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River Torne 7.4.2024

Finland have switsched the quotas for the protection of salmon to tradable commodities

In 2017, Finland switched to a system created by The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland (MAF), where Finland's national salmon quotas made to protect salmon were made to transferable invidual quotas for commersial fisheries. That is, to tradable commodities, with 10 years options.

Consequently, salmon quotas have been transferred, exchanged and sold in Finland for seven years. Since the system is classified (invoking trade secrets), we do not know the transfer prices or the total amount spent on transfers during these years.

The fact is, if salmon fishing is completely banned in the Bothnian Sea, the value of these secret salmon quotas distributed to the fisheries become worthless. This is the real reason, for which MAF needs an exemption from the salmon fishing ban in the Bothnian Sea.

As you know, the situation of the Baltic salmon is very worrying. Last summer, Baltic Sea salmon stocks fared much worse than in 2010, when we wrote to European Commissioner Ms. Maria Damanaki: even if all the salmon had been caught in the Baltic Sea, they would not have been enough to fill the quotas.

Hard restrictions of the salmon quotas in 2012 and the spring fishing ban and catch time limits (graphic) in The Gulf of Bothnia set in the 90s and valid until 2017 saved Torneriver's native salmon. MAF removed 2017 the spring fishing ban and salmon fishing time limits. The consequences are visible.

Only 20,000 salmon got here in our Torneriver, when the minimum spawning population is set at 44,000 salmon. Our biggest concern is for Torneriver's only native stock of large salmon, which are the first to migrate in early June.

Here we attach our pictures for your information from more than ten years ago when the Baltic Sea salmon was in a situation like this. You do understand our concern when MAF now plans to organize salmon fishing in the Bothnian Sea in the name of scientific salmon fishing. Please don't agree to it.

