

Management conflicts in the Vistula Lagoon area.

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Abstract

The Vistula Lagoon is shared by Poland and Russia. This fact hampers effective management of waters with respect to water quality, fisheries and tourism.

Economy of the southern part of the lagoon has deteriorated. Northern part develops better but not due to use of the lagoon but due to possibilities served of proximity of Baltic Sea beaches along the Vistula Lagoon Spit.

Extensive regions of the Vistula Lagoon are under NATURA 2000 and Birds Directive. This poses great problems to fishermen and those who want to invest in spatial development. Many investments are stopped by NATURA 2000 restrictions. Fishermen lose their fishing potential on behalf of constantly growing population of cormorants who can eat more fish than fishermen catch.

Laws and regulations are not adjusted to existing situation and lead to overuse of fish stocks or destruction of fish spawning areas.

Results of interviews with local communities living and working on the lagoon, carried out in the framework of the 7FP LAGOONS project, will be presented here.