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**LIFE19 NAT/FI/000832**

**Interim Report**  
**C.4 Campaigns for increasing the use of seal-safe fishing gear**  
**Covering the project activities from 01/09/2020 to 31/08/2021**

Reporting Date  
**30/09/2021**

LIFE PROJECT NAME or Acronym  
**Our Saimaa Seal LIFE**

Data Project

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Data Beneficiary

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## 1. Executive Summary

The Saimaa ringed seal is one of the most endangered seals in the world, with only some 420–430 individuals left in Lake Saimaa. By-catch mortality caused by fishing gear such as fishing nets is one of the key threats to the Saimaa ringed seals.

The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation (henceforth FANC) offers recreational fishermen an easy and low-cost alternative to the dangerous fishing nets, by organizing workshops for building seal-safe Saimaa fish traps. At these workshops, fishermen are interviewed about their attitudes towards the seals and their fishing habits. Additionally, fish trap workshops are organized for various other audiences.

During the first year of the Our Saimaa Seal LIFE project, 4 public workshops were organized, compared to the 8 workshops planned, since most of the public workshops had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Similarly, the planned 8 workshops for fishermen and water district owners were all postponed. Consequently, conducting the planned interviews with fishermen at the workshops has also been delayed. However, novel ideas for conducting the interviews have been developed.

Due to the pandemic, volunteers in South Karelia and South Savo held so-called “solo workshops”, building the fish traps on their own, with the instructions and materials provided by the FANC. In total, estimated 50 solo workshops were held by 8 people, and some 170 fish traps were built by volunteers and project employees during the first year of the project.

Fish traps built by volunteers are given to the Saimaa region recreational fishermen free of charge in the annual “Replace fishing nets with seal-safe fish traps” events, organized on the edges of the Saimaa ringed seal distribution area. During the first year of the project, the minimums of one event and a 100 fish traps given were both surpassed, by two events organized, and in total some 170 fish traps handed out. Some 120 kilos of obsolete fishing nets were received from fishermen in exchange.

In addition, we took part in 3 outdoor public events, in which we promoted seal-safe fishing methods and showcased the seal-safe Saimaa fish trap. At these events, we reached some 690 people. Our work to promote seal-safe fishing received visibility in the media, both locally and internationally, with some 24 media hits in total.

Additionally, we published 3 press releases, one online news article, a Saimaa ringed seal newsletter, 5 social media posts and a newspaper ad about seal-safe fishing and fish trap events.

For the upcoming workshops, a slideshow about the Saimaa ringed seal and the use of seal-safe fish traps is being produced. Similarly, a brochure with information about seal-safe fishing and instructions for building the fish trap is being produced. Due to unforeseen circumstances, however, the publication of the slideshow and the brochure have been slightly delayed.



## 2. Introduction

The Saimaa ringed seal is one of the most endangered seals in the world, with only some 420–430 individuals. The Saimaa ringed seal is a subspecies of seals, and only lives in Lake Saimaa in Finland. One of the key threats to the Saimaa ringed seals is by-catch mortality caused by dangerous fishing gear such as fishing nets.

Despite the several regulations to diminish the negative effects of fishing, the use of dangerous fishing nets and the fishing-induced mortality still poses a key threat to the endangered Saimaa ringed seal. The use of fishing nets is still popular especially among recreational fishermen.

There are about 40 000 houses or cottages on the shores of lake Saimaa. Inhabitants and holiday residents around the Saimaa district are interested in the Saimaa ringed seal and its practical conservation work. Many of them want to do something to save the seal and take part in the conservation actions.

During the Our Saimaa seal LIFE project, The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation (henceforth FANC) promotes the use of seal-safe fishing methods on Lake Saimaa. We organize workshops for building seal-safe fish traps for various audiences, such as fishermen, water district owners, local residents, holiday home owners, volunteers, school children and the general public. At these workshops, we are conducting interviews with fishermen in order to examine their attitudes towards seal safe fishing methods and seal protection, as well as their readiness to change their fishing habits.

We encourage recreational fishermen to replace their dangerous fishing nets with seal safe fish traps in various fishing-related events. Annually, we organize at least one “Replace fishing nets with seal-safe fish traps” event, in which we hand out seal-safe fish traps for the Saimaa area recreational fishermen free of charge. In exchange, the fishermen are asked to promise to refrain from fishing with nets on Lake Saimaa. The fish traps for these events are built by volunteers in various workshops. Additionally, we are showcasing the seal-safe Saimaa fish trap and promoting seal-safe fishing in other public events around Lake Saimaa.

We are producing a brochure about seal-safe fishing, accompanied by instructions for building the Saimaa fish trap. The brochure is produced in Finnish, English and Russian, both online and in print, to further spread information about the seal-safe fish trap and encourage anyone to build one oneself. This will increase the transferability of the conservation activity to a broader audience and will possibly help in the conservation work of other seal subspecies as well.

In the longer term, replacing the dangerous fishing methods on Lake Saimaa with seal-safe fishing gear will directly reduce the Saimaa ringed seal bycatch mortality. This, in turn, will lead to an increase in the endangered Saimaa ringed seal population.



### 3. Technical part

#### 3.1. Seal-safe Saimaa fish trap workshops

The fish trap used in this action is a model called the Saimaa fish trap ("Saimaa-katiska"), which has been developed and designed by professional fishermen in the Lake Saimaa district.

The main ideas and benefits of the fish trap are:

1. Seal safe (funnel width less than 15 cm with a safety wire)
2. Easy to make by oneself
3. Low-cost
4. Easy to handle, lightweight
5. Catchy gear
6. Durable.

