



Pārtikas un veterinārais
dienests

Wild boar population management in Latvia

Mārtiņš Seržants

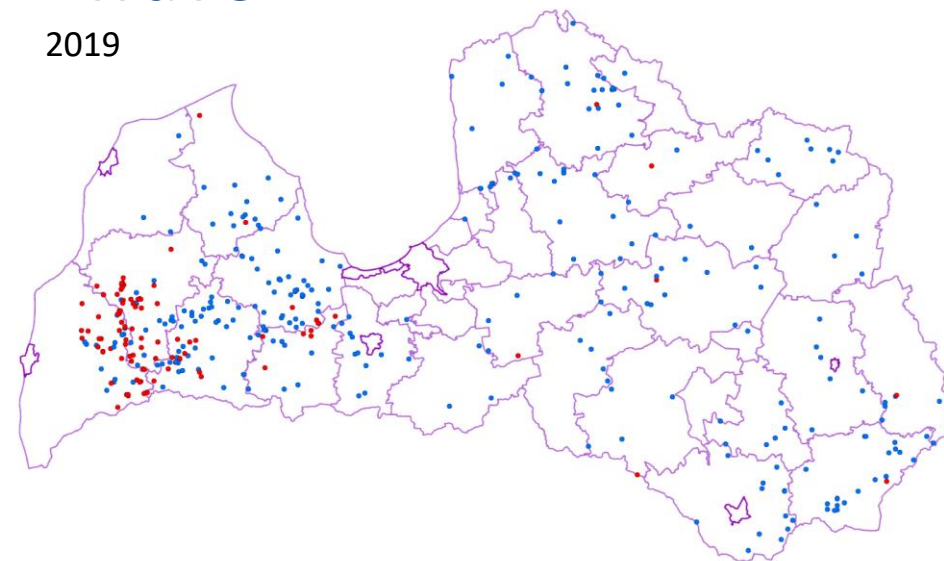
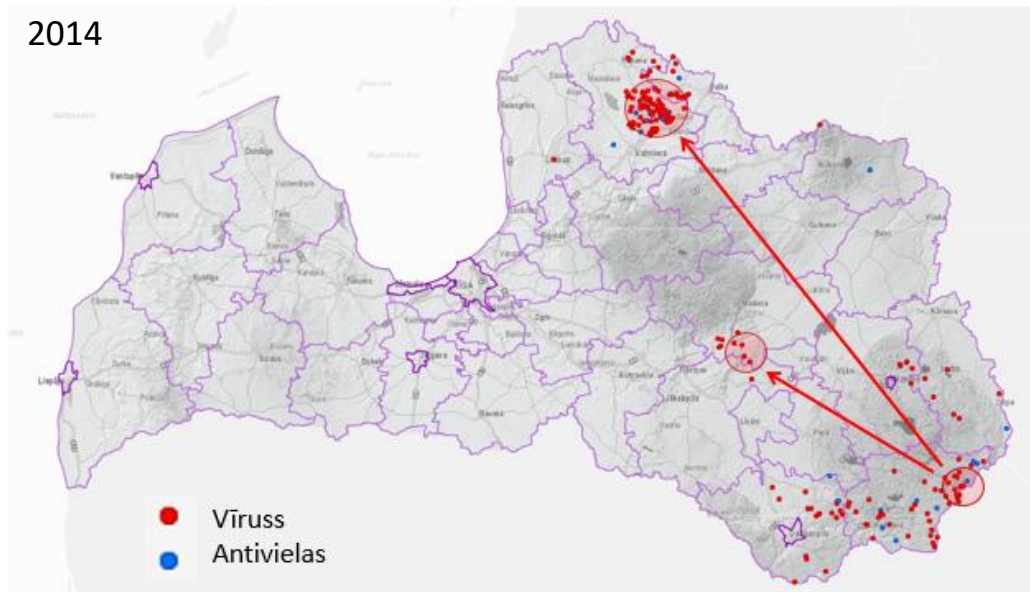
Deputy Head of Animal Infectious Disease Unit

5.11.2024.



