Elinkeino-, liikenne- ja ympäristökeskus
Närings-, trafik- och miljöcentralen
Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment

Fisheries administration and new fisheries legislation in Finland

Hola Lake International Workshop in Holistic Approach in Lake Restoration. Lohja 11.4.2018.

Mikko Koivurinta,
Center for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment of Southwest Finland

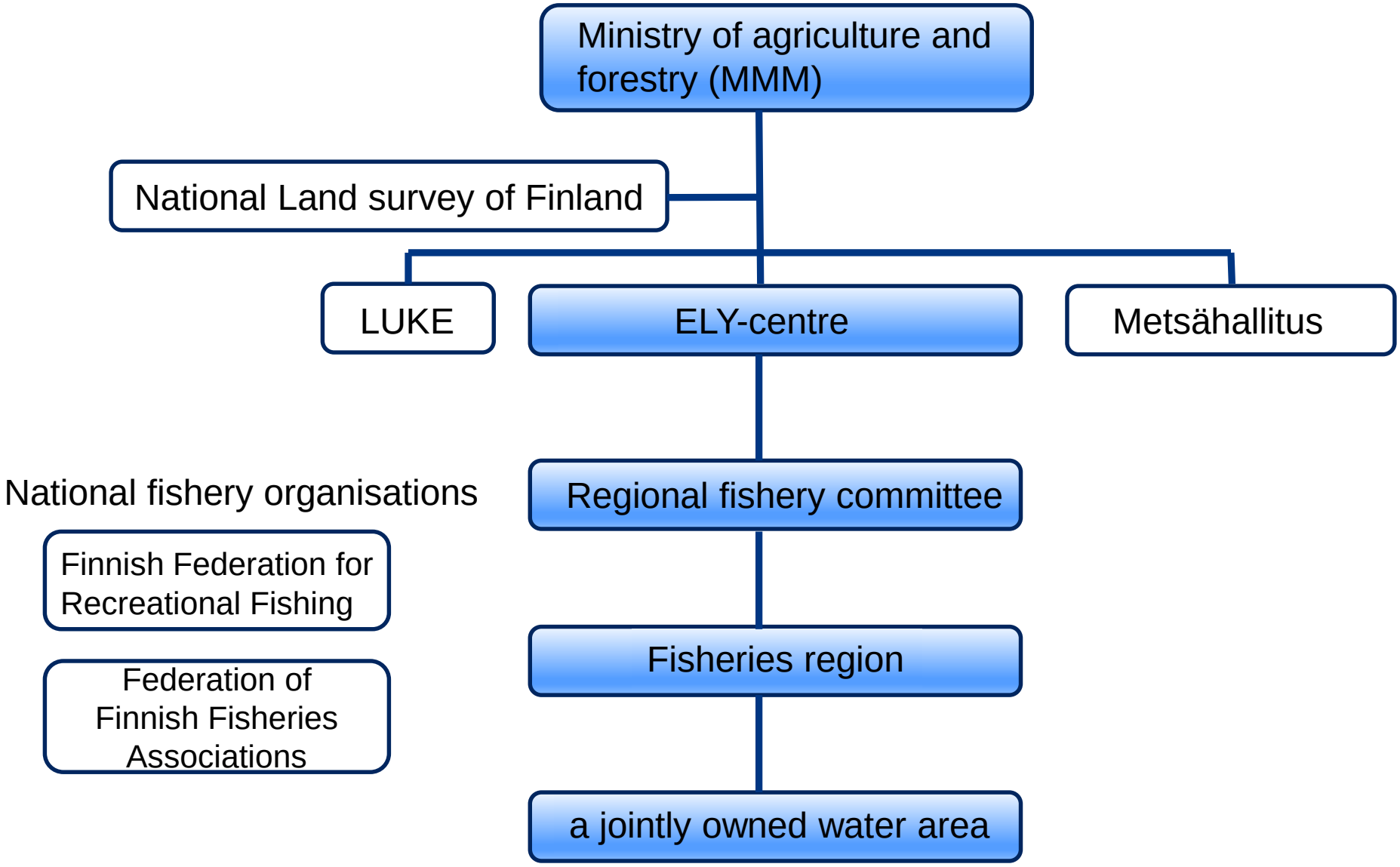
Introduction

- New fisheries legislation entered into force 1.1.2016:
  - **Fishing Act** (379/2015)
- Preparation 2009-2015
- Transition period going on 2016-2020
- Previous legislation 1982-2015, 1951-1981, 1903-1950

Section 1. Objectives

- The objective of this Act is to use the best available information to ensure ecologically, economically and socially sustainable management of fish resources in such a way as to secure a sustainable and diversified return on fish resources, the natural life cycle of fish stocks, and the diversity and protection of fish resources and other aquatic flora and fauna.

