EUROPOS SĄJUNGA

Europos žuvininkystės fondas:
Investavimas į tvarią žuvininkystę

Projektą remia Lietuvos Respublika

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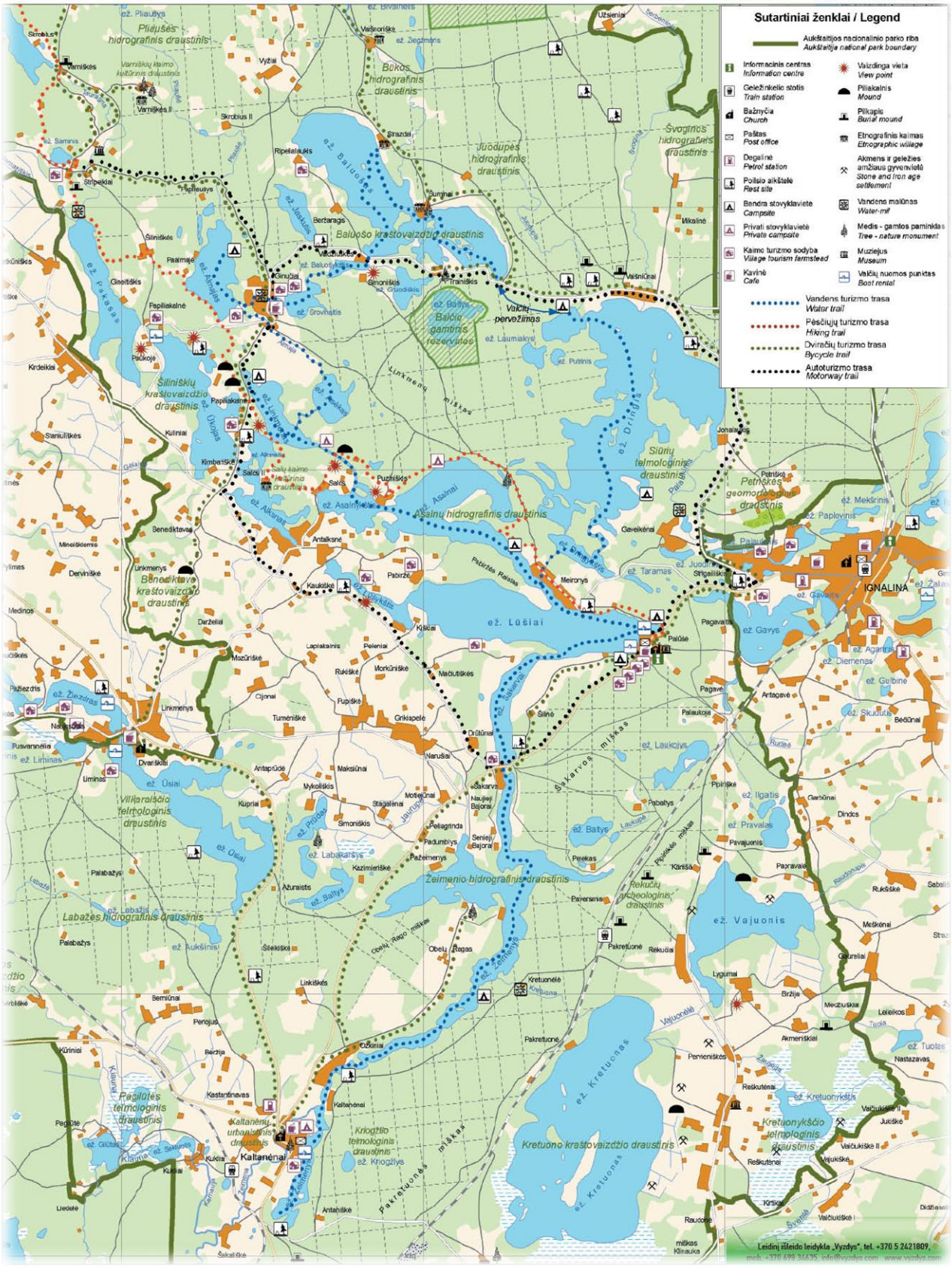
Ignalina is associated with two words: relaxation and quietness. It is a land of lakes and forests. Beautiful places of the region attracts people who love natural nature, fishing, water entertainment, boat and cycling tours, winter sports, quite rest in rural homestead. It is difficult to imagine a day without fish that you caught on your own in the lake, doesn‘t matter how big it is. Let‘s have a tour around Ignalina region with a multitude of lakes.

Aplankykite
IGNALINOS kraštą

ПОСЕТИТЕ ИГНАЛИНСКИЙ КРАЙ / VISIT THE REGION OF IGNALINA



Picture by Edmundas Kilkus

Briefly about the history of the region...

Fishing in the Ignalina region is one of the oldest and one of the most important undertakings of the locals, from generation to generation, who lived and currently live near lakes. Many of those who lived near lakes used to fish for their livelihood. This is evidenced by archeological excavations. Bone harpoon was a popular fishing gear of those days. The oldest fishing gears that can be found in Aukstaitija National Park and Labanoras Regional Park were made in the Middle Stone Age or during Mesolithic period (the 8^{th} - 5^{th} millennium BC). It is known that the residents of Kretuonas lake surroundings used to fish with harpoons, fishing nets made of linden and fir splint; archery fishing was popular too. Sinkers of fishing nets were found in the ancient settlements of Kretuonas lake surroundings. During winter time or famine fishing used to be the only source of livelihood. The following fishing tools were popular among the locals: wooden barriers of brooks, slapsticks, fishing nets, pods, harpoons, bows, javelins, fishing rods. Remains of pods were found in the ancient settlements near lake Kretuonas. Slapsticks were used in order to make fish swim into the pods. Sinkers and pods (made of pine bark) prove the fact that fishing nets were used during the Neolithic period. Skiffs were used for fishing. Poles and paddles were used for skiffs rowing.

PICTURE

Remainings of skiff that were pulled out from the bottom of Azvintis lake. They are currently being stored in the homestead of Valdas Danilevicius.

Picture by Edmundas Kilkus

Production of aspen skiff in the homestead of Valdas Danilevicius in accordance with ancient traditions. Fishing rods (their hooks were made of bone) and harpoons were used for fishing. Special vessels with images of fish on the walls were used for fish storage during rituals. Two vessels were found in Kretuonas settlement. Archaeological research revealed the fact that pike, catfish, perch, rope bones are mostuly found in the settlements of Ignalina region. there are no doubts that skiffs, fishing nets and other fishing gears were used for fishing during Bronze and Iron Ages and later...until the present day.

Information about ethnographic and traditional fishing in ancient times and nowadays can be found in the Museum of Ignalina Region (Ateities str. 43, Ignalina). The exposition was set after implementation of the Project “The secrets of ancient fishing in Ignalina region…” (No. EZF-13-IGNALINA-02-001).

The exposition of the museum (picture by Edmundas Kilkus)

... and a bit of "science"...

„...Statistics shows that almost 8% of the total area of Ignalina district municipality is covered with lakes. A bigger area covered with lakes can be seen only in the map of Zarasai municipality. On the other hand, the second largest percentage rate in Lithuania considering lakes hides territorial contrasts because only the outskirts of Ignalina region are really covered with lakes. The origin of the lakes located in the outskirts of the region, the form and depth of their vortexes, water stratification, etc. differ too.

The great lakes of Ignalina district (Dysnai and its "brother" Dysnykstis, Apvardai, Visaginas, Dukstas) are located in the Northern outskirts. These lakes lie in the pools that were formed by glacier tongues and the ice blocks. Wind-induced waves and vortices easily mix the water of broad and relatively shallow lakes up to their bottom; heat and dissolved water move from the lake surface to its demersal zone. According to lake explorers such lakes are thermally shallow and according to ichthyologists such lakes agreeably to nutritional conditions and prevailing fish species are considered to be the domains of carp bream, roach-pike, zander. Each amateur fisherman of cause will have his own opinion, depending on the catch of the day or...loss.

