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Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges

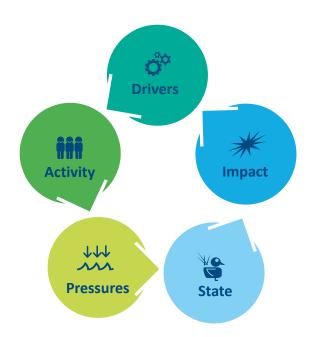
PROTECT BALTIC - why is it needed and what is the rational?

The Relationship of Society and the Sea

The relationship society and the sea is multifaceted and nuanced.

- Society can derive benefits from human activities that may have negative impacts on the marine environment.

- A dynamic tension between the need to protect the ecosystem and the desire to use it for our own short-term benefit.







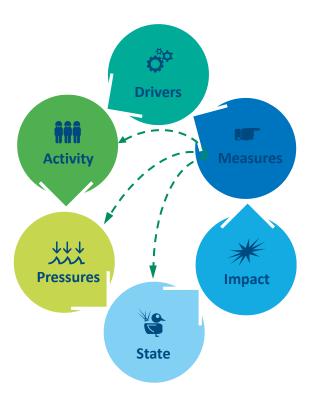
Protection, why do we need it?

- Nature and biodiversity **make life possible**, provide **health** and **social benefits** and **drive our economy**. Nature is also our best ally in **tackling the climate crisis**, and the marine environment is an integral part of the larger land-sea ecosystem.

- Several of the **sectors** utilising the Baltic Sea **depend on the quality of the environment** (including e.g. fishing, aquaculture, tourism, leisure activities etc.).

- The practice of protecting, i.e **leaving space for**, the natural environment from negative impacts.

- This is done by **limiting activites and pressures**, or **improving the status** of the environment directly.







HELCOM	HUMAN ACTIVITIES		PRESSURES	
	Land claim	A	Input of nutrients	HELCOM
PHYSICAL RESTRUCTURING	Canalisation, other watercourse modifications	M /		SUBSTANCES
	Coastal defence, flood protection	M Ata	Input of organic matter	
	Offshore structures			
	Restructuring of seabed morphology		Input of hazardous substances	
EXTRACTION OF NON-LIVING RESOURCES	Extraction of minerals			
NON-LIVING RESOURCES	Extraction of oil and gas	CHI CHI CALO	Input of litter	
PRODUCTION OF ENERGY EXTRACTION OF LIVING RESOURCES	Renewable energy generation and infrastructure		To put of sourced	ENERGY
	Non-renewable energy production Transmission of electricity and communications		Input of sound	
	Fish and shellfish harvesting		Input of other forms of energy	
	Fish and shellfish processing		input of other forms of energy	
	Marine plant harvesting		Input or spread of	
	Hunting and collecting for other purposes		non-indigenous species	
	Aquacuture – marine		Input of genetically modified species, translocation of native species	
CULTIVATION OF	Agriculture		transfocation of native species	
LIVING RESOURCES	Forestry		Input of microbial pathogens	BIOLOGICAL
TRANSPORT	Transport infrastructure			
	Transport – shipping		Disturbance of species	
	Transport – land		Extraction of species	
	Urban uses		or mortality/injury to species	
URBAN & INDUSTRIAL	Industrial uses			
	Waste treatment and disposal		Physical disturbance to seabed	
TOURISM &	Tourism and leisure infrastructure	MALT XIN	Dhusiasi lang of each of	PHYSICAL
LEISURE	Tourism and leisure activities		Physical loss of seabed	PHIDICAL
SECURITY & DEFENCE	Military operations	4/	Changes to hydrological conditions	
EDUCATION & RESEARCH	Research, survey and educational activities			

mmm

Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Current situation – the good

- First region in the world to reach the global 10% target.
- As of December 2022, the Baltic MPA network covers approximately 16.5% of the Baltic Sea.
- Included in this are 178 HELCOM MPAs (i.e. part of a recognised transboundary MPA network), amounting to about 13.2% of the Baltic Sea.

Marine Protected Areas

HELCOM subbasin division lines 2022 HELCOM MPAs Natura 2000 sites

Funded by the European Union

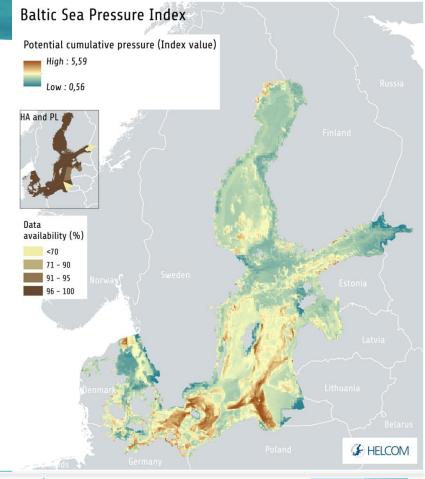




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Current situation – the not so good

- Incomplete knowledge base for decision making and designation.
- Gaps in governance.
- Insufficient use of adaptive management.
- It took 30 years to get where we are, now we need to double it in 7 years.
- But it isn't about getting to 30%, it's about getting there in a way that actually provides the biodiversity benefits.









