

Transboundary data and information exchange: Finland's experience

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Finland and its transboundary waters

Transboundary waters with

- Sweden
- Norway
- Russia



The Baltic Sea Drainage Basin



Transboundary water commissions and shared watersheds

The Finnish-Swedish Transboundary River Commission

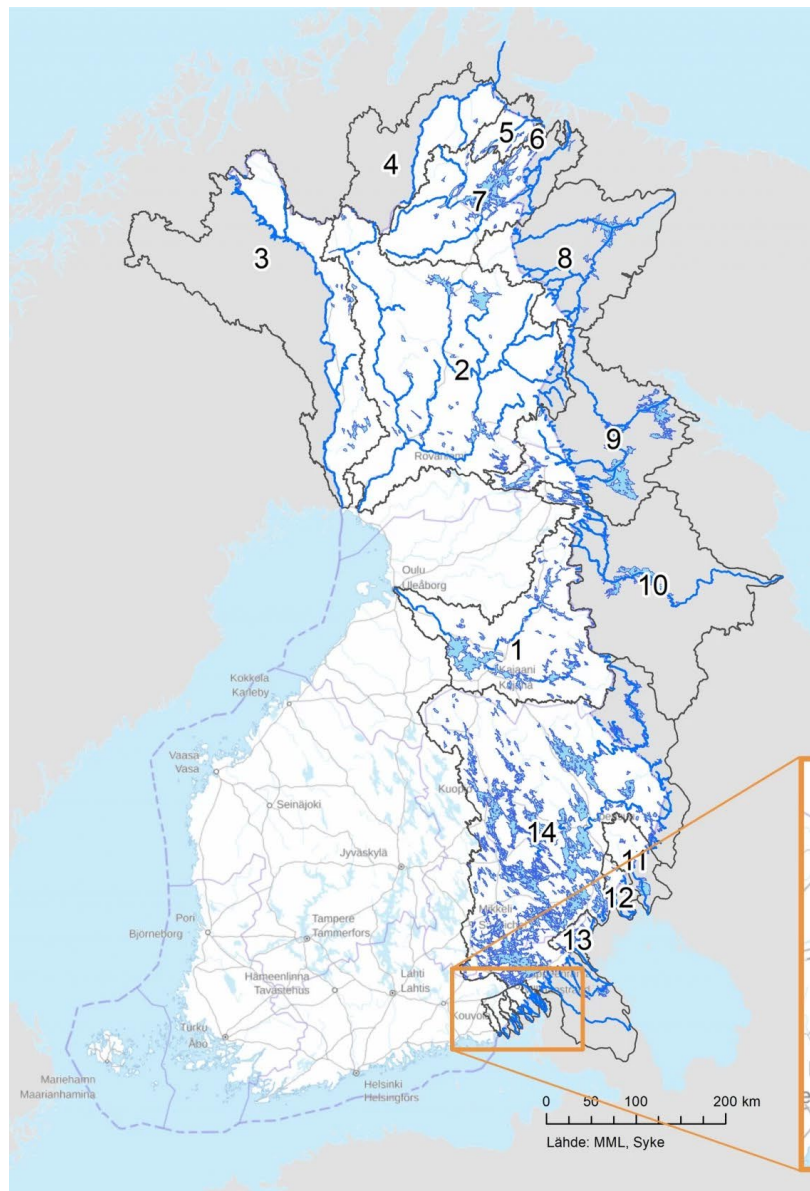
- Cross-border cooperation in water and fisheries issues
- Ensure equal opportunities to use transboundary rivers
- Contributes to prevention of flood and environmental damages.
- River 3: Tornionjoki-Muonionjoki

The Finnish-Norwegian Transboundary Water Commission

- Propositions and recommendations on matters concerning the transboundary water bodies, since 1980
- water quality monitoring, fishing, water level regulation or construction that has impact on the waters.
- Rivers 4, 5, 6, 7 (Paatsjoki: joint Finnish, Norwegian and Russian river)

