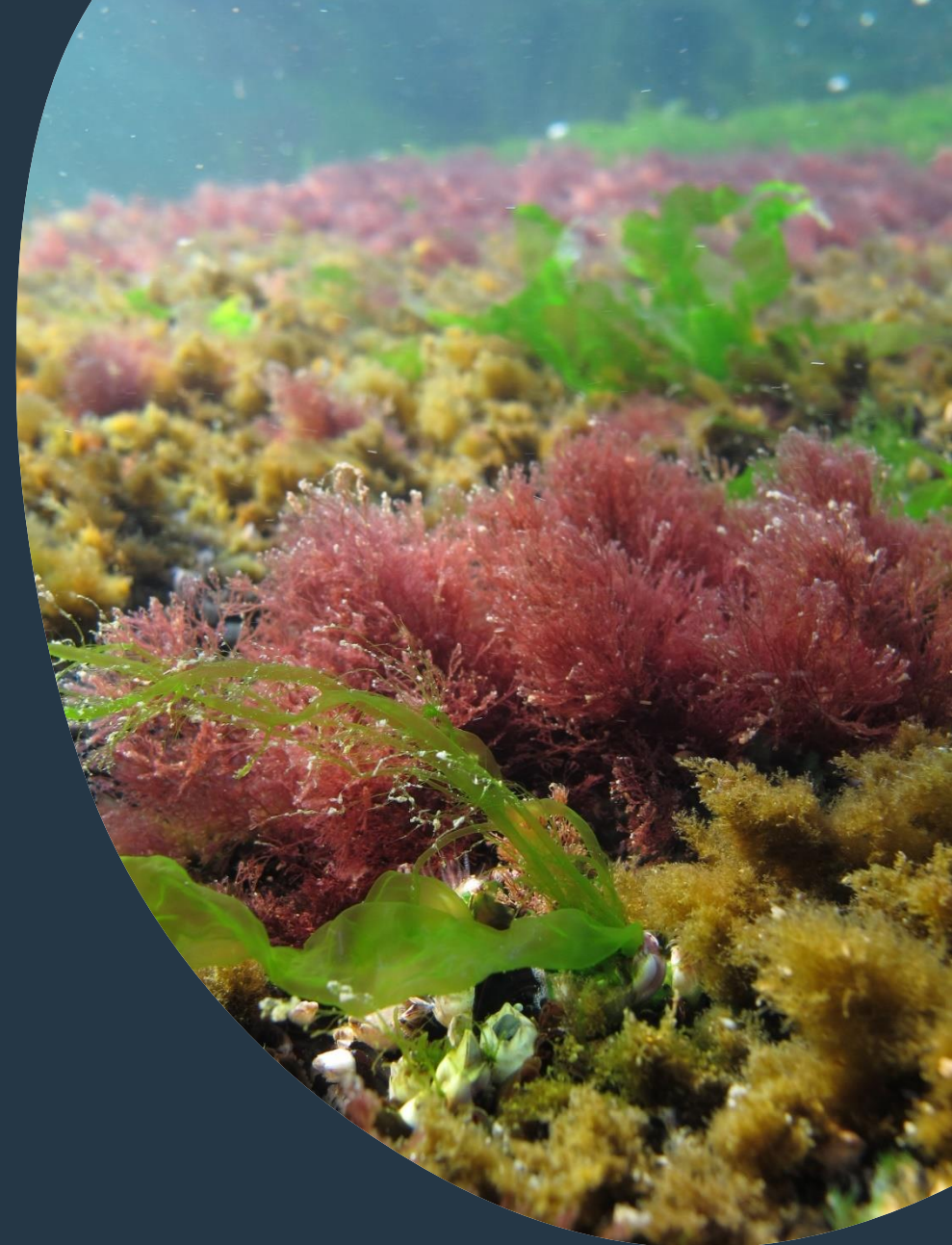


Pledge preparations in Finland's marine environment

Biogeographical seminar of Baltic sea
8-10 November 2023, Riga, Latvia

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Finland's biodiversity pledge preparations