Small accumulation of lakes that is clearly visible in the map is located in the farthest Eastern cape of Ignalina district (and the farthest cape of Lithuania!), i.e. in the clayey plaints of Dysna River. The floor of glacial lagoon that formerly existed in those places and that is characterized by elongated low ridges and specific lowlands between them serves as the foundation of the above-named river. It is believed that those specific lowlands are the trenches (tunnel valleys) of the rivers that once flowed in the ice tunnels. The trenches were flooded with the lagoon water and filled with sediment, therefore their shallower parts during the post-glacial period turned into marshes. Other parts had turned into the beds of the local rivers (Kanciogina, Erzveta, Birveta). There also were the trenches that recurred after melting of ice blocks buried under water and the lagoon sediments (underwater thermal cave). These trenches were the deepest. Narrow and elongated lakes formed in these trenches (Erzvetas, Kancioginas, Milasius, Milasaitis, Svirku, etc.).

The lakes of south-Western corner of Ignalina district that are located near the bassin of Zeimena river determine the image of laky Ignalina region. Geographers call this sandy and laky territory which is located north from Kaltanenai "a laky corridor" that connects the plains of Kazitiskis and Zeimena. During the late glacial period the tongues of the glacier that was deep in Kazitiskis hollow began to melt and the waters of melting glacier had washed deep tunnel valleys and gates in moraine arcs, and then surged south. The previously washed tunnel valleys declining from heights and cave vortexes with ice blocks were covered with the sand that was towed by glacial rivers. The melting ice blocks and sinking sand arcs that were covering those ice blocks led to the formation of broad terraces surrounding the majority of the lakes of so called corridor: lake Baluosas, lake Dringis, lake Lusiai, etc. Tunnel valleys of various directions cross the vortexes of cave lakes (e.g. lake Lusiai is located in the intersection of the tunnel valleys of lakes Asalnai-Sakarvai-Zeimenis and lakes Alksna-Lusykstis), therefore they are seen as kind of hydrographic "nodes" that collect water from the most remote places of the upper reaches of Zeimena River:

Azvinciai and Mincia woods, swampy Kazitiskis depression and deep lake Tauragnas. The lakes are fed with water from deep underground too. For example, approximately 440 liters of water per second enter the underwater part of the vortex of lake Baluosas, whereas even 580 liters of water enter the underwater part of the vortex of lake Dringis. Impressive high pressure springs *verdene* (the name is derived from Lithuanian word "verda" that in English means "boils") rise at the bottom of roller lake Ilgis (northeast outskirts of Ignalina city). Deep lakes with plenty of oxygen are recognized as a living medium of vendace, therefore you shouldn't be surprised about a smell of fresh cucumber that dominates in Ignalina in winter or early spring…

Lake Explorer

Real member of the Lithuanian Academy of Science

Professor habilitated doctor Kestutis Kilkus

White Water lily is the symbol of the land of lakes. It is a symbol of pure natural beauty, clean environment, fresh thoughts and dreams.

www.ignalina.lt

There are 126 lakes in the territory of Aukstaitija National Park. The surroundings are attractive for tourists not only during the summer time, but also in winter. A lot off fish live in the lakes. The lakes are suitable for recreation, water tourism. The majority of the lakes are interconnected by channels and form unique strings of lakes. The most interesting lakes are:

1) Lake Lusiai, lake Asalnai, lake Ukojas and lake Tauragnas;
2) Lake Dringis, lake Baluosas, lake Utenas and lake Ziezulnys;
3) Lake Zeimenys, lake Baltys, lake Labokarsis and lake Usiai.

The most popular string of lakes is located in the northwest direction: lake Lusiai, lake Lusykstis, lake Alksnas, lake Ukojas and lake Pakasas.

Another string of lakes is located **in the north east side:** lake Gavys, lake Dumblis, lake Asalnai, lake Linkmenas, lake Asekas, lake Almajas, etc. These are two tunnel valleys, i.e. series of pits which were formed by waterfalls of glacial waters.

The length of the longest brooks is only several kilometres: Svogina brook, Juodupe brook, Plaukinys brook, also the brooks that meet lake Dringiu. Buka River meets lake Baluosas, Pliause River meets lake Almaja, Tauragna River and Kapyna River meet lake Pakasas. There also are some short but watery rivers and channels that connect lakes: lake Baluosas and lake Baluosykstis are interconnected by Skriogzle brook…

None lake is similar to its neighbour. Many lakes have a “child”, e.g.: lake Lusyskstis is a child of lake Lusys, lake Asalnykštis is a child of lake Asalnai, lake Baluosykstis is a child of lake Baluosas, lake Dringykstis is a child of lake Dringis…

Lake Lusiai is one of the lakes of Aukstaitija National Park where the biggest number of fish live. The lake is popular among anglers of pike, perch, roach, common rudd, silvery bream, carp bream, tench, ide, eel, smelt, vendace, catfish. The area of lake Lusiai is 391,4 ha, its length is 6,2 km, the maximum width is 1,1 km, the length of the coast line is 16,4 km, the maximum depth in the eastern part is 37 m, the coastal depth is between 5 and 10 m.

Lake Lusiai is located 4 km from Ignalina, near the road that runs between Ignalina and Kaltanenai. Meironys village is situated on the northern coast of the lake and Paluse village is situated on the eastern coast. The lake is oblong, it stretches from west to east. The lake is flow-through, its vortex is uneven, hallows of various depth stretch along the lake. Its slopes are low, sandy or gravelled, sand-bar is sandy and its width is varied. The underwater flora is exuberant and grows 6 to 7 meters under water.

Traditional ethnographic fishing of smelt is organized each winter on the ice of lake Lusiai!

The best known ancient manual method of ice fishing of the fish that smells like cucumber is fishing with so called “molly”. The net of 300 meters in length and approximately 16 meters in width must be attached to wooden poles and ropes, then it must be plunged into the lake depths through ice-holes. Later using “molly” it must pulled out from the water with fish catch on the ice. “Molly” is a barrel placed on the axis with transverse pole. Manual rotation of such barrel creates draught motion and pulls the net. This archaic method of fishing that has been known since ancient times each year, in late winter is used on the lake Lusiai.

Smelt fishing on the ice of lake Lusiai… (picture by Edmundas Kilkus)

Petras Panavas wrote: “Lakes in the Aukstaitija region are the same as they were thousands years ago”.

The route length is 30 kilometers. You will swim through 12 lakes and 6 beautiful brooks. You can have one or two overnights during the trip, however this is possible only in special recreation sites. Water hiking begins in Paluse village. Here, in the modern marina you can rent kayak or boats with two pairs of paddles and fishing gear, you can also get here useful advices from local helpful boatmen and a hiking map. The clearly drawn boundaries of the expected route in the map of Aukstaitija National Park will show you a picture of oak leaf. There are many lakes that are surrounded by blue lakes.

Paluse village is Mecc of fishermen and water tourism

Picture by Edmundas Kilkus

Paluse village is the capital and resort area of Aukstaitija National Park and Labanoras Regional Park. This is the place of popular summer regatta of Paluse and the place of cooking of traditional local fish soup. Aukstaitija National Park and Paluse since the middle of the 20th century are considered to be Mecc of water tourism. The tourist base was established in Paluse in 1959. The first trips of water tourism were organized in the base. The most important tourism routes that pass through Aukstaitija lakes and rivers begin here.

Paluse is awesome location with Lithuanian pride, i.e. Paluse St. Joseph's Church that is recognised as one of the oldest wooden sanctuaries and the example of folk architecture. Together with the octagonal belfry (the only in Lithuania) it forms architectural monument. The current wooden church was built here during the period between 1747 and 1757. It was funded by priest Juozas Baziliauskas (J. Stockis-Bazilevskis) and built in his own land inherited from parents. It is said that axe was the only tool used during the church construction. You can see the church and its belfry on one litas banknote.