The Saimaa fish trap model, however, is not readily available in stores, but instead has to be built by oneself. The FANC is organizing workshops for building Saimaa fish traps for various audiences in South Karelia and South Savo. These audiences include fishermen, water district owners, local residents and holiday homeowners, and school groups. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, however, the seal-safe fish trap workshops for the various audiences have been, for the most part, delayed or postponed for now.

However, the Saimaa ringed seal volunteers and project workers of the FANC in South Karelia and South Savo have held so-called "solo workshops" during the winter and spring 2020–2021, building the Saimaa fish traps on their own, but under the guidance of and with the instructions provided by FANC. The volunteers have previously been taught how to build the trap. Materials and tools for making the traps have been lent to them from the FANC local offices in Lappeenranta and Savonlinna. In total, 8 persons, both regions combined, held these solo workshops on estimated 50 occasions.

In South Karelia, one public workshop for the local inhabitants and volunteers was organized in November 2, 2020, in the Nature and Science Center Saimaarium (at present, "the Lake World Saimaarium") in Lappeenranta, South Karelia. In this workshop, there were some 20 participants.

In South Savo, we have organized three smaller, public workshops for the local inhabitants, holiday residents and volunteers. These workshops took place in Moinsalmi, Savonlinna on June 2, 2021, Lintusalo, Puumala on July 17, 2021 and Vitsiälä, Mikkeli on August 18, 2021. At these workshops, there were 4, 10 and 6 participants, respectively.







*Photo 1 – Fish trap workshop in Vitsiälä, Mikkeli, South Savo on August 18, 2021.  
Photo: Marjaana Kovanen/FANC*

All in all, some 170 fish traps in total were built in the aforementioned solo workshops and public workshops by volunteers. In the various workshops, there were 47 participants in total.

TABLE 1 – Fish trap workshops

Date	Name of event	Description	Type of event	Place/venue	Number of participants
2.11.2020	Seal-safe “Saimaa” fish trap workshop	Public workshop for building seal-safe “Saimaa” fish traps.	Public fish trap workshop (C.4)	Nature and Science Center Saimaarium, Lappeenranta, South Karelia	some 20
2.6.2021	Seal-safe “Saimaa” fish trap workshop	Building seal-safe fish traps in an open-for-all workshop	Public fish trap workshop (C.4)	Moinsalmi, Savonlinna, South Savo	4
17.7.2021	Archipelago Day “Saaristolaispäivä”	FANC’s activities incl. seal-safe fish trap workshop, information about seal-safe fishing	Public fish trap workshop (C.4)	Lintusalo, Puumala, South Savo	10
18.8.2021	Seal-safe fish trap workshop	Buiding seal-safe fish traps	Public fish trap workshop (C.4)	Vitsiälä, Mikkeli, South Savo	6

Due to Covid-19 pandemic and the fact that most public events and workshops had to be cancelled or postponed, fish trap workshops for fishermen and water district owners have not been organized. At these workshops, fishermen are also planned to be interviewed about their fishing methods and attitudes towards seal-safe methods, as well as their readiness to change their fishing methods. Due to the pandemic postponing these workshops, however, there is a delay in conducting the interviews of fishermen at the fish trap workshops.



TABLE 2 – Planned and actual fish trap workshops

Workshop type	Planned	Actual	Participants	Fish traps made
Seal safe fish trap workshops for fishermen and water district owners	8	0	0	0
Seal safe fish trap workshops for volunteers, local inhabitants and holiday residents	8	4	40	some 60
"Solo fish trap workshops" by volunteers, project employees and FANC's regional employees	0	some 50	8	some 110

Additionally, collaboration with respect to the fish trap workshop flow and participant experience was made with an employee of Nature and Science Center Saimaarium in Lappeenranta. Saimaarium employee and service design student Maria Selenius examined the course of the fish trap workshop, with special focus on the customer expectations and experiences, as part of her studies and free of charge. She conducted interviews with several people, who had previously taken part in the workshops, and interviewed the project coordinator Hanne Kosonen and FANC South Karelia regional manager Jari Kiljunen, both of whom have organized and taken part in several fish trap workshops in the past.

Consequently, we received some valuable feedback anonymously from the participants, with respect to how to improve the workshops and the overall experience of the participants.





## Tulokset PALVELU



Ohjaajilla  
hyvä  
pelisilmä ja  
neuvonta  
mainiota!



