Transboundary data and information exchange: Finland’s experience

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Finland and its transboundary waters

Transboundary waters with
- Sweden
- Norway
- Russia
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)
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:

Sweden: www.viss.lansstyrelsen.se/
Finland: www.ymparisto.fi/vaikutavesiin, paikkatieto.ymparisto.fi/vesikartta

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

https://www.fsgk.se/Finnish-Swedish-Transboundary-River-Commission.htm
The Finnish-Norwegian Transboundary Water Commission

- Norway and Finland signed agreement for the use of the join 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, Näätämöjen ja Paatsjoen vesienhoitoalue (ymparisto.fi)

http://www.ymparisto.fi/fi-FI/Vesi/Vesienhuolto/Rajavesistoyhteisty%20Lapissa/Suomalaisnorjalainen_rajavesistokomissio/The_FinnishNorwegian_Transboundary_Water%28328%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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