Awesome landscape of lake Lusiai can be seen form the church hill. There is one legend about this lake that is located near Paluse village. According to the legend it is dangerous for men to swim in the lake after midnight, because valiant men will be strangely tortured by pixies, i.e. they will titillate men until they will die. Old people say that one pixy still lives in the nearby small lake Tarama.

Paluse was first mentioned in historical sources in 1651. At that time there was a folwark owned by noblemen Sumskai.

The church was renovated during the period between 1815 and 1830. In 1841 it was planked.

The 19th century. Jonas Petrauskas, the father of Kipras and Mikas Petrauskai.

Paluse is a home of famous composer Mikas Petrauskas (born in 1873).

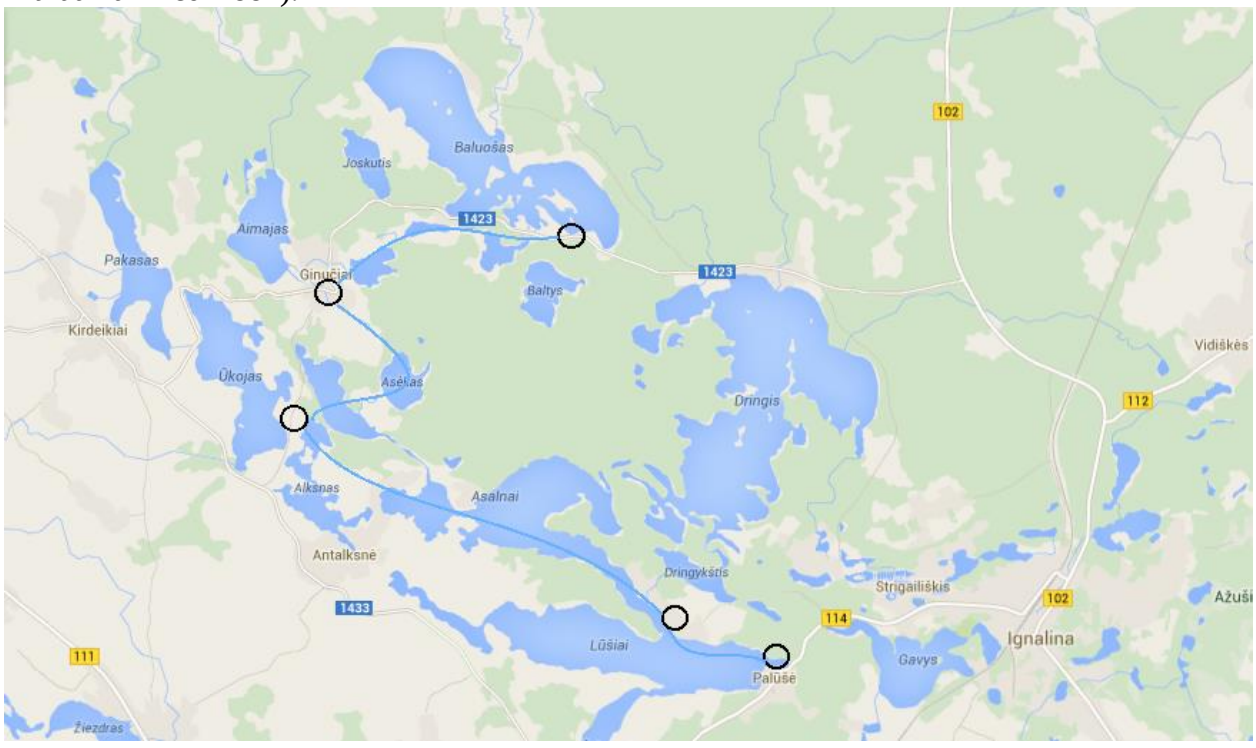
If you are out of luck in fishing, we invite you to visit the nature…

The path of wooden sculptures made by folk artist

There are 15 wooden sculptures on the coast of lake Lusiai, near Maironiu village. In 1977 was organized a creative camp. During this camp folk artists made various sculptures intended for immortalization of natural beauty and the legends of Ignalina region. The sculpture made by the resident of Ignalina P. Petronis "Fairy-tale of pixies" shows that it is dangerous for men to swim in the lake after midnight because valiant men will be strangely tortured by pixies, i.e. they will titillate men until they will die. There are few sculptures of devil. Old people say that one devil still lives in the nearby lake Tarama**.**

Botanical path

Aukstaitija National Park in floral terms is one of the richest protected territories in Lithuania. Those who want to better acknowledge various plants of the park are invited to visit educational botanical path that is situated near lake Lusiai, between Paluse and Maironiu villages. The length of the path is 3,5 km. Its route is marked with a special sign, i.e. white square with green diagonal. You can find approximately 150 plant species in this path (the records of 9 species you can find in Lithuanian Red Book).



www.anp.lt

www.anp.lt

Paluse church with the belfry

This wooden church of St. Joseph was built in 1750 by priest Juozapas Maziliauskas in his own land inherited from parents. According to the history it is known that axe was the only tool used during the church construction. There are no other octagonal belfries that are similar to the guard tower of ancient wooden castles of Lithuania, only in Paluse. The ensemble of the church with belfry was declared to be an architectural monument.

The monument in the memory of composer M. Petrauskas
Mikas Petrauskas, the author and composer of the first Lithuanian opera "Birute" was born in Paluse. It is likely that his father who was the organist of Paluse church inspired his son and he fell in love with music, whereas the mother who was born in this region taught her son to sense a beauty of the nature. It seems that Mikas talks about beloved one, not about music: "Music guarantees comfort during troubled times, it supports and strengthens during struggles, it gives a rest to tired brain, strengthens and renews thoughts". The monument by sculptor J. Kedainis was built in Paluse in 1973 in the memory of M. Petrauskas. The monument was built on the 100th birth anniversary of the composer.

The mseum exposition of Paluse region
You can find it in the premises of Paluse branch of Ignalina public library. The museum is a perfect place to acknowledge historical and cultural showpieces of the region.

The exposition of tumulus and the Stone Age dwelling
It is situated in Paluse village of Aukstaitija National Park. Sectional reconstruction of the tumulus represents a grave of the Bronze Age (between the 4th and 6th centuries). The exposition shows a structure of the tumulus, human remains of the buried woman and her cerement. Illustrated stands can be seen in the exposition building with full story about funeral traditions. Installation of the tumulus reconstruction and the exposition was based on the information of exploration of the tumuli of Aukstaitija National Park. A reconstruction of the Stone Age dwelling stands alongside the

building of the tumulus exposition. The reconstruction was installed on the basis of archeological explorations.

Public Catering institutions:

"Bar of pirates" is open during the summer season.

The café is located near the road that runs between Ignalina and Moletai, in the central part of Paluse village. There are 20 seats inside the café and 15 seats outdoors.

Places to sleep:
Rural tourism farmstead by Karolis
Paluse village, Ignalina district
+370 686 91547, elenapetkuniene@gmail.com.
GPS: 55.327658, 26.099348 (WGS)

"Tiki Inn" holiday home (provides catering services)
Paluse village, Ignalina district
+370 652 72 444, www.tikiinn.com, aloha@tikiinn.com.
GPS: 55.326844, 26.098046 (WGS)

Holiday camp "Paluse"
Paluse village, Ignalina district
+370 616 46521,
GPS: 55.32785, 26.105072 (WGS)

Farmstead by Ribokai
Paluse village, Ignalina district
+370 615 25322
GPS: 55.324294, 26.095608 (WGS)

Farmstead by Irena Velickiene
Paluse village, Ignalina district
+37061516463
GPS: 55.32562, 26.097991 (WGS)

Farmstead by R. Bieliauskiene
Paluse village, Ignalina district
+370 682 40744
GPS: 55.324413, 26.109143 (WGS)

Meironys - an ancient village of fishermen

This is a one-street village that is located in southwest of Ignalina district between two lakes: there is lake Dringykstis in the northern outskirts of the village and lake Lusiai in its southern outskirts. Meironys village is surrounded by Paluse and Linkmenys forests. Ecological education centre is situated east from the village, whereas recreation site and Asalnai channel are situated west from the village.

