

ARTIC FOX IN FENNOSCANDIA



Tuomo Ollila

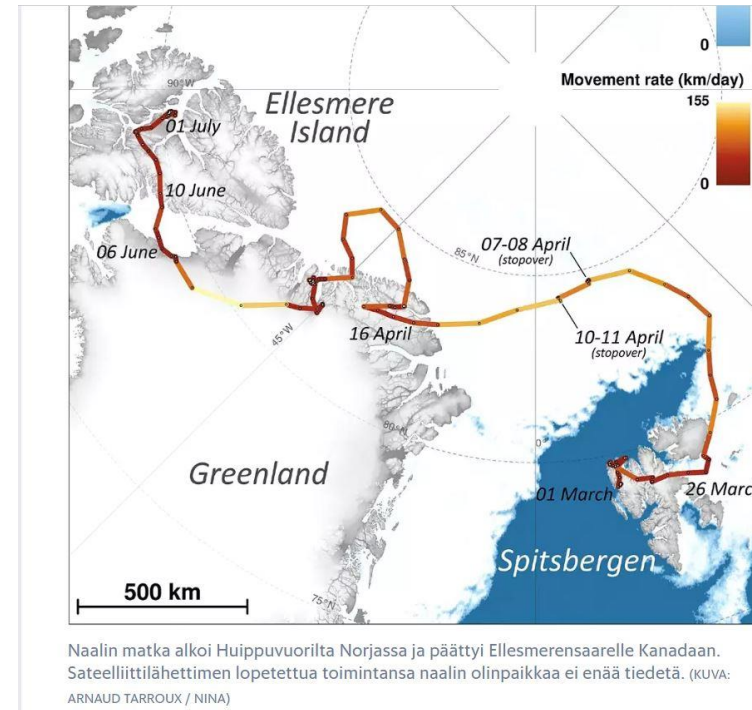
Kuva: Hannu Huttu

DISTRIBUTION IN ARTIC



