



Nordic Cormorant Meeting 10.-11.2.2021

Photo: Riku Lumiaro

Cormorant Case Study from Finland

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CORMORANTS IN FINLAND

- Nesting in Finland since 1996-
- Breeding from March to August
- Around 26,000 nesting pairs
- Nesting has recently moved to the inner archipelago

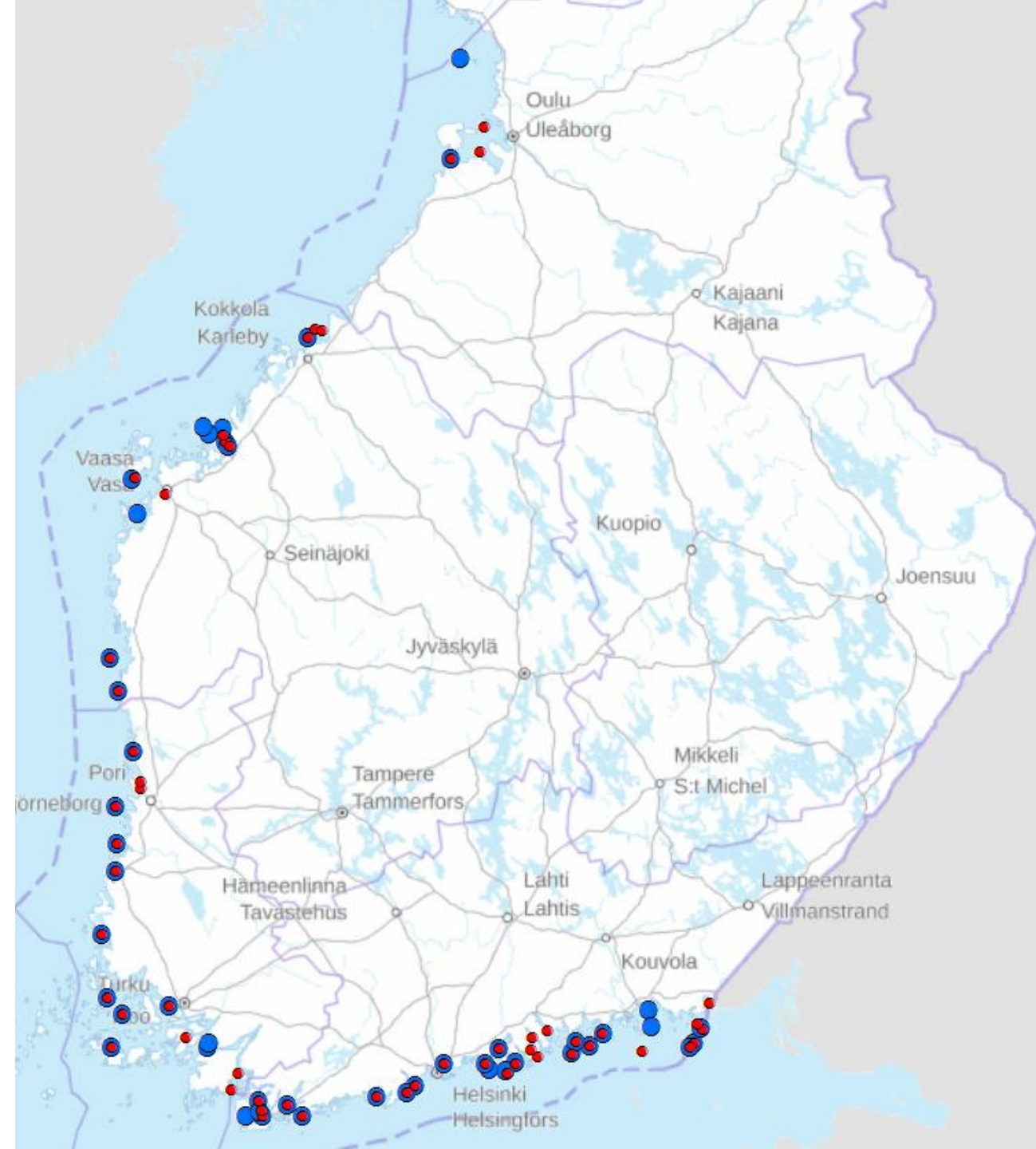


CORMORANT POPULATION IN FINLAND

- Cormorant colonies 2020
- Cormorant colonies 2019

2020:

- 47 cormorant colonies on 82 islets over an area approximately 76 hectares
- 16 new colonies, 11 old colonies moved/disappeared
- Nearly half of the colonies nested in bird conservation areas
- More than half of the population nested in 10 largest colonies



CASE STUDY

Kustavi – Uusikaupunki fishing area,
Case number VARELY/4734/2019

- Comprises 80 000 ha of water surface
- Around 130 professional fishermen in the fishing area
- Main fishing methods: nets and fykes
- Cormorants increasingly learning to predate from nets



CASE STUDY: APPLICATION

- What was applied?
 - To **disturb, shoot** and **prevent** the breeding of cormorants to prevent serious damages for fisheries and fisheries industry
 - For the whole Kustavi-Uusikaupunki fishing area
 - To also shoot at fish farm netting
- applied for the shooting of 300 individual cormorants per year 2020-2022
 - from 1 August -

