Baltic Sea Seal & Cormorant TNC

14 Flags in cooperation

- Why this project?
- What was done?
- Results & conclusions?

European Union
European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

Baltic Sea Seal & Cormorant TNC

1. Finding sustainable solutions to deal with the growing seal and cormorant populations

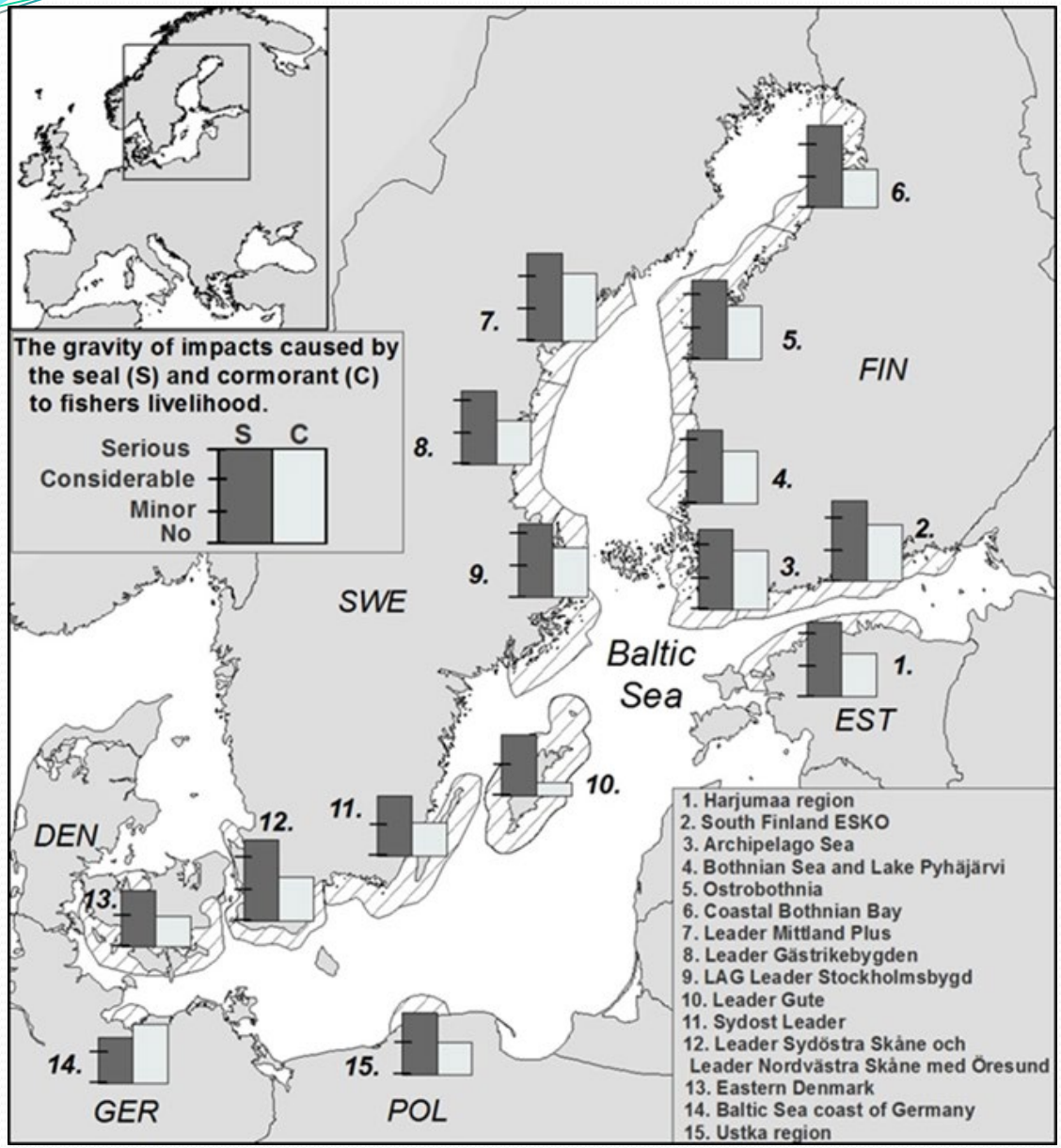
2. Researchers report of seal- and cormorant conflicts and possible solutions

3. The environment in focus

In co-operation with 14 FLAGs we

- map out **real damage** experienced by the fishermen, and
- look for **functional solutions** to the seal and cormorant problems in the Baltic Sea area.
- scientic level

The solutions are to be **ecologically, socially and economically** sustainable.



