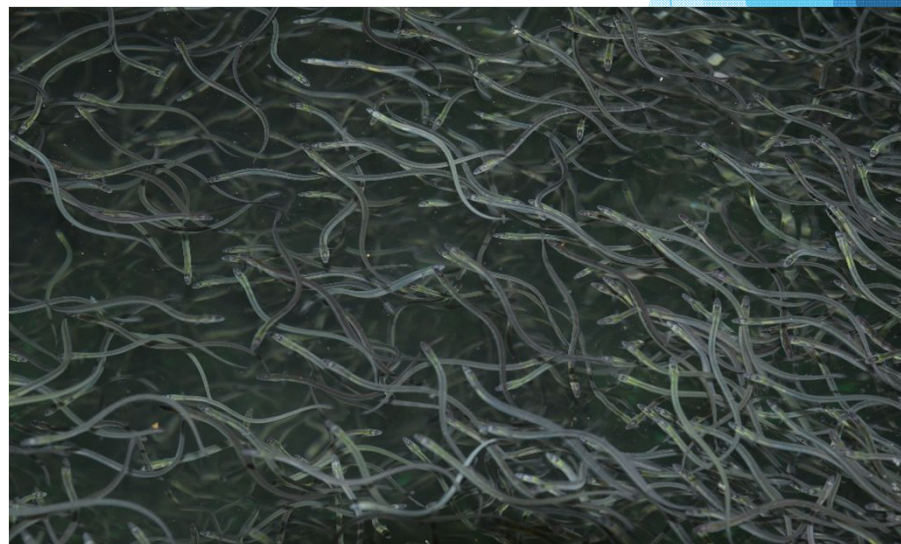
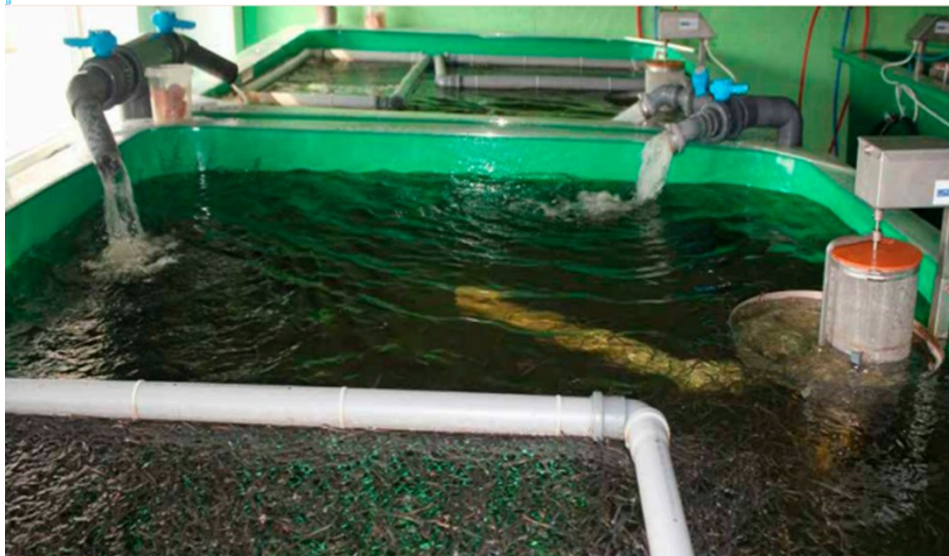
Main activities of the Projects:

- Procurement procedures of glass eels;*
- eel restocking activities;*
- modernization of facilities for eel growing;*
- scientific research activities.*





