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Interim Report

C.4 Campaigns for increasing the use of seal-safe fishing gear Covering the project activities from 01/09/2020 to 30/09/2024

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Our Saimaa Seal LIFE

Data Project

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Suomen luonnonsuojeluliitto
The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation



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1. Executive Summary

The Saimaa ringed seal is one of the most endangered seals in the world, with only some 480 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. Additionally, fish trap workshops are organized for various other audiences, such as the public, volunteers, school groups and other, e.g. hobby, groups.

FANC has organized 17 fish trap workshops for members of water district owners' associations, 35 workshops for the public and volunteers, 23 workshops for school groups (also part of action E.2) and 25 workshops for other groups. Additionally, FANC's Saimaa ringed seal volunteers and project employees held solo workshops. In total, some 1252 people took part in the various fish trap workshops, and the amount of fish traps built was 825.

For the workshops, FANC produced a slideshow about the Saimaa ringed seal and the use of seal-safe fish traps in Finnish and English. Similarly, FANC produced a brochure about seal-safe fishing and instructions for building the fish trap in Finnish, English and Russian. The brochures are available online and in print.

At the workshops for the water district owners' associations, fishermen were asked about their attitudes towards the seals and their fishing habits via questionnaires. Similarly, a questionnaire about the fish trap workshop was produced for school children. In total, 143 responses were received in the aforementioned questionnaires.

In total, 476 fish traps, built by volunteers, have been distributed to the Lake Saimaa region recreational fishermen free of charge in the annual "Replace fishing nets with seal-safe fish traps" events. In exchange, the fishermen signed a contract, promising to refrain from fishing with nets on Lake Saimaa henceforth. Additionally, some 200 kilos of obsolete fishing nets were received from fishermen at these events.

FANC has organized six "Replace Fishing Nets with Fish Traps" event, and taken part in ten public events, in which FANC promoted seal-safe fishing methods and showcased the seal-safe Saimaa fish trap. At these events, FANC reached 2024 people.

FANC issued nine press releases and seven online news articles and/or blog posts about seal-safe fishing and the dangers of fishing nets on the Saimaa ringed seal. Additionally, these themes were frequently discussed on FANC's Saimaa ringed seal newsletters and social media channels. FANC's work to promote seal-safe fishing received visibility in national and international media, with 70 media hits in total.



2. Introduction

The Saimaa ringed seal is one of the most endangered seals in the world, with only some 480 individuals (2023). 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. FANC organizes workshops for building seal-safe fish traps for various audiences, such as fishermen, water district owners, local residents, summer cottage owners, volunteers, school children and the general public. At these workshops, FANC conducts 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.

FANC encourages recreational fishermen to replace their dangerous fishing nets with seal safe fish traps in various fishing-related events. Annually, FANC organizes at least one “Replace fishing nets with seal-safe fish traps” event, in which seal-safe fish traps are given to 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, FANC is showcasing the seal-safe Saimaa fish trap and promoting seal-safe fishing in other public events around Lake Saimaa.

FANC produces 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 is based on an old fish trap model and has been further 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 and height less than 15 cm, and 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. FANC is organizing workshops for building Saimaa fish traps for various audiences in the Lake Saimaa area, mainly in South Karelia and South Savo. These audiences include fishermen, water district owners, local residents, holiday homeowners, volunteers, and school groups.

During the reporting period, FANC has organized 100 workshops for building seal-safe “Saimaa” fish traps:

- 35 workshops for the public and Saimaa ringed seal volunteer groups,
- 17 workshops for members of the water district owners' associations,
- 23 workshops for school groups (part of action E.2), and
- 25 workshops for other various audiences, such as Allianssi international trainees, hobby groups, Members of the Finnish Parliament, and employment project participants.

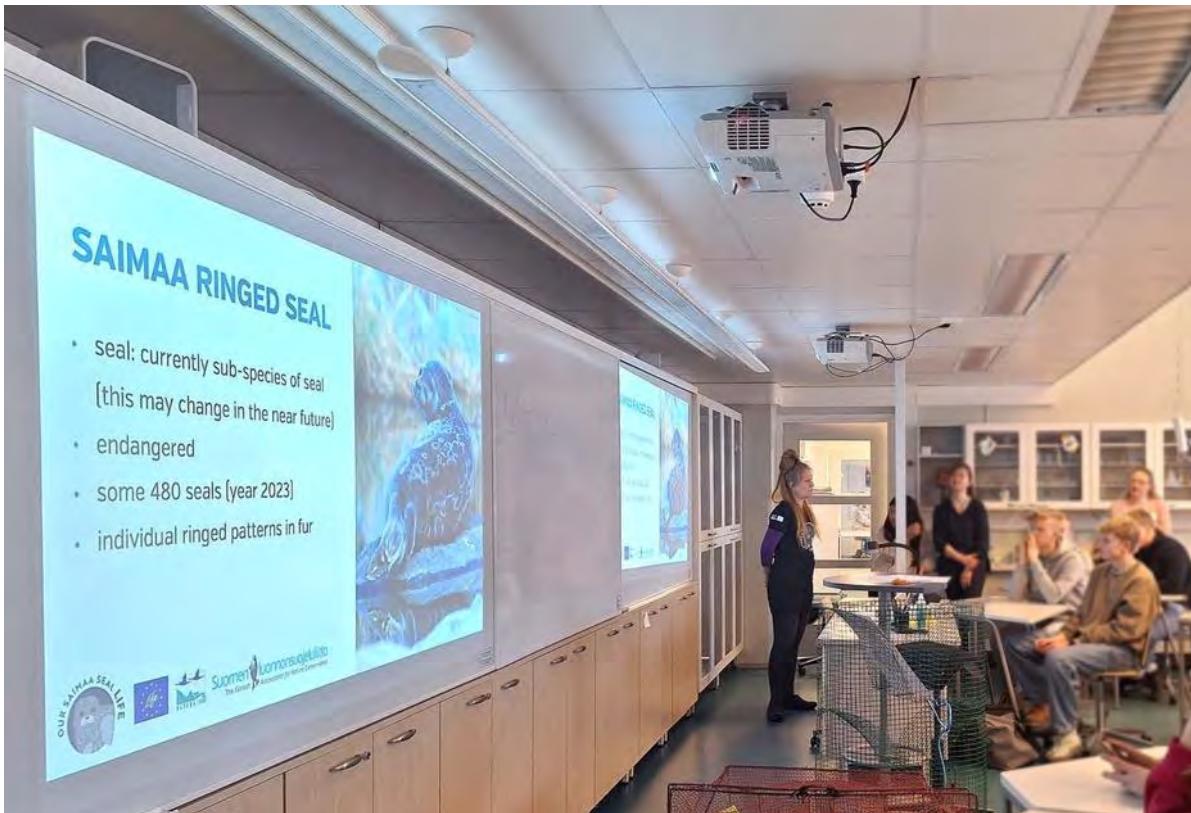
Additionally, especially during the first years of the project, the Our Saimaa Seal LIFE project employees and FANC's Saimaa ringed seal volunteers have held numerous solo workshops for building seal-safe fish traps.

At these workshops, there have been a total of 1252 participants, who have built 825 seal-safe “Saimaa” fish traps (Annex 1).





Fish trap workshop for the members of the "Laamalansaari" water district owners' association in Suomenniemi, Mikkeli, South Savo, 20.4.2024. Photo: Hanne Kosonen / FANC.



Fish trap workshop for German and Finnish students, Lappeenranta, South Karelia, 5.3.2024. Photo: Kaarina Tiainen / FANC.





*Public fish trap workshop at the Savonlinna Central Hospital, South Savo, 14.2.2024.
Photo: Marjaana Kovanen / FANC.*

Surveys, interviews

FANC has produced a questionnaire for the fish trap workshop participants. There are both [online version](#) and a printout version of the questionnaire available. These questionnaires are mainly targeted at the members of the water district associations. Questions have to do with e.g. the preferred fishing methods and catch, attitudes towards the protection of the Saimaa ringed seals, attitudes towards seal-safe fishing methods and the readiness to change fishing habits towards more seal-friendly methods. Thus far, 67 responses have been received.

Additionally, a short questionnaire about the Saimaa fish trap workshop was produced for the school children taking part in the workshops. The thoughts, attitudes, as well as overall feedback about the workshop flow, is hence gathered from the school workshop participants, in order to further develop the workshops. This questionnaire is also available [online](#) and in print. 76 responses have been received.



The aforementioned questionnaires are available in pdf format on the [FANC's Our Saimaa seal LIFE project web page](#).