220 fishermen interviewed in 6 countries

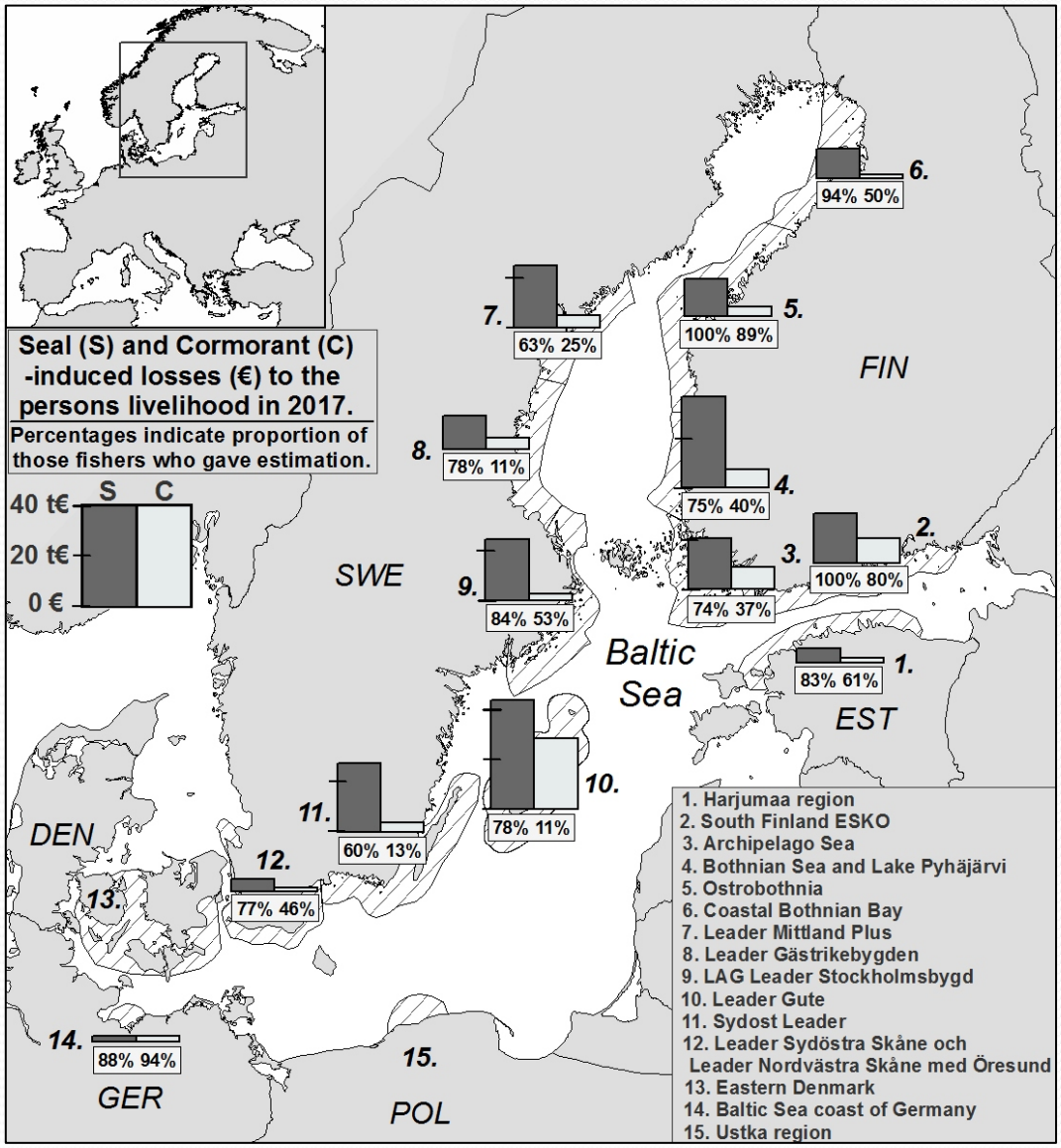
Severity of damage caused by seals and cormorants in the study area reported by the fishermen

Indexes show how fishers assessed the seriousness of the impacts

Seal and cormorant effects

Effects

- Damages in fish catch
- Damage to fishing gear
- Reduction in fish catches
- Changes in fish stocks and fish behavior
- An increase of the workload
- An increase of the operation costs



The average seal and cormorant induced losses estimated by the fishermen:

FINLAND

Seal 19 930 € (n= 77)

