



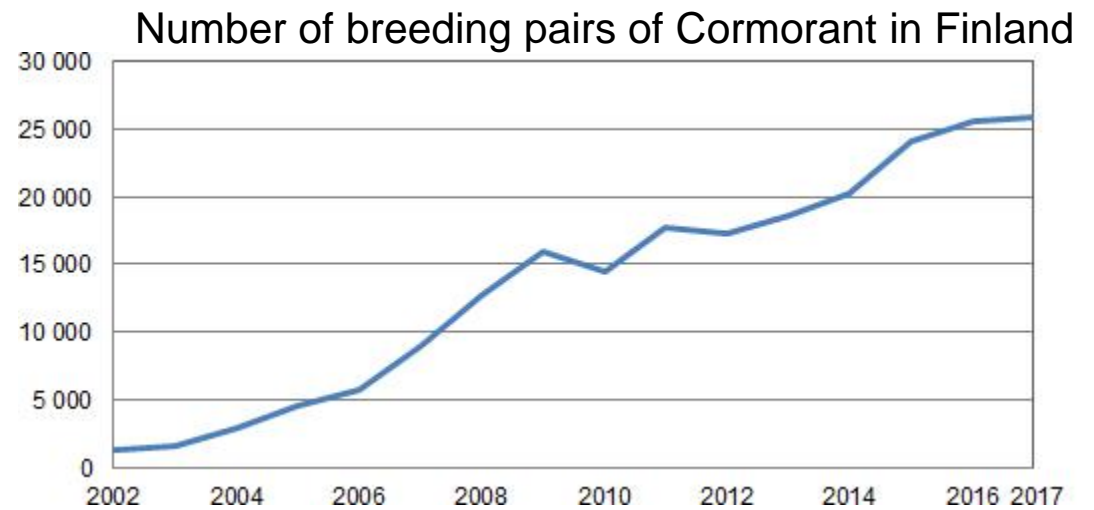
Elinkeino-, liikenne- ja ympäristökeskus  
Närings-, trafik- och miljöcentralen  
Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment

# Local Action Plan for cormorant in Ostrobothnia

Vincent Westberg  
Helsinki  
6.11.2018



## Background

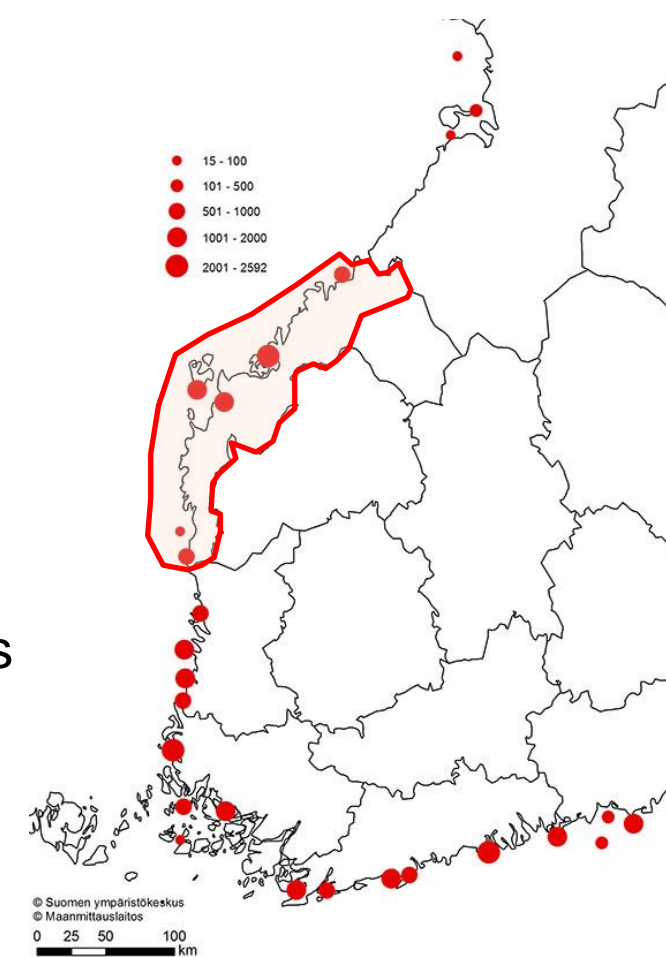


- National working group for cormorant management 2015-2016
- National working group report 2016: eight areas of development recommended
- Regional cormorant cooperation groups 2016 > In Ostrobothnia in August 2016
- Regional cooperation group: National management plan from 2005 had “expired” > In the lack of a national plan it was decided to develop a regional Action Plan
- The regional Action Plan was finalized in October 2017, handed over to the Minister of Environment Kimmo Tiilikainen 22.11.2017
- The regional cooperation group is very active



## The regional cooperation group

- 31 member organisations:
  - Regional environment authority (chair, secretary), organisations of water owners, local fishery areas, nature protection NGO, ornithologists, municipalities, professional fishery association, anglers association, fishery authority, research institutes, wildlife agency, regional councils, land owners association
- The group has had ten official meetings. At least 20 attendants has been present at every meeting
- Hosted a national cormorant seminar in May 2017
- Several unofficial meetings to prepare the Action Plan





## Aims of the Action Plan

- Describe the development of the cormorant population in Ostrobothnia
- Describe the harms caused by cormorants as a base for applying for derogations for measures
- Describe the acceptable measures for managing cormorants and the advantages and disadvantages of different methods
- Give suggestions for concrete measures with the help of local examples to manage conflicts in the area
- Suggest proposals for the development of cormorant management nationally
- Make the application process for exceptions easier and faster and support both applicants and the handling of applications

>> Action plan available online (Finnish and Swedish)

<http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-314-627-3>





## Statement from the regional cooperation group in Ostrobothnia:

*”The cormorant population in Ostrobothnia is vibrant and causes locally severe harm to fisheries and recreation in the area.*

*There are therefore good reasons to manage the cormorant population regionally and it should be made according to the current legislation.*

*With the Action Plan we wish to show that it is possible to reduce the negative impacts of cormorants regionally”*



## Take home message

- The cormorant is locally and regionally a cause for severe conflicts of interest
- It's difficult to manage the conflicts regionally: we need a national or international management plan with a practical approach
- Definition of a nationally sustainable population size with “safe zones” for the cormorant could relieve the conflicts. At the same time the application process of derogations could be fully digital for a smoother management
- Fitness check of the Birds Directive and especially Article 9?



**Thank you for your attention!**



Photo: Markus Norrback