The village has one very old (it began a hundred years ago) and still vital tradition: every year at Pentecost locals decorate their cows with flower wreaths and carry them on boats to the peninsula of lake Lusiai that is called the peninsula of Pabirziai (towards Pabirze village) and bring them back

only in autumn, before Michaelmas. The village was first mentioned in 1554. Until the late 18th century a name of the village was different, i.e. ***Antradringe*** (a village on the coast of lake Dringis, or ***Untadringe*** according to the local dialect). Late a name of the village was derived from nearby Meirona brook.

Meira brook passes through Meironys village and meets lake Dringykstis. Dumble brook will take us to lake Dringis. This is the second largest lake of the national park. The lake island Berzasale is perfect for short break and snack. There is a campsite in the eastern part of the lake. In the northern end of the lake we will enter a bay of Juodakumpis where a campsite of Vaisniunai is situated. There is a stretch of land of approximately half a kilometre of width between lakes Dringis and Baluosas. The workers of Paluse marina at your request will help you to transfer your boats from one lake to another. Now you will continue your trip on lake Baluosas. The local landscape reserve is comprised of this lake and its surroundings. **There is a very rare and unique natural formation in the island Ilgasale of the lake: a little lake that is interconnected with a main lake through small brook.** We swim slowly to the little lake by pushing our boats with paddles from the coast. The place seems rather mysterious with plenty water plants and water lilies...

Meironys village is a real junction of waterways as it leads to lakes Lusys, Sakarva and Zeimenas in the southern part and these lakes can take you wherever you want. There is Anksciai channel in northwest that leads to Ginuciai village. In ancient times the route of transportation of the rafts prepared in Vaisniunai went through lake Dringis and Meironys River.

Picture by Edmundas Kilkus

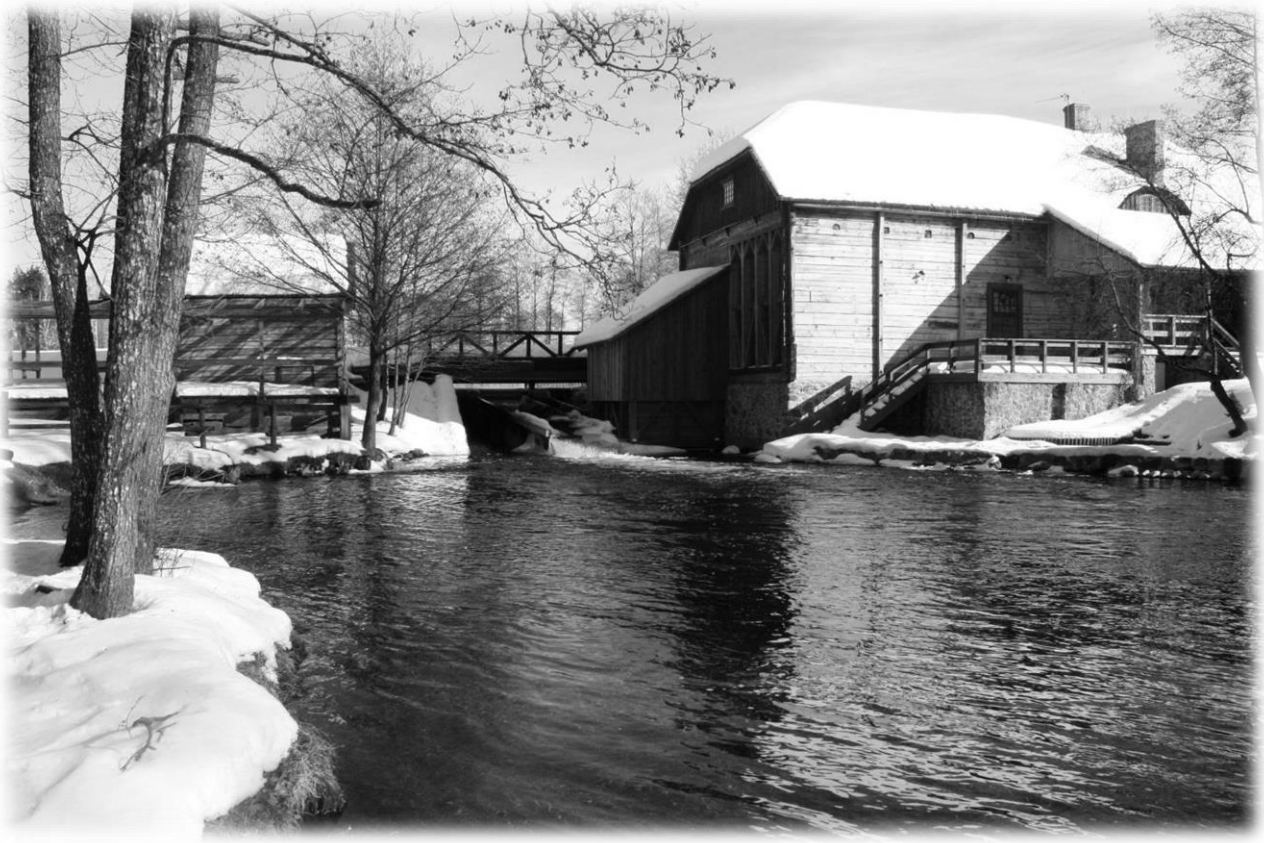
Places to sleep:

Farmstead by G. Blazys "Meironys"
Meironys village, Ignalina district
+370 688 33681
GPS: 55.339602, 26.072092 (WGS)

Ginuciai-
is the village situated in Linkmenys eldership, 10 km away from Linkmenys, between lakes Almajas and Sravinaitis, in the territory of Aukstaitija National Park. It is believed that the name of the village was derived from Lithuanian word *gintis* that means "to defend". According to the chronicles it is known that large army of Livonian Brothers of the Sword was raging in the surroundings of the village in 1373. The village was first mentioned in the 14th century. During the times of Grand Duke of Lithuania Sigismund II Augustus there were 3 farms in the village (in 1554) with 3 wallachs and 10 morgens of land. There were 4 farms in 1732 and 7 farms in 1738. 66 residents lived in the village in 1870. During the period of press prohibition there was a secret Lithuanian school. The entire village had burnt in 1917. A permanent school was established in 1920. During the Soviet period the village was a part of Paluse vicinity, a centre of collective farm with power plant, mill, sawmill and library [the latter was opened in 1962 –].

Ginučiai watermill

The only of six watermills of the national park with authentic equipment. The watermill operated until 1968. The mill was used for flour milling and production of electricity generated by rotational force of metal turbine. The mill was renewed in 2012 by the administration of the park.



Picture by Edmundas Kilkus

Ginuciai mound

The archaeological monument of the period between 9th and 12th centuries. It is believed that this is a place of famous ancient castle of Linkmenys that was described by H. Vartberge in 1373. There is a special stone on the top of the mound which witnesses the fact that this place before the war had been visited by the president Antanas Smetonas.

Picture by Edmundas Kilkus

Ladakalnis hill

This is a mountain 175 meters above sea level that is situated in the chain of hills of Siliniskiai ridge. The chain that resembles a rough dragon's back extends far away to both sides. It is believed that this hill was the place of sacrificial rites to Lada, the Baltic goddess of life, the Great Mother, a Mother of the whole world. When standing on the hill you have an opportunity to see an awesome panorama: even 6 lakes are visible. Ladakalnis hill is a geomorphological natural monument.

