

Fischschutz contra Kormoran e.V.

Office: Iltisweg 11, 51503 Roesrath, Germany



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Raymon van Anrooy (PhD)
EIFAAC Secretary
Fisheries and Aquaculture Division (NFI)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome
Italy

Feb. 28th 2025

Subject: European inventory of fish damages caused by cormorant predation / WFD→ resulted in xxx billion € money wasted within the EU.

Dear Raymon van Anrooy,

We, Karl Friedrich Kämper, Dr. Franz Josef Lohmar and Robbert de Jonge are representing a small, well known Group trying to communicate the huge impact of the great Cormorant in Germany. We are members of the German #Fischschutz Contra Kormoran e.V. (Fishprotection contra Cormorant reg. association, <https://contra-kormoran.de>).

Franz Josef and Robbert participated the hybrid meeting in Pula under your moderation.

As we are all aware about the fish populations being reduced dramatically (by at least 90%) by thousands of cormorants mainly in the mid nineties, the numbers of fish being eaten now in the last years by cormorants is without any relevance to the amount of the mid nineties.

Thus, we are very sorry not to deliver you the required information in the requested form.

As supporting the information you are gathering, we would like to address our verbal comments on the Pula meeting:

Billions of Euros spent in the EU countries to fulfill the Water Framework Directives

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/water/water-framework-directive_en

On June 26th 2024, Pd. Dr. Carola Winkelmann did on request as an expert the presentation

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#Cormorant management – protecting biodiversity and fisheries stocks # to the Committee on the Environment and Nature Conservation in the German Bundestag.

Here she presented the **unimaginable sum of 61 Billion** of Euros Budget most of it spent already and the rest amounts being spent up to 2027 in order to fulfill the Water Framework Directives only in Germany.

Percentage of completion at project end will be sobering and not meet at all the project goals! Obviously because of the cormorant, they have largely failed to have their effect, demonstrably and for years.

We strongly recommend that you collect from all the EU countries the sum invested and spent money on the WFD and present this EU number which will be **xxx Billion €** and highlight this in your final presentation so that everybody is aware about the economical ongoing mainly uncalculable wasted investments.

Having this **xxx billion €** number being presented should underline the importance to have a Coordinated European Cormorant Management in place.

Furthermore we are convinced, that at least two other important fields of huge cormorant caused damages exist:

1. Fish population and fishery in the Baltic Sea: N. Jepsen has assessed, that an estimated 15 million cod are eaten annually by cormorants in the Danish part of Western Baltic, while total recruitment there is estimated to 4-17 million cod/year! In Germany a new project starts to investigate the causality at the German coast of the Baltic Sea.

2. The Restoration of Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) within the Rhine system is at the brink of failure due to cormorant predation: Smolts are predated up to 95% in their natal streams and along the migration route down to the sea at the Haringvliet and the port of Rotterdam! Thus, we are wasting

- Millions of Euros for removing obstacles, river restoration, habitat improvements, salmon rearing and stocking etc.
- Millions of man hours, engagement and enthusiasm from volunteers all over the Rhine system.

As the financial impact and the destructed bio diversity is that huge, a strong leadership to advice, bundle, coordinate activities on highest European levels is absolutely necessary.

Be aware, that many obstacles and interests will hit up.

Be aware that probably persons and organizations installed have no interest that measures to be installed will destroy their jobs when a working cormorant management is in place which automatically will recover the fish populations and working bio diversity in a short time without huge unplannable investments.

To achieve synergies we would recommend to disseminate these ideas and to invite other stakeholders, who perhaps play a role in the cormorant ./ fish conflict on the European level, e.g.:

Søren Gade, DK: Member of the European Parliament; Deputy Chairman of the Fisheries Committee

Frank Vassen: Nature Protection, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission

We hope that you share our view and can level up the importance with our input given. We can when appreciated provide you relevant studies to underline our statements.

Best regards,

Karl Friedrich Kämper
(President)