

SUPPORTER REPORT 1/2022 – HOW WE ARE SAVING THE BALTIC SEA

The Baltic Sea is severely eutrophic.
 Eutrophication is changing the Sea and reducing the diversity of marine nature.
 The most effective way of saving the Baltic Sea is to reduce eutrophication.
 Eutrophication will decrease as the sea's nutrient load decreases.
 And when the sea is doing better, its resilience to environmental changes will also be higher.



Thanks to your support, we were able to take rapid and effective action to save the Baltic Sea in 2021. We are grateful for your support!

WE ARE REDUCING THE VOLUME OF NUTRIENTS THAT END UP IN THE SEA



BY IMPROVING THE REGIONAL NUTRIENT BALANCE OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND CROP CULTIVATION

✓ We recycled **1.4 tons** of manure phosphorus for use in crop cultivation.

When manure from livestock production is processed and transferred to a nutrient-deficient area for use on crop farms, it will reduce both nutrient run-off into the sea and crop farms' need for phosphorus fertilisers.



BY MAKING IMPROVEMENTS IN THE TRANSPORT, SHIPPING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT OF FERTILISERS

✓ We developed monitoring procedures and created a cooperation network of **9** ports, port operators, fertiliser manufacturers and environmental authorities.

When fertilisers end up in the sea they feed algae. Improving the way fertilisers are handled at ports can significantly reduce nutrient emissions into the sea.



BY TREATING FIELDS WITH GYPSUM

✓ The project reached **230** experts in the Baltic Sea region, supported gypsum trials in two countries, and encouraged further project applications in **6** countries.

Spreading gypsum on fields is an effective form of water protection, as it reduces both erosion and phosphorus leaching.



BY REDUCING NUTRIENT EMISSIONS FROM THE PRODUCTION OF BIOGAS

✓ We reached **25** biogas facilities and **10** authorities in Finland and Latvia.

Digestates and wastewater contain nutrients, and correctly treating them during biogas production will minimise the volume of nutrients that enter waterways and the Baltic Sea.

We are doing this because

WE ARE REMOVING EXISTING NUTRIENTS FROM THE SEA



BY MOWING REED MEADOWS

✓ We collected reeds from a total of **60** hectares at **6** different coastal sites.

When reeds are removed from eutrophic coastal waters and put to good use, the nutrients bound in the vegetation are also removed from the sea. Mowing also improves the biodiversity of coastal nature.



BY LAUNCHING THE MANAGEMENT FISHING OF CYPRINID FISH AND COMMERCIALISING PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM THEM

✓ We cooperated with **3** companies that are interested in processing reeds for use in substrates.

When reed material is used as a substrate, it can replace the use of peat (which causes greenhouse gas emissions).

✓ **3** fish products were created for use by both commercial kitchens and households, and new products are being developed in Sweden in particular.

Catching cyprinid fish is an effective way of removing nutrients from the sea. Cyprinid fish products are a healthy and environmentally friendly source of protein.



BY DEVELOPING WAYS TO REDUCE THE PHOSPHORUS THAT IS ALREADY PRESENT IN THE SEA

✓ We are piloting new ways to remove nutrients from the sea.

The removal of nutrients can help rehabilitate small bays when other means of reducing external loading have already been exhausted.

We are doing this because

WE ARE STRENGTHENING AWARENESS ABOUT THE BALTIC SEA AND FINNS' RELATIONSHIP WITH IT



BY PRODUCING BALTIC SEA-RELATED TEACHING AND TRAINING MATERIALS

✓ We created an online Baltic Sea info pack and published **4** books.
 We organised almost **100** school visits in collaboration with the Finnish Nature League.

When people recognise the importance of the Baltic Sea and feel a close connection to it, they will find it easier to pay attention to protecting it in everyday life.



BY TELLING NEW AUDIENCES ABOUT THE SEA IN AN INNOVATIVE AND EXCITING MANNER

✓ We released My Baltic Sea, a podcast about the importance of the Baltic Sea.
 We held **3** maritime exhibitions via the Digimuseo.fi service.

The sea is a unifying factor for people living in the Baltic region.

BALTIC SEA DAY

BY ORGANISING BALTIC SEA DAY ON THE LAST THURSDAY IN AUGUST

✓ Baltic Sea Day was celebrated in **6** countries and **20** cities at events organised by **220** partners.

The sea is an integral part of our cultural identity.

We are doing this because

WE INFLUENCE SOCIAL DECISION-MAKING BOTH IN FINLAND AND INTERNATIONALLY



BY ACTIVELY DISCUSSING THE SITUATION IN THE BALTIC SEA

✓ We promoted the inclusion of agricultural water protection measures in the EU's rural development programme, as this is essential for the Baltic Sea.



BY COOPERATING WITH ORGANISATIONS IN COUNTRIES AROUND THE BALTIC SEA

✓ We are members of organisations such as the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM).



BY PARTICIPATING IN SOCIAL DEBATE ON THE WELLBEING OF THE BALTIC SEA

✓ We organised a municipal election debate on Baltic Sea themes. We held the first event in our discussion series, *The Baltic Sea talks*.

We are doing all this because

The Baltic Sea is an indicator of climate change and nature loss.
 The Baltic Sea is a concrete example of what will happen to the world's seas if we do not adopt a more sustainable way of life.
 But it's still not too late to save the Baltic Sea.

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