

LIFE-IP Biodiversea

Finland's largest cooperation project
to safeguard the diverse nature of the Baltic Sea

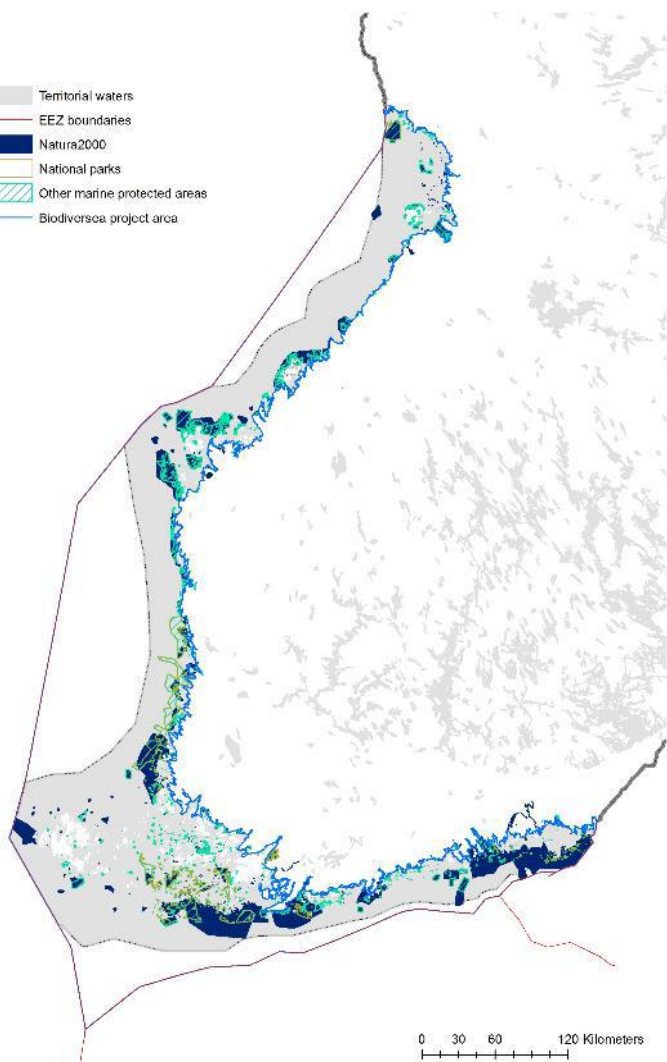


BIODIVERSEA

for marine nature

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- Teritorial waters
- EEZ boundaries
- Natura2000
- National parks
- Other marine protected areas
- Biodiverssea project arca



Scope of the project

Project area:

Coastal and sea areas throughout Finland, including Åland

Project budget:

Total budget €19.9 million (60% EU)

Complementary projects ~€240 million (EU, national)

Project duration:

15 September 2021–15 November 2029

Project partners:

Metsähallitus, Ministry of the Environment, Finnish Environment Institute, Natural Resources Institute Finland, Government of Åland, Turku University of Applied Sciences, Åbo Akademi University, Geological Survey of Finland, and Baltic Sea Action Group



Goal of the project

- The LIFE-IP BIODIVERSEA project is Finland's largest investment in the protection of species and habitats in the Baltic Sea so far
- The main aim of the project is to enhance the protection of marine nature and promote the sustainable use of natural resources in the marine and coastal areas of Finland

Project themes



Developing a **network of protected areas** and its management in Finnish sea areas



