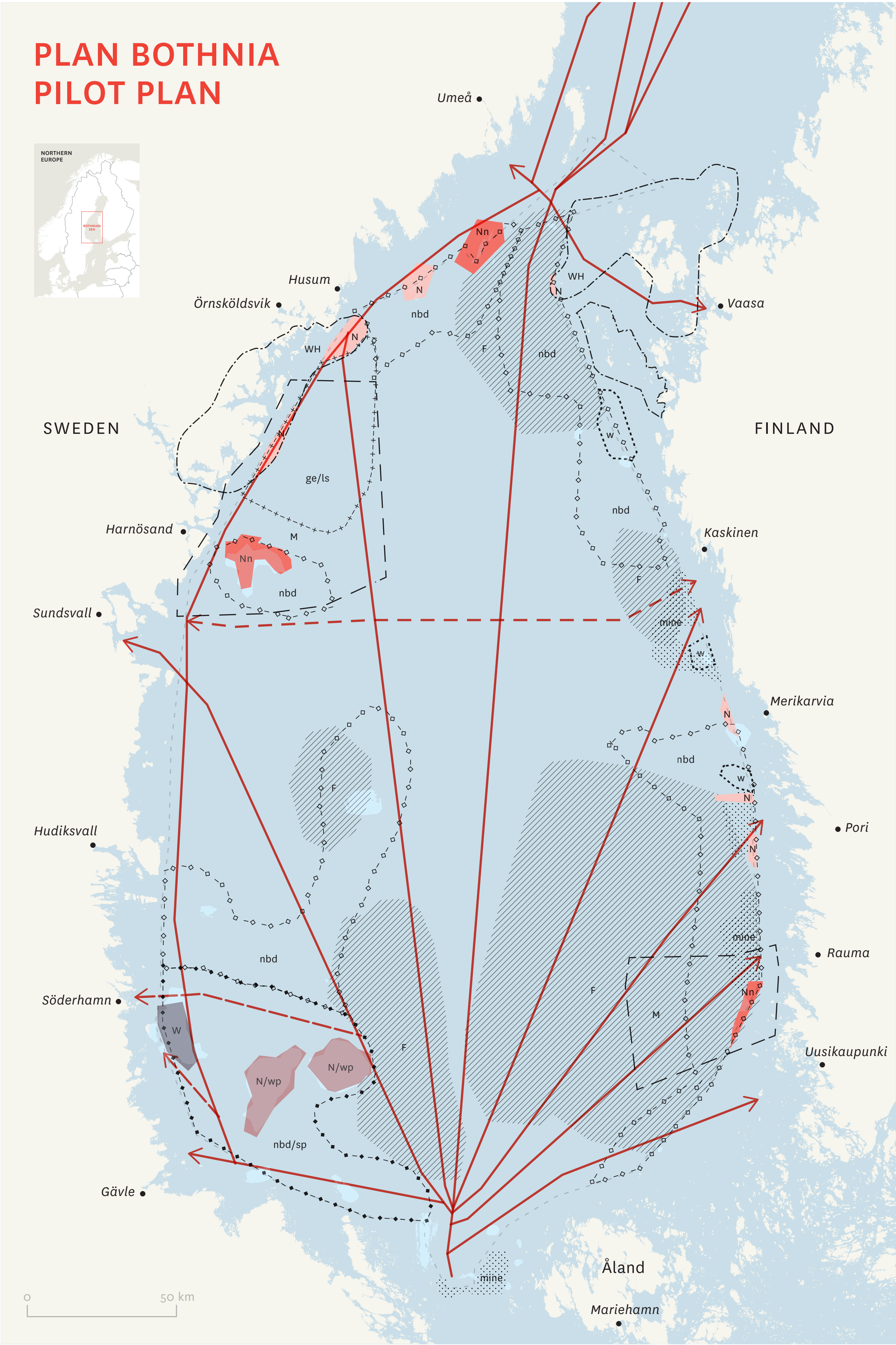


PLAN BOTHNIA PILOT PLAN



Nn

Nature protection, Natura 2000
Area with high natural value. The entire area or a large part of it belongs to the EU Natura 2000 network. Areas off the Finnish coast also to a maritime national park. **RECOMMENDATION:** Natura 2000 values should be protected and activities harmful to these values should not be allowed. The National Park regulations must be followed.