Picture by Edmundas Kilkus

Public Catering institutions:
Café "Srovena" (open during the summer season)
Ginuciai village, Ignalina district.
+370 687 39339
GPS: 55.385986, 25.989914 (WGS)

Places to sleep:
Rural tourism farmstead of Gaideliai village
Ginuciai village, Linkmenys eldership, Ignalina district
+370 687 39339, gaideliusdb@ignet.lt, www.gaideliusodyba.lt
GPS 55.386303, 25.996459 (WGS)

Picture by Edmundas Kilkus

Farmstead by Aldona Vysniauskiene
Papiliakalne village, Ignalina district
+370 698 34199
GPS: 55.366454, 25.986437 (WGS)

Farmstead "Gervinė"
Maluno str. 28, Ginuciai village, Ignalina district
+370 687 12836
GPS: 55.386022, 25.994689 (WGS)

Farmstead "Pakasas"
Ginuciai, Ignalina district
+370 698 39611
GPS: 55.380942, 25.957436 (WGS)

Trainiškis-

Picture by Edmundas Kilkus

is an ethnographic village of Ignalina eldership situated on the coast of lake Baluosas, in Aukstaitija National Park. The village is famous for a very old oak that grows here more than a thousand years. Its height is 23 meters, the girth (diameter) of the trunk exceeds 6 meters. During the Soviet period the village was a part of Paluse vicinity. 3 residents resided in the village in 2003.

End or…beginning of the trip. Businessman Nerijus Grusnis will provide you with information about fishing, will rent kayaks or fishing boats and carry them to the lake of your choice (up to 120 kayaks), during spring time will organise impressing night educational program of eel fishing. You can also try eel shashlik, a part of culinary heritage.
Info: www.trainiskis.lt

Trainiskis oak
It is 800 hundred years old. Its height is 23 meters, the girth (diameter) of the trunk is 6,1 meters. Before the times of Christianity this oak was sacred among Pagans.

Places to sleep:
The campsites of Aukstaitija National Park
www.trainiškis.lt
+370 621 12075
+370 629 28203

Public Catering institutions in Ignalina city:

Restaurant "Romnesa"

Strigailiskis village, Ignalina district
www.romnesa.lt, romnesa@is.lt, +370 386 53433.
GPS: 55.340107, 26.13457 (WGS)

Restaurant “Seagull”

Mokyklos str. 11, Ignalina
www.zuvedra.com, info@zuvedra.com, +370 386 52314, +370 686 09069.
GPS: 55.344673, 26.159277 (WGS)

Café "Srovena"
Laisves str. 43, Ignalina
+370 687 39339
GPS: 55.340036, 26.162808 (WGS)

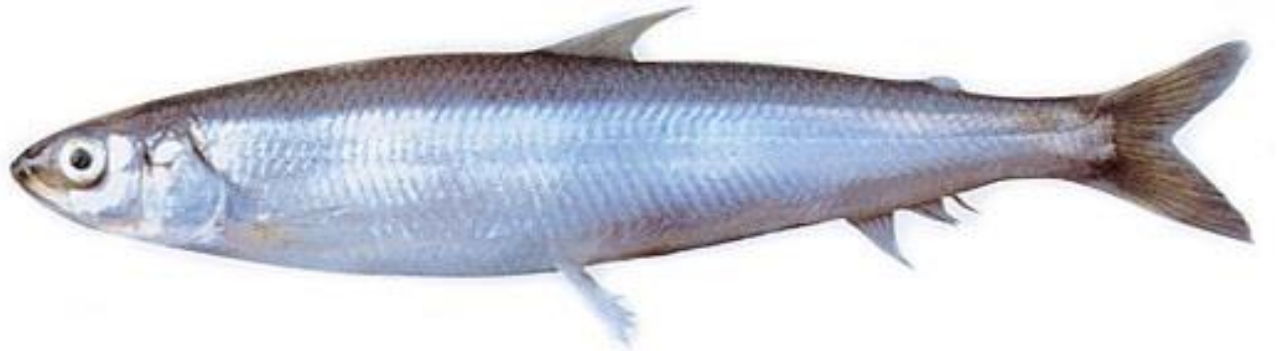
...You will have a chance to catch various fish of Ignalina region:

The variety of fish

35 species of fish (that belong to 13 families) live in the water bodies of Aukstaitija National Park. **Carp bream, silvery bream, roach, perch, pike and bleak** live in all lakes.

Whitefish and **vendace** are deep water fish, whereas **tench** and **rudd** live in "standing" and warm water. **Cod, European chub, grayling** and **trout** live in rivers and flow-through lakes. Carnivorous lake fish such as **pike, perch, burbot** and **catfish** are aboriginal, whereas **pike-perch** and **eel** are the introduced species of fish.

Lake smelt
(Stintelė, Stinte, Smelt, Kuore, Muikku, Bűzös lazacok, Корюшка, Кереха, Корешок, Нагыш)



Smelt is a real monument of ichthyofauna. This fish lives in Lithuanian lakes since the times of ice-age. The body resembles bobbin, it is covered with thin and easily sliding scales. The lower jaw is wide and protruding. The back is green, belly is white, the sides are bluish silvery. Has an adipose fin, sharp teeth in cheeks and on tongue. Fresh fish is characterised by specific, sharp smell that is similar to the smell of cucumber. Usually smelt swims in the upper layers of water, however due to strong wind or falling temperature it may swim into deep waters. Smelt like highly oxygenated water. Young smelt feeds on crustaceans, whereas adult fish feeds on crustaceans and benthic fauna, kill baby smelt and other young fish and their eggs.
During spawning season, i.e. between April and May many pimples appear on the fish body. They lay sticky and small eggs on sandy or gravelled bottom and on plants. Ruffe feed on smelt eggs.

Lake smelt

Two types of smelt live in the water bodies of Lithuania: **European smelt** (Osmerus eperlanus eperlanus) and **Lake smelt** - (Osmerus eperlanus eperlanus m. spirinchus Pallas).
Smelt teeth are poorly developed. The fish body is blue and almost transparent. Smelt live in large and deep lakes of Lithuania: lake Baluosas, lake Asveja, the Curonian Lagoon, during spring time they also live in the mouth the Nemunas River. The water bodies full of zander fish are highly suitable for smelt breeding because it was noticed that the places full of baby smelt are perfectly suitable for growing baby zander, whereas the water bodies full of smelt and bleak are perfectly suitable for larger zander. You can successfully catch smelt during winter time on ice, in deep places, however you will need special fishing gear. In former times towed nets were used for smelt fishing. At one time it was possible to catch several tons of fish. The smelt number quickly recovers. Fishermen know that some seasons can bring plenty of smelt, however some seasons can be very poor. This is because smelt life when compared with other fish is short and they lay their

legs only once during their life and only in rare cases they can lay their eggs several times during their life.

Vendace
(Coregonus albula, Vendace, Brienzlig, Törpe maréna, Sielawa, Ряпушка)

Vendace is the fish of Salmonidae family. The fish live in many lakes of Lithuania's eastern and southern regions, e.g. lake Druksiai, lake Dringis, lake Lusiai). Its colours and shape are similar to colours and shape of herring. The fish grow up to 15 to 20 cm, sometimes even up to 30 cm. Weights up to 200 grams. Doesn't like swimming in warm water, therefore prefers living in deep places during summer time. Bait: various insects, artificial badger-flies. Winter time is suitable for vendace catching on ice, in the depth of 10 to 12 meters.

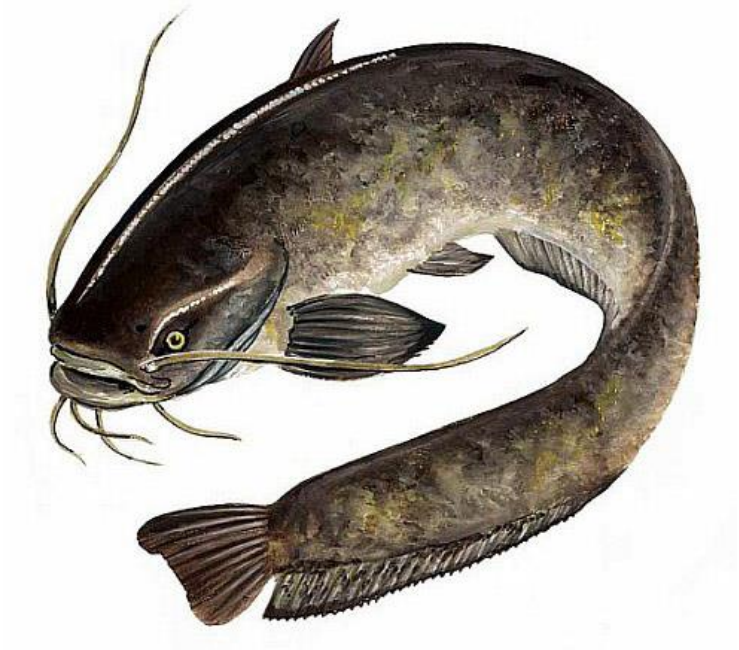
Pike
(Lydys, Esox lucius, Pike, Щука, Hecht)

Large and highly predatory freshwater fish with oblong body covered with small scales. A dorsal fin is closer to the fish tail. Fish snout is long and flattened at the top. The mouth is very wide, with a lot off teeth in the jaws. The teeth of the lower jaw are particularly large. The palatal teeth are smaller, dense and similar to brushes. At the slightest resistance these teeth become stiff and grab a prey like spiky needles.