**KATISKAN  
RAKENTAMINEN**

**Yksin rakentaminen  
→ tarvitsee apua  
ohjaajilta, suositus  
työparista**

**Ohjaajien määrä**

**Kuvallinen ohje, mitä  
työkaluja missäkin  
vaiheessa**

**Norppa-vapaaehtoiset ohjaajiksi**  
**Ohjeistusta uusitaan**

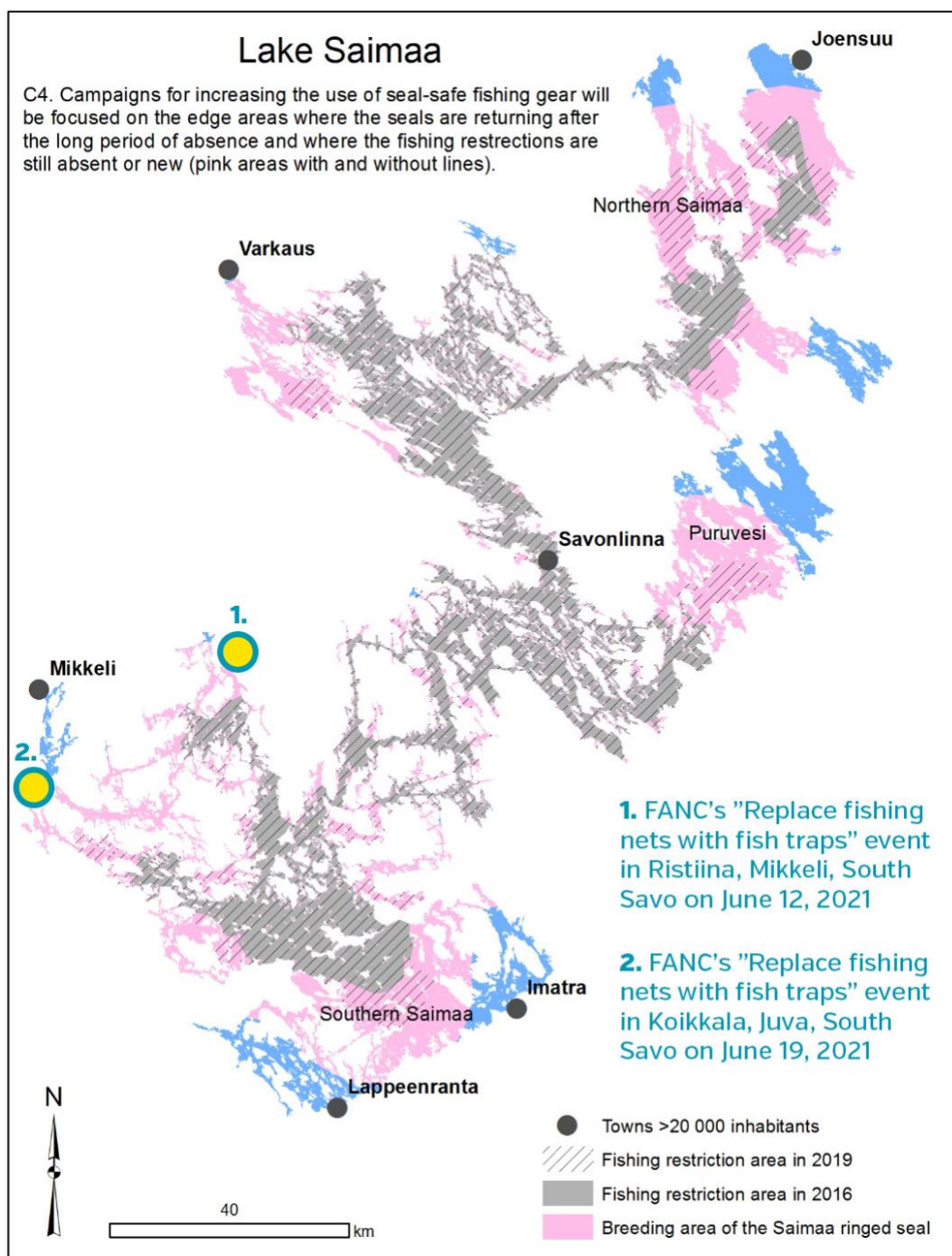
*Photo 2 – Slide from Selenius' Powerpoint presentation, offering feedback on how to improve the customer experience of the fish trap workshops.*

In addition, we received some novel ideas on how to conduct the interviews of fishermen at the fish trap workshops in the future, and are planning to employ an electronic survey method for the interviews.

Currently, national and local restrictions regarding organizing public events is still in effect. However, if and when possible, our work to build seal-safe fish traps in workshops continues in the fall and winter. The next fish trap workshops will be aimed at the Saimaa ringed seal volunteer groups in South Karelia and South Savo, formed in spring 2021 as part of the E1.10 action ("Saimaa seal groups for volunteers") of the project. These seal volunteers will be first taught how to build the trap themselves. Later, the volunteers will be able to assist and teach how to build the fish traps in the workshops aimed at the public, fishermen, water district owners and school groups.

### 3.2. Fish trap events

Due to the large amount of seal-safe fish traps built by volunteers during winter and spring 2020–2021, we were able to organize two “Replace fishing nets with fish traps” events in the summer 2021. Both events were held in South Savo, and on the edges of the Saimaa ringed seal distribution area. The following map shows the locations of these events.



*Photo 3 – A Map of the Lake Saimaa region, showing the locations of FANC's Replace fishing nets with fish trap events in 2021.*



At these events, seal-safe Saimaa fish traps were handed out to recreational fishermen free of charge. In exchange, the fishermen signed a contract, stating that they will henceforth refrain from fishing with nets on Lake Saimaa (Annex 1 – copy of the document). The contract is not legally binding, but rather symbolic and has to do with the question of conscience.

Additionally, fishermen had the possibility to bring their old fishing nets in exchange, and we received some 120 kilos of obsolete fishing nets, which were disposed of, and hence will not cause danger to the seals in the future.

The first fish trap event took place in Ristiina, Mikkeli on June 12, 2021. At this event, some 70 fish traps were handed out to recreational fishermen. Present at the event were the FANC's Saimaa ringed seal specialist Kaarina Tiainen and project employee Marjaana Kovanen, along with FANC South Savo chairman Markku Nironen and four volunteers.



*Photo 4 – “Replace fishing nets with fish traps” event in Ristiina, Mikkeli, South Savo on June 12, 2021. Photo: Kaarina Tiainen/FANC*

The second event took place in Koikkala, Juva on June 19, 2021. In total, some 100 fish traps were given to recreational fishermen at the event. This event was the main fish trap event of the year and included some additional program as well.





Collaboration was made with documentarist and seal photographer turned professional fisherman Juha Taskinen and renowned actor and recreational fisherman Kari Hietalahti, who took part in the event, showcasing and promoting the professional seal-safe fyke net of Mr. Taskinen and the seal-safe fishing methods to the public.



