



Government Programme to Restore Migratory Fish in Finland

Special Advisor to the Minister **Teppo Säkkinen**

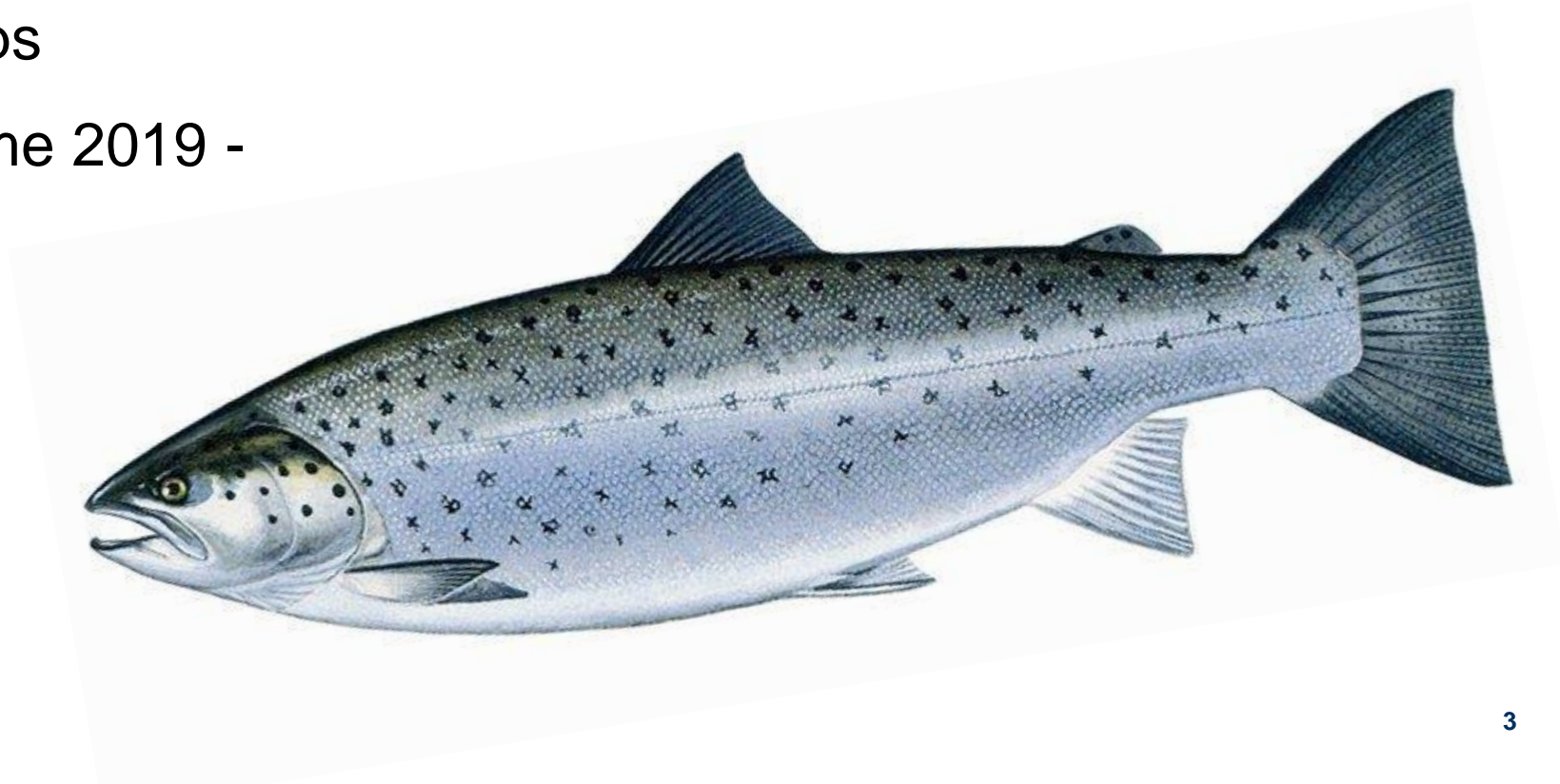
Dam Removal Goes Alps 5.5.2021





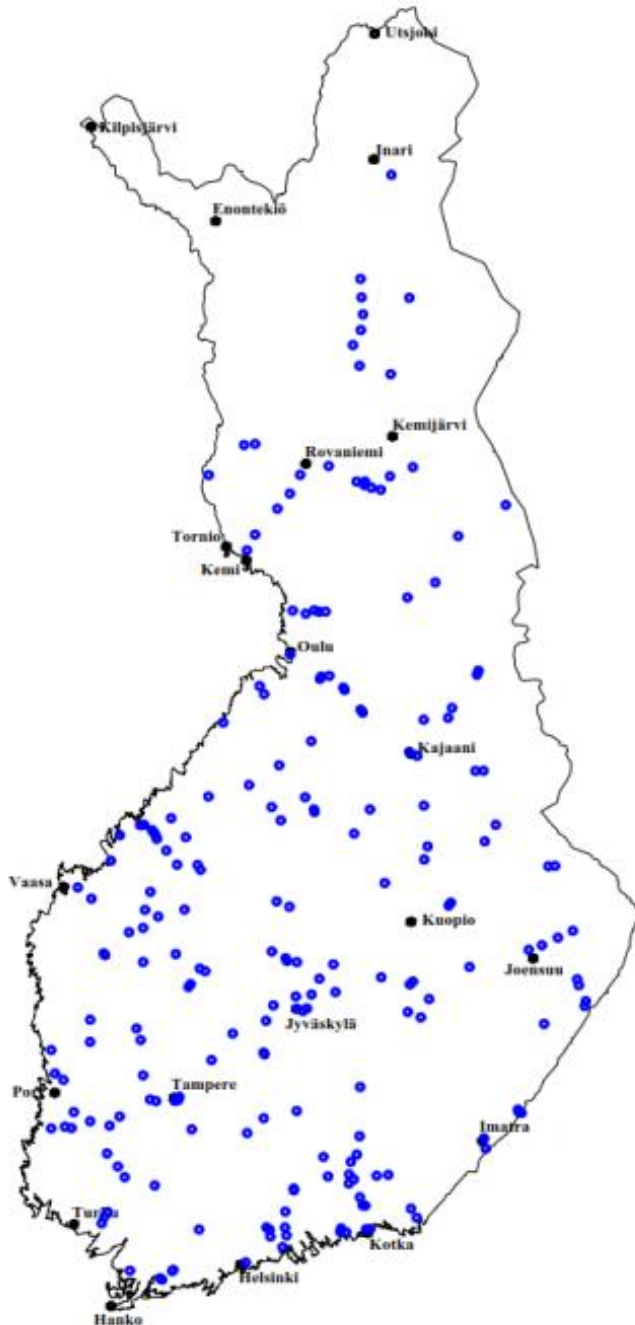
Overview

- Introduction
- Hydropower and Migratory Fish in Finland
- A decade of policy steps
- Government Programme 2019 -
- How "Nousu" works
- Showcase





Background – Hydropower and migratory fish in Finland



- 19 % of Finnish electricity production in 2019 from hydropower, significant role in adjustment of power output in the energy system
- 220 hydroelectric plants with 3 200 MW output, *however* 150 less than 10 MW → 50 % of electricity generation from 12 biggest plants
- Additionally around 500 small off-grid plants
- 90 % of watercourses altered in some way, majority of migratory fish stocks are endangered



A decade of policy steps

Governments of PM Katainen/Stubb

- **National Fish Passage Strategy 2012**
- **National Salmon and Sea Trout Strategy 2013**