PROTECT BALTIC - what do we do?



What do we want to achieve?

Rationale for theory of change...

If sufficient and effective spatial protection is ensured across the ecoregion...

Enabling

sufficient

spatial

protection

measures for

the marine

environment



INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME

... there will be a reduction in the negative impact from human activities, and... Secure positive marine biodiversity outcomes

ULTIMATE IMPACT

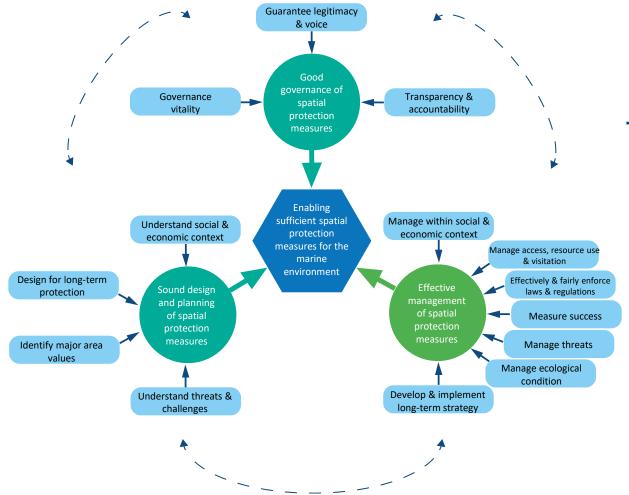
....the goals of maintaining or restoring the status of marine biodiversity can be reached.



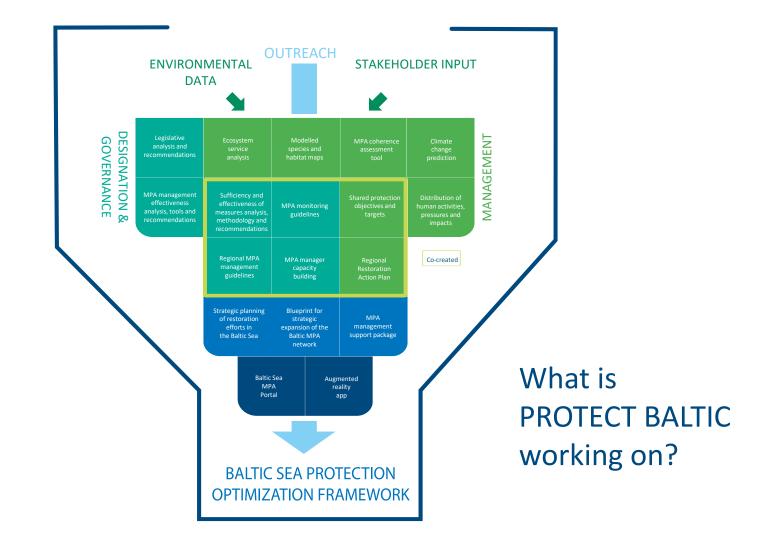
to achieve?





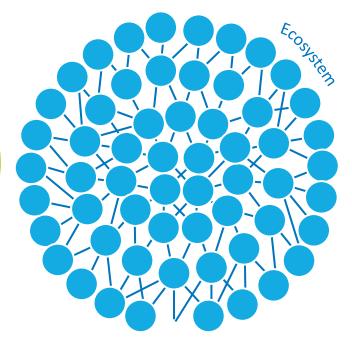


How do we get there?



The Relationship of the Sea and Society

Humans and society







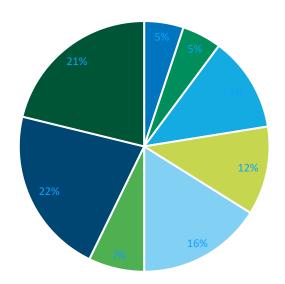
PROTECT BALTC and stakeholders -the 2024 Baltic Sakeholder Conference

60 55 51 50 40 30 20 14 12 10 10 10 0 Latvia Poland Ukraine France Croatia Estonia Belgium Norway Greece Portugal Turkey Bulgaria Finland Sweden Germany ithuania Denmark ed Kingdom Netherlands United States of Åland islands Unit

Participants per country (n=233)

Civil society

- Educational institution
- Environmental NGO
- International organization
- National authority or ministry
- Regional body
- Scientific and research institutes
- Other











Together, we are building a legacy of sustainability and ecological harmony.

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