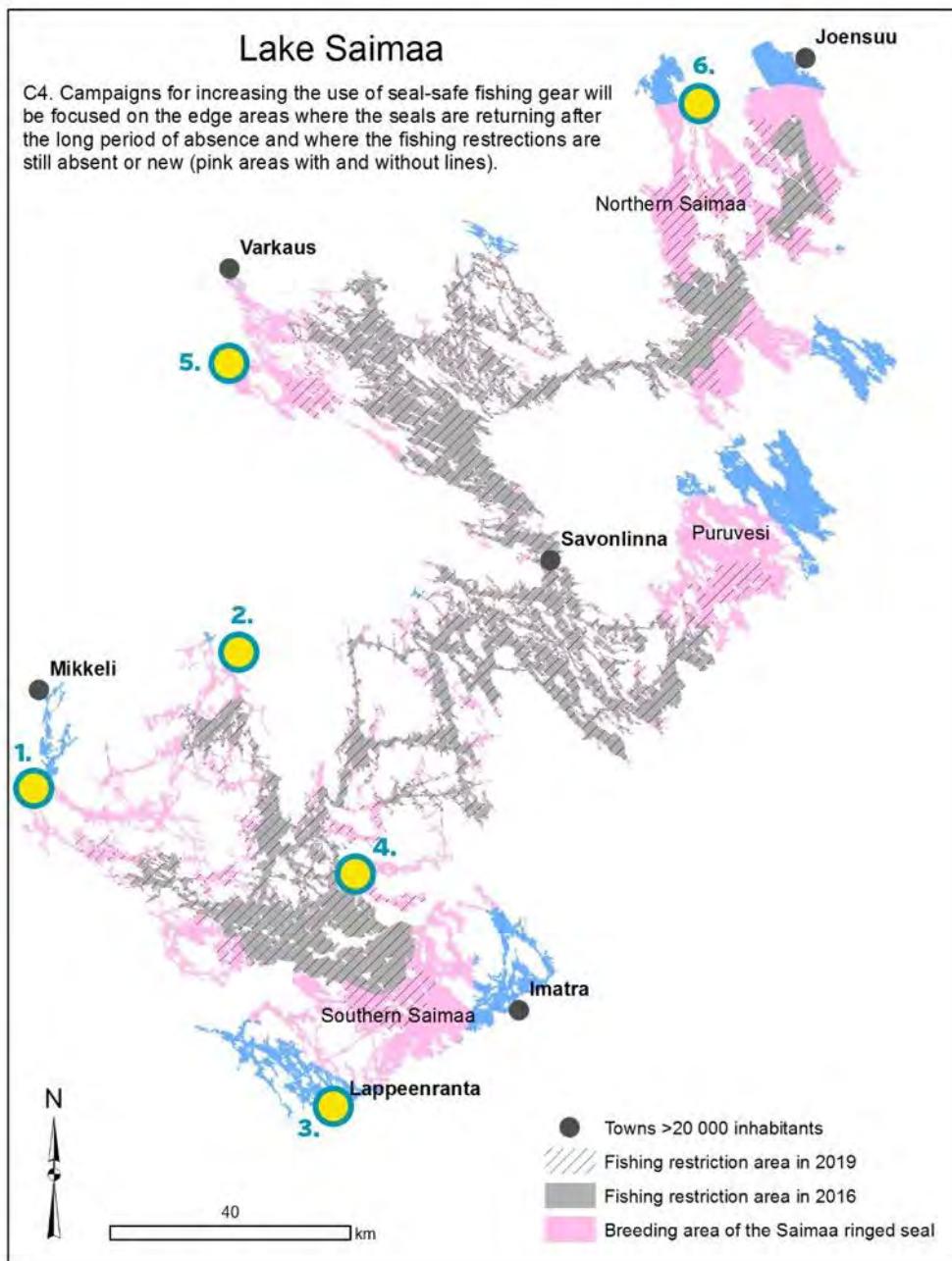
3.2. Fish trap events

Due to the large amount of seal-safe fish traps built in the various fish trap workshops, FANC has been able to organize six (6) “Replace Fishing Nets with Fish Traps” events. Below is a table and map of the locations of these events:

TABLE 1 – “Replace Fishing Nets with Fish Traps” events

No. on the map	Date	Place	Participants (approx.)	No. of fish traps handed over
1.	12.6.2021	Ristiina, Mikkeli, South Savo	150	70
2.	19.6.2021	Koikkala, Juva, South Savo	200	110
3.	18.6.2022	Lappeenranta, South Karelia	70	40
4.	16.7.2022	Puumala, South Savo	100	7
5.	17.6.2023	Joroinen, North Savo	160	106
6.	15.6.2024	Liperi, North Karelia	370	143
TOTAL			1050	476





A Map of the Lake Saimaa region, showing the locations of FANC's "Replace Fishing Nets with Fish Traps" events in 2021 (1. & 2.), 2022 (3. and 4.), 2023 (5.) and 2024 (6.).

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 2). 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. All in all, FANC has received some 200 kilos of obsolete fishing nets, which were disposed of, and hence will not cause danger to the seals in the future.





"Replace Fishing Nets with Fish Traps" event in Ristiina, Mikkeli, South Savo, June 12, 2021.
Photo: Kaarina Tiainen/FANC



"Replace Fishing Nets with Fish Traps" event in Koikkala, Juva, South Savo, June 19, 2021.
Fisherman Juha Taskinen and actor, recreational fisherman Kari Hietalahti present the "Saimaa" fish trap to the audience. Photo: Hanne Kosonen/FANC





"Replace Fishing Nets with Fish Traps" event in Lappeenranta, South Karelia, on June 18, 2022. Layman's fyke net in the foreground. Photo: Hanne Kosonen/FANC.

At the events, collaboration was made with documentarist and seal photographer, professional fisherman **Juha Taskinen** and renowned actor, recreational fisherman **Kari Hietalahti**, who were showcasing and promoting the seal-safe fishing methods and a professional fyke net to the public. At the events, there were also seal-themed activities for children.

At the event in Lappeenranta, South Karelia in 2022, Group Manager and Principal Scientist **Ari Leskelä** from the Natural Resources Institute Finland also presented various smaller fyke nets, which are suitable for the layman.

Since the last report in 2023, there have been two unfortunate deaths of young seals to types of fyke nets generally used on Lake Saimaa, and considered thus far as seal-safe fishing gear. FANC monitors and takes into account any possible new information, research and guidance with respect to the fyke nets, which are currently still regarded safer for the seals, compared to fishing nets.

It is worth stating here that the type of "Saimaa" fish traps, built at the workshops organized by FANC, and handed out at FANC's annual "Replace Fishing Nets with Seal-Safe Fish Traps" events, are safe for the seals, based on current information.



"Replace Fishing Nets with Fish Traps" event in Joroinen, North Savo, on June 17, 2023. A fisherman signing the contract. Photo: Hanne Kosonen/FANC.



"Replace Fishing Nets with Fish Traps" event in Liperi, North Karelia, on June 15, 2024. Truckloads of seal-safe fish traps waiting to be handed out to the Lake Saimaa area recreational fishers. Photo: Hanne Kosonen/FANC.



In addition to the aforementioned six “Replace Fishing Nets with Fish Traps” events, FANC has taken part in ten public events, in which FANC presented the seal-safe Saimaa fish trap and built the fish traps for show.

TABLE 2 – Fish trap events participated by FANC

Date	Name of event	Description	Place/venue	No. of participants
3.7.2021	Kangaslampi Days “Kangaslampipäivät”	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”	Promoting seal-safe fish traps, information about seal-safe fishing, seal-themed activity point for children	Riihisäari, Savonlinna, South Savo	Some 130
22.7.2021	Saimaa Archipelago Nature Day “Saimaan saaristoluontopäivä”	Promoting seal-safe fish traps, information about seal-safe fishing and seal information for children	Anttola, Mikkeli, South Savo	Some 60
5.6.2022	World Environment Day event	Showcasing seal-safe Saimaa fish traps	Koululahti, Savonlinna, South Savo	30
2.7.2022	“Local food from Lake Saimaa with seal-safe gear”	Building seal-safe Saimaa fish traps, promoting seal-safe fishing (i.e. “Saimaa” fish traps and “NoTu” fyke nets)	Puumala harbour, Puumala, South Savo	some 170
19.8.2022	Seal-safe fish trap demo (as part of the Savonlinna International Nature Film Festival, SINFF)	Showcasing and building Saimaa fish traps.	Kulttuurikellari, Savonlinna, South Savo	10
14.2.2023	Ystävänpäivähulinat / “Valentine’s Day Event”	Sharing information about seal-safe fishing and building seal-safe “Saimaa” fish traps	Savonlinna Central Hospital, South Savo	52
1.7.2023	Enonkosken kalamarkkinat / “Enonkoski Fish Fair”	Providing information about seal-safe fishing, building and showcasing the seal-safe “Saimaa” fish traps, presenting layman seal-safe fyke nets	Enonkoski, South Savo	122
5.8.2023	Ilon ja kalan päivä / “The Day of Joy and Fish”	Providing information about the Saimaa ringed seals and seal-safe fishing, building and showcasing the seal-safe “Saimaa” fish traps	Kerimäki, South Savo	150
31.8.2024	Mahdollisuksien tori / “The Marketplace of Opportunities”	Sharing information about the Saimaa ringed seals and seal-safe fishing.	Savonlinna, South Savo	100
TOTAL				974

In total, FANC has reached 2024 people at these 16 fishing-themed events.





