

A satellite photograph of the Baltic Sea region, showing the coastline of Scandinavia, the British Isles, and the European mainland. The sea itself is a mix of dark blue and greenish-blue, while the land is a mix of green and brown. The sky is filled with white and grey clouds.

# Challenges and opportunities for the Baltic Sea

Euroregion Baltic  
Water Forum,  
8 June 2016,  
Rønne, Denmark  
Mikhail Durkin

# Network of grass-root environmental NGOs

- **CCB:** was established in 1990
- **CCB:** a network of grass-root environmental NGOs
- **CCB:** cooperation of Environmental Citizens Organisations (ECO)
- **CCB:** 19 member organizations and through them – over 800 000 individual members
- **CCB:** works in the entire Baltic Sea catchment area, through organisations in Belarus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Sweden and Ukraine
- **CCB:** lobby at EU and HELCOM level, coordinated actions and field work, awareness raising and capacity building



co-funded by EU  
LIFE Programme



# Network covering the whole catchment

## Russia

Friends of the Baltic,  
St. Petersburg  
Green World, St.  
Petersburg

## Finland

Finnish Association for  
Nature Conservation  
Finnish Society for  
Nature and  
Environment

## Sweden

Swedish Society for  
Nature Conservation  
WWF-Sweden

## Denmark

Danish Society for  
Nature Conservation

## Germany

Bund für Umwelt und  
Naturschutz  
Deutschland / Friends  
of the Earth Germany



## Estonia

Estonian Green Movement

## Latvia

Environmental Protection  
Club of Latvia, VAK  
Latvian Green Movement

## Lithuania

Lithuanian Fund for Nature  
Lithuanian Green Movement

## Poland

Green Federation, GAJA,  
Szczecin  
Polish Ecological Club, PKE

## Belarus

Ecohome  
IPO Ecoproject

## Ukraine

The Western Centre of the  
Ukrainian Branch  
of the World Laboratory, Lviv,  
Ukraine

co-funded by EU  
LIFE Programme



# Network working across sectors



Water Protection in Agriculture



River Basin and Wastewater Management



Fisheries and Aquaculture



Hazardous Substances and Marine Litter



Biodiversity and Nature Conservation



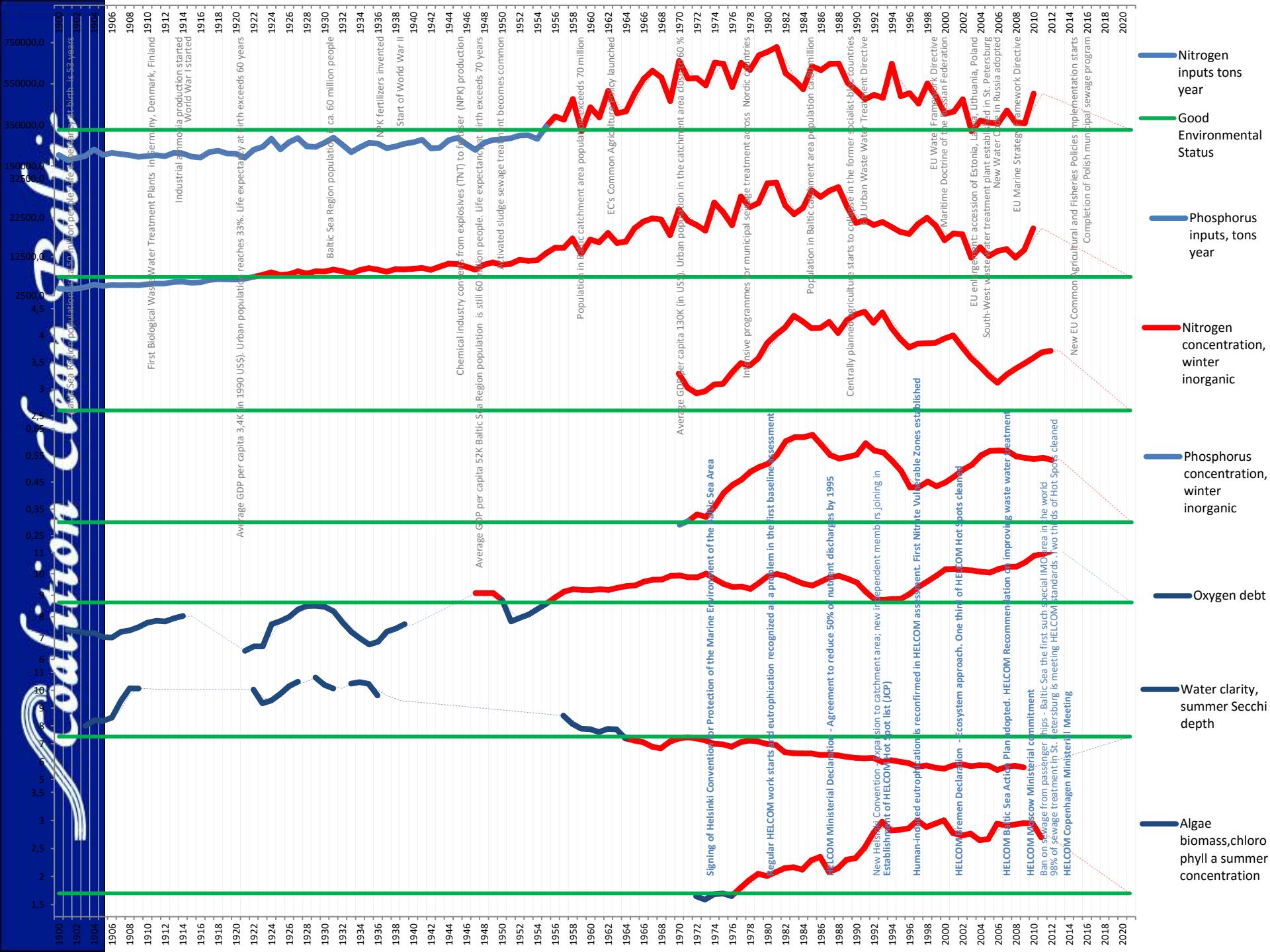
Sustainable Development in Coastal and Marine Areas