Sincerely Yours

Tornio-Muonio River Association

Kalervo Aska
Chairman in Finland

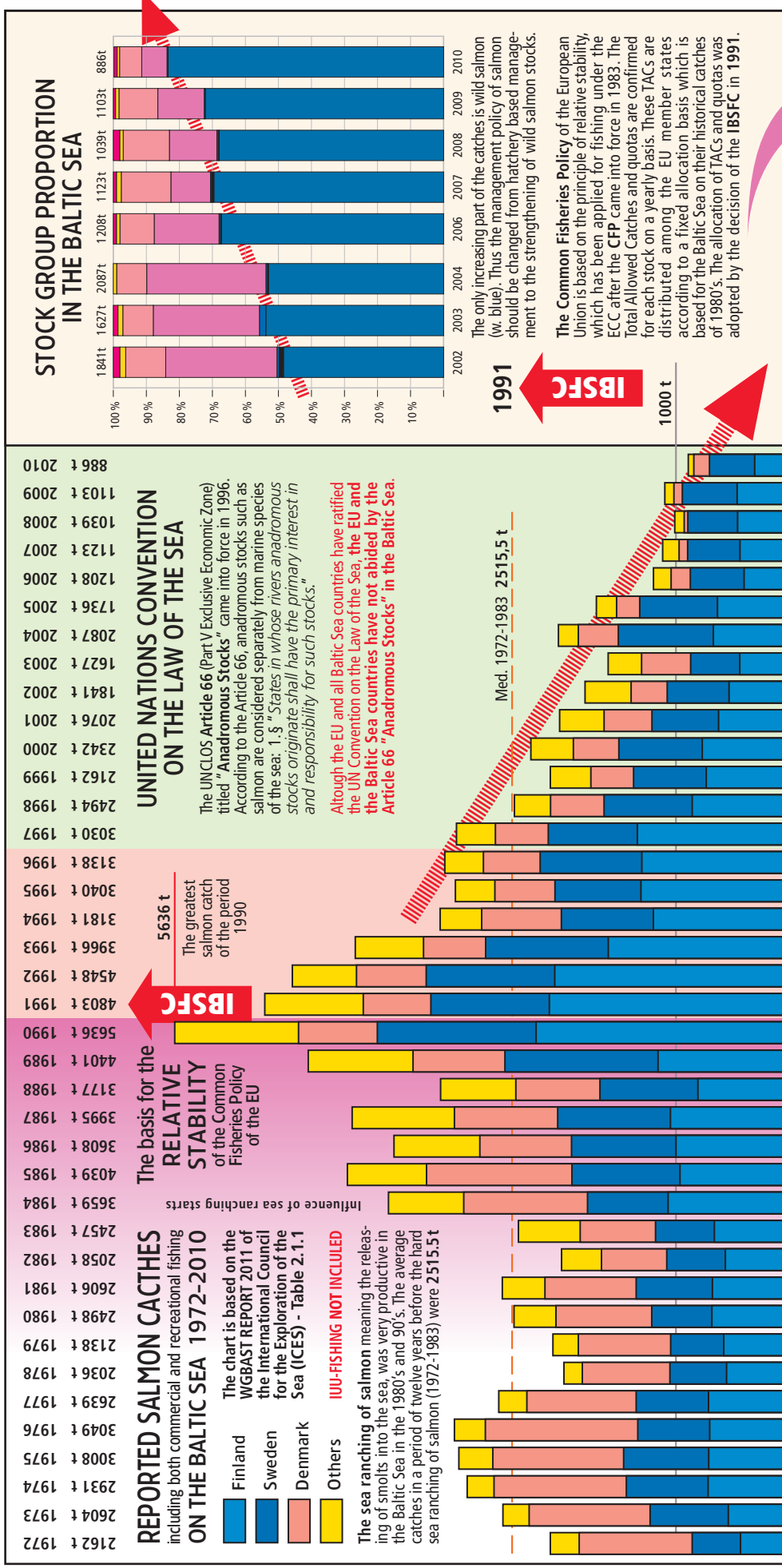
Brynolf Tjärner
Chairman in Sweden

Here we attach the statement of Ph.D. Teuvo Niva in fisheries science:

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland (MAF) is willing to open so-called scientific salmon fishing at the Bothnian Sea in 2024, because, according to MAF, our knowledge on the River Ljungan salmon fishing mortality in the Finnish fisheries is poorly known. The River Ljungan salmon stock is weak and needs protection, as ICES has noted for years. Unfortunately, MAF does not understand the basic question that should be the target for solid science. If the aim of MAF is just to find out how rare the River Ljungan salmon is in the Finnish fishery, this will result in completely unuseful information for the River Ljungan salmon protection. The River Ljungan salmon migration pattern at the sea is relatively well known. These salmon migrate not only in the Finnish side of the Bothnian Sea, but also in the Swedish side.

Therefore the only way to understand differential fishing mortality at different areas or seasons at the sea, is to run out that research in the whole sea area that River Ljungan salmon use during migration. Proportional differences in the fishing mortality by areas and/or seasons will tell where and when the River Ljungan salmon can be protected by the most effective way. MAF's plan to execute research only in the Finnish fishery is, unfortunately, an unscientific plan that will not help decision makers in the River Ljungan salmon protection.