*"Valentine's Day Event" at the Central Hospital, Savonlinna, South Savo, 14.2.2023.
Photo: Marjaana Kovanen / FANC.*



"Enonkoski Fish Fair" in Enonkoski, South Savo, 1.7.2023. FANC's Marjaana Kovanen showcasing the seal-safe "Saimaa" fish trap. Photo: Hanne Kosonen / FANC.



3.3. Information material and communication

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, or with the instructions provided by FANC.

FANC has produced a brochure about seal-safe fishing, which also includes building instructions for the Saimaa fish trap. The brochure is available in Finnish, English and Russian.

Moreover, FANC has produced a slideshow for the fish trap workshops. This has been done to further disseminate information about the endangered Saimaa ringed seal, its threats, the Saimaa fish trap, and the seal-friendly fishing methods. The slideshow is available in Finnish and English.

With respect to the fish trap brochure and slideshow, collaboration was made with fishing expert **Aarno Karel**, who was consulted about the contents of the materials.

All of the aforementioned information material is available on the [FANC's Our Saimaa Seal LIFE project webpage](#).

In addition to the aforementioned communication activities, FANC has promoted seal-safe fishing through press releases, online news articles, blog texts, Saimaa ringed seal newsletters, social media communication and with newspaper ads about the “Replace fishing nets with seal-safe fish traps” events.

FANC has issued 11 press releases about seal-safe fishing, fish trap events and the threats caused by fishing nets to the Saimaa ringed seal. The press releases are listed in the table below. Eight of the press releases are available on the FANC web pages and three of the press releases were issued via email to the local press.



TABLE 3 – 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	https://www.sll.fi/etela-savo/2021/05/27/vaihda-verkot-katiskaan-ristiinassa/
Vaihda verkot katiskaan Juvan Koikkalassa <i>Swap your fish nets for a fish trap in Koikkala, Juva</i>	3.6.2021	https://www.sll.fi/etela-savo/2021/06/03/vaihda-verkot-katiskaan-koikkalassa/
Verkkokalastus uhkaa saimaannorppaa loppukesällä – Luonnonsuojeluliitto jakoi lähes 200 norppaturvallista katiskaa Etelä-Savossa <i>Saimaa Ringed Seal threatened by fishing nets in late summer – near 200 seal safe fish traps distributed by FANC in Southern Savo</i>	30.6.2021	https://www.sll.fi/2021/06/30/verkkokalastus-uhkaa-saimaannorppaa-loppukesalla-luonnonsuojeluliitto-jakoi-lahe-200-norppaturvallista-katiskaa-etela-savossa/
Vehkataipaleella rakennetaan norppaturvallisia Saimaa-katiskoja 25.–26.3.2022 <i>Seal-safe "Saimaa" fish traps are built in Vehkataipale 25.–26.3.2022</i>	21.3.2022	(Email to local media)
Verkkokalastusrajoitukset astuvat voimaan – norppaturvallinen kalastus suojelee saimaannorppaa <i>Restrictions on net fishing come into force – seal-safe fishing protects the Saimaa ringed seal</i>	14.4.2022	https://www.sll.fi/2022/04/14/verkkokalastusrajoitukset-astuvat-voimaan-norppaturvallinen-kalastus-suojelee-saimaannorppaa/
Luonnonsuojeluliitto jakaa sata norppaturvallista katiskaa Lappeenrannassa – paikalla myös Juha "Norppa" Taskinen ja Kari "Hissu" Hietalahti <i>The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation hands out a hundred seal-safe fish traps in Lappeenranta – Juha "Norppa" Taskinen and Kari "Hissu" Hietalahti will also be present</i>	9.6.2022	https://www.sll.fi/etela-karjala/2022/06/09/luonnonsuojeluliitto-jakaa-sata-norppaturvallista-katiskaa-lappeenrannassa-paikalla-myos-juha-norppa-taskinen-ja-kari-hissu-hietalahti/
"Norppaturvallinen rysä kohoaa Katarinantorille lauantaina, kalastajille jaossa maksutta katiskoja – Juha Taskinen ja Kari Hietalahti opastavat kalastuksen saloihin" <i>A seal-safe fyke net rises on the Katarinantor market place on Saturday, fish traps handed free of charge to fishermen – Juha Taskinen and Kari Hietalahti guide to the secrets of fishing</i>	15.6.2022	(Email to local media)
Norppaturvallisia katiskoja jaossa Suomen luonnonsuojeluliiton tapahtumassa Joroisissa – Juha Taskinen ja Kari Hietalahti esittelevät tapahtumassa myös norppaturvallista rysää <i>Fishing nets threaten the Saimaa ringed seals again – in the store and restaurant, it is good to favour fish caught with seal-friendly methods</i>	30.6.2022	https://www.sll.fi/2022/06/30/verkkokalastus-uhkaa-taas-saimaannorpia-kaupassa-ja-ravintolassa-on-hyva-suosia-norppaturvallisesti-pyydettya-kalaa/
Norppaturvallisia katiskoja jaossa Suomen luonnonsuojeluliiton tapahtumassa Joroisissa – Juha Taskinen ja Kari Hietalahti esittelevät tapahtumassa myös norppaturvallista rysää <i>Seal-safe fish traps are distributed at the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation's event in Joroinen - Juha Taskinen and Kari Hietalahti also present a seal-safe fyke net at the event</i>	5.6.2023	(Email to local media)
Kalaverkot uhkaavat saimaannorppia taas heinäkuusta alkaen – "Kalastusrajoituksia on tehty piittaamatta oikeasta tiedosta" <i>Fishing nets are threatening the Saimaa ringed seals again from July - "Fishing restrictions have been made without regard to correct information"</i>	30.6.2023	https://www.sll.fi/2023/06/30/kalaverkot-uhkaavat-saimaannorpia-taas-heinakuusta-alkaen-kalastusrajoituksia-on-tehty-piittaamatta-oikeasta-tiedosta/
Luonnonsuojeluliitto kannustaa norppaturvalliseen kalastukseen jakamalla sata katiskaa Liperissä – Juha "Norppa" Taskinen ja Kari "Hissu" Hietalahti esittelevät norppaturvallista rysää <i>The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation encourages seal-safe fishing by distributing a hundred fish traps in Liperi - Juha "Norppa" Taskinen and Kari "Hissu" Hietalahti present seal-safe fyke net</i>	11.6.2024	https://www.sll.fi/pohjois-karjala/2024/06/11/luonnonsuojeluliitto-kannustaa-norppaturvalliseen-kalastukseen-jakamalla-sata-katiskaa-liperissa-juha-norppa-taskinen-ja-kari-hissu-hietalahti-esittelevat/



Additionally, FANC published nine online news articles and/or blog posts (in Finnish) about seal-safe fishing:

- “Nearly 200 fishers were handed a seal-safe fish trap in South Savo”, 22.6.2021, available at: <https://www.sll.fi/2021/06/22/lahe-200-kalastajaa-sai-norppaturvallisen-katiskan-etela-savossa/>
- “Two days of building “Saimaa” fish traps on the southern shores of Lake Saimaa”, 31.3.2022, available at: <https://www.sll.fi/2022/03/31/saimaan-etelarannalla-rakennettiin-kaksi-paivaa-saimaa-katiskoja/>
- A superb day of seal-safe fishing in Lappeenranta, 21.6.2022, available at: <https://www.sll.fi/2022/06/21/norppaturvallisen-kalastuksen-superpaiva-lappeenrannassa/>
- “Net fishing must be banned and nesting caves must be dug for the seal in the shoreline cliffs” - children again at the seal camp in the Turponsaari island”, 21.7.2022, available at: <https://www.sll.fi/2022/07/21/verkkokalastus-pitaa-kielaa-ja-norpalle-louhia-pesaluolia-rantakallioihin-lapset-taas-norppaleirilla-turponsaareessa/>
- “International teams built seal-safe fish traps in Punkaharju”, 20.9.2022, available at: <https://www.sll.fi/etela-savo/2022/09/20/kansainvaliset-tiimit-rakensivat-norppaturvallisia-katiskoja-punkaharjulla/>
- “Seal-safe fish traps were built at Nieminen”, 1.4.2023, available at: <https://www.sll.fi/pohjois-karjala/2023/04/01/norppaturvallisia-katiskoita-valmistui-niemisessa/>
- “Seal-safe fish traps to be handed out at an event by The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation in Joroinen – Juha Taskinen and Kari Hietalahti also present the seal-safe fyke net at the event”, 5.6.2023, available at: <https://www.sll.fi/varkaus/2023/06/05/norppaturvallisia-katiskoja-jaossa-suomen-luonnonsuojeluliiton-tapahtumassa-joroisissa-juha-taskinen-ja-kari-hietalahti-esittelevat-tapahtumassa-myos-norppaturvallista-rysa/>
- “Commercial fisherman Tapani Kontinen stopped fishing with nets in order to help the Saimaa ringed seal”, 29.6.2023, available at: <https://www.sll.fi/2023/06/29/kaupallinen-kalastaja-tapani-kontinen-lopetti-verkkokalastuksen-auttaakseen-saimaannorppaa/>
- “A record-breaking amount of seal-safe fish traps were handed out in Liperi”, 19.6.2024, available at: <https://www.sll.fi/2024/06/19/ennatysmaara-norppaturvallisia-katiskoja-jaettiin-liperissa/>

FANC also communicated about threats that the fishing nets pose to the seals, as well as promoted seal-safe fishing, via various other channels, such as

- social media (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter/X)
- Saimaa ringed seal newsletters, sent to recipients via email, and available online at: <https://www.sll.fi/mita-me-teemme/saimaannorppa/toiminta-ja-saavutukset/>
- FANC South Karelia mailing lists
- newspaper ads about the “Replace fishing nets with fish traps” events in 2021 and 2024.



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 tai puh. 044 776 4230 (ark. 10–16)

Suomen luonnonsuojeluliitto
Lue lisää: sll.fi/etela-savo/tapahtumat




VAIHDA VERKOT KATISKAAN

Paikalla Juha "Norppa" Taskinen ja Kari "Hissu" Hietalahti

ILMAISET norppaturvalliset Saimaa-katiskat jaossa Liperin satamassa [ravintola Summerin piha] la 15.6. klo 11–14

Varaa katiskasi puh. 044 776 4230 arkisin klo 10–14 sll.fi/saimaa-katiska





Newspaper ads for the “Replace fishing nets with fish traps” event in Juva, South Savo on June 19, 2021, in the local newspaper Juvan lehti (on the left) and the event in Liperi, North Karelia on June 16, 2024, in the local newspaper Karjalainen.



FANC's seal-safe fish traps, the work to promote seal-safe fishing, and the "Replace fishing nets with fish traps" events have also received visibility in the media locally, regionally and/or nationally with 49 media hits (Annex 3), and internationally with 21 media hits (Annex 4).

The fish trap event in Koikkala, Juva in 2021 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 the conservation work done by FANC. The video is available at the [AFP YouTube channel](#).

In 2024, a French non-profit association **Sous l'aile du Pygargue** visited Finland, as part of their 2024 expedition, aiming to raise public awareness about the impact of climate change and human activities on the biosphere. During their visit, the association produced a video about the endangered Saimaa ringed seal and its conservation. On their video, the association have included a clip of FANC's work to build seal-safe fish traps. The video is available on the [Sous l'aile du Pygargue YouTube channel](#).

Similarly in 2024, Finland-based, French wildlife photographer **Samuel Bloch** visited various FANC's events and workshops, including the main Replace Fishing Nets with Seal-Safe Fish Traps event in Liperi, North Karelia. Photos and information about FANC's work to promote seal-safe fishing are presented in his blog text titled "*People, fish and seal: fostering coexistence*", available [here](#).

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.

In 2021, request for offer was sent to the manufacturer of the mesh material in Italy, who directed the enquiry to the importer in Finland. The importer, in turn, forwarded the enquiry to the local hardware store in Lappeenranta, South Karelia.

Hence, the plastic coated wired mesh has been purchased from the local hardware stores in Lappeenranta and Savonlinna, respectively, by the local district organizations of FANC, and the local or project employees. The purchase decision



has been based on best value for money, after multiple bids had been received from several local hardware stores.

The FANC's individual district organizations in South Karelia and South Savo have billed the Our Saimaa Seal LIFE project for the materials purchased on collected invoices once or twice a year.

During 2024, a price comparison of the mesh material for the fish traps was again carried out. On March 5, a request for offer was sent to the hardware store in Lappeenranta with which FANC South Karelia has an existing account. Additionally, an online price comparison was carried out March 6 with other stores offering the mesh material. As before, the hardware store with the existing account offered the mesh for the lowest price, and FANC continued to purchase the mesh material from this store.

Other, smaller and less expensive materials such as clamps, hooks and ropes are available at several local and online hardware stores, for a similar price. Hence, these materials have been purchased by the district organizations and project employees directly from various retailers. The purchase decision has been based on the availability and price of the materials, which offers best value for money.

4. Analysis of benefits

During the reporting period, FANC again has been able to meet – and exceed – most of the targets regarding promoting seal-safe fishing. Information about the seal-safe fish trap was distributed to a vast audience, both nationally and internationally.

Especially among the water area owners' associations, there was growing interest and requests for organising workshops. By organizing fish trap workshops for water district owners' associations, FANC was able to reach the key target group, with respect to possibly changing their dangerous fishing habits towards more seal-safe methods. At these workshops, FANC gave the fish traps free of charge to the fishermen, thus offering a positive incentive to refrain from using fishing nets in the Saimaa ringed seal distribution areas in the future. This will likely assist in the conservation work, as there may be fewer fishing nets on Lake Saimaa in the future, thus increasing the chances for survival of the seals.

Moreover, fishermen's attitudes and readiness to change their fishing habits were examined with questionnaires at the workshops. This may further strengthen the idea of seal-safe fishing, and encourage the fishermen to adopt more seal-friendly fishing methods, and also disseminate information about the seal-safe fishing methods among their interest and peer groups.

By visiting schools and organizing fish trap workshops for school groups, FANC is helping to build the foundation for nature and seal friendly attitudes in children.



This, in turn, may lead to a decrease in the use of dangerous fishing nets in the future, and an early adoption and broader use of seal-safe fishing methods among the younger generations.

Overall, the target of handing out a minimum of 400 seal-safe fish traps during the reporting period was exceeded, with a total of 476 fish traps given to the Saimaa region recreational fishermen in the six "Replace fishing nets with fish traps" events.

The six "Replace fishing nets with seal-safe fish traps" events were mainly 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 events in these regions, handing out seal-safe fish traps and receiving attention in the local media, FANC was 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.

Additionally, by showcasing the various fyke nets in some of the fish trap events, FANC was able to educate the public of the fact that there are safer fishing methods for both recreational and professional fishermen, compared to fishing nets.

However, since the two unfortunate deaths of young seals to fyke nets, regarded thus far safe for the seals, FANC will monitor possible new information, research and guidance regarding the safety of fyke nets, and act accordingly with respect to showcasing these types of gear at the upcoming annual events. Noteworthy here is, however, that the "Saimaa" fish traps, built at FANC's workshops and handed out at FANC's annual events, are safe for the seals, based on current information.

Also, showcasing the seal-safe fish traps in different events has helped FANC attract more volunteers, who have joined FANC's volunteer mailing lists and are interested in helping with the work for the Saimaa ringed seal in several ways.

Additionally, by promoting the use of seal-safe fishing methods at the summer events, communicating about seal-friendly fishing through press releases, online news articles, newsletters and social media, and receiving visibility in local, national and international media, FANC was able to promote seal-safe fishing methods for larger audiences and bring attention to the fact that not all fish traps or fishing methods are safe for the endangered Saimaa ringed seals.