Pressures on the **biodiversity** of the Baltic Sea and their management



Rehabilitation and restoration of species habitats



Development and piloting of an underwater diversity **monitoring programme**

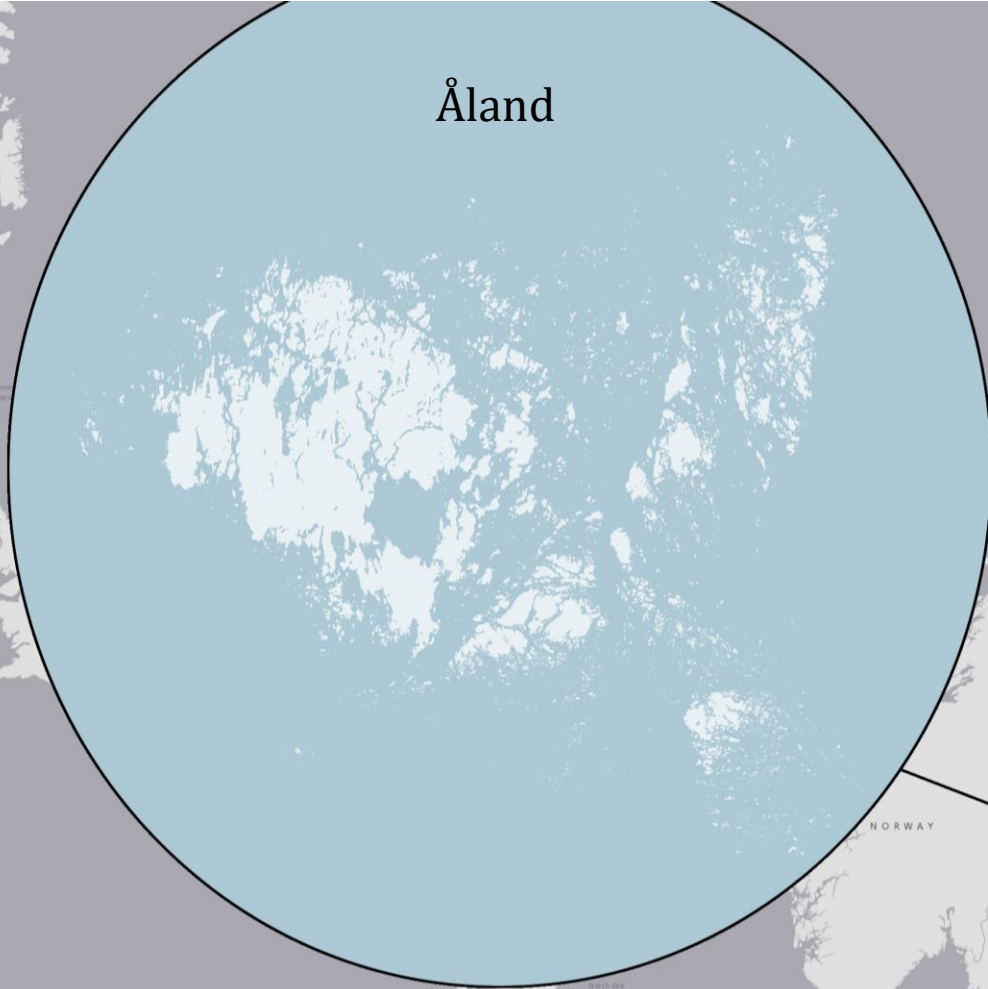


Development of **legislation** and administration and the roles of maritime operators



Effective **communication** on the protection and importance of biodiversity in the Baltic Sea

Åland





Main goals for Åland

- **Mapping** sea areas to identify nature values and sensitive habitats.
- Establish **new protected areas** and thus create a more coherent network along the entire coast of Finland.
 - The goal for Åland is to established 850 km² of new protected areas by December 2028.
- Develop and establish **management plans** and **monitoring programs** for established protected areas.



Åland's autonomy

- Åland is an autonomous part of Finland, with own parliament, own government and own legislation within (among others)
- education, culture and ancient monuments
- health and medical care, social care
- environmental issues
- industry and commerce
- communications on Åland
- municipal administration
- police force
- postal services, radio and TV