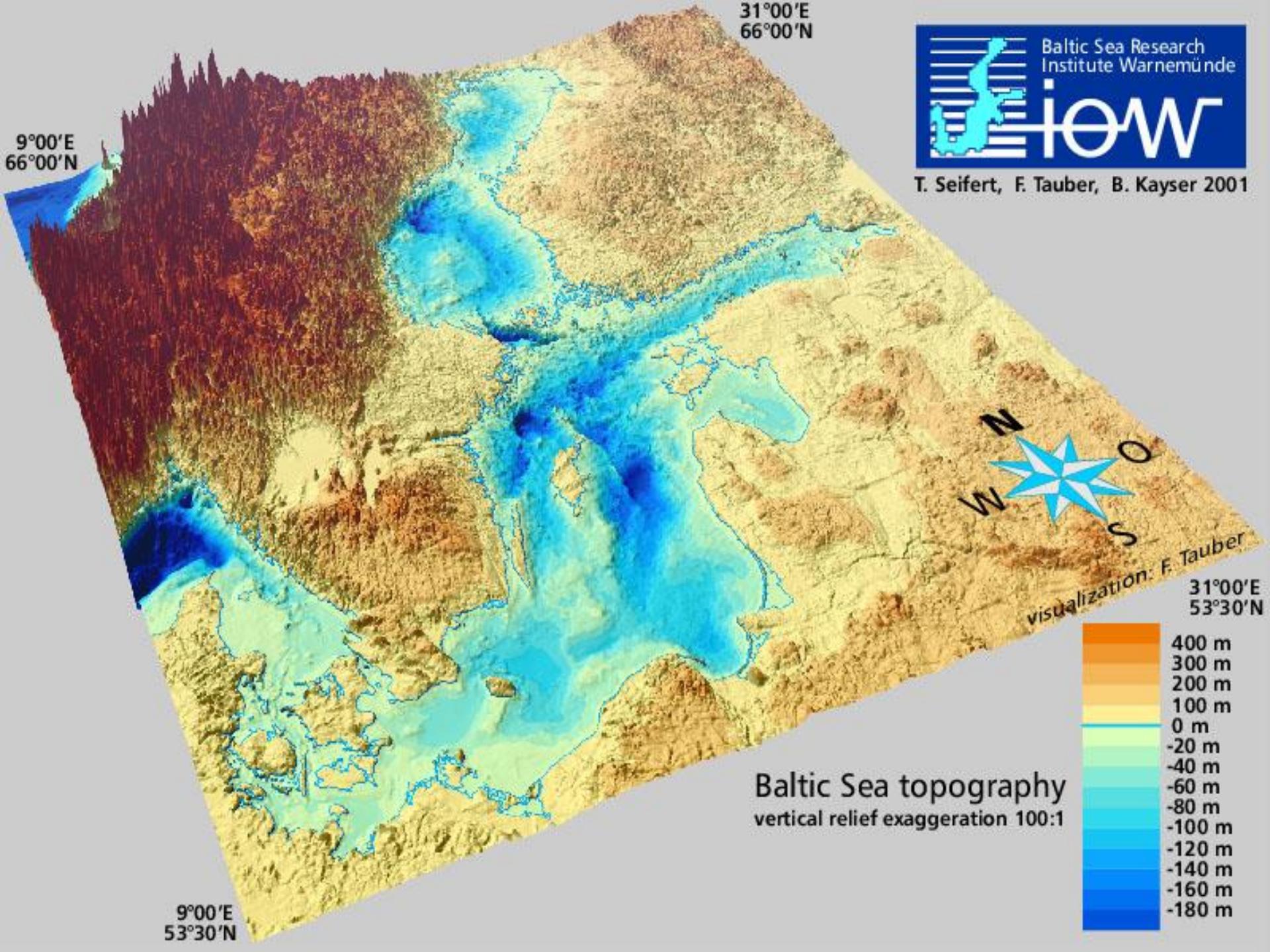


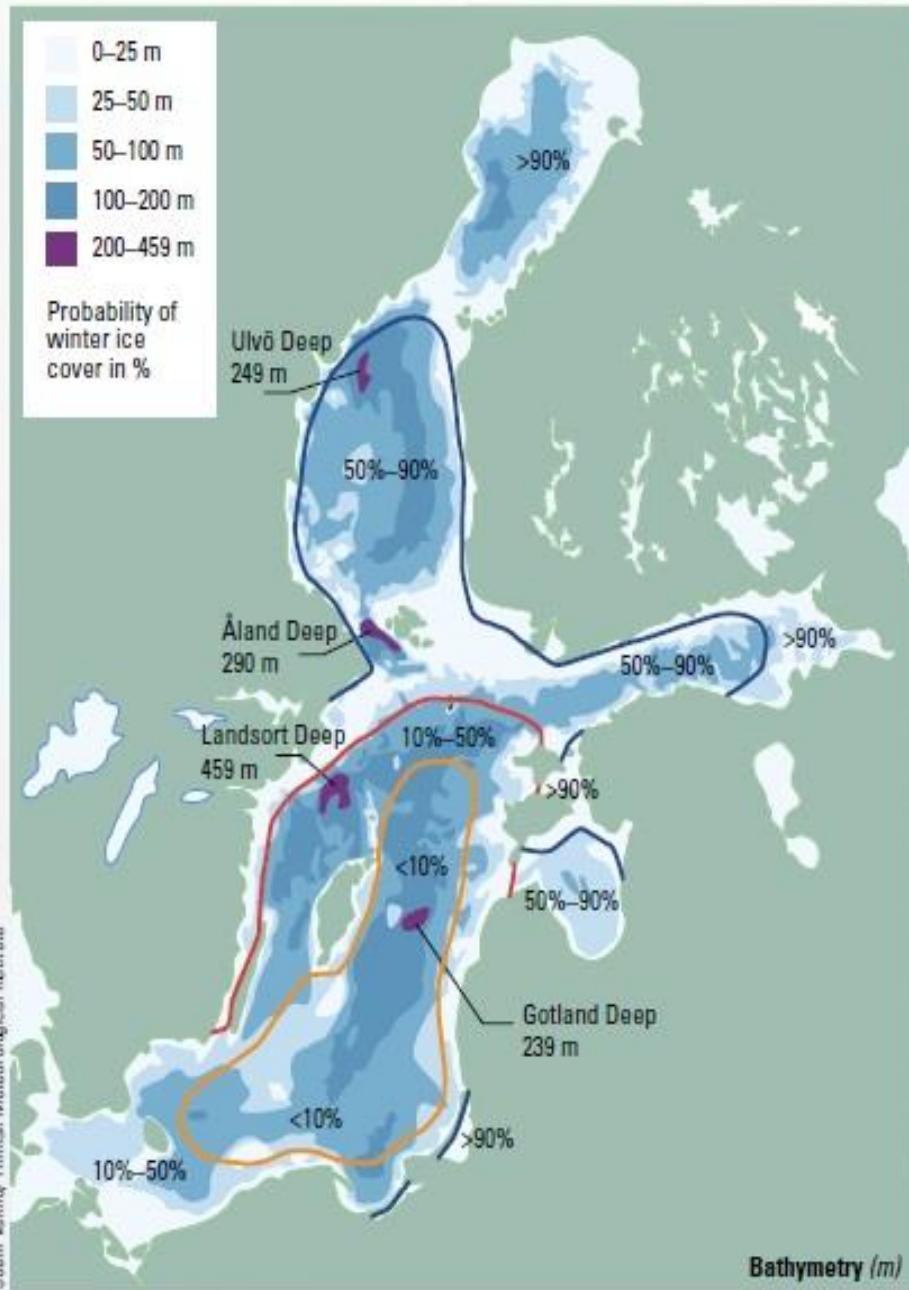
Harmful Installations and Maritime Transport

co-funded by EU  
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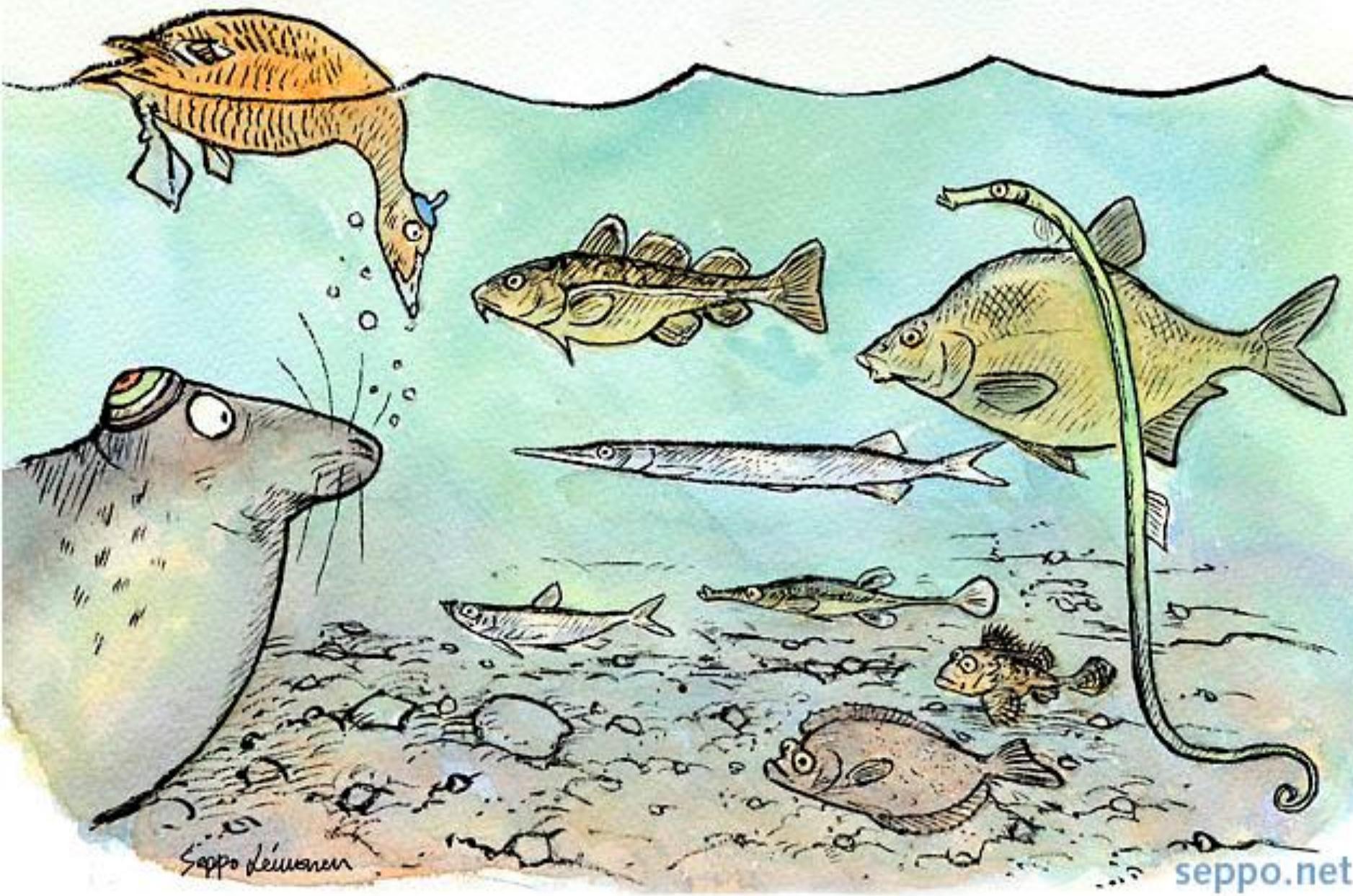








# Typical Baltic Sea ecosystem





<http://www.abyssart.fi/en/company.html>



<http://www.abyssart.fi/en/company.html>



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<http://www.abyssart.fi/en/company.html>



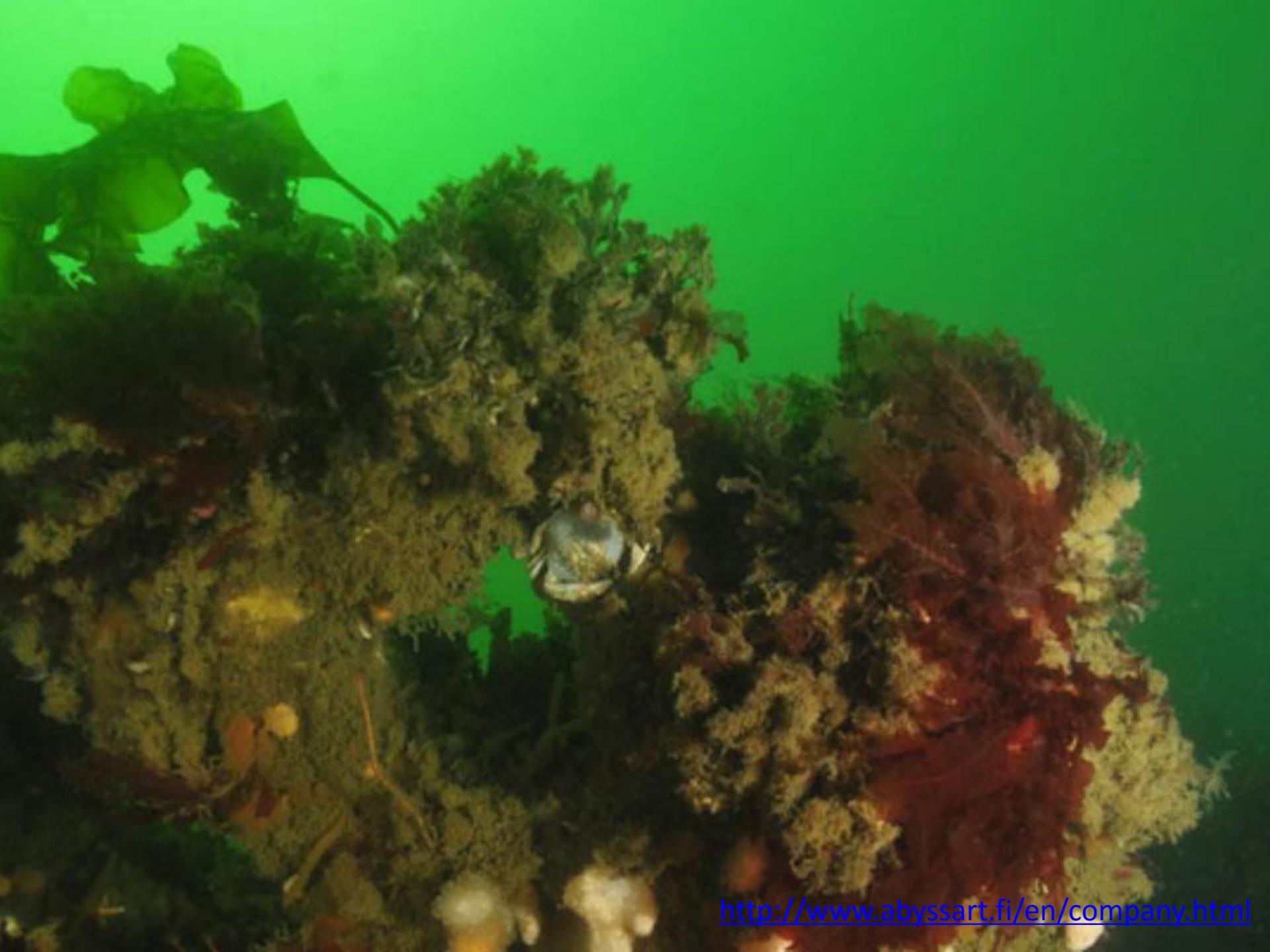
<http://www.abyssart.fi/en/company.html>



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<http://www.abyssart.fi/en/company.html>