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ASF in wild boar – 1st wave



African swine fever in Latvian wild boar—A step closer to elimination

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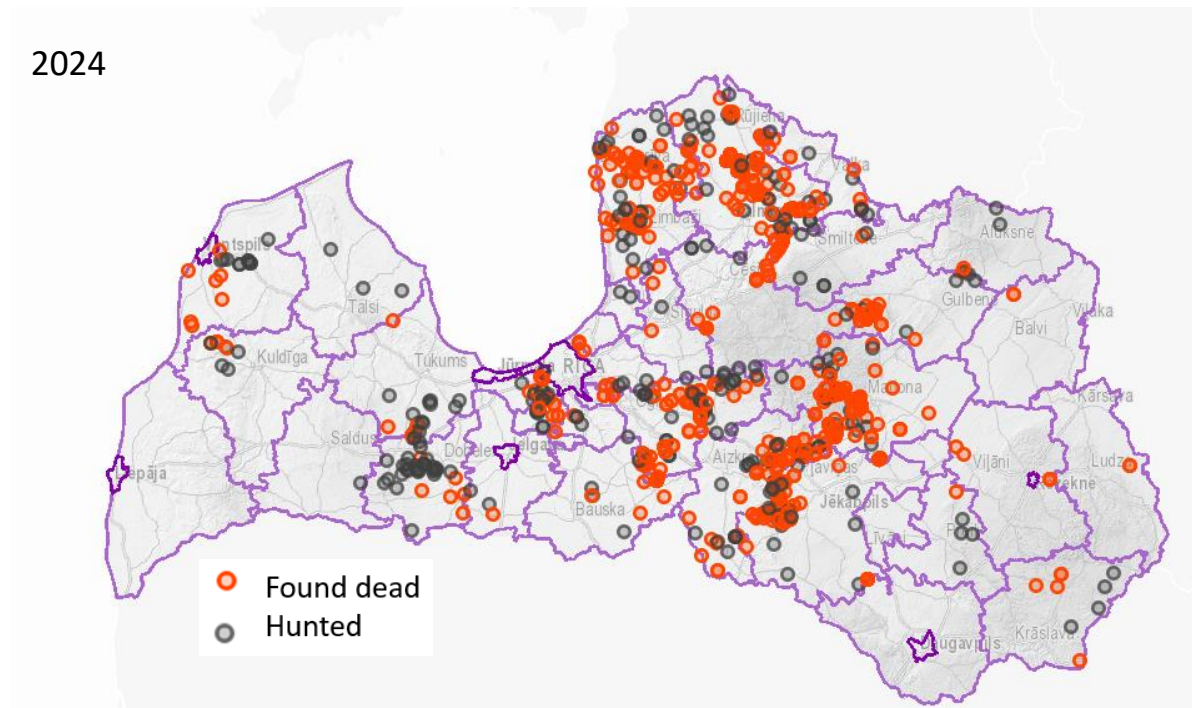
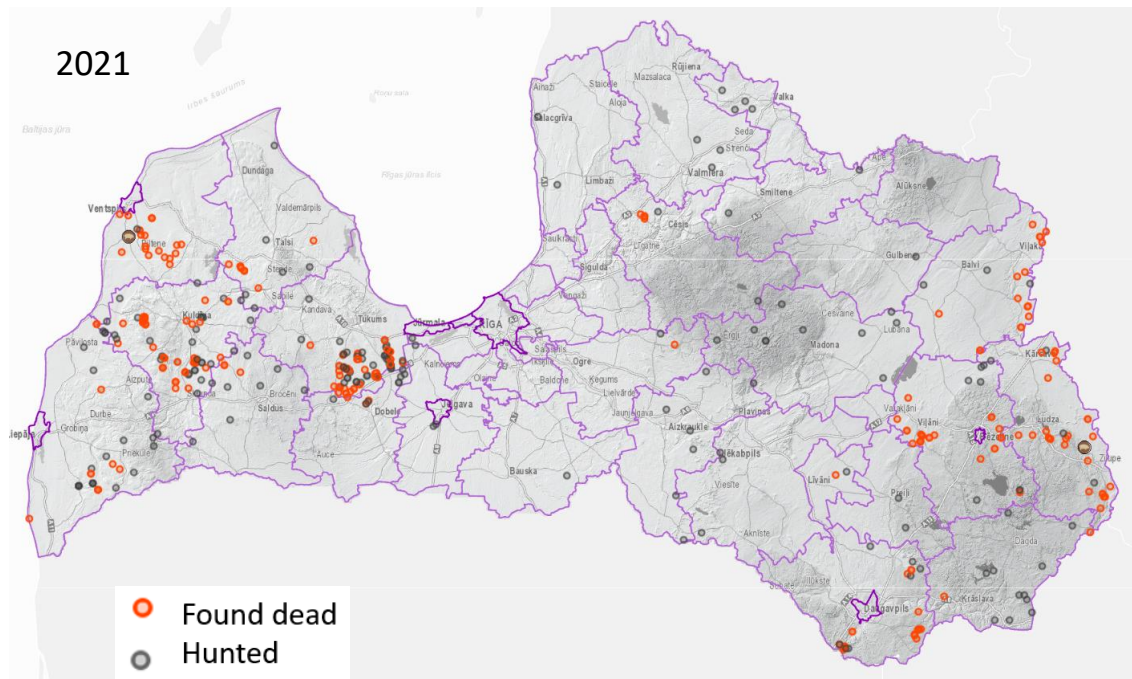
Abstract

