



# National overview of the WFD-progress - Finland

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# Content of the presentation

1. Public hearing on the timetable, work programme and significant water management issues
2. Progress towards update of the river basin management plans for 2028-2033
3. Reporting
4. Water and Marine Protection Programme Ahti
5. Reform of the regional administration in Finland



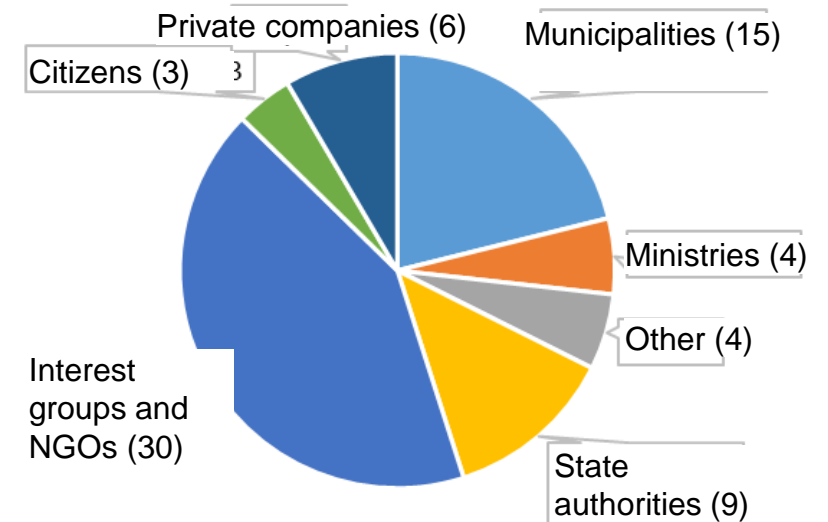
# 1. Public hearing on the timetable, work programme and significant water management issues



# Public hearing ended in June

- Public hearing on the timetable, work programme and significant water management issues was open from 15th December 2023 to 17th June 2024
- From around 50 to 90 feedbacks were received per river basin district – which is more than in previous cycles for the first hearing
- Feedback mainly from interest groups and NGOs, municipalities, state authorities and private sector

Number of feedback (RBD1)



# Feedback

- The significant water management issues identified as well as the timetable and work programme were in general seen acceptable and justified
- Effectiveness and the implementation of the Programmes of Measures needs to be improved
- Most of the feedback was related to Programmes of Measures
  - Legislation
  - Financing of measures
  - Priorisation and targeting of the measures, catchment based planning
- Also some feedback regarding the classification of the status of the waters, use of exemptions, cooperation and communication



## 2. Progress towards update of the river basin management plans for 2028-2033



# Update of the characteristics of the river basin districts

- Principles for delineation of surface water bodies and definition of surface water body types have remained the same than in previous cycles
  - 48 new totally new water bodies, and 4 new water bodies as a result of splitting existing water bodies.
  - Changes in types for around 500 lake water bodies, mainly due to new methods for estimating natural dystrophic level
- Delineation of groundwater bodies according to new classification has been ongoing since 2016. The work is nearly finished, only in Lapland the delineation work is still ongoing, but expected to be finalised at the end of 2024.
- Update of the significant pressures and risk assessment of groundwater bodies ongoing



# Classification of the status of the waters

- National classification guidance documents currently being updated
  - Further harmonisation with EU guidances, e.g. to solve issues related to electronic reporting
  - Classification work planned to be started this fall, and to be completed in 2025
  - Based on monitoring data from 2017 to 2023
- Renewal of the national water and marine data and information system ongoing
  - New tools and automated calculation from monitoring data to quality element status assessment





# 3. Reporting



# EU reportings

- Electronic reporting of the RBMPs for 2022-2027 still ongoing, some issues remain and are being solved
- Preparation and data collection regarding WFD POM reporting ongoing
- Reporting of the Nitrates directive almost finished – better harmonisation with WFD reporting than earlier
- UWWTD reporting regarding 2022 was completed on time in June 2024