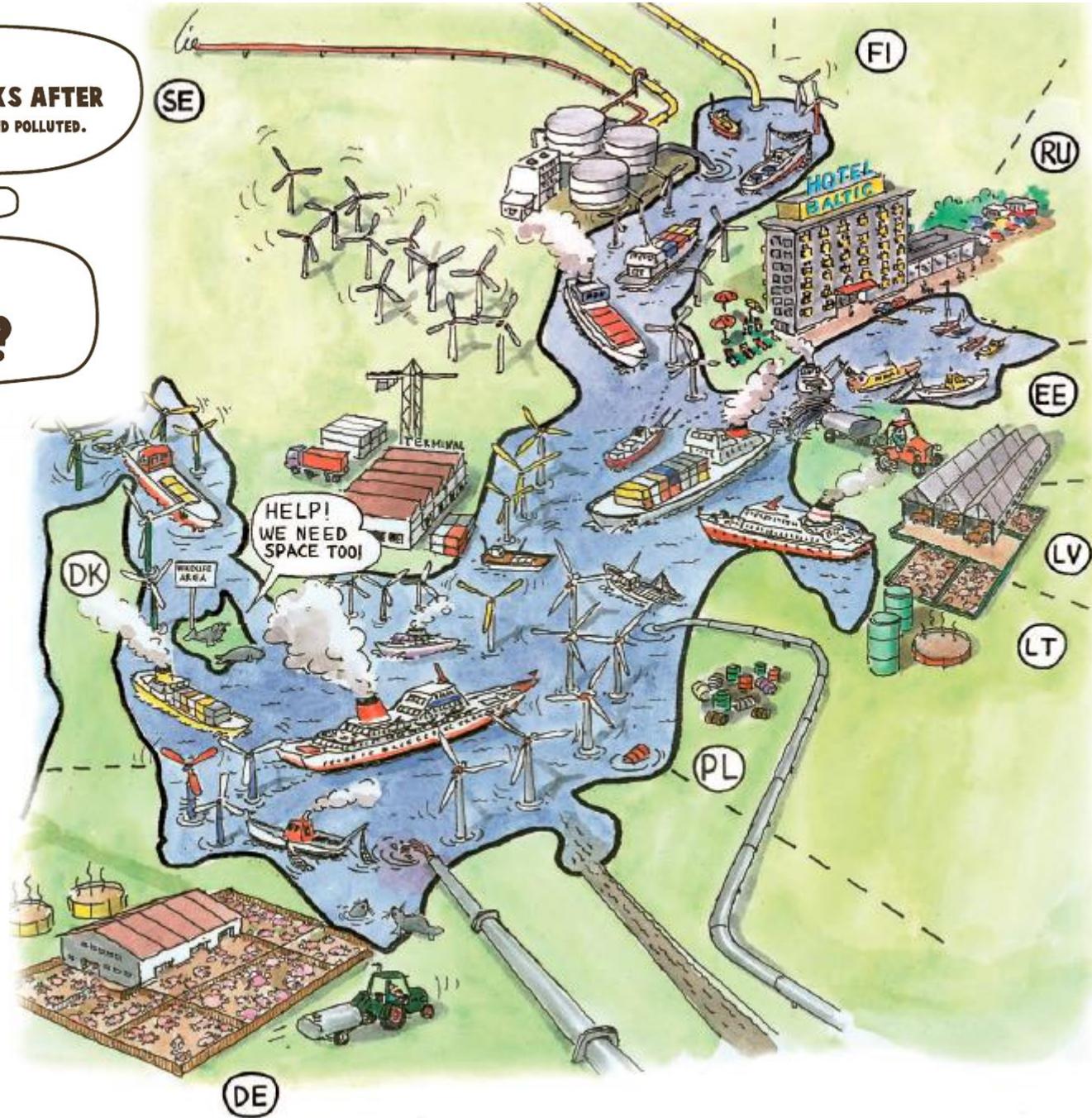
# Coalition Clean Baltic



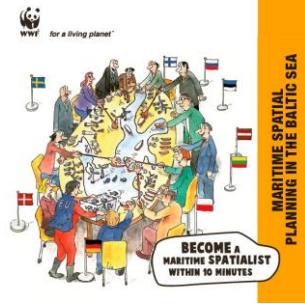
SOMETIMES IT SEEMS AS  
IF NO ONE LOOKS AFTER  
THE BALTIC SEA. IT IS OVERUSED AND POLLUTED.

WHO HAS RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR MANAGING THESE COMPETING  
USES AND PROTECTING ITS  
NATURAL RESOURCES ?

WWF for a living planet®  
MARITIME SPATIAL  
PLANNING IN THE BALTIC SEA  
BECOME A  
MARITIME SPATIALIST  
WITHIN 10 MINUTES



# Coalition Clean Baltic



SOMETIMES IT ALSO SEEMS  
AS IF EVERYONE GOVERNS THE BALTIC SEA.  
**IT IS A LABYRINTH OF RULES,  
RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES,  
WITH TOO MANY PARTIES  
CHASING SECTORAL  
AND NATIONAL INTERESTS.**





**A JUNGLE** OF RIGHTS,  
POWERS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND NATIONAL  
INTERESTS MAKE PROGRESS  
IN THE BALTIC SEA  
REALLY SLOOOOOOOOW.



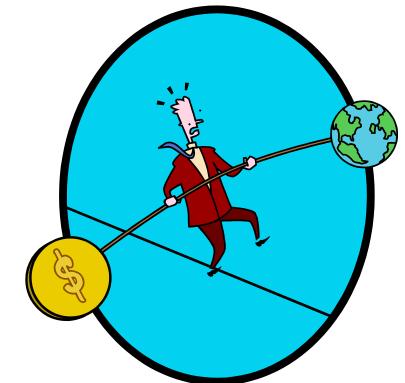
# What is good ecosystem health of the Baltic Sea?

- The ecosystem approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way.

*(UN Convention on Biodiversity)*

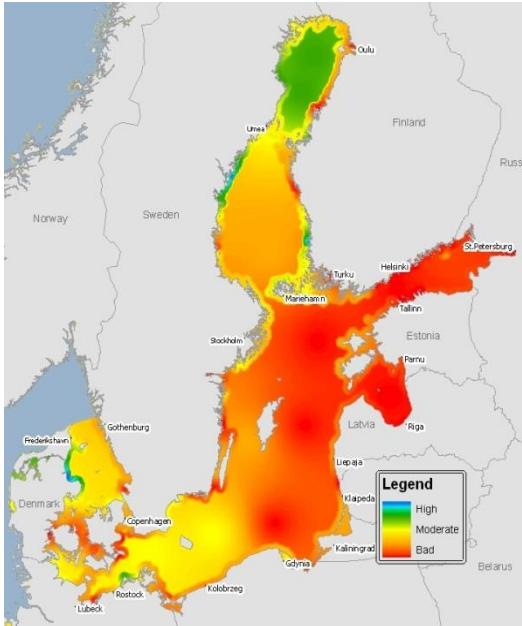
- A marine environment, with diverse biological components functioning in balance, resulting in a good environmental/ecological status and supporting a wide range of sustainable human economic and social activities

*(HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan)*

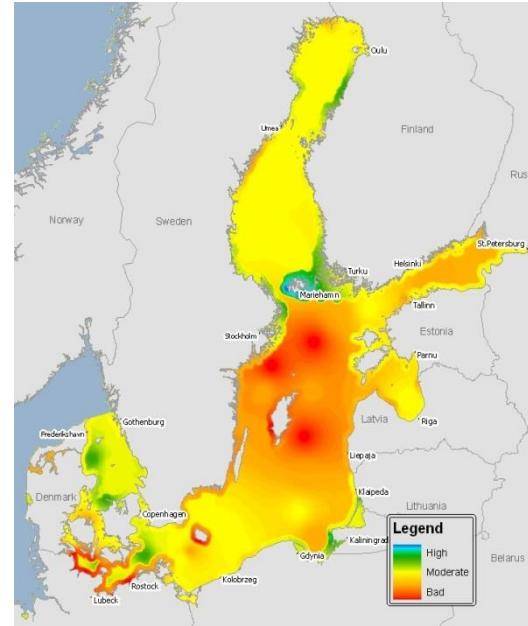


# Are we on the right track?

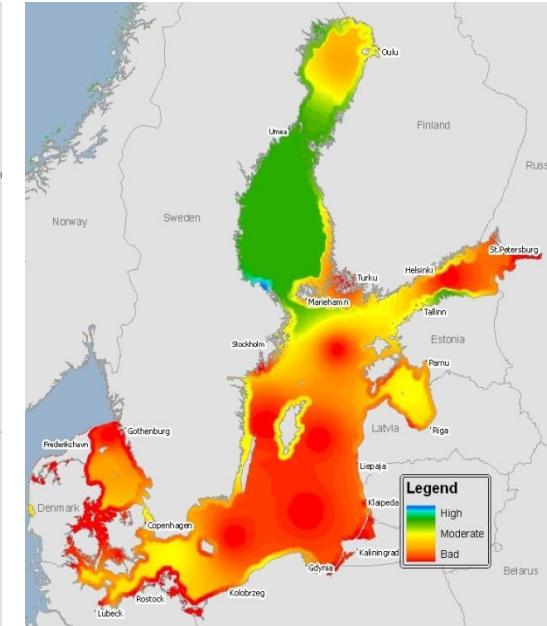
Eutrophication



Hazardous substances



Biodiversity

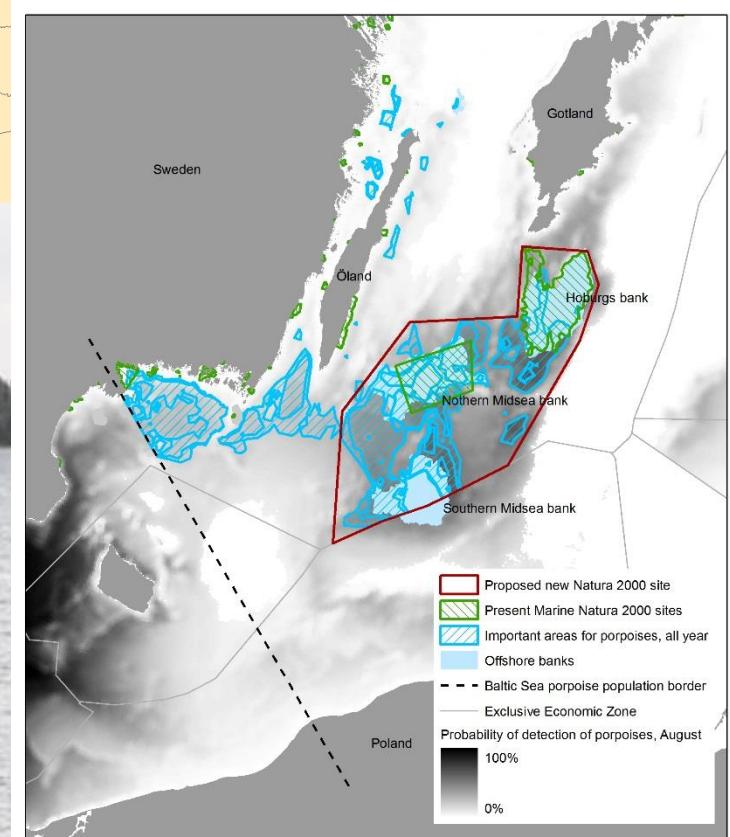
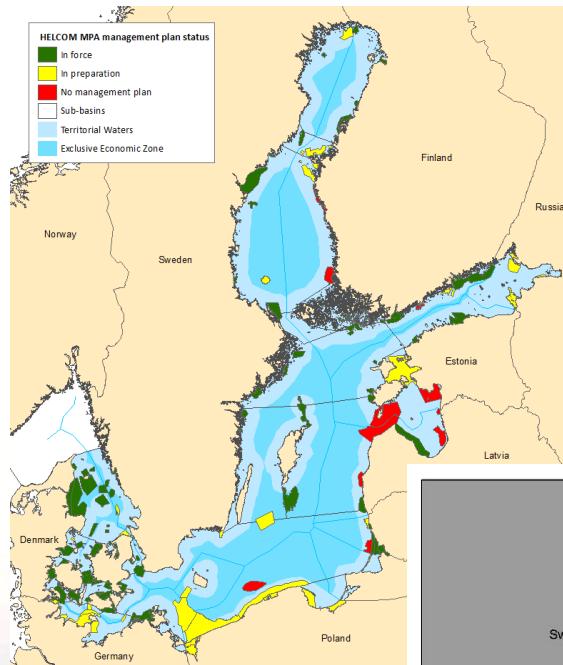