*Photo 5 – “Replace fishing nets with seal-safe fish traps” event in Koikkala, Juva, South Savo on June 19, 2021. Fisherman Juha Taskinen and actor, recreational fisherman Kari Hietalahti presenting the Saimaa fish trap to the audience. Photo: Hanne Kosonen/FANC*

Present at the main fish trap event were the FANC’s and Our Saimaa seal LIFE project’s Saimaa ringed seal specialist Kaarina Tiainen, project employee Marjaana Kovanen and project coordinator Hanne Kosonen, along with volunteer and FANC South Karelia’s regional manager Jari Kiljunen, Saimaa seal volunteer Pentti Hirvonen and chairman of FANC Great Savo Miia Kuisma.

Additionally, during the main event, we organized seal-themed activities for children in collaboration with the Towards Sustainable Coexistence of Seals and Humans project, which constitutes part of the South-East Finland – Russia CBC 2014–2020 programme and is funded by the European Union, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Finland. Environmental educator Jannika Paananen of the CoExist project and nature educator of the FANC in South Karelia Anne Kuhanen held a seal-themed action point for children.



TABLE 3 – Project milestones

Milestone	Foreseen deadline	Actual deadline	Amount of people reached	Fish traps delivered
At minimum 100 seal safe fish trap distributed	07/2021	06/2021	350 (estimate)	170

In addition to the aforementioned two Replace fishing nets with fish traps events, we took part in three public events in the Lake Saimaa region, held by other organizations, in which we presented the seal-safe Saimaa fish trap and built the fish traps for show. These events included the “Kangaslampi Days” event in Kangaslampi, Varkaus in North Savo on July 3, 2021, the “Saimaa Archipelago Nature Day” in Riihisaari, Savonlinna, South Savo on July 20, 2021, and the “Saimaa Archipelago Nature Day” in Anttola, Mikkeli, South Savo on July 22, 2021.



*Photo 6 – “Kangaslampi Days” event in Kangaslampi, North Savo on July 3, 2021.  
Photo: Hanne Kosonen/FANC*

In these events, we were showcasing the seal-safe Saimaa fish trap and building the traps for show. Additionally, we offered information about the Saimaa ringed seal and seal-safe fishing, overall. In total, we reached some 690 people in these five fish trap events.







*Photo 7 – Project employee Marjaana Kovanen is teaching how to build the Saimaa fish trap to two attendees at the Saimaa Archipelago Nature Day in Riihisaari, Savonlinna on July 20, 2021. Photo: Hanne Kosonen/FANC*



TABLE 4 – Fish trap events

Date	Name of event	Description	Place/venue	Number of participants
12.6.2021	Replace fishing nets with fish traps event "Vaihda verkot katiskaan" event	Handing out seal-safe fish traps to recreational fishermen who, in turn, promise to refrain from fishing with nets in the future  Amount of fish traps given; some 70	Ristiina, Mikkeli, South Savo	Some 150
19.6.2021	Replace fishing nets with fish traps event "Vaihda verkot katiskaan" event	Handing out seal-safe fish traps to recreational fishermen who, in turn, promise to refrain from fishing with nets in the future.  Promoting seal-safe fyke net with fisherman Juha Taskinen and actor Kari Hietalahti. Additionally, seal-themed activities aimed at children.  Amount of fish traps given; some 110	Koikkala, Juva, South Savo	Some 200
3.7.2021	Kangaslampi Days "Kangaslampipäivät"	Program at FANC's tent included promoting seal-safe fish traps, offering information about Saimaa ringed seals and seal-safe fishing	Kangaslampi, Varkaus, North Savo	Some 150
20.7.2021	Saimaa Archipelago Nature Day "Saimaan saaristoluontopäivä"	FANC's activities incl. promoting seal-safe fish traps, information about seal-safe fishing and seal-themed activity point for children	Riihisaari, Savonlinna, South Savo	Some 130
22.7.2021	Saimaa Archipelago Nature Day "Saimaan saaristoluontopäivä"	FANC's activities incl. promoting seal-safe fish traps, information about seal-safe fishing and seal information for children	Anttola, Mikkeli, South Savo	Some 60

### 3.3. Information material and communication

As discussed earlier, the Saimaa fish trap model used in this action is not available in stores, but instead has to be built by hand. Building the trap can be learned in aforementioned workshops organized by the FANC. Additionally, we are producing a brochure about seal-safe fishing, which will also include building instructions for the Saimaa fish trap, and a slideshow about seal-safe fishing and the Saimaa fish trap for the workshops. This is done in order to further disseminate information about seal-safe fishing methods and the Saimaa fish trap.

The work to produce the brochure and the instructions has begun and a draft version of the brochure has been produced (Annex 2). Similarly, we have produced the first draft of the slide show for the upcoming fish trap workshops. The slideshow elaborates on the endangered Saimaa ringed seal, its threats, and the seal-friendly fishing methods. (Annex 3). However, due to unforeseen circumstances, the brochure and the slideshow have not been quite finished in the planned schedule or in the schedule presented during the monitoring visit in June 2021.

Hence, there is a slight delay with respect to the schedule and publication of the brochure and slideshow. However, this does not affect the overall implementation of the project. Most, if not all, public events, workshops and other occasions, in which the fish trap information material would be distributed, have also been postponed due to Covid-19. The brochure with the fish trap instructions will be completed by the end of year 2021.



