

Environmental Monitoring and Fisheries Management and Control in the Baltic Sea

RIGSREVISIONEN



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The Baltic Sea



- ***The Baltic Sea is one of the world's largest bodies of brackish water and it is ecologically unique.***
- ***Due to its special geographical, climatological and oceanographic characteristics, the Baltic Sea is highly sensitive to the environmental impact of human activity.***
- ***It is estimated that full exchange of the Baltic Sea waters takes place over a period of 25-30 years.***



International regulation and co-operation



- ***International co-operation in the marine environmental area is well developed and anchored in several bilateral and multilateral agreements, e.g. The Helsinki Convention.***
- ***EU regulation. Unlike the HELCOM recommendations, the EU regulations are legally binding and may lead to EU sanctions.***
- ***Many international, national, regional and local authorities.***



Historic view of parallel audits concerning the Baltic Sea

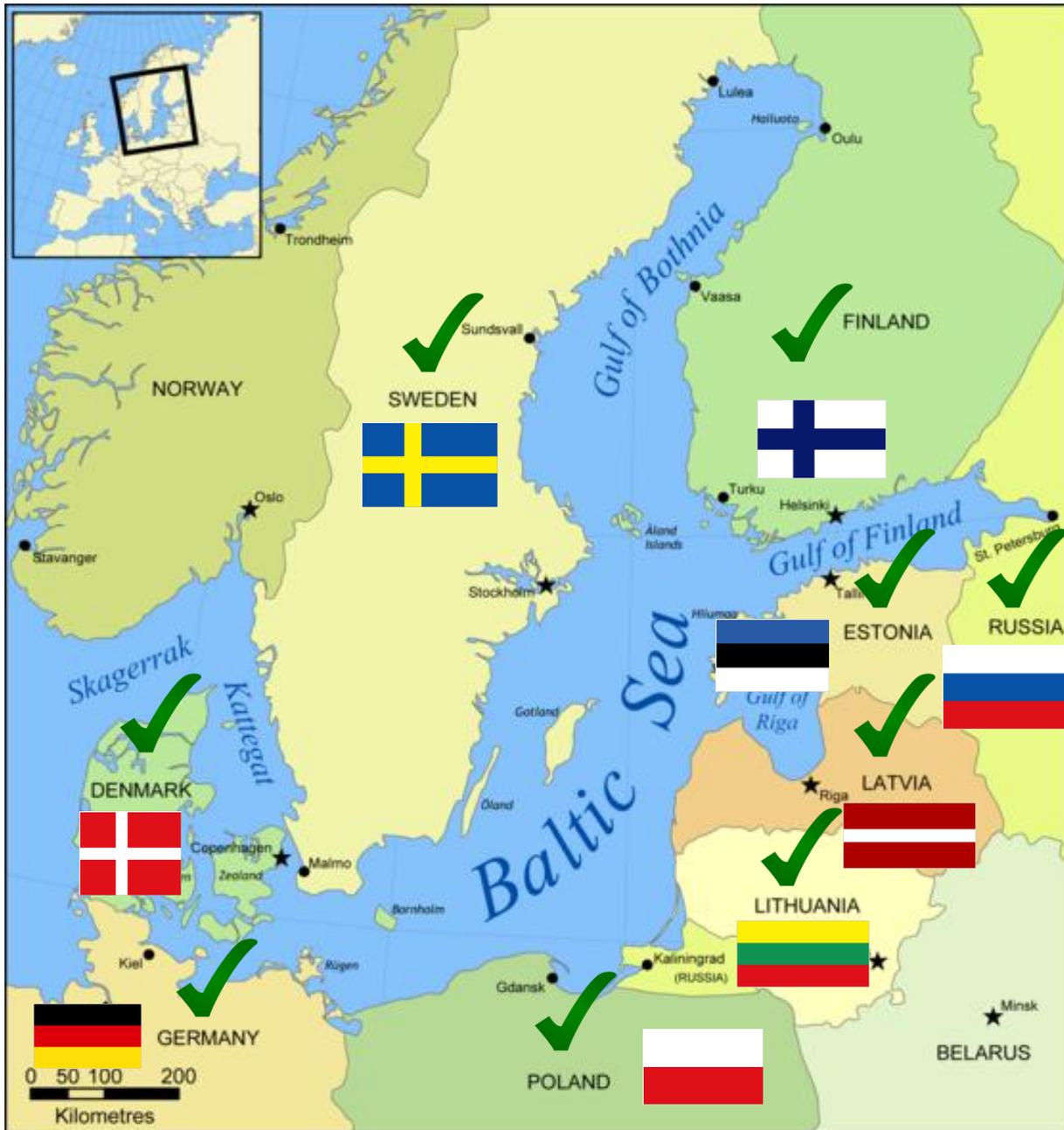


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- In 2000, the first parallel audit of pollution from land-based sources in the Baltic Sea. A co-operation between SAs of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Sweden and Poland (co-ordinator).***