- Finland's pledge preparations started last year with a nomination of a broad-based high level steering group and a working group that both met several times in 2022.
- Steering group members were representatives of for example different ministries, nature conservation NGOs, fisheries, from 28 different organisations in total.
- Working group consisted of public officials, experts and stakeholder representatives, 20 people in total. The working group met 14 times last year.
- Expert groups prepared extensive material for the working group regarding the current state of Finland's MPA network as well estimate of for which species/habitats conservation status/trend could be improved by 2030 if all possible measures were taken.



Finland's biodiversity pledge preparations

- At the end of 2022 the steering group came into the conclusion that a political decision needs to be made about the content of the pledges.
- Finland's pledge preparations were delayed due to our parliamentary elections in the beginning of 2023.
- Ministry of the Environment has continued the technical preparation of pledges (filling measures in excel sheets) with the help of SYKE (Finnish Environment Institute) and Metsähallitus.
- Stakeholders have been met twice this year.
- Political negotiations about the content of the pledges are ongoing in the new government.
- Government resolution about the content of the pledges will be made in early 2024.



Pledge 2: Conservation status of habitats and species

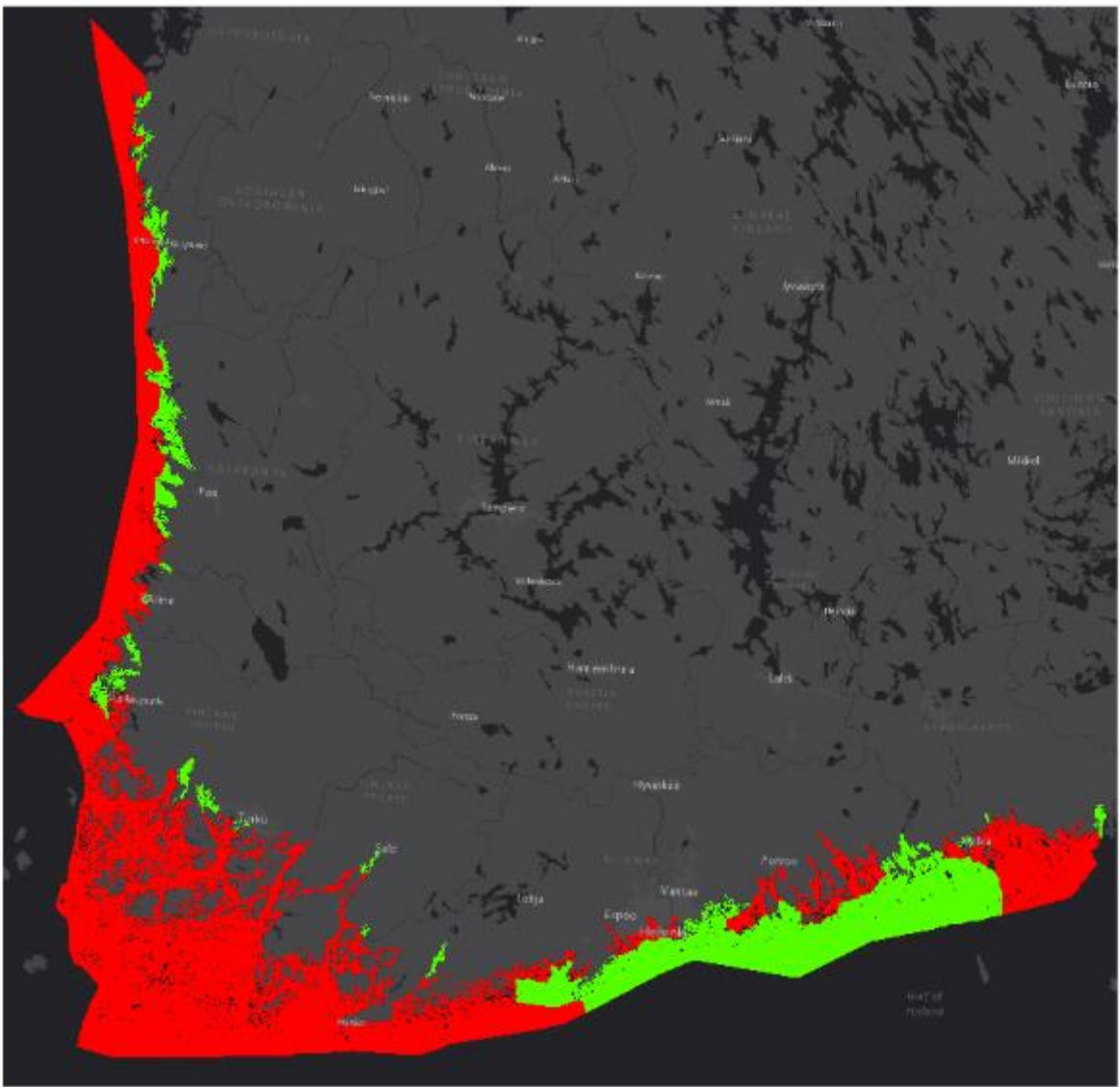


Habitat	Range	Area	S&F	CS
Sandbanks 1110	FV	FV	U1	U1
Estuaries 1130	FV	FV	U2	U2
Coastal lagoons 1150	FV	FV	U2	U2
Large shallow inlets and bays 1160	FV	FV	U2	U2
Reefs 1170	FV	FV	XX	U1
Boreal Baltic narrow inlets 1650	FV	FV	U2	U2

Criteria used in preparing the conservation improvement target for habitats

- Species-rich habitats preferred to have real biodiversity effects
- Realism and cost effectiveness (low hanging fruits and habitats with small area included) taken into account
- Including habitats that are protected via the conservation area pledge