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 the commercial 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 – Workshops for building seal-safe “Saimaa” fish traps, organized by FANC

Date	Venue	Workshop type (public / water district owners' association / schools / other)	Specific participants	Amount of participants	Amount of fish traps built
2.11.2020	Nature and Science Centre Saimaarium, Lappeenranta	public		20	5
2.6.2021	Moinsalmi, Savonlinna (volunteer's home)	public		4	2
17.7.2021	Lintusalo school, Puumala	public		10	4
18.8.2021	Vitsiälä Town House "Sampola", Mikkeli	public		6	4
27.10.2021	FANC South Savo office, Savonlinna	public	volunteers	1	1
30.10.2021	Anttola fire station, Mikkeli	public		5	5
3.11.2021	FANC South Savo office, Savonlinna	public	volunteers	2	2
3.11.2021	FANC South Karelia office, Lappeenranta	public	volunteers	10	6
10.11.2021	FANC South Savo office, Savonlinna	public	volunteers	2	1
22.11.2021	Nature and Science Centre Saimaarium, Lappeenranta	public		15	7
30.11.2021	"Kotipirtti" People's House, Kitee	water district owners' association	Heinoniemi water district owners' association	21	17
13.12.2021	Lappeenranta University of Technology, Student Union Building, Lappeenranta	other / student group	Student organization Tetra ry	42	14
1.1.– 31.12.2021	Solo workshops x 50, Lappeenranta & Savonlinna	public	employees, volunteers	9	110
17.–20.1.2022	Solo workshops, Lappeenranta	public	volunteers	1	6
3.2.2022	Kimpinen gymnasium, Lappeenranta	school / student group	general upper secondary education students	14	5
12.2.2022	Koikkala People's House, Juva	public		4	5
12.3.2022	Virmutjoki People's House, Puumala	water district owners' association	Itä-Puumala water district owners' association	5	8
15.3.2022	South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences Xamk, Mikkeli	public		11	9
18.3.2022	Simpele school, Rautjärvi	school / student group	grades 8 and 9 of lower secondary school	14	5
25.3.2022	Vehkataipale school, Taipalsaari	school / student group	grades 5 and 6 of primary school	22	8



26.3.2022	Vehkataipale Hunting Lodge / People's House, Taipalsaari	water district owners' association	Kattelussaari water district owners' association	18	25
2.4.2022	Koikkala People's House, Juva	public		6	3
6.4.2022	FANC South Savo office, Savonlinna	public	volunteers	2	2
21.4.2022	Vocational College Sampo, Lappeenranta	school / student group	adult students	27	15
27.4.2022	FANC South Savo office, Savonlinna	public	volunteers	6	5
28.4.2022	Tirilä People's House, Lappeenranta	other	Lappeenranta Gardening Club	12	9
18.5.2022	FANC South Karelia office, Lappeenranta	public	volunteers	3	4
23.5.2022	Mikkel park, Mikkeli	other	employment project	8	7
25.5.2022	FANC South Karelia office, Lappeenranta	public	volunteers	2	3
6.6.2022	East Karelia Folk High School, Punkaharju	other	international volunteers	12	6
15.6.2022	FANC South Karelia office, Lappeenranta	public	volunteers	2	4
17.6.2022	solo workshop, Lappeenranta	public	volunteers	1	5
18.6.2022	solo workshop, Lappeenranta	public	volunteers	1	3
22.6.2022	solo workshop, Lappeenranta	public	volunteers	1	1
22.6.2022	Sailing Centre Wilmanranta, Lappeenranta	public		7	4
2.7.2022	"Norppa" park, Puumala	water district owners' association	Itä-Puumala & Puumalan kirkonkylä water district owners' association	18	10
4.7.2022	East Karelia Folk High School, Punkaharju	other	international volunteers	14	6
27.7.2022	East Karelia Folk High School, Punkaharju	other	international volunteers	16	6
11.8.2022	Asinsaari island, Lappeenranta	school / student group	Steiner school field trip	13	5
15.8.2022	East Karelia Folk High School, Punkaharju	other	international volunteers	12	6
9.9.2022	Simpele school, Rautjärvi	school / student group	grade 8 of lower secondary school	16	5
23.9.2022	Ruokolahti school, Ruokolahti	school / student group	grade 7 of lower secondary school	14	7
26.9.2022	solo workshop, Lappeenranta	public	volunteers	1	2
12.10.2022	FANC South Savo office, Savonlinna	public		1	1
13.10.2022	Lemi school, Lemi	school / student group	grade 8 of lower secondary school	14	6
14.10.2022	Taipalsaari school, Taipalsaari	school / student group	preparatory education	4	2
23.11.2022	FANC South Savo office, Savonlinna	public		1	2
7.12.2022	Lappeenranta University of Technology, Student Union Building, Lappeenranta	other / student group	Student organization Tetra ry	50	19



11.1.2023	Kirjola school, Parikkala	school / student group	lower secondary education and general upper secondary education students	12	5
26.1.2023	FANC South Karelia office, Lappeenranta	other	adult students	8	3
9.2.2023	Parliament House, Helsinki	other	Members of the Finnish Parliament, employees and visitors of the Parliament House	30	6
14.2.2023	"Citizens' Marketplace", Savonlinna Hospital, Savonlinna	public		52	4
15.2.2023	Lönnrot school, Lappeenranta	school / student group	grade 5 of primary school	19	5
24.2.2023	Lappee school, Lappeenranta	school / student group	grade 6 of primary school	24	8
21.3.2023	Kimpinen school, Lappeenranta	school / student group	grades 5 and 6 of primary school	9	3
22.3.2023	Vuoksenniska school, Imatra	school / student group	grades 5 to 7 of primary school	10	3
29.3.2023	"Nieminen Sports House", Rääkkylä	water district owners' association	Nieminen-Venturi water district owners' association	18	20
1.4.2023	Wanha Mannila, Punkaharju	water district owners' association	Vaahersalo eteläinen & Pihlajavesi itäinen water district owners' association	12	20
15.4.2023	People's House Päiväkumpu, Ahvensalmi, Savonlinna	water district owners' association	Oravi and Multala water district owners' association	7	10
22.4.2023	People's House Sampola, Vitsiälä, Mikkeli	water district owners' association	Mikkeli water district owners' association	6	8
25.4.2023	Rantasalmi Town Hall, Rantasalmi	public	volunteers	5	6
2.5.2023	FANC South Karelia office, Lappeenranta	public	volunteers	1	1
24.5.2023	Uutta Elämää, Mikkeli activity centre, Mikkeli	other	employment project	8	8
29.5.2023	Saimaan Eräelämys, Rantasalmi	school / student group	school field trip, grade 5	25	8
8.6.2023	Riihilahti farm, Lappeenranta	public		7	5
12.6.2023	East Karelia Folk High School, Punkaharju	other	international volunteers	11	9
12.6.2023	Wanha Mannila, Vaahersalo, Punkaharju	water district owners' association	Vaahersalo eteläinen & Pihlajavesi itäinen water district owners' association	6	5
1.7.2023	Fish Fair, Enonkoski	public		1	1
4.7.2023	Uutta Elämää, Mikkeli activity centre, Mikkeli	other	employment project	6	6