TABLE 5 – Project deliverables

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Foreseen deadline</b>	<b>Actual deadline</b>	<b>Impact of the modification on other actions, baseline implementation program, project budget and time schedule</b>	<b>Communication about modification</b>
Information material (brochure with the fish trap instructions and a slide show) on seal safe fishing will be produced and made available both online and in print	01/2021	12/2021	No other effect beside the time schedule.	Monitoring day 6/2021 and the C.4 interim report 9/2021

In addition to the aforementioned communication activities, FANC promoted seal-safe fishing through press releases, online news articles, Saimaa ringed seal newsletter, social media communication and with a newspaper ad about the “Replace fishing nets with seal-safe fish traps” event.

FANC issued three press releases about seal-safe fishing, fish trap events and the threats caused by fishing nets to the Saimaa ringed seal. These press releases are available on the FANC web pages and listed in the table below.



TABLE 6 – FANC press releases about seal-safe fishing and fish trap events

Headline	Date	Link
Vaihda verkot katiskaan Mikkelin Ristiinassa <i>Swap your fish nets for a fish trap in Ristiina, Mikkeli</i>	27.5.2021	<a href="https://www.sll.fi/etela-savo/2021/05/27/vaihda-verkot-katiskaan-ristiinassa/">https://www.sll.fi/etela-savo/2021/05/27/vaihda-verkot-katiskaan-ristiinassa/</a>
Vaihda verkot katiskaan Juvan Koikkalassa <i>Swap your fish nets for a fish trap in Koikkala, Juva</i>	3.6.2021	<a href="https://www.sll.fi/etela-savo/2021/06/03/vaihda-verkot-katiskaan-koikkalassa/">https://www.sll.fi/etela-savo/2021/06/03/vaihda-verkot-katiskaan-koikkalassa/</a>
Verkkokalastus uhkaa saimaannorppaa loppukesällä – Luonnon-suojeluliitto jakoi lähes 200 norppaturvallista katiskaa Etelä-Savossa <i>Saimaa Ringed Seal threatened by net fisheries in late summer – near 200 seal safe fish traps distributed by FANC in Southern Savo</i>	30.6.2021	<a href="https://www.sll.fi/2021/06/30/verkkokalastus-uhkaa-saimaannorppaa-loppukesalla-luonnonsuojeluliitto-jakoi-lahes-200-norppaturvallista-katiskaa-etela-savossa/">https://www.sll.fi/2021/06/30/verkkokalastus-uhkaa-saimaannorppaa-loppukesalla-luonnonsuojeluliitto-jakoi-lahes-200-norppaturvallista-katiskaa-etela-savossa/</a>

Additionally, FANC published an online news article, titled “Nearly 200 fishers were handed a seal-safe fish trap in South Savo” on June 22, 2021. The article is available on the FANC web pages: <https://www.sll.fi/2021/06/22/lahes-200-kalastajaa-sai-norppaturvallisen-katiskan-etela-savossa/>

Further, FANC communicated about the “Replace fishing nets with seal-safe fish traps” event in the Saimaa ringed seal newspaper 4/2021. The newsletter was sent to recipients via email, and the newsletter is also available online at: [https://www.sll.fi/app/uploads/2021/07/SLL\\_Norppa-utiskirje\\_4\\_2021.pdf](https://www.sll.fi/app/uploads/2021/07/SLL_Norppa-utiskirje_4_2021.pdf)

Social media communication channels utilized in the promoting of seal-safe fishing included the Facebook pages of FANC in South Karelia, FANC in South Savo, and “The Saimaa ringed seal” Facebook page governed by FANC. The total number of views with respect to seal-safe fishing themed social media posts was 19 755. The social media communication activities are listed in the following table.



TABLE 7 – Social media communication about seal-safe fishing

Channel	Date	Link	Number of views
FANC South Savo, Facebook event	1.6.2021	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/2882851711939635/">https://www.facebook.com/events/2882851711939635/</a>	6595
FANC South Savo, Facebook event	3.6.2021	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/171859981539036">https://www.facebook.com/events/171859981539036</a>	7080
"Saimaa ringed seal" Facebook page	17.6.2021	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/saimaannorppa/posts/10165283787540383">https://www.facebook.com/saimaannorppa/posts/10165283787540383</a>	1735
"Saimaa ringed seal" Facebook page	30.6.2021	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/saimaannorppa/posts/10165331391595383">https://www.facebook.com/saimaannorppa/posts/10165331391595383</a>	2187
"Saimaa ringed seal" Facebook page	12.7.2021	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/saimaannorppa/posts/10165371191275383">https://www.facebook.com/saimaannorppa/posts/10165371191275383</a>	2158



# VAIHDA VERKOT KATISKAAN

**Koikkalan  
kylätalo,  
Juva  
la 19.6.  
klo 11–14**

**Mukana  
Juha "Norppa"  
Taskinen  
ja Kari "Hissu"  
Hietalahti**

**Tuo meille vanhat kalaverkkosi,  
saat tilalle norppaturvallisen  
Saimaa-katiskan!**

**Katiskat varattava etukäteen  
[sll.fi/etela-savo](https://sll.fi/etela-savo) tai  
puh. 044 776 4230 (ark. 10–16)**

Suomen  luonnonsuojeluliitto

**Lue lisää:  
[sll.fi/etela-savo/](https://sll.fi/etela-savo/)  
tapahtumat**



*Photo 8 – Newspaper ad for the “Replace fishing nets with fish traps” event in Juva, South Savo on June 19, 2021, in the local newspaper Juvan lehti prior to the event, on June 10th.*



Suomen  luonnonsuojeluliitto  
The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation





The work to promote seal-safe fishing done by FANC and the “Replace fishing nets with fish traps” events also received visibility in the media locally and nationally. The main fish trap event in Koikkala, Juva also received high visibility in the international media. Present at the fish trap event in Juva was international journalist Sam Kingsley from the AFP. Kingsley interviewed the FANC’s Saimaa ringed seal specialist Kaarina Tiainen about the current situation and threats to the endangered Saimaa ringed seal. The article about the Saimaa ringed seal and the fish trap event was published all over the world, e.g. in Bangkok Post, América Digital and France 24. (Annex 4).

