

Challenges to the social reproduction of moose hunting clubs and barriers to commercial hunting

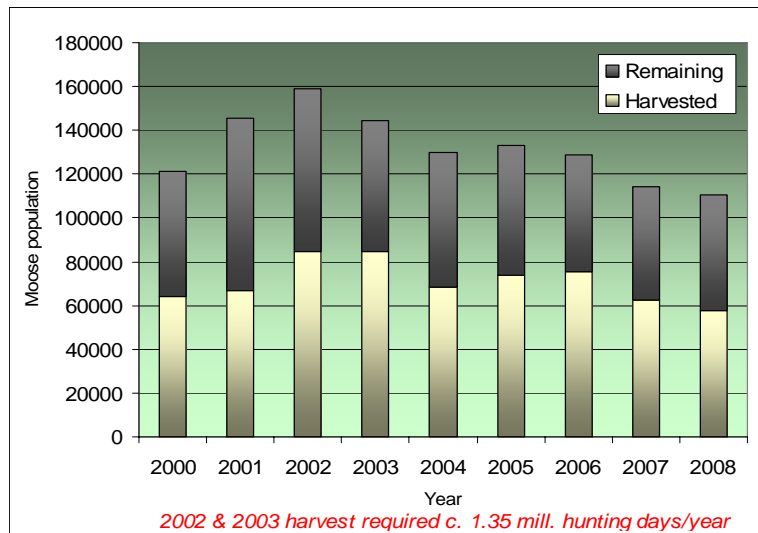
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Metsäntutkimuslaitos, Vantaa

1 - The problem setting

- The moose population problem
- The deteriorating demographics of rural areas
- The interaction of the above

Yearly variations in the moose population and moose harvest, 2000-2008

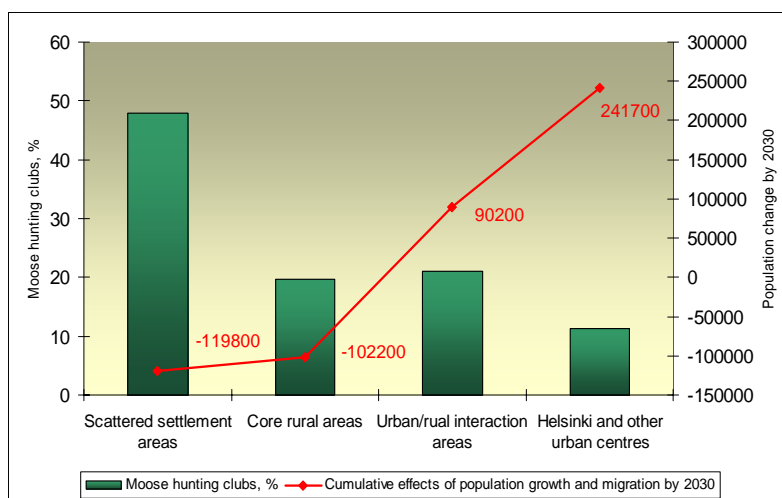


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Distribution of moose hunting clubs and population changes to 2030, by settlement types