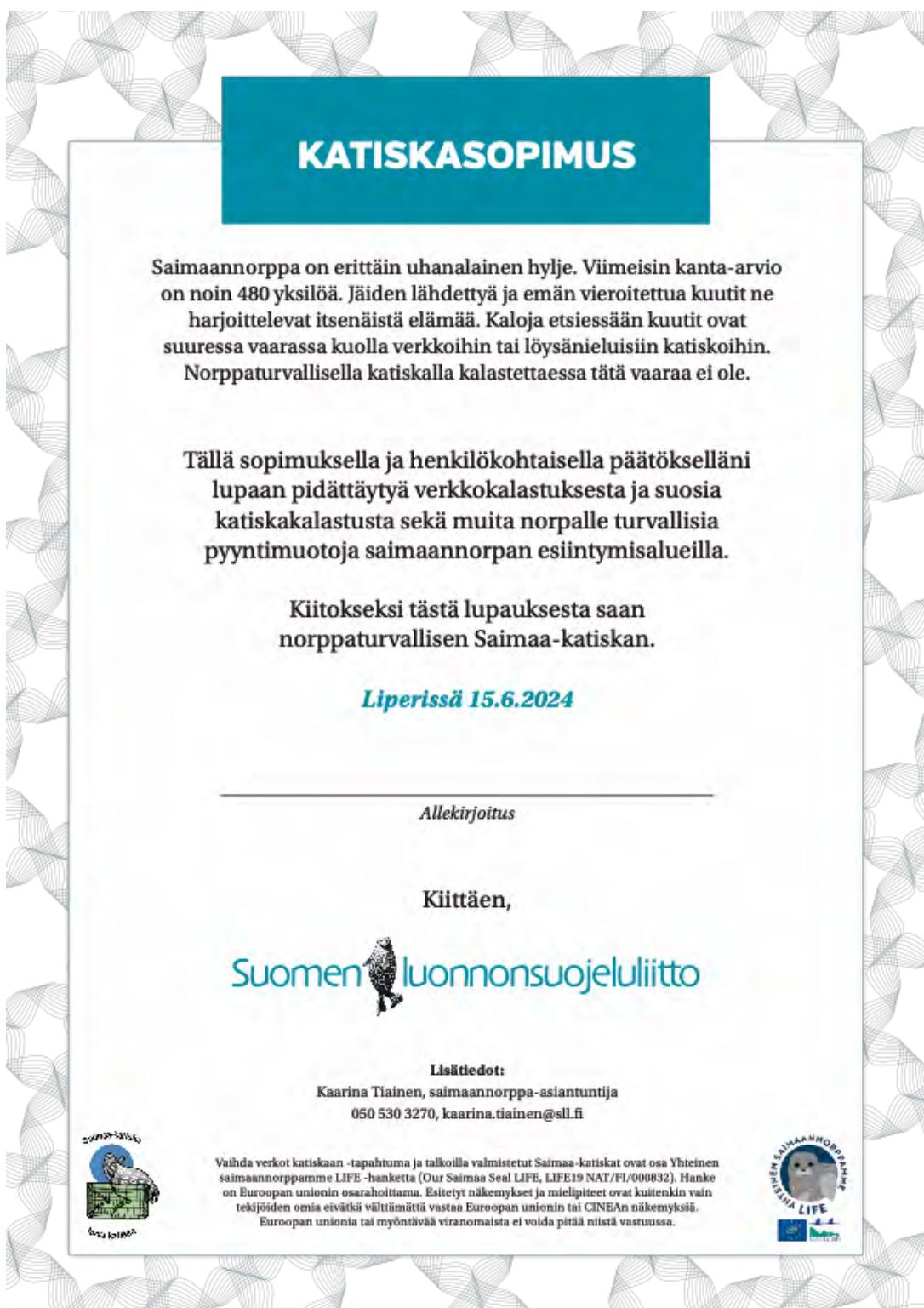
8.7.2023	Lintusalo, Puumala	public		6	5
15.7.2023	Urpola Nature Centre, Mikkeli	public			
17.7.2023	East Karelia Folk High School, Punkaharju	other	international volunteers	16	7
15.–16.8.2023	Saimaan Eräelämys, Rantasalmi	school / student group	school field trip, grade 5	44	16
10.9.2023	FANC's Autumn event, Orilammen maja ja Iomakeskus, Kouvola	other	members and volunteers of FANC	15	5
16.9.2023	Savonranta harbour, Savonranta	public		6	7
25.10.2023	FANC South Karelia office, Lappeenranta	public	volunteers	12	10
14.11.2023	Ristimäenkatu, Savonlinna	public		1	1
21.11.2023	Joutseno school, Lappeenranta	school / student group	preparatory education	14	5
12.12.2023	FANC South Karelia office, Lappeenranta	public	volunteers	12	1
13.12.2023	Lappeenranta University of Technology, Student Union Building, Lappeenranta	other / student group	Student organization Tetra ry	25	17
2.2.2024	Ristimäenkatu, Savonlinna	other	Origin by Ocean company	2	5
14.2.2024	"Citizens' Marketplace", Savonlinna Hospital, Savonlinna	public		1	3
19.–23.2.2024	FANC South Karelia office, Lappeenranta	school / student group	student on a work experience learning period	1	16
22.2.2024	East Karelia Folk High School, Punkaharju	other	international volunteers	10	8
5.3.2024	Kimpinen gymnasium, Lappeenranta	school / student group	Finnish and German students	34	10
27.3.2024	Vocational College Luovi, Lappeenranta	school / student group	preparatory education	13	4
3.4.2024	South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences Xamk, Mikkeli	public		10	7
6.4.2024	Hauhala Hunting Lodge / Town House, Hauhala, Mikkeli	water district owners' association	Anttola–Louhivesi water district owners' association	8	9
9.4.2024	Puumala school, Puumala	water district owners' association	Puumalan kirkonkylä water district owners' association	8	8
10.4.2024	Hunting Lodge "Nallikallio", Someenjärvi, Ristiina	water district owners' association	Anttola–Louhivesi water district owners' association	10	10
13.4.2024	Dance Hall "Metsälinna", Ristiina	water district owners' association	Yövesi water district owners' association	15	12
16.4.2024	East Karelia Folk High School, Punkaharju	other	international volunteers	10	10



20.4.2024	SFC Laamalansaari Caravan, main building, Suomenniemi (Mikkeli)	water district owners' association	Laamalansaari water district owners' association & SFC Laamalansaari	11	9
29.4.2024	Lemi school, Lemi	school / student group	grades 6 to 9 of primary school	28	12
4.5.2024	"Vilkumäki" Hunters' Lodge / People's House, Joutseno	water district owners' association	Karstunranta-Kesola water district owners' association	15	20
14.5.2024	Riihisaari, Savonlinna	other	media	7	3
15.5.2024	Savonlinna Activity Centre, Savonlinna	other	employment project	3	2
21.5.2024	Ekin Partio (scouts), Mikkeli	other	Sea Scouts	5	4
5.6.2024	Mikkeli Activity Centre, Mikkeli	other	employment project	5	8
8.6.2024	Hurissalo school, Puumala	water district owners' association	Lietvesi water district owners' association	11	12
13.6.2024	East Karelia Folk High School, Punkaharju	other	international volunteers	14	10
8.8.2024	Mikkeli Activity Centre, Mikkeli	other	outreach youth work	5	6
17.8.2024	Pappilansaari, Punkaharju	water district owners' association	Etelä-Punkaharju water district owners' association	9	9
27.8.2024	Saimaan Erälämys, Rantasalmi	school / student group	grade 5 of primary school	20	8
2.9.2024	Simpele school, Rautjärvi	school / student group	grade 9 of lower secondary school and general upper secondary education students	68	1
11.9.2024	Estery-talo, Mikkeli	public		1	4
TOTAL				1252	825



Annex 2 – 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



Suomen luonnonsuojeluliitto
The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation



Annex 3 – Visibility of FANC's work to promote seal-safe fishing in the Finnish media

Media	Date	Headline	Link
Länsi-Savo	11.6.2021	Katiskalla kalastaminen on norppaturvallista – Vaihda verkot katiskaan -tapahtuma tulee jälleen <i>Seal-safe fishing with fish trap – the "Replace fishing nets with fish trap" event is back</i>	https://www.lansi-savo.fi/paikalliset/418101_1
Yle ("Finnish Broadcasting Company")	11.6.2021	Etelä-Savossa jaetaan norppaturvallisia katiskoja – Saimaa-katiskan saa, jos lupaa olla kalastamatta verkoilla <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>	https://yle.fi/uutiset/3-11976546
Länsi-Savo	13.6.2021	"Olen yleensä varovainen allekirjoittaessani sopimuksia, mutta tämä on poikkeus" – Mikkelin Ristiinassa jaettiin perinteisesti sata katiskaa kalastajille, jotka sitoutuivat lopettamaan verkkojen käytön <i>"I'm usually wary of signing contracts, but this is an exception" – A hundred fish traps distributed at traditional event in Ristiina, Mikkeli, to fishers who pledge to end net fishing</i>	https://www.lansi-savo.fi/paikalliset/418331_2
Erä-lehti	15.6.2021	Katiskasopimus <i>Fish trap contract</i>	https://eralehti.fi/arinkalahusta/2021/06/15/katiskasopimus/
Juvan Lehti	21.6.2021	Sattumus teki Juha Taskisesta kuuluisan Norppa-Taskisen – Hissu Hietalahden mielestä saimaannorpan pitäisi olla Suomen kansalliseläin <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>	https://www.juvanlehti.fi/paikalliset/4194985
Warkauden Lehti	4.7.2021	Kangaslampi-päivillä hymyilivät ja kisailivat isot ja pienet – Välivuoden jälkeen huomasi, miten tärkeää oman kylän juhla on <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>	https://www.warkaudenlehti.fi/paikalliset/4212374
Itä-Savo	19.7.2021	Riihisaaren pihalla vietetään tiistaina Saimaan saaristoluontopäivää – Asiaa muun muassa saimaannorpasta, kansallispuistoista ja rakennusperinnön hoidosta <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>	https://www.ita-savo.fi/paikalliset/422843_0
Itä-Savo	20.7.2021	Saimaan saaristoluontopäivä tarjosi norppaturvallisia katiskoja ja tietoa Saimaan	https://www.ita-savo.fi/paikalliset/423052_5