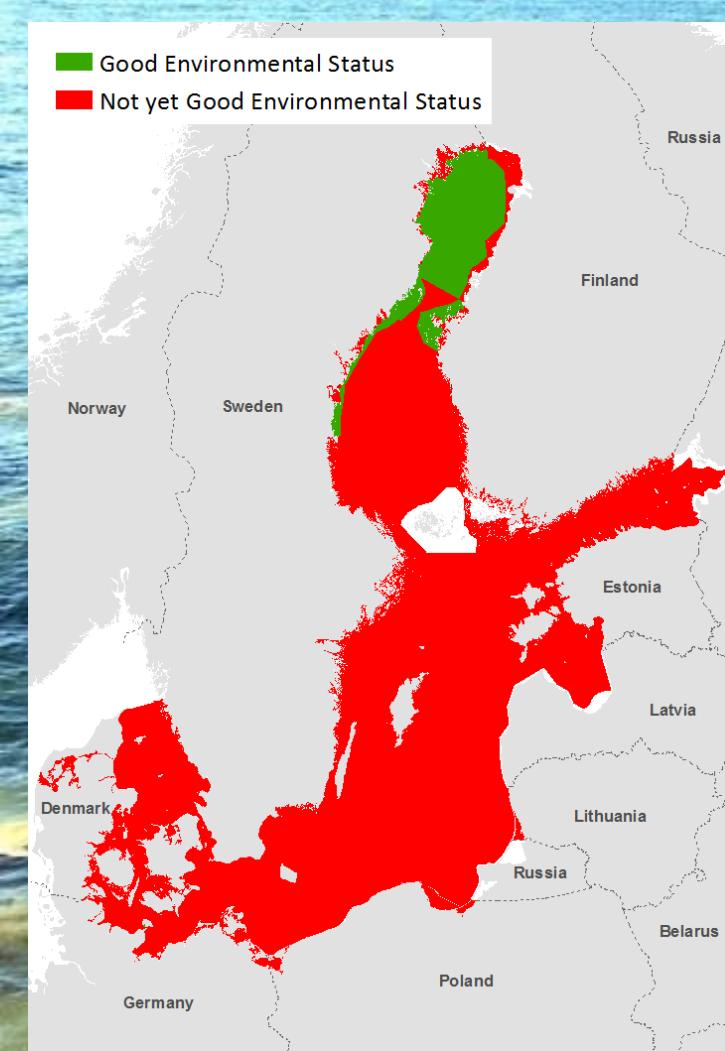
- > 40% reduction in loads of nitrogen and phosphorus
- 50% reduction in discharges of 46 hazardous substances
- 117 of the designated 162 major pollution Hot Spots have been recovered (2016)
- Since 2003 number of MPAs has increased from 78 to 159 and cover 10.3% of marine area
- Populations of grey seal, white-tailed eagle have been recovered, as well as wild salmon populations restored, etc.
- Improved safety of navigation and accident response capacity – less accidents with spills, less illegal oil spills, better preparedness

**4%**  
Species and  
**27%**  
habitats  
are under threat of  
extinction

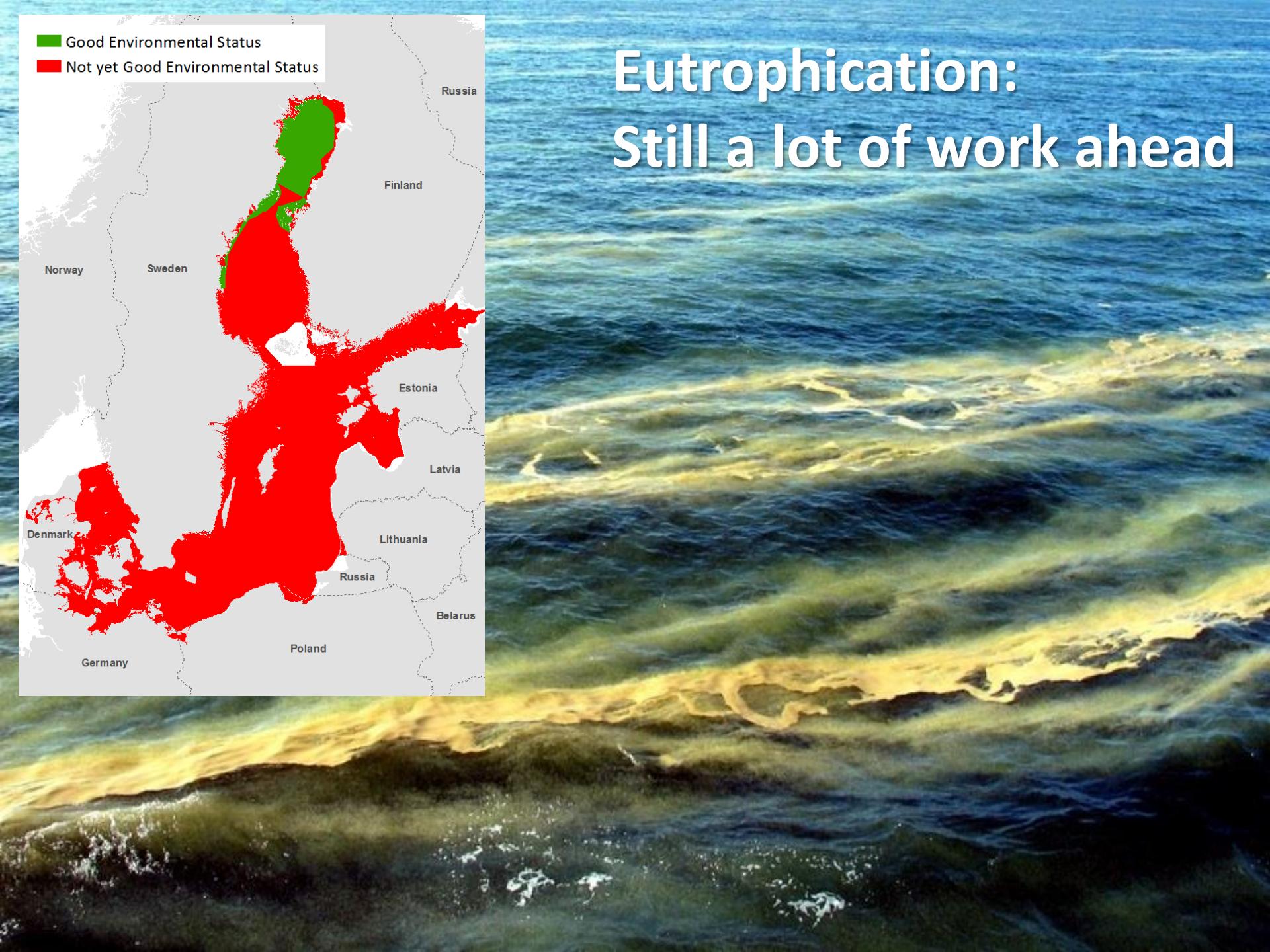


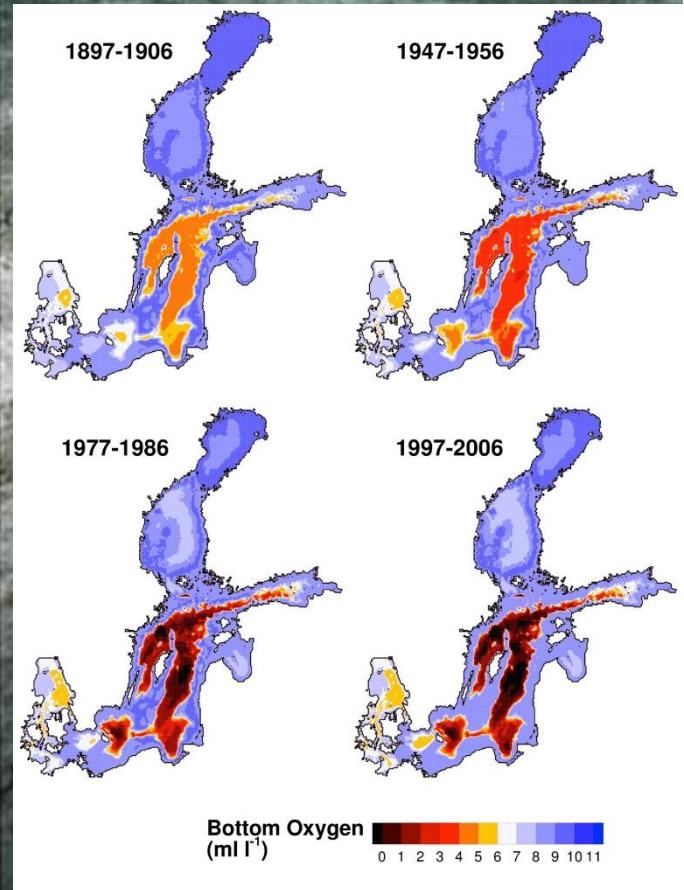
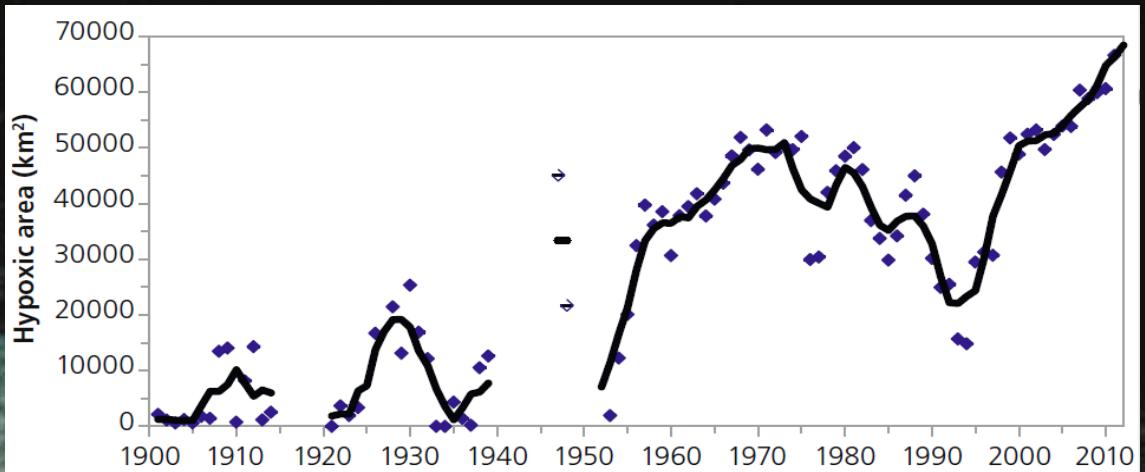
12%  
of the sea area  
is covered by  
Marine Protected  
Areas