Organization



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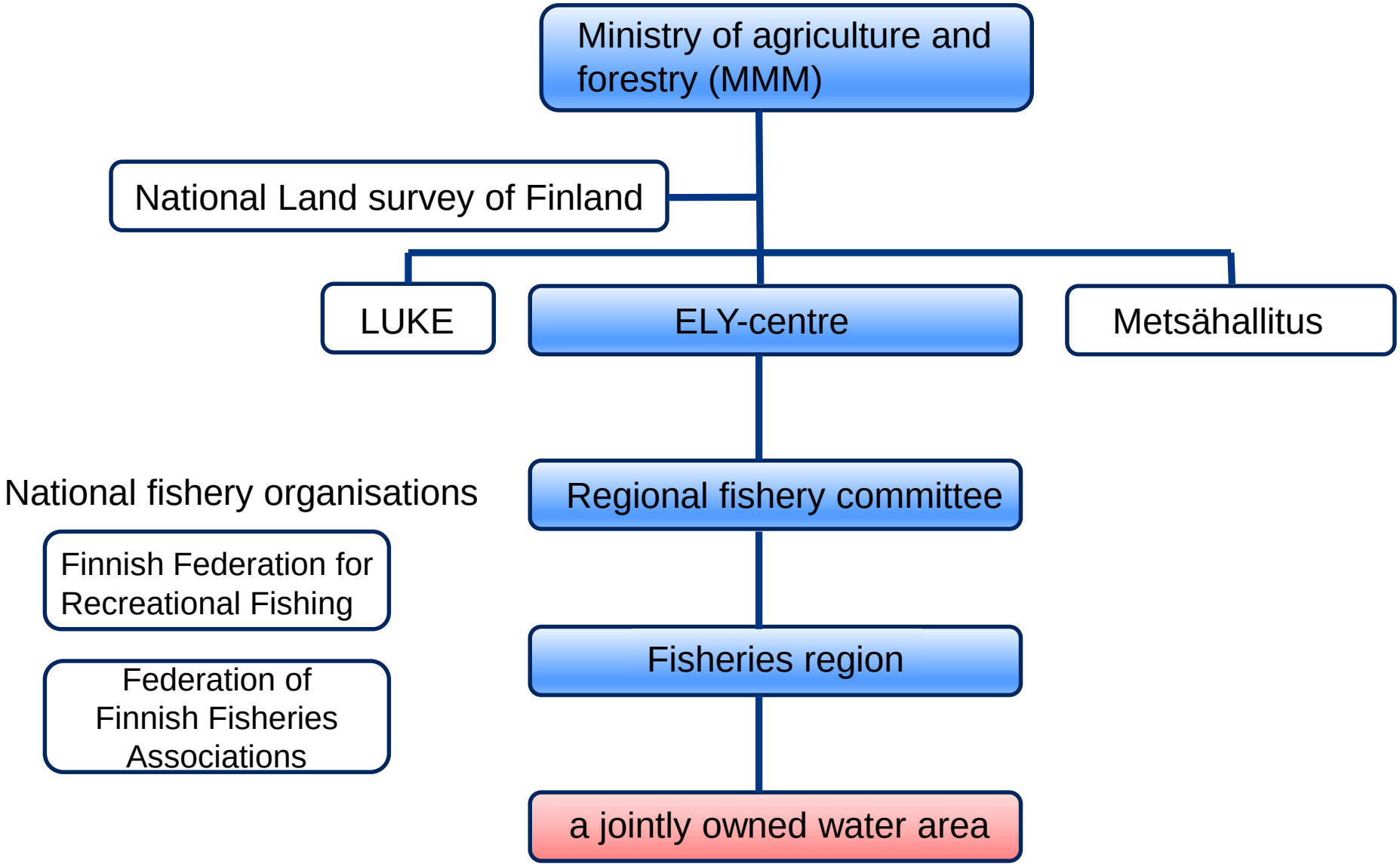
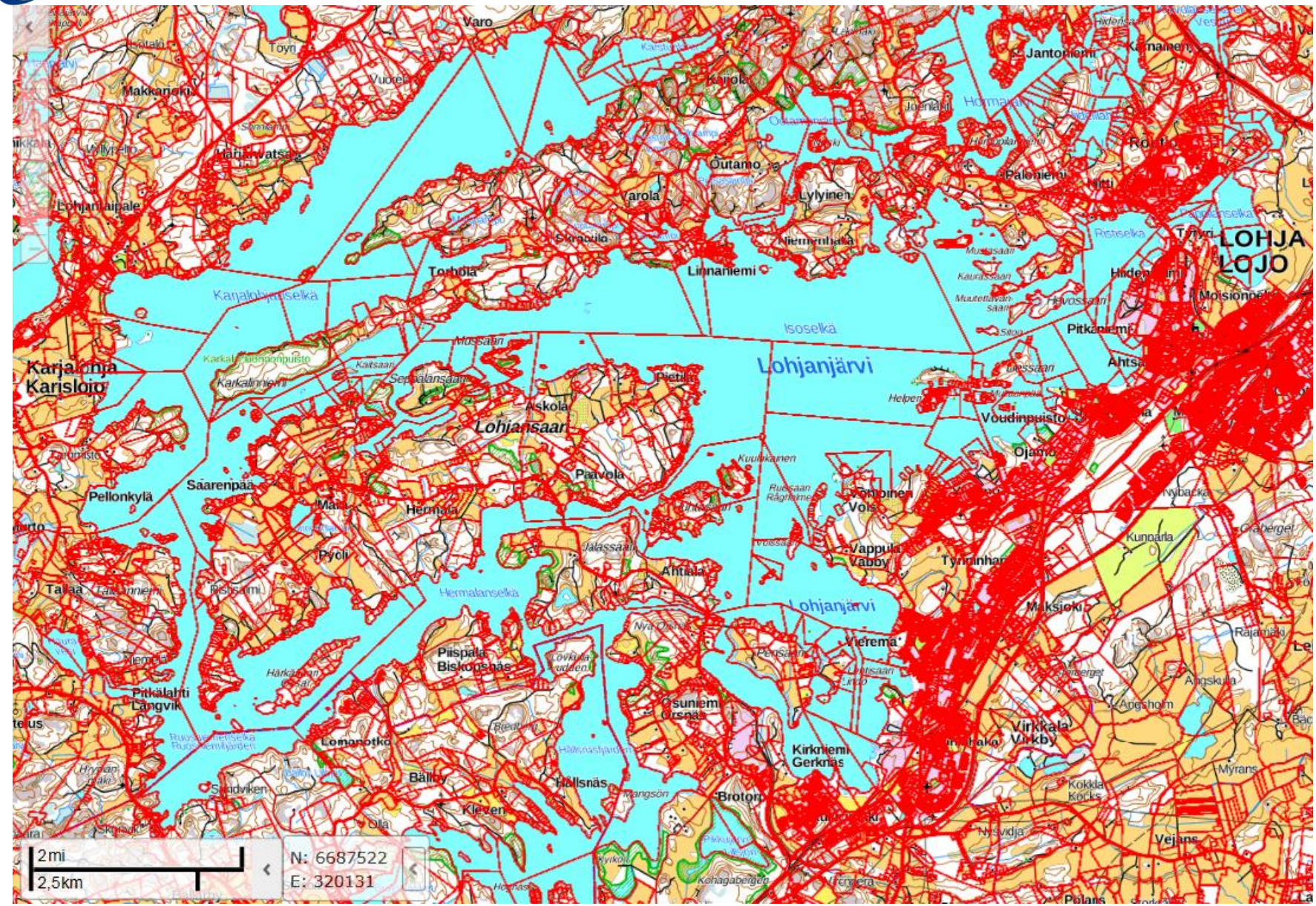


