

Coastal Angling Tourism

A development chance for the South Baltic Region

Coastal angling tourism offers a unique development chance for the South Baltic Region, especially for less developed coastal regions and even outside the holiday season. But angling tourism is still a niche market based on very local initiatives and angler-to-angler-communication. To change this, it is indispensable to cooperate across borders and jointly promote coastal angling and its economic potentials.

Within the CATCH project regional networks are developed based on case studies to increase the capability of stakeholders to engage in the topic and to develop and strengthen interfaces to further topics of regional development, such as other economic branches or tourism sectors. Thus, significant spill-over effects can be expected and further synergies are conceivable. For this purpose various target groups will be linked in stakeholder body groups. The stakeholder body groups initiated by the partnership work together on regional, national and cross-border level (Lithuania, Poland, Germany and Denmark) to raise awareness of this new trend and to discuss possibilities and feasibilities for establishing sustainable angling sites. The exchange of experiences and best-practice between different stakeholder groups and existing angling sites will help to work jointly on guidelines for other coastal municipalities to develop sustainable angling tourism boosting coastal development.



Fig. 1: CATCH case studies in the South Baltic Region

Case study: Klaipėda region, Lithuania

The case study area is divided in three sub-cases, providing a large variety of offers for coastal anglers. Introducing sustainable development to the coastal angling tourism sector can provide even greater benefits on the long run.

Location of study sites: The Lithuanian Baltic Sea along the coastline can be up to 20 meter deep. In the northern part of the study area the seabed is mainly composed out of rocks in combination with sand. The southern part has a more homogenous sand-dominated seabed structure. The northern part of the study area is under strong influence of a freshwater flow from the Curonian Lagoon towards the Baltic Sea.

The Curonian Lagoon is a freshwater lagoon of the southeastern part of the Baltic Sea with a basin of a straight triangle. The narrow Curonian Spit separates the Lagoon from the Baltic Sea. The length of the coastline of the Lagoon in Lithuanian territory is about 413 km². The rest of the Lagoon is located in the territory of the Russian Federation. The lagoon is very shallow with an average depth of 3.8 meter. The northernmost part of the Curonian Lagoon, which is up to 14 meters deep and just 0.4 km width, has been strongly transformed by industrial activities.

The Nemunas River provides the main water inflow into the Curonian lagoon, which discharges to the Baltic Sea. The Nemunas Delta with a maze of river branches, canals, polders and wetlands is protected as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar convention and as a regional park. The delta is highly important for the migrating and breeding fish and birds.

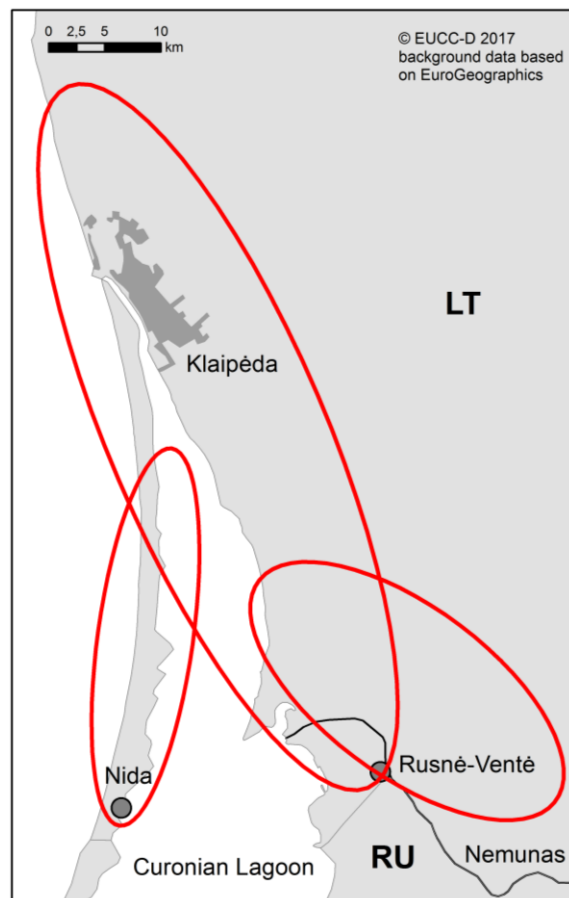


Fig. 2: Case study sites in Lithuania (Lithuanian Baltic Sea, Curonian Lagoon and Nemunas Delta)

Target fish species:

- Lithuanian Baltic Sea: cod, salmon, Baltic herring, round goby, flounder, garfish, brown trout, smelt and turbot.
- Curonian Lagoon: perch, roach, smelt, pikeperch, bream, burbot, pike, prussian carp.
- Lower reaches of Nemunas: bream, roach, perch, pike, silver bream, pikeperch, rudd, tench, chub, vimba, smelt, burbot, catfish, asp, very rarely – salmon and brown trout.

Main angling season: The main angling season differs according to fish species, but also depends on the region within the case study area. Thus, the study area provides all year round angling opportunities.

Kinds of angling: Klaipėda region offers a variety of angling methods reaching from spin fishing, trolling, float fishing, ledgering and fishing with floating handlines from the boat to methods of shore fishing, such as spin fishing, fly fishing and float fishing. One can also go ice fishing in the winter using angling spoons/flyes, fishing jigs or mugs (tip up fishing).

Target group (customers): The customers of coastal angling in the Klaipėda region are residents and tourists who are travelling for angling purpose or are visiting the area for other reasons, but make use of angling as one of their leisure activities. The region attracts anglers of all ages (main target group: 14 to 65 years old).

Available infrastructure: Tourism information centers, common accommodation, restaurants, recreational fishing services, boat rentals, recreational fishing providers, angling shops and fishing guides

Development of angling tourism: In the past the study area was well-known for its fisherman villages and agriculture. Nowadays the hospitality business rules the area. Nevertheless, due to the lack of data, the development of coastal angling tourism in the study area was not recorded.

Points of sustainability:

- Closed seasons for the Curonian Spit (and Nemunas Delta regional park waters) were established according to the rules for internal fishing for pike, pikeperch, asp, burbot, catfish, bream as well as nodule and narrow-clawed crayfish. In the Lithuanian Baltic Sea closed seasons were established according to the rules for amateur angling of turbot and European whitefish. Furthermore, fishing in marine waters is limited.
- The new development of the area as a recreational tourism place shows ambitions to maintain the historic aspects. Hence, there are various cultural events related to the recreational fishing, bringing the local communities together. Several locals and stakeholders in the case study area participate in a range of activities and projects related to angling, traditional fish dishes and others.
- The angling tourism helps to diversify the supply chain and adds additional all season business opportunities for the local community. A project supporting fisheries to retrain recreational angling providers was conducted in the area.

Known problems: Due to the lack of data on angling tourism in the Klaipėda region, a range of problems may exist, but have not been recorded. However, conflicts between commercial fisheries and recreational fishing are common issues.

Marketing slogan: None (in progress)

Website: None

Contact: Antanas Kontautas, Antanas.Kontautas@ku.lt, Klaipėda University
Eglė Mikšiūnaitė, projects@visitneringa.lt, Nida Culture and Tourism Information Centre