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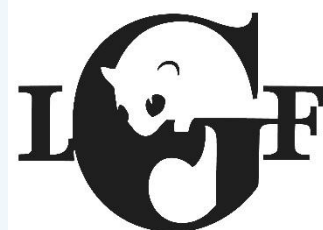
Naturskyddsföreningen

RIVER UNIVERSITY



Protection of Fish Resources
in the Transboundary
Context: Example of River
Lamprey

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River Lamprey: a lifecycle (1)

- Lamprey are anadromous species, i.e. adults migrate upstream for spawning in upper reaches of rivers in spring;
- Adult individuals die after spawning;



River Lamprey: a lifecycle (2)

- Lamprey's larvae (ammocoetes) live in rivers 4-5 years then migrate downstream to the sea;



River Lamprey: a lifecycle (3)

- In the estuaries of rivers and sea adult lamprey live 2-3 years and parasitise fish;



Lamprey has dual status: protected and exploited (1)

- River lamprey is protected according to:
 - Habitat Directive;
 - National Law – Red List



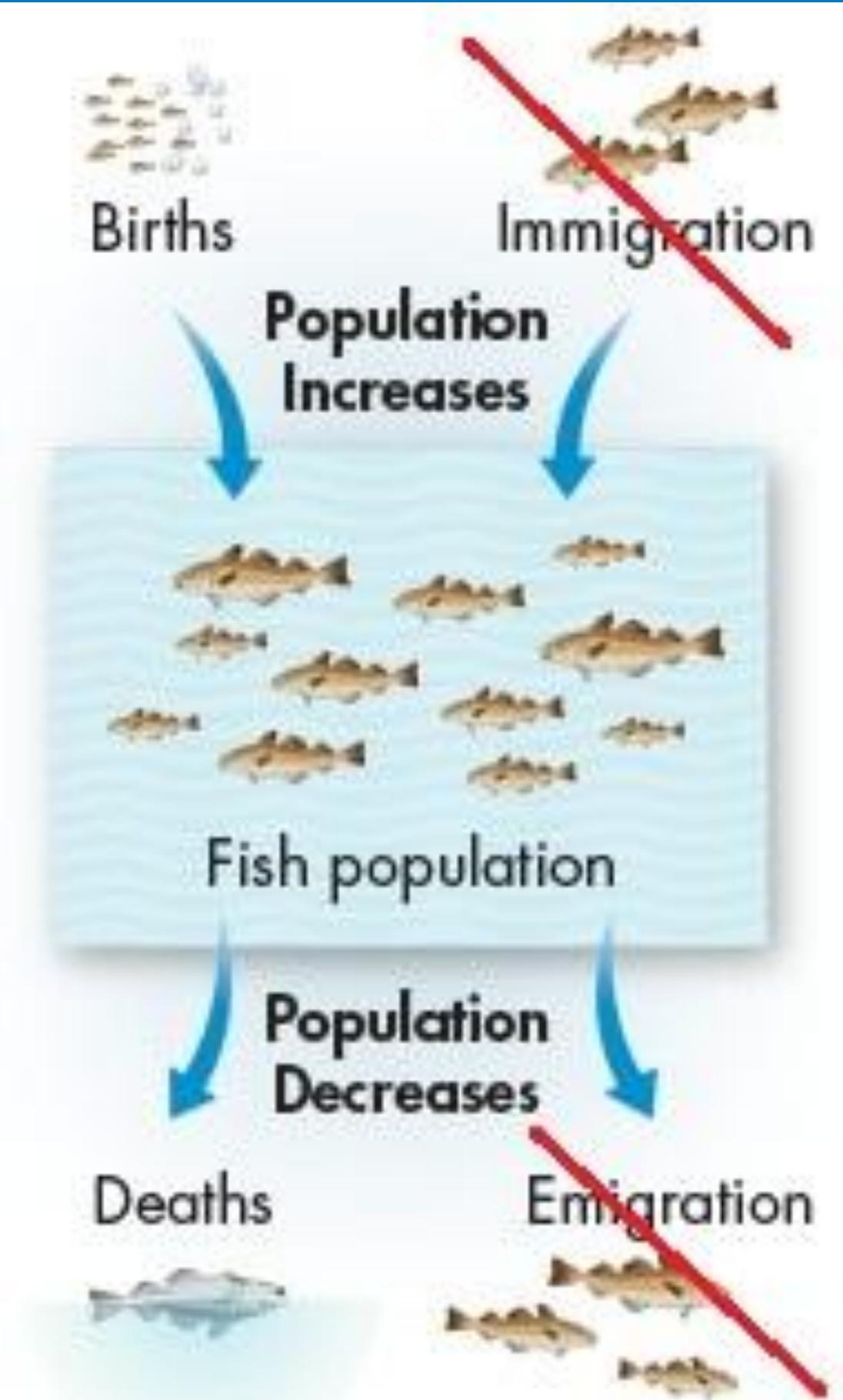
Lamprey has dual status: protected and exploited (2)