Additionally, the AFP also produced a video about the Saimaa ringed seal, its threats and conservation work done by FANC. The video is available at the AFP YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulz7Eaer7UY>

The media visibility is elaborated in the following table.



TABLE 8 – Media visibility of FANC’s work to promote seal-safe fishing

Media	Date	Headline	Link
Newspaper "Länsi-Savo"	11.6.2021	<b>Katiskalla kalastaminen on norppaturvallista – Vaihda verkot katiskaan -tapahtuma tulee jälleen</b> <i>Seal-safe fishing with fish trap – the "Replace fishing nets with fish trap" event is back</i>	<a href="https://www.lansi-savo.fi/paikalliset/4181011">https://www.lansi-savo.fi/paikalliset/4181011</a>
Yle ("Finnish Broadcasting Company")	11.6.2021	<b>Etelä-Savossa jaetaan norppaturvallisia katiskoja – Saimaa-katiskan saa, jos lupaa olla kalastamatta verkoilla</b> <i>Seal-safe fishing traps to be distributed in South Savo – pledge to refrain from net fishing and you will get a Saimaa fish trap</i>	<a href="https://yle.fi/uutiset/3-11976546">https://yle.fi/uutiset/3-11976546</a>
Newspaper "Länsi-Savo"	13.6.2021	<b>"Olen yleensä varovainen allekirjoittaessani sopimuksia, mutta tämä on poikkeus" – Mikkelin Ristiinassa jaettiin perinteisesti sata katiskaa kalastajille, jotka sitoutuivat lopettamaan verkkojen käytön</b> <i>"I'm usually wary of signing contracts, but this is an exception" – A hundred fish traps distributed at traditional event in Ristiina, Mikkel, to fishers who pledge to end net fishing</i>	<a href="https://www.lansi-savo.fi/paikalliset/4183312">https://www.lansi-savo.fi/paikalliset/4183312</a>
Erä-lehti	15.6.2021	<b>Katiskasopimus</b> <i>Fish trap contract</i>	<a href="https://eralehti.fi/arinkalahatusta/2021/06/15/katiskasopimus/">https://eralehti.fi/arinkalahatusta/2021/06/15/katiskasopimus/</a>
Newspaper "Juvan Lehti"	21.6.2021	<b>Sattumus teki Juha Taskisesta kuuluisan Norppa-Taskisen – Hissu Hietalahden mielestä saimaannorpan pitäisi olla Suomen kansalliseläin</b> <i>Juha Taskinen became the renowned "Seal Taskinen" after an incident – Hissu Hietalahti says the Saimaa ringed seal should be the national animal of Finland</i>	<a href="https://www.juvanlehti.fi/paikalliset/4194985">https://www.juvanlehti.fi/paikalliset/4194985</a>
Newspaper "Warkauden Lehti"	4.7.2021	<b>Kangaslampi-päivillä hymyilivät ja kisailivat isot ja pienet – Väli vuoden jälkeen huomasi, miten tärkeä oman kylän juhla on</b> <i>Big and small people smile and frolic at Kangaslampi Days – After a year off, it is easy to see the importance of your own village fête</i>	<a href="https://www.warkaudenlehti.fi/paikalliset/4212374">https://www.warkaudenlehti.fi/paikalliset/4212374</a>
Various international media	7.7.2021	<b>Article about seals, fishing and FANC's fish trap event in various international media</b>	e.g.: <a href="https://phys.org/news/2021-07-finland-rallies-world-endangered.html">https://phys.org/news/2021-07-finland-rallies-world-endangered.html</a> ,  <a href="https://www.bangkokpost.com/world/2144927/finland-rallies-to-save-one-of-worlds-most-endangered-seals">https://www.bangkokpost.com/world/2144927/finland-rallies-to-save-one-of-worlds-most-endangered-seals</a> ,

			<a href="https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210707-finland-rallies-to-save-one-of-world-s-most-endangered-seals">https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210707-finland-rallies-to-save-one-of-world-s-most-endangered-seals,</a>  <a href="https://www.americadigital.com/animales/foca-de-saimaa-la-lucha-de-finlandia-por-salvar-a-una-de-las-focas-mas-raras-y-amenazadas-del-mundo-148006">https://www.americadigital.com/animales/foca-de-saimaa-la-lucha-de-finlandia-por-salvar-a-una-de-las-focas-mas-raras-y-amenazadas-del-mundo-148006,</a>  <a href="https://www.msn.com/pt-br/noticias/meio-ambiente/finl%C3%A2ndia-luta-para-salvar-as-focas-mais-amea%C3%A7adas-do-mundo/ar-AALSXOY">https://www.msn.com/pt-br/noticias/meio-ambiente/finl%C3%A2ndia-luta-para-salvar-as-focas-mais-amea%C3%A7adas-do-mundo/ar-AALSXOY,</a>  <b>(A more thorough list of international media visibility is presented in Annex 4)</b>
Newspaper "Itä-Savo"	19.7.2021	<b>Riihisaaren piha-alueella vietetään tiistaina Saimaan saaristoluontopäivää – Asiaa muun muassa saimaannorpasta, kansallispuistoista ja rakennusperinnön hoidosta</b> <i>Saimaa Archipelago Nature Day is celebrated in the Riihisaari yard area on Tuesday – There is talk about the Saimaa ringed seal, national parks and management of architectural heritage, among others</i>	<a href="https://www.ita-savo.fi/paikalliset/4228430">https://www.ita-savo.fi/paikalliset/4228430</a>
Newspaper "Itä-Savo"	20.7.2021	<b>Saimaan saaristoluontopäivä tarjosi norppaturvallisista katiskoja ja tietoa Saimaan saariston palveluista – "Miksi lähteä merta edemmäs kalaan?"</b> <i>Saimaa Archipelago Nature Day provided seal-safe fish traps and information on services within Saimaa archipelago – "Why carry owls to Athens?"</i>	<a href="https://www.ita-savo.fi/paikalliset/4230525">https://www.ita-savo.fi/paikalliset/4230525</a>
Newspaper "Länsi-Savo"	20.7.2021	<b>Anttolan satamatatorilla järjestetään torstaina Saimaan saaristoluontopäivä</b> <i>Saimaa Archipelago Nature Day organized at Anttola Harbour Market on Thursday</i>	<a href="https://www.lansi-savo.fi/paikalliset/4230757">https://www.lansi-savo.fi/paikalliset/4230757</a>

