RESULTS OF OUR WORK 1/24 – HOW WE CAN SAVE THE BALTIC SEA

Tangible action is required to save the sea: protecting marine nature, reducing nutrient loads, fostering cultural heritage, and communicating effectively on the importance of the sea to people.

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

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

We recycled more than **5** tonnes of phosphorus in manure from pastoral farms to arable farms in need of fertilisers in the Archipelago Sea region. Fifteen farms took part in the project.

Our goal for **2024** is to improve the recycling of phosphorus from manure by **10** tonnes of phosphorus with the help of **20** farms.

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 fertilizers.

BY TREATING FIELDS WITH GYPSUM

In Åland, we reduced the phosphorus runoff from **102** hectares of fields by about **50** per cent by spreading gypsum on the fields.

In **2024**, we will also promote the implementation of the gypsum treatment method in Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Poland, Lithuania and Latvia.

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

The most significant emission reduction methods for forestry were implemented with Metsähallitus, the Finnish forestry agency: a **180** ha bog with forest drainage in North Ostrobothnia was restored, and dams and wood treatment plants were built.

In **2024**, we will work with Tapio and Ii Micropolis to clean the waters in forest drainage areas and support biodiversity in **4** bog areas.

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 DEVELOPING FERTILISER PROCESSING AT PORTS

We installed filters at Finland's largest fertiliser ports. The filters can prevent up to **35** kg of phosphorous from spilling into the Baltic Sea in each port. We also tested other methods.

In **2024**, we will promote best practices in other nations through the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission.

When fertilizers 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

We reduce the emissions of harmful pine oil into the Baltic Sea by **3,000** litres per year, as all pine oil operators in Finland are committed to treating the waste waters of their tankers ashore.

In **2024**, the project's best practices will be shared with other countries on the Baltic Sea in collaboration with Coalition Clean Baltic and the Swedish Transport Agency.

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

BY RESTORING SEA NATURE

Seagrasses were restored in cooperation with Metsähallitus's Parks & Wildlife Finland unit by planting **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 **75** hectares of reed meadows in four coastal sites and piloted a new support model for water utilities, village associations and other local operators. The collected reed material was delivered to two companies in the substrate sector.

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 STRENGTHEN AWARENESS OF THE BALTIC SEA AND FINNS' RELATIONSHIP WITH IT

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

Approximately **26,000** people attended our exhibitions, museums, and events throughout the year, including our largest exhibition, which was in Suomenlinna. We published a book and continued working with the Finnish Nature League on the Plastic-Free Sea campaign and Baltic Sea Ambassador work.

In **2024**, we will publish books, arrange exhibitions, continue our Baltic Sea Ambassador work, and pilot new ways to strengthen our relationship with the sea.

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.

BY ORGANISING THE BALTIC SEA DAY

The Baltic Sea Day was celebrated by **250** partners at events in countries all 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

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

We arranged events and meetings for policymakers and advocates to discuss the political, ecological and cultural perspectives on the Baltic Sea and the means of saving it.

We will continue our advocacy work in **2024** and look for new partners throughout the Baltic Sea region.

BY COOPERATING WITH ORGANISATIONS IN COUNTRIES AROUND THE BALTIC SEA

We participate in the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM), advocating for limits to the discharge of eutrophicating nutrients and the burdens caused by chemicals that are harmful to the marine environment.

In **2024**, we will expand our international network, especially in our cultural work.

Protecting the Baltic Sea requires environmental policy making and international cooperation to ensure environmental well-being.

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.

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