Pike grows up to 1.5 meters and more in length and weights more than 30 kg. The fish likes to masquerade and is hardly noticeable because of its protective colour. When the amount of grass is very small in the water body, pike finds shelter under the tree roots hanging in the water, under tree branches or large stones that lay on the bottom. Only very large fish avoid shallow places and stay in deep hallows. Fish is not the only pike's prey. During autumn time they hunt frogs when they before frost period begin to move towards water. Pike attack water rats and chicks of water birds when they swim on the water's surface.

Catfish

(Silūrus glanis, Wells catfish, Сом обыкновенный, Sheatfish, Europäischer Wels, Säga, Sams)



Catfish is the largest carnivorous fish that lives in fresh waters of our country. The head is flattened from top to bottom; the mouth is very wide with a lot off teeth and short thick tongue. Posterior part of the body is narrower and laterally flattened. The skin is slippery, soft and without scales. There is a very small dorsal fin near the head; long anal fin interconnects with caudal fin. The lower jaw is a little bit longer when compared with the upper one and protrudes forward. One pair of long barbell is in the upper jaw and two shorter pairs in the lower jaw. Catfish moves long barbell in order to

attract preys. Various small fish see imaginary worm and want to try it, however fall into the mouth of hunter. The gill gaps are wide, the eyes are small, the back is dark, the sides are spotty, the belly is light with black and blue spots. The body colour varies depending on the environment, age of the catfish and season of the year.
Catfish like swimming in deep and quite places; they live in hallows or between stones and the trees that fell into the water. The fish feed various fish, crayfish, mollusks, water birds, frogs. Catfish also eat each other. Catfish is semi-nocturnal fish. It begins to bite in the evening and bites until sunrise. Quite, warm nights and windy, stormy weather are both suitable for catfish fishing. In the autumn, when weather becomes colder catfish find deep hollow and dig them-selves into the sludge and live there during winter.

Perch

(Perca fluviatilis, Pearch, Barsch, Baas, Börsch, Asaris, Окунь)

Humped and laterally compressed perch body is covered with small, hard, strongly adhered and hardly removable scales. There are spikes on gill covers. The mouth is full of small teeth. The back is dark green, the sides are greenish yellow with dark transverse stripes. The belly is yellow white. There are two dorsal fins: the first grey fin has black spot in the rear end, the second one is greenish yellow. The pectoral fins are yellow, the anal and abdominal fins are red, the caudal fin is yellow or reddish at the top and red at the bottom.
Perch are able to endure high acidity of the water, therefore they are often found in the forest lakes and in the peatbog lakes that are unsuitable for other fish. The perch that live in such lakes are significantly darker. The population of perch is very high in some lakes, therefore other fish simply disappear. Perch do not swim long distances.
Two types of perch live in the lakes: **peripheral perch** and **perch that live in the deep water**. Peripheral perch are darker, they swim in large groups near the edges of the water body. Perch that live in the deep water are lighter, larger, more predacious; they grow faster than peripheral perch and live in open water areas. The larger perch are usually are 5 to 10 years old, their length is between 15 and 30 cm, the weight is between 400 and 500 g. Sometimes perch that weight between 1 and 2 kg can be caught. Some authors mention perches that weight between 4 and 5 kg. The perch between three to four years of age (the length is between 12 and 16 cm at that time) are considered to be mature.

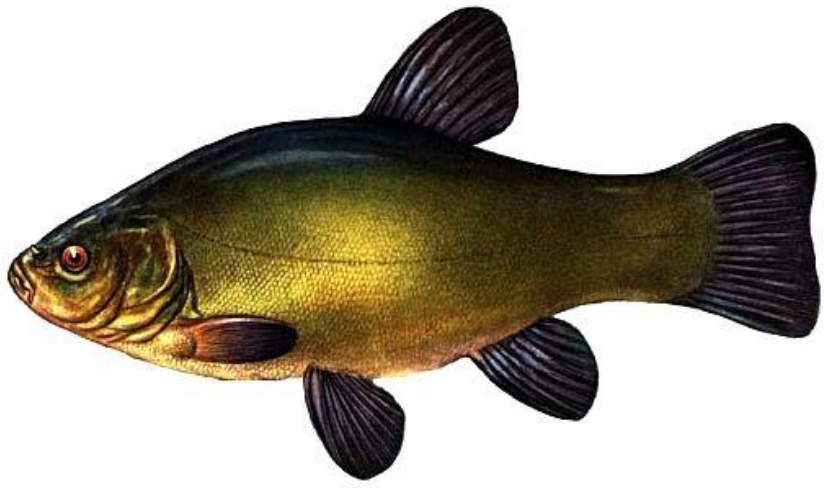
Carp bream

(Abramis brama, Leščius, Palšis, Carp bream, Brachsen, Лещ).

The body of carp bream is tall, highly laterally compressed. The mouth is semi low, adapted to feeding on benthic fauna. The dorsal fin is high and narrow. The anal fin is long, consisting of 23 to 28 branchy rays. The body of young carp bream is silvery, whereas the body of adult fish has a slight golden hue. Carp bream is externally very similar to silver bream, however it is not difficult to distinguish between these two fish species. The length of mature carp bream (apart dorsal fin) is between 25 and 50 cm and the weight is between 0,3 and 3 kg. Fishing of carp bream requires good preparation, knowledge and endurance. An appropriate camouflage (between trees, bushes, grass, etc.) and silence (do not drum a boat, avoid loud walking on the coast, etc.) are very important. You will need to give carp bream plenty of food. You can also catch the fish in winter time on ice, especially after the first ice and in spring.

Tench

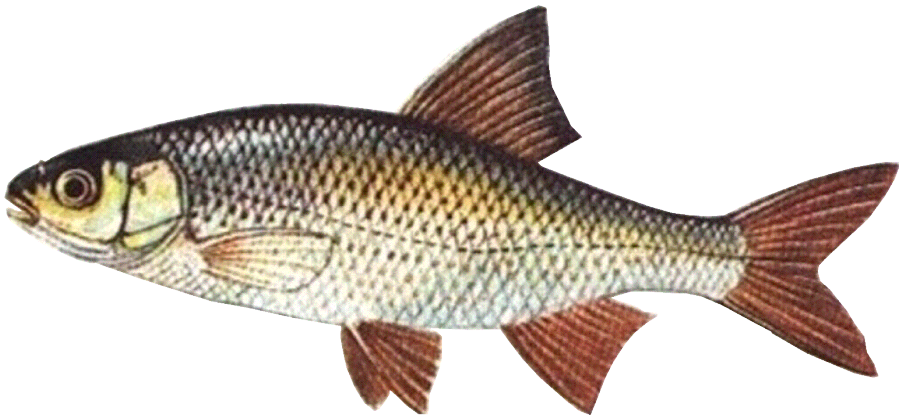
(Tnca tinca, Tench, Schleie, Линь, Lin)



The round terch body is abundantly covered with mucus. It is fairly high and thick. The scales are small, strongly adhered to the skin. The mouth is small, with small barbells in the corners. The ends of the fins are round. The thickness of the second ray of abdominal fins of sexually mature male is significantly increased. The fins of terch are significantly prolonged. The colour depends on the place of residence of the fish. The back is usually dark green, the sides are greenish brown.
The fish grow even up to 60 cm in length and sometimes they weigh up to 7,5 kg. Terch spawn during late period, i.e. in June and July when water temperature is between 19 and 20°C. Their prolificacy is high, i.e. female terch that weights 500 g lays up to 300 000 eggs, whereas large females can lay even up to 900 000 of eggs. The eggs are small, their diameter is less than 1 mm. Terch lay their eggs on plants. The eggs stick to the plants and stay there.
Young terch initially feed on zooplankton, later they feed on benthic fauna, i.e. insect larvae, small mollusks and crustaceans. Terch intensively feed only during summer, whereas in winter they dig them-selves into the sludge and drowse there. The place of terch angling is close to the coast, among plants, in the depth between 1 and 2 meters.