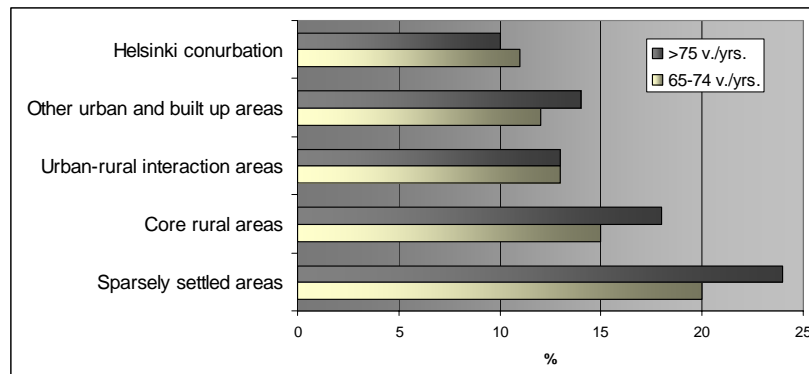


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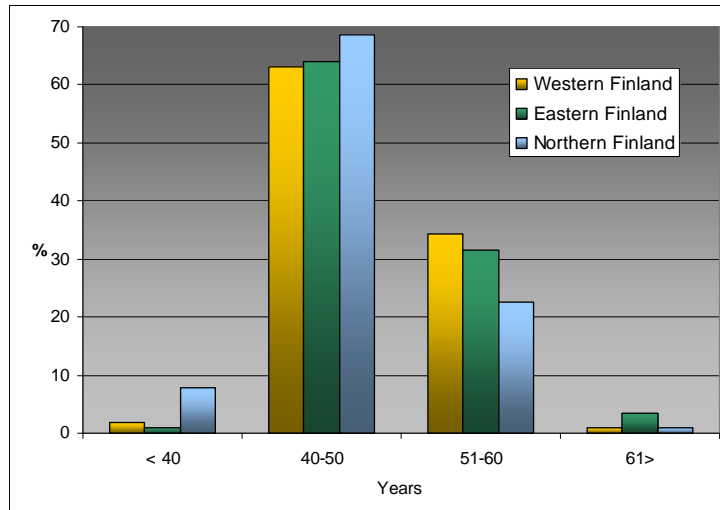
Proportion of population in upper age groups, by settlement types, 2030



2 - Some aspects of the sociology of moose hunting clubs

- o Membership structure
- o Members' attitudes to membership applicants
- o Reasons for rejecting applications
- o Views concerning the future of moose hunting

Average ages of moose hunters, by regions (2002)

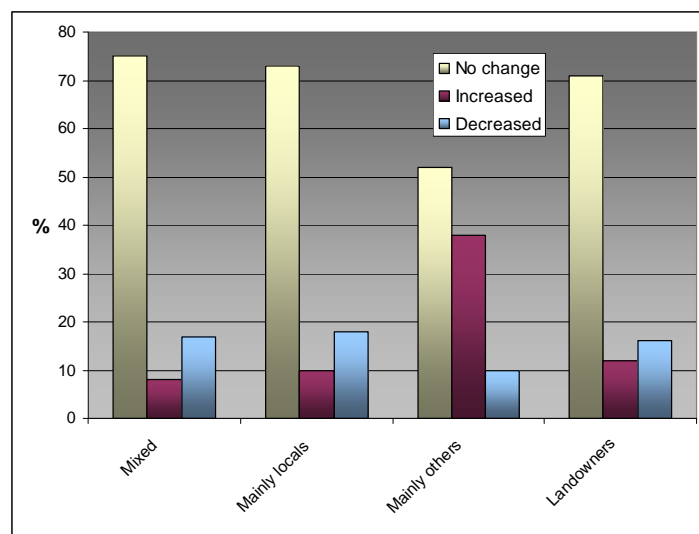


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Membership development of moose hunting clubs (2002)



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Effects of membership aging on moose hunting activities

Aging effects	Mainly land-owners	Mainly local inhabitants	Mixed membership	Only others	Total
Hunting is becoming too strenuous	15	7	17	10	13
The number of active members has declined	23	18	19	35	22
Sub-total	38	24	36	45	35
Increasing age has not had any effects	38	44	44	35	41
Young members have compensated for the older members	24	32	19	20	24
Sub-total	62	76	64	55	65
Grand Total	100	100	100	100	100
N	157	62	72	20	311

$\chi^2 = 8.76$, $df = 9$, $p = 0.46$

Aging membership discourages renewal

Average age of members	Several young people have shown interest	Just one or two young people have shown interest	No young people have shown interest	Cannot say	Total	N
Under 40 years	36.4	45.5	18.2		100.0	11
40-50	11.8	61.6	20.9	5.7	100.0	211
50-60	1.1	55.8	36.8	6.3	100.0	95
Over 60		33.3	50.0	16.7	100.0	6
Total	9.3	58.8	26.0	5.9	100.0	323
N	30	190	84	19		323

