

# OUR RESULTS – THIS IS HOW WE’LL SAVE THE BALTIC SEA

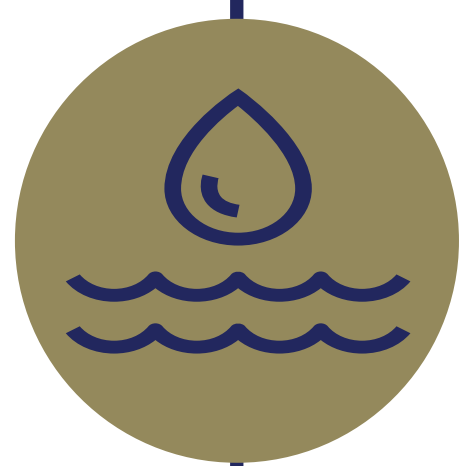
The Baltic Sea is severely eutrophic. Eutrophication is changing the sea and threatening the diversity of marine nature. Saving the sea requires concrete action to protect marine nature and reduce the nutrient load as well as effective communication on the cultural value of the sea.



With your support, we can carry out measures with significant and scalable effects to save the Baltic Sea.

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

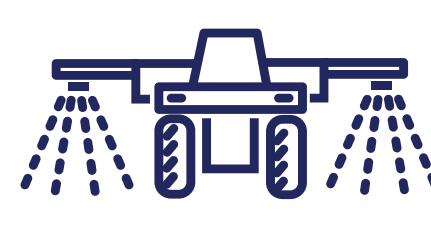
We are doing this because:



### BY TREATING FIELDS WITH GYPSUM

✓ We transferred separated manure containing more than **5 tonnes** of phosphorus from livestock farms to crop farms that were in need of fertiliser. Our goal for **2024** is to improve manure phosphorus recycling by **10 tonnes** of phosphorus on **10–20** pig farms.

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



### BY ENHANCING WATER PROTECTION IN FORESTRY

✓ We carried out water protection measures with Metsähallitus along the Tilanjoki River, the most significant of which is a **187-hectare** peatland restoration area. In **2024**, we will work with Tapio and Iin Micropolis to clean the water from forest drainage areas by directing it back to natural or restored peatlands.

Drained peatlands are the largest source of emissions in the forestry sector. When water from forest drainage areas is directed back to peatlands, marsh vegetation and surface peat will filter nutrients and solids from the water.



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

✓ We treated over **100** hectares of fields with gypsum in the Åland Islands. Our goals for **2024** are to double the area of gypsum-treated arable land in the Åland Islands and to promote the use of gypsum treatments in countries bordering the Baltic Sea.

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.

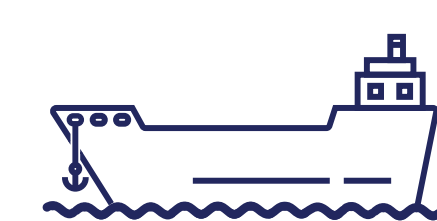
We are doing this because:



### BY DEVELOPING FERTILISER PROCESSING AT PORTS

✓ We are developing methods for monitoring nutrient emissions at ports, and are testing protective plates to prevent fertiliser from entering the sea at ports. In **2024**, we will draw up guidelines for the responsible handling of fertilisers at ports throughout the Baltic Sea region in cooperation with operators in the sector.

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.

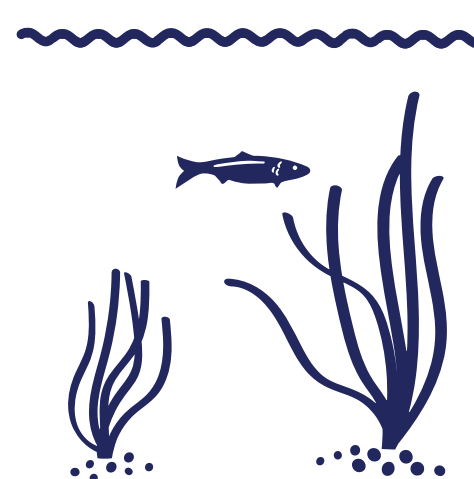


### BY REDUCING EMISSIONS OF HARMFUL SUBSTANCES INTO THE SEA

✓ Thanks to a joint project between the Foundation and Traficom, all tall oil operators in Finland are committed to preventing tall oil emissions into the Baltic Sea. Our goal for **2024** is to get other Baltic Sea countries to reduce washwater discharges from chemical tankers.