Fishing rights

Fishing rights based on ownership of a water area

- The right to fish and rule on fishing belongs to the owner of the water area.
- A shareholder of a jointly-owned water area has the right to fish in a water area as decided by the body of joint owners of the jointly-owned water area.
- Exceptions: the common fishing rights: angling and ice fishing, lure fishing and ELY-centre-license for fishing guides and commercial fishing
- the fisheries management fee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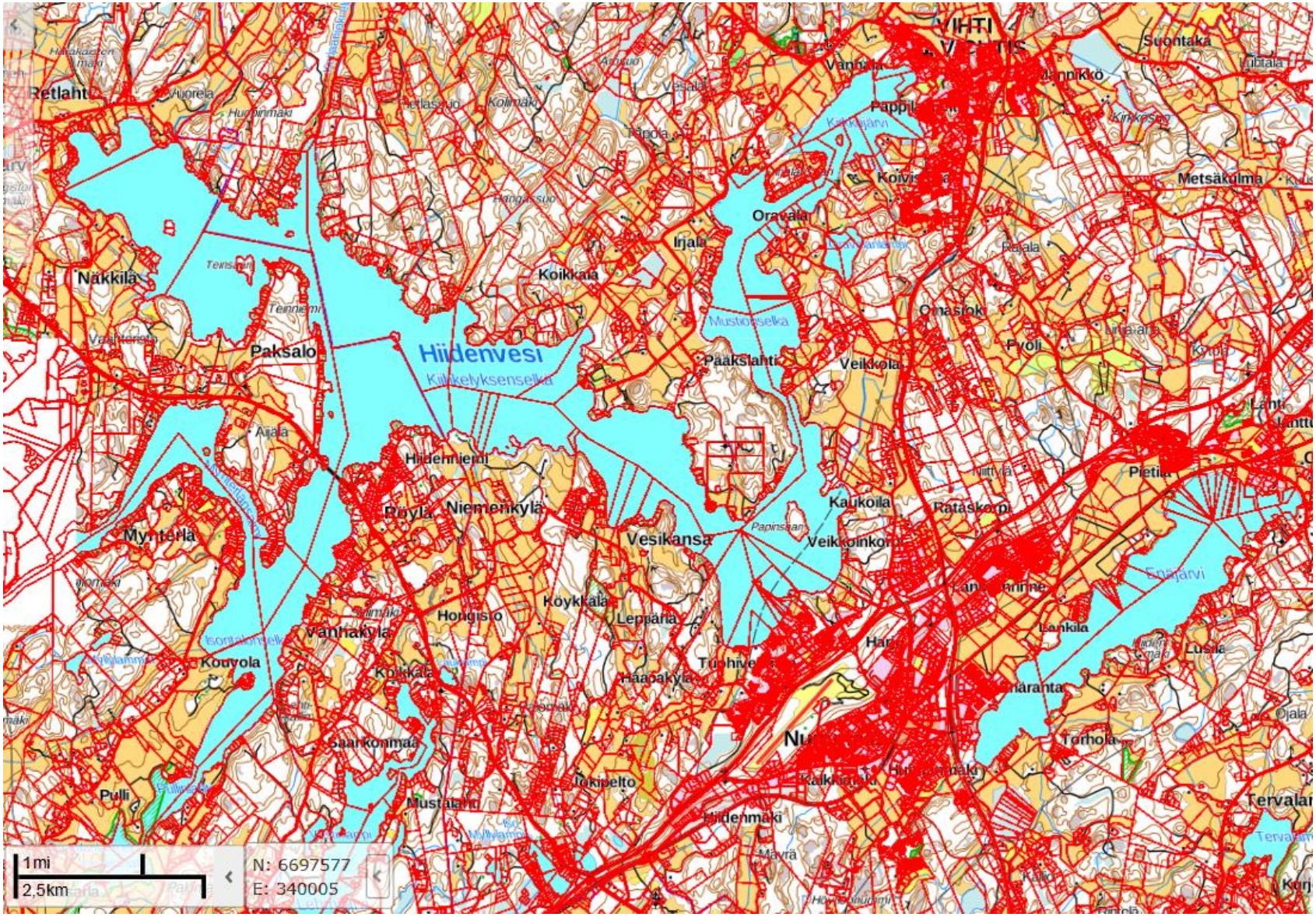
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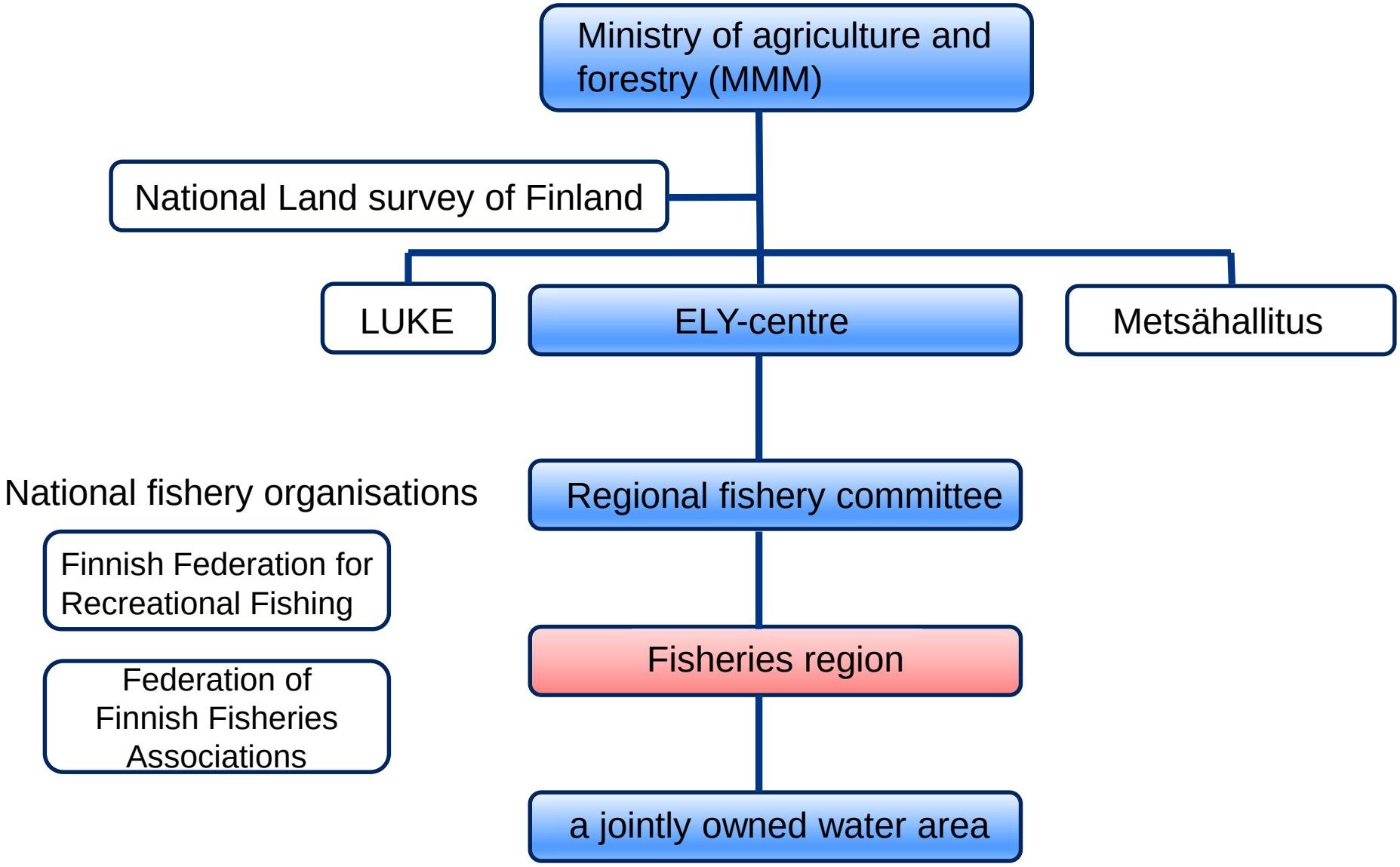
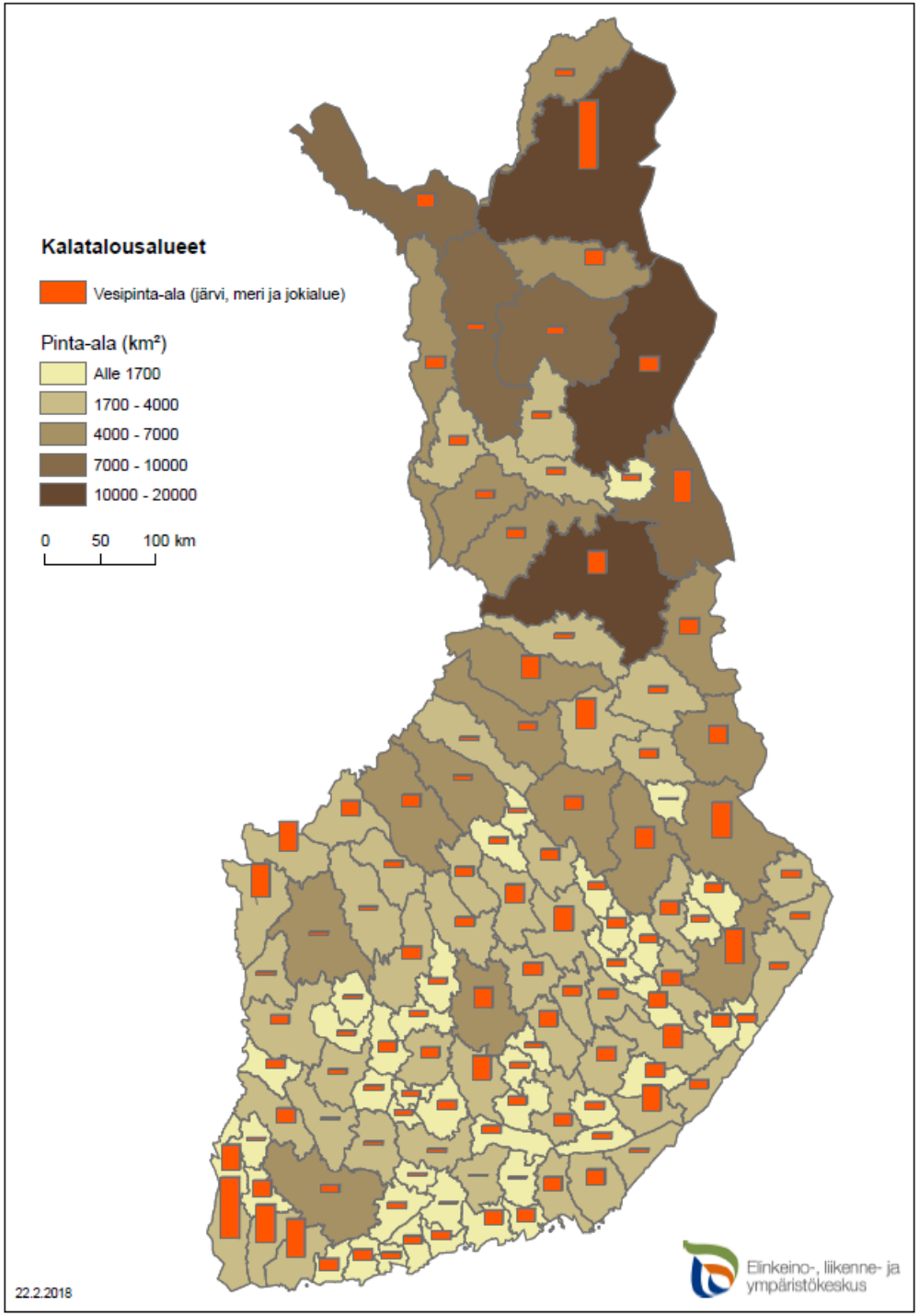