- In 2004, the second parallel audit of pollution (oil pollution) from ships in the Baltic Sea. A co-operation between Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Denmark (co-ordinator)***



In 2008, the third parallel audit: Environmental monitoring and fisheries management and control in the Baltic Sea





Parallel audits

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- *The audits were planned and conducted as parallel audits.*
- *Participating SAIs agreed on the same audit objectives and identified relevant audit criteria and audit methods together.*
- *However, it was up to the SAIs to decide how to conduct the audit and which audit criteria and audit methods to apply in the audit.*
- *Joint report and national reports were public.*

Environmental monitoring and fisheries management and control in the Baltic Sea



The audit covered the period **2005 to 2007**.



National Audit Office of Denmark was coordinator of the audit and has prepared a *Joint Final Report* together with **German Federal Court of Audit**.



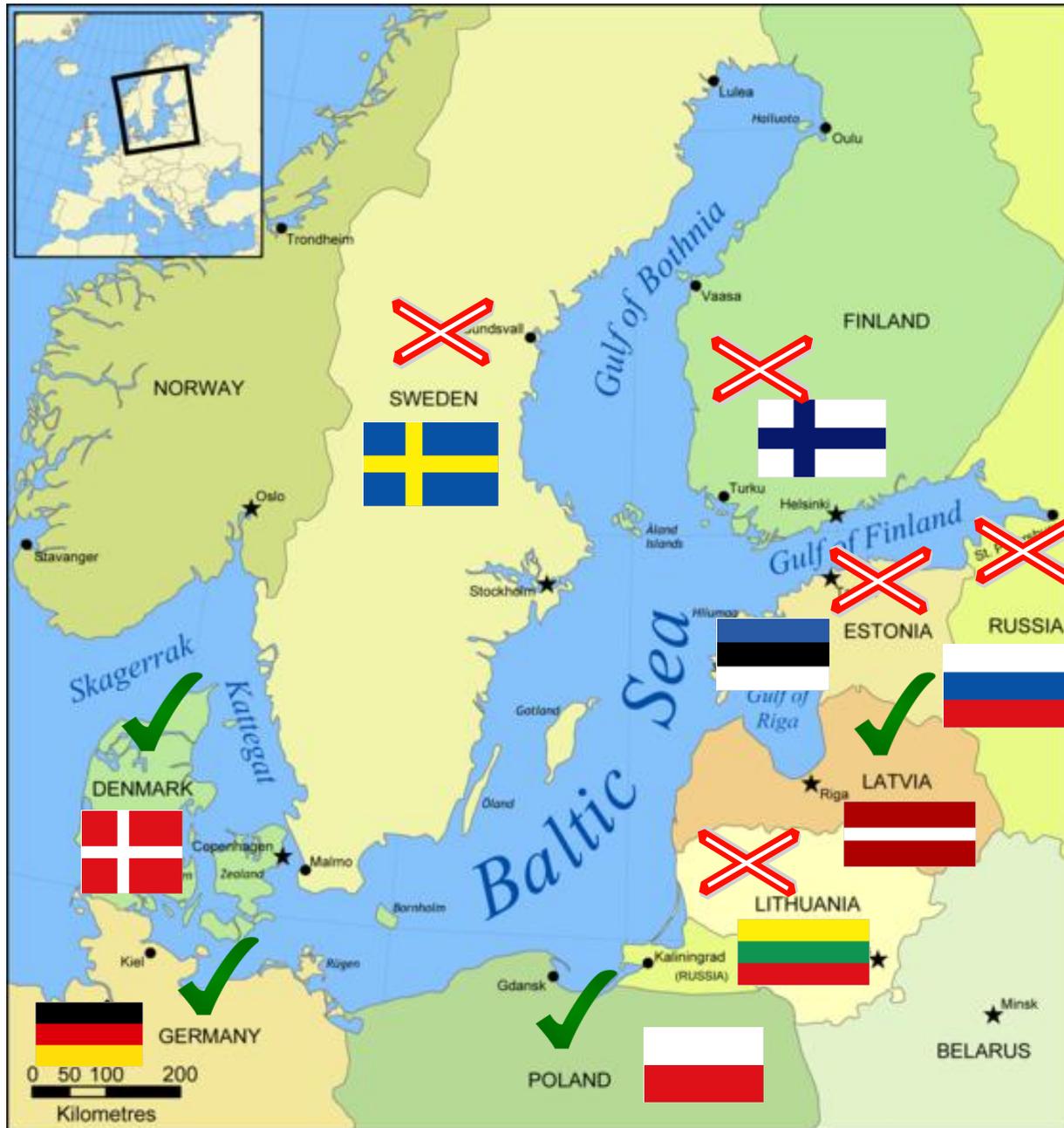
Audit of environmental monitoring and fisheries management and control in the Baltic Sea – Audit objectives

