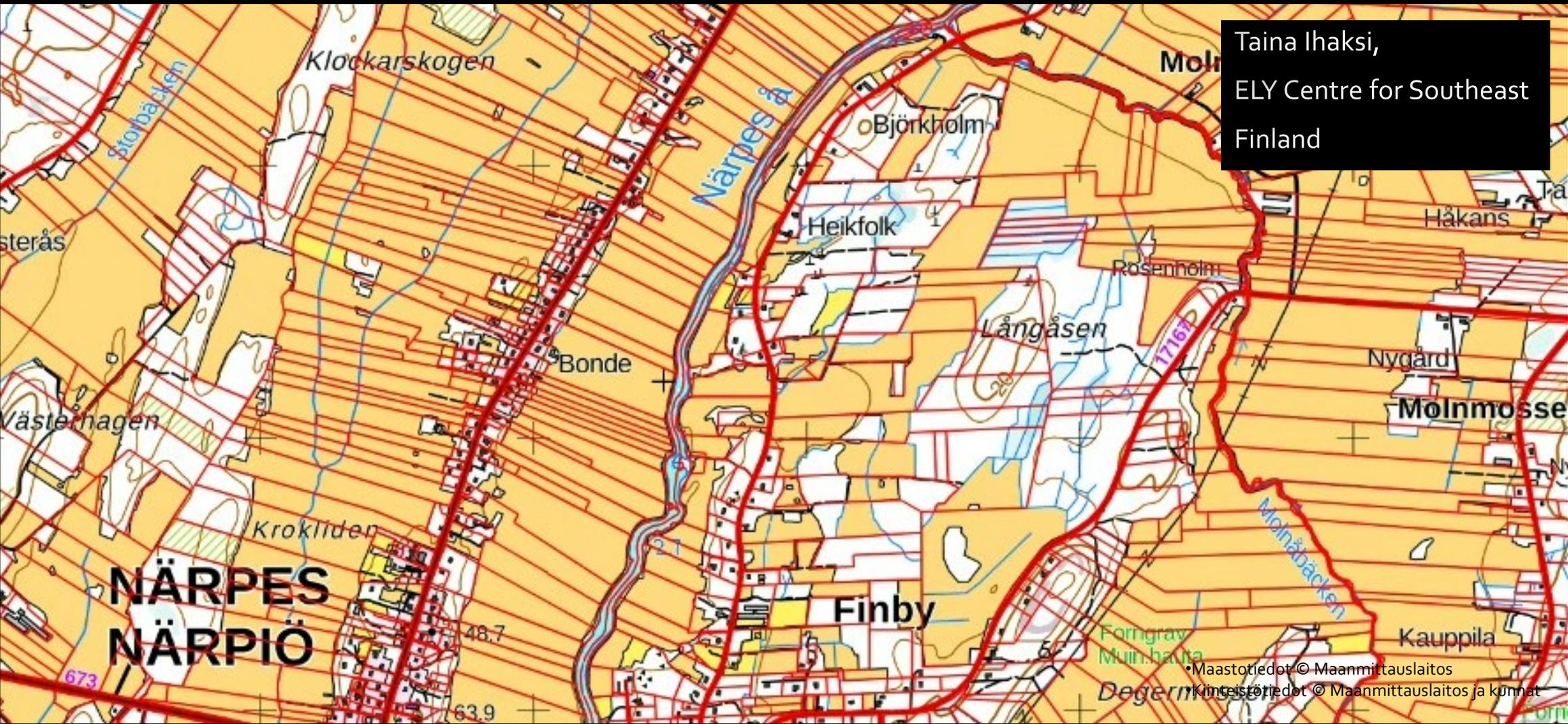


Obstacles and solutions for the implementation of WFD

– small scale tinkering leading to broad scale problems



Obstacle: Focus on the big picture?

- EU –directives are extremely important
- pressure to the governments

Problem

- sometimes the directive is nationally inadequate
- Actions for the sake of reporting

Obstacle: Focus on the WFD water bodies – forgetting the small headwaters

- Allocation of efforts is targeted more towards large WFD waters than to the actions in the catchment area → cost effective?