# Eutrophication: Still a lot of work ahead

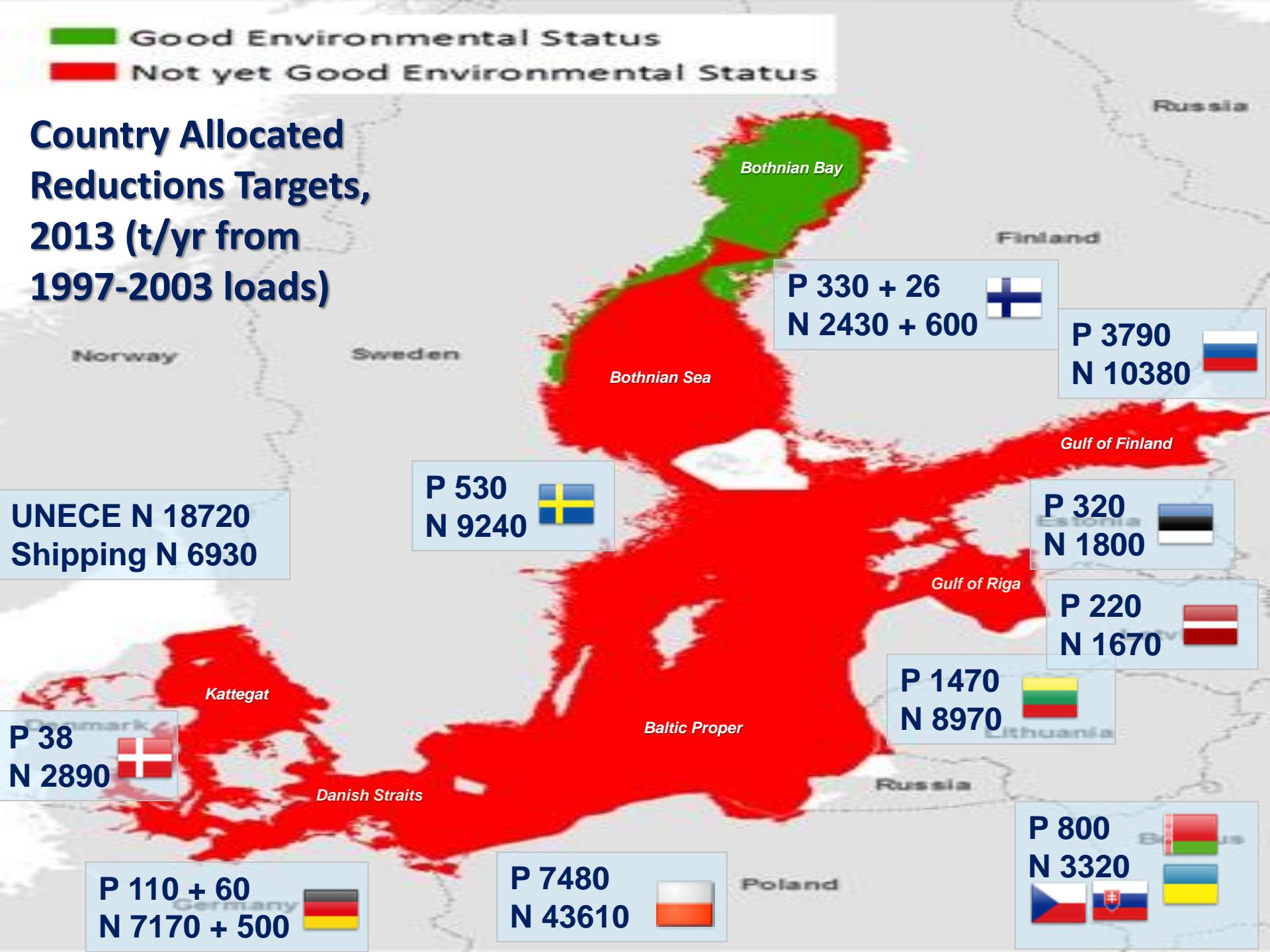




Anoxic bottom areas  
are bigger than ever

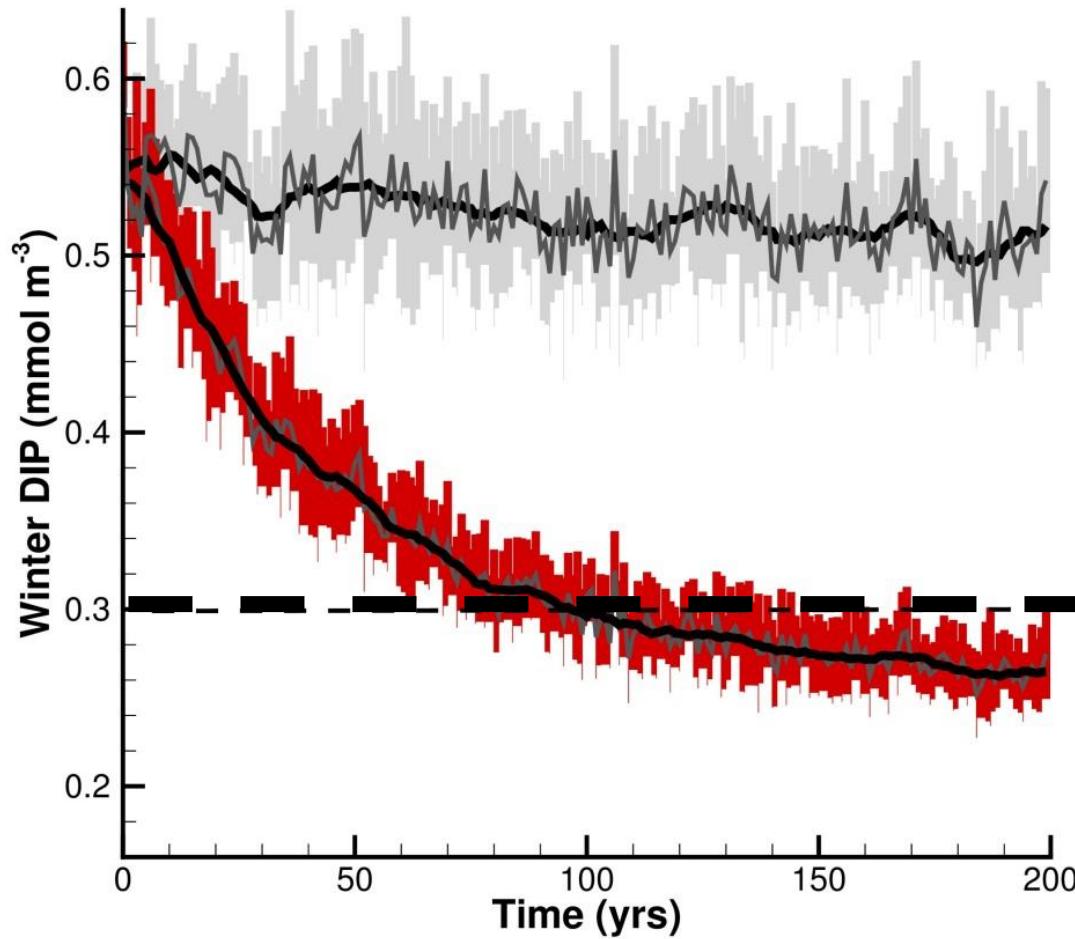
- Good Environmental Status
- Not yet Good Environmental Status

## Country Allocated Reductions Targets, 2013 (t/yr from 1997-2003 loads)



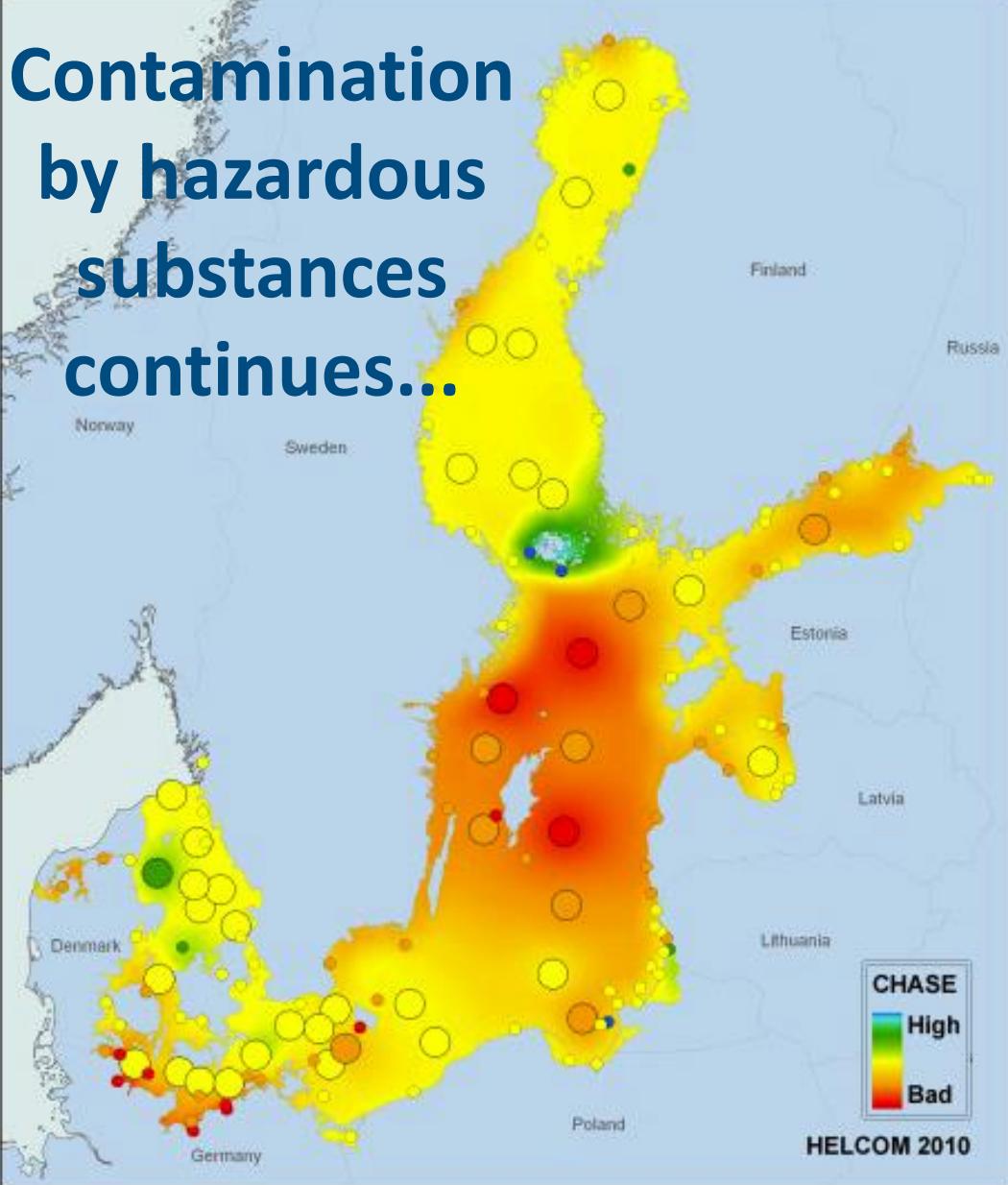
# When will the Baltic Sea be healthy?