Åland and Ålanders

Population about 30 500 people

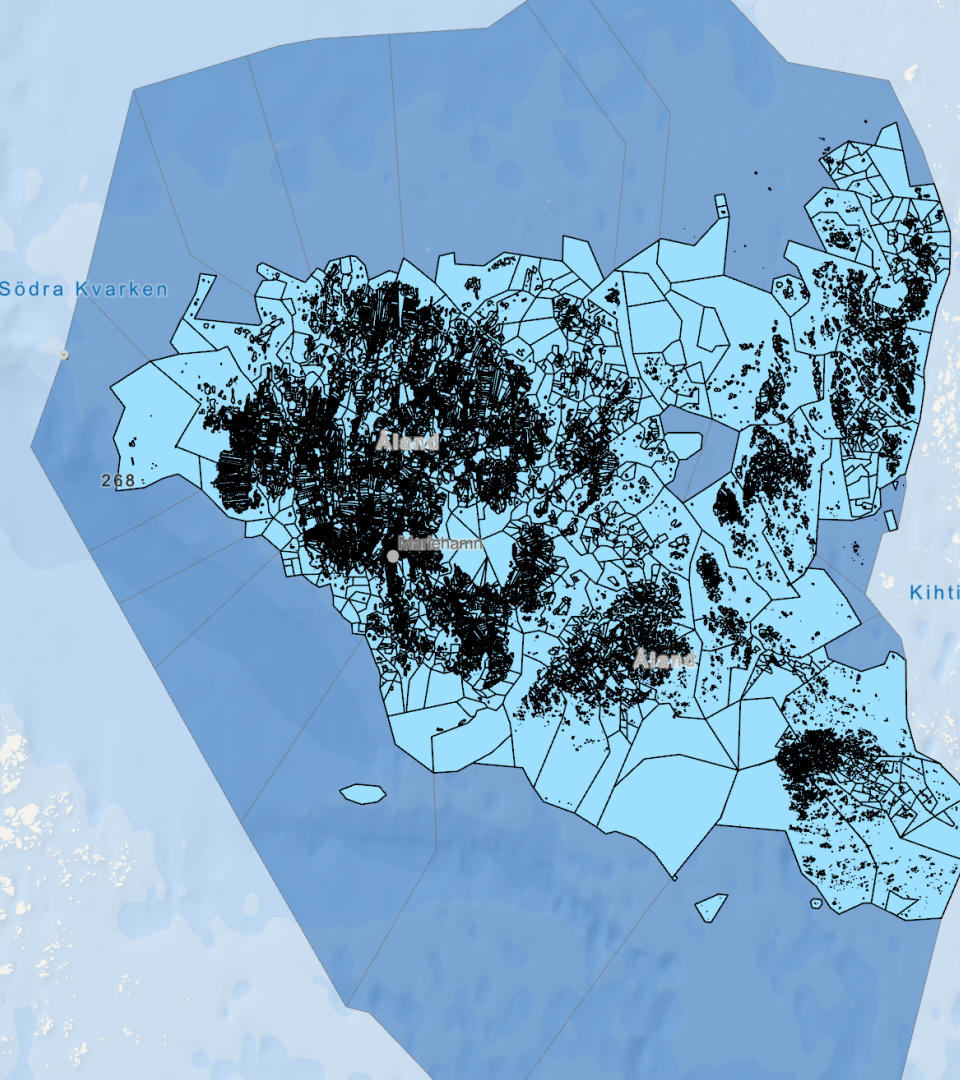
16 municipalities with their own councils, administrations and authorities.

Municipal authority over:

- childcare
- compulsory education, culture and libraries
- geriatric care, social services (child protection, disability services, addiction treatment, economic support)
- planning and building, refuse collection
- water and sewage
- emergency services

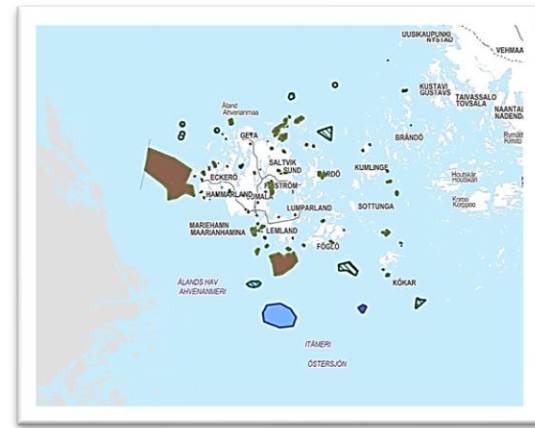
Some more facts about Åland

- 6,757 islands of at least 0.25 hectares, 60 with settlements
- Around 20,000 islands and rocky islets of less than 0.25 hectares
- Property map with private owned waters and "public waters". About 75 % of the water area and about 97 % of the land area are private owned.
- The private owned waters are mostly owned by people with properties in the villages together according to ownership share or in some few cases by individual private persons.
- Challenging to get agreements for nature conservation within private waters.
- Threats: off shore wind industries, fish farms, other kinds of anthropogenic disturbance