## Eel Projects activities in Lithuania

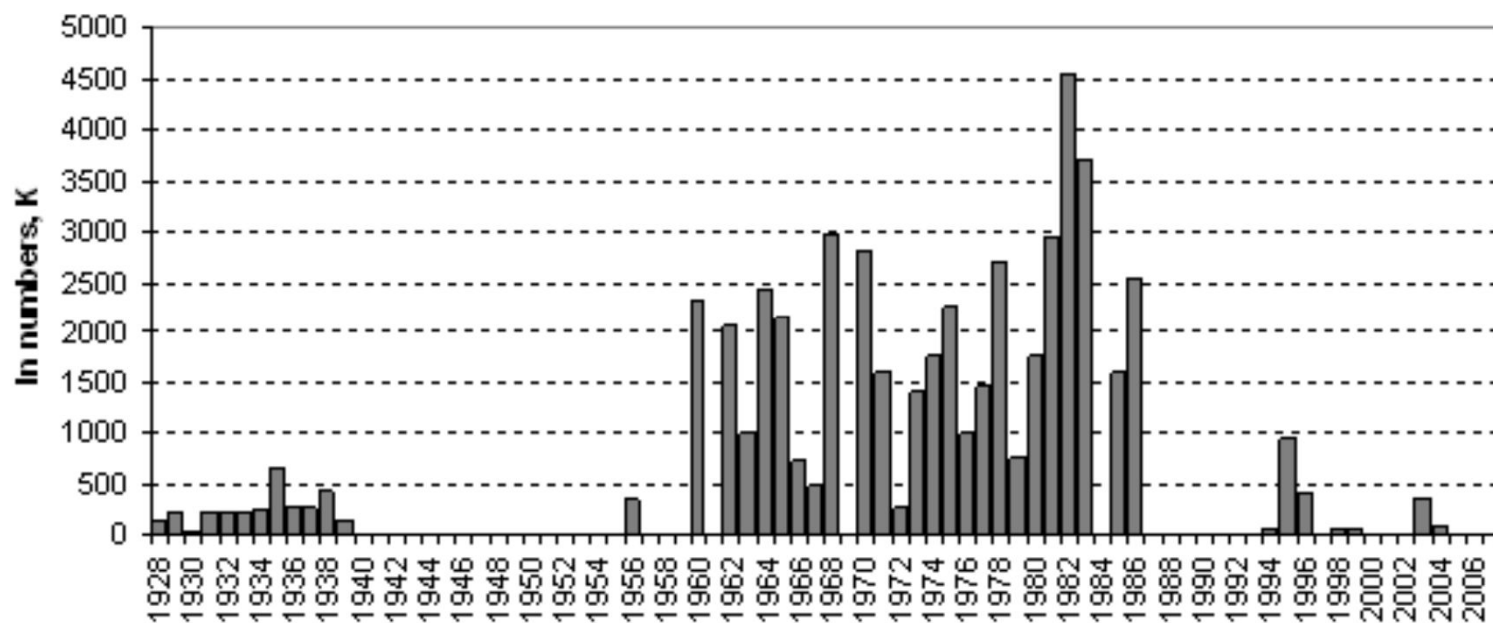




## Eel Projects activities in Lithuania



## Eel Restocking. Historical data

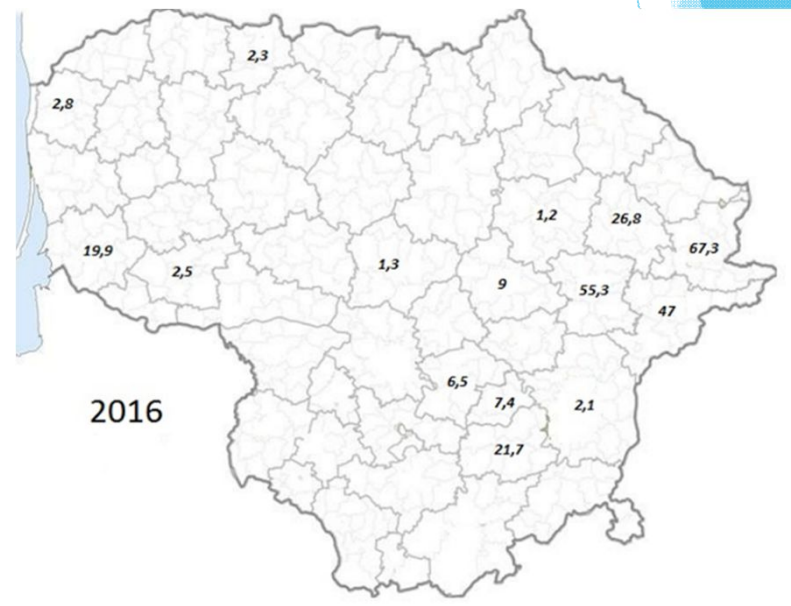
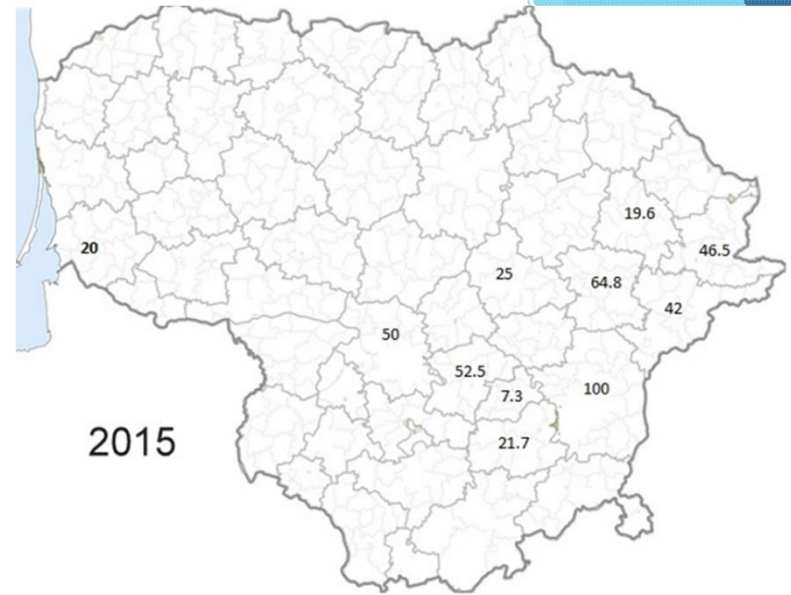


