



10.-11.11 Nordic Cormorant Meeting

CORMORANTS IN FINLAND

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Centre for Economic Development,
Transport and the Environment

CORMORANT POPULATION IN FINLAND

- Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*) returned to nest in Finland in 1996
- Since 2002 cormorants have been nesting in all Finnish sea areas
 - Nesting cormorants stay in Finland approximately from March to August
- The growth of cormorant population has stabilized
 - About 26,000 nesting cormorant pairs (plus non-breeders)
 - The number of nesting cormorants varies regionally between years
- Cormorant nesting has recently moved to the inner archipelago

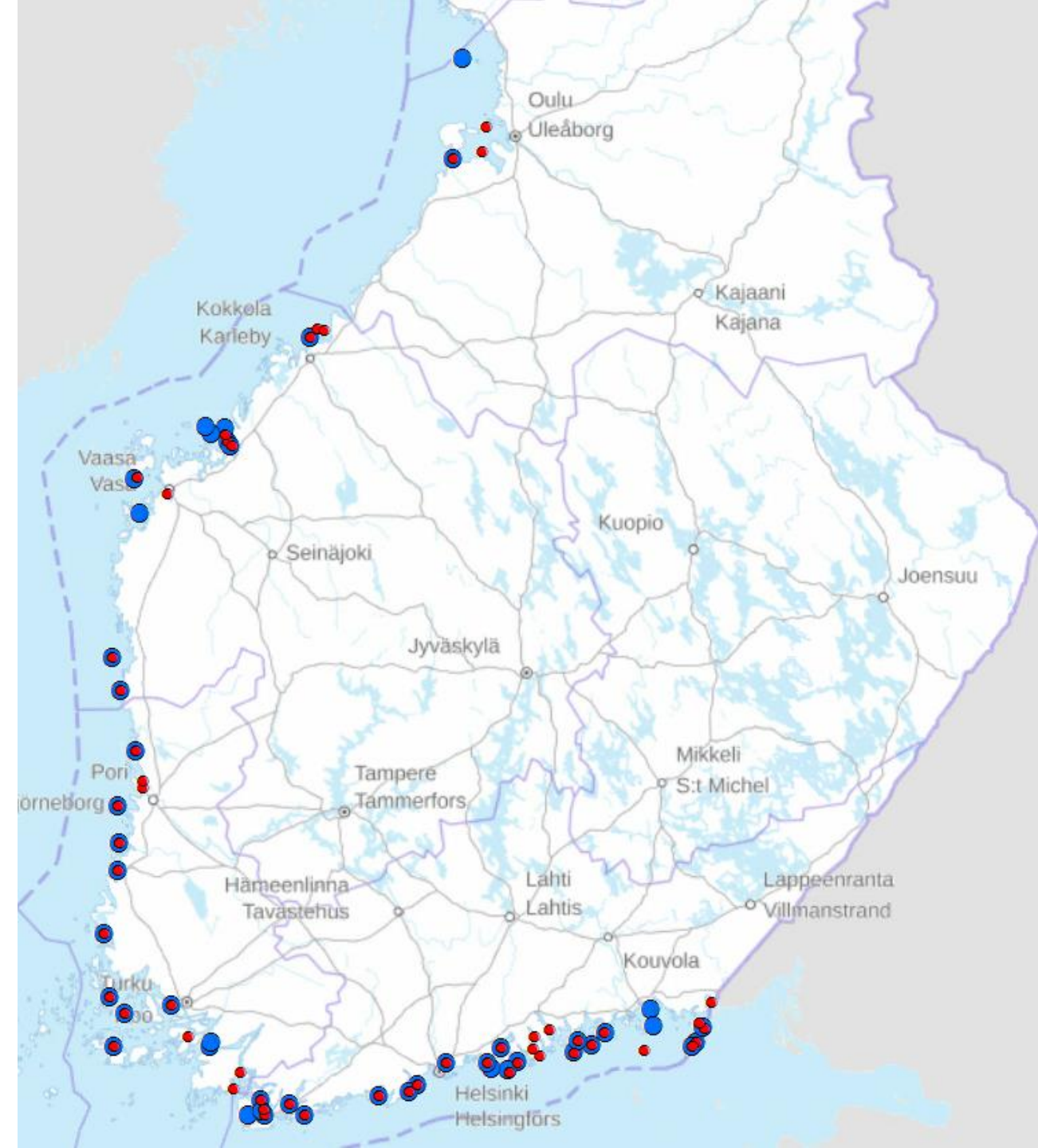


CORMORANT POPULATION IN FINLAND

- 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



R E S E A R C H

- Natural Resources Institute Finland: especially effects of cormorants on fish stocks
 - Cormorants may affect fish catches locally (perch and pike-perch)
- Finnish Environment Institute: annual counting of cormorants' nests, flora recovering on cormorant islands
 - Annual counting has been carrying out since 1996
 - Herbaceous plants seem to be recovering quickly
- Universities and other actors



NESTING GOING ON...



...TWO YEARS LATER

Photos Terhi Rytteri, Finnish Environment Institute



LEGISLATION

- In Finland cormorant is a species protected by the Nature Conservation Act
- Disturbance of nesting and breaking nests are prohibited as is the killing of cormorants
 - Nest breaking and felling of nesting trees are prohibited also outside the breeding season
- A derogation to the prohibitions of Nature Conservation Act can be applied for

LEGISLATION

- A derogation may be granted if there is no other satisfactory solution, for the following reasons
 - in the interests of public health and safety or air safety
 - to prevent serious damage to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries and water
 - for the protection of flora and fauna
 - for the purposes of research and teaching
- Conservation areas, nesting of other bird species and Natura 2000-areas have an effect on derogations
- Decisions are open to appeal in court
 - authority needs to follow bird directive, national legislation and court orders (also from national courts)

A D M I N I S T R A T I O N

- Centre for Economic Development, Traffic and the Environment (ELY Centre) and Police supervise the Nature Conservation Act
- ELY Centre is the competent authority to deal with derogations from preservation provisions of protected bird species (including cormorant)
 - since 2015 ELY Centre of Southwest Finland has dealt with all derogations
 - excluding the Åland Islands
- Currently, there are 11 legally binding derogations to shoot cormorants or disturb nesting
- About 5-10 derogations are applied per year

CORMORANT WORKING GROUPS

- Ministry of the Environment has appointed two working groups to discuss preventing damage caused by cormorant
 - first group 2015, report 2018
 - second 2018, report 2019
 - the groups had broad representations
- Ministry of the Environment has given a guideline letter after both reports
 - as a result, e.g. regional cormorant working groups have been set up and handling of derogations has been streamlined





KIITOS!



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