CASE STUDY: STATEMENT

- Statement ordered from LUKE – Natural Resources Institute Finland on the effects of the cormorant on fisheries:
 - ❖ locally can influence the size of spawning stock
 - ❖ fish farms can reduce predation by raised and more close-knit netting
(although raises costs and maintenance for the farms)



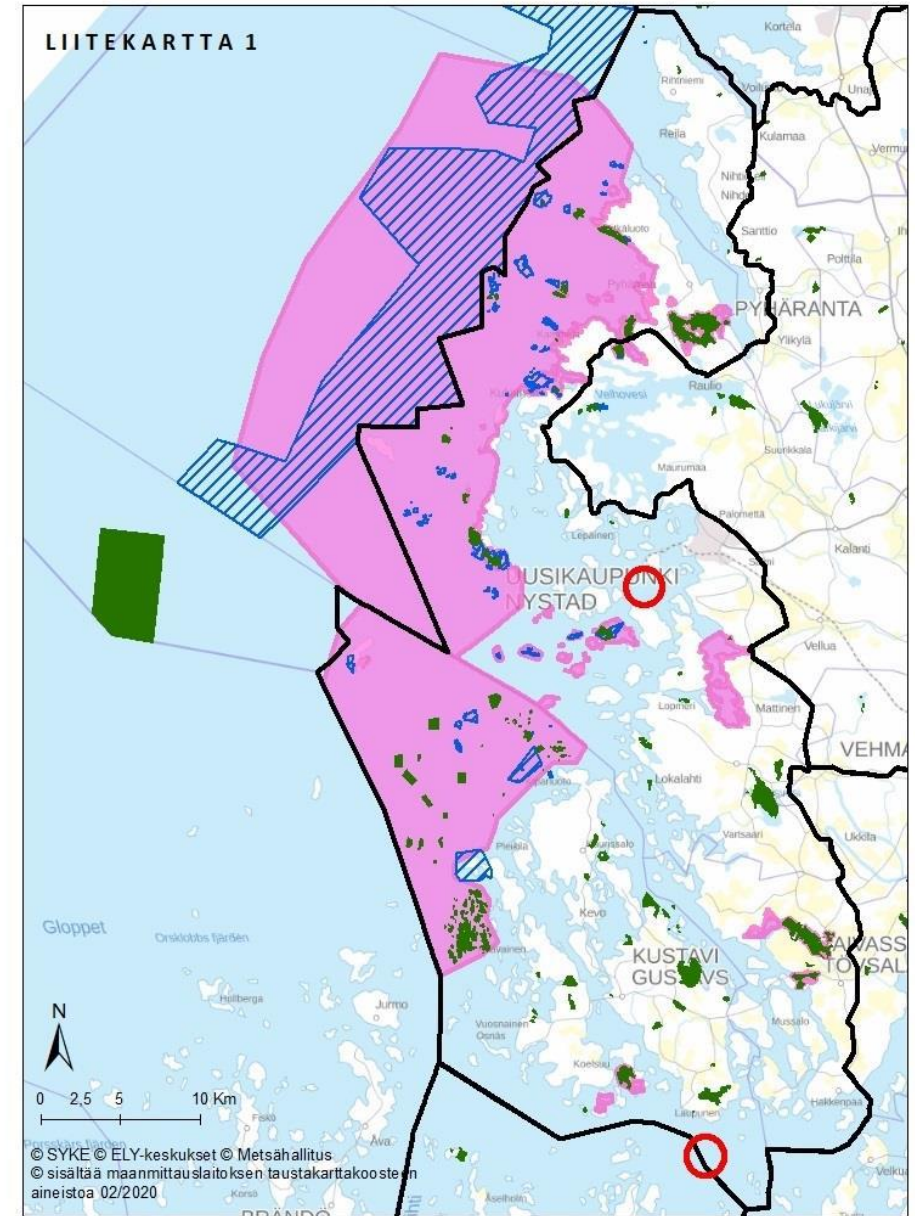
CASE STUDY: DECISION

- SHOOTING
 - 300 individuals per year
 - only allowed at netting, not at breeding colonies
 - within the period of 1.8.-31.10. in 2020-22
 - not allowed in fish farms
- BREEDING PREVENTION
 - only by destroying nests without eggs
 - no other means allowed
 - must be discontinued if nests of other species are encountered
- DISTURBANCE
 - No sound disturbance within 1.4.-31.7. if in restricted areas



CASE STUDY: RESTRICTIONS

- **Not** allowed in Natura 2000 –areas
- **Not** allowed in Protected areas
- In Selkämeri National Park (outside Natura) **only if** allowed by Metsähallitus
- Shooting **not** allowed in two major colonies (or within 400m)



- Natura-alueet (SPA)
- Luonnonsuojelualueet
- Selkämeren kansallispuisto
- Kalatalousalueiden rajat
- Urpoisten ja Tiiraleton merimetsäkoloniat

CASE STUDY: REPORT



- 2020:
 - 16 individuals shot
 - 150 cormorant nests destroyed
 - 9 disturbance visits
 - 4 scareyman birdscarers

Thank you!
Tack!



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