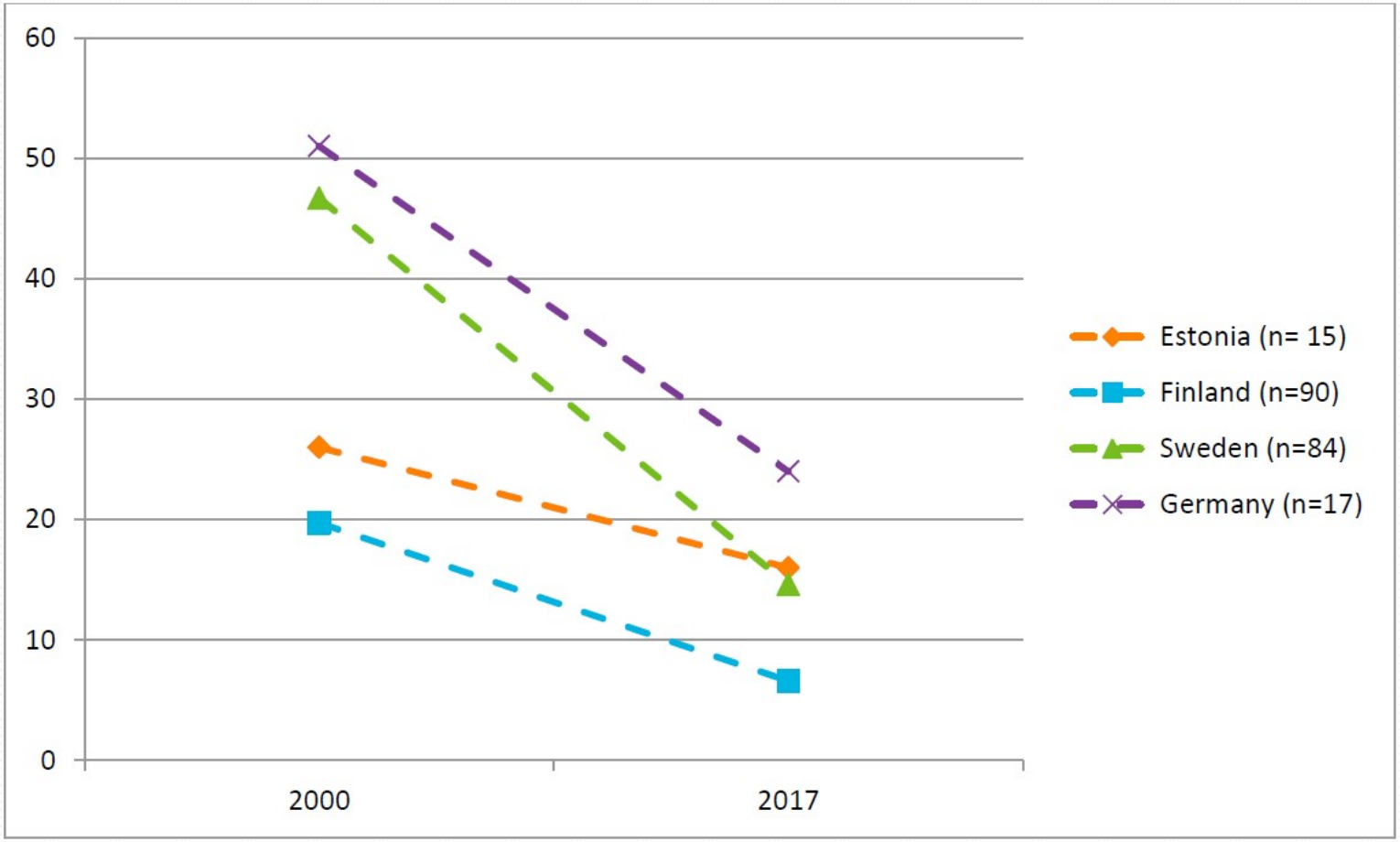
Cormorant 5 993 € (n= 52)

SWEDEN

Seal 22 064 € (n=67)

Cormorant 5 667 € (n=42)

Changes in the average estimations of the amount of coastal fishers in the municipality or coastal area between the years 2000 and 2017 by country.



Fishers' conclusions

1. The ban for trading seal products should be cancelled.

2. Compensations are not a solution to the problem – fishers rather catch fish to consumers.

3. Protective methods driving away or reducing the numbers of those seal individuals and cormorants that cause damage to local fishing.

LUKE conclusions

- It is clear that steps forward necessitate wide collaboration across sectors both regionally and internationally.

- https://jukuri.luke.fi/handle/10024/544854

The projects reflections

- Actually better understanding between fishery and enviromental representants, no need for increasing conflict
- We need our local catched fresh fish – Farm to Fork Strategy
- Costal smal scale fishery is sustanaible, no overfishing, only few spieces have quota
- Fishers live at the sea – take care of their enviroment


THANK YOU
Esko Taanila
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EUROPEAN MARITIME AND FISHERIES FUND
OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME
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ESKO Etelä-Suomen kalatalousryhmä
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