- River lamprey is harvested for food (tons annually on average);
 - 100 t in Latvia;
 - 10 t in Lithuania;
 - 250 t total in Baltic Sea



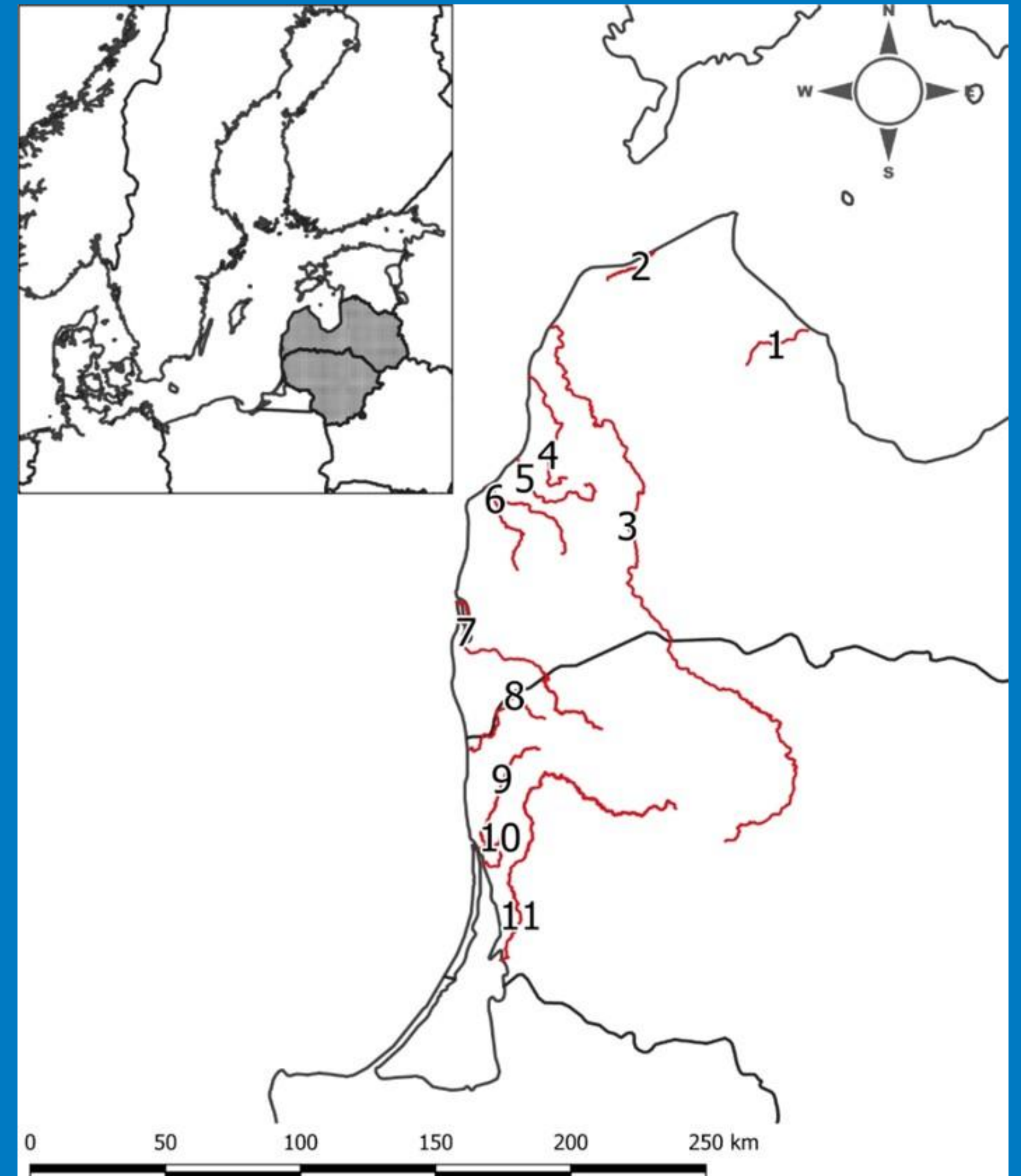
Can we apply unified management unit approach for LT and LV lamprey?