Roach

(Mekšras, Roach, Rotaugen, Плотва, Płoć, Плітка, Särki, Rutilus rutilus)



The dorsal fin is perpendicular in respect of abdominal fin. The twin fins are orange or almost red, the dorsal and caudal fins are grey. The scales are silvery and smaller than the scales of rudd. The mouth is slightly tilted down. The abdominal part between abdominal and anal fins is round. Roach usually swim close to plants, closer to the edges of the water body, larger fish usually swim in deeper waters. Roach is slow-growing fish. The length of the roach of three years of age that lives in the Curonian Lagoon is 11 cm and it weighs 30 g, whereas the length of the fish of eight years of age is 20 cm and it weighs 200 g and finally the length of the roach of fourteen years of age is 30 cm and it weighs 600 g. The fish of four years of age, sometimes of three years of age is considered to be mature. The prolificacy: between 4500 and 102 000 eggs. The fish spawns between 4 and 15 days during the period between April and June.

Crucian carp

(Krakė, Crucian Carp, Goldfish, Karausche, Карась, Karaś)

Golden crucian carp. The body of the fish is short, tall and highly laterally compressed. The dorsal fin is long, its frontal radius is hard and serrated. The scales are large. The sides are golden and the back is dark. The lower fins are darksome and red. The crucian carp that live in peaty basins are darker. The fish grow up up to 20 to 35 cm and weigh between 1 and 2 kg, however under favourable conditions they can grow up to 50 cm of length and weigh 5 kg.

Silvery crucian carp (Carassius amatus Gibelio). Its way of life is similar to the way of life of golden crucian carp, however since the fish grows faster, it is more popular among breeders. The fish lives in some lakes.

Burbot

(Lota lota, Burbot, Quappe, Mník jednovousý, Luts, Lotte, Miętus, Налим)

This is the only representative of cod family that lives in fresh waters. The body is round, the tail is laterally compressed, gradually tapering towards the end. The head is wide and flattened at the top. There is one barbell in the submental part. The mouth is wide, with many small teeth, the lower jaw

is slightly shorter. The skin is thick, soft and very slippery. The scales are small, thin and hidden deeply in the skin. The back and sides are glaucous or yellowish with brownish-black spots and stripes. All radii of the fins are soft. There are two dorsal fins: the second and the anal one are long. The abdominal fins are in front of the pectoral fins. The eyes are small.
Young fish feed on benthic fauna, the adult ones are predatory, they attack various fish, frogs and crayfish. When burbot swims its entire body weaves. The approximate length of the body of one year old burbot is 12 cm. The length of adult fish is 1 meter and its weight is more than 20 kg. Burbot of four to five years old is considered to be mature. The fish pawns in winter, under the ice, during the period between December and February. Burbot usually lays 33 000 to 5 000 000 eggs.
Night time is the most suitable for burbot fishing, the best bite of the fish is near midnight. Early in the spring the fish bite during the day time too. During the day time the fish usually stay in caves, under the rocks, between snags, tree roots or quietly float on the floor. Clayey floor, covered with gravel or small amount of slime, the places near brinks, snag, stones, clay lumps, deep hollows are burbot‘s favourite.

Eel

(Anguilla anguilla)

The body is long, cylindrical, laterally flattened in the caudal part. The body is slippery due to abundant amount of mucus, therefore it is very difficult to handle this fish in hands. An arrangement of small scales is similar to parquet. The fish doesn’t have abdominal fins. There are many small sharp teeth in the jaws. The back of young eel is grey-brown and the belly is yellowish-white. Sexually maturing eel become darker, whereas the lower part of their body becomes bright silvery. The length of grown up eel is up to 1,5 m and the weight is up to 6 kg. However the eel of 1 m of length and 2 kg of weight are considered to be fully grown up. Eel is very strong and vital fish. You should pull the caught eel deeper to the coast. It is impossible to handle the fish bare handed, therefore you should rub your hands with wet sand or wrap them in silk cloth. You are advised to keep alive eel in the linen bag.

CRAYFISH:

Four types of crayfish currently live in Lithuania: broad-fingered crayfish, narrow-clawed crayfish, signal crayfish and Eastern Crayfish. It is quite difficult to make distinction between them all, because even three species are the members of the family Astacidae, i.e. they all are very similar. In order to avoid mistakes you are advised to use special identification key. One of the options to be used is the method of Wildlife monitoring (Vilnius, 2009). According to this reference book the crayfish of our country are described as follows:

Broad-fingered crayfish (*Astacus astacus*).

The males are considered to be mature when they are three years old, whereas the females are considered to be mature when they are four years old. Their body length at that time under the local conditions is approximately 7 and 8 cm respectively. The crayfish grow up to 15 cm, sometimes up to 18 cm. The representatives of this type mate in autumn, when water is cold. The eggs hatch in spring, in May. The prolificacy is between 90 and 260 eggs.

Narrow-clawed crayfish (*Astacus leptodactylus*).

The crayfish are considered to be mature when they are four years old and their length is between 7 and 8 cm. They grow up to 15 cm, sometimes to 20 cm. The representatives of this type mate in autumn. The eggs hatch in spring. The prolificacy is approximately between 100 and 300 eggs.

Signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*).

The crayfish are usually considered to be mature when they are three to four years old, however the representatives of this type can become mature when they are two years old and their length is between 6 and 9 cm. The females grow up to 12 cm, whereas the males grow up to 16 cm, sometimes to 20 cm. The crayfish mate in autumn. The eggs hatch in spring. The prolificacy usually is between 200 and 400 eggs, sometimes up to 500 and more.

Eastern Crayfish (*Orconectes limosus*).

The crayfish are usually considered to be mature when they are two years old and **their length is only between 2,5 and 3,5 cm.** They grow up to 12 cm of length. The representatives of this type can mate in autumn, winter or spring. The female usually carries the eggs in April or May, their development lasts approximately one month. The prolificacy is up to 400 and more eggs.

Figure 1. The crayfish that live in Lithuania.

Broad-fingered crayfish (*Astacus astacus*). **Signal crayfish** (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*).

Eastern Crayfish (*Orconectes limosus*). **Narrow-clawed crayfish** (*Astacus leptodactylus*).

<u>Catching of narrow-clawed crayfish is permissible in the lakes that were rented by Ignalina department of Lithuanian Hunters' & Fishermen Association, whereas catching of Eastern Crayfish is possible in the lake Zaliasiai. Sometimes you can catch broad-fingered crayfish, however this is possible only in very rare cases.</u>

Fishing in the lakes that were rented by Ignalina department of Lithuanian Hunters' & Fishermen Association: the permits are available at the address Vilkakalnio str. 3, Ignalina.