BEFORE



AFTER



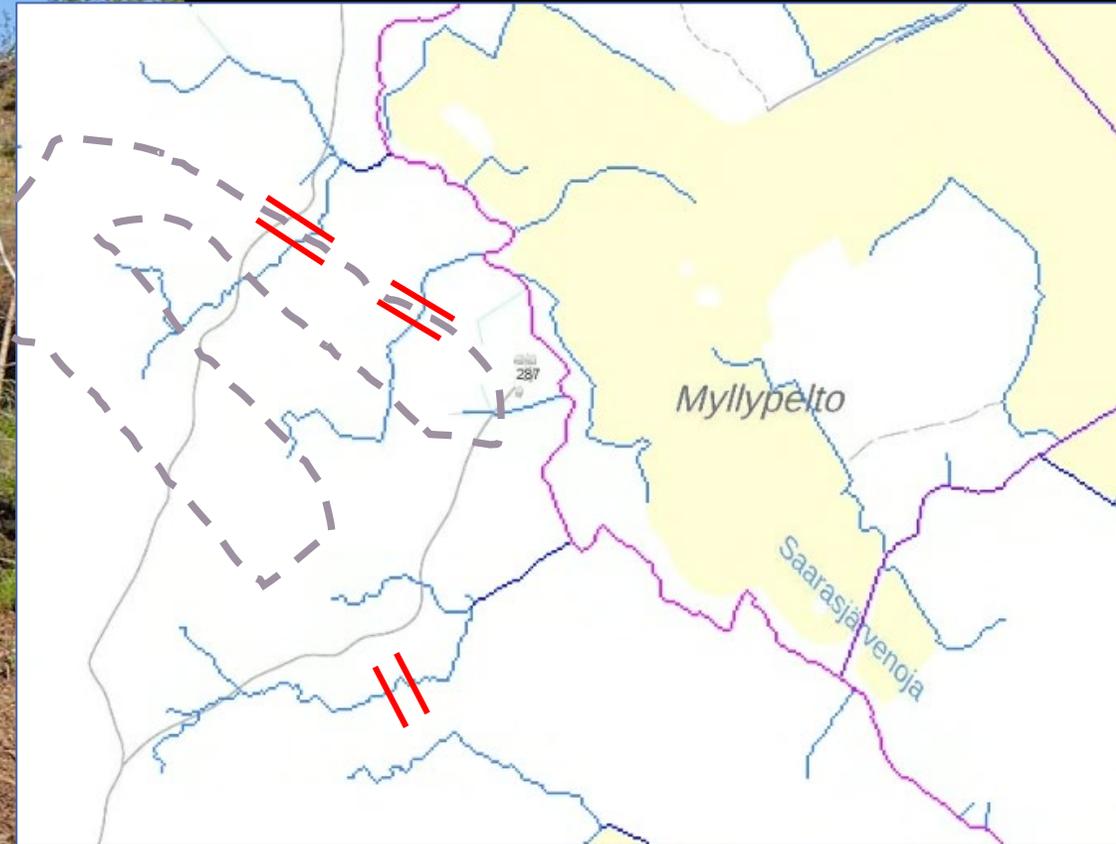
Brooks that have returned
close to their natural state are
still dredged

A photograph showing a narrow, shallow ditch on the left that discharges a thick, brown, silty stream of water into a larger, wider body of water on the right. The ditch is lined with grass and soil, and the larger body of water shows some ripples and sediment settling at the bottom. The overall scene illustrates the process of sediment discharge from a ditch.