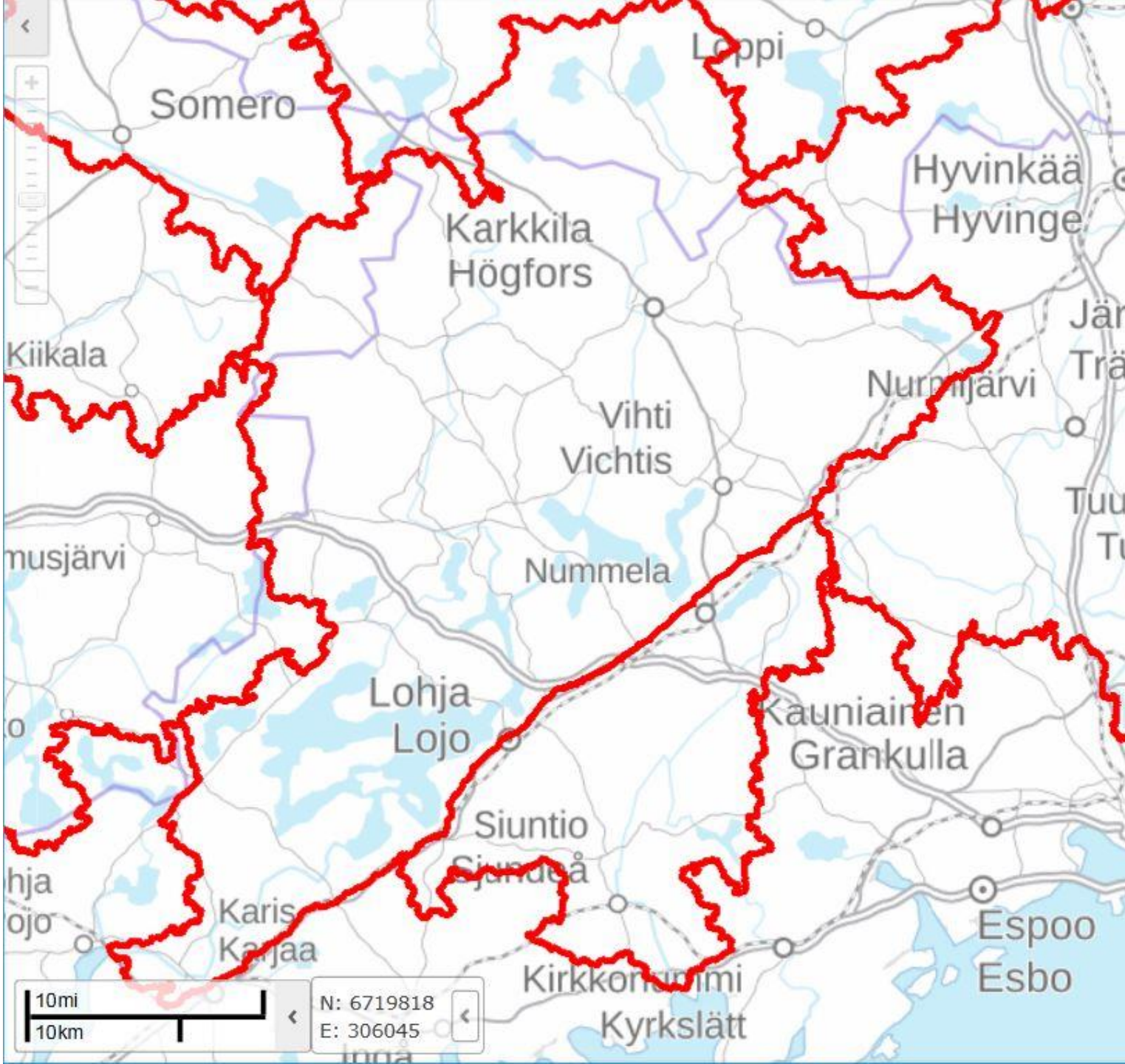
Fisheries regions

- Fishing regions (220) -> Fisheries regions (118)
- Water areas are divided regardless of their ownership and administrative boundaries into fisheries regions
- Taken into account: the life cycle of migratory fish, appropriate organisation of fishing, division of catchment areas and the division of water areas into water resources management areas and marine resources management areas referred to in the Act on Water Resources Management (1299/2004)
- boundaries of the fisheries regions were confirmed 13.12.2017 by the ELY-Centre based on a proposal from a regional fishery committee.