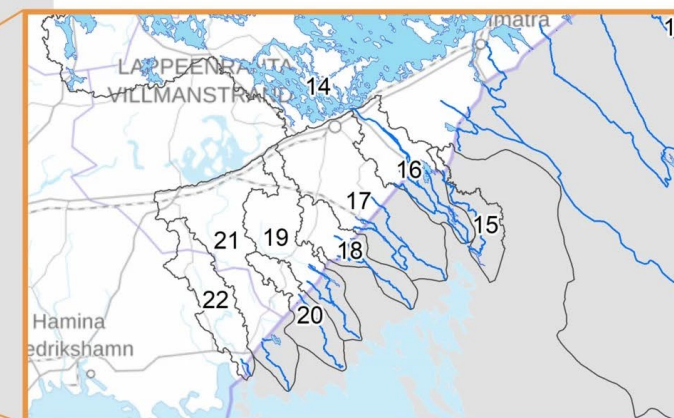
Joint Finnish – Russian Commission on the Utilisation of Transboundary Watercourses

- The agreement is one of the first international agreements (concluded in 1964) that is highly comprehensive comprising the use, management and protection of waters
- totally 19 rivers (in the map numbers: 1, 2, 7-22)



Transboundary waters in Finland

- 1 Oulujoki
- 2 Kemijoki
- 3 Tornionjoki - Muonionjoki
- 4 Teno
- 5 Näätämöjoki
- 6 Uutuanjoki
- 7 Paatsjoki
- 8 Tuulomanjoki
- 9 Oulanka - Koutajoki
- 10 Vienan Kemi
- 11 Jänisjoki
- 12 Kiteenjoki - Tohmajoki
- 13 Hiitolanjoki
- 14 Vuoksi
- 15 Kilpeenjoki
- 16 Saimaan kanava - Juustilanjoki
- 17 Rakkolanjoki - Hounijoki
- 18 Tervajoki
- 19 Vilajoki
- 20 Kaltonjoki (Santajoki)
- 21 Urpalanjoki
- 22 Vaalimaanjoki



The Finnish-Swedish Transboundary River Commission



- Finland and Sweden signed agreement in 1971;
- Agreement of the International River Basin Management Area was done in 2010, and a new Transboundary River Commission was established;
 - promotes cooperation for coordination and reconciling programmes, plans, and monitoring ;
 - right to give statements or appeals on permits concerning activities impacting on the status and use of the transboundary rivers or coastal waters;
 - ensures collaboration and accepts the International River Basin management plans (IRBMP) following the EU Water Framework Directive (every 6 years);
 - Collaboration for monitoring, harmonization of methods;
 - Both countries report to EU and EEA;
 - All data and reports available at:



For more information see:
TRIWA II Management of an
International River Basin District –
Torne River, 2008 (link:
<http://hdl.handle.net/10138/38360>)

