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Confidential

Supervisor's Review of USB RIFCH PhD Thesis

Surname of the PhD student: Ing. Jiří Kortan	Name of supervisor: Doc. RNDr. Zdeněk Adámek, CSc.
Title of PhD thesis: Secondary losses caused by feeding activities of great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>) on fishponds	

OVERALL COMMENTARY ON THE PhD THESIS

Jiří Kortan has submitted his PhD thesis on the topic which is currently under accelerated and very serious debate between fish farmers and anglers (and their associations) on one side and the nature protection institutions on the other side. There is no doubt that the protection of cormorants as piscivorous predators is associated with high losses of fish farming profitability due to fish consumption, particularly on pond aquaculture facilities all over the whole European continent. However, feeding and hunting habits of great cormorant are bearing also the questions about losses and damages which are not so obvious – fish stressing and wounding with subsequent decreased immunity and condition determinants and increased mortality. The aim of the study and thesis was to contribute to elucidation and clarification of frequently evoked questions – are the cormorants responsible for any so called indirect losses and damages, and if yes, what is their extent.

The results achieved in Jiří Kortan's PhD studies have been published in several papers and presented in numerous outputs which have not been addressed exclusively to the scientific community but also to fish farmers, anglers, nature conservationists and their associations. Jiří has been author and co-author of 3 peer-reviewed impacted papers. Firstly he proved that the computer assisted image analysis is a suitable way how to describe the extent of injuries caused by cormorants and he applied these techniques in subsequent studies directed on the evaluation of damages caused by cormorants in different fish species, categories and forms (with particular reference to common carp). He has been the first author who scientifically, utilizing routine ichthyological methods proved the altered behavior of fish pond stock in response to hunting cormorant attacks. The monitoring of cormorant impacts upon pond stocks during their spring and autumnal migrations required a challenging field work which was necessary to be done to complete the expectations.

The goals set in the PhD study of Ing. Jiří Kortan were fulfilled. He proved the ability to master various methodological approaches in fish biology, physiology and behavioral ecology. The conclusions may contribute considerably to our knowledge in the evaluation of cormorant - fisheries interactions and to better understanding of the conflicts which may have arisen due to different interpretations.

FINAL RECOMMENDATION

- can be recommended for defence of PhD Thesis
 can be recommended with reservations for defence of PhD Thesis
 can not be recommended for defence of PhD Thesis

Vodňany, 29 April 2010

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Date and place

Doc.RNDr. Zdeněk Adámek, CSc.

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surname and signature