



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
VETERINARY AND FOOD BOARD

The eradication and surveillance program for fish diseases as VHS and IHN in Estonia

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General overview

1. General information about the program
2. General presentation of the current status as regards VHS/IHN in Estonia
3. The management of the program
4. The assessments which form the basis for including or excluding establishments as regards the program
5. Map illustrating establishments and ponds participating in the program with color-coding for different health status
6. The assessments made as basis for the surveillance of wild populations as part of the program
7. Map illustrating the surveillance of wild populations

General information about the program

- The eradication and surveillance program for fish diseases concerning viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) in Estonia
- Program is multi-annual, for the years 2020-2023
- Program is based on the requirements of Annex VI of the CID 2015/2444
- The aim of the program is to receive the disease-freedom for the whole country
- The program was initiated by the fishfarming industry and supported by the Ministry of Rural Affairs and the Veterinary and Food Board
- Estonia sent an application to the European Commission on 31.05.2019.
- Program was revised in November 2019 (due to the Commission remarks)

General presentation of the current status as regards VHS/IHN in Estonia

- Testing for VHS and IHN has taken place in Estonia every year within the framework of the Estonian National Infectious Animal Disease Control Programme.
- Both infectious aquatic animal diseases have been diagnosed in Estonia within the framework of the program.
- The first case of VHS in Estonia was recorded in a fish farm in 1982. The following case of VHS was diagnosed in 2002. There were outbreaks of VHS in two fish farms in Estonia in December 2011, and the implementation of the disease control was continued during 2012. After eradication of those outbreaks, no new outbreaks as regards VHS have been discovered.
- A multi-annual surveillance program was carried out in Estonia according to the requirements of the CD 2001/183 and 2015/1554 by years 2015-2018. During this program IHN was diagnosed in two separate fish farms in 2018. This was the first detection of IHN in Estonia. The disease control measures were implemented during 2019.
- At present time, two fish farms in Estonia have been declared officially free of VHS/IHN, based on the several years of surveillance.

