REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF OUR WORK 1/2025

Concrete action is required to save the sea: protecting marine nature, reducing nutrient emissions and strenghtening peoples' relationship with the sea. With your support, we can carry out measures to save the Baltic Sea that are effective and have real impact.

In 2025, we will save the sea by focusing on four focus areas:

REDUCING NUTRIENT LOAD FROM FOOD PRODUCTION AND FORESTRY

OUR GOAL BY 2030: ***Major cuts have been made in nutrient emissions from Finnish food production and forestry. Eutrophication has been significantly reduced.***

REDUCING NUTRIENT LOAD FROM AGRICULTURE

In the Pellon Perintö project, we reduce nutrient runoff from agriculture into the Archipelago Sea, using the most effective water conservation methods available. **50** farms have taken water conservation measures on their land. Through culture and art, we will increase awareness of the relationship between people and the river.

We do this because agriculture is the largest source of eutrophying emissions in Finland. The Archipelago Sea is the most degraded marine area in Finland and the last from the country to be included on the HELCOM hot spot list.

GYPSUM TREATMENT OF FIELDS

Our goal is to increase the use of gypsum treatment in fields both in Finland as well as in other countries around the Baltic Sea, where this method of water conservation has not yet been adopted. We are testing the feasibility of gypsum treatment in **4** other Baltic Sea countries through an EU-funded project. In the Åland Islands, the aim is to treat **100** hectares of field with gypsum.

We do this because spreading gypsum on fields effectively and quickly reduces phosphorous runoff from the land into bodies of water. Gypsum treatment is the most effective water conservation measures in agriculture.

RESTORATION OF FORMER PEATLAND

We will restore a total of **200** hectares of former peatland by re-wetting in the Suokeidas project. We will restore **2** former peatland areas to bog or wetland and divert runoff water from forest drainage areas to the restored peatland for purification. The Finnish Natural Heritage Foundation ensures the permanent protection of the sites by purchasing them.

We do this because due to reduced peat production, Finland has plenty of disused peatlands that produce carbon dioxide and nutrient emissions. Restoring former bogs will prevent greenhouse gas emissions, nutrient runoff to bodies of water, and biodiversity loss.

IMPROVING WATER CONSERVATION IN FORESTRY

We will purify water from forest drainage areas via water restoration and support biodiversity across an area of **226** hectares in a total of **5** sites, the final of which will be completed in summer 2025. We will launch project with Tapio Palvelut Oy in the catchment area of the Bothnian Sea. We will carry out a survey of the catchment area to identify the most critical locations for water conservation and organise training for forest industry professionals.

We do this because drained peatlands are the largest source of emissions in the forestry sector. By directing water from forest drainage areas back to bogs, bogland vegetation and surface peat filter nutrients and solids from the water. This is the most effective means of water conservation in forestry.

HEALTHY AND VIBRANT MARINE ECOSYSTEM

OUR GOAL BY 2030: ***Biodiversity loss has been significantly reduced. The condition of key habitat types in the Baltic Sea has improved.***

HABITAT RESTORATION

In our SeaToo project, we are restoring important habitats in the Baltic Sea and empowering people to take concrete action to protect the sea. We will transplant about **40,000** common eelgrass cuttings to a total area of about half a hectare on the Swedish and Finnish coasts.

We do this because by restoring common eelgrass meadows, we fight biodiversity loss in the Baltic Sea. Common eelgrass meadows provide a habitat for dozens of other species, reduce erosion and turbidity and improve water quality by binding nutrients.

NUTRIENT REMOVAL

We will remove nutrients from eutrophicated beaches and improve coastal habitats through our BalticReed projects. We will support parties in the reed-based value chain. We will harvest about **50** hectares of reedbed and deliver it to **4** different uses.

We do this because recycling reedbeds from eutrophicated coastal waters for profitable use prevents nutrients runoff from the vegetation into the sea. Mowing reedbeds also improves the biodiversity of coastal nature.

EMISSIONS FROM SHIPPING

OUR GOAL BY 2030: ***The main sources of emissions from shipping have been identified and addressed.***

REDUCING CHEMICAL EMISSIONS

In 2025, we will work with local authorities and chemical sector businesses to ensure that tank washwater used on chemical tankers is recovered onshore and not discharged into the sea.

We do this because tankers carrying chemicals can dump hundreds of litres of harmful and dangerous chemicals into the sea at a time if tanks are washed at sea after unloading. Washing tanks in ports and recovering washwater will reduce chemical load in the Baltic Sea.

REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM NUTRIENTS AND HARMFUL SUBSTANCES

We will reduce emissions from nutrients and harmful substances into the sea caused by handling of bulk cargo in shipping. We will investigate the largest risks of emissions from cargo handling and disseminate best practices for reducing emissions in selected ports in Finland, Latvia and Estonia.

We do this because because loading and unloading of bulk cargo in ports and washing of ship hulls at sea cause significant nutrient discharges into the Baltic Sea. Thanks to our cooperation with Finnish ports, we are also disseminating best practices for reducing emissions to ports in other coastal countries.

HUMANS AND THE SEA

OUR GOAL BY 2030: ***The relationship between people and the sea has been strengthened. People are prepared to make concrete changes in their daily lives.***

REACHING PEOPLE THROUGH THROUGH EVENTS, BOOKS, EXHIBITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

We will organise several exhibitions about the Baltic Sea environment and culture. We will carry out a media campaign on eutrophication and organise museum visits and events. Our goal for the Baltic Sea Day is to get **8** countries neighbouring the Baltic Sea to participate in the events.

INFLUENCING DECISION-MAKING

We will influence decision-making in society both in Finland and internationally. We will organise events and meetings with policy-makers, where we bring up topical issues such as the green transition. We will participate in the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) and at the EU level to call for limits to the discharge of eutrophicating nutrients and load caused by chemicals that are harmful to the marine environment.

We do this because citizenship of the Baltic Sea is a uniting factor for the nations of the Baltic Sea region. Protecting the Baltic Sea requires nature conservation policies that ensure the well-being of the environment and close cooperation across national borders.

Our projects support the following UN Sustainable Development Goals: