



Coordination of EU WFD and BD strategy implementation – Case Finland

Turo Hjerppe, senior specialist, Ministry of the Environment

Jouni Tammi, senior specialist, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Matti Vaittinen, project coordinator, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

European Rivers Symposium, Session 1: How can the EU Biodiversity
Strategy help achieve the WFD objectives?

26th May 2021

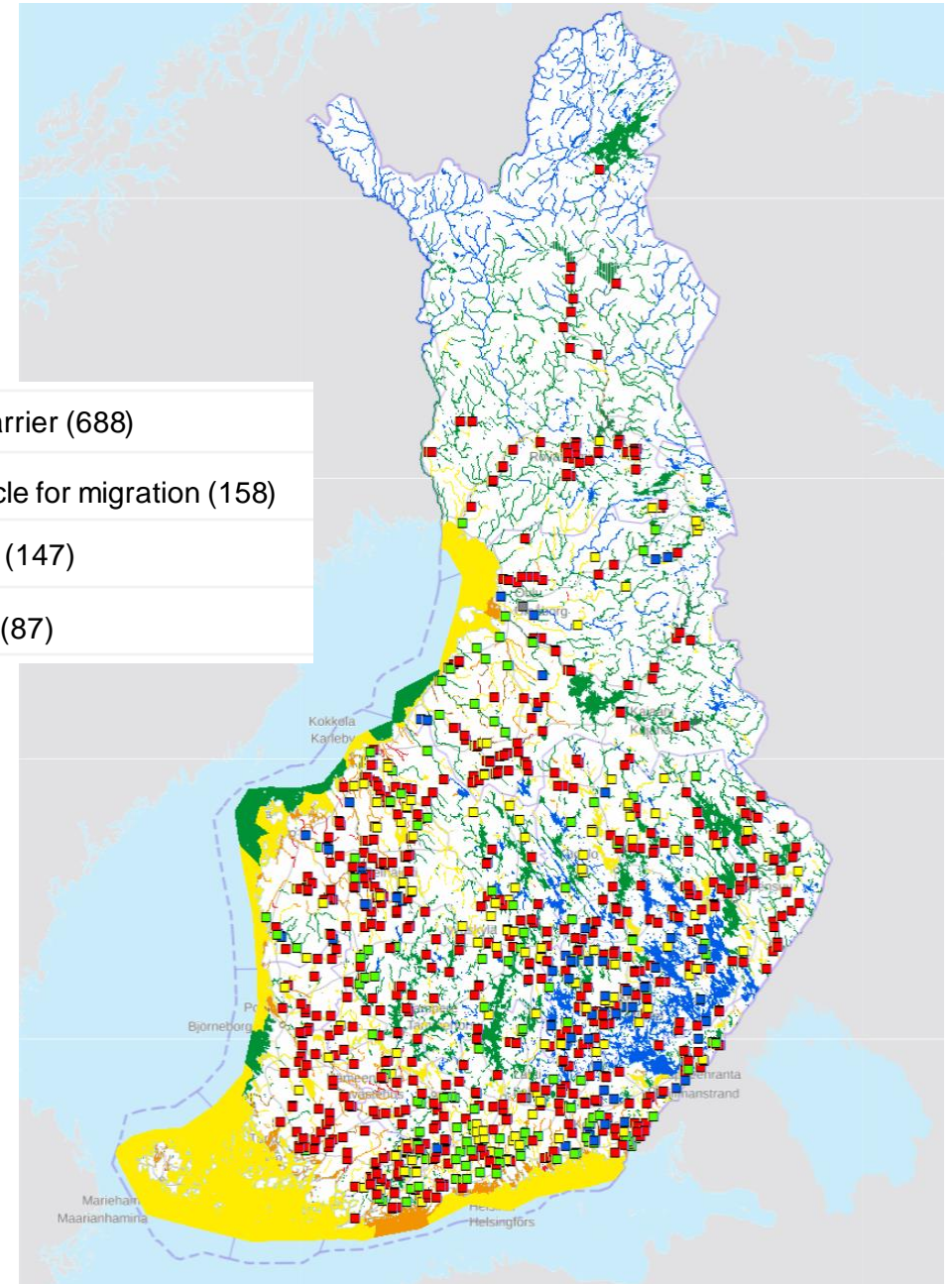
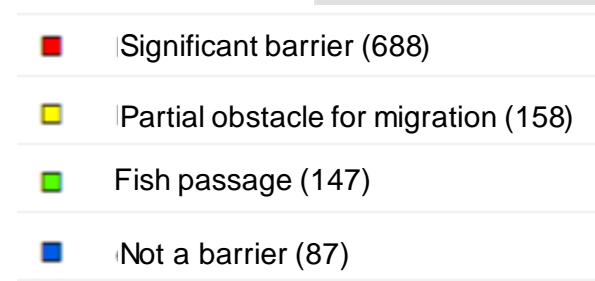
WFD and EU biodiversity strategy

- Objectives of the biodiversity strategy
 - 30 % protected areas both for terrestrial and marine ecosystems
 - Restoration targets: restoring at least **25,000 km** of EU rivers to a free-flowing state
 - Also many other objectives linked to WFD
- Objective of the WFD is to achieve good status of all water bodies
- Rivers in Finland
 - ~21 000 km of rivers (catchment area > 100 km²)
 - > 100 000 km of brooks and smaller streams (catchment area < 100 km²)
 - 1960 river stretches delineated as water bodies (23 000 km)



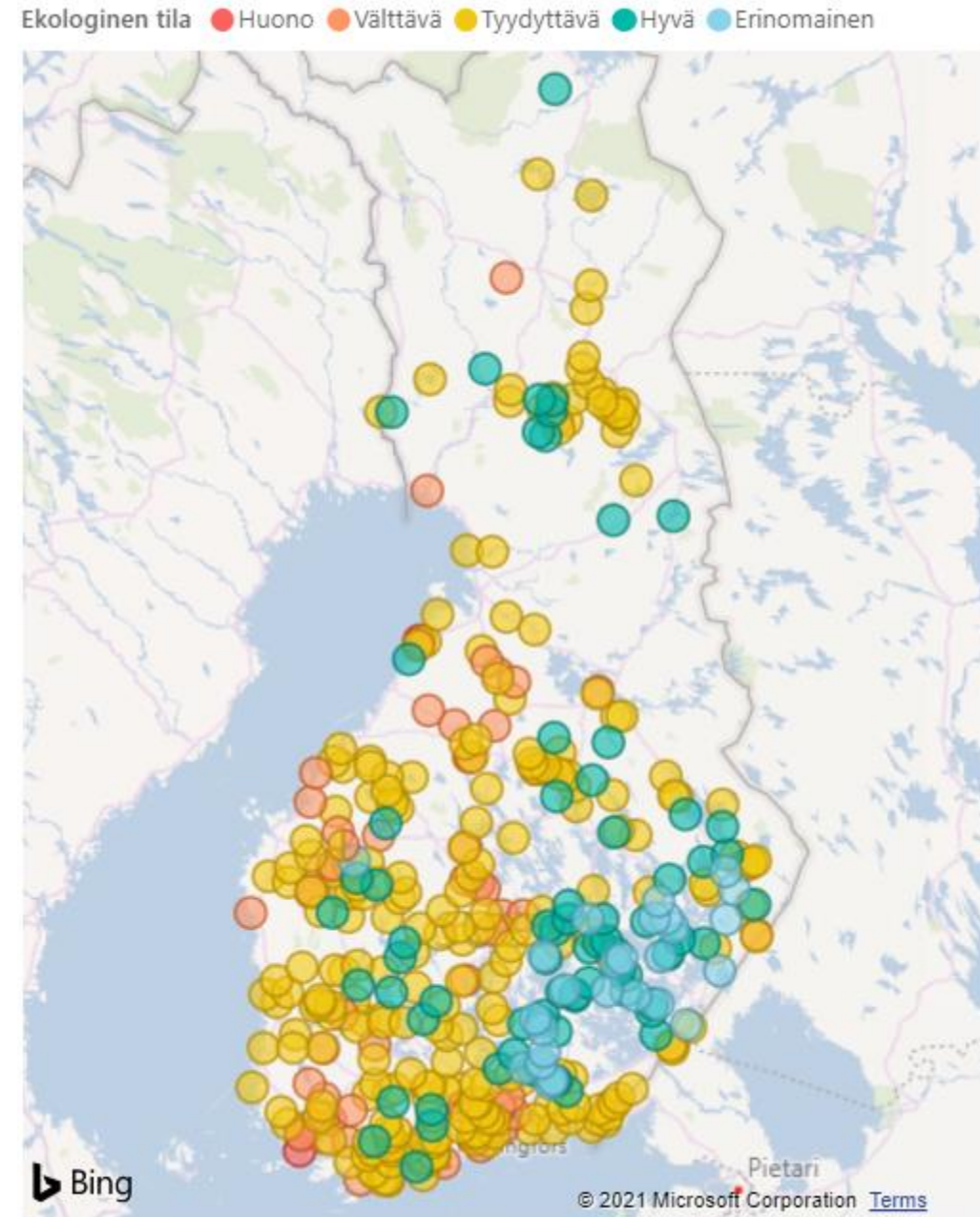
Migration barriers