.....Prevalence estimates were obtained for both the eastern and western part of the country and in addition for the **2014/15 to 2018/19** hunting seasons.

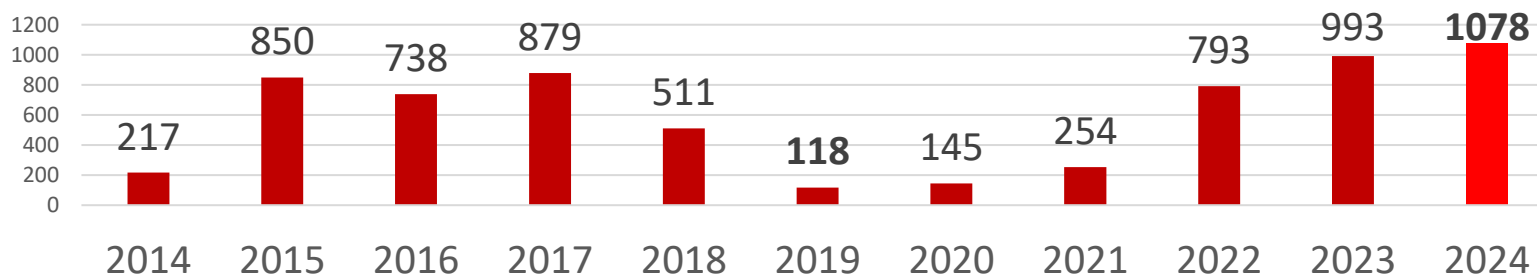
..... As a result, **ASF elimination** in a country with an infected wild boar population **could possibly be achieved**, if effective wild boar population management and surveillance is maintained and combined with the detection and removal of wild boar carcasses to reduce the viral load in the environment. In addition, the **wild boar population should be kept as small as possible to break the ASFV infection cycle**.