Ditching in erosion risk areas

Sediment discharge

Cutting of creeks and brooks while harvesting



Ditching of peatland forests





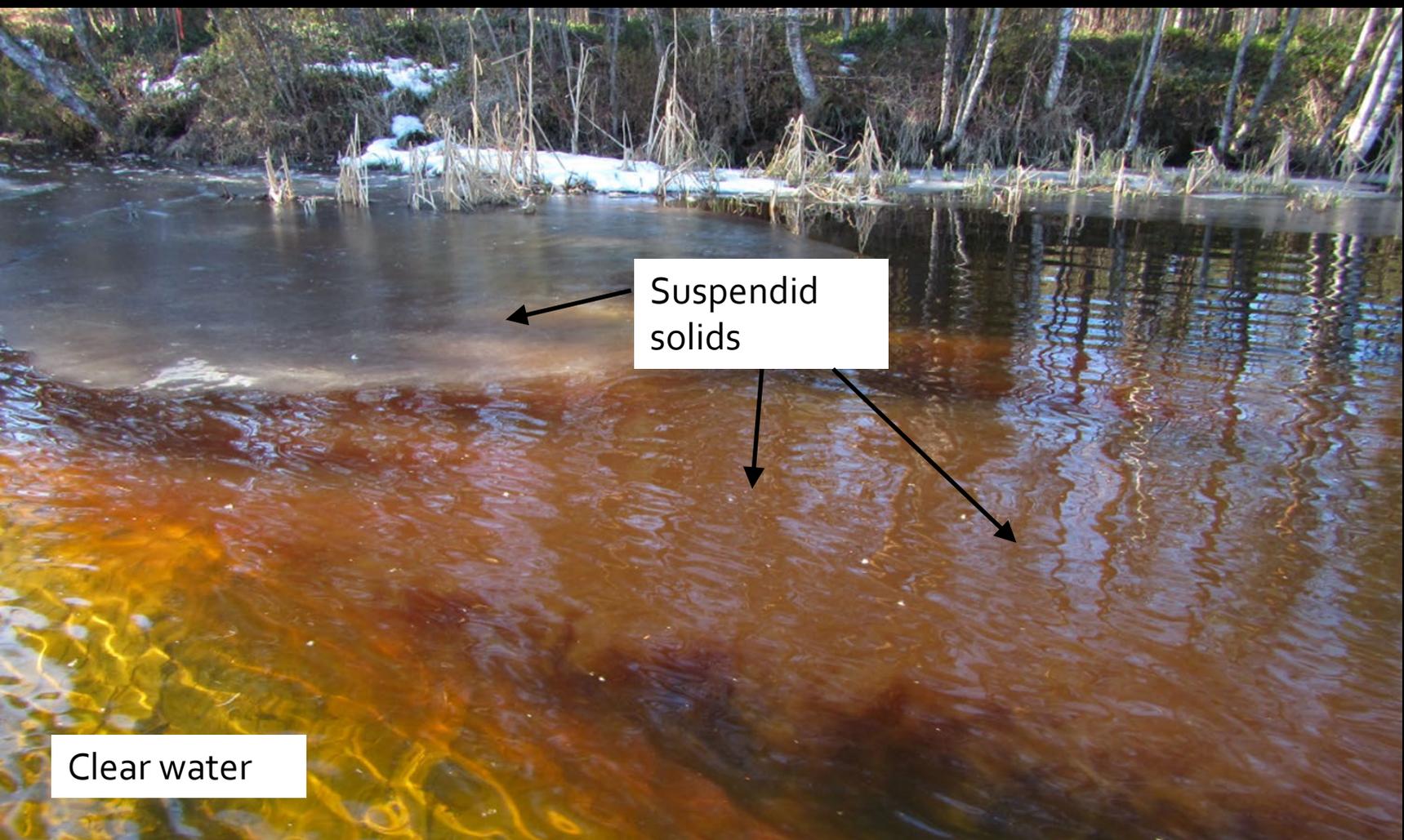
Ditching of non productive peatland

→ no potential to forest growth even if filled with ditches (forest growth $< 1\text{m}^3/\text{year}$)