- Mapping of migration barriers within river basin management plans
- In total 1 080 obstacles
- Inventory updated at least every six years
- At least ~60 of the barriers are obsolete
- If including small waters:
 - number of known obstacles > 4 000



Water bodies with barriers named as significant pressure

- 360 water bodies in total
- 113 named as heavily modified or artificial
- Main uses are hydropower and flood protection

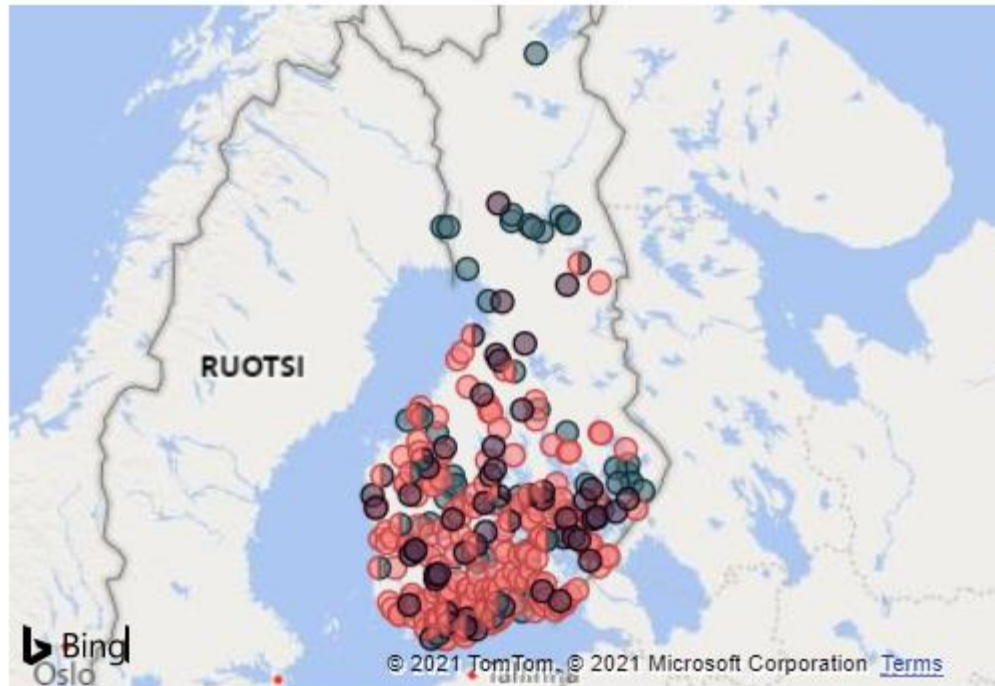


Planned measures for 2022-2027

Measures to improve fish migration

- Drop height >5 m: 77 obstacles
- Drop height 1-5 m: 295 obstacles
- Drop height <1 m: 73 obstacles