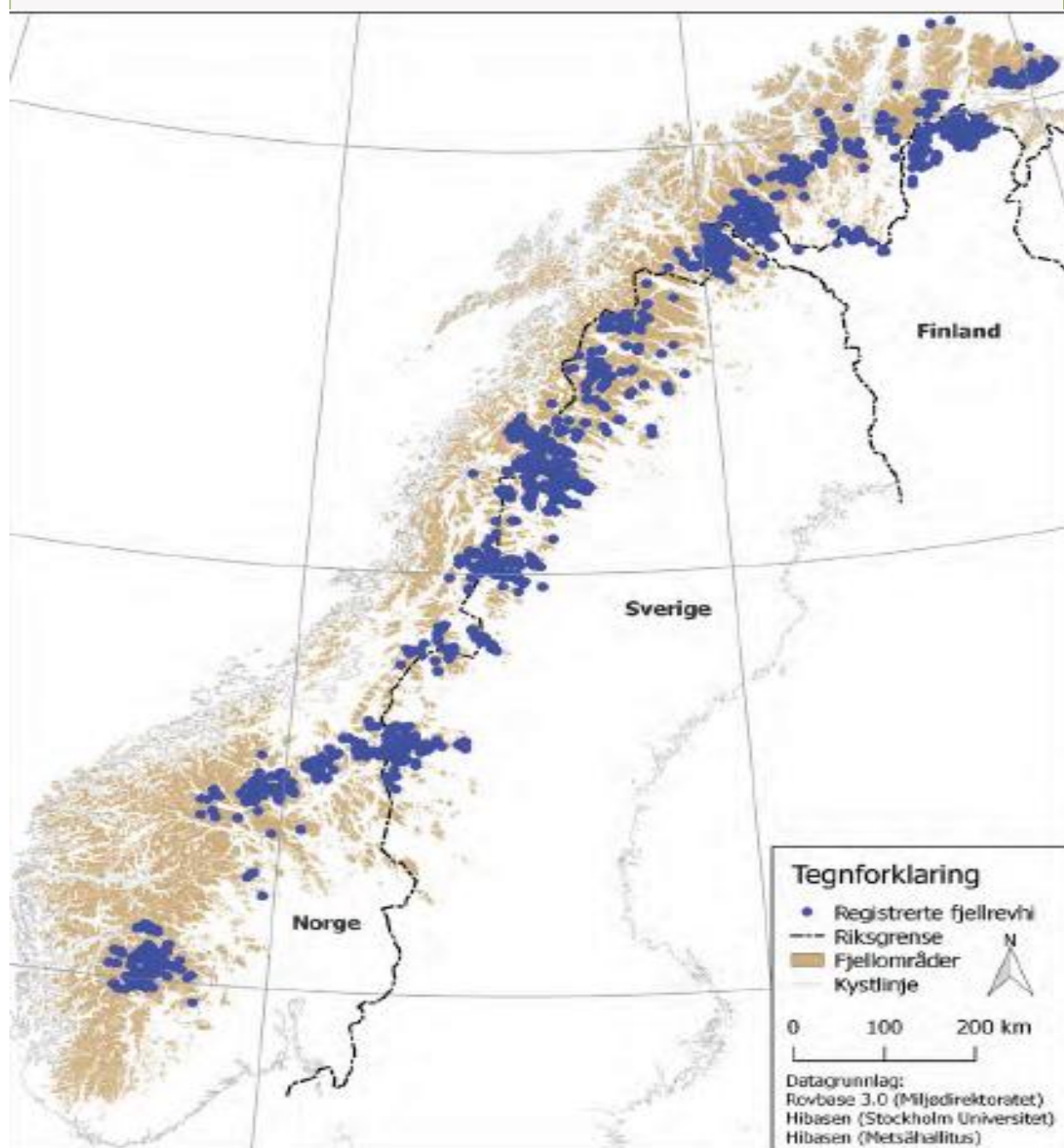
MOVEMENTS

- ▶ Young female with transmitter
- ▶ From Svalbard to Ellesmere Island in Canada
- ▶ 76 days and 4300 km

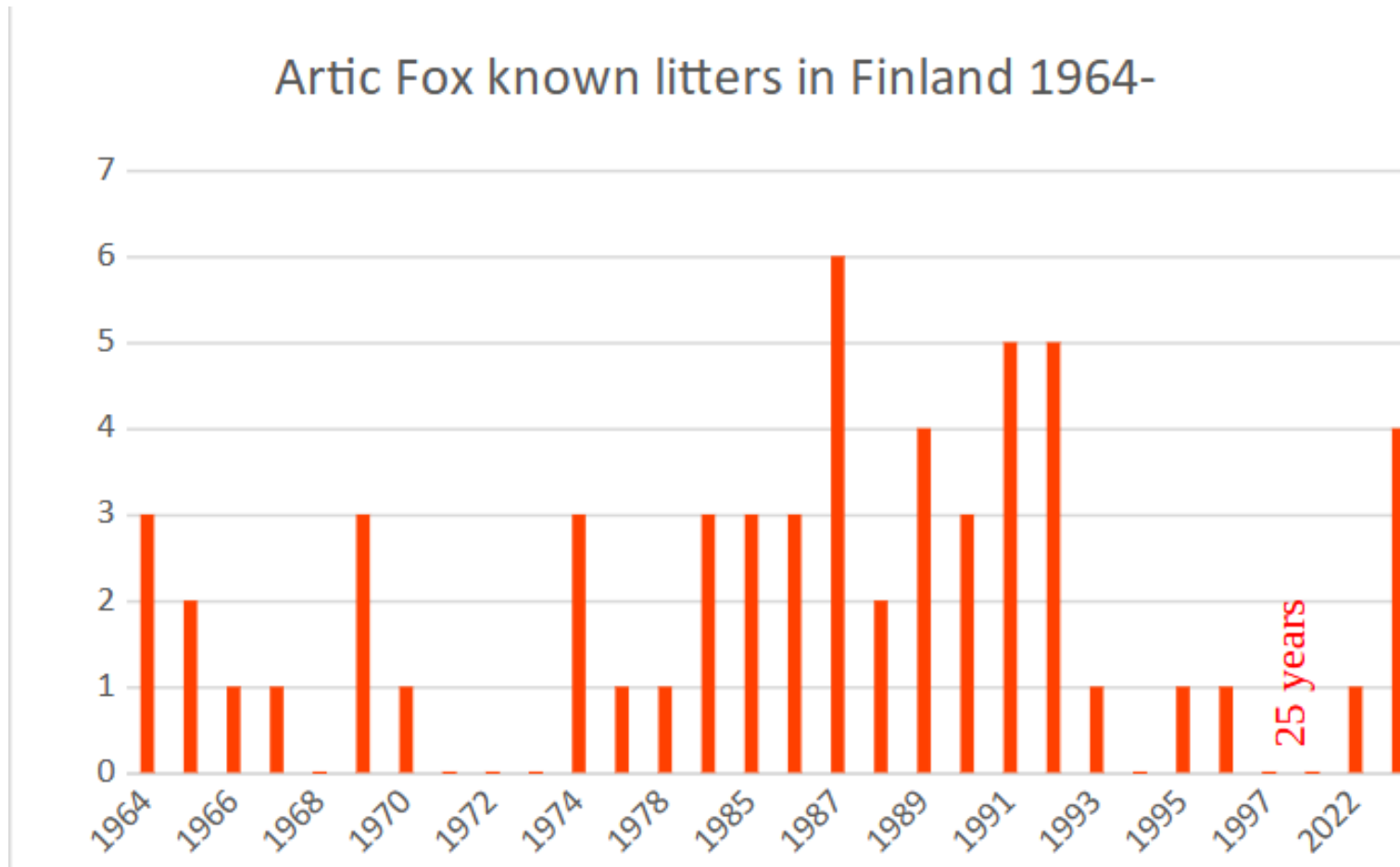


ARTIC FOX IN FENNOSCANDIA

- In the 19th century some thousands adult AF
- Rapid decline at the beginning of 20th century for heavy hunting
 - Hunting was benned
 - Sweden 1928
 - Norway 1930
 - Finland 1940
- At the beginning of 21th century only 40-60 adult AF
- Today about 550 adult and population is incresing
- In Finland Critical endangered CR
- In Sweden and Norway Endangered EN