Which can lead to

Changes in water quality



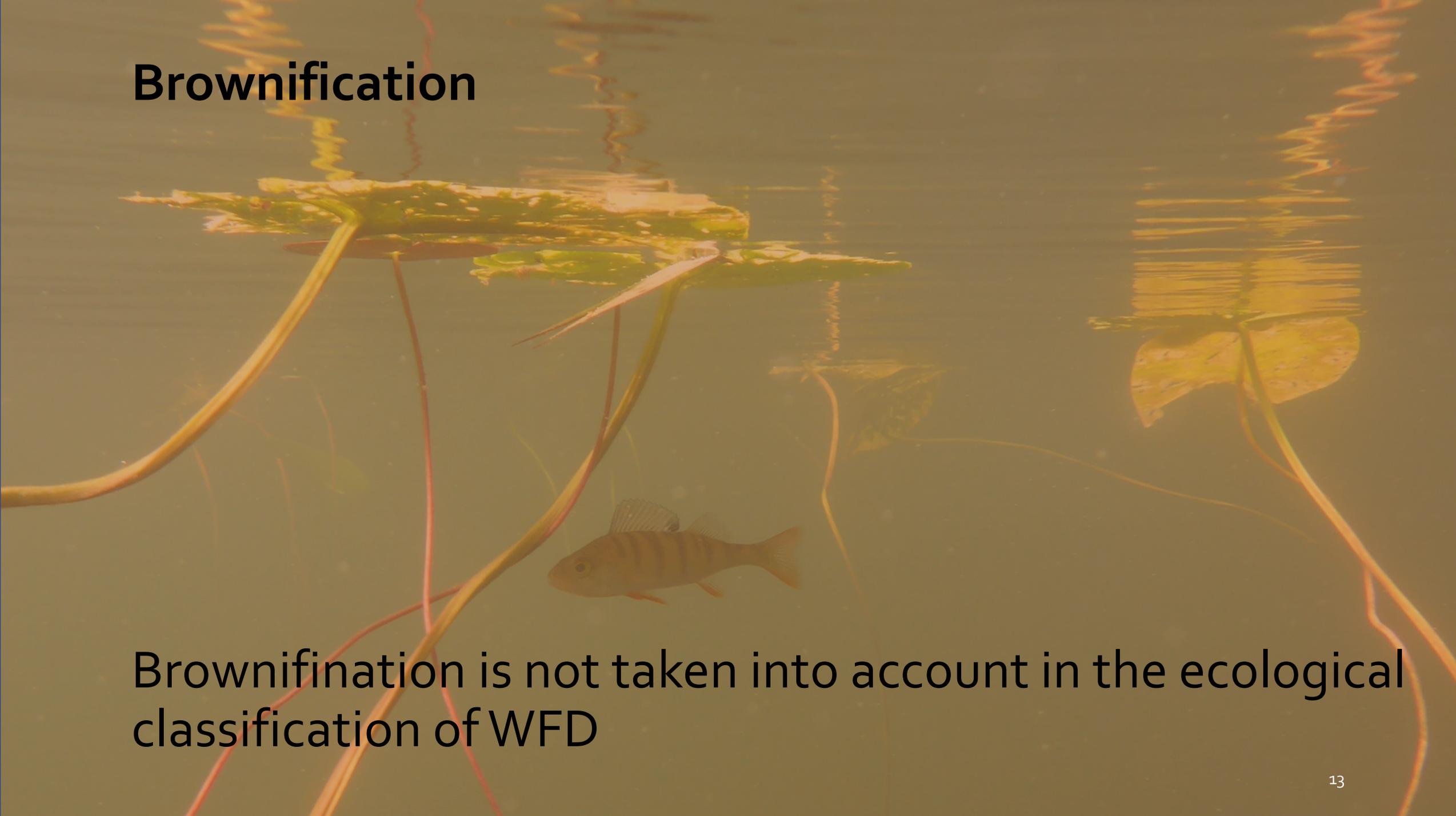
Spawning nests can be filled with soil
- critical for the survival of eggs and hatchlings