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The first and the second part of the audit share the following overall objective:

- How have the environmental monitoring and fisheries control authorities contributed to preserve the marine environment and protect the fish stock in the Baltic Sea? Comparative analyses may provide an overview of what is considered good practices.***



Part 1

Audit of the environmental monitoring in the Baltic Sea.

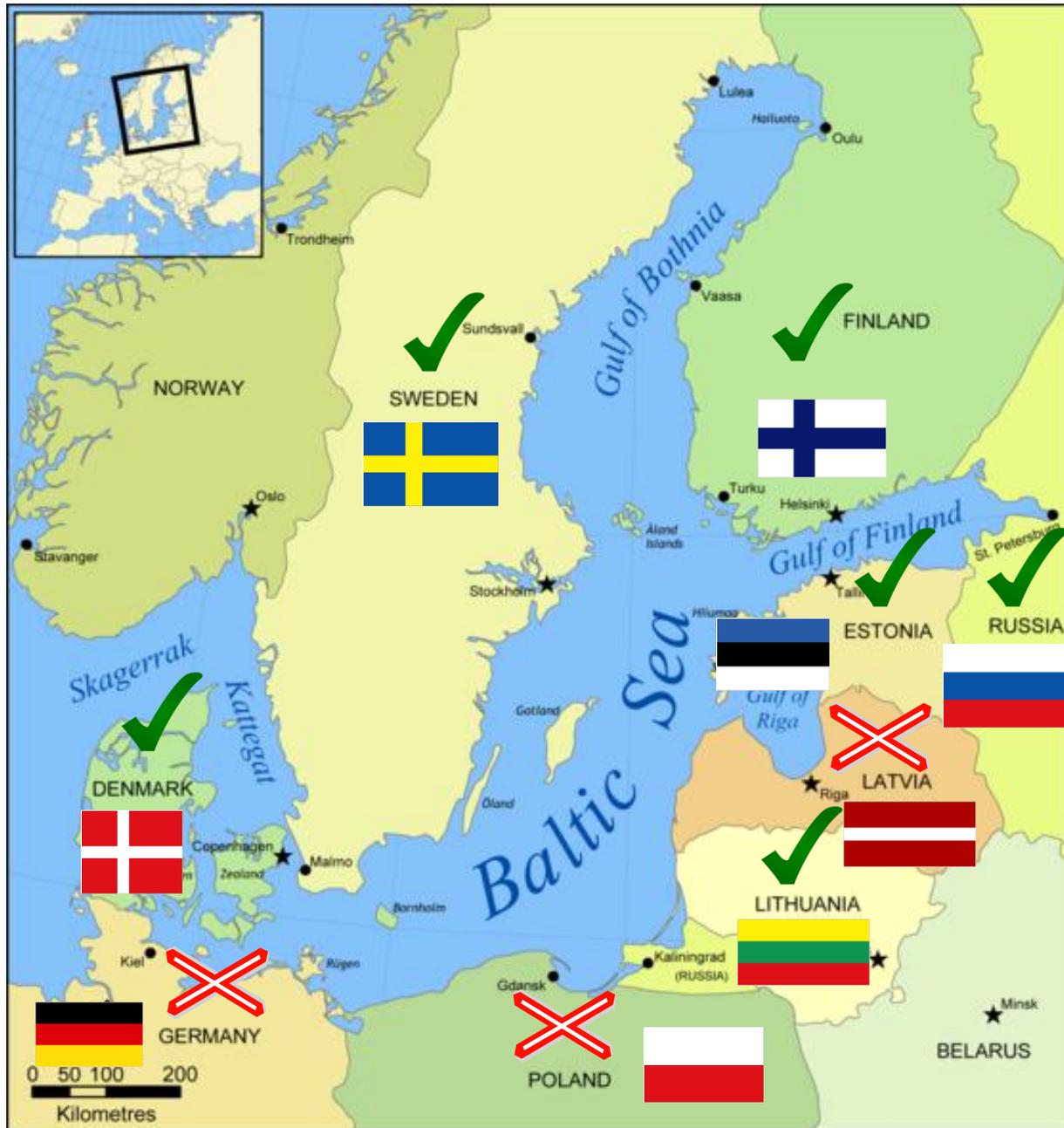


Audit of the environmental monitoring in the Baltic Sea – Audit objectives



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- Have the monitoring authorities contributed to preserve the marine environment in the Baltic Sea?***
- Do the national authorities comply with the Helsinki Convention (Helcom) recommendations/ the standards of the Cooperative Monitoring in the Baltic Marine Environment (COMBINE)?***
- How will the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) affect national monitoring?***



Part 2

Audit of the fisheries management and control in the Baltic Sea.