# 4. Water and marine protection programme Ahti

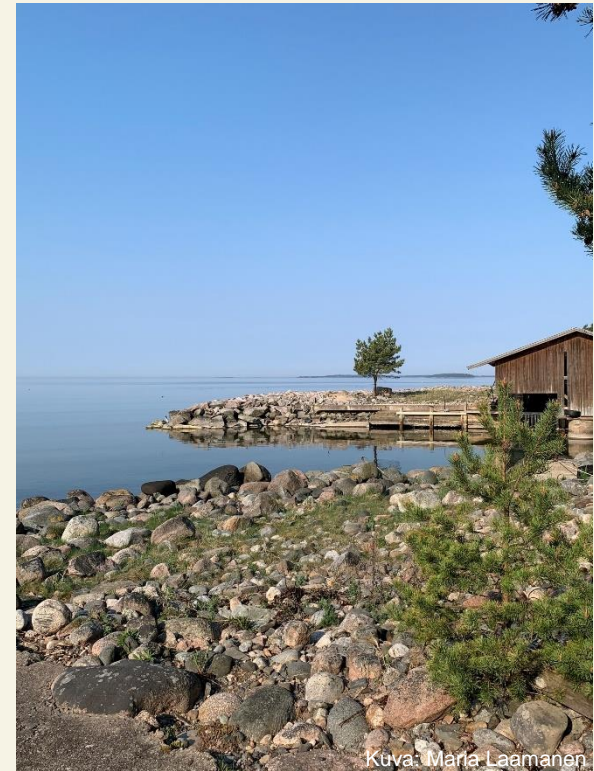
Maria Laamanen, Programme Manager  
Ministry of the Environment, Finland



Ympäristöministeriö  
Miljöministeriet  
Ministry of the Environment

# A programme to improve the status of marine and freshwater environments in Finland

- The Ahti Programme focuses on:
  - reducing nutrient loading,
  - efficient management and use of resources,
  - improving soil structure and overall condition, and
  - managing hazardous substances.
- The Programme puts an emphasis on measures implemented in the Archipelago Sea catchment although the Programme covers the whole country.
- Measures support the implementation of the WFD River Basin Management plans and MSFD national Marine Strategy.
- The Ahti Programme is in line with PM Orpo's government's programme (2023-2027).

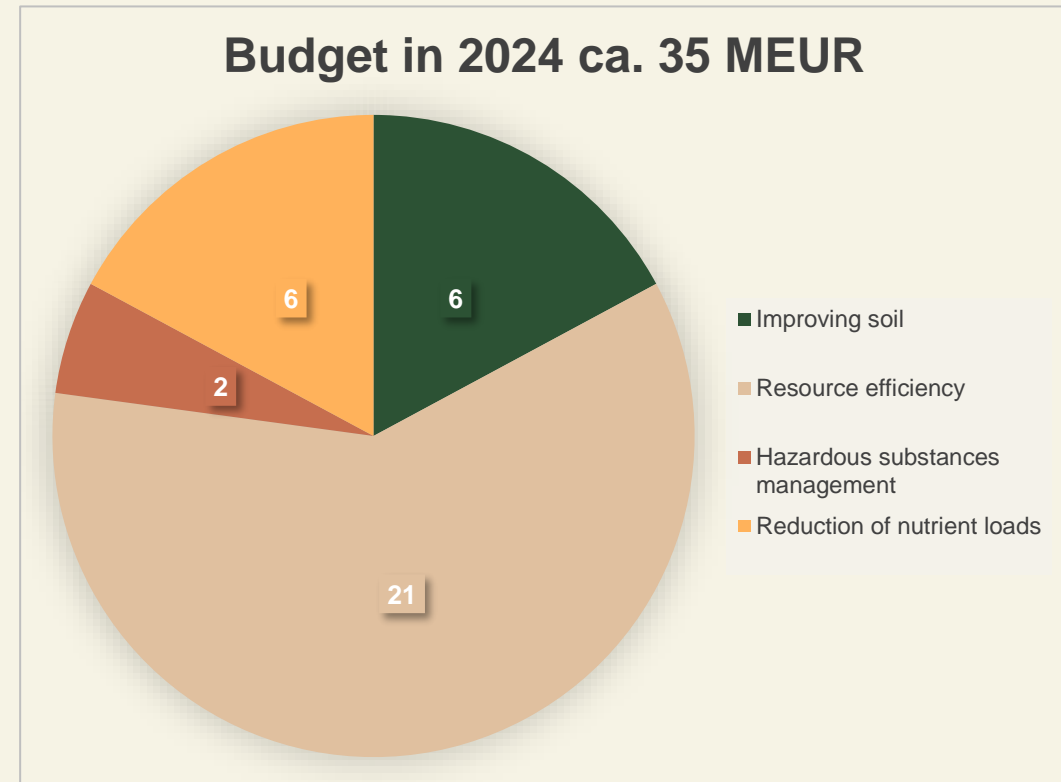


Kuva: Maria Laamanen



# Ahti Programme in 2024

- In addition to the approximately 35 MEUR funding by the Ministry of the Environment in 2024, measures in agriculture, forestry and fisheries are funded through the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, including the CAP.