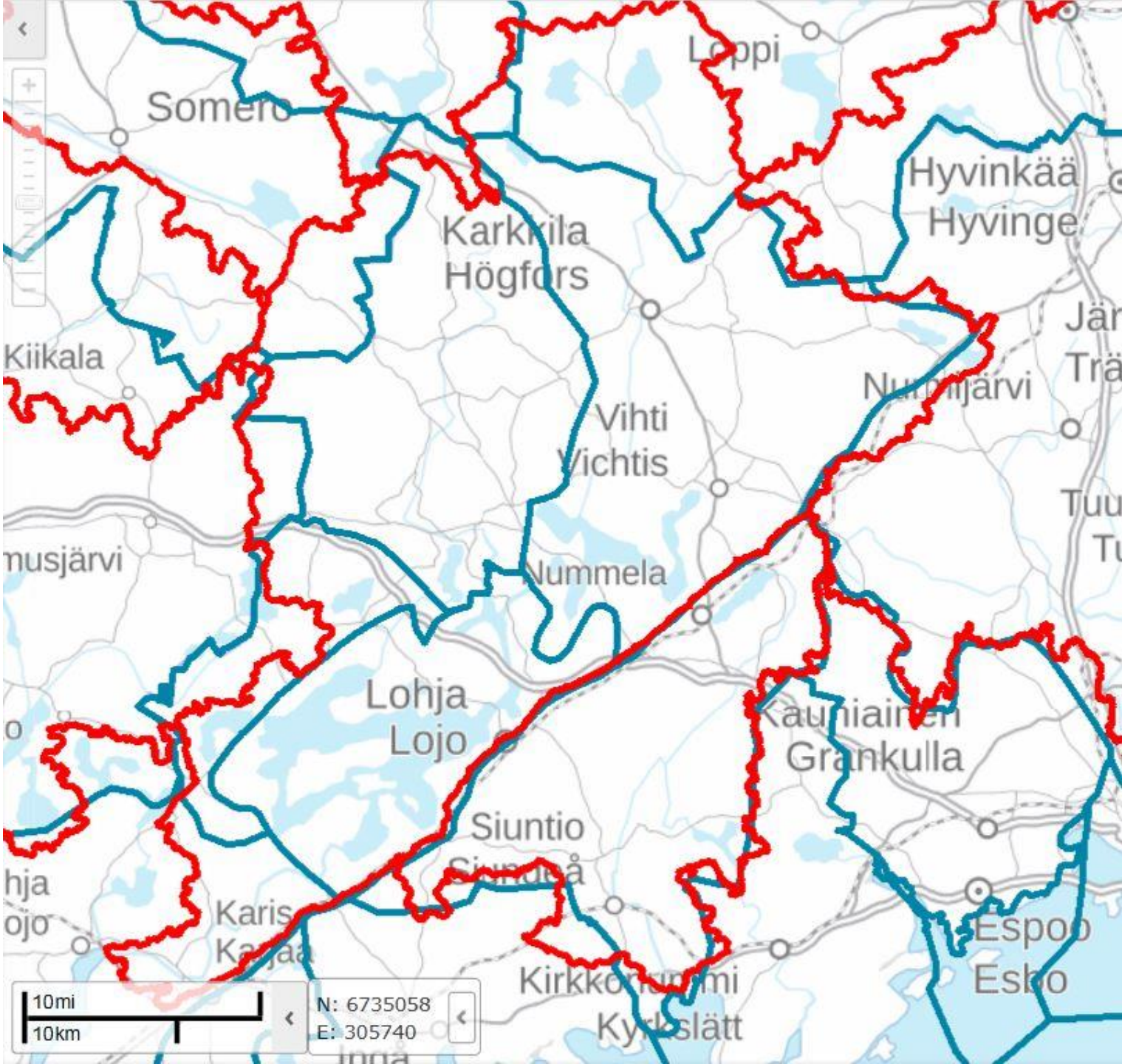
118 fisheries regions in Finland (decision of ELY-centres 13.12.2017)

catchment-areas



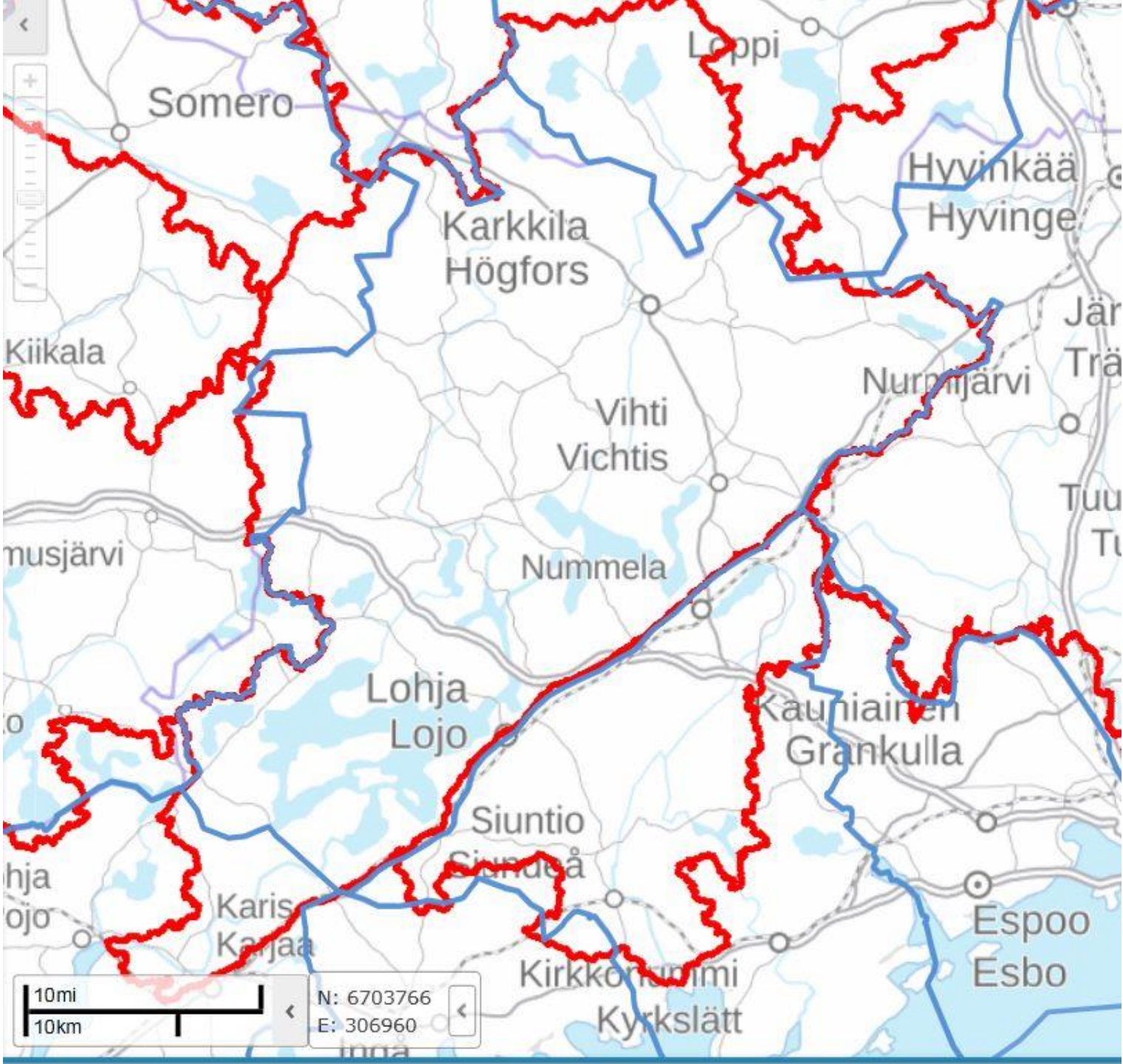
catchment-areas

Fishing-areas 1982-2018



catchment-areas

Fisheries regions 2019-



Legal form, members and bodies of a fisheries region:

- Fisheries regions are public corporations whose purpose is to develop fishery in their region and to promote the collaboration of their members for the organisation of the sustainable management of fish resources.
- The bodies of a fisheries region are the general meeting, board and executive director.
- The members of a fisheries region are the fishing right holders in the region and national fishery organisations.
- The general meeting exercises the power of decision in the fisheries region.
- Regional environment- or nature-associations are entitled to one representative at the general meeting with the right of presence and speech but no vote.

