



LIFE09 NAT/SE/000344 "Management of the invasive raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) in the north-European countries"

Newsletter April-June 2012

- 5 telephone meetings with the national project leaders have been conducted, normally every second Tuesday.
- Steering group meeting in Vasa, Finland 25-26 April with excursion to Bergö to visit the soft-catch trap test area.

### Sweden

- During this period has 282 observations been reported, 35 of them have been confirmed as raccoon dogs (RD). 11 live captured and 27 killed, 3 of them is road killed.
- 11 RD have been live captured, sterilized, equipped with GPS/SMS collars and released.
- 1 Judas animal has been killed by hunters.
- MMS-cameras with real time transmitting of pictures have significantly improved the catch and culling result.
- Active management with catching and culling is in progress with good results.
- One RD has been roadkilled the 23/5 in Borgafjäll, Västerbotten. This is the westernmost finding of the species in Sweden.
- 20 Judas animals have been active in management during the period.

### Finland:

- 58 Raccoon dogs (RD) has been terminated during the period in areas bordering Sweden. 3 reproductions found with totally 19 cubs.
- 29 RD has so far been live captured, equipped with GPS/SMS collars and released within the project. 14 Judas animals are active at the moment and 8 of them have got new transmitters during the period.
- 6 different meetings for training and education of youth, scouts and school pupils have been conducted.
- National radio has covered the project in 2 different reports.

- One article about the project in national hunting magazine and several in local papers.
- EWS-system checked, 10 000 pictures taken. 14 of the pictures was on RD,s.
- The test of "soft-catch" traps on Bergö is up and running.
- The EWS-system on Valsörarna is up and running, no RD confirmed this period.
- All project traps is placed out in the nature and the catch of RD is continuously ongoing.
- Cooperation with Forststyrelsen, Kemijoki oy, Finnish Hunters Association and the LIFE-project [www.kosteikko.fi](http://www.kosteikko.fi).



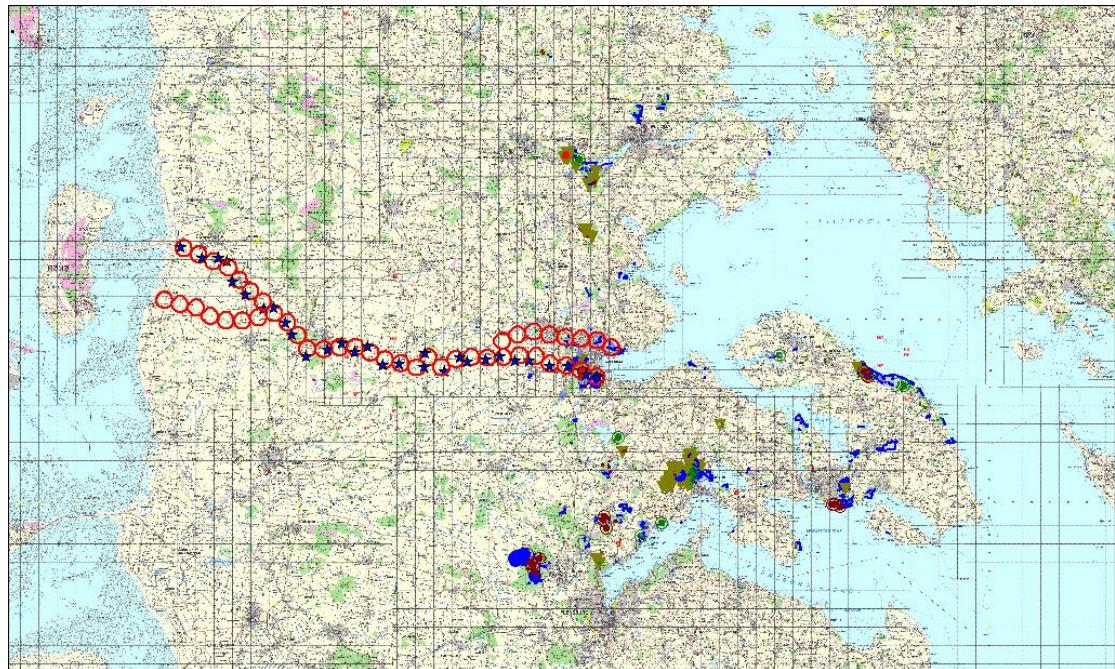
Lesson for school kids on raccoon dog management in Finland. Photo: LIFE09 NAT/SE/000344 (2010-2013) project.

#### Denmark:

- 13 adult RD and 21 juvenile RD have been live captured since the end of March. 4 of the adult were put in the hotel waiting to be released as GPS animals and the rest – both adult and juvenile - have been killed immediately after the catch. In addition to this we also has received report of 8 adult and 16 juvenile RD shot during private hunting or found as traffic killed animals.
- In the period since the end of March we have often had several sterilised RD in the hotel waiting for a GPS collar. The reason for this is that the amount of collars is too few and it also takes a long time shipping collars back and forth between Denmark and Sweden. Therefore the numbers of sterilised RD has now been decreased to avoid this problem.

During the this period we have lost 8 GPS animals; 1 in traffic, 1 was shot during private hunt, 2 was wounded and found dead, 2 killed in project and 2 was lost because of lost contact with the GPS collar.

- There have still been no pictures of RD on the cameras from the EWS-system near the German border. In order to optimize the system two new strings of cameras will be established. This is decided due to the fact that the GPS RDs that have crossed the border to Germany have followed the coastline. See map below.



The EWS in the western part of Denmark near Vest Stadil Fjord are still in progress, and we have decided to put up 25 cameras in this system. There have already been pictures of RDs on the first few cameras that have been put up in this area.

- Since we started the telephone line for reporting observations of RD there has weekly been reported between 5-15 observations by the public. Our experience is that only a few of the reported observations are of RD. In all near by 300 observations have been reported by phone or e-mail in 2012.
- In the end of March we held a short dog training course for the field staff and a few hunters who work as volunteers for the project. The courses went very well, and all the participants felt that it had been a good and useful experience.
- In April we attended a large hunting fair in Odense. One of the field staff gave a presentation of the project on stage.

Norway:

- No confirmed raccoon dog activity in Norway during the period and we do our best to keep it that way.