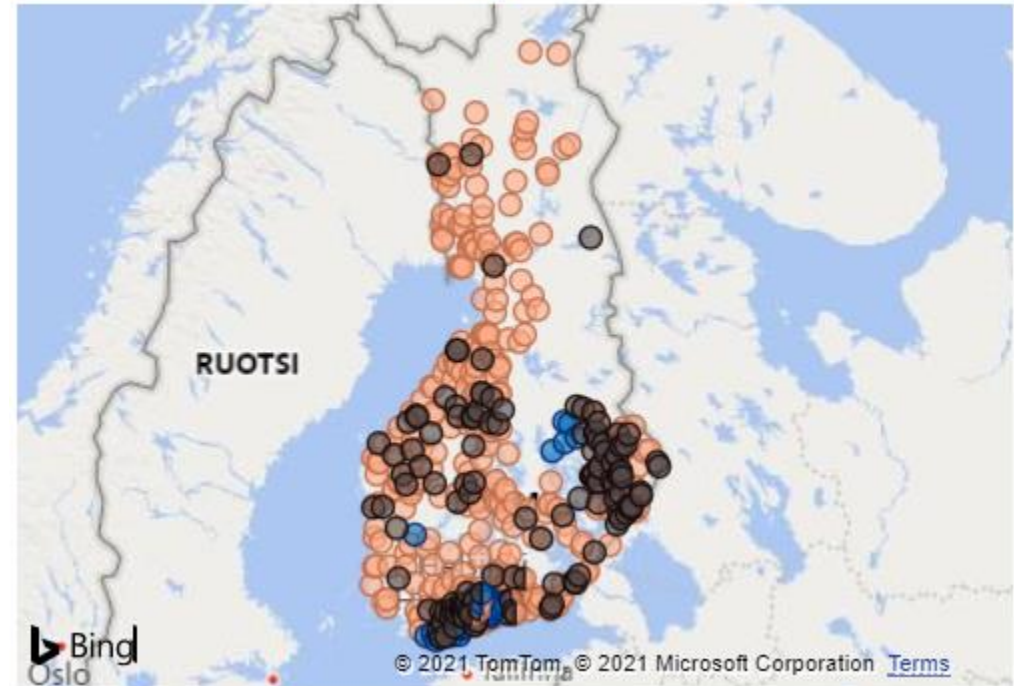
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Measures for habitat restoration in rivers

- Restoration of rivers: 329 water bodies
- Restoration of small rivers: 230 water bodies
- Restoration of brooks: 152 water bodies

Toimenpide ● Joen elinympäristök... ● Pienten virtavesie... ● Puron elinym...



2021
2020
2019

A phenomenon of dam removal has started in Finland

Kuusamo

Ympäristö

Hiitolanjoen kosket vapaaksi vesivoimasta: Laatokan lohelle ja taimenelle aukeaa väylä Suomeen

Ympäristö 23.07.2019
Terhi Torikka

Itärajalla sijaitseva Hiitolanjoki vapautuu pian vesivoima-
tuotannosta uhanalaisten vaelluskalojen käyttöön.

Erä

UPM hakee purkulupaa Sotkamon Sapsokosken vanhan myllypadon ja myllyn purkamiseksi

Erä 05.02.2019
Sari Penttinen

Pato muodostaa Sapsokoskeen vaellusesteen kaloille ja muulle
vesieliöstölle.

JAANA KANKAANPÄÄ



Yn
Mil
Mir

Implementation of the measures

- National fish passage strategy 2012
- National salmon and sea trout strategy 2014
- Revision of Fishing Act 2015

Shift in fisheries management towards
natural life cycle of fish stocks

- Migratory fish program NOUSU, 2020 →

- Objectives

- Support the implementation of fish passage strategy (fish passages and downstream migration structures)
 - Removal of barriers
 - Habitat restoration

- Funding 12 M€ for 2020-2023, ~50% is allocated (4/2021)

- 4 projects on fish passages, 3 on removal of barriers and 8 R&D projects
 - Several projects under preparation
 - Funding from NOUSU program 20-50 % of total costs per project



River Hiitolanjoki - paving the way for new era in river restoration

- Transboundary river between Finland and Russia
- Spawning area of endangered landlocked salmon (*Salmo salar m. sebago Girard*) and brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) in Lake Ladoga
- No barriers in Russian side, three hydropower plants in Finnish side
- Fishway obligation for hydropower companies in 2019
- Removal of barriers in 2021-2023
- Cooperation of private actors and funding with public bodies and foundations



Further attention needed in implementation

- Key success factors for removal of barriers
 - Wide cooperation between public and private sector, including NGOs and academy
 - Creating positive atmosphere around river restoration and dam removal
- Issues to be further considered in removal of barriers
 - Ecological prioritisation to support the biodiversity strategy?
 - Institutional solutions required for dam removal, especially for obsolete barriers?
 - Data management and data gaps?
- Other aspects of freshwater biodiversity?



Thank you!

Turo Hjerppe
Senior specialist,
Ministry of the Environment
p. +358 50 310 5707
turo.hjerppe@ym.fi



Ympäristöministeriö
Miljöministeriet
Ministry of the Environment

Aleksanterinkatu 7, Helsinki | PL 35, FI-00023 Valtioneuvosto | ym.fi



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