

EAA Cormorant Position Statement 2023

The EAA is very concerned regarding the effects of cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*) predation on fish biodiversity in European rivers, lakes and seas.

- Anglers respect cormorants as an integral part of Europe's environment.
- Following the implementation of the Birds Directive, the cormorant finds itself in a favourable status and since the 1990s is no longer under threat.
- Derogation measures based on Article 9 of the Directive, are proving insufficient to protect Europe's fish biodiversity.
- Where fish species and populations are at risk, their status should be prioritized over birds that are not endangered.
- Tagging studies provide scientific evidence of the rapid and alarming negative impact of cormorant predation on fish stocks.
- Restoration of natural aquatic systems solely, is proven to be ineffective towards addressing cormorant predation in published papers.
- The lack of shared responsibility or general understanding of decoupled breeding and damage areas is a significant issue which should be addressed.

European Anglers call for:

an **adaptive population model** for the great cormorant at European Union level. The proposed model aims to ensure:

- **Achieving and maintaining robust fish stocks and biodiversity by reducing bird predation pressure**
- **Conservation of healthy aquatic ecosystems throughout Europe**
- **Maintaining a favourable conservation status for cormorants**

Due to their life cycle and exceptional mobility, cormorants are a truly European problem, which needs to be managed accordingly.