$\chi^2 29.0$ $df. 9$ $p = 0.00$

A typology of members' attitudes towards the social reproduction of moose hunting clubs

Approach to moose hunting club vitality	Moose hunters' dispositions towards the social reproduction of clubs (Cluster analysis)				F-test (df 3: 1323)	P
	Closed and terminal	Closed protection of tradition	Open	Open and radical		
Freely open to new membership	-0.36	-0.75	0.69	0.26	312.618	0.000
Active recruitment	-2.08	0.34	0.22	0.16	526.817	
Strengthening traditional hunting rights	0.01	0.61	-0.59	-0.03	161.207	0.000
Maintaining the hunting tradition across generations	-0.76	0.32	0.02	-0.22	54.315	0.000
External solutions	-0.15	-0.22	-0.41	1.88	602.943	0.000
<i>Commercialisation of hunting</i>	<i>-0.70</i>	<i>-0.39</i>	<i>0.26</i>	<i>0.77</i>	<i>121.589</i>	<i>0.000</i>
Number of hunters in group	151	468	526	182		
% of hunters	11	35	40	14		

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Distribution of moose hunters' attitude groups by landownership and place of residence

Status	Attitude group				N
	Closed and terminal	Closed protection of tradition	Open	Open and radical	
Resident landowner	52 (12)	211 (48)	121 (28)	55 (12)	439 (100)
Resident non-landowner	45 (28)	63 (39)	19 (12)	24 (15)	163 (100)
Non-resident landowner	18 (11)	55 (34)	64 (39)	27 (17)	164 (100)
Non-resident non-landowner	27 (22)	23 (19)	43 (35)	30 (24)	123 (100)
Total	142 (16)	352 (40)	259 (29)	136 (15)	889 (100)

($\chi^2 = 68.95$, $P < 0.001$)

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Reasons for rejecting membership applications, by membership type

Reasons for rejection	Mainly landowners	Mainly local inhabitants	Mixed membership	Only others	All
No rejections	40.6	65.6	38.7	52.4	45.7
Applicant failed preconditions	44.4	18.0	34.7	4.8	34.4
Applicant not trusted by other members	13.1	9.8	17.3	23.8	14.2
Applicants rejected to control size of society	1.9	6.6	9.3	19.0	5.7
Total	100	100	100	100	100
N	161	62	74	21	319

$\chi^2 = 37.30$, $df = 9$, $p = 0.00$

Moose hunter's views concerning the future of moose hunting. (SR2007)

Propositions	Commercialisation as solution to aging	Upholding the ecological hunting tradition	Strengthening local hunting rights	Barriers to commercial hunting
Without new members the commercialisation of moose hunting will be inevitable	0.771			
Without new members, controlling the moose population will be increasingly difficult	0.766			
The aging problem is threatening the traditional way of hunting	0.709			
Commercialisation would help maintain the hunting tradition	0.660	- 0.412		
The commercialisation of hunting could create rural economic activities	0.617	- 0.412		
The commercialisation of hunting would be a rural innovation	0.607	- 0.480		
Moose have existence value and should not be hunted needlessly or commercially		0.804		
Traditional hunting best ensure an ecologically balanced moose population		0.746		
The commercialisation of hunting would lead to the uncontrolled exploitation of nature		0.629		
Hunting club membership should be restricted to local landowners and inhabitants			0.735	
Forest-owners should be responsible for organising moose hunting			0.714	
Rural areas have become a resource that society tries to commoditise			0.541	
There would be no moose population problem if the harvests were decided by local hunters		0.201	0.443	
Conflicts over ownership rights are the biggest barrier to the development of nature-based enterprises	0.353	0.357		0.830
The opposition of the landowners would make commercial hunting impossible		0.493		0.718
Eigenvalue	2.99	2.27	1.69	1.30
Cumulative variance explained (%)	19.97	35.07	46.39	55.00

Loadings less than 0.30 omitted for clarity.