Water scarcity

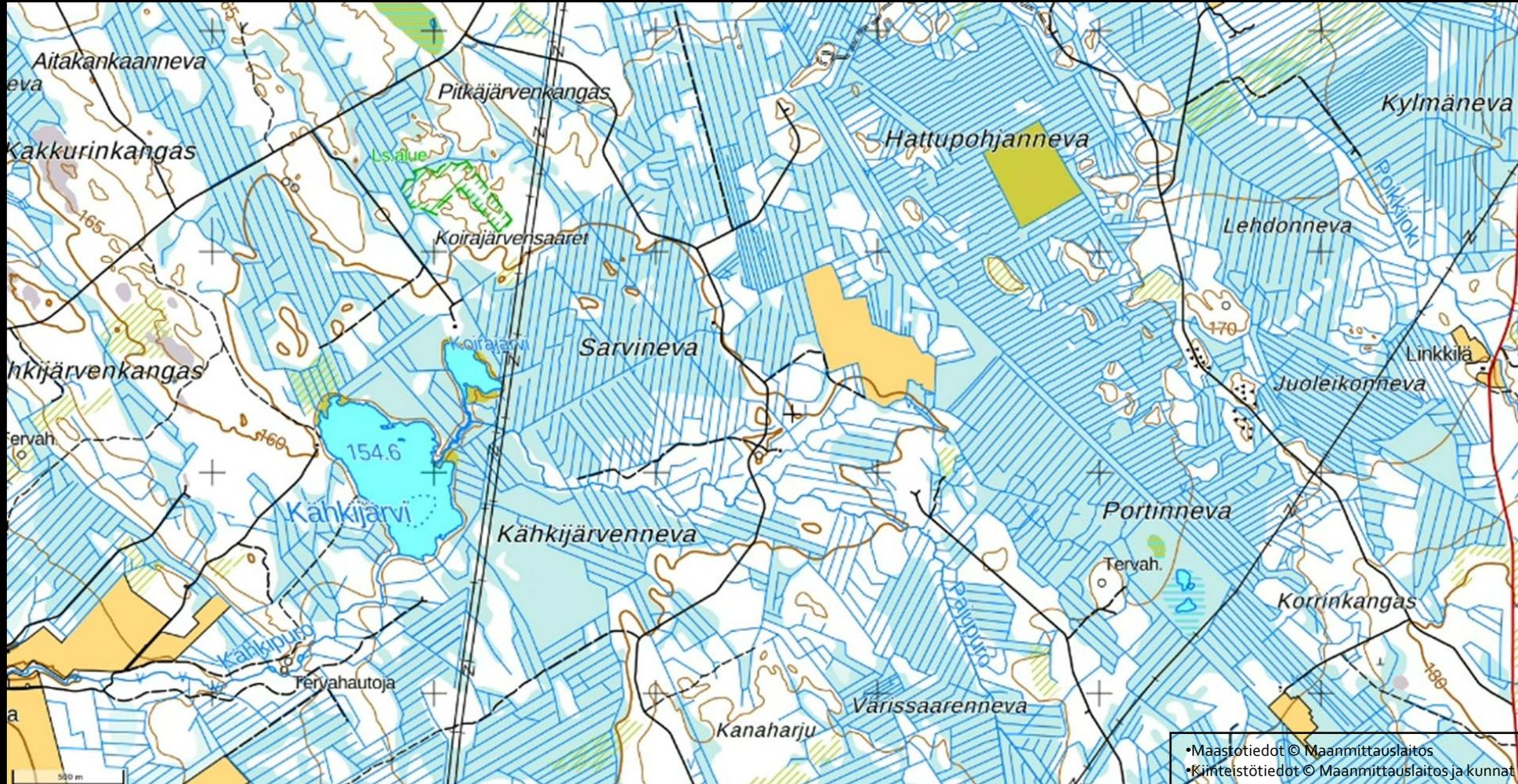


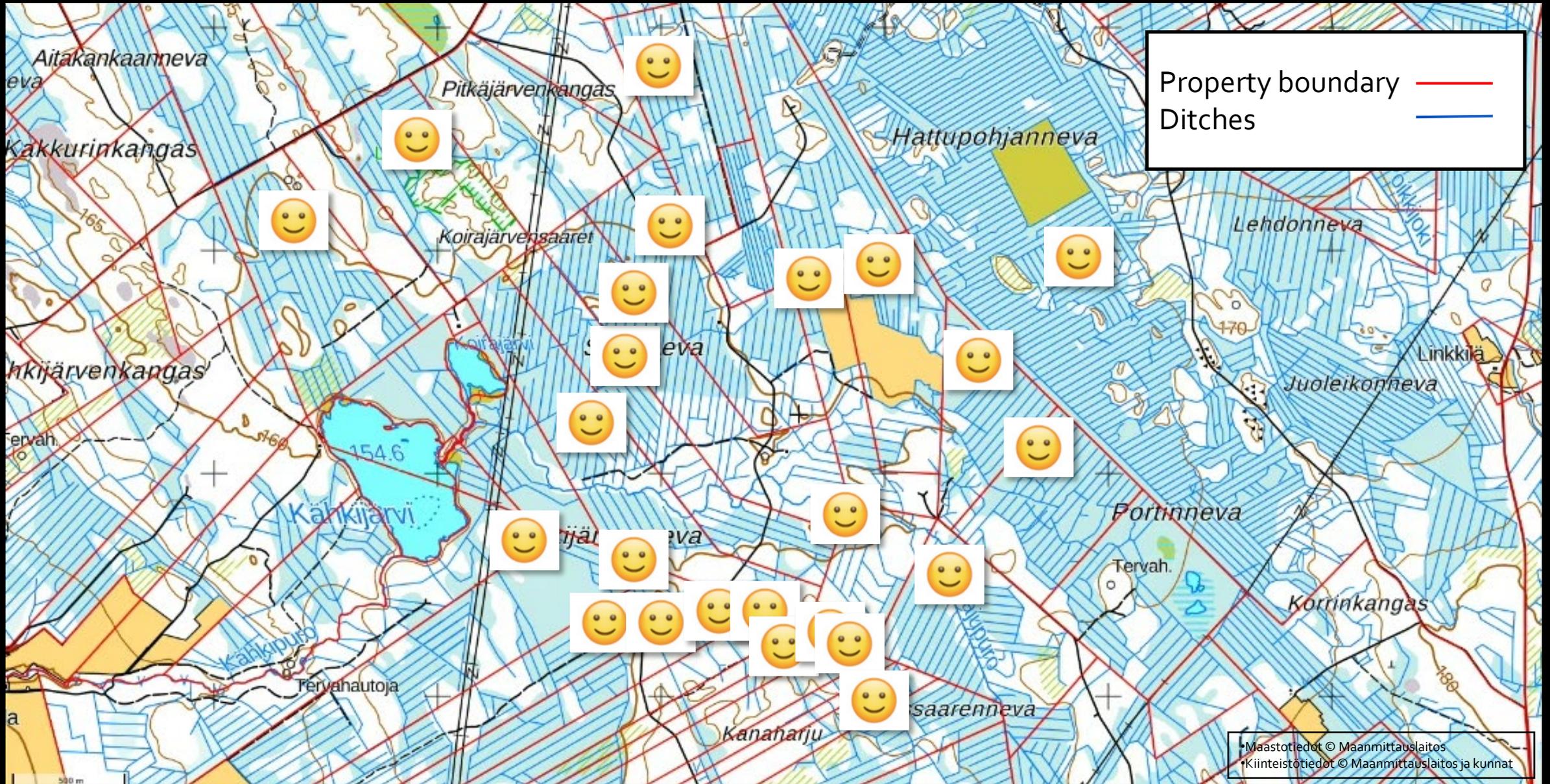
Brownification

An underwater photograph of a pond showing brownification. The water is a murky, yellowish-brown color. In the center, a small, striped fish (likely a perch) is swimming. Above it, several lily pads are visible, with their long, thin stems extending downwards into the water. The overall scene illustrates the effect of brownification on water clarity and aquatic life.

Brownification is not taken into account in the ecological classification of WFD

Solution: Focus to the small scale activities in the catchment areas







Legislation, subsidies etc...