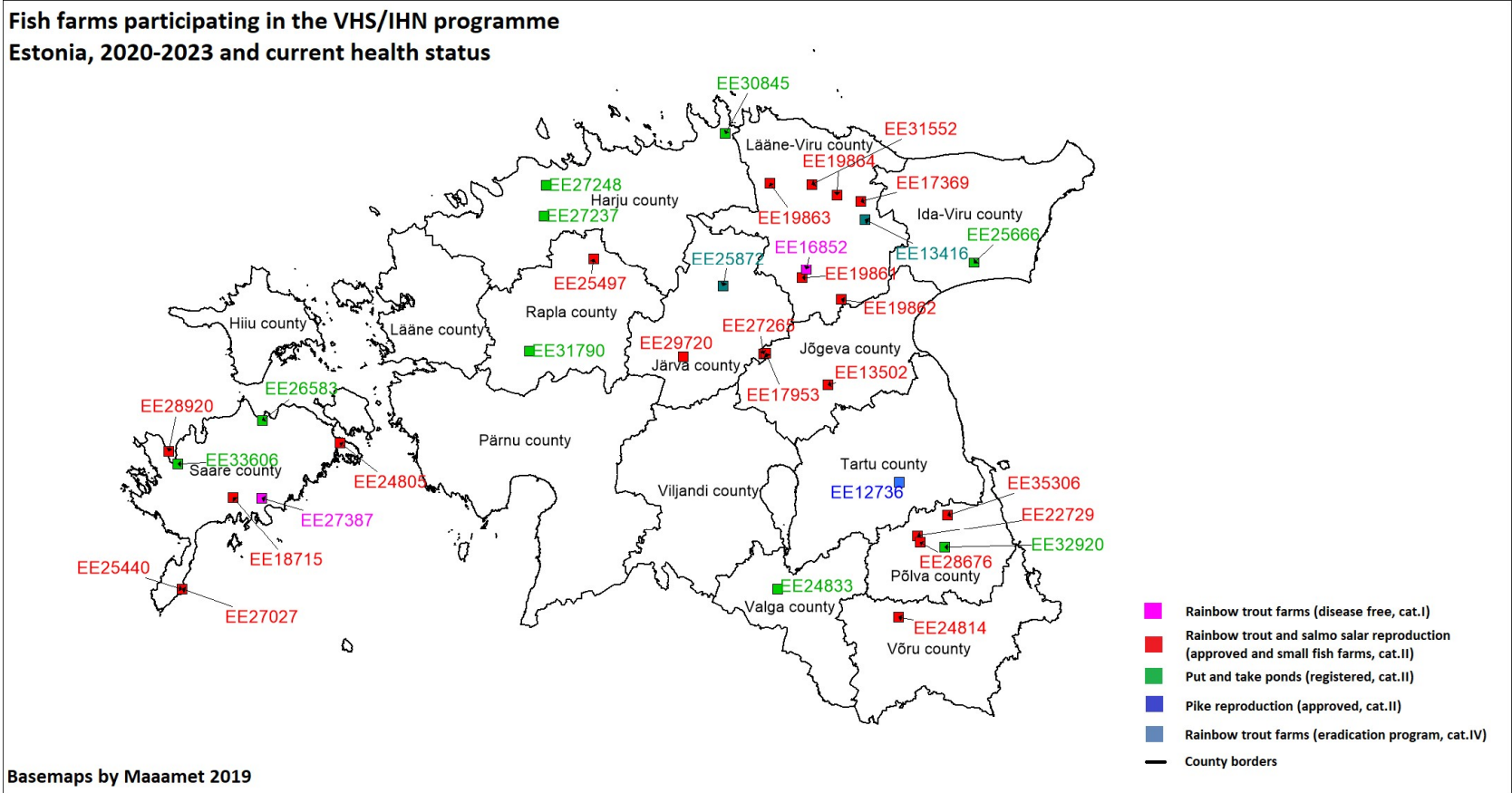
The management of the program

- The Veterinary and Food Board is responsible for the managing of the program, including official controls and the health visits.
- Aquaculture establishments will be inspected by a supervision official who will conduct clinical inspections and obtain the specified samples.
- Sampling for the monitoring of wild fish populations will be conducted by a contractor.

The assessments which form the basis for including or excluding establishments

- For the purposes of the VHS/IHN surveillance and eradication program for 2020-2023, **21 approved fish farms keeping susceptible species** for VHS/IHN were chosen to take part at the program.
- In addition to the approved fish farms, there are **2 registered small fish farms** producing small amount of fish for human consumption (less than 100 kg per day). These 2 fish farms are added to the relevant provision of Decision (EU) 2015/1554, also surveillance scheme at the Table 1.B.
- There are **2 officially declared disease-free rainbow trout fish farms**, which will carry out the relevant provisions as regards maintenance of disease free status (paragraph I.3 and Table 1.C of Part 1 in Annex I of Dec. (EU) 2015/1554)
- In addition to the approved fish farms, **9 registered put and take ponds** were chosen to take part at the VHS/IHN program.