Long time before targets are reached (up to 100 years)  
Significant improvement within decades, perhaps even shorter

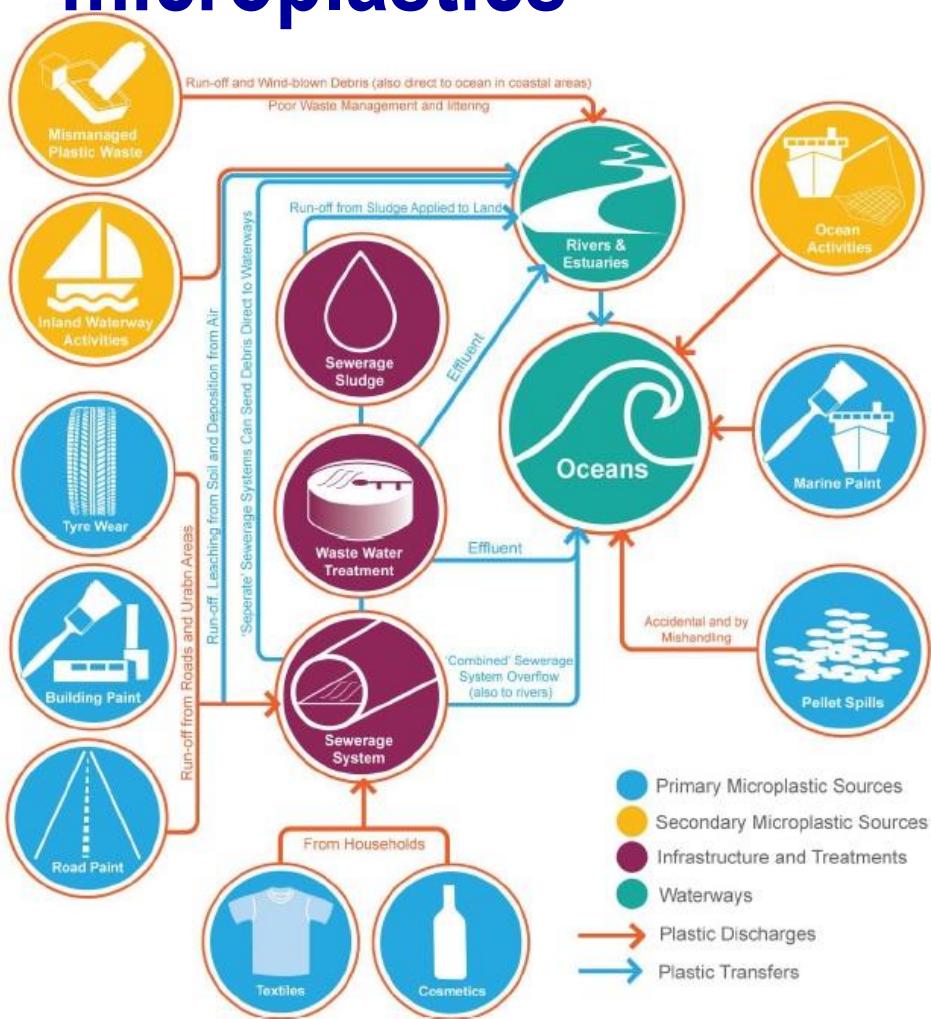


There will be  
a quick initial  
response but  
it will take  
time to reach  
targets

# Contamination by hazardous substances continues...



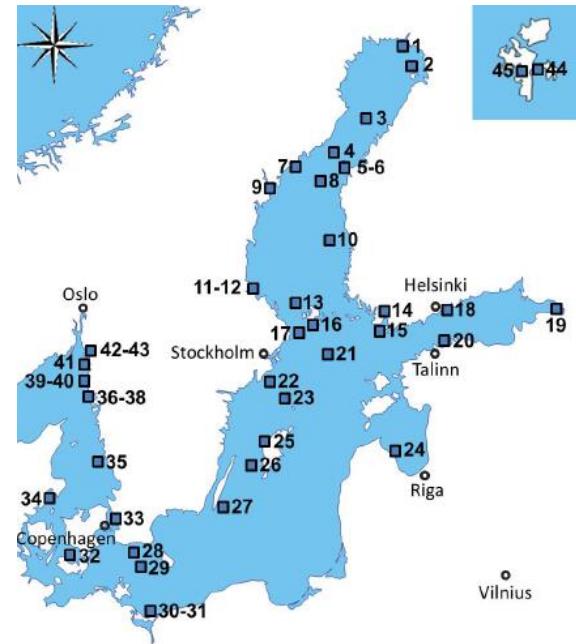
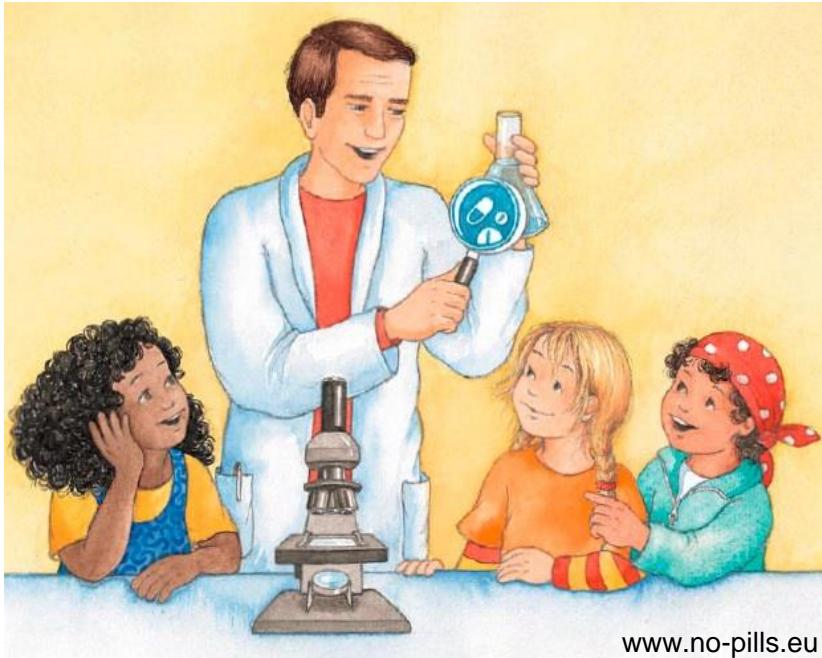
# Emerging threat: marine litter & microplastics



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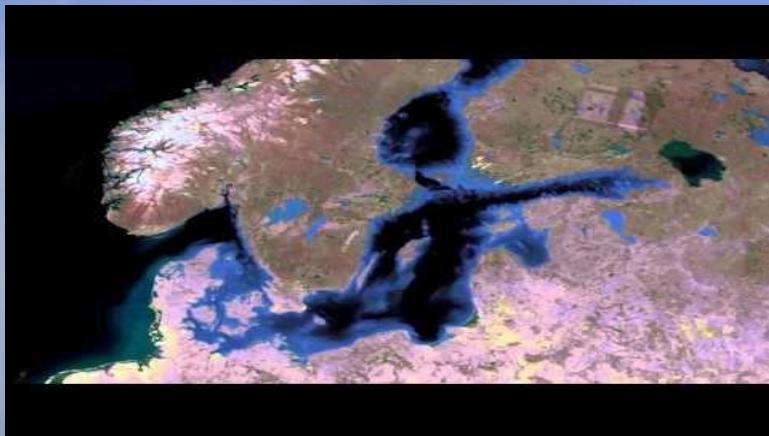


# Emerging threat: Pharmaceuticals in the BSR



- **ca. 2200 tAPI /yr** enter annually through WWTPs
- **main loads:** cardiovascular, central nervous system and anti-inflammatories and analgesics (**diclofenac, ibuprofen and paracetamol** most frequent)
- **main source - excretion** by human and animals and incorrect disposal
- **vast observations** (45000 source/path and 4600 sea/coastal samples)
- data from 7 out of 9 coastal states
- traced **effects in biota** (mostly in blue mussels)
- developed **take-back** but unknown **efficiency?**

Cleaner  
and safer  
shipping



Emissions:

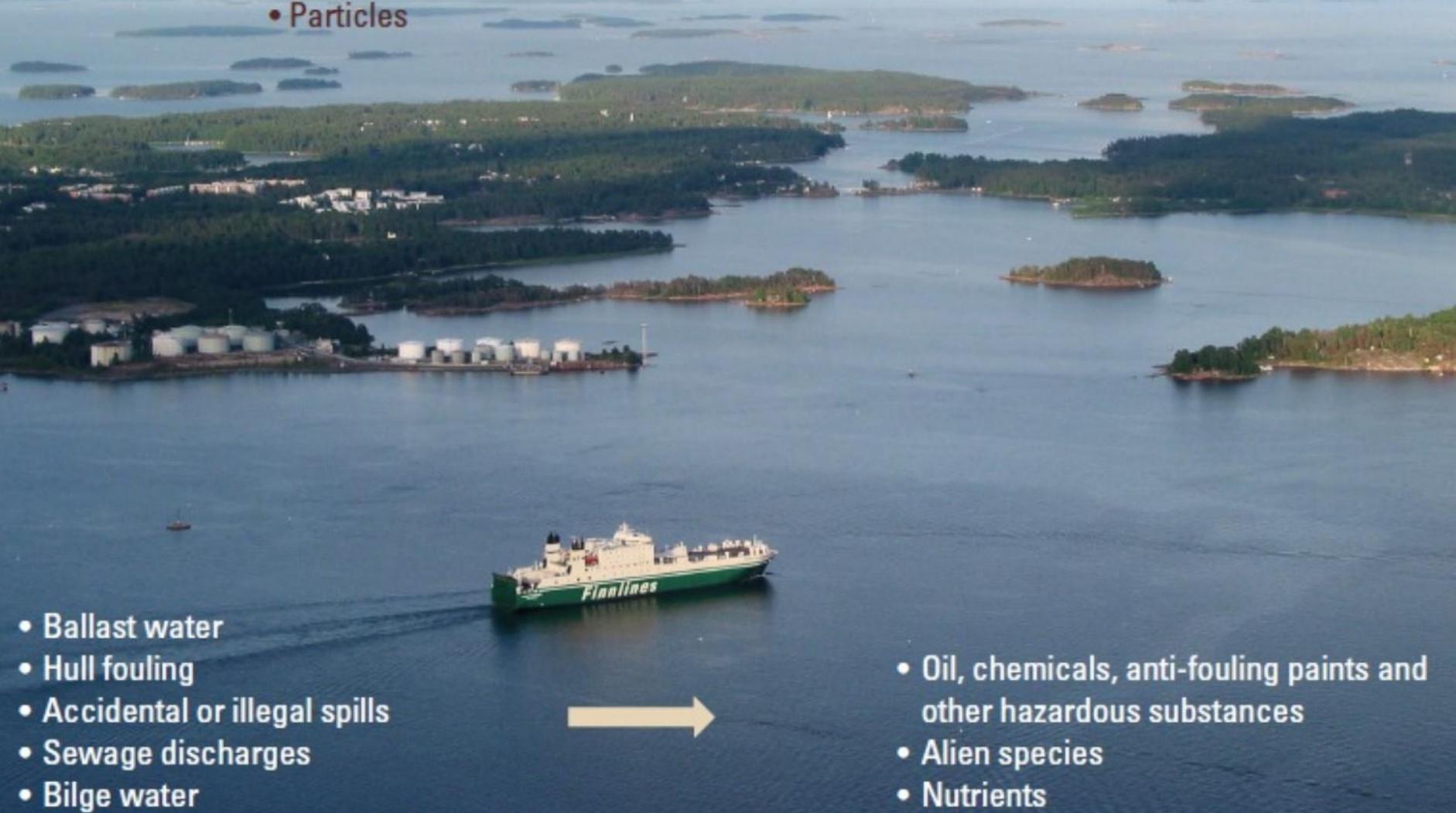
- SO<sub>X</sub>
- NO<sub>X</sub>
- O<sub>3</sub>
- PAH
- Particles