Agriculture

1. CAP is not adequate

- measures are apparent
- primarily a financial support for the farmers

2. Huge gap in the level of environmental knowledge

3. Strong lobbying

4. Legislation is outdated

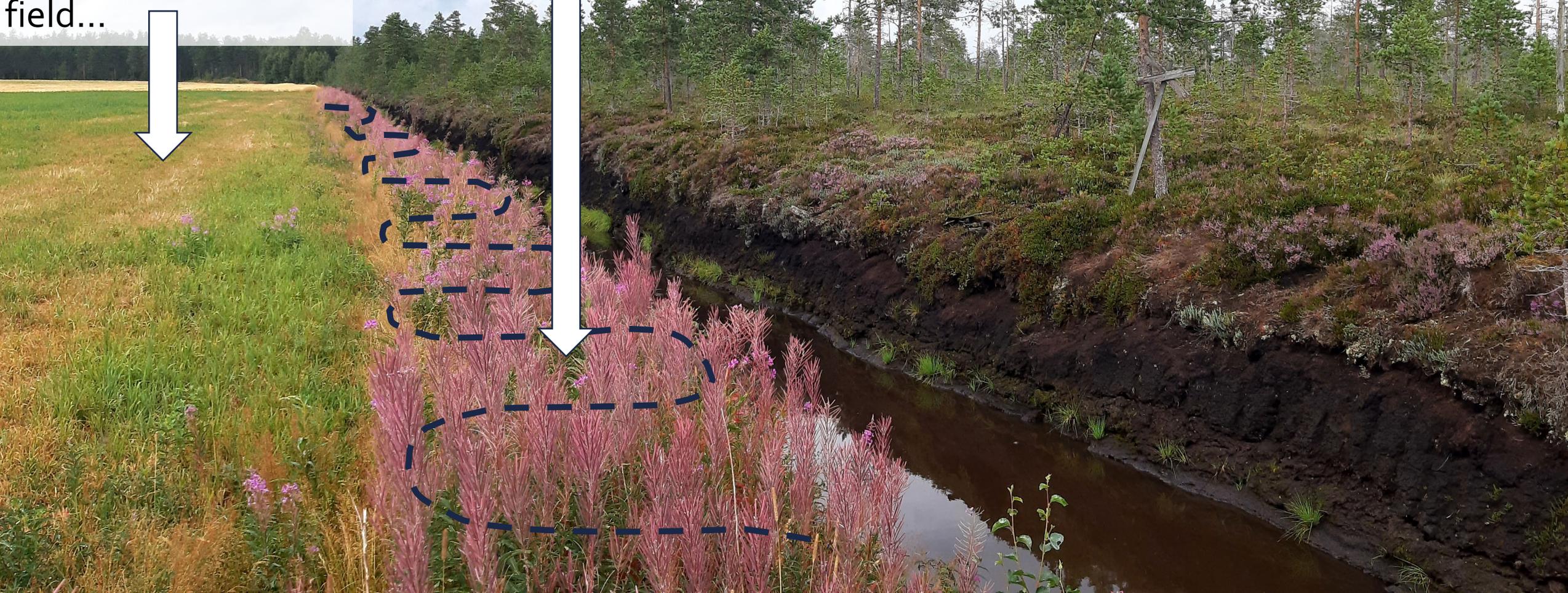
Peatlands are still reformed to fields – spreading of manure





Act for the use of phosphorus was taken forward limiting the use of fertilizers in the field...

...but at the same time the obligation of 1m non-cultivated area beside the ditches was removed



Forestry

1. Huge gap in the level of environmental knowledge

1. Reliance on education and guidance ->

3. Lack of adequate legislation

4. Strong lobbying

➤ historical importance



The drainage of peatland forests is still practiced even if it is not necessary for the forest growth

Forestry

Image advertising vs. reality



Obstacle: People don't understand that they don't understand

"The brown trout benefits from the clearcutting"





Solution

We all have a responsibility to stop the spreading of misinformation

Education should be integrated to all courses as part of basic education – no separate courses on eg. water protection

Obstacle: Greenwashing

We all do it

Why?

It makes life easier



... are safeguarded...

... is sustainable...

... is ensured...

Climate change has been taken into account...

Research results are taken into account...

Good ecological status is reached with these measures...

Measures: education, motivation, promotion, encouragement,

Market based certificates: forest certificates



Lake

"Sustainable forest use"
- Riparian buffer zones are inadequate

Lack of transparency in
decision making
processes – lobbying

- The strong will to oppose sometimes hinders also changes that would be favourable amongst the interest group
- Lobbying usually results to greenwashing
“... the objectives are reached...” ?





Solution:

- **Minutes and decision making processes should be made publicly available and transparent**
 - Are the actions adequate?
 - Who is responsible for the decision?
- **Ask questions → make sure that the decisions and reasoning are written down to the minutes**

Conclutions

- Have **courage to take initiative and to attend processes** to make changes
- **Integrate environmental issues to the everyday protocoll** in each sector → no separate courses
- **Ensure that the environmental responsibility is genuine, not only written on the paper.** Seek for honesty for the adequacy of measures
- **Stop the greenwashing**





*"The change starts from within,
Dare to plunge in"*



Thank you for your
attention!

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