		<p>saariston palveluista – "Miksi lähteä merta edemmäs kalaan?"</p> <p><i>Saimaa Archipelago Nature Day provided seal-safe fish traps and information on services within Saimaa archipelago – "Why carry owls to Athens?"</i></p>	
Länsi-Savo	20.7.2021	<p>Anttolan satamatatorilla järjestetään torstaina Saimaan saaristoluontopäivä</p> <p><i>Saimaa Archipelago Nature Day organized at Anttola Harbour Market on Thursday</i></p>	https://www.lansi-savo.fi/paikalliset/423075
Yle ("Finnish Broadcasting Company")	15.4.2022	<p>Saimaannorppaa suojelevat verkkokalastusrajoitukset voimaan</p> <p><i>Restrictions on net fishing to protect the Saimaa ringed seal into effect</i></p>	https://yle.fi/uutiset/3-12043017/64-3-70091
Uusimaa	15.4.2022	<p>Saimaannorppaa suojelevat verkkokalastusrajoitukset voimaan</p> <p><i>Restrictions on net fishing to protect the Saimaa ringed seal into effect</i></p>	https://www.uusimaa.fi/uutissuomalainen/4555048
Demokraatti	15.4.2022	<p>Saimaannorppaa suojelevat verkkokalastusrajoitukset voimaan tänään</p> <p><i>Restrictions on net fishing to protect the Saimaa ringed seal into effect today</i></p>	https://demokraatti.fi/saimaannorppaa-suojelevat-verkkokalastusrajoitukset-voimaan-tanaan
Salon Seudun Sanomat	15.4.2022	<p>Saimaannorppaa suojelevat verkkokalastusrajoitukset voimaan</p> <p><i>Restrictions on net fishing to protect the Saimaa ringed seal into effect</i></p>	https://www.sss.fi/2022/04/saimaannorppaa-suojelevat-verkkokalastusrajoitukset-voimaan/
Itä-Savo	15.4.2022	<p>Saimaannorppaa suojelevat verkkokalastusrajoitukset voimaan</p> <p><i>Restrictions on net fishing to protect the Saimaa ringed seal into effect</i></p>	https://www.ita-savo.fi/uutissuomalainen/4555048
Karjalainen	15.4.2022	<p>Yön uutiskooste: Saimaannorppaa suojelevat verkkokalastusrajoitukset voimaan</p> <p><i>News summary from the night: Restrictions on net fishing to protect the Saimaa ringed seal into effect</i></p>	https://www.karjalainen.fi/kotimaa/y%C3%B6n-uutiskooste-kansanedustaja-ilkkakanerva-on-kuollut-sairaanhoidopiireist%C3%A4-A4-kannatusta-potilasturvallaile
Etelä-Suomen Sanomat	15.4.2022	<p>Yön uutiskooste: Saimaannorppaa suojelevat verkkokalastusrajoitukset voimaan</p> <p><i>News summary from the night: Restrictions on net fishing to protect the Saimaa ringed seal into effect</i></p>	https://www.ess.fi/uutissuomalainen/4555071
Yle	16.6.2022	<p>Ylen kaupunkifestivaali Pointti näkyy ja kuuluu eri puolilla Lappeenrantaa – mukana Maltti ja Valtti,</p>	https://yle.fi/uutiset/3-12492022



		keskusteluja ja Puoli seitsemän <i>Yle's city festival Pointti can be seen and heard in different parts of Lappeenranta - featuring Maltti and Valtti, discussions and "Half Seven" program</i>	
Yle	18.6.2022	Ammattikalastaja ja suojelejan kannattajat yhä erimielisiä saimaannorpan suojelejan tarpeellisuudesta – katso tästä keskustelu lajin tulevaisuudesta <i>Professional fisherman and conservationists still disagree on the necessity of protecting the Saimaa ringed seal – watch the discussion about the future of the species here</i>	https://yle.fi/uutiset/3-12498365
Yle Radio Suomi Lappeenranta	18.6.2022	Radio Suomen lauantaitalkoot, 3. tunti, 18.6.2022, starting from 10.38 and ending on 18.28. <i>Information about seal-safe fishing and the FANC's 'Replace fishing nets with fish traps' event in Lappeenranta on June 18.</i>	https://areena.yle.fi/audio/1-62535026
Yle	30.6.2022	Saimaannorppaa uhkaa verkkokalastus, itämerennorppaa liian suuri metsästyskiintiö. <i>The Saimaa ringed seal is threatened by net fishing, the Baltic ringed seal by too large a hunting quota.</i>	https://yle.fi/uutiset/3-12043017/64-3-89640
Kansan uutiset	30.6.2022	Luonnon suojelejäliitto pyytää välttämään yhä verkkokalastusta Saimaalla: Norppa kokee pitkän ja tuskallisen kuoleman verkossa. <i>The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation asks to avoid net fishing in Saimaa: The Saimaa ringed seal experiences a long and painful death in the net.</i>	https://www.ku.fi/artikkeli/4752170-luonnon suojelejäliitto-pyytaa-välttämään-yhä-verkkokalastusta-saimaalla-norppa-kokee-pitkan-ja-tuskallisen-kuoleman-verkossa
Yle	1.7.2022	Luonnon suojelejäliitto kehottaa ihmisiä suosimaan norppaturvallista kalaa – ammattikalastajien mielestä verhot ovat jo riittäväin norppaturvallisista. <i>The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation urges people to prefer fish that has been caught with seal-safe methods - professional fishermen think that the nets are already sufficiently safe for the seals.</i>	https://yle.fi/uutiset/3-12518591
Itä-Savo	22.2.2023	Saimaalla voi kalastaa norppaturvallisesti – mutta ei verkoilla <i>One can fish on Lake Saimaa with seal-safe methods - but not with fishing nets</i>	https://www.ita-savo.fi/paakirjoitus-mielipide/5740102
Koti-Karjala	31.3.2023 (online) 5.4.2023 (print)	Saimaa -katiskoita ilmaiseksi <i>Saimaa fish traps for free</i>	https://www.kotikarjala.fi/article-6.6.58945.76d33af393 https://www.kotikarjala.fi/article-6.10.58944.d86bc0cac1 (copy of newspaper)



Puruvesi	15.4.2023	Norppaturvalliset katiskat valmistuvat Vaahersalossa kevään vesille – Uusi osakaskunta järjesti talkoot ja opastuksen <i>Seal-safe fish traps were made in Vaahersalo for the spring waters - New water district owners' association organized workshop and guidance</i>	https://www.puruvesi.net/ paikalliset/5858434
Itä-Savo	17.4.2023	Näin valmistuvat norppaturvalliset katiskat Punkaharjun Vaahersalossa <i>This is how seal-safe fish traps were made in Punkaharju's Vaahersalo</i>	https://www.ita- savo.fi/paikalliset/585927 1
Työ terveys turvallisuus 3/2023	05/2023	Työkäytössä Saimaa-katiska <i>Saimaa fish trap in work use</i>	(Copy of printed article)
Iltalehti	25.5.2023	Laittomasta katiskasta paljastui raastava näky – Saimaannorppa sai surmansa <i>A gruesome sight was revealed from illegal fish trap - Saimaa ringed seal was killed</i>	https://www.iltalehti.fi/kot imaa/a/6339dec8-ca84- 49c2-b152-d251dc3f7641
Itä-Savo	31.5.2023	Kajakkirallia, kalastusta ja katiskantekoa – Viidesluokkalaiset irrottautuivat älypuhelimestaan kuin huomaamatta kahden päivän keväleirillä luonnon helmassa <i>Kayak rally, fishing and fish trap making - Fifth graders got rid of smartphones as if unnoticed during two-day spring camp in the heart of nature</i>	https://www.ita- savo.fi/paikalliset/596616 7
Joroisten Lehti	5.6.2023	Joroisissa jaetaan norppaturvallisia katiskoita <i>Seal-safe fish traps distributed in Joroinen</i>	https://www.joroistenleht i.fi/paikalliset/5978692
Warkauden Lehti	5.6.2023	Joroisissa jaetaan norppaturvallisia katiskoita <i>Seal-safe fish traps distributed in Joroinen</i>	https://www.warkaudenle hti.fi/paikalliset/5978692
Yle	15.6.2023	Haluatko ilmaisen norppaturvallisen katiskan? Suomen luonnonsuojeluliitto jakaa niitä Joroisissa lauantaina <i>Do you want a free seal-safe fish trap? Finnish Association for Nature Conservation will distribute them in Joroinen on Saturday</i>	https://yle.fi/a/74- 20035145
Iltalehti	19.6.2023	PS-valtuutettu saimaannorppien suojelesta: "Lajeja tulee ja menee" – Tässä on luonnonsuojelun asiantuntijan vastaus <i>Finns councilor on the protection of Saimaa ringed seal: "Species come and go" – This is the answer of a nature conservation expert</i>	https://www.iltalehti.fi/kot imaa/a/e2b4d985-f391- 4186-a21b-233389a3ca4d
Rantasalmen Lehti	21.6.2023	Tapani ja sata muuta kalastajaa vaihtoi verkot norppaystävälliseen katiskaan <i>Tapani and hundred other fishermen exchanged fishing nets for seal-friendly fish trap</i>	https://www.rantasalmenleht i.fi/artikkelite/tapani-ja- sata-muuta-kalastajaa- vaihtoi-verkot- norppaystavalliseen- katiskaan/
Maaseudun Tulevaisuus	30.6.2023	Luonnonsuojelujärjestöt vetoavat Saimalla kalastaviin verkkoihin pitämiseksi pois vesistä myös heinäkuussa <i>Nature conservation organizations appeal to those who fish in Saimaa to keep their nets out of waters also in July</i>	https://www.maaseudunt ulevaisuus.fi/metsa/dcd4 e6d4-c0bd-4cc8-a297- 26a9b6c8611a