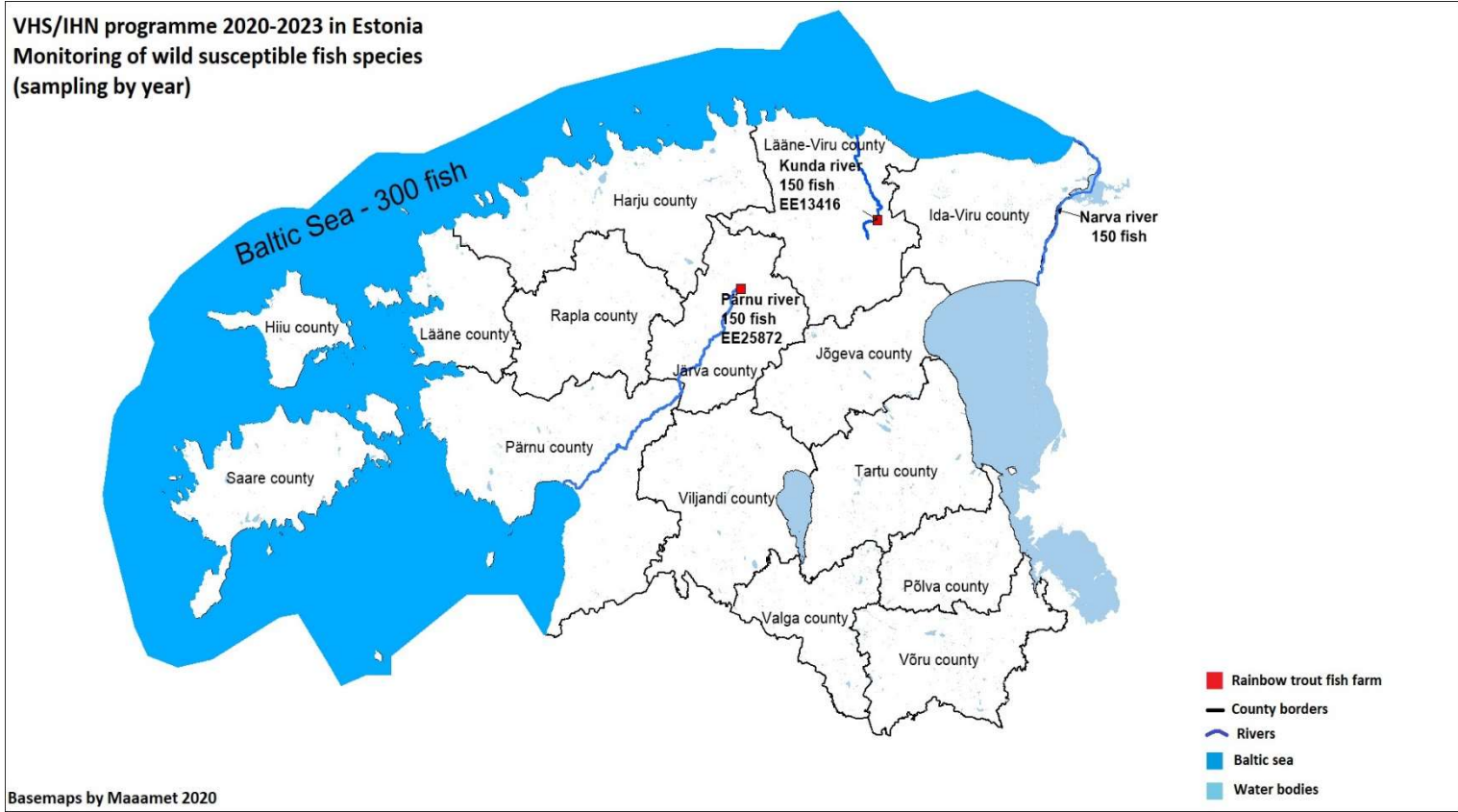
Map illustrating establishments and ponds participating in the program



The assessments made as basis for the surveillance of wild populations

- For monitoring the presence of the diseases in natural water, Veterinary and Food Board decided to take samples from the wild salmonids populations.
- Based on the risk analysis carried out by the VFB, samples are also obtained from wild fish which live in the immediate proximity of an infected fish farms (at the map, those are EE 25872 and EE13416 respectively). The sampling points in Pärnu and Kunda rivers.
- There are other considerable risk factors such as a river on the border with a third country (Russian Federation), where the epidemiological situation is unknown. The sampling points in the Narva river.
- In addition to the surveillance of fish farms, the VFB also conducts testing of fish in the Baltic Sea (sprat and Baltic herring) for VHS as of 2016. The reason for the surveillance of the Baltic Sea was that it was required for opening a new export market.

Map illustrating the surveillance of wild populations





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Thank you!

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