- Including habitats in different ecosystems
- As a starting point experts listed all the habitats and species, for which the conservation status could be improved if all necessary measures would be taken





For the marine areas, scoping analyses were made
→ in which water bodies could an improvement in the eutrophication status be predicted

Examples of measures

Habitat or Species	Measure	Description of the measure
H-1110-Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	Improve condition of existing habitats (either Annex I or species habitats) through active area-based restoration measures	Improving condition of the habitat (e.g. reintroduction of <i>Zostera marina</i>) and monitoring.
H-1110-Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	Regulatory approaches to reduce external pressures or exploitation (such as pollution, water abstraction, marine bottom trawling, etc.) impacting on Annex I or species habitats	Implementation of the water management plans and the marine management plan and Helcom's Baltic Sea Action Plan measures to prevent eutrophication and other pressures.
H-1110-Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	Reduce pressures on habitats or species by active measures against pollution	Reducing nutrient loads from the catchment area in agriculture and forestry, (e.g. securing sufficient protection zones by water bodies. Liming of fields.)
H-1110-Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	Adapting infrastructures to reduce non-intentional killing of species, or disturbance of species or habitats	Reducing negative effects of water traffic for the habitat type (e.g. formation of waves, increased turbidity) by speed limits.

Final reporting

- List of species/habitats for which the status could be improved by 2030
 - List of species/habitats for which the status could be maintained by 2030 and status would not deteriorate
- Measures on how to reach these goals
- List of species/habitats for which the status can not be affected by 2030
 - Plan to fill known knowledge gaps