Moose hunters' views concerning the hunting and its possible commercialisation in the face of aging

Moose views concerning the future of moose hunting	Moose hunters' disposition towards the social renewal of clubs (Cluster analysis)				F	P
	Closed and terminal	Closed protection of tradition	Open	Open and radical		
Reluctant commercialisation	-0.70	-0.39	0.25	0.77	121.59	<0.001
Upholding the ecological hunting tradition	0.02	0.10	0.08	-0.64	27.95	<0.001
Strengthening local hunting rights	0.01	0.61	-0.60	-0.03	161.21	<0.001
Barriers to commercial hunting	0.04	-0.04	0.04	-0.08	0.95	0.418
N=1327	151	468	526	182	d.f.= 3, 1323	

3 - New hunters (2003) and their acceptance into the hunting fraternity

The main reasons for not hunting since acquiring a hunting license (New hunters 2003)

<i>Reason for not hunting</i>	<i>% of returns</i>	<i>n</i>
No opportunity	25	22
No time	25	22
License acquired for other reason	20	18
Too expensive	11	11
Have been unable to join a hunting club	2	2
Other reasons	17	15
Total	100	89

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Affect of own or parents' land ownership on hunting activity subsequent to acquiring hunting license. (New hunters 2003)

Hunting activity subsequent to license acquisition	Land ownership status		
	Personal ownership	Parental ownership	Do not own land
<i>Percentage having hunted:</i>			
Actively every year	42	51	39
Regularly	22	29	21
A couple of times	21	14	18
Not at all	15	6	22
Total	100	100	100

($\chi^2 = 39.289$, $df = 6$, $P < 0.001$)

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4 Conclusions

- Need for new hunters
- Moose hunting clubs resistant to change
- Social and cultural capital: the major barriers to commercial hunting?

Conclusions 1 - Need for new hunters

- Rural areas, where most moose hunting clubs are located, are suffering from out-migration and aging.
- Moose hunting club members are also aging: the activities of c.30% of hunting clubs are suffering as a consequence.
- Young people are not being attracted to moose hunting.
- Many moose hunting clubs have restrictive membership pre-conditions, e.g. land-ownership, that are detrimental to attracting younger members.
- New hunting license holders that have wished to hunt have mostly succeeded to find a club - **but they are too few.**

Conclusions 2 - Moose hunting clubs resistant to change

- Attitudes to the social renewal (reproduction) of membership varies considerably between clubs.
- Members' place of residence seems to be an important precondition for membership: *locals have time to build local cultural capital (e.g. trust, shared values) and social space (community control)*.
- Land ownership is an important precondition: *land needed for the hunt, but also there is a question of resource control (symbolic power)*.
- Non-landowners can also restrict membership because it is based on comradeship: *shared values, trust, no "outsiders"*.
- Commercialisation is generally not approved of, nor supported, except where moose control by tradition means becomes untenable.

Conclusions 3: Social and cultural capital: the major barriers to commercial hunting?

- Social capital is central to the moose hunting fraternity. This restricts any interest in the commodification and commercialisation of moose hunting.
 - *"Social capital is the aggregate of the actual or potential resources which are linked to the possession of a durable network of more or less institutionalised relationships of mutual acquaintance and recognition - or in other words, to membership in a group"*
(Bourdieu 1986)
 - *"Social capital is the institutional solution communities develop to solve the free-rider problem and thus make collective action possible".*
"Social capital is a set of resources for individuals in a social context...Cultural capital refers to the cultural context made up of norms, values, shared beliefs, etc."
(Ballet, Sirven & Requier-Desjardins (2007))