Iltalehti	17.7.2023	Saimaannorpan kuutti kuoli verkkoihin – Epäily: Kalastaja yritti upottaa ruhon syvyyksiin <i>Saimaa ringed seal pup died in fishing nets - Suspicion: Fisherman tried to sink carcass into depths</i>	https://www.iltalehti.fi/kotimaa/a/57ee4cfb-d464-410e-8468-c8cc3af55f19
Itä-Savo	19.8.2023	Norpia, sarjakuvia ja yllätyksellistä taidetta – Luontoelokuvafestivaalien kolmas päivä alkoi pирteissä ja lämmminhenkisissä tunnelmissa <i>Seals, cartoons and surprising art - Third day of Nature Film Festival started in cheerful and warm atmosphere</i>	https://www.ita-savo.fi/paikalliset/6152027
Iltalehti	20.9.2023	Saimaannorpan kuutti kuoli verkkoon – Taas <i>Saimaa ringed seal pup died in net - Again</i>	https://www.iltalehti.fi/kotimaa/a/a3f924a3-ac43-4872-9be0-dec744a243ae
Savonmaa	7.2.2024	25 yhdistystä järjestää ystävänpäivähulinat Kansalaistorilla <i>25 associations organize Valentine's Day festivities at Kansalaistori</i>	https://savonmaa.fi/articles/article/25-yhdistysta-jarjestaa-ystavanpaivahulinat-kansalaistorilla
Puupaatti 1/2024	16.4.2024	Venemessujen kiinnostavimmat osastot taas puuvenenurkassa <i>Most interesting sections of boat fair again at the wooden boat corner</i>	(Copy of printed article)
Kotiseutu-Uutiset	19.6.2024	Norppaturvalliset katiskat herättivät mielenkiintoa <i>Seal-safe fish traps aroused interest</i>	https://kotiseutu-uutiset.com/uutiset/2024/06/19/norppaturvalliset-katiskat-herattivat-mielenkiintoa/
MTV	26.6.2024	Ministeriö vetoaa Saimaalla kalastaviin: Älkää käyttäkö verkkooja <i>Ministry appeals to those who fish on Lake Saimaa: Do not use nets</i>	https://www.mtvuutiset.fi/artikkeli/ministerio-vetoaa-saimaalla-kalastaviin-alkaa-kayttako-verkkooja/8964416
MSN	26.6.2024	Verkkokalastuskielto päättyy Saimaalla maanantaina – saimaannorpan kuutit jäävät helposti verkkoihin kiinni <i>The ban on net fishing ends on Lake Saimaa on Monday - Saimaa ringed seal pups get easily caught in nets</i>	https://www.msn.com/fi-fi/uutiset/other/verkkokalastuskielto-p%C3%A4%C3%A4ttaa-saimaalla-maanantaina-saimaannorpan-kuutit-j%C3%A4%C3%A4t-helposti-verkkoihin-kiinni/ar-BB1oVFUq
Itä-Häme	26.6.2024	Verkkokalastuskielto päättyy Saimaalla maanantaina – saimaannorpan kuutit jäävät helposti verkkoihin kiinni <i>The ban on net fishing ends on Lake Saimaa on Monday - Saimaa ringed seal pups get easily caught in nets</i>	https://www.itahame.fi/uutissuomalainen/6872784
Yle	1.7.2024	Miten saimaannorpalla menee? <i>How is Saimaa ringed seal doing?</i>	https://areena.yle.fi/podcast/1-70828631



Parikkalan-Rautjärven Sanomat	28.8.2024	Ilmastoteemaa käsitteleyssä Etelä-Karjalan kouluilla <i>The topic of climate is discussed in the schools of South Karelia</i>	https://www.prsanomat.fi/uutiset/29hoggbwv4
Parikkalan-Rautjärven Sanomat	3.9.2024	Ilmastopäiväkiertue käyntiin Rautjärveltä <i>Climate day tour starts from Rautjärvi</i>	https://www.prsanomat.fi/uutiset/y5ra68lrbu
Parikkalan-Rautjärven Sanomat	5.9.2024	Ilmastopäiväkiertue starttasi Rautjärveltä <i>Climate day tour started from Rautjärvi</i>	(Copy of printed article)
Savonmaa	11.9.2024	Lähiruokatori oli täydellinen menestys <i>The local food market was a complete success</i>	https://savonmaa.fi/articles/article/lahiruokatori-oli-taydellinen-menestys



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

AFP's article in international media

English

1. <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210707-finland-rallies-to-save-one-of-world-s-most-endangered-seals>
2. <https://www.bangkokpost.com/world/2144927/finland-rallies-to-save-one-of-worlds-most-endangered-seals>
3. <https://phys.org/visualstories/2021-07-finland-rallies-world-endangered.amp>
4. <https://sg.news.yahoo.com/finland-rallies-save-one-worlds-060555611.html>
5. <https://www.euronews.com/green/2021/07/07/humans-have-made-finland-s-rarest-seal-endangered-is-it-too-late-to-save-them>
6. <https://timesofmalta.com/article/finland-rallies-to-save-one-of-worlds-most-endangered-seals.884890>

French

7. <https://www.nouvelobs.com/topnews/20210707.AFP0438/en-finlande-la-bataille-pour-sauver-les-phoques-les-plus-menaces-au-monde.html>
8. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/leditiondusoir/2021-07-08/menaces-dextinction-ces-phoques-de-finlande-luttent-pour-leur-survie-bf4cfb5d-b04f-48c3-852a-f88497a3ed36>
9. <https://www.msn.com/fr-fr/actualite/france/en-finlande-la-bataille-pour-sauver-les-phoques-les-plus-menac%C3%A9es-au-monde/ar-AALRRRE?li=BBoJlji&%2525253Bocid=wispr>
10. https://www.tahiti-infos.com/En-Finlande-la-bataille-pour-sauver-les-phoques-les-plus-menaces-au-monde_a201955.html
11. <https://www.lnc.nc/article/en-finlande-la-bataille-pour-sauver-les-phoques-les-plus-menaces-au-monde>
12. https://www.lexpress.fr/monde/en-finlande-la-bataille-pour-sauver-les-phoques-les-plus-menaces-au-monde_2154438.html

Spanish

13. <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>
14. <https://www.infobae.com/america/perrosygatos/2021/07/25/como-es-la-lucha-de-finlandia-para-salvar-a-las-focas-mas-amenazadas-del-mundo/>
15. <https://es.finance.yahoo.com/noticias/salvar-eeva-foca-mas-amenazada-del-mundo-075129660.html?guccounter=1>
16. https://www.clarin.com/viste/finlandia-lucha-salvar-focas-amenazadas-mundo_0_ilz6EwyH5.html?srstid=AfmBOopHfUJbgNjb0hVG9nQvIK_EgEmN-RJaSmGMFPeHic00XCLZc_f

Portuguese

17. <https://www.istoedinheiro.com.br/finlandia-luta-para-salvar-as-focas-mais-ameacadas-do-mundo/>
18. 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
19. <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

20. <https://arabic.euronews.com/2021/07/08/activists-in-finland-battle-to-save-rarest-and-most-endangered-seal>
21. [https://aawsat.com/home/article/3068796/%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%A9-%D9%81%D9%86%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](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)