Tank washing on ships that transport harmful chemicals that are unloaded at ports results in chemical discharges into the Baltic Sea.

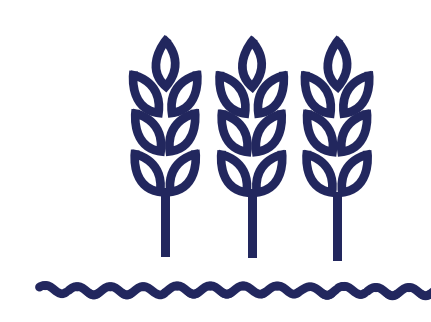
We are doing this because:



### BY RESTORING MARINE NATURE AND COMBATING BIODIVERSITY LOSS

✓ In cooperation with Metsähallitus's Parks & Wildlife Finland unit, we successfully planted **300** common eelgrass cuttings along the Gulf of Finland's western coast. In **2024**, we will find three to five new sites for common eelgrass and plant cuttings there.

When we restore eelgrass meadows, we help to combat biodiversity loss in the Baltic Sea. The roots of dense eelgrass meadows promote marine carbon sequestration and bind bottom sediment, which reduces erosion and turbidity. Water quality improves too, as the meadows bind nutrients.



### BY MOWING REED MEADOWS

✓ We mowed **120** hectares of reeds for use by sustainable enterprises. In **2024**, our international reed project will develop reed-based business in Finland, Sweden and the Åland Islands.

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.

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

We are doing this because:



### BY INCREASING UNDERSTANDING OF THE BALTIC SEA, MARINE CONSERVATION AND MARINE LITERACY

✓ More than **10,000** people visited our Unknown Baltic Sea exhibition at the Suomenlinna Sea Fortress, where they learnt about the sea's importance. We published the book *Kansakuntamme laivasto*. In **2024**, we will make our digital cultural services more widely available, publish new books, and hold a wilderness theatre course in the archipelago. In collaboration with the Finnish Nature League, we will continue our Baltic Sea Ambassadors initiative, which reaches more than **2,000** schoolchildren every year.

The sea is an integral part of our common identity and cultural heritage. By telling people about the Baltic Sea in an innovative and exciting way, we encourage them to strengthen their relationship with it.

## BALTIC SEA DAY

### BY ORGANISING THE BALTIC SEA DAY

✓ Baltic Sea Day was celebrated by **250** partners at events in countries across the Baltic Sea region. Baltic Sea Day was visible on all Finnish TV channels, in nearly **200** newspaper articles and on social media. In **2024**, we will increase awareness of Baltic Sea Day in all partner countries.

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.

## WE INFLUENCE SOCIAL DECISION-MAKING BOTH IN FINLAND AND INTERNATIONALLY

We are doing this because:



### BY PARTICIPATING IN SOCIAL DEBATE ON THE WELLBEING OF THE BALTIC SEA AND ITS CULTURAL HERITAGE

✓ We organised a parliamentary election "discussion" and other events at which the Baltic Sea was discussed from political, ecological and cultural perspectives. We will continue our advocacy work in **2024** and look for new partners throughout the Baltic Sea region.

Knowledge of the various methods and the opportunities for action and making a difference encourages efforts to protect the Baltic Sea.



### BY COOPERATING WITH ORGANISATIONS IN COUNTRIES AROUND THE BALTIC SEA

✓ We exercise an influence in the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) with the aim of limiting the discharge of eutrophication nutrients and harmful tank-washing water into the sea, and reducing the nutrient load caused by fertiliser ports throughout the Baltic Sea region. We expanded our project cooperation network, particularly in the Baltic countries and Åland Islands.

We are doing all of 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.**

