

AN OUTLINING TOOL TO DETERMINE PEATLAND BOUNDARIES – BASE FOR THE NATURAL STATE CLASSIFICATION OF FINNISH PEATLANDS

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In Finland, the aim of the national strategy for peatlands is to direct the land use to the drained peatlands, where the natural state has significantly been changed. One instrument to evaluate the status of peatlands is the natural state classification system. The classification includes six classes (0 – 5; 0 totally drained, 5 pristine). Outlining of an individual peatland basin plays a major role in this classification. The goal of the project is to 1) define the principles to outline the peatland basins, 2) develop a GIS-based outlining tool to determine the individual peatland basins, 3) generate a GIS-based dataset of peatland boundaries using the outlining tool and calculate the natural state classes for individual peatland basins. The final product is a dataset that includes the generated peatland boundaries and the natural state classification for each peatland basin. The data will be published in GTK's web-based peatland map service (www.gtk.fi/turvevarat).