

The thesis objective was to collect all modern biological knowledge about the presence, migratory and feeding habits of a special grade protected bird species of The Great Cormorant and to collect statistical data on its predatory pressure on fish communities which represents the core of the conflict between nature conservation activists and fish farmers. The findings of ornithological monitoring have been used as input data - winter habitat frequency of the bird species, data on nest distribution of the birds and feedback reports on bird-ringing in the last three decades. Data on selective shooting requests and estimated damage compensation request data relating to the species has been provided, too. An extensive survey in the ornithological community's opinions has been carried out.

Using the results of literature research, direct observations and a statistics evaluation, I tried to find an answer to the following questions:

- What is the cause of the pan-European species expansion?
- What damage does the species cause with its feed behaviour to the fish farmers?
- How can the damage claim be specified and provable?
- What are the potential methods of protecting the fish communities and the species regulation within the legislation limits?
- To what degree is it feasible to protect cormorants in the Czech Republic employing the present legislation?
- What impact would the exclusion of the species from the Decree have on its protection and its numbers?