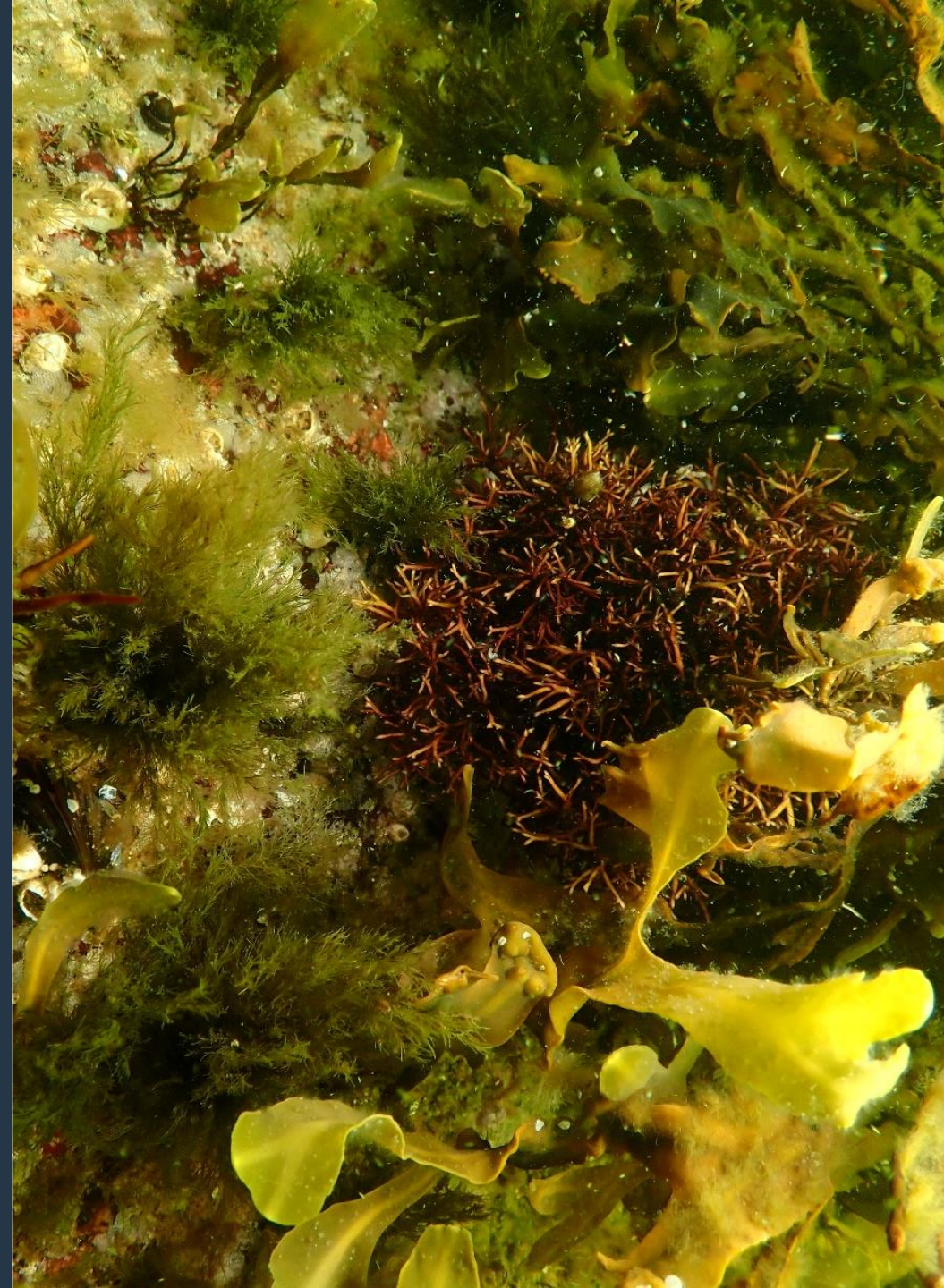
Issues

Eutrophication affects biodiversity!

- Pledge 2: Restoration of habitats is slow and requires a lot of resources (funding)

Conflicting interests over marine use

- Increasing offshore wind power: needs to be reconciled with 30 by 30



Thank you!

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Ministry of the
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