Audit of the fisheries management and control in the Baltic Sea – Audit objectives

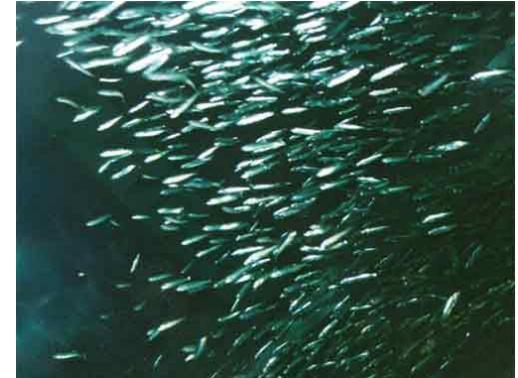


- Review of fisheries management and control in the Baltic Sea.***
- Have the monitoring and fisheries control authorities contributed to preserve and protect the fish stock in the Baltic Sea?***
- Have the national authorities effectively controlled and enforced fisheries regulations in compliance with the intent of national and international fisheries legislation?***

Overall conclusions from the review of fisheries management and control in the Baltic Sea



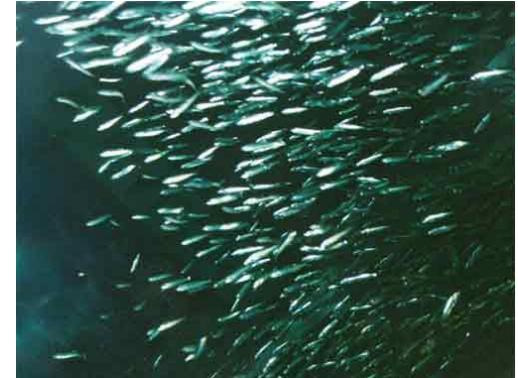
- *All the countries operate with elements of risk assessment and performance indicators and measurements of effects of fisheries control.*
- *A major obstacle for the fisheries control is a lack of effective fisheries monitoring systems supporting a risk based fisheries control.*
- *Often the cross-checking of fisheries control data is not done systematically and is not being effectively supported by electronic fisheries information systems.*