### 3.4. Materials for the seal-safe Saimaa fish traps

The plastic coated wired mesh used in the seal-safe Saimaa fish traps is a specific type of material, which often is not available in stores, but instead, has to be ordered from the importer through the local hardware stores. Previously, the local district organizations of FANC in South Karelia and South Savo have purchased the plastic coated wired mesh from local hardware stores for a competitive price.

At the start of the project in 2020, mesh material for the fish traps were purchased by FANC South Karelia from the local hardware store in Lappeenranta, based on the offer received. Similarly, in South Savo, the netting has been purchased from the local hardware store in Savonlinna, based on the low price and availability of the mesh material.

On February 12, 2021, a request for offer of the plastic coated wired mesh was sent to the manufacturer Cavatorta in Italy. However, the manufacturer informed that the material should be purchased from the importer and forwarded the request to the importer in Finland. The importer, in turn, referred the request to a local hardware store in Lappeenranta. Hence, the plastic coated wired mesh will be purchased from the local hardware stores in Lappeenranta and Savonlinna, by the local district organizations of FANC and the local or project employees.

Consequently, requests for offer were sent to three retailers in Savonlinna, South Savo on July 26, 2021. The purchase decision is based on both the lowest price, as well as the best value for money.

Other smaller fish trap materials such as clamps, hooks and ropes are purchased by the district organizations and project employees directly from various local retailers, and the purchase decision is based on the availability and price of the materials, which offers best value for money.

The district organizations will invoice the Our Saimaa Seal LIFE project for the materials purchased on collected invoices once or twice a year.

The purchase procedure of the materials for the seal-friendly fish traps was presented in the monitoring report and discussed with the monitor on the monitoring visit on June 16, 2021. In the feedback letter from CINEA on July 28, 2021, it was acknowledged that the purchase of the materials was discussed on the visit, and the process of purchasing the materials from the local hardware store is acceptable, if it fulfills the requirement of best value for money.



## 4. Analysis of benefits

During the first year of the project, we were able to meet – and exceed – the target of a minimum 100 seal-safe Saimaa fish traps built by volunteers, in spite of the Covid-19 pandemic causing some challenges and delays, with respect to organizing workshops for larger groups or audiences.

Overall, the target of handing out a minimum of 100 seal-safe fish traps was exceeded, with some 170 fish traps given to the Saimaa region recreational fishermen in two "Replace fishing nets with fish traps" events.

The two "Replace fishing nets with seal-safe fish traps" events were organized on the edges of the Saimaa ringed seal distribution area. This strengthened the conservation of the subspecies in these areas, where the seal is attempting to return to, and where the fishing restrictions are not yet adequate.

By organizing two events in these regions, handing out seal-safe fish traps and receiving attention in the local media, we were able to reach new audiences locally and offer them alternative fishing methods, in order to protect the Saimaa ringed seals in the areas where the seal is gradually attempting to return to.

Showcasing the seal-safe fish traps in different events has also helped us attract more volunteers, who have joined our mailing lists and are interested in helping us with our work for the Saimaa ringed seal in several ways.

Also, by showcasing the seal-friendly fyke net in one of the fish trap events, we were able to educate the public of the fact that there are seal-friendly fishing methods for both recreational and professional fishermen.

Additionally, by promoting the use of seal-safe fishing methods in various other events during the summer 2021, communicating about seal-friendly fishing through press releases, online news articles and social media, and receiving visibility in both national and international media, we were able to promote seal-safe fishing methods for larger audiences.

Promoting seal-safe fishing to a broad audience will assist in shaping the attitudes of the public, which will lead to the consumers demanding seal-friendly fish from fishermen. This, in turn, will lead to an increase in the use of seal-friendly fishing methods in the future and an increase in the Saimaa ringed seal population, as there will be fewer by-catch mortalities caused by dangerous fishing nets.



## Annexes

### Annex 1 – Copy of the contract made by fishermen to refrain from using fishing nets, in exchange for receiving a seal-safe fish trap free of charge

# KATISKASOPIMUS

Saimaannorppa on erittäin uhanalainen hylje. Viimeisin kanta-arvio on 420–430 yksilöä. Jäiden lähdettyä ja emän vieroitettua kuutit ne harjoittelevat itsenäistä elämää. Kaloja etsiessään kuutit ovat suuressa vaarassa kuolla verkkoihin tai löysänieluisiin katiskoihin. Norppaturvallisella katiskalla kalastettaessa tätä vaaraa ei ole.