The duties of a fisheries region are to:

- 1) planning of the sustainable management of fish resources;
- 2) prepare a proposal for the plan for sustainable management, enforce the approved plan and monitor its impact;
- 3) communicate with regard to the management of fish resources;
- 4) organise fishing supervision;
- 5) collect monitoring data regarding fishing and the management of fish stocks;
- 6) promote the formation of joint permit areas for fishing for the needs of recreational and commercial fishing;
- 7) carry out duties assigned to the fisheries region by the owners of the water area;
- 8) distribute funds accrued from compensations relating to lure fishing to the owners of the water area;
- 9) carry out other duties based on the performance guidance of ELY-Centre.

The management plan shall include:

1) basic data on the status of water areas and fish stocks;

2) plan for measures to develop and promote fishing and the target state related to these and a proposal for the development of a joint permit system for recreational fishing;

3) plan for the management measures of fish stocks;

4) proposal on measures necessary for securing the lifecycle and biological diversity of migratory fish and endangered fish stocks;

5) proposal on the necessary regional regulation measures for fishing;

6) proposal on the distribution of the share of funds collected as fisheries management fees to be used as compensations to owners;

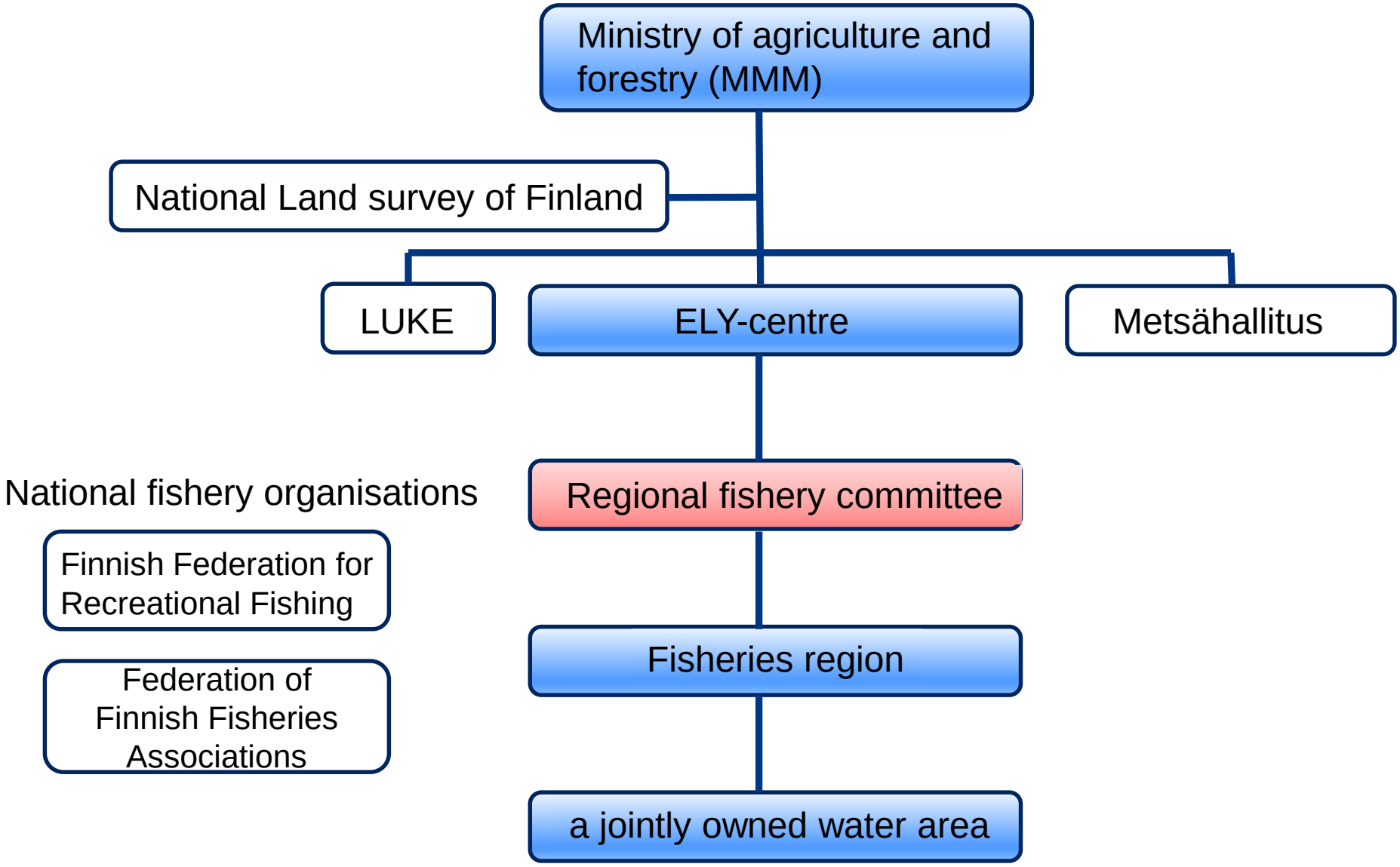
7) specification of areas significant for fishery and areas well suited for commercial fishing and fishing tourism;

8) specification of fishing gear suitable for commercial fishing in each area that is suitable for commercial fishing;

9) plan for organising the monitoring of fishing data and supervision of fishing.

Fisheries region shall present the management plan for the approval of ELY-Centre till 31.12.2019.

