

RESULTS OF OUR WORK 2/24 – HOW WE CAN SAVE THE BALTIC SEA

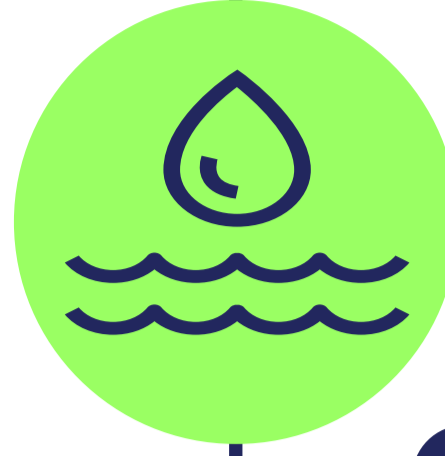
Concrete action is required to save the sea: protecting marine nature, reducing nutrient emissions and strengthening people's relationships with the sea.



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

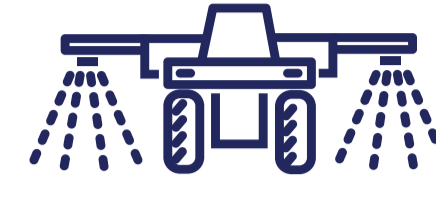
We are doing this because



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

✓ We recycled manure containing **10 tonnes** of phosphorus from livestock farms to crop cultivation farms in need of fertilisers. We recruited new pig farms in the Archipelago Sea region. Although this project will end in **2024**, we will leverage its best practices in future agricultural projects.

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

✓ We are testing the feasibility of using gypsum treatments in five Baltic Sea countries through an EU-funded project. In the Åland Islands, which are not covered by government subsidies, we treated **100 hectares** of fields with gypsum. Our goal is to increase awareness of this method and expand it to other countries in the Baltic Sea region.

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 are using a water restoration method to clean the waters in forest drainage areas, and are supporting biodiversity in **4 peatland areas** in cooperation with Tapio and Ii Micropolis. This method has previously been used in conservation areas, and our aim is to expand it to commercial forests.

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.

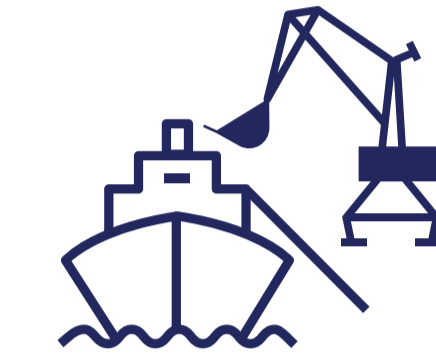
We are doing this because



BY RESTORING PEAT PRODUCTION AREAS BACK TO MIRES OR WETLANDS

✓ In **2025**, we will restore a total of **200 hectares** of former peat production sites by re-wetting them. The work began in autumn **2024**. Our goal is to restore the sites to their natural state as mires or wetlands, and the Nature Heritage Foundation will acquire them to ensure their permanent conservation.

Due to a reduction in peat production, Finland has plenty of disused peat fields that produce carbon dioxide and nutrient emissions. Restoring these areas to their natural state as mires or wetlands will prevent greenhouse gas emissions, nutrient run-offs and nature loss.



BY DEVELOPING FERTILISER PROCESSING AT PORTS

✓ We managed to get all of the largest fertiliser ports in Finland (**4 ports**) to join us in reducing fertiliser waste and adopt new methods. The guidelines that we have drawn up are on the way to becoming the official international guidelines for all Baltic Sea countries. The project will end in **2024**.

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

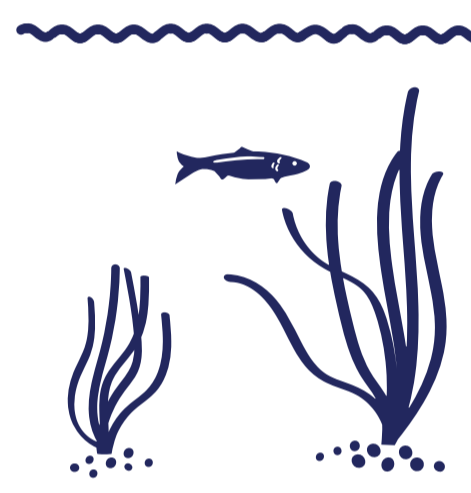


BY REDUCING EMISSIONS OF HARMFUL SUBSTANCES INTO THE SEA

✓ We identified the most harmful chemicals in Finland, as well as ways of reducing emissions of these chemicals. In addition to promoting stricter international regulation at HELCOM and EU level, we mobilised best practices in Sweden in cooperation with 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.

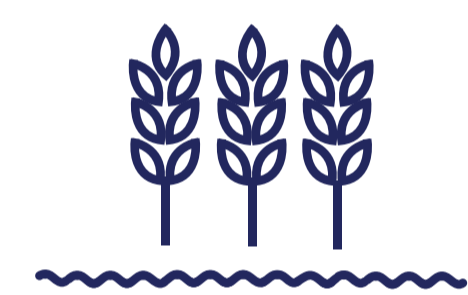
We are doing this because



BY RESTORING SEA NATURE

✓ Our project planted common eel grass meadows in **3 locations** in collaboration with Metsähallitus's Parks & Wildlife Finland unit, and we also piloted ways of finding more suitable planting sites with volunteer divers. This project is part of an international collaboration programme that is seeking to restore common eelgrass meadows, and our goal for **2025** is to expand the project's activities in the Baltic Sea region.

When we restore eelgrass meadows, we help to combat biodiversity loss in the Baltic Sea. Common eelgrass meadows provide important habitats for dozens of other species in the Baltic Sea. They also maintain the sea's capacity for carbon sequestration, reduce erosion and water turbidity, and improve water quality by binding nutrients.



BY MOWING REED MEADOWS

✓ We mowed **180 hectares** of common reeds in Finland, the Åland Islands and Sweden, thereby removing **1,350 kg** of phosphorus and **13,500 kg** of nitrogen. The reed material was delivered to companies in the substrate sector for further processing.

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

We are doing this because



WE ARE RAISING AWARENESS OF THE BALTIC SEA AND PEOPLE'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH IT

✓ We reached people at our exhibitions and museum, and also at events, the biggest of which was the Tall Ships Races Helsinki. We published a non-fiction book, organised an outdoor theatre course and continued working with the Finnish Nature League on the Plastic-Free Sea campaign and the Baltic Sea Ambassador initiative in schools. In **2025**, we will publish two books and implement projects to strengthen people's 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.

BALTIC SEA DAY

BY ORGANISING BALTIC SEA DAY

✓ In addition to **40 cities** in Finland, Baltic Sea Day was celebrated in Sweden, Estonia, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Latvia and Lithuania. Baltic Sea Day was visible on all Finnish TV channels, in **225 news articles** and on social media. Over the coming year, we will promote the international visibility of Baltic Sea Day through intensified collaboration with our partners.

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 SPARKING SOCIAL DEBATE ABOUT THE WELFARE OF THE BALTIC SEA AND PEOPLE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SEA

✓ We arranged events and meetings for policymakers and influencers, where they could discuss political, ecological and cultural perspectives on the Baltic Sea – and how to save it. We were also involved in creating a cultural heritage strategy. In **2025**, we will promote Baltic Sea issues in both municipal elections and national and EU decision-making.

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



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 eutrophication nutrients and the burdens caused by chemicals that are harmful to the marine environment. In **2025**, we will expand our international network, especially in our cultural work.

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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