N/wp

Nature protection and wind power
Shallow banks of high ecological value and conditions for wind power. Part of Finngrundet has sand and gravel extraction interests, but this would be harmful to its natural/ecological values and wind power interests. **RECOMMENDATION:** Natural values should be protected. Shipping and fishing harmful to these values should not be allowed. New activities that could significantly harm the possibilities for wind power in the area should not be permitted.

M

Military practice area
Area used for live ammunition practice by the military. **RECOMMENDATION:** The area should be protected against uses that can significantly harm its use for military purposes.

N

Nature protection, other
Area with high natural and ecological value that should be protected. **RECOMMENDATION:** The biological and ecological conditions that create its high natural values should be protected. Activities harmful to these values should be made to avoid the area.

Important fishing area
Area identified as of particular importance for commercial fishing. **RECOMMENDATION:** The possibilities of sustainable fishing should be ensured. The conditions that are fundamental to its natural values and rich fish stocks should not be harmed.

nbd

Potentially high natural value
Due to the relatively shallowness and varied seabed conditions the area, particularly the banks, could be expected to be of higher natural value and biodiversity than most of the Bothnian Sea. **RECOMMENDATION:** The natural and ecological values in the area should be preserved. New activities should not be allowed unless their environmental effects have been assessed. Existing activities such as fishing should be performed in a way that is not harmful.

nbd/sp

Potentially high natural value, spawning and nursery area
Area of particular significance for spawning or nursery of fish. Due to the shallowness and varied seabed, the area is expected to be of higher natural/ecological value than most of the Bothnian Sea. **RECOMMENDATION:** The area's qualities for spawning of fish should be preserved. The effects of new activities on the area's values should be assessed, harmful activities should be avoided. Existing activities such as fishing should be performed in a way that does not harm.

ge/lis

Valuable geology and landscape view from land
An important part of UNESCO High Coast World Heritage is that the views from the high coastal cliffs are free of visible constructions. **RECOMMENDATION:** Permanent constructions that could be visible from land and harm cultural values should be avoided.

Banks

Planning area

S

Future shipping route
Future potential fairway for cross-Bothnian shipping. **RECOMMENDATION:** Measures that could prevent the establishment of the route should be avoided.

WH

World heritage
Area in the UNESCO World Heritage list, mainly coastal. **RECOMMENDATION:** When granting permission for new activities and measures, within or close the area, the impact on world heritage values should be assessed. Activities and measures that could harm world heritage values should not be allowed.

mine

Mine/dumped ammunition risk
Site where mines or other kinds of ammunitions have, or are supposed to have, been dumped. **RECOMMENDATION:** Activities that could lead to risks of explosions should be avoided, or carried out with great caution.

S

Shipping route
Recommended route for commercial shipping. **RECOMMENDATION:** Constructions, activities and other measures that would hinder passage should only be allowed if the measures are of great importance for society and if no other acceptable place can be found.

W

Wind power
Area for wind power production. The area is also of relatively high natural value. **RECOMMENDATION:** Activities and measures that could harm wind power production should not be allowed. Natural values should be preserved as far as possible.

Good wind power conditions
Area with good wind power production conditions. **RECOMMENDATION:** Activities and measures that could harm the potential to use the area for wind power production should not be allowed.

CO-FINANCED UNDER EUROPEAN INTEGRATED MARITIME POLICY (MARE 2009/16)