Organization



Regional fishery committee

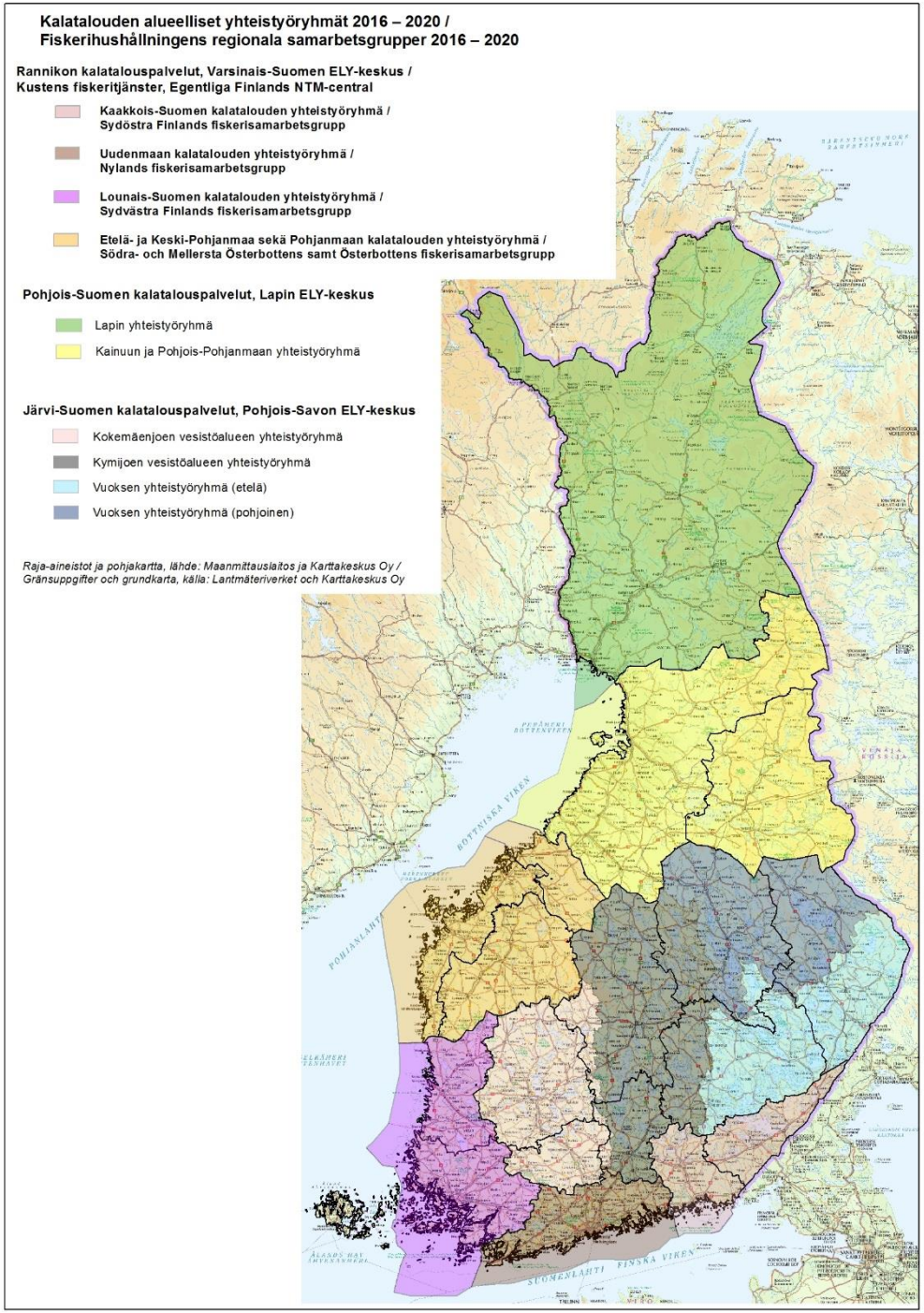
ELY-Centre sets up for 5 years at a time regional fishery committees in its operating area.

Representatives: fisheries regions, fishery and environmental organizations, research, administration, Regional Councils and, in the Sámi Homeland, the Sámi Parliament.

The committee is tasked with making proposals and taking initiatives on the organisation of fishing and management of fish stocks. The committee assesses the plans for the management of fish resources and the management measures presented in these and makes proposals for the reconciling of measures presented in the management plans of different regions.

The committee makes a proposal to the ELY-Centre on the division of fisheries regions in its operating area.

Regional fishery committees for 2016-2020



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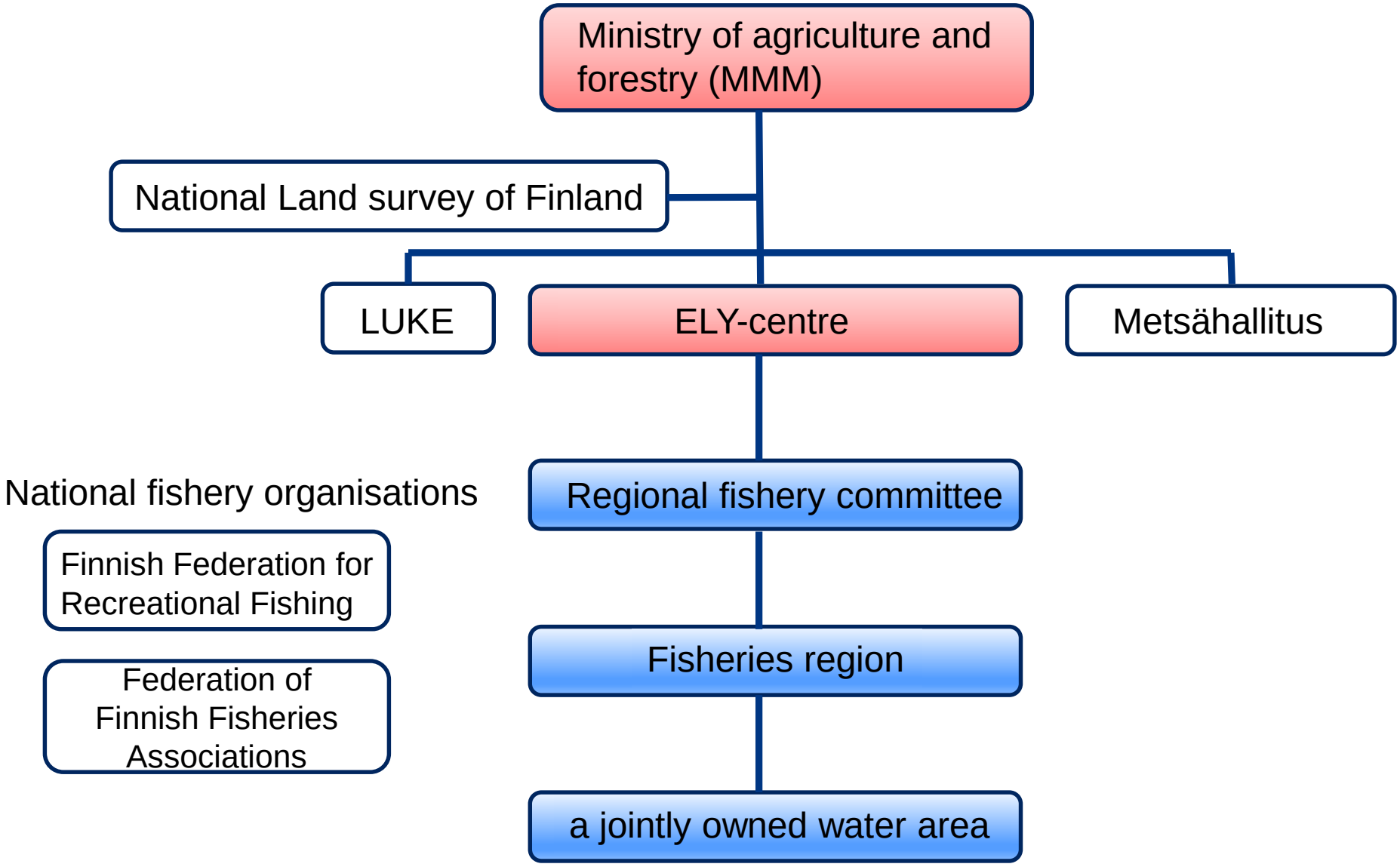
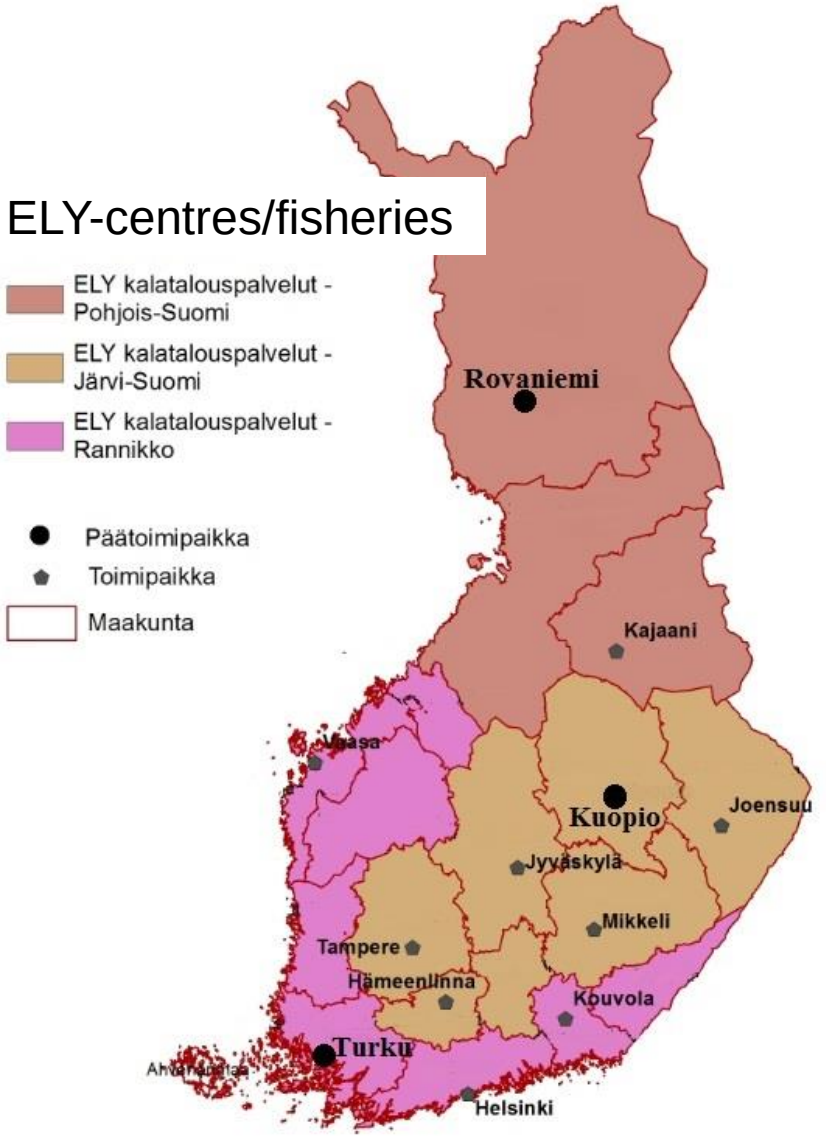