ASF in wild boar - 2nd wave

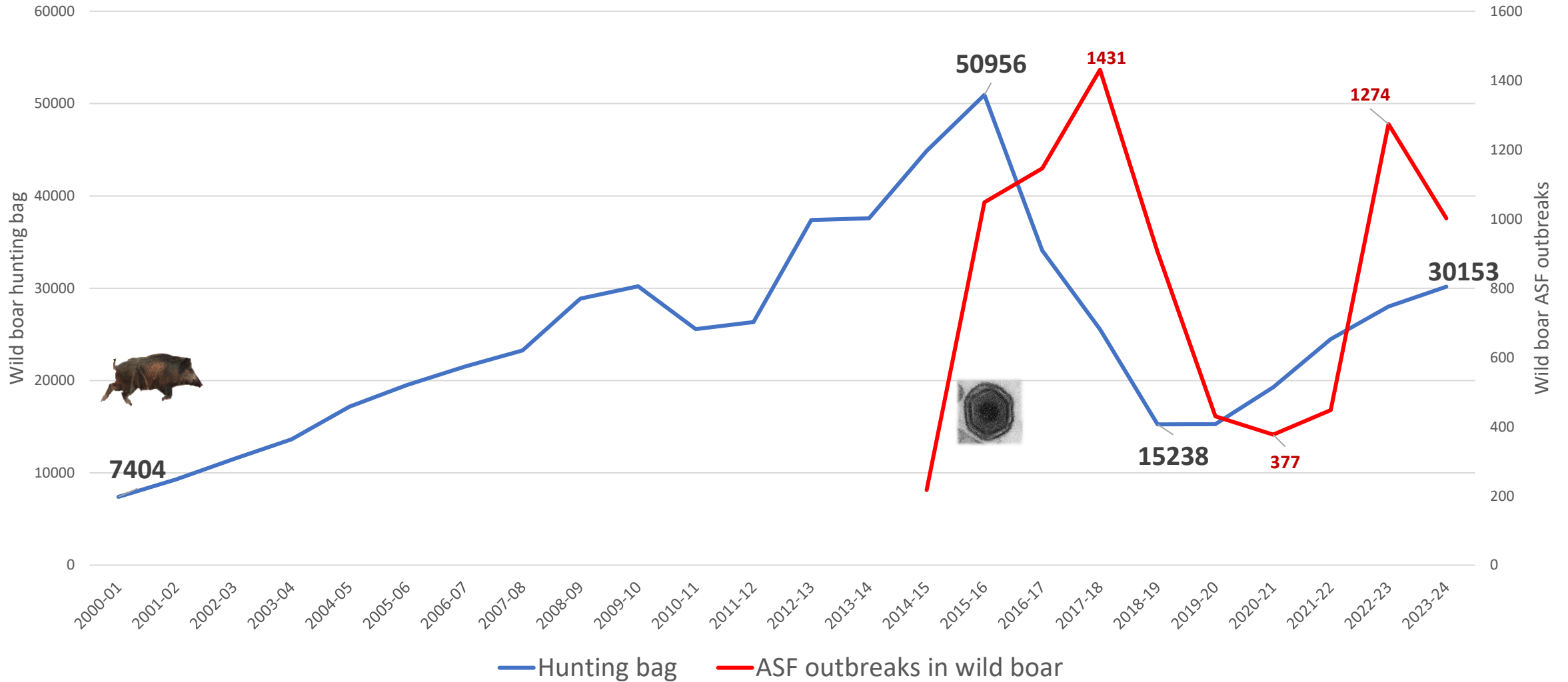


ASF PCR positive wild boar



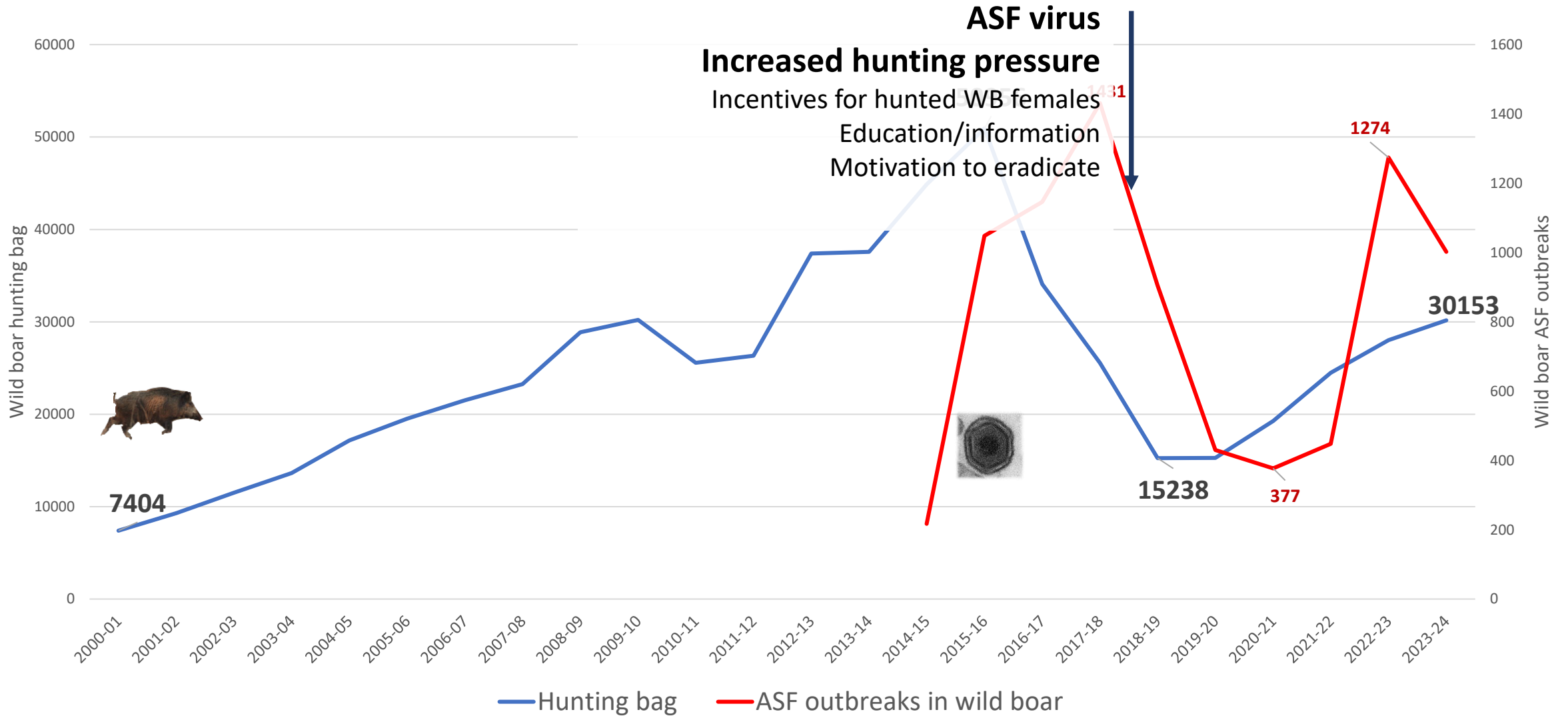


Interaction between wild boar and ASF virus



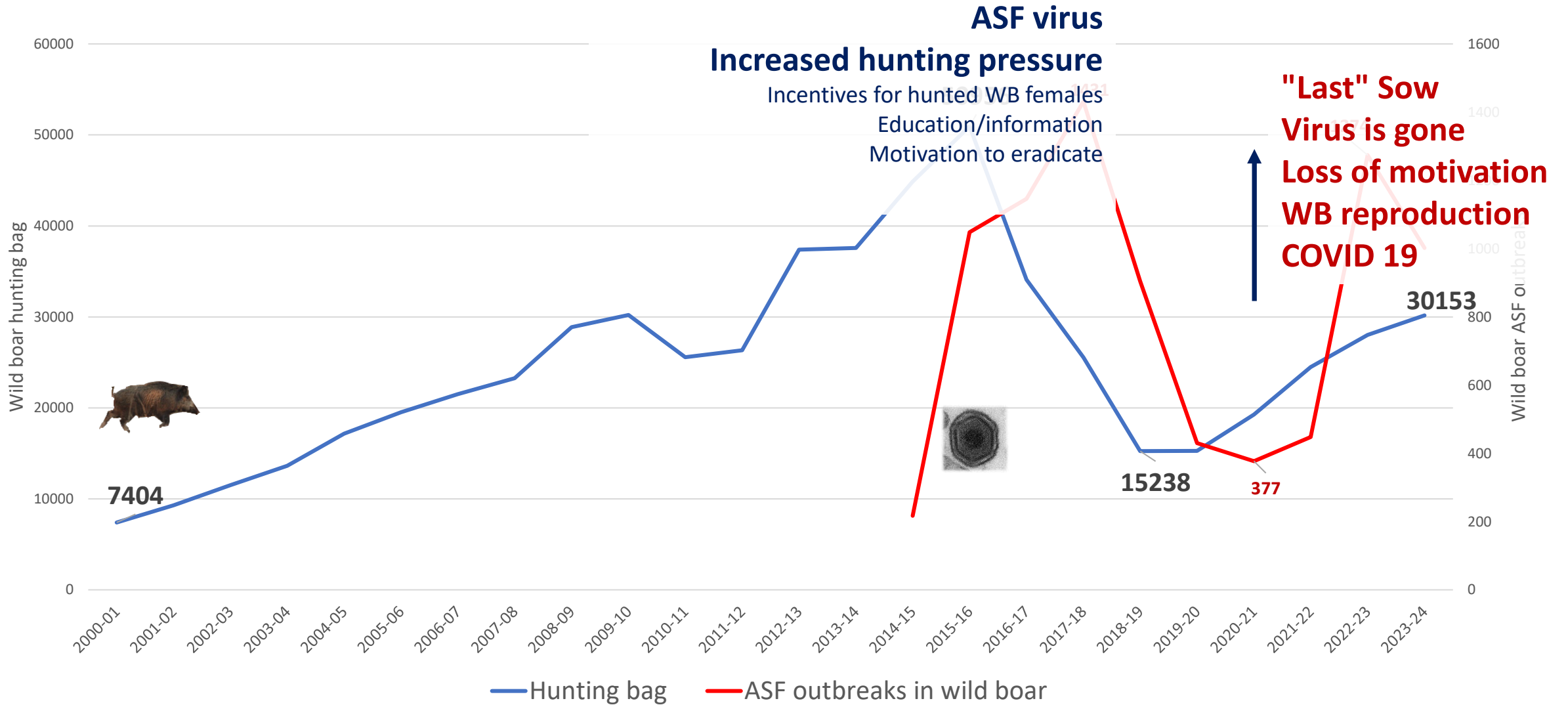


Interaction between wild boar and ASF virus





Interaction between wild boar and ASF virus





Wild boar management plan

(COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2023/594 art 56, Annex IV)

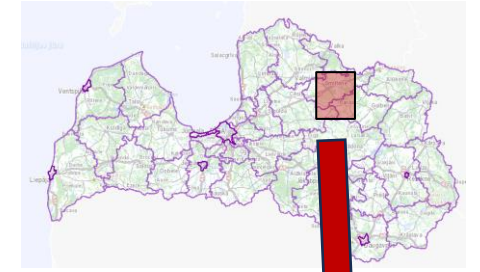
Strategical target - Limit ASF in the wild boar population and prevent transmission of the ASF virus to domestic pigs throughout the territory of the Republic of Latvia.

Priorities:

1. develop an accurate and practicable **accounting system for wild boar** and implement it throughout Latvia to control wild boar population.
2. to reduce and maintain the wild boar population to a level that does not exceed the **target density (0.15 animals/km²)** set in this strategy throughout the territory of Latvia.
3. control biosecurity measures in hunting and in the pre-processing of game.
4. control biosecurity measures in domestic pig holdings.
5. Promote the introduction of game meat into the food chain.



