



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

Newsletter October-December 2011

6 telephone meetings with the national project leaders have been conducted during the period

9-10 November: The project steering group had the biannual meeting this time at the County Administrative Board in Skåne County.

Sweden

3-7 October: Training of project workers dogs.

November, field workers rabies vaccination was boosted.

- 66 observations of raccoon dogs (RD) have been reported, 31 of them have been confirmed. 14 alive and 17 killed.
- 14 RD have been live captured, sterilized, equipped with GPS/SMS collars and released.
- 1 Judas animal has been killed by traffic.
- The Early Warning System (EWS- camera system) is fully operative. A mean number of 2 RD was captured by the primary EWS camera system (150 cameras) per system check (once / month).
- Active management with catching and culling is in progress with good results.
- Norwegian television has visited and made a program about the project, one RD was captured with the use of a judas animal during the recording.

Finland:

- The national management plan is published
- 24 RD is tagged with transmitters
- 9 transmitters has been replaced due to lack of battery
- 2 judas animals has been road killed
- 2 judas animals has been killed by hunters

- 1 judas animal has been lost, no contact during long time
- Several litters of RD is found with the help from judas animals
- EWS-system checked 6 times, a total of 23552 pictures. 3068 pictures of animals
- Active information in media
- Cooperation between Metsähallitus and the Finnish Hunters Society has been established.
- Education of hunters in Lapland has been conducted?
- 122 RD's has been killed in the project area
- Trichins and sarcoptic mange is the only parasites found in the killed animals
- Norwegian television recorded material about hunting of RD, 14 RD,s was killed on 3 days of hunting
- Test of a new innovative type of game camera is in progress
- EWS in the archipelago outside of Vasa is fully operative, no presence of RD noticed
- A test of scent lures on Åland is in progress
- All traps in the project are now active in the management.

Denmark:

- 22 RD have been live captured since September. 12 have been released as GPS animals, 5 are in the hotel waiting to be released as GPS animals and the rest have been killed. From December till February most of the Judas-animals had paired up with new animals sometime, which means that the method is very effective this time of year
During the last period we lost 4 GPS animals, 1 in traffic, 2 was shot and 1 was lost in a storm in November.
- There have still been no pictures of RD on the cameras from the EWS near the German border. The EWS in the north-western part of Denmark is in progress and no RD pictures yet.
- In October and November we held two short courses for hunters. The courses went very well, and the hunters are now helping as voluntary fieldworkers, both putting up cameras, traps and helping tracking the GPS RD's.
- The Danish Nature Agency has decided to establish a RD hotline, where the public can call and report observations of RD. The hotline has been running since the 10th of December with good results.
- There has also been made a new webpage about the LIFE project and the RD in general on the Danish Nature Agency homepage
<http://www.naturstyrelsen.dk/Naturbeskyttelse/invasivearter/Arter/Dyrearter/Maarhund/>
- One of the GPS animals has showed the species remarkable capacity to cross vast water surfaces, when swimming over the Little Belt as showed in the picture below.



Norway:

- No confirmed activity of wild RD in Norway during this time.
- In Åseral municipality 4 RD's, 4 Raccoons and 3 Ring-tailed Coatis was found as illegal pets in a household. This is in the same municipality were a Raccoon was killed in the wild during the summer. The illegal pets was killed and examined by the Norwegian authorities, picture below. The RD's was adults but the females had not reproduced. No Echinococcus was found in the intestines and faeces of the animals. In the Raccoons, the nematode *Baylisascaris procyonis* was found. A parasite with strong potential for zoonoses. One RD from this holding was not found and is probably at large in the area.