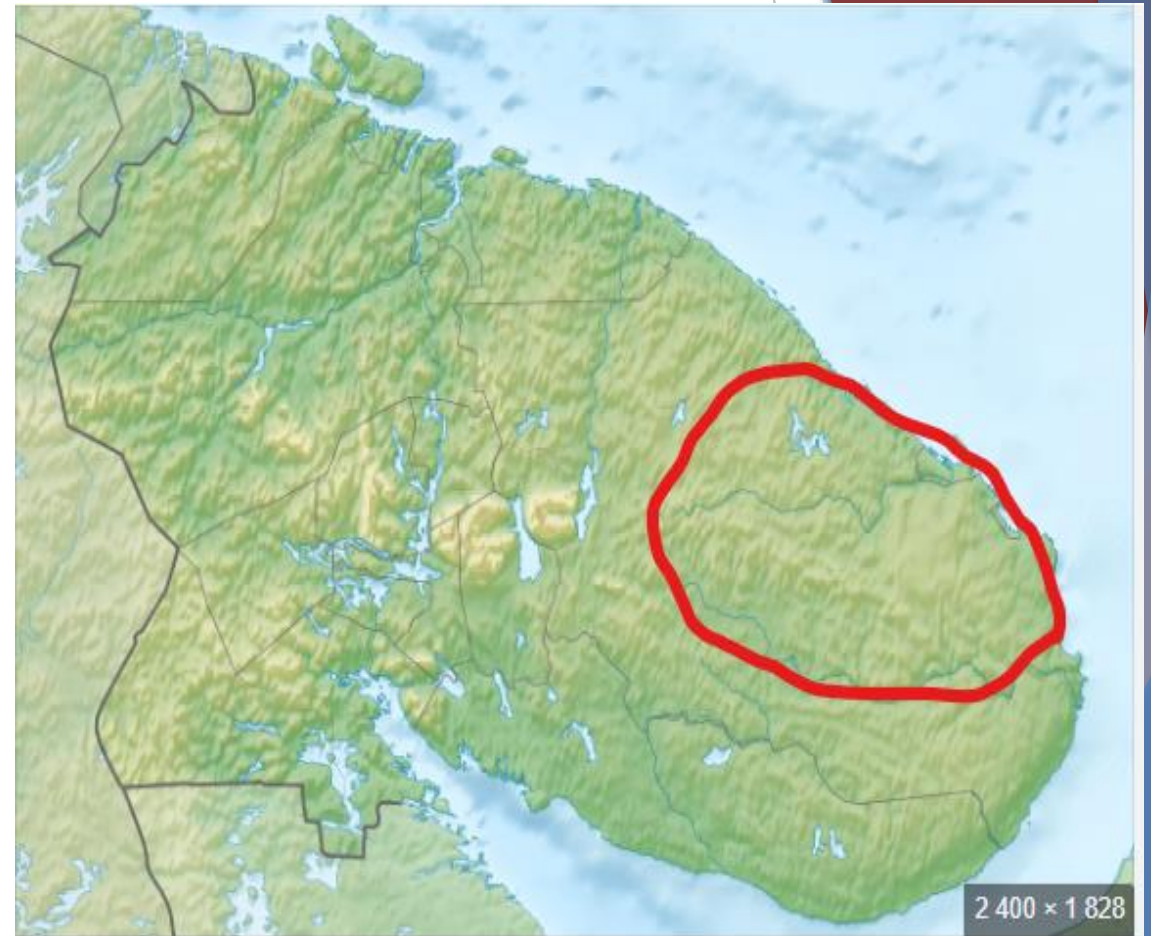


TUNNETUT NAALIN PESINNÄT SUOMESSA 1964-2002

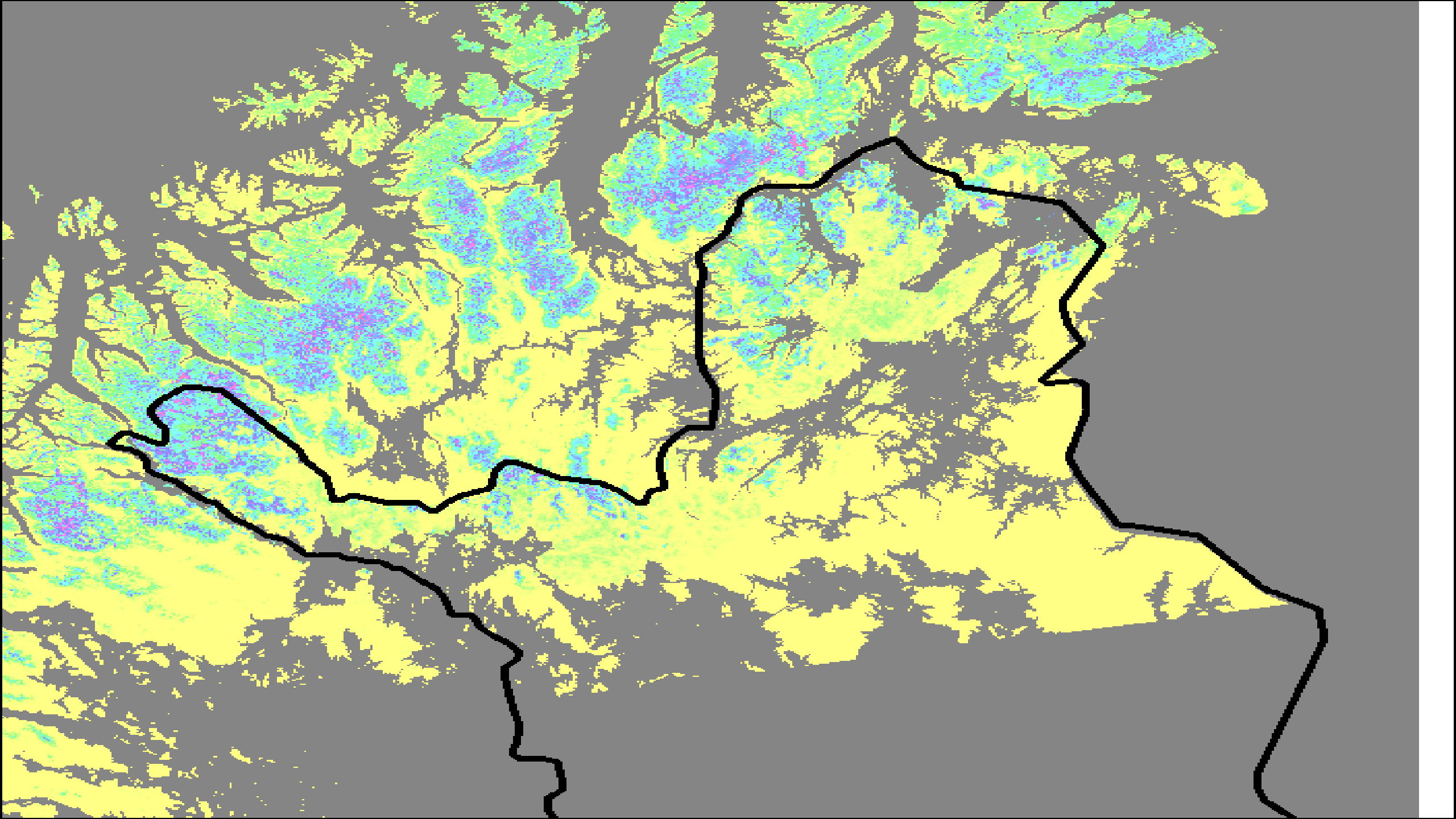


KOLA PENINSULA

- ▶ During two last decades some inventories
 - ▶ Estimate, some dozens adult AF
- ▶ Before war we were starting cooperation, now in ice







FOOD

- ▶ Lemmings
- ▶ A lot of lemmings, a lot of AF's cups
- ▶ Other moles
- ▶ Birds and eggs
- ▶ In winter carrions
- ▶ And everything else what can eat



*Kuva: Pekka
Sulkava*

THREATS

▶ CLIMATE WARMING

- ▶ The Red Fox will survive better in high mountains and tundra
- ▶ Warmer winters reduce the occurrence of good lemming years
- ▶ If the warming continues, in a hundred years there will only be AF on Arctic islands
- ▶ AF is one of the IUCN ten climate warming “flagship” species

▶ HUMAN INFLUENCE IS INCREASING IN HIGH MOUNTAINS AND ARCTIC

- ▶ More food and it helps Red Fox to survive the winters
- ▶ More disturbance

ARTIC FOX vs. RED FOX

- ▶ Red Fox is stronger competitor
- ▶ AF avoids areas where RF is living
- ▶ Competition for food and dens
- ▶ Red Fox can kill Artic Fox
- ▶ Diseases, parasites etc.
 - Mange epidemics in Norway
- ▶ More food, more Red Foxes
 - Reindeer carrions
 - Food waste of fisherman, hikers etc