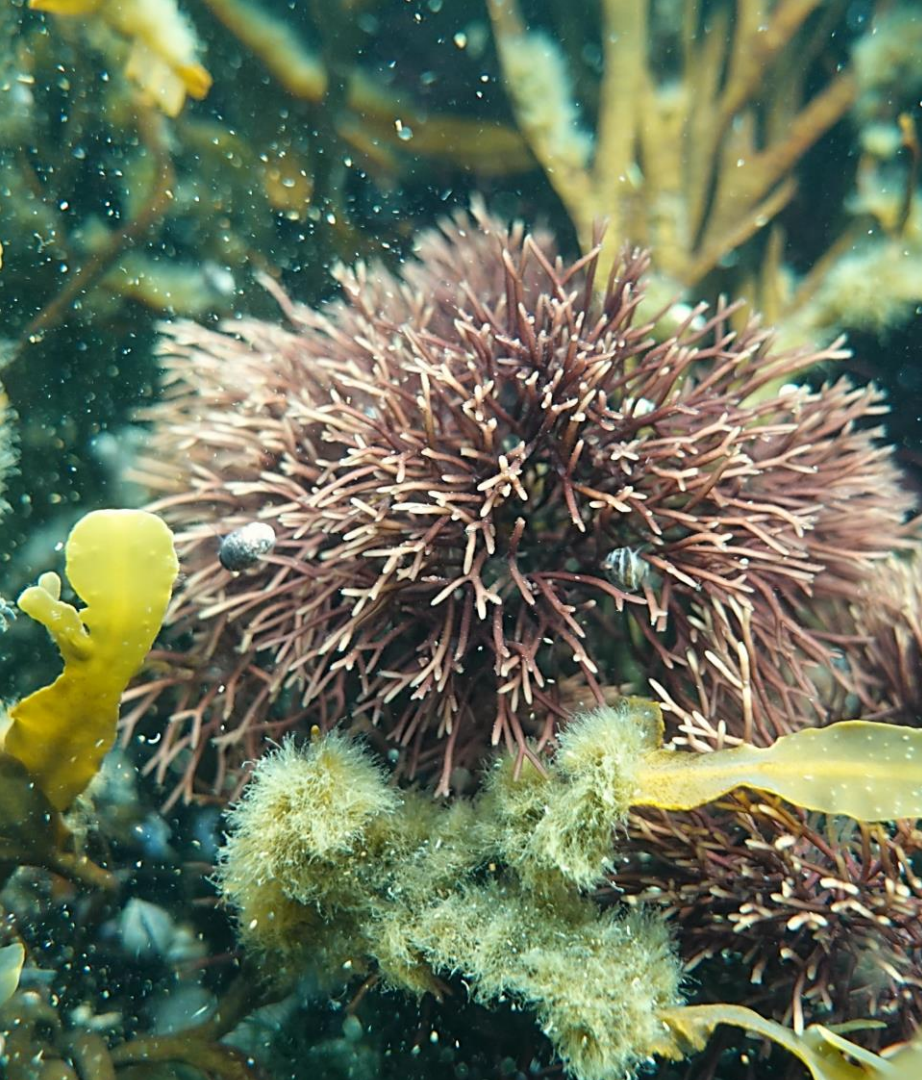
Åland MPAs

- Established based on the Nature Conservation Act for Åland, some bird and seal conservation areas are established with the Hunting Act for Åland
- Nature reserves and agreements about area conservation: 75 areas that covers about 3570 ha land (about 2,3 % of total) and 37 740 ha water (about 3,2 % of total)
- The goal: 10 % of both land and water area protected, both a question of available funds and the willingness of people
- Positive: several monitoring projects -> a lot of knowledge about different kinds of species and habitats around Åland.
- Areal purchase-> Draft decision-> statement from municipality-> Conservation decision of the Åland Government



Storklyndan Nature reserve (MPA)





Storklyndan nature reserve

- 713 hectares of water, 82 hectares of land area.
- Beautiful, untouched underwater nature with many different species and habitats.
- Restrictions:
 - Everything except:
 1. Management and research measures that are required for the conservation and development of nature values within the area.
 2. Recreation and boating



Some challenges for area protection in Åland

- The land and water areas stay the owners very close in their hearths.
- When establishing nature reserves within private areas the biggest challenge is the fear for the loss of possibility for fishing for household needs. In many cases it is allowed, but even then restricted.
- In some areas there is a long tradition of "free fishing and hunting" as a customary law. Difficult to fully protect against, but everything is still regulated in the Fisheries Act and in the Hunting Act. All other activities can be prohibited.

Thank you!

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