

Facts about Finland

- Parliamentary republic, independent since 1917
- 338,000 sq. km, 5.4 million people, Capital: Helsinki
- Official languages: Finnish, Swedish, Sami
- Four seasons
- “Every man’s right”: Walking in the forest, berry and mushroom picking free
- Land owner owns hunting rights



Finnish hunting

- 300.000 hunters (19.000 female hunters)
- Most people positive or neutral to hunting (80 %)
- Anti-hunting groups a reality
- Rifle, shotgun and bow allowed
- No handguns or crossbows
- Trapping



Land of hunting clubs

- Hunting is a national hobby
- 1,5 mill families eat game meat at least once a year
- 80% of hunters are members of hunting clubs
- Hunting clubs rent hunting rights from landowners
- State land (10 mill. hectares) common heritage
- 70% of hunters prefer hunting with dogs
- Very few commercial hunting operators



Bow hunting

- 10.000 bow hunters
- Compound bow is the most popular, longbows and recurves are increasing in popularity
- The minimum 40 lbs
- Crossbows not allowed in hunting
- All small game up to roe deer



Hunting season

- Peagon season starts August 10th
- Some animals require special licenses (moose, bear, lynx, wolf, seal)
- Some predators can be hunted all year round
e.g. raccoon dog and fox



Game in Finland

- Moose (40,000–80,000 a year)
- White-tailed deer (20,000–25,000 a year)
- Mallard (>200,000) and hare (200,000)
- Capercaillie, black grouse, willow grouse valued high
- Large carnivores: brown bear and lynx
- Geese



Finnish specialities

- All four European large carnivore species: brown bear, lynx, wolf, and wolverine
- White-tailed deer
- Last viable populations of Finnish forest reindeer
- Seals
- American beaver
- Raccoon dog



Finnish Hunters' Association

- The biggest lobbying organization for hunting and hunters in Finland
- Founded in 1921
- Members:
 - 16 districts
 - 2 600 hunting clubs
 - 158,000 hunters



Activities

- Lobbying
- Member services and assistance
- Education and training
- Youth activities
- Game shooting competitions
- Communications
- International co-operation



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Hunting is a part of
our culture

Bear sculpting
World
Championships
In Finland 20-23
August 2014



SUOMEN
METSÄSTÄJÄLIITTO
FINLANDS JÄGARFÖRBUND

Nordic concerns

- Urbanisation and the alienation from sustainable use
- Natura 2000
- EU involvement in hunting issues (Wolf management, Aarhus convention (Swe), Common eider (Fi), Compensation of game damages (Fi), management of grey seals (Baltic Sea))
- Large carnivore management
- Threats to the use of free-roaming hunting dogs
- Recrutement of new hunters