During 1956–2007 a total of 148 lakes and reservoirs covering an area of 95 618 ha were stocked with approx 50 million glass and juvenile eels (or 1.25 million per year on the average).

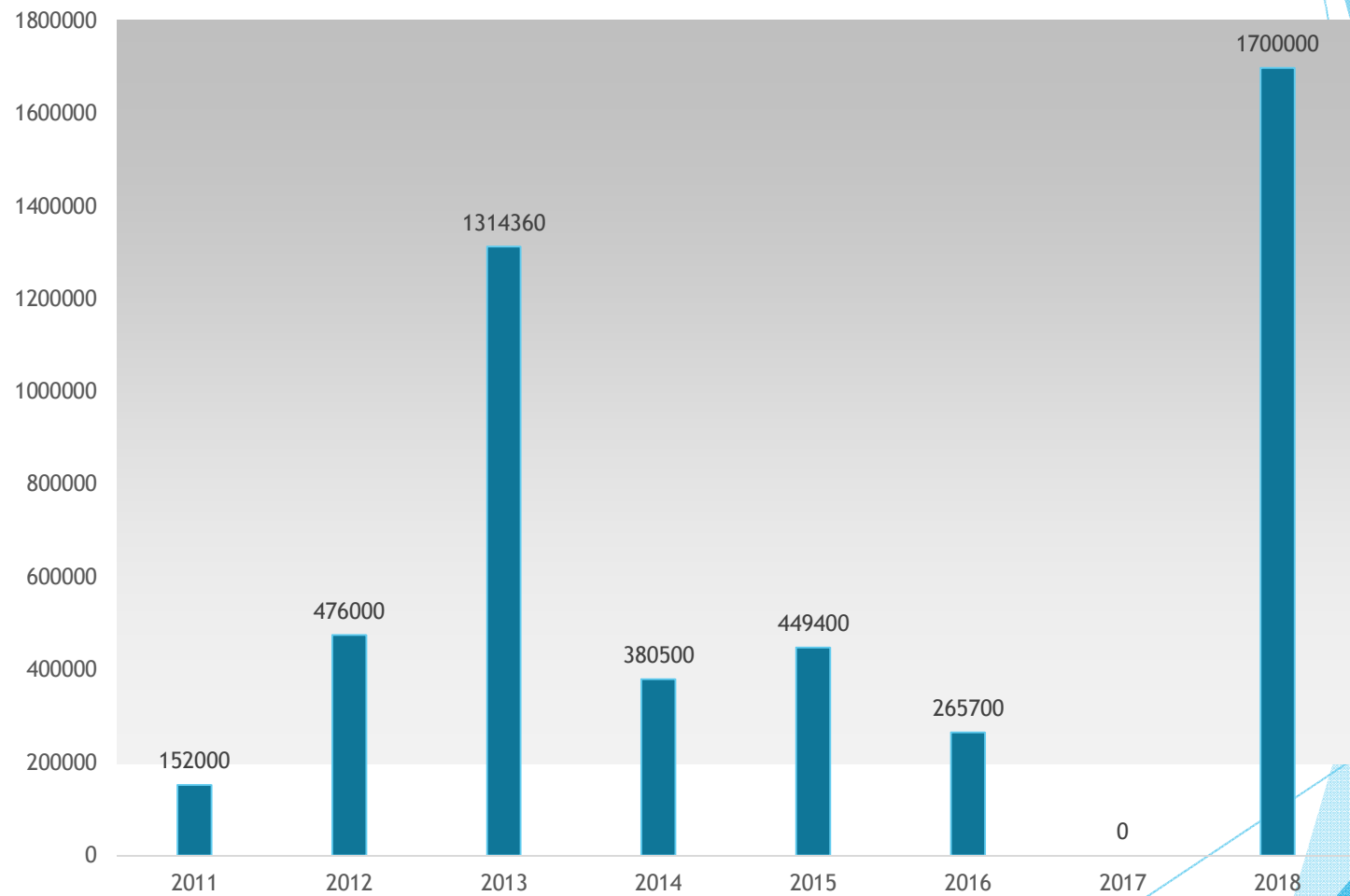


## Eel Restocking Activities

Fisheries service has started eel restocking activities again in 2011.