Greenhouse gases:

- Mainly CO<sub>2</sub>

Ozone-depleting substances:

- Halon
- CFCs
- VOC

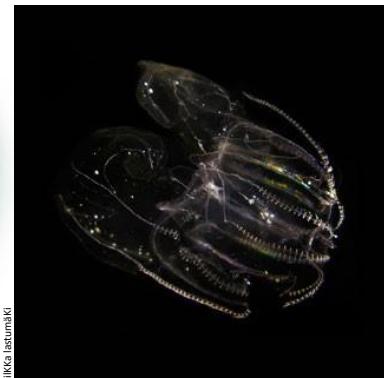
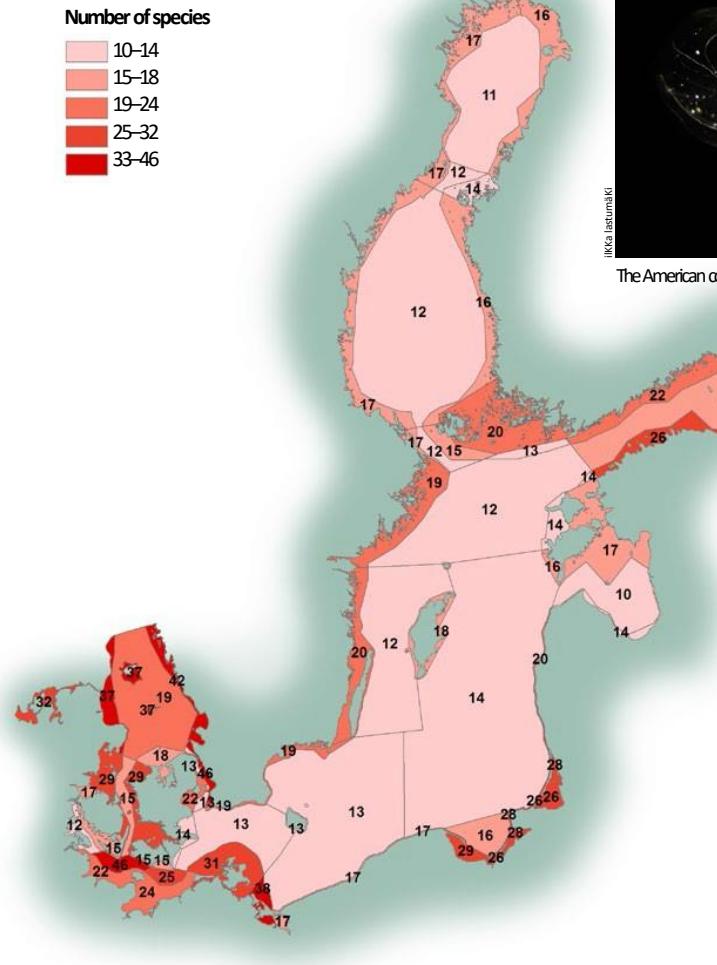


- Ballast water
- Hull fouling
- Accidental or illegal spills
- Sewage discharges
- Bilge water



- Oil, chemicals, anti-fouling paints and other hazardous substances
- Alien species
- Nutrients

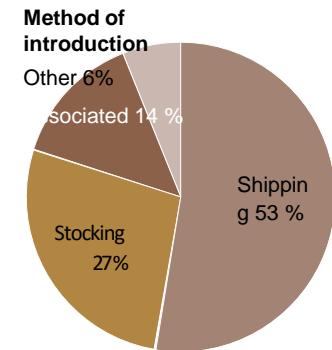
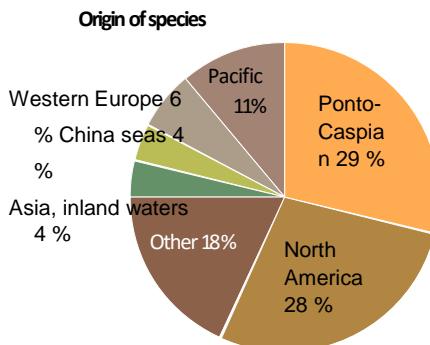
# Alien species in the Baltic Sea



The American comb jelly (*Mnemiopsis leidyi*)

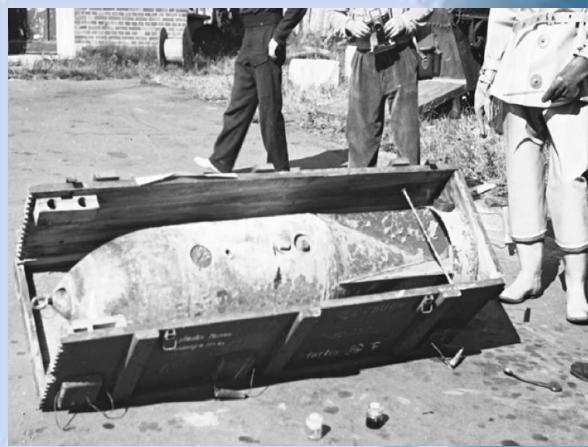


Chinesemitten crab (*Eriocheir sinensis*)



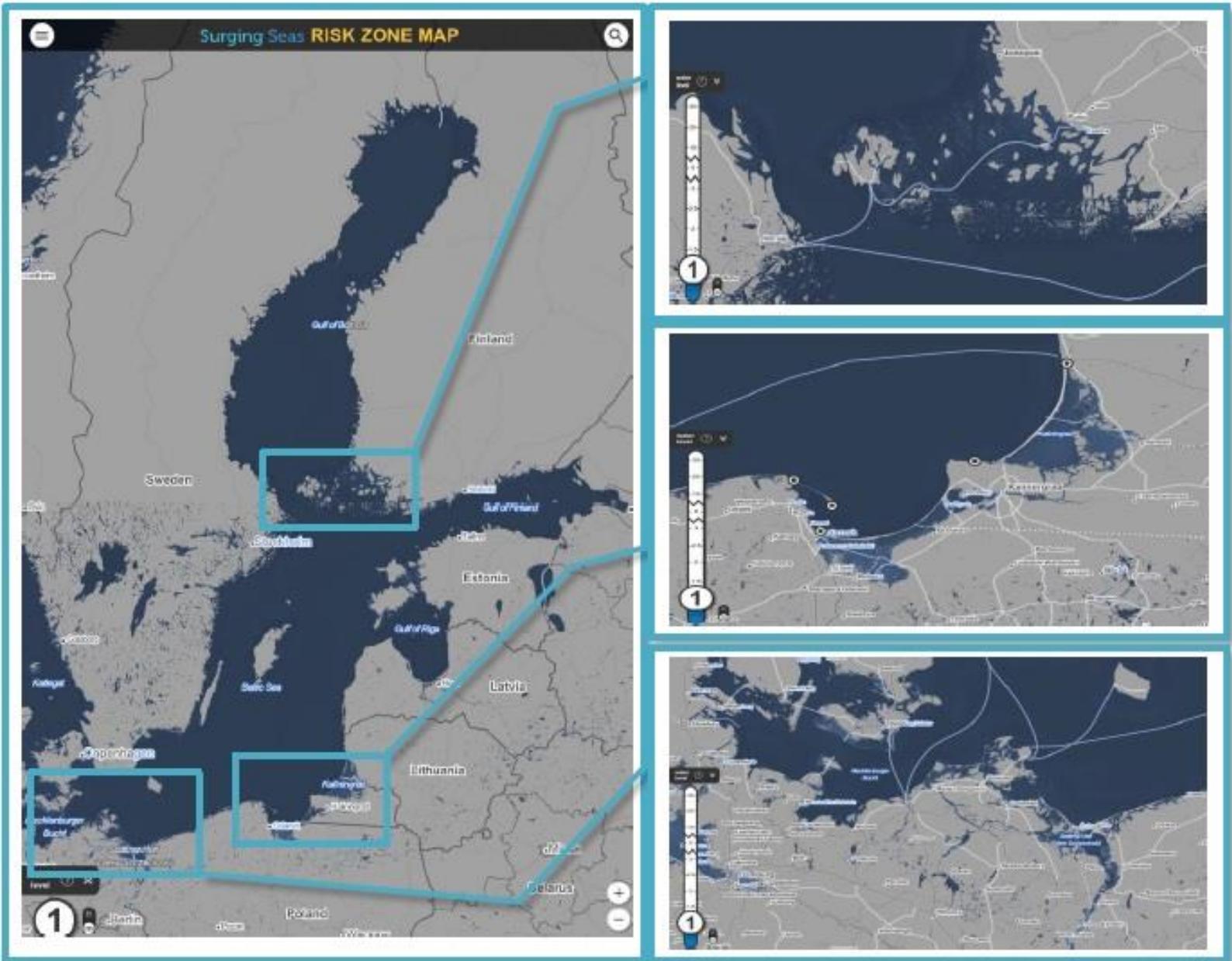
Source: Zaiko et. al. 2011

- Reported encounters with chemical munitions 1994-2012
- Emergency relocation areas
- Designated transport route
- Suspected alternative transport route
- Designated dumping area
- Suspected dumpsite
- Suspected en-route dumping areas
- Areas of discovery of chemical warfare materials
- Exclusive economic zone



Map by HELCOM

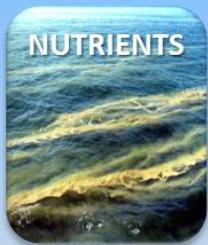
# Climate change implications



# Baltic Sea Action Plan: Where are we?

## VISION OF

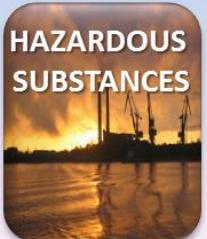
A healthy Baltic Sea  
with biological components  
sustaining human activities



