

SUPPORTER REPORT 1/2023 – THIS IS HOW WE’LL SAVE THE BALTIC SEA

The Baltic Sea is severely eutrophic. Eutrophication is changing the sea and threatening the diversity of marine nature.

The most effective way of saving the Baltic Sea is to reduce eutrophication and increase understanding of the sea.

When the sea is doing better, its resilience to environmental changes will also be improved.



With your support, we can carry out measures with significant and scalable effects to save the Baltic Sea in 2022–2023

WE PROTECT MARINE NATURE AND REDUCE EMISSIONS OF NUTRIENTS AND HARMFUL SUBSTANCES INTO THE SEA



We are doing this because

<p>BY IMPROVING THE REGIONAL NUTRIENT BALANCE OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND CROP CULTIVATION</p> <p>Our project involved 3 livestock and 13 crop farms. Manure was transferred between these farms for crop cultivation in nutrient-deficient areas – and more than 5 tons of phosphorus was transferred along with it.</p> <p>When manure from livestock production is processed and transferred to a nutrient-deficient area for use on crop farms, it can reduce both nutrient run-off into the Baltic Sea and crop farms' need for phosphorus fertilisers.</p>	<p>BY INTENSIFYING THE WATER PROTECTION OF PEATLAND FORESTS</p> <p>We identified the best solutions and practices for reducing water emissions from forestry in the area around the Tilanjoki River with Metsähallitus. We take water samples to monitor the effect of the measures on water quality.</p> <p>Drained peatlands are a major source of nutrients, solids and humus that load bodies of water. The development of water-friendly forest management methods will reduce run-off into the Baltic Sea and inland waters.</p>	<p>BY TREATING FIELDS WITH GYPSUM</p> <p>We piloted gypsum treatment for farms in the Åland Islands in cooperation with the Rädä Lumparn association. We expanded gypsum treatment to 6 farms and treated 100 hectares of fields, which was double our goal.</p> <p>Spreading gypsum on fields is an effective form of water protection, as it reduces both erosion and phosphorus leaching into bodies of water.</p>
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We are doing this because

<p>BY DEVELOPING FERTILISER PROCESSING AT PORTS</p> <p>We collaborated with all of Finland's busiest fertiliser ports to reduce the amount of fertiliser waste that ends up in the sea. We launched international cooperation to draw up BAT guidelines for the responsible handling of fertilisers throughout the Baltic Sea region.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>BY REDUCING EMISSIONS OF HARMFUL SUBSTANCES INTO THE SEA</p> <p>Together with Traficom, we carried out a risk assessment to determine which hazardous chemicals are unloaded at Finnish ports and identify which ones cause the greatest harm to marine environments. We started working with companies that use these chemicals to find the best solutions for handling them.</p> <p>Tank washing on ships that transport harmful chemicals that are unloaded at Finnish ports results in discharges into the Baltic Sea.</p>
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We are doing this because

<p>BY MOWING REED MEADOWS</p> <p>Reeds were harvested from about 100 hectares and sent for utilisation. We began exploring ways to improve the efficiency of reed transportation, such as baling, and wintertime mowing. We received funding for our BalticReed project from the INTERRAG Central Baltic programme, which will enable us to expand mowing and business development to Sweden and the Åland Islands.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>BY RESTORING EELGRASS MEADOWS</p> <p>We started an eelgrass planting project with Metsähallitus' Nature Services, and also launched cooperation with Central European marine conservation foundations. We worked with volunteer divers to test a new collaboration model and identify planting sites for the coming years.</p> <p>When we restore eelgrass meadows, we help to combat biodiversity loss in the Baltic Sea. The roots of dense eelgrass meadows bind bottom sediment, which reduces erosion and turbidity. Water quality improves too, as the meadows bind nutrients contained in the water.</p>
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WE ARE STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF THE BALTIC SEA AND FINNS' RELATIONSHIP WITH IT



We are doing this because

<p>BY INCREASING UNDERSTANDING OF THE BALTIC SEA, MARINE CONSERVATION AND MARINE LITERACY</p> <p>We continued our cooperation with the Finnish Nature League's Baltic Sea Ambassadors to increase young people's understanding of the Baltic Sea. We released podcasts, which increase people's awareness of the Baltic Sea as a polyphonic, eco-social environment.</p> <p>Knowledge of the various methods and the opportunities for action and making a difference encourages efforts to protect the Baltic Sea.</p>	<p>BY TELLING NEW AUDIENCES ABOUT THE SEA IN AN INNOVATIVE AND EXCITING MANNER</p> <p>We published two non-fiction books on maritime themes and an essay on maritime culture. We produced two exhibitions for Digimuseo.fi, as well as several exhibitions related to our own ideas or collection all across Finland.</p> <p>The sea is an integral part of our shared cultural and social identity – not only in Finland, but also in other Baltic countries.</p>	<p>BALTIC SEA DAY</p> <p>BY ORGANISING THE BALTIC SEA DAY</p> <p>Baltic Sea Day was celebrated in six countries in the Baltic region at 300 events organised by more than 200 partners. We organised our own Baltic Sea event in collaboration with the Helsinki Festival.</p> <p>The sea is a unifying factor for people living in the Baltic region. Baltic Sea Day offers everyone an easy and fun way to both celebrate and help the Baltic Sea.</p>
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WE INFLUENCE SOCIAL DECISION-MAKING BOTH IN FINLAND AND INTERNATIONALLY



We are doing all of this because:

<p>BY ACTIVELY DISCUSSING THE SITUATION IN THE BALTIC SEA</p> <p>"The Baltic Sea Speaks" was a series of discussions held in the spring, summer and autumn that explored political, ecological and cultural perspectives on the Baltic Sea.</p>	<p>BY COOPERATING WITH ORGANISATIONS IN COUNTRIES AROUND THE BALTIC SEA</p> <p>We exercise an influence in the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM). We expanded our project cooperation network, particularly in the Baltic countries and Åland Islands.</p>	<p>BY PARTICIPATING IN SOCIAL DEBATE ON THE WELLBEING OF THE BALTIC SEA</p> <p>We began lobbying parliamentary election and organised a Baltic Sea –panel discussion for 5 parties. We participated in in selected international seminars on the state of the world's seas.</p>
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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. We are grateful for your support!

johnnurminenfoundation.fi