Fishery authorities

(1) State fishery authorities are the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment managing fishery issues.

(2) In addition, official fishery duties separately laid down in this Act are managed by Metsähallitus and Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)



The duties of ELY-Centre are to:

1) see to the fisheries administration by the State;

2) supervise the general fishery interest and promote sustainable fishing and management of fish resources;

3) provide expert assistance to fisheries regions;

4) see that fisheries regions comply with the law, their rules and the management plan and fulfil their tasks and take measures to correct any deficiencies and shortcomings;

5) steer and supervise fishery advisory work done by means of State funds;

6) consider matters pertaining to contacts between fisheries authorities and fisheries regions; and

7) manage the other duties imposed to it in this Act.

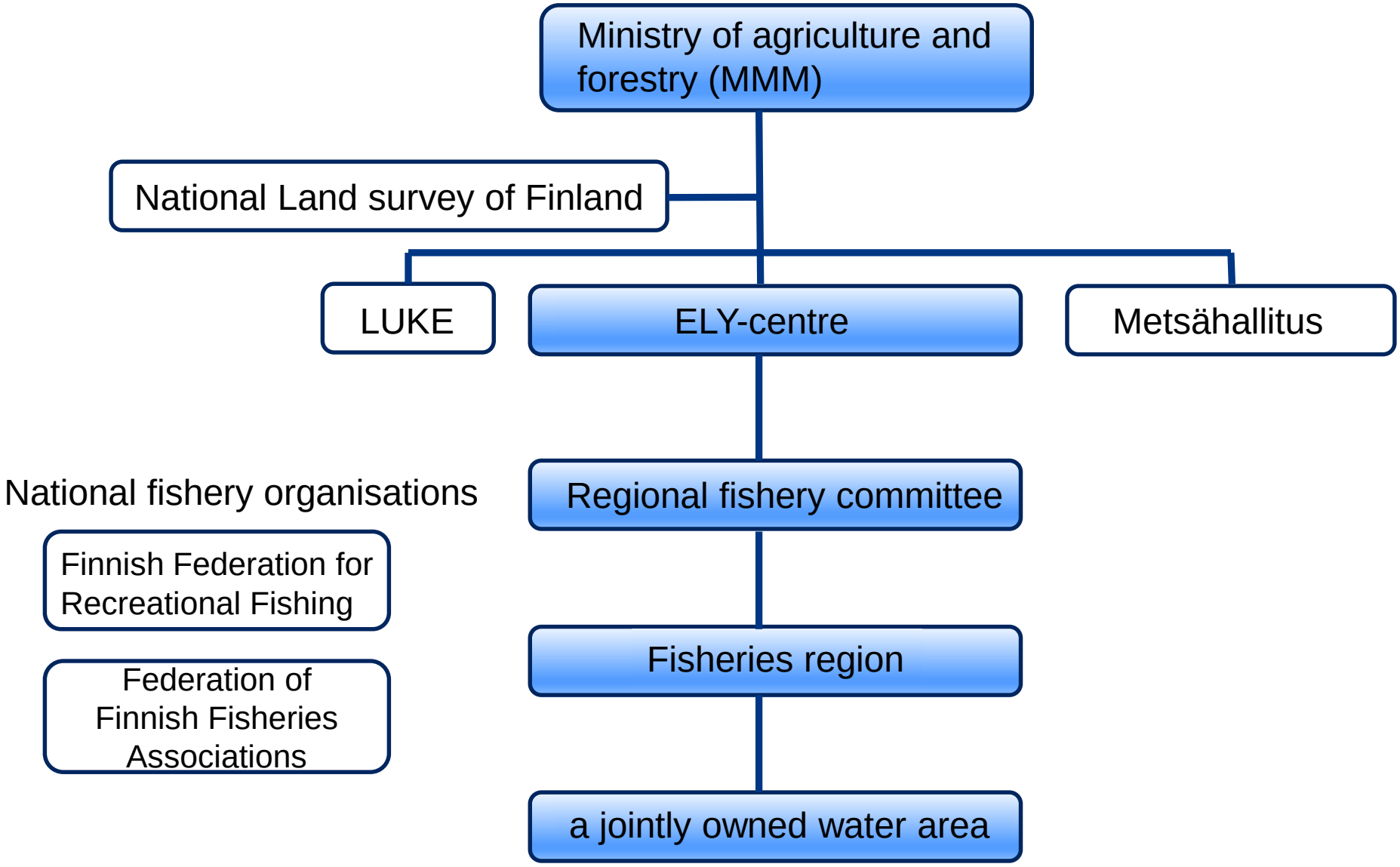
So what ?

Main goals for the Hola Lake- project are following:

1. Improve the knowledge and methods on the reduction of external loading
2. Improve the efficiency of methods on the management of fish stocks
3. Enhance the local and commercial use of fish management catch
4. Improve the understanding of nuisance algae and the measures how to prevent mass development of nuisance algae
5. Improve the knowledge and methods of management of reed beds
6. Enhance the use of harvested reed as raw material
7. Increase the knowledge and involvement of local people in lake monitoring
8. Increase cooperation between local residents and surrounding organizations
9. Increase international cooperation and create professional networks

http://www.puhdasvesijarvi.fi/en/main/holistic_approach_in_lake_restoration_project_holalake

Organization



Text and terms in this presentation are based on:

www.finlex.fi

Fishing Act (379/2015)

Translation from Finnish

Legally binding only in Finnish and Swedish

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland

Thank you !