

Reducing the Conflict between Cormorants and Fisheries on a pan-European Scale (REDCAFE)

INTRODUCTION

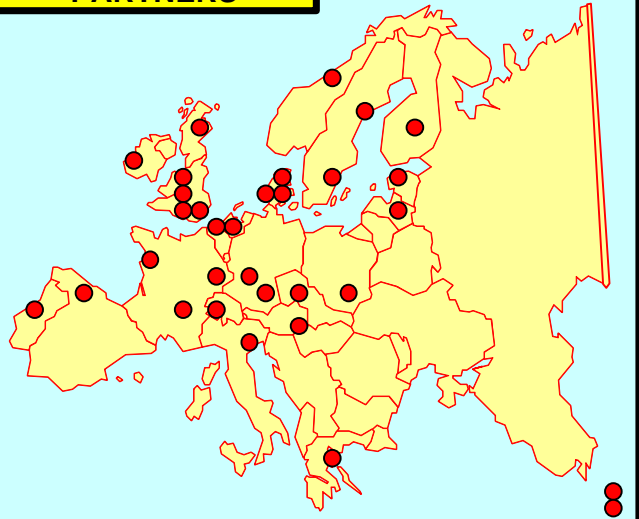
Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) numbers have increased dramatically across Europe in recent years, from 800 pairs in two colonies in the Netherlands in the early 1960s to over 150 000 pairs throughout the region in the 1990s. These birds are generalist fish predators and forage in shallow coastal areas, lakes, rivers and at aquaculture facilities. Their increasing numbers and geographical spread has led to a growing number of conflicts with commercial fisheries and recreational angling interests. **REDCAFE**, an EU Framework 5 Concerted Action, was established to resolve such conflicts.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

At a pan-European level, **REDCAFE** will:

- synthesise conflicts in relation to fishery type, geographical and temporal trends, fish species and quantify economic losses
- synthesise relevant aspects of Cormorant ecology
- evaluate the efficacy and cost effectiveness of management tools from site-specific to the population-level
- apply Multiple Criteria Decision Modelling to a particular conflict case study

PARTNERS



Crucified Cormorant: a potent symbol of the pan-European cormorant/fisheries conflict. © Erich Prowald

APPROACH

REDCAFE will, for the first time, bring together all the relevant stakeholders to discuss and report on conflicts between Cormorants and fisheries. It will include a number of electronic discussions and international meetings. Stakeholders include:

- commercial and recreational fishermen
- aquaculturists
- avian/wetland conservationists
- fisheries scientists
- avian ecologists
- socio-economists

DELIVERABLES

REDCAFE provides stakeholders with a rigorous, co-ordinated and equitable framework for resolving pan-European Cormorant/fishery conflicts. It is an inclusive and open to any relevant stakeholders and individuals. A key to the the project's success will lie in full information dissemination at the local, national and international level. To this end a project web site will be established to allow maximum participation and information dissemination. Further details on any aspect of this project are available from the **REDCAFE** co-ordinator (details below).