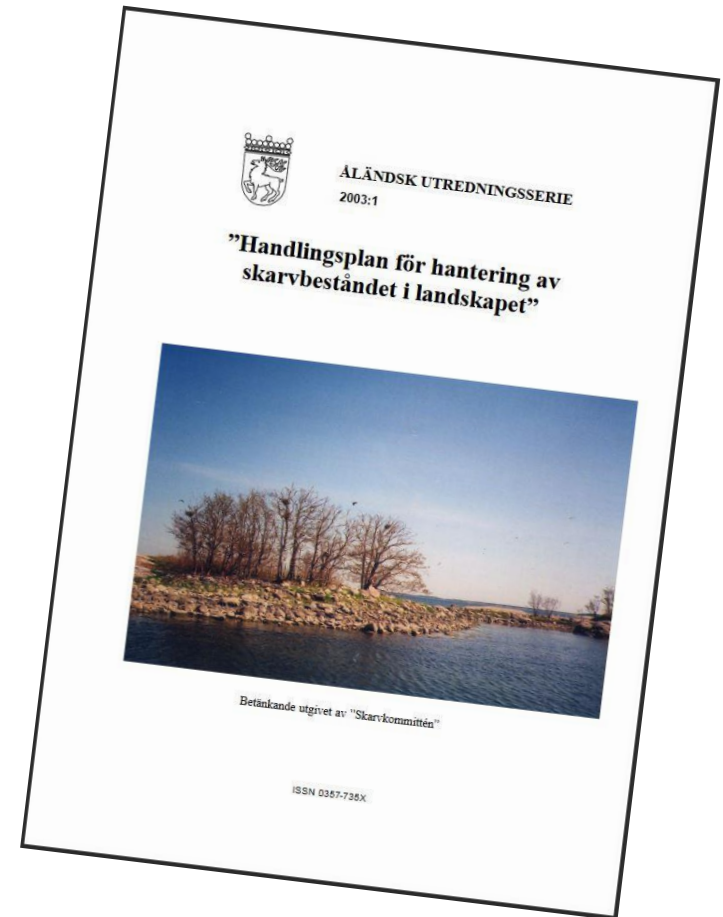


Cormorant management on Åland

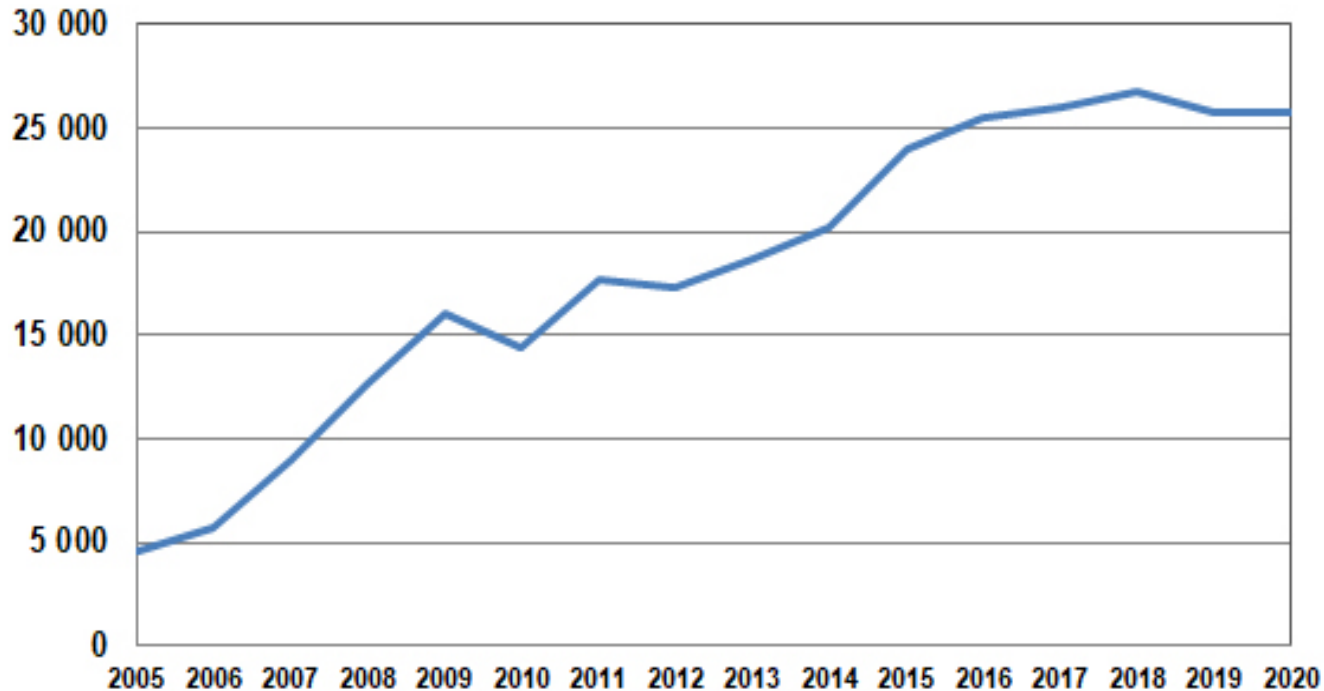


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Head of Unit, Hunting and Wildlife Management,
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- The first colony in Finland established in 1996. (1938 in Denmark, 1948 in Sweden).
- 2003: "Action plan for management of the cormorant population on Åland"
- In the management plan was concluded that the population did not cause any significant damage at the time, but that the population is increasing rapidly in the Baltic Sea.
- It was also concluded that the cormorant has the potential to have significant impact on local fish populations, and that hunting should be considered if the population continues to increase.
- The population was at that time 1400 pairs in Finland, none of them on Åland.



- Five years later, the population was tenfold.
- First permits for shooting to protect fishing gear in 2008.
- Still only sporadic attempts to establish breeding colonies.



- The population continued to increase and it was estimated in 2009 that the cormorant eat 170-290 tonnes of perch per year. The commercial catch was at that time 123 tonnes.
- 88 % of fishermen assessed that the cormorants had a negative impact on their fisheries.
- A more general system for shooting was established.
 - Regulation for shooting to protect fisheries, personal permit, mandatory reporting, different rules before and after 1st of August.
 - Shot cormorants has to be recovered and used for food.



- Today:
 - Breeding population of 25.700 pairs in Finland. Still no colonies on Åland
 - Regulations for shooting decided on a yearly basis
 - No personal permit
 - Maximum quota instead (3000)
 - Mandatory reporting
 - 15.4-31.7
 - 1.8-31.12



- Conclusions:
 - Cormorants are sensitive to disturbance
 - Local fishermen satisfied with the situation.