CONSERVATION ACTIONS

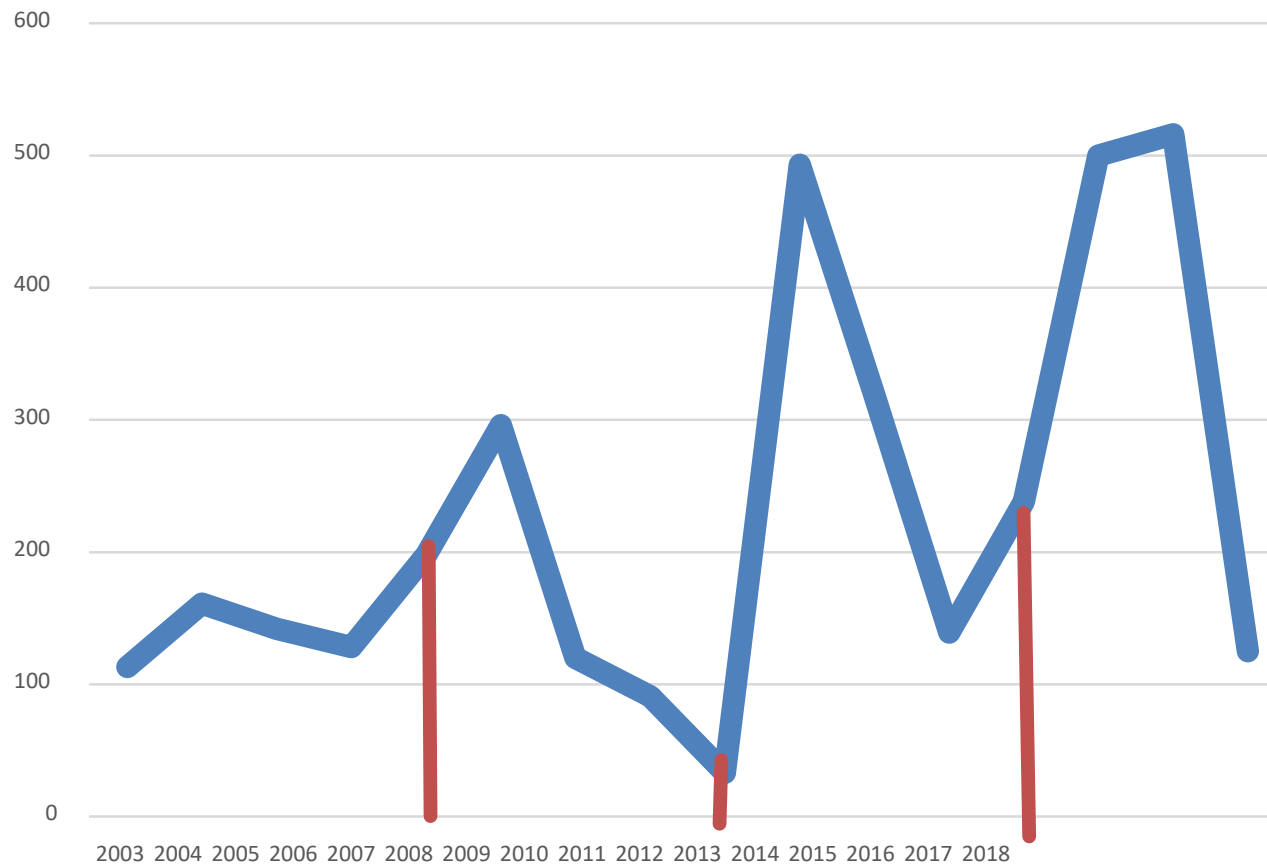
- ▶ Red Fox culling in the most important AF areas
- ▶ Extra feeding, totally in the three countries about 250 feeding stations
- ▶ Captive breeding programme in Norway
 - Since the first release in 2006, a total of 464 arctic foxes have been reintroduced into the wild
- ▶ Monitoring programme, same method in all three countries
- ▶ Information and cooperative with local people and other authors
- ▶ The common management plan of FIN-SWE-NOR is just being completed

FEEDING STATION

- ▶ In bad lemming years more litters and pups
- ▶ Reduces the mortality of pups in the first winter
 - ▶ At most 90 % of pups can die in the first winter if poor food conditions
- ▶ Dog food pellets

RED FOX CULLING

Special permit to use snow scooters



CONSERVATION WORK PRODUCES RESULTS

- ▶ The number of AF and litters is increasing
 - In 25 years from few dozens to 550 AF
 - Goals in management plan
 - 2035 at least 1000 adult AF and 250 litters
 - The final goal, at least 2000 adult AF and good lemming years 500 litters
- ▶ The area of occurrence expands
- ▶ In the business quarter is three months, in this work it is 25 years
 - **We have to be long-term**

COOPERATIVE FIN-SWE-NOR

- ▶ We have common Artic Foxes
- ▶ Common database(Rovbase)
- ▶ Common reports
- ▶ Common management plan
- ▶ Same conservation actions

MORE INFORMATION

- ▶ [Naalin suojele | Metsähallitus \(metsa.fi\)](#)
- ▶ <https://brage.nina.no/nina-xmlui/handle/11250/3038192>
- ▶ [Naali - WWF Suomi](#)
- ▶ http://www.fellesfjellrev.se/wp-content/uploads/FF_broschyr_2019_FI-low.pdf