IGNALINOS MEDŽIOTOJŲ IR ŽVEJŲ DRAUGIJA


LIETUVOS MEDŽIOTOJŲ IR ŽVEJŲ DRAUGIJOS
IGNALINOS SKYRIUS
ežeras
„PAPLOVINIS"


LIETUVOS MEDŽIOTOJŲ IR ŽVEJŲ DRAUGIJOS
IGNALINOS SKYRIUS
ežeras
„ŽALIASIS"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IGNALINOS SKYRIUS
ežeras
„GAVAITIS"


LIETUVOS MEDŽIOTOJŲ IR ŽVEJŲ DRAUGIJOS
IGNALINOS SKYRIUS
ežeras
„VIKSVOJIS"


LIETUVOS MEDŽIOTOJŲ IR ŽVEJŲ DRAUGIJOS
IGNALINOS SKYRIUS
Vilkakalnio g. 3, Ignalina
Tel. mob. 8 614 71722
El. p. lmzd@inbox.lt
ežeras
„BALTYS"
VIETA - Ignalinos rajonas, Ignalinos m. sen.
PLOTAS - 23 ha
24,4
EŽERE SUGAUNAMOS ŽUVYS:
kuojos, karpiai, lynai, ešeriai, karosai, šamai, lydekos, karšiai, unguriai, plakiai, aukšlės, sterkai, pūgžliai, vėgėlės
JŪS ESATE ČIA
INVESTAVIMAS Į TVARIĄ ŽUVININKYSTĘ
EUROPOS ŽUVININKYSTĖS FONDAS
KUOJA
KARŠIS
LYNAS
EŠERYS
KAROSAS
ŠAMAS
LYDEKA
UNGURYS


LIETUVOS MEDŽIOTOJŲ IR ŽVEJŲ DRAUGIJOS
IGNALINOS SKYRIUS
Vilkakalnio g. 3, Ignalina
Tel. mob. 8 614 71722
El. p. lmzd@inbox.lt
ežeras
„MEKŠRINIS"
VIETA - Ignalinos miestas
PLOTAS - 5,1 ha
EŽERE SUGAUNAMOS ŽUVYS:
kuojos, karpiai, lynai, ešeriai, karosai, šamai, lydekos, karšiai, unguriai, plakiai, aukšlės, sterkai, pūgžliai, vėgėlės
4,5
JŪS ESATE ČIA
Užupio g.
Užupio g.
INVESTAVIMAS Į TVARIĄ ŽUVININKYSTĘ
EUROPOS ŽUVININKYSTĖS FONDAS
KUOJA
KARŠIS
LYNAS
EŠERYS
KAROSAS
ŠAMAS
LYDEKA
UNGURYS


LIETUVOS MEDŽIOTOJŲ IR ŽVEJŲ DRAUGIJOS
IGNALINOS SKYRIUS
Vilkakalnio g. 3, Ignalina
Tel. mob. 8 614 71722
El. p. lmzd@inbox.lt
ežeras
„ILGIS"
VIETA - Ignalinos miestas
PLOTAS - 32 ha
EŽERE SUGAUNAMOS ŽUVYS:
kuojos, karpiai, lynai, ešeriai, karosai, šamai, lydekos, karšiai, unguriai, plakiai, aukšlės, sterkai, pūgžliai, vėgėlės
ežeras Baltys
31
JŪS ESATE ČIA
INVESTAVIMAS Į TVARIĄ ŽUVININKYSTĘ
EŽF
EUROPOS ŽUVININKYSTĖS FONDAS
KUOJA
Gyvena būriais seklesnėse vietose 15-20 m. nuo kranto šalia nendrių, vandens žolių. Minta planktonais, vabzdžių lervomis, moliuskais.
KARŠIS
Dugninės žuvys, gyvenančios pačiose giliausiose tyliose ir ramiose vietose. Jaunikliai minta planktonu, suaugę - lervomis, vabzdžiais, moliuskais.
LYNAS
Gyvena nedideliais būriais seklumose su dumblėtu dugnu, tankiuose vandens augalų želdiniuose ir lėtos tėkmės upėse. Maitinasi lervomis, moliuskais, rečiau - augalais.
EŠERYS
Gyvena nedideliais būriais užutekiuose, kai kur retkarčiais užėlusiuose povandeninėmis žolėmis. Jaunikliai minta bestuburiais, stambūs ešeriai plėšrūs.
KAROSAS
Uždumblėjusiuose ežeruose, kūdrose. Atsparus deguonies trūkumui, šalčiui.
ŠAMAS
Paplitęs gėluose ir apysūriuose vandenyse. Gyvena pavieniui giliose vietose, ties akmenimis, kelmais, paskendusiais medžiais. Minta bestuburiais, tačiau jau pirmaisiais gyvenimo metais pasidaro plėšrus.
LYDEKA
Gyvena pavieniui „savose" teritorijose. Žolėmis apaugusiuose duburiuose, įvairių skirtingų gylių permainose, nereiklios gyvenimo sąlygoms. Jau būdamos 2-5 cm pradeda plėšikauti, minta žuvimi.
UNGURYS
Gyvena Europos gėluose ežeruose ir apysūriuose vandenyse, neršti migruoja į Sargaso jūrą. Mėgsta užėlusias ir dumblingas vietas. Aktyvūs naktį, labai išlavėjusi uoslė.


LIETUVOS MEDŽIOTOJŲ IR ŽVEJŲ DRAUGIJOS
IGNALINOS SKYRIUS
Vilkakalnio g. 3, Ignalina
Tel. mob. 8 614 71722
El. p. lmzd@inbox.lt
ežeras
„AŽVINTIS"
VIETA - Ignalinos rajonas, Kazitiškio sen.
PLOTAS - 263,6 ha
VIDUTINIS GYLIS - 5,7 m
KRANTO LINIJOS ILGIS - 10,5 km
DIDŽIAUSIAS GYLIS - 23 m
EŽERE SUGAUDOMOS ŽUVYS:
23
21


LIETUVOS MEDŽIOTOJŲ IR ŽVEJŲ DRAUGIJOS
IGNALINOS SKYRIUS
ežeras
„DŪKŠTAS"


LIETUVOS MEDŽIOTOJŲ IR ŽVEJŲ DRAUGIJOS
IGNALINOS SKYRIUS
ežeras
"GILUTIS"


LIETUVOS MEDŽIOTOJŲ IR ŽVEJŲ DRAUGIJOS
IGNALINOS SKYRIUS
Vilkakalnio g. 3, Ignalina
Tel. mob. 8 614 71722
El. p. lmzd@inbox.lt
Ežerėnkyvys
„PADYSNIS"
VIETA - Ignalinos rajonas, Naujoja Daugėliškio sen.
PLOTAS - 108.8 ha
PADYSNIO H.E.S.
6.00
INVESTUOJAMAS TAVOJE ŽMONIJOJE


LIETUVOS MEDŽIOTOJŲ IR ŽVEJŲ DRAUGIJOS
IGNALINOS SKYRIUS
Vilkakalnio g. 3
Ignalina
Mob. 8614 71722
El.p.: lmzd@inbox.lt
ežeras
„PRŪTAS"
VIETA - Ignalinos rajonas, Rimšės sen.
PLOTAS - 266,1 ha
ILGIS - 4.8 km
29
21,2
LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKA
BALTARUSIJA


LIETUVOS MEDŽIOTOJŲ IR ŽVEJŲ DRAUGIJOS
IGNALINOS SKYRIUS
ežeras
„SVIRKOS"


LIETUVOS MEDŽIOTOJŲ IR ŽVEJŲ DRAUGIJOS
IGNALINOS SKYRIUS
ežeras
„TVEREČIUS"


LIETUVOS MEDŽIOTOJŲ IR ŽVEJŲ DRAUGIJOS
IGNALINOS SKYRIUS
ežeras
„ŽILMAS"

Fishing boats for rent:

VšĮ "MĖLYNIEJI EŽERAI" Public Institution "MĖLYNIEJI EŽERAI", tel. +370 685 112025;

Contact person Nerijus Grušnius, tel. +370 621 12075;

The directorate of Aukstaitija National Park and Labanoras regional park, tel. +8 386 53135.

You can get information: **VšĮ Ignalinos r. turizmo informacijos centras** +370 386 52597,

+370 386 33477.