LEAD PARTNER

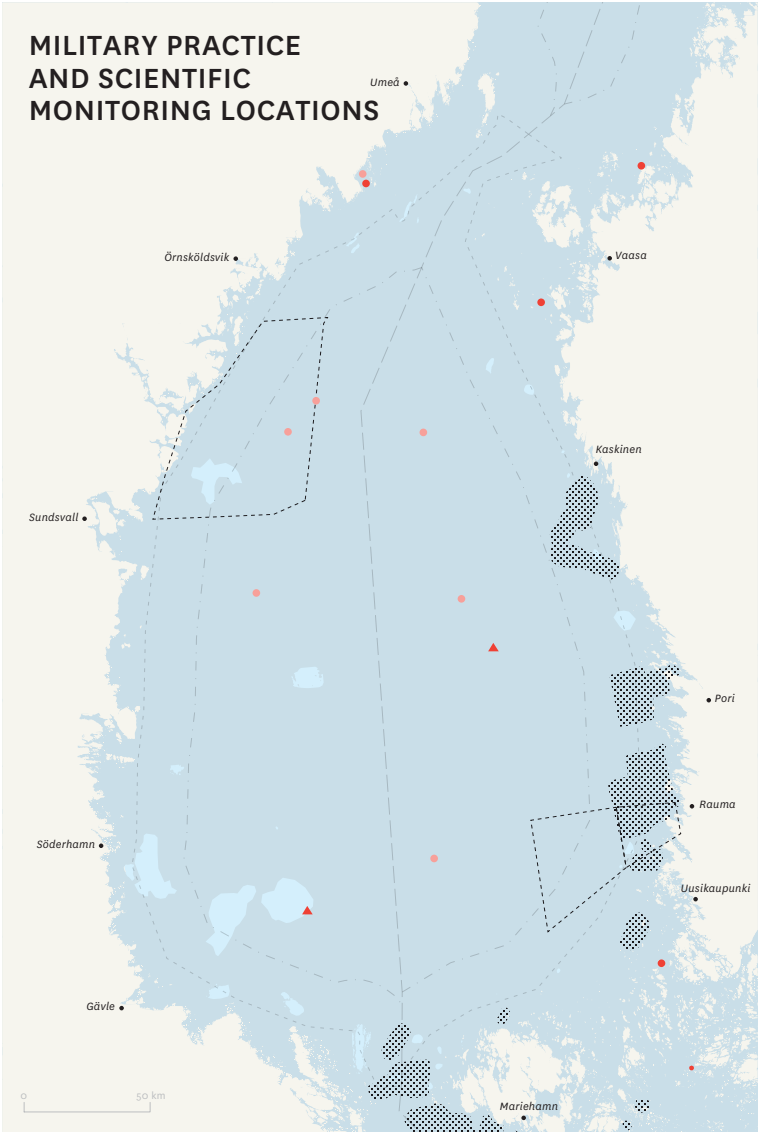
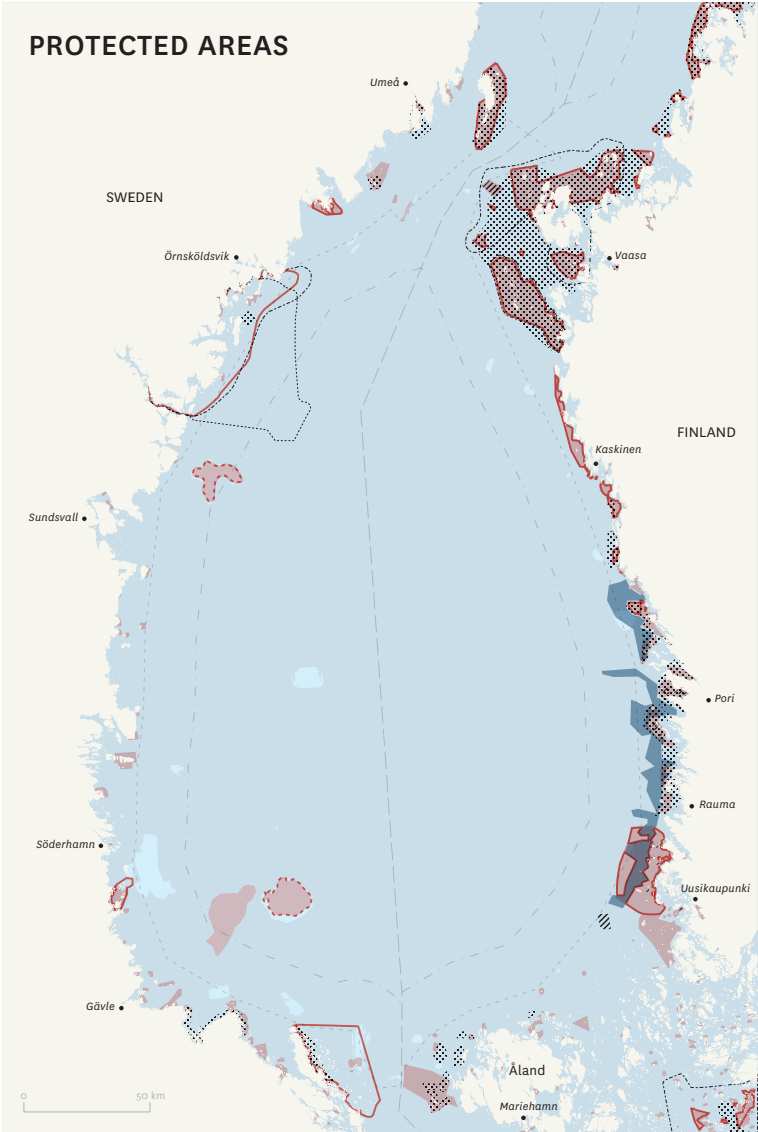
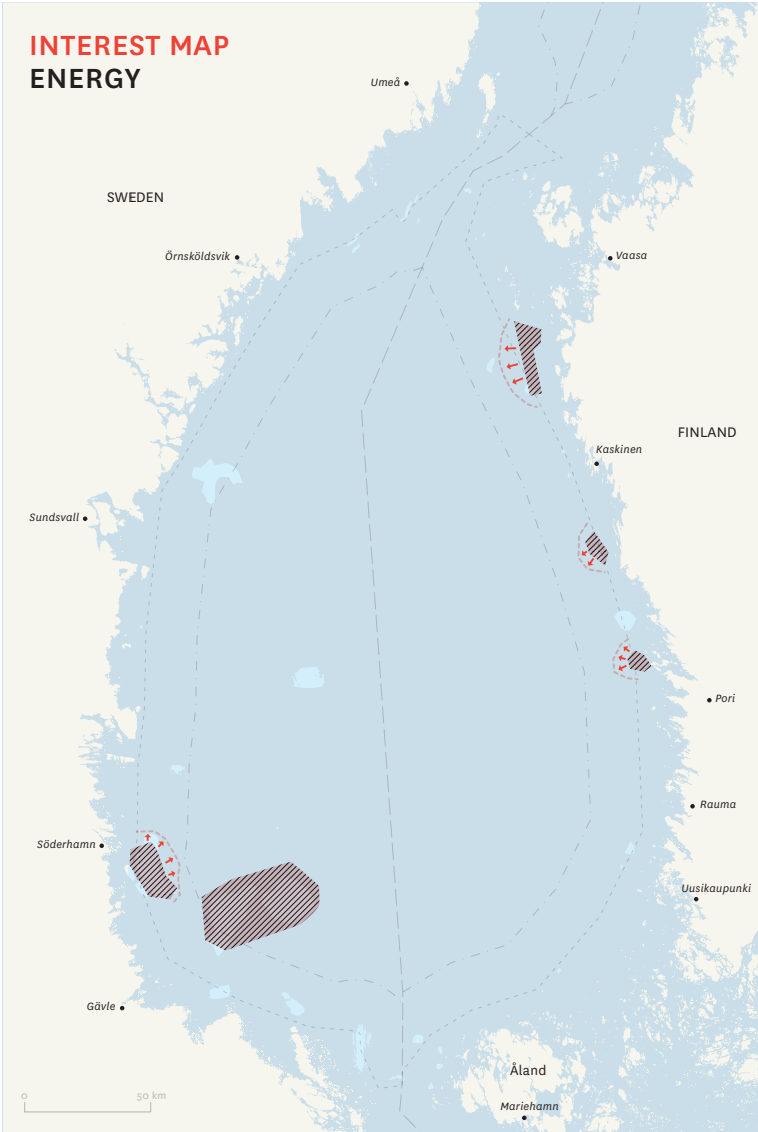
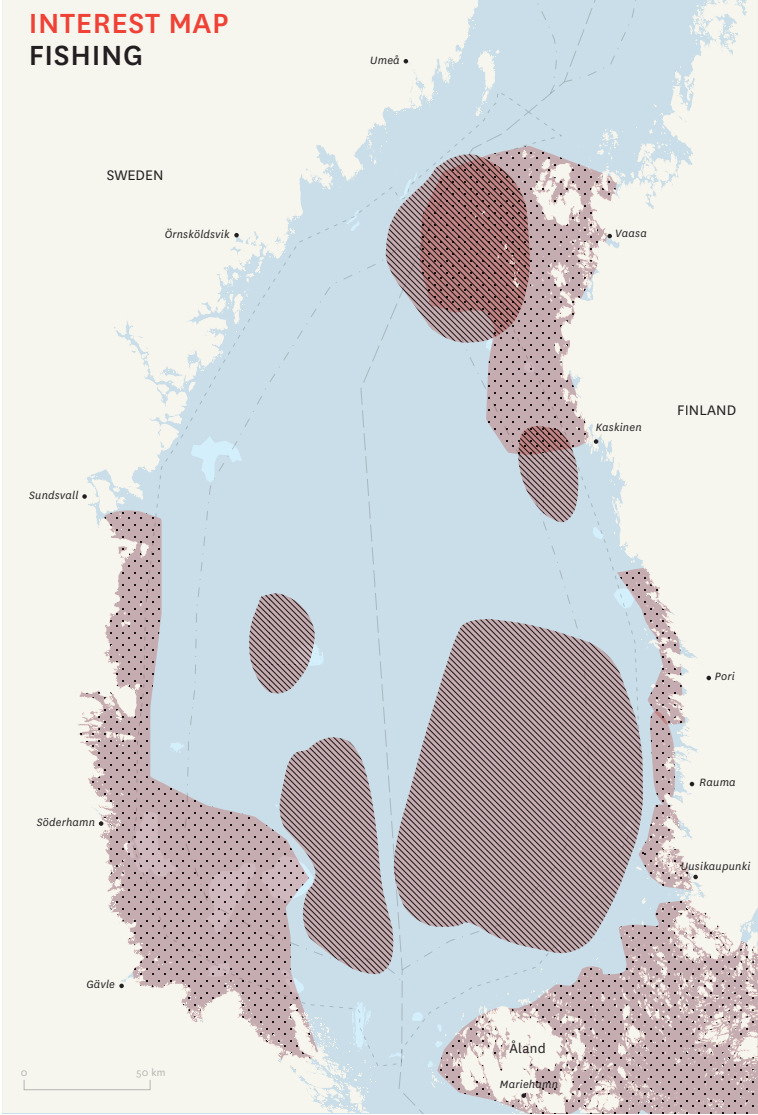
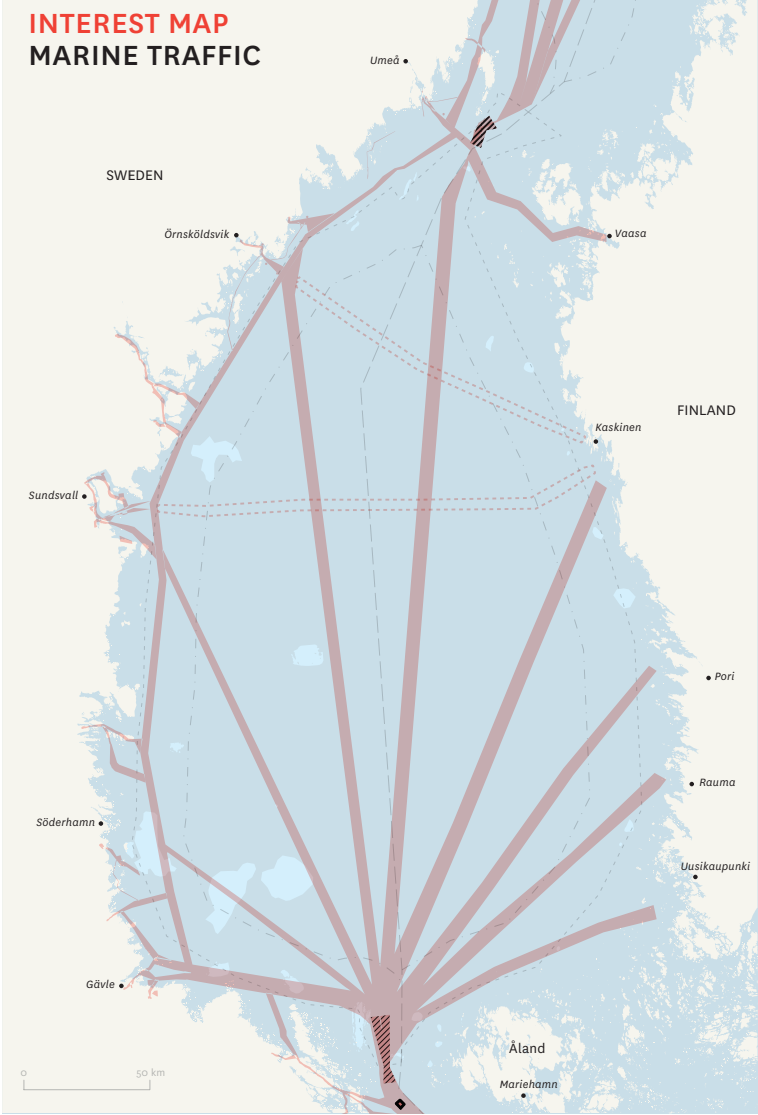
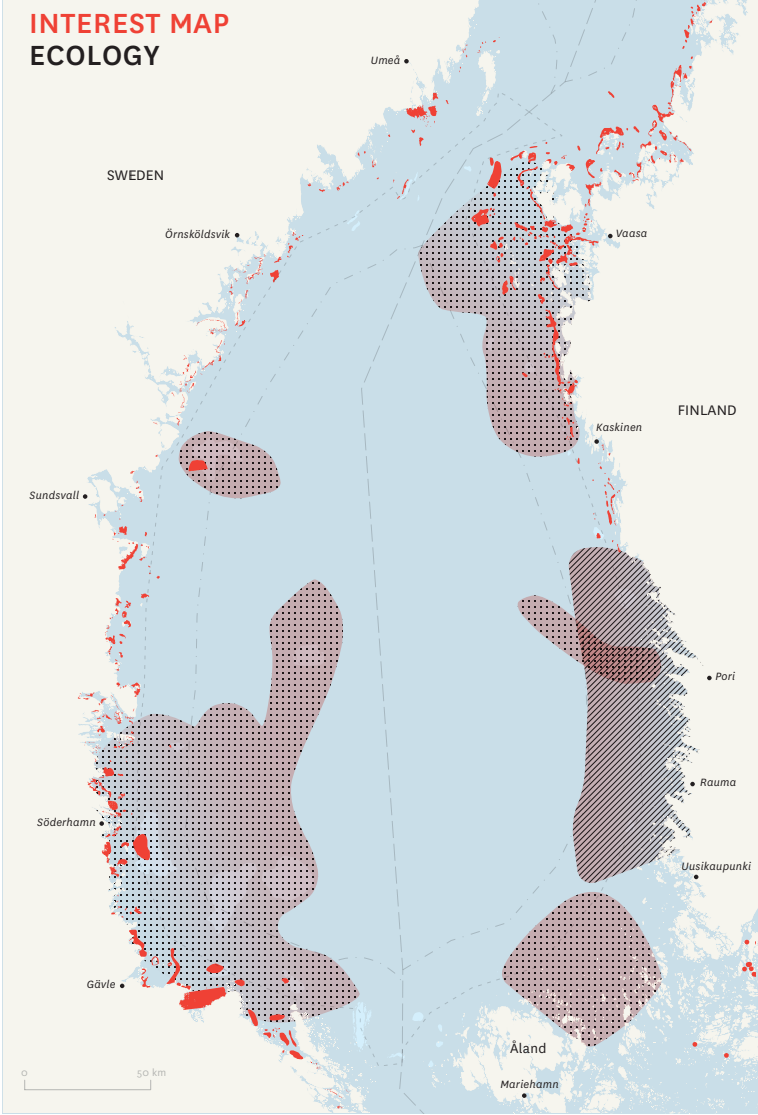
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VASAB
VALUABLE AREAS SURROUNDING THE BOTHNIAN SEA

NORDREGIO
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The Plan
Bothnia
Pilot Plan

The Bothnian Sea is a source of life, of beauty, of energy, of food, of commerce, of fun.

This fold-out map presents to you a pilot plan for offshore areas of the Bothnian Sea, a part of the Baltic Sea bordered by Sweden and Finland. The underlying planning exercise was carried out to provide a test case of transboundary Maritime Spatial Planning. It also tested a set of regional principles on MSP, developed through Baltic Sea intergovernmental co-operation (under HELCOM & VASAB). The latter fulfills a commitment of the 2007 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting.

The process did not aim for a politically adopted plan. The end result aims to stimulate further discussion on transboundary planning of the Bothnian Sea.

A selection of important features of the Bothnian Sea used during the planning process is also provided for illustration purposes. Please note that more comprehensive documentation on the plan is available in the book "Planning the Bothnian Sea" to which this fold-out map is attached (Backer H. & Frias M. eds. 2012, www.planbothnia.org).

The Bothnian Sea pilot plan and its aims

The planning area includes both Finnish and Swedish Bothnian Sea offshore waters 1nm from the baseline, covering both territorial sea and the EEZ. As appropriate, it also includes information on activities in nearby coastal waters. By focusing on offshore areas, the plan offers a new dimension to both Finnish and Swedish planning systems. Timewise, the planning horizon is around 15 years to the future.

The Vision: The plan aims that as a result of long-term transboundary cooperation, the Bothnian Sea remains a place of unique natural beauty where human activities take place without damaging the Sea's ecological status, contribute to combating global climate change and enable communities in the region to prosper. This vision should be implemented by six objectives covering ecosystem integrity, protected areas, maritime traffic, renewable energy, fisheries as well as regional development.

Creating a framework for a healthy ecosystem: Although industrial needs are important, the overall objective is to obtain the healthy (good) status of the entire Bothnian Sea ecosystem and to preserve and strengthen its ecosystem services.

Safeguarding maritime traffic: The volume of goods transported by shipping in the Bothnian Sea is expected to increase in the coming decades. Sustainable transport systems demand a large part of land transports move to the sea. Possibilities for increased shipping should be secured, including the development of ports. Where ever possible, ships should be allowed to travel the shortest route.