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Development of methodology of wild boar census and elaboration of a system for controlling the number and population density to prevent the spread of African swine fever (ASF) in Latvia

36 camera traps (72 deployments)
~2500 ha
July – August 2024

Roe deer, Elk, Deer, Raccoon,
Fox, Lynx, Hare, Squirrel,
Wolf, Marten, Capercaillie.

No wild boar





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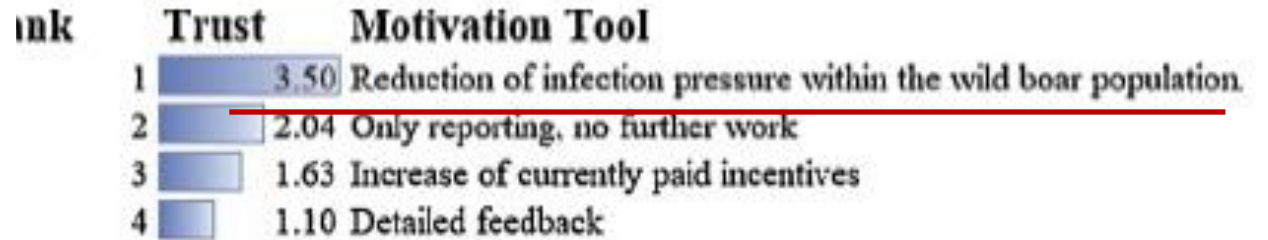
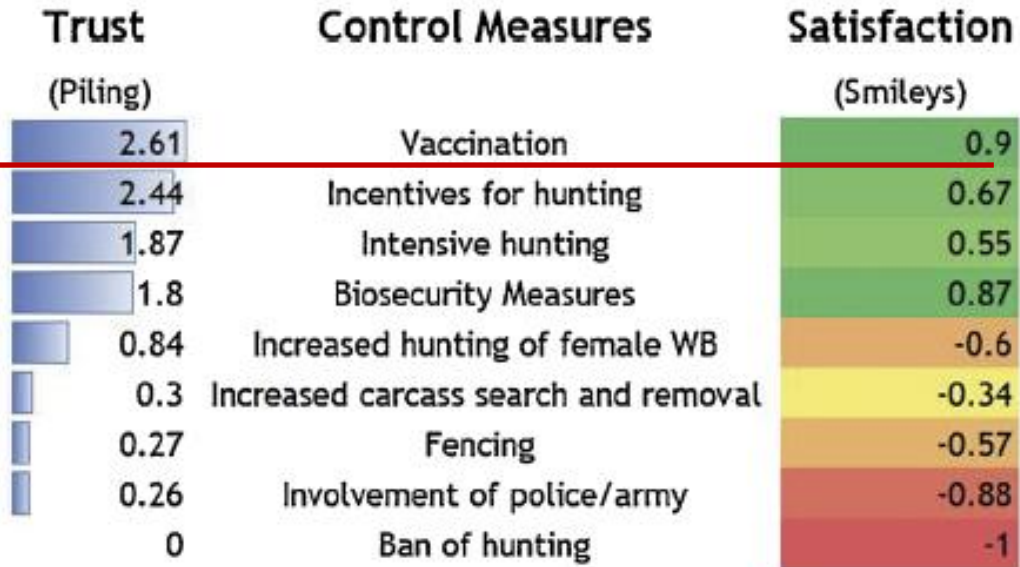
Preventive Veterinary Medicine

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/prevetmed



Hunters' view on the control of African swine fever in wild boar. A participatory study in Latvia

Nico Urner^a, Mārtiņš Seržants^b, Māra Užule^b, Carola Sauter-Louis^a, Christoph Staubach^a, Kristīne Lamberga^{b,c}, Edvīns Oļševskis^{b,d}, Franz Josef Conraths^a, Katja Schulz^{a,*}





Conclusion

If we manage to convince the hunters and keep their motivation,
we have a chance!

«Vision without action is a daydream. Action without vision is a nightmare.»

Japanese Proverb