- Modern stock management approach requires identification of homogenous management units;
- Management units are defined as demographically independent populations whose dynamic depends on birth and death rates rather than on immigration.



Can LV and LT lampreys be considered as the one management unit?

- Genetic analysis proved that there is no difference among lampreys sampled from 11 locations from Latvia and Lithuania;
- Therefore, lampreys from east Latvia (Kurzeme region) and Lithuanian coastal rivers can be considered as the same population = same management unit



One population, one management unit: is one unified management approach applied too?



**Monitoring/stock
assessment – different
tools used;**



**Mark-recapture
monitoring efforts/sample
sizes are different**



**Different catch statistics
methods & different
fisheries limitations:
catch size vs. number of
gears**

Different bottom sampling gears in LV and LT - different results

EDITION 2026



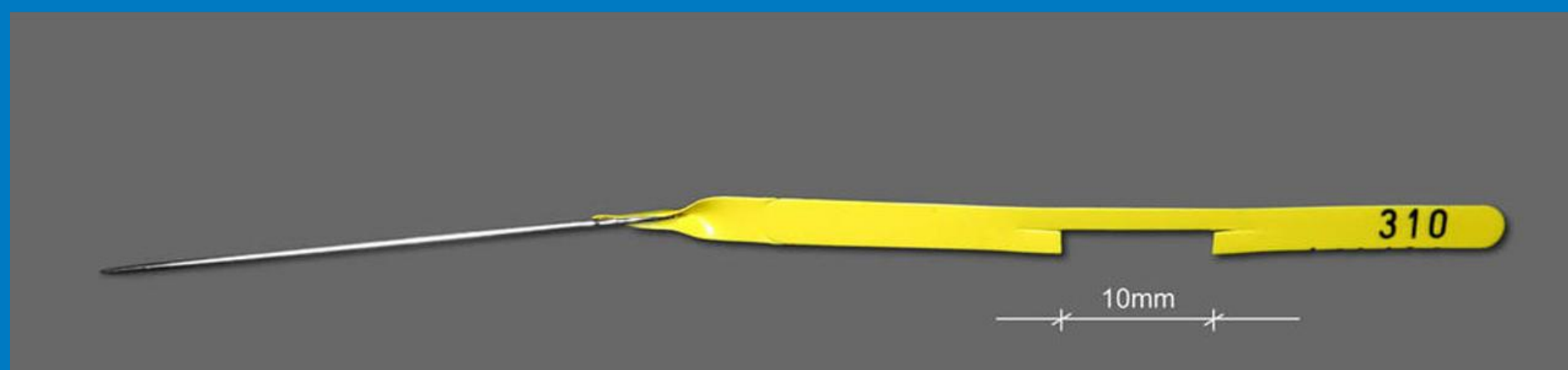
Intercalibration experiment
with testing of two
different gears in the same
place



It has been scientifically
proved that two different
gears gave statistically
evident different results

Different efforts in mark-recapture monitoring method

- Mark-recapture is good monitoring method, but it has been done in Latvia only time by time and never has been carried in Lithuania;
- Therefore, one mark-recapture population evaluation has been done in LT & LV;
- The smallest number of sample have been estimated – 388 ind.





Different catch statistics reporting systems by fishermen and different catch limitations

- Catch limitation in rivers and gear limitation in Curonian Lagoon in Lithuania;
- Reporting about catch size in the fishing logbook in Lithuania – often actual size of landing under-reported;
- Only gear limitation in Latvia;

Other important recommendations

International advisory and management platform for river lamprey should be established



Other important recommendations (2)

Lithuanian tourism sector wants to explore the possibility to promote lamprey as a local delicacy and initiate local lamprey food festivals (like in Carnikava, Latvia)



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THANK YOU

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