Tällä sopimuksella ja henkilökohtaisella päätökselläni lupaudun pitäytymään verkkokalastuksesta ja suosimaan katiskakalastusta sekä muita norpalle turvallisia pyyntimuotoja norpan esiintymisalueilla.

Kiitokseksi tästä lupauksesta saan norppaturvallisen Saimaa-katiskan.

***Mikkelin Ristiinassa 12.6.2021***

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*Allekirjoitus*

Kiittäen,


Suomen luonnonsuojeluliitto

**Lisätiedot:**  
Kaarina Tiainen, saimaannorppa-asiantuntija  
050 530 3270, kaarina.tiainen@sll.fi



Vaihda verkot katiskaan -tapahtuma ja talkoilla valmistetut Saimaa-katiskat ovat osa Yhteinen saimaannorppamme LIFE -hanketta (Our Saimaa Seal LIFE, LIFE19 NAT/FI/000832). Hanke on saanut rahoitusta Euroopan unionin LIFE-ohjelmasta. Aineiston ja tapahtuman sisältö heijastelee sen tekijöiden näkemyksiä, eikä Euroopan komissio tai CINEA ole vastuussa aineiston sisältämien tietojen käytöstä.







## Annex 3 – Images of the draft version of the slideshow about seal-safe fishing for the workshops



### SAIMAANNORPPA

#### KALANPYÖDYSKUOLLEISUUS

- yksi merkittävimmistä uhkista
- norpat jäävät kiinni etenkin verkkoihin ja tukehtuvat
- keväiset verkkokalastusrajoitukset norppien pesintäalueilla 15.4.–30.6.
  - muikkuverkkojen osalta 15.4.–20.6., vaikka muikkuverkotkin norpille vaarallisia
  - ajallinen ja alueellinen riittämättömyys



Suomen luonnonsuojeluliitto



### KATISKATALKOOT JA -TAPAHTUMAT

#### VAIHDA VERKOT KATISKAAN -TAPAHTUMAT

- vapaa-ajan kalastajille maksutta jaossa norppaturvallisista Saimaa-katiskoja
- vastineeksi lupaus pidättäytyä verkkokalastuksesta Saimaalla



Suomen luonnonsuojeluliitto



## Annex 4 – Visibility of FANC’s work to promote seal-safe fishing in international media

### English

- <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210707-finland-rallies-to-save-one-of-world-s-most-endangered-seals>
- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/world/2144927/finland-rallies-to-save-one-of-worlds-most-endangered-seals>
- <https://phys.org/visualstories/2021-07-finland-rallies-world-endangered.amp>
- <https://sg.news.yahoo.com/finland-rallies-save-one-worlds-060555611.html>
- <https://www.euronews.com/green/2021/07/07/humans-have-made-finland-s-rarest-seal-endangered-is-it-too-late-to-save-them>

### French

- <https://www.nouvelobs.com/topnews/20210707.AFP0438/en-finlande-la-bataille-pour-sauver-les-phoques-les-plus-menaces-au-monde.html>
- <https://www.ouest-france.fr/leditiondusoir/2021-07-08/menaces-dextinction-ces-phoques-de-finlande-luttent-pour-leur-survie-bf4cfb5d-b04f-48c3-852a-f88497a3ed36>
- <https://www.msn.com/fr-fr/actualite/france/en-finlande-la-bataille-pour-sauver-les-phoques-les-plus-menac%C3%A9s-au-monde/ar-AALRRRE?li=BBolJji&amp%2525253Bocid=wispr>

### Spanish

- <https://www.americadigital.com/animales/foca-de-saimaa-la-lucha-de-finlandia-por-salvar-a-una-de-las-focas-mas-raras-y-amenazadas-del-mundo-148006>
- <https://www.infobae.com/america/perrosygatos/2021/07/25/como-es-la-lucha-de-finlandia-para-salvar-a-las-focas-mas-amenazadas-del-mundo/>

### Portuguese

- <https://www.istoedinheiro.com.br/finlandia-luta-para-salvar-as-focas-mais-ameacadas-do-mundo/>
- [https://www.em.com.br/app/noticia/internacional/2021/07/07/interna\\_internacional,1284305/finlandia-luta-para-salvar-as-focas-mais-ameacadas-do-mundo.shtml](https://www.em.com.br/app/noticia/internacional/2021/07/07/interna_internacional,1284305/finlandia-luta-para-salvar-as-focas-mais-ameacadas-do-mundo.shtml)
- <https://www.msn.com/pt-br/noticias/meio-ambiente/finl%C3%A2ndia-luta-para-salvar-as-focas-mais-amea%C3%A7adas-do-mundo/ar-AALSXOY>

### Arabic

- <https://arabic.euronews.com/2021/07/08/activists-in-finland-battle-to-save-rarest-and-most-endangered-seal>
- <https://aawsat.com/home/article/3068796/%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%A9-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%81%D9%86%D9%84%D9%86%D8%AF%D8%A7-%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A3%D9%83%D8%AB%D8%B1-%D8%A3%D9%86%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%B9-%C2%AB%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81%D9%82%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%AA%C2%BB-%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%B6%D8%A9-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%82%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B6#:~:text=%D8%AA%D8%B4%D9%83%D9%84%20%D8%A8%D8%AD%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%A9%20%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%8A%D9%85%D8%A7%20%D9%81%D9%8A%20%D9%81%D9%86%D9%84%D9%86%D8%AF%D8%A7,%D9%85%D8%AE%D8%AA%D9%84%D9%81%D8%A7%D9%8B%20%D8%AA%D8%B8%D9%87%D8%B1%20%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89%20%D8%B3%D8%B7%D8%AD%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%A1>