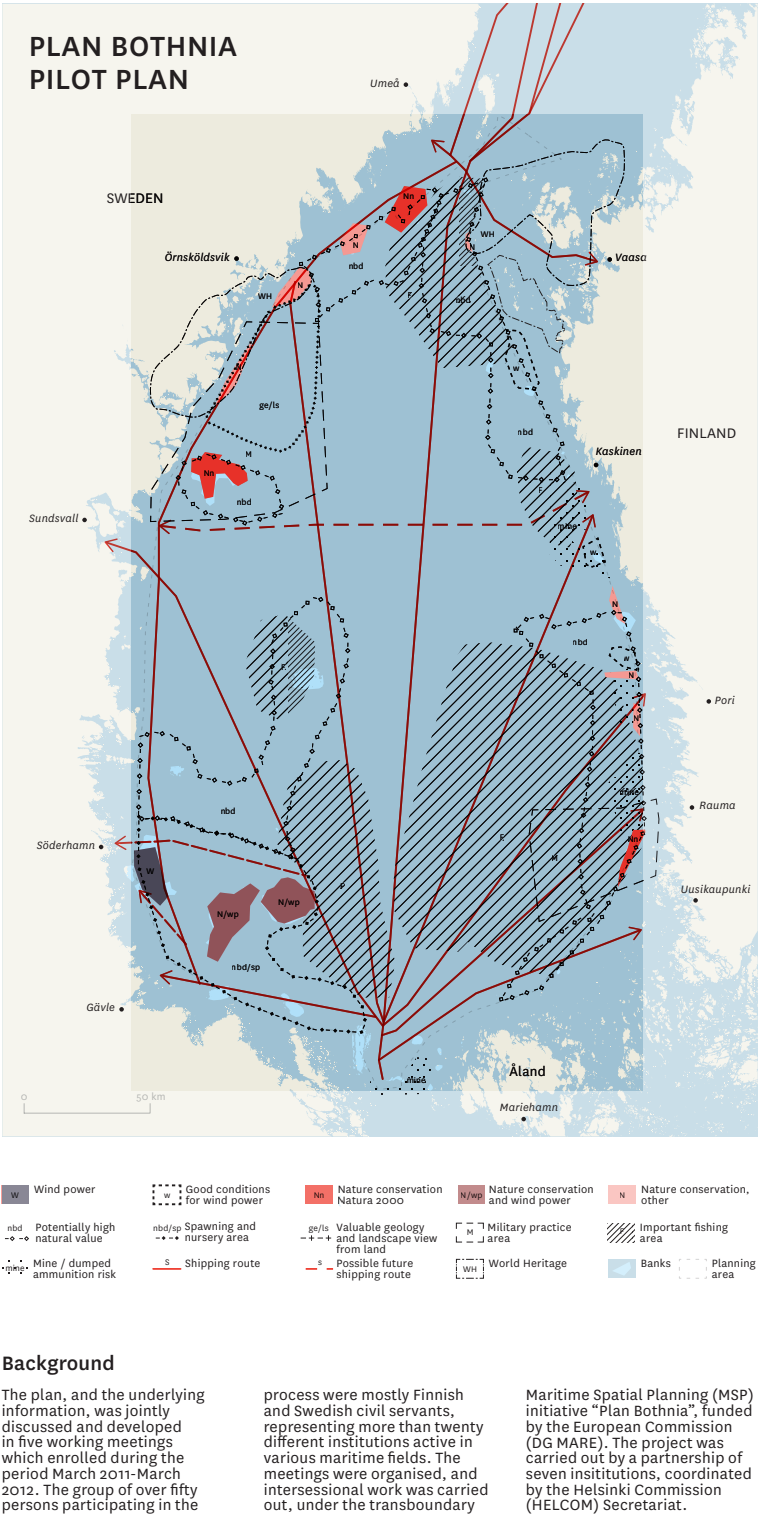
Designating areas for sea-based energy: Without compromising the ecosystem and taking into account the affect on the visual landscape, the potential for sea-based energy production should be utilised. So far, this mainly involves wind power. The ambition is to reach a Bothnian Sea production capacity of 5-10TWh before 2020, developed in an ecologically and aesthetically-responsible way. To preserve the natural values of untouched banks and other areas, and to avoid harm to wildlife such as migrating birds, building on offshore banks should be minimised, by cluster-

ing wind farms into larger units and directing them to deeper waters. The environmental harm of cables and their laying should be minimised.

Maintaining spawning, nursery and fishing areas: The ecological sustainability of commercial fishing should be promoted. Management actions should be taken to ensure the preservation of viable herring stocks and other fish species of commercial value. Actions should also be taken to avoid negative effects to the ecosystem, including the destruction of habitats, and the release of toxins and nutrients from seabed. Important fish spawning and nursery areas should be protected.

Ensuring a network of offshore nature protected areas: Offshore areas in the Bothnian Sea identified as especially ecologically valuable should be designated as protected areas with efficient management measures, including Natura 2000.

The sea and coastal communities: In the areas close to the shore and also in offshore areas, importance should be given to uses and activities that benefit coastal communities - such as local small-scale fishing and aquaculture, tourism and recreation.



Background

The plan, and the underlying information, was jointly discussed and developed in five working meetings which enrolled during the period March 2011-March 2012. The group of over fifty persons participating in the process were mostly Finnish and Swedish civil servants, representing more than twenty different institutions active in various maritime fields. The meetings were organised, and intersectoral work was carried out, under the transboundary Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) initiative "Plan Bothnia", funded by the European Commission (DG MARE). The project was carried out by a partnership of seven institutions, coordinated by the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) Secretariat.

Summary
- take a
look!