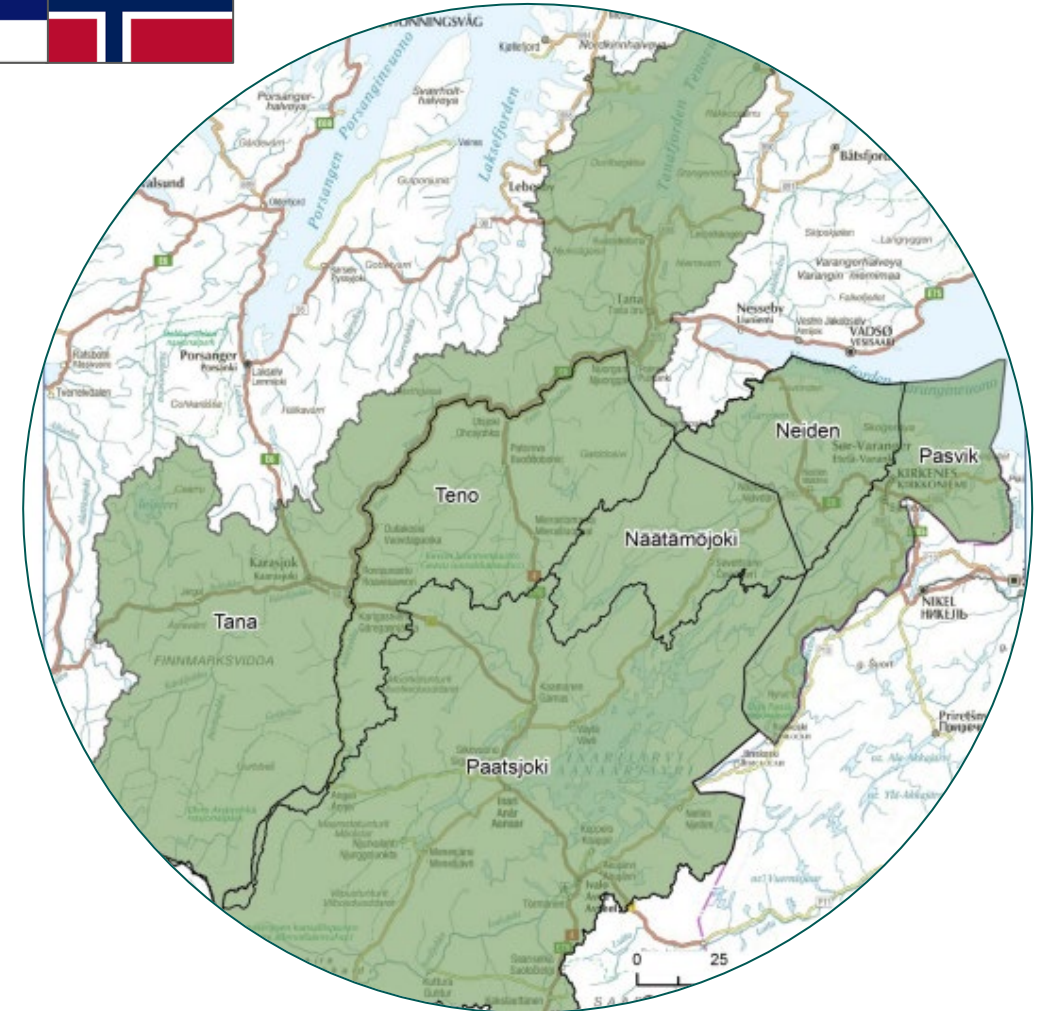
Sweden: www.viss.lansstyrelsen.se/

Finland: www.ymparisto.fi/vaikutavesiin, paikkatieto.ymparisto.fi/vesikartta

The Finnish-Norwegian Transboundary Water Commission

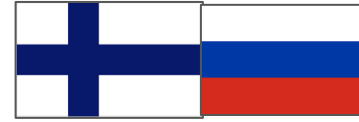


- Norway and Finland signed agreement for the use of the joint river basin in 1980
- Agreement of the International River Basin Management Area was done in 2014
 - this follows the procedures required by the EU Water Framework Directive;
 - National management plans are matched together to the joint plan (every 6 years);
 - Rules for communication, participation of the citizens, as well and resolution of the disputes;
 - Common water quality monitoring and reporting program of the river Tenojoki;
 - Both countries report to EU and EEA;
 - All documents available in Norwegian and Finnish: [Om Norsk - finsk vannregion \(norsk del\) \(vannportalen.no\)](#) and [Vesienhoidon suunnittelu ja yhteistyö > Tenon, Näätämojoen ja Paatsjoen vesienhoitoalue \(ymparisto.fi\)](#)



http://www.ymparisto.fi/fi-FI/Vesi/Vesiensuojelu/Rajavesistoyhteisty_o_Lapissa/Suomalaisnorjalainen_rajavesistokomissio/The_FinnishNorwegian_Transboundary_Water%2828322%29