# Examples of measures

- Gypsum spreading to reduce P loads from agricultural soil, status in September:

Geographical area	Goal (ha)	Completed (ha) 2020-2024	Applications (ha) 2024
Archipelago Sea catchment	50 000	25 800	3 130
Area suitable for gypsum spreading outside Archipelago Sea	50 000	37 800	7 850
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 000</b>	<b>63 600</b>	<b>10 980</b>

- In addition, large scale piloting of wood fiber and structural lime spreading to fields, cf. gypsum.
- Catchment level, multi-objective planning and implementation of various measures: lake, river and coastal restoration, soil restoration, incl. amendment, urban runoff management, etc.
  - In summer 2024, almost 100 restoration projects.
- Nutrient and energy efficiency improvement projects worth nearly 40 MEUR since 2022, including biogas facilities development, R&D, investments in improvement of energy efficiency in water treatment plants
- Urban waters' management, in 2024 23 projects worth about 2 MEUR
- Renovation of four Baltic Sea wrecks and the fifth one underway and to be completed in 2025.



Kuva: Ulla Rosenström



# 5. Reform of the regional administration in Finland



# Based on the Government Programme

## New national agency

- Permitting, guidance and supervision tasks brought together under a new national permitting and supervisory agency.
- To promote investments, the aim is a one-stop model where the use of services and application for permits is centralised and digitalised into one effective and user-friendly permitting process.

## Economic development centres

- With regard to ELY Centres, the key premise is a cross-sectoral regional state administration brought together into the economic development centres of even more robust regions.
- Economic development centres and their areas will be formed based on the present full-service ELY Centres.

## Permitting and supervision tasks

- A harmonised permitting and supervision practice that is independent of the region will be strengthened and permitting procedures will be streamlined.
- Diversity and cross-sectoral approach are the key principles in the development.

## We will ensure:

- Linguistic rights.
- Implementation of responsibilities for preparedness.
- Cooperation with regional authorities and regional presence and network of offices.
- Equality and non-discrimination in supervision and permitting practices.



# Proposed changes to regional state authorities

- **Objective:**

- The aim is more **uniform and streamlined permitting and supervision procedures** for customers and companies. Services more comprehensively available at one single agency – **One-Stop-Shop**.
- Access to services and adequate regional presence of the agency in different parts of Finland will be ensured.
- Regional State Administrative Agencies and permitting, guidance and supervision tasks related to the environment of the centers for economic development, transportation and the environment (ELY-center) will be merged into a new national agency.
- New regional economic development centres will be established.
- Plan is that the new agencies will start in the beginning of 2026



# Organisation of the authority and permit procedures

## Regional State

### Administrative Agency

- Environmental permit
- Water permit
- Land extraction permit (in part)



## ELY Centre

- Nature conservation decision
- EIA procedure
- Natura assessment,
- Preparation of river basin management plans and programmes of measures
- Supervision of permits



## Finnish Supervisory Agency

- Environmental permit
- Water permit
- Land extraction permit (in part)
- Nature conservation decision
- EIA procedure
- Nature assessment
- Preparation of river basin management plans and the marine strategy and related programmes of measures
- Supervision

## Municipality

- Environmental permit
- Land extraction permit
- Construction
- Land use planning

## Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency Tukes

- Permits under the Mining Act
- Chemical safety permit



# Water related tasks in new authorities

ELY-centres

## Finnish permitting and supervisory agency

- Permitting and supervision of permits
- Preparation of **river basin management plans** and the marine strategy and related programmes of measures

## Regional economic development centres

- Implementation and promotion of POM related to RBMPs and MS, incl. state subsidies
- Tasks under the Ministry of Agriculture and forestry, e.g.
  - Fisheries management,
  - Flood risk management,
  - Dam safety,
  - Water services



# Thank you!