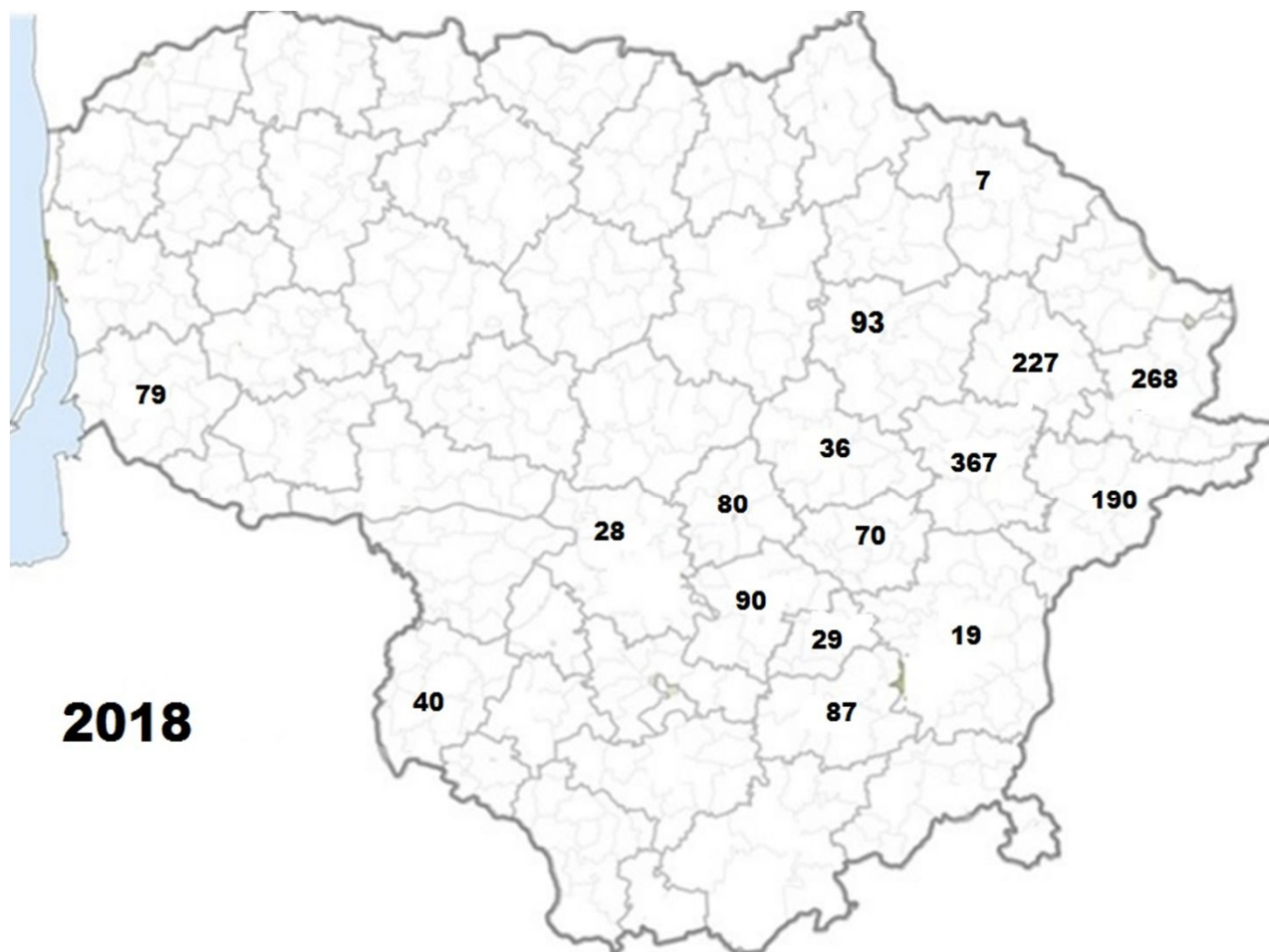


## Eel Restocking in Lithuania 2011-2018 in units.





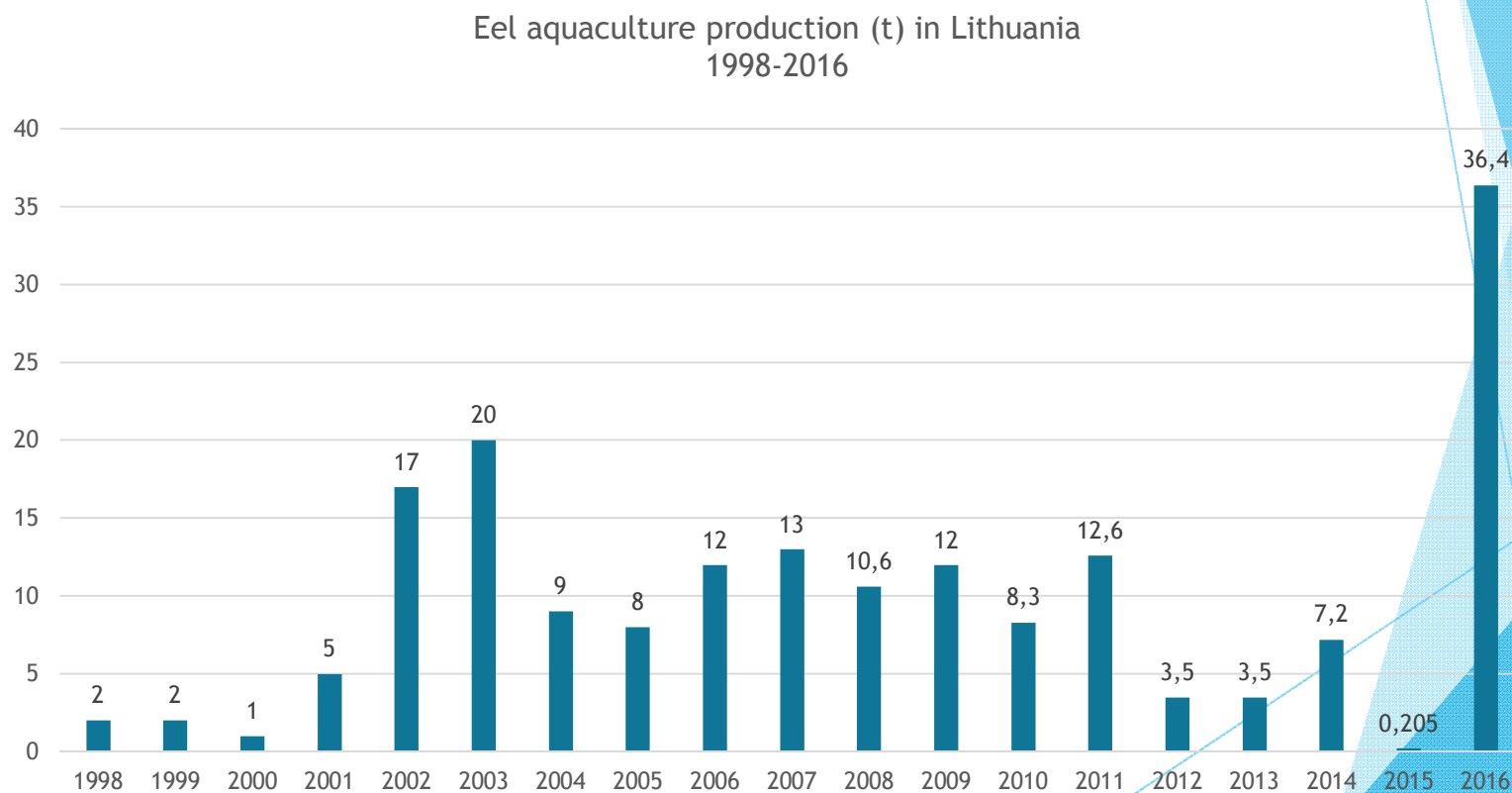
## Eel Restocking Programme in thousand units for 2018



**2018**

## Eel Aquaculture in Lithuania

- ▶ Since 2016 three Lithuanian companies actively farmed eels in recirculation systems.
- ▶ Eel aquaculture production in 2016 - 36400 kilograms.