The Finnish-Russian Transboundary Water Commission



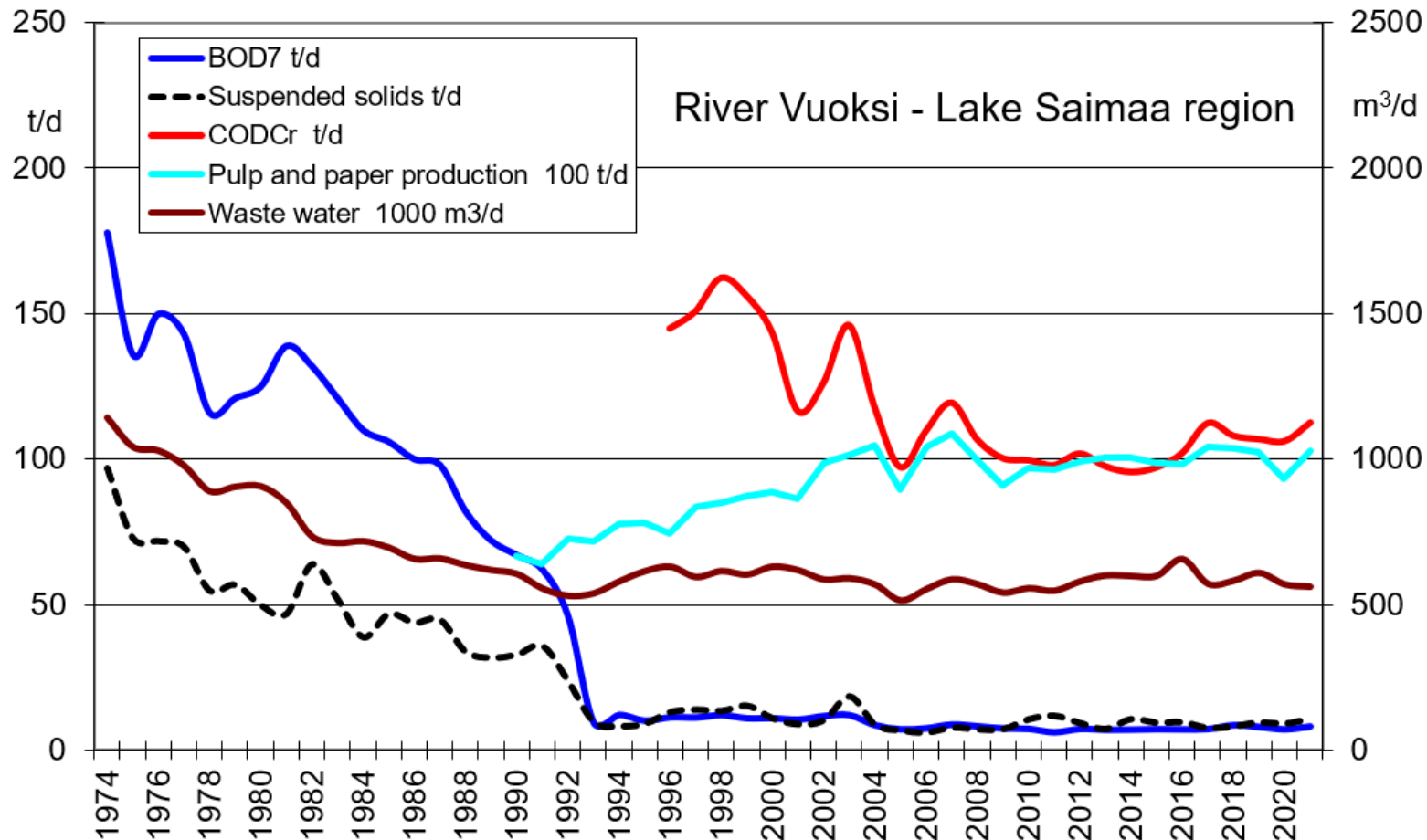
Agreement on the Utilisation of Transboundary Watercourses was signed between Finland and Soviet Union in 1964;

- Regulation of the impacts on neighbouring country, such as water flow and structural measures; floods and water scarcity; timber floating and navigation; fish migration; pollution, and water quality;
- 19 rivers, most of the eastern frontier (about 1000 km)
- Annual reports of Working groups: Water Protection and Integrated Water Resources Management:
 - water quality, wastewater loads, water regulation and protection of fish populations, etc.
- Intercalibration of sampling and analytical methods;
- Sampling every month in a same day in the Finnish and in the Russian side; Automatic data exchange;
- Monitoring programme was updated in 2015;
- Development of biological monitoring program from 2019;



<http://rajavesistokomissio.fi/>

Loading has decreased considerably over time in River Vuoksi-Lake Saimaa region (South-Eastern region) in Finland



Water Protection Reports include:

- Changes in point-source loading
- Possible accidents, problems in wastewater plants, etc.
- Water protection actions done in the latest year
- New development in purification processes;
- Changes of environmental permits of industry and municipalities
- Actions made to protect waters from diffuse pollution
- Water quality change in monitoring stations
- Water quality has improved and it is good in most rivers

Thank you!

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