Teuvo Niva
Ph.D. in Fisheries Science

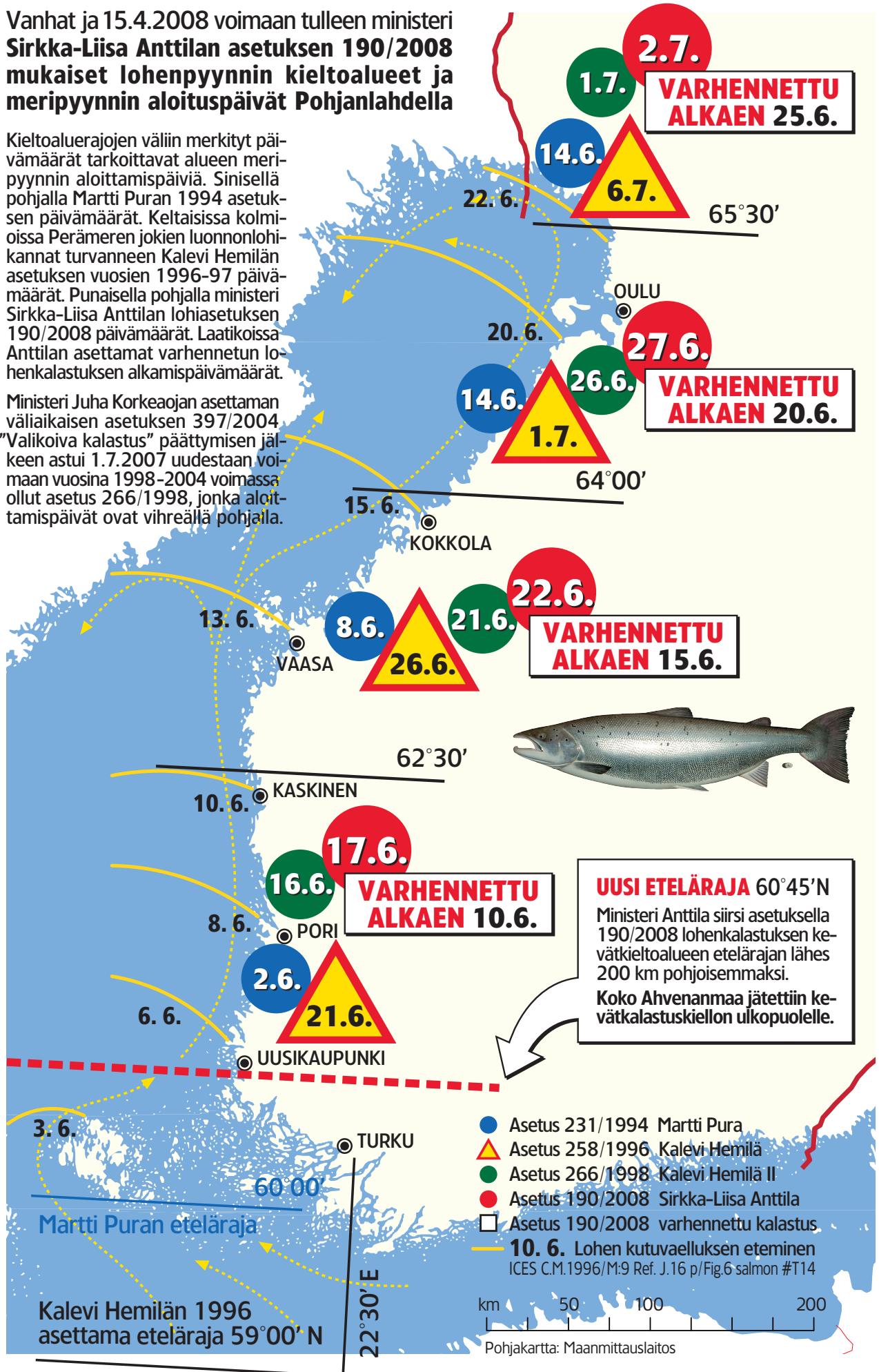


HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF SALMON FISHING IN RIVERS AND THEIR ESTUARIES

Vanhat ja 15.4.2008 voimaan tulleen ministeri Sirkka-Liisa Anttilan asetuksen 190/2008 mukaiset lohenpyynnin kieltoalueet ja meripyynnin aloituspäivät Pohjanlahdella

Kieltoaluerajojen väliin merkityt päivämäärät tarkoittavat alueen meripyynnin aloituspäiviä. Sinisellä pohjalla Martti Puran 1994 asetuksen päivämäärät. Keltaisissa kolmioissa Perämeren jokien luonnonlohikannat turvanneen Kalevi Hemilän asetuksen vuosien 1996-97 päivämäärät. Punaisella pohjalla ministeri Sirkka-Liisa Anttilan lohiasetuksen 190/2008 päivämäärät. Laatikoissa Anttilan asettamat varhennetun lohenkalastuksen alkamispäivämäärät.

Ministeri Juha Korkeaojan asettaman väliaikaisen asetuksen 397/2004 "Valikoiva kalastus" päättymisen jälkeen astui 1.7.2007 uudestaan voimaan vuosina 1998-2004 voimassa ollut asetus 266/1998, jonka aloituspäivät ovat vihreällä pohjalla.



VARHENNEDTU ALKAEN 25.6.

VARHENNEDTU ALKAEN 20.6.

VARHENNEDTU ALKAEN 15.6.

VARHENNEDTU ALKAEN 10.6.

UUSI ETELÄRAJA 60°45'N
 Ministeri Anttila siirsi asetuksella 190/2008 lohenkalastuksen kevätkieltoalueen etelärajan lähes 200 km pohjoisemmaksi.
 Koko Ahvenanmaa jätettiin kevätkalastuskiellon ulkopuolelle.

- Asetus 231/1994 Martti Pura
- ▲ Asetus 258/1996 Kalevi Hemilä
- Asetus 266/1998 Kalevi Hemilä II
- Asetus 190/2008 Sirkka-Liisa Anttila
- Asetus 190/2008 varhennettu kalastus
- 10. 6. Lohen kutuvaelluksen eteminen ICES C.M.1996/M:9 Ref. J.16 p/ Fig.6 salmon #T14

km 50 100 200

Pohjakartta: Maanmittauslaitos

Martti Puran eteläraja

Kalevi Hemilän 1996 asettama eteläraja 59°00' N