## Eel Fishery in Lithuania

Eel fishery in Lithuania may be divided into:

- **fishery in inland waters and the Curonian Lagoon,**
- **and very small-scale fishery in the coastal Baltic Sea (accidental bycatch).**

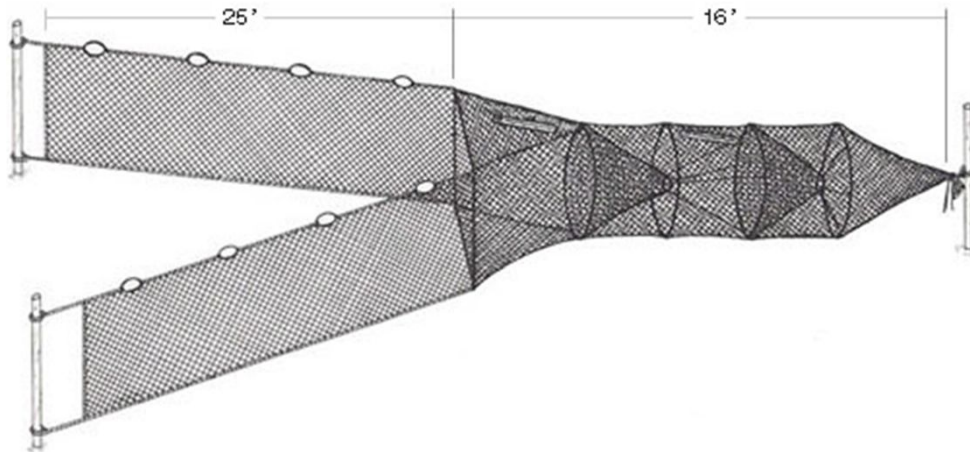
HABITAT	NUMBER	LENGTH, AREA
Rivers	4418	37 636 km
Lakes	2782 (>0.5 ha)	88 548 ha
Reservoirs	1159 (>0.5 ha)	28 306 ha
Curonian Lagoon	1	41 300 ha
Baltic Sea coastal zone	1	41 500 ha

During the period of 1926-1990 the major part of eel catches (more than 90%) came from the Curonian Lagoon.

**From 2010 the major part of European eel catches come from inland waters.**

## Eel Fishery in Lithuania. Inland waters

- ▶ In 2016 Lithuanian eel fishing quota was distributed to 26, and in 2017 - to 30 operators (fishing companies and individual fishermen).
- ▶ In 2016 in Lithuania's inland waters (rivers) eel fishing quota was distributed for 51 eel traps.



- ▶ Until 2010 eel fishing season used to continue from spring to autumn. Starting from 2010 eel fishing season starts and ends in springtime (about 45-60 days). Eels are caught in rivers using traps in April-May.



## Eel Fishery in Lithuania. Inland waters (II)

- ▶ *Fishery in the Curonian Lagoon.* In nowadays 99 % of eels are caught in the Lagoon using fyke nets, while a very small amount is caught using longlines.
- ▶ Eel fishing season in the Curonian lagoon continues from spring to autumn (about 180 days per year).
- ▶ In 2017 the fishing quota in the Curonian lagoon was 223 fyke nets.

## Total catches of eels (t) in inland waters and Curonian lagoon (1995-2016)



## Recreational Eel Fishery

- ▶ Studies on the impact of recreational fishery on eels have been performed since 2012.
- ▶ Data on eel recreational catches in inland waters were collected using the questionnaires.
- ▶ Data on total catch volume were estimated using the questionnaires on the number of anglers participating in angling in different areas of Lithuania.
- ▶ There are no records of recreational marine eel catches in Lithuania.
- ▶ Total estimated volume of recreational eel catches in inland waters and the Curonian Lagoon was 5 tonnes in 2015 and more than 2 tonnes in 2017.





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