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# Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) surveillance in Finland

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# Surveillance programme for CWD in 2018

- Aim to get 3000 samples from wild cervids and reindeer and as many as possible from farmed deer during 2018-2020
- 100 PSUs, 30 samples per PSU
  - All reindeer herding associations selected as PSUs (54)
  - 45 game management associations selected randomly as PSUs
  - 100th PSU is Åland Island
- Deer farms in Finland keep only fallow deer → sampling from farm animals was carried out only in zoos



# TSE case in moose in Finland

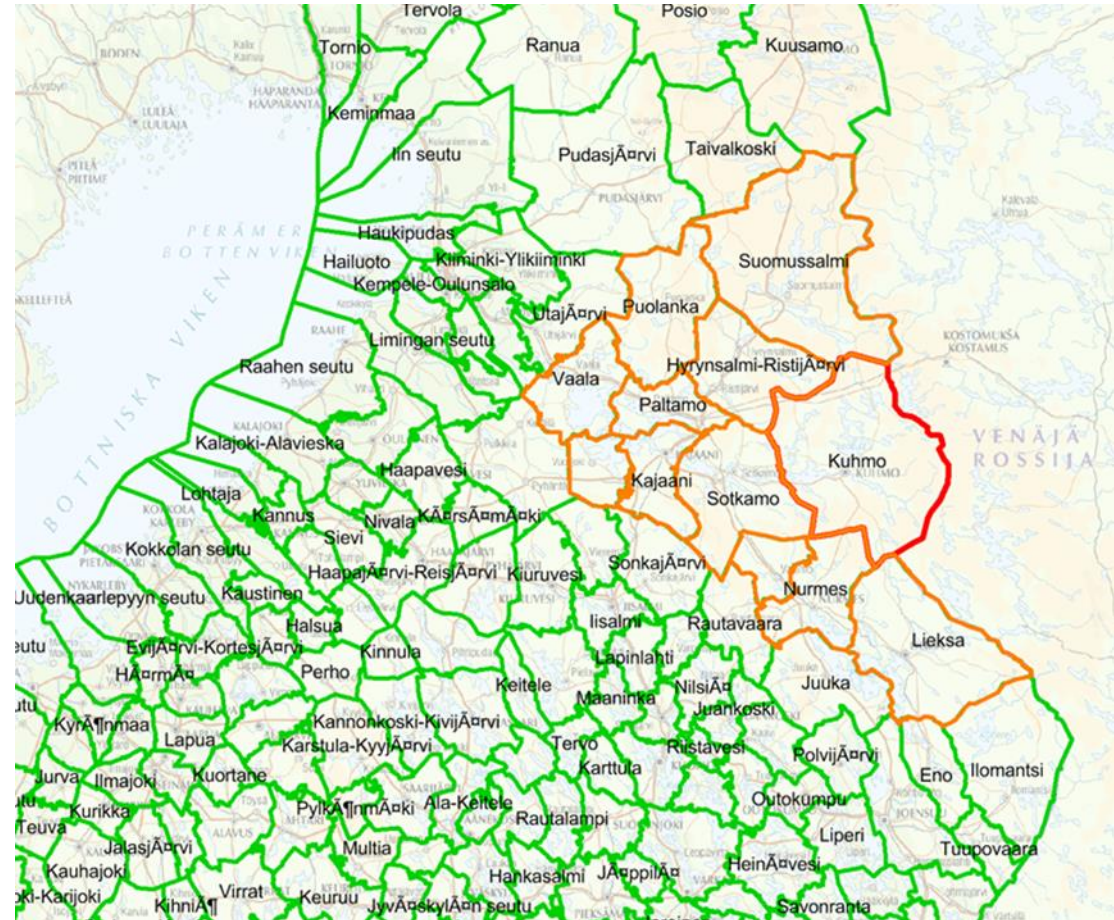
- First case (and so far the only) in Finland was found at the beginning of 2018
- Female moose around 15 years of age
- Moose was wandering in a small area for one month before it was found dead in Kuhmo near the Russian border (<10km)
- The sample was tested positive for TSE by Finnish Food Authority (former Evira) and confirmed by EURL: TSE in moose
- Obex positive, lymph nodes negative
- case shows similar features with cases of Norwegian moose





# Increased sampling in the area

- In the area surrounding the place where the Finnish TSE case in moose was found
- Three weekends:
  - 100 hunted older moose
  - all negative



Game management Associations©Finnish Wildlife Agency Pohjakartta © Karttakeskus Oy, Helsinki >> Base map © Karttakeskus Oy, Helsinki



# CWD surveillance wild cervids and reindeer 1.1.2018 - 31.12.2018

Species	Declared unfit for human consumption	Fallen	Road killed	Hunted	Predator killed	Sick animals	Culled	Total
Moose	16	34	46	99	2	45	0	242
Reindeer	3	131	80	0	48	31	1	294
Roe deer	0	18	38	1	1	5	0	63
White-tailed deer	0	10	13	1	4	22	0	50
Finnish forest reindeer	0	4	0	0	6	4	0	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>663/1*</b>

\*TSE in moose



# Challenges

- Long distances to bus stations especially in northern Finland
- The information of surveillance did not reach every hunting club
- Cardboardboxes were not suitable for wet forest → replaced by plastic boxes



# Adjustment of the CWD surveillance program 2019-2020



- Less samples received than yearly aim: 663 samples in 2018 (66%)
- At the beginning of 2019 CWD surveillance programme was expanded to comprise **entire country**
- Surveillance **target groups** include predator killed, road killed, found dead and found sick cervids and slaughtered/hunted cervids declared unfit for human consumption
- Samples from healthy or hunted animals as well as samples from animals under one year are unfit for the programme
- 50 € reward for hunters sending heads for surveillance
- Reward is not paid for reindeer samples



# CWD surveillance wild cervids and reindeer 1.1.2019 - 31.8.2019

Species	Declared unfit for human consumption	Fallen	Road killed	Hunted	Predator killed	Sick animals	Culled	Total
Moose	0	27	50	4	1	23	0	105
Reindeer	9	46	129	4	90	25	4	307
Roe deer	0	14	108	2	4	9	0	137
White-tailed deer	0	6	44	3	3	16	0	72
Finnish forest reindeer	0	3	1	0	2	2	0	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>629</b>





**Thank you!**  
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Moose (*Alces alces*) Photo Mika Flöjt