MARITIME  
TRAFFIC



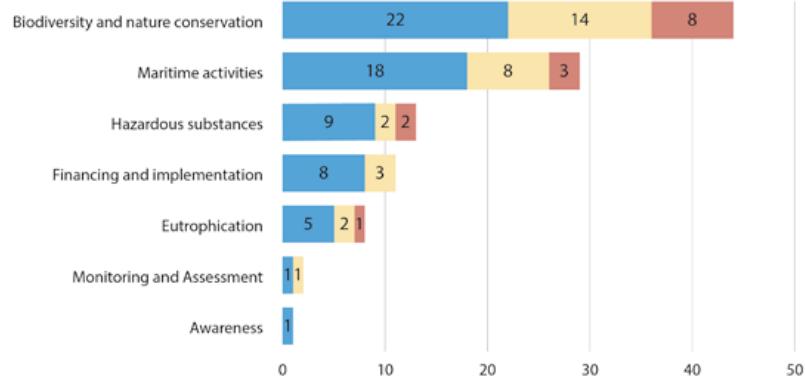
HAZARDOUS  
SUBSTANCES



## How many accomplished per segment

Number of joint actions accomplished by segment. May 2016

Accomplished  
Partly accomplished  
Not accomplished



Accomplished

Ongoing

To be started

59%

31%

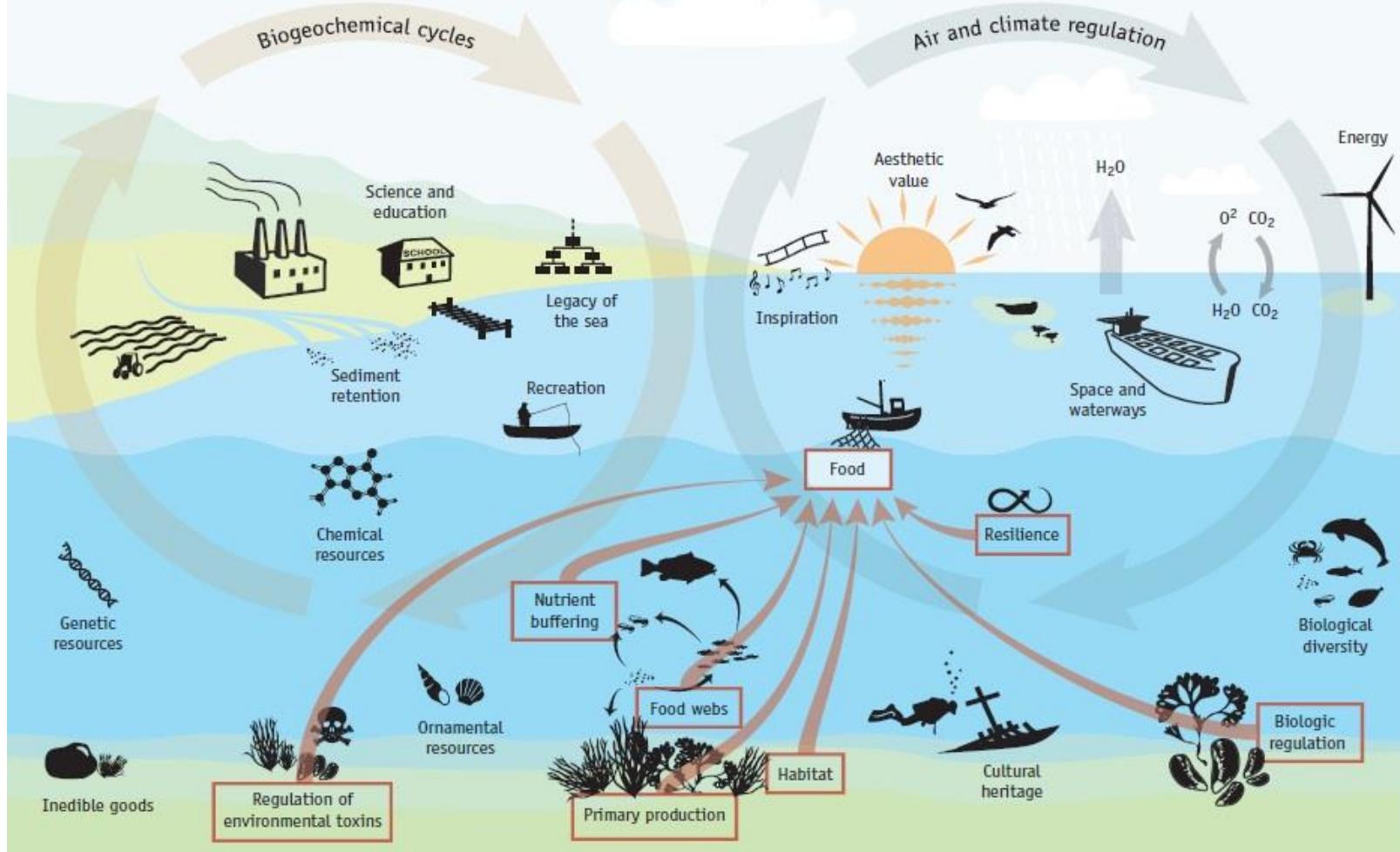
10%



HELCOM

# Is it feasible to save the Baltic Sea?

**Benefits 3,8(5,0) B €/year – Costs 2,8 B €/year = Surplus 1(2,2) B €/year**

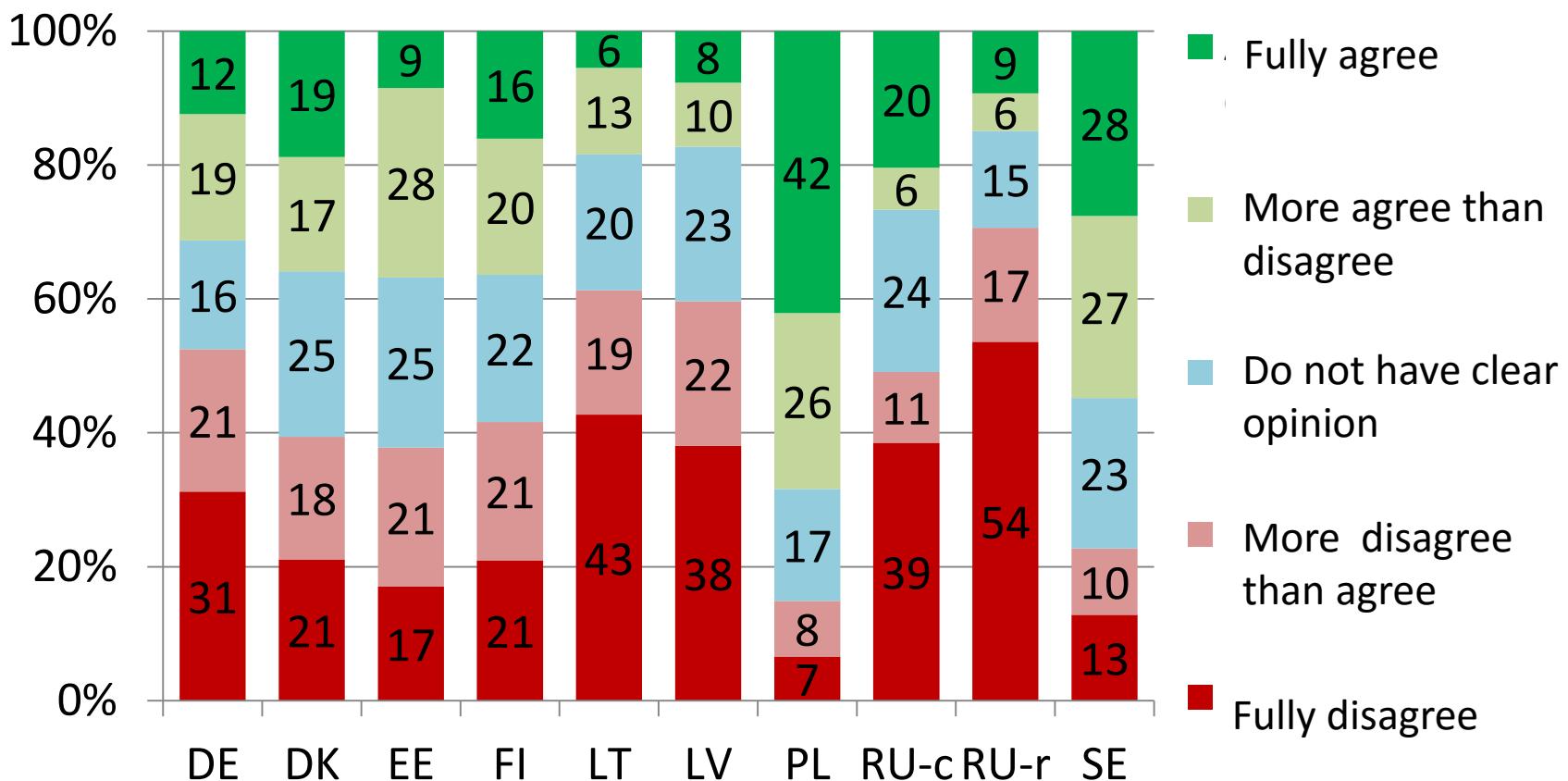


BalticSTERN Final Report "The Baltic Sea - Our Common Treasure. Economics of Saving the Sea ", 2013)

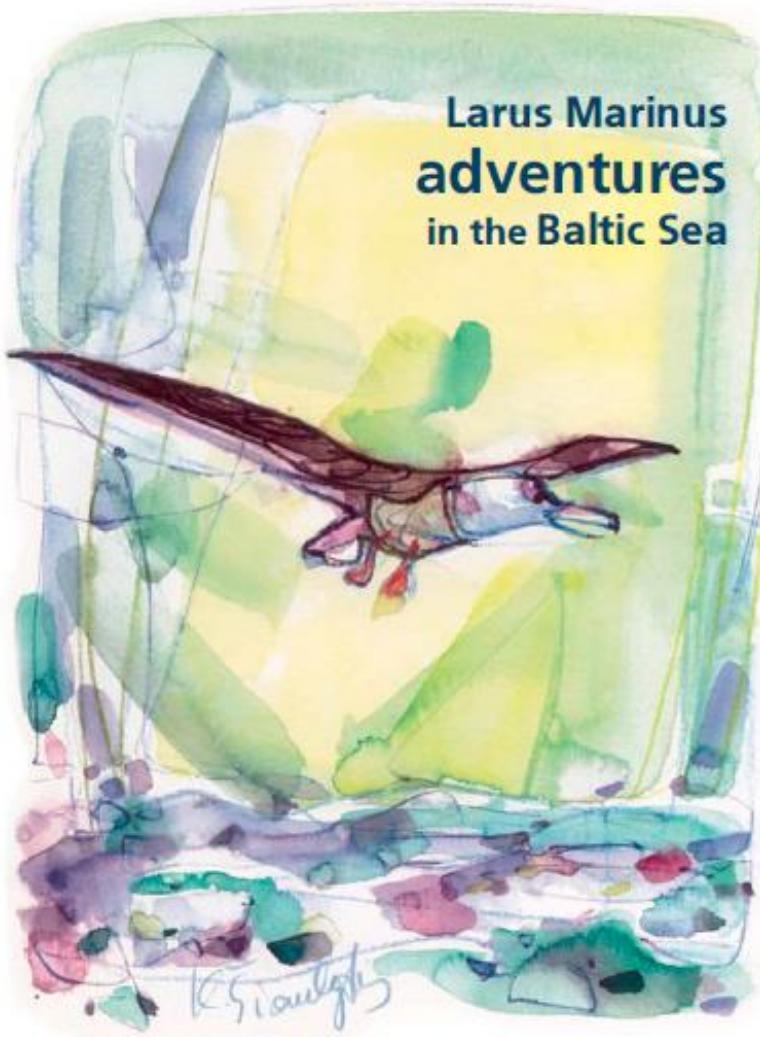
# Challenges and opportunities

- **Eutrophication**
  - Wise use of nutrients, nutrient recycling, removal fisheries
  - Re-think waste water treatment → water & energy nexus
  - Nutrient neutrality, offsetting
- **Hazardous substances**
  - Consumer behaviour: take back systems for pharmaceuticals, phasing out microplastic products
  - Technology & innovations – WWTP & stormwater
- **Biodiversity**
  - Smart cooperation with fishermen
  - MPAs management: benefits outweigh
  - Ecosystem-based Maritime Spatial Planning
- **Maritime transport and ports**
  - Sewage collection, LNG as fuel, ballast water management,
  - Beneficial use of dredged material
  - Ports development in urban planning

# Vox populi: "I can personally contribute to improvement of environment situation of the Baltic Sea"



# Thank you for your attention!



Larus Marinus  
**adventures**  
in the Baltic Sea

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