

## The blue economy in North Karelia, Finland

Source: OECD Global Survey on Localising the Blue Economy (2022)



### FACTS AND FIGURES

#### Fact box

- **Population:** 164 001 [1]
- **GDP:** USD 5.6 billion [2]
- **Area:** 23 000 km<sup>2</sup> [3]

#### Drivers for the blue economy



Create jobs



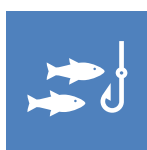
Reduce GHG emissions



Foster local culture and identity

### Blue economy sectors

North Karelia, an inland Eastern European region hosting the Vuoksi river and more than 2 000 lakes, is home to all blue economy sectors below. According to the [statistics database](#) of the Natural Resource Institute of Finland Luke, in 2021, the value of commercial fishing in the region was estimated at EUR 5 million. Additionally, the region has more than five hydropower plants with an installed capacity of up to 200 Megawatts.



Seafood



Water-based renewable energy



Shipping



Port activities



Shipbuilding and repair



Water passenger transport and related services



Water-related tourism



Blue bioeconomy, biotechnology and research and education

### BLUE ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

The main environmental impacts of blue economy sectors in North Karelia are related to the emission of greenhouse gases, biodiversity loss, water pollution, depletion of freshwater and natural resources, disturbance of natural habitats and wildlife and waste generation. Water pollution is of particular concern, particularly nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen which contribute to the eutrophication of freshwater lake ecosystems.

#### Top 3 climate threats to the blue economy in North Karelia



Changing precipitation patterns and/or hydrological availability



Drought



Soil degradation or soil erosion

[1] StatFin (2020), [www.pxdata.stat.fi/PxWeb/pxweb/en/StatFin/StatFin\\_altp/statfin\\_altp\\_pxt\\_12bc.px/table/tableViewLayout1/](http://www.pxdata.stat.fi/PxWeb/pxweb/en/StatFin/StatFin_altp/statfin_altp_pxt_12bc.px/table/tableViewLayout1/) (accessed 16 March 2023)

[2] OECD stat (2020), [www.stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?queryid=67051](http://www.stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?queryid=67051)

[3] Regional Council of North Karelia (n.d.), [www.pohjois-karjala.fi/north-karelia/](http://www.pohjois-karjala.fi/north-karelia/) (accessed 16 March 2023)

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### GOVERNANCE OF THE BLUE ECONOMY

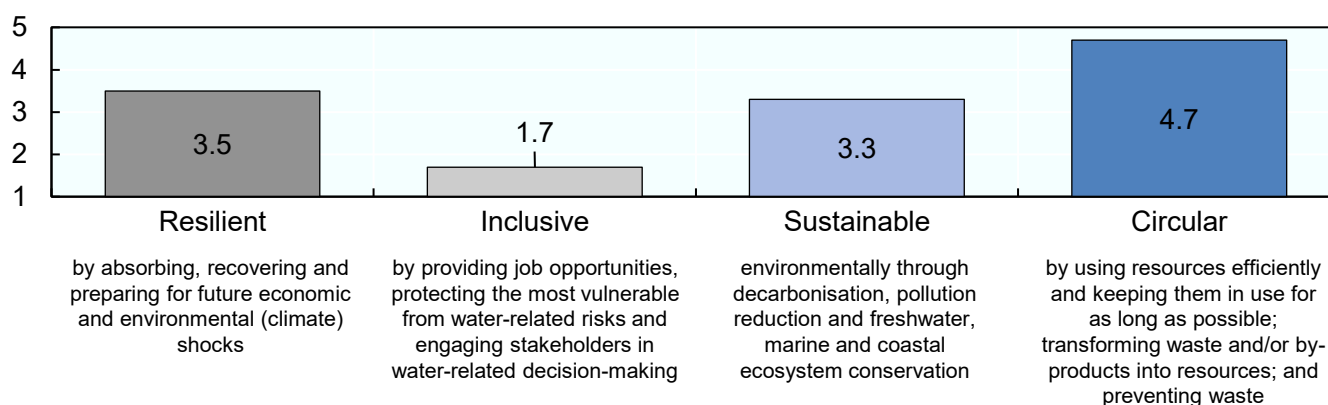
The lake association [Pro Höytäinen](#) has created a [strategy](#) to improve water quality and conditions for fishing and tourism. In 2020, the [Watershed Team](#), which operates as the river branch of the association in the Hohentian catchments, which acts as the association's river department, was established to develop, plan and implement long-term stream water and catchment area renovations by collecting and producing reliable baseline data on the current situation and updating actions plans in accordance with the [Fisheries Act](#) and the management programme for the Vuoksi river's trout stocks.

#### Funding mechanisms

- International transfers of funds
- Central government transfers of funds
- Local/regional funds
- Private funding

### THE RISC-PROOF BLUE ECONOMY

(\*)



(\*) Survey respondents were invited to define their level of agreement (with 5 "Agree" and 1 "Disagree") for statements for each of the RISC dimensions (from question 2.1.1 to 2.1.4 of the OECD Global Survey on Localising the Blue Economy (2022)).

### TOP CHALLENGES

- Lack of financial resources

### FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Foster decarbonisation
- Promote material efficiency and circularity
- Create new jobs and business opportunities
- Channel public and private funds towards the blue economy