Government of PM Sipilä

- **Government "Spearhead Project" 2015-2019**

Government of PM Rinne/Marin

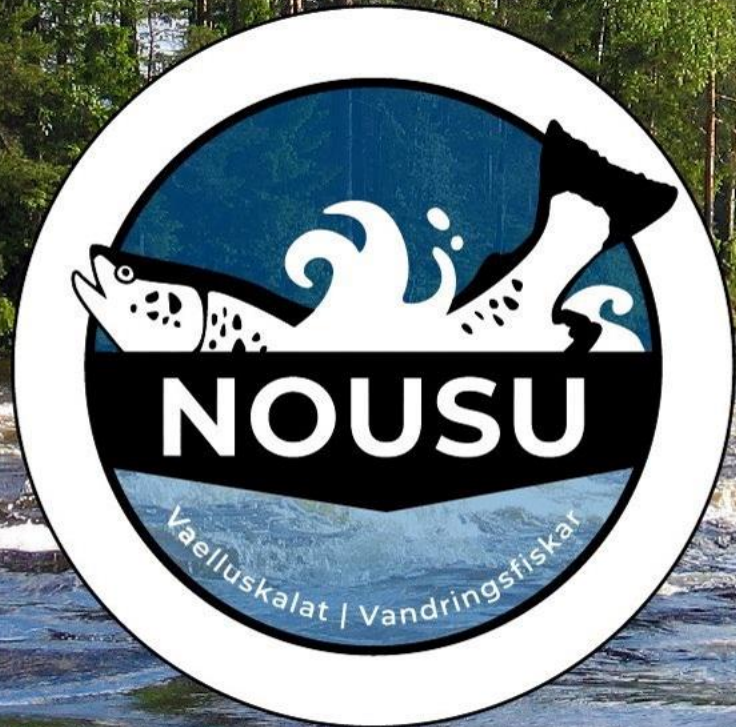
- **National Migratory Fish Programme 2019-**

Background: public debate, NGO's and activists, local level activity, company CSR, cross-party support, research...



Government Programme 2019-

- We will launch **a national programme to restore migratory fish stocks.**
 - *Restoring a natural cycle in waters with built structures will continue on the basis of the National Fish Passage Strategy.*
 - ***Migration barriers will be removed*** and fish breeding grounds restored. Solutions will be introduced to help fish get past the barriers.
 - *Migratory fish projects will be implemented through broad cooperation. Fisheries obligations will be updated by the public authorities.*
- We will update the Water Act to extend the fisheries obligations to plants with a “zero obligation”.
- **15 million euro funding for 2019-2023**



How "Nousu" works

- Partnership and cooperation
 - Key principles for funding projects:
 - Real impact
 - Broad support
 - Capable actors
 - Max 50% state aid
 - Updating of fisheries obligations
- ...What have we achieved?*



Hiitolanjoki 2019

- 3 million euro project to restore Hiitolanjoki river and to abolish 3 hydropower plants
- Endemic lake Ladoga salmon
- Nationally recognized status, long-running local support
- Funding from local authorities, WWF, private donors, companies
- Obligation to build fish passages to owner
- Plants bought by a local foundation



Saramojoki 2020

- 1,7 million euro project to restore Saramojoki river and to abolish 1 hydropower plant
- Opens 120 kilometers of potential spawning ground for brown trout
- Initiative from plant owner, Pohjois-Karjalan Sähkö, faced with the option of renovating the plant





Kuusinkijoki 2021

- 4 million euro project to restore river Kuusinkijoki and circumvent 1 hydropower plant
- Nationally recognized status as a habitat for brown trout, **World Flyfishing Championships host in 2021**
- Initial agreement of purchase from owner, fundrasing still ongoing:
www.kuusinkijoki.fi

...And many more bubbling under!



Key takeaways

Building a support base both nationally and locally

Adopting supporting policies and strategies

Working together with broad set of actors

Multiplying state aid with fundraising

Combining voluntary and regulatory measures

Local successes can inspire nationally

...It helps having 1,6 million recreational fishers!