Overall conclusions from the review of fisheries management and control in the Baltic Sea



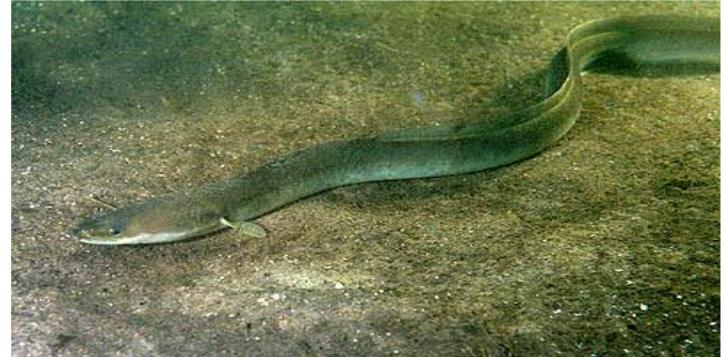
- *There are major differences between the countries within for instance expertise, training and control strategy.*
- *The EU Member States regulate quotas and lay down structural policies in compliance with EU regulations.*
- *The countries perform scientific investigations of sustainable fisheries stocks and provide this information to ICES.*



Recommendations from the review of fisheries management and control in the Baltic Sea



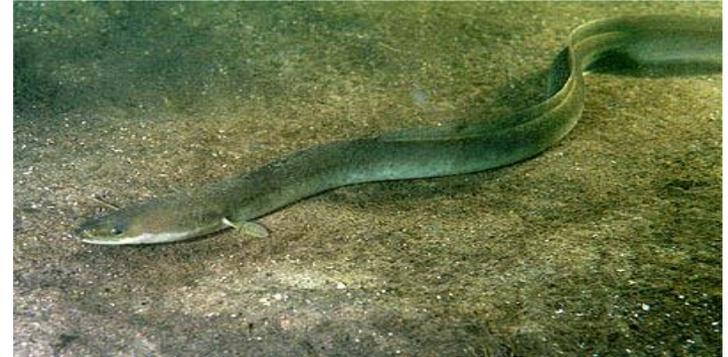
- *Considering the need to establish a more effective fisheries control in the Baltic Sea, it is crucial to implement more risk based control strategies.*
- *Consistent and reliable data and performance indicators are essential and a prerequisite for effective fisheries control and evaluation of the effect of fisheries control strategies.*
- *It is important to focus on development and implementation of electronic logbooks and support of cross-checking fisheries control data by well functioning electronic fisheries information systems.*



Recommendations from the review of fisheries management and control in the Baltic Sea



- *It is important that the Baltic Sea countries continue to work closely together, share knowledge, and build on and further develop the positive experiences gained within fisheries surveillance and control activities.*
- *It is crucial for effective fisheries control and sustainable fisheries policy in the Baltic Sea that data are reliable and valid.*
- *In order to establish a sensible and effective co-operation in fisheries control, it is essential that the Russian Federation and the EU sign an agreement on co-operation.*



Lessons Learned from the parallel audit:



Should a joint audit report finalise each international environmental audit?

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- No not everytime. It depends on the subject and the scope of the audit.
- If it is important and make sense to focus on comparative data.
- If comparative data is validated and of high quality and indicate best practice or lessons learned.
- The joint final report need to be forwarded to national and/or international authorities.



Lessons Learned from the parallel audit:

Alternative to a joint final report

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- International expert working group to focus and facilitate the audit as an sparring partner.
- Develop audit criteria and methodologies and agree on the scope of the audit.
- Discuss objectives, audit findings, common problems and possibilities.
- Workshops.

Lessons Learned from the parallel audit:



Important tasks

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- Agree on an overall audit plan.
- Crucial to define the relevant comparative data.
- Agree on scope and content of the summaries of the national reports.
- Agree on a common scale for assessments/ critics.
- Timetable, extra slope for validation of data, unforeseen events and delays.



Thank you for your attention! Any questions?

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