

Indicator 7: Changes in indigenous species composition, bats

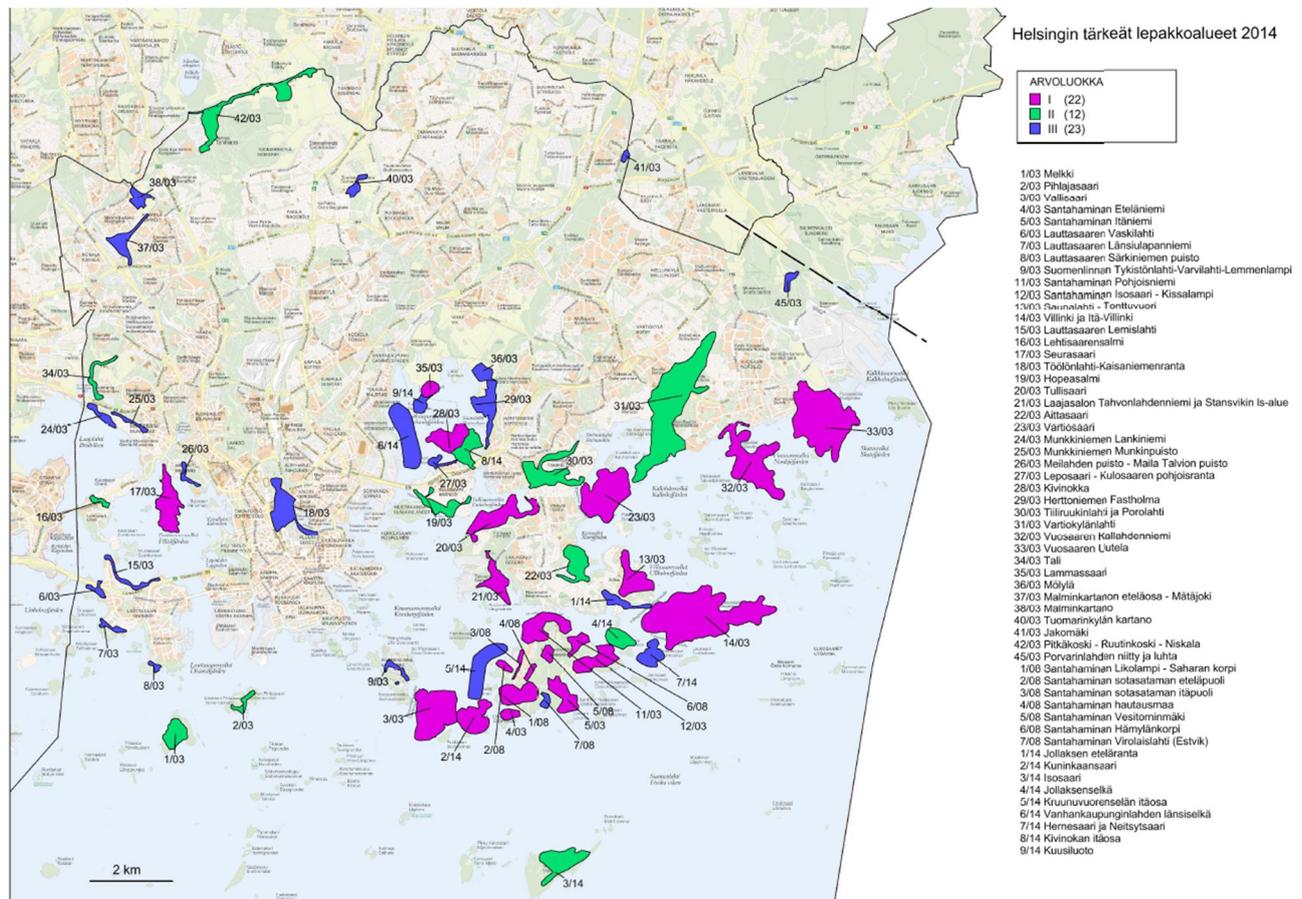


Figure: Most important bat areas in Helsinki. The most important bat habitats recorded in a study in 2014 are shown in this map. (Figure: Helsinki City Planning Department)

Status:

All the bat species that occur in Finland are protected according to both the Nature Conservation Law (LSL 49 §) and the EU Nature Directive. Thirteen bat species are known from Finland. Of these, seven species over-winter in Finland and the remaining six species can only be found from Finland during the summer. The fauna is richest in the south of the country. The most important bat habitats and the species found in them were last surveyed in 2014¹. The survey was conducted as part of the preparations for the new General Plan, as a result of which the annexed area of Östersundom was not included in the survey. On the basis of this survey, nine species of bat occur in Helsinki. This is the same total as was recorded in the previous survey, in 2003.

¹ Wermundsen, Terhi, Nieminen, Jarmo and Asikainen, Petri 2014. Helsingin lepakkolajisto ja tärkeät lepakkoalueet vuonna 2014, (In English: The Bat Fauna of Helsinki and Important Bat Areas in the Year 2014) Helsinki city Planning Department, General Planning Department Surveys, 38/2014, Helsinki http://www.hel.fi/hel2/ksv/julkaisut/yos_2014-38.pdf (published on 18.2.2015)

Score:

The total of nine species will be used as the baseline for scoring in the next survey.

0 points: the number of species declines or remains the same.

1 point: 1 additional species

2 points: 2 additional species

3 points: 3 additional species

4 points: 4 additional species

Monitoring:

The monitoring of this indicator will require the surveying of new bat habitats for the next assessment of this indicator. It is highly likely that the total number of bat species will not change over four years, because bat habitats are protected and there has been no change in the total number of species during the period 2003 - 2014. The lack of change in this statistic for Helsinki is already a good result. For the purpose of verification of this result, the area of Östersundom could be included, though it is not considered likely that this would bring additional species. Possibilities for enhancing the conditions for bats in their most important habitats have been presented in conjunction with the survey of 2014.

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