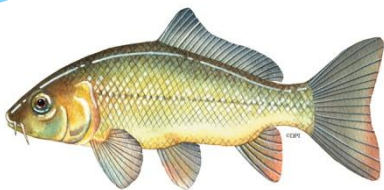


# Environmentally aware aquaculture sector: nature management and water birds protection measures in Lithuanian pond aquaculture enterprises

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# Aqua-environmental measures

- **Activity:** Use of aquaculture production methods helping to protect and improve the environment and to conserve nature (The EFF compensations).
- **Conditions:** Commitment for a minimum of 5 years to aqua-environmental requirements which goes beyond the mere application of normal good aquaculture practice.
- Main measures of this activity:
  - Organic farming;
  - Nature management in fish farms;
  - Water birds protection measures in fish farms;

# Implementation of aqua-environmental measures

- 19 of 23 pond aquaculture enterprises in Lithuania implemented nature management and water birds protection measures.
- 16 aquaculture farms do not fall into NATURA 2000 areas → implementation of environment protection measures **was voluntary**.
- The EFF provided 6,66 million Euros of compensations for the use of these 2 measures:
  - 3,77 million Euros for nature management;
  - 2,89 million Euros for water birds protection;

# Good practice example: UAB “Raseinių žuvininkystė” I

- UAB “Raseinių žuvininkystė” – one of the biggest pond aquaculture enterprises in Lithuania.
- **Area of the ponds:** total - 1 155,65 hectares: certified as organic - 898,8 hectares.
- In 2013 800 tones of fish was grown and 614 tones of fish was sold.
- **Activity:**
  - growing of marketable live fish and their fingerlings: carp, pike, crucian carp;
  - develop an organic fishery;
  - wholesale trade;
  - organize commercial fishing.

# Good practice example: UAB “Raseinių žuvininkystė” II

Implementation of nature management plans and water birds protection measures for 5 years (2007-2013)

➤ Water birds protected in this fish farm:

Coot



Mute swan



Mallard duck



White egret



Great cormorant



Created grebe



Tufted duck



Great blue heron



Sea eagle



Black-headed gull



Silver gull



Common tern



Goosander



Smew



Pochard duck



# Conclusions

- Pond aquaculture operators recognize the rich biodiversity of the Lithuanian inland environment and the need for its protection.
- 2007-2013 period has shown that pond aquaculture enterprises can **voluntary engage** in activities helping to minimize all impacts on habitats and species within the production area.
- Fish farming enterprises implementing nature protection measures can run profitable and successful business.
- Benefits:
  - Positive effects on protected birds;
  - Nicer environment and landscape of fish farms;
  - Attractive compensation scheme to aquaculture enterprises, which face the loss of grown fish because of the water birds.



Thank you for your attention!

