

How can the private sector contribute to reaching the conservation goals of the Baltic Sea?

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Connection to the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP / Biodiversity “segment”)

- **By 2030**... establish a resilient, regionally coherent, effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected system of **HELCOM marine protected areas**... **30% of the marine area**..., **1/3 strictly protected**
- **...consider including no-use zones** within marine protected areas
- **...actively include... species or areas recognized to be ecologically significant based on function** for the ecosystem/provisioning of ecosystem services..., but which may not necessarily be rare or threatened.

How to design an ecologically coherent network of MPAs?

- ✓ Identify the functionally most valuable habitats
- ✓ Localise the rare and threatened species



VELMU-programme

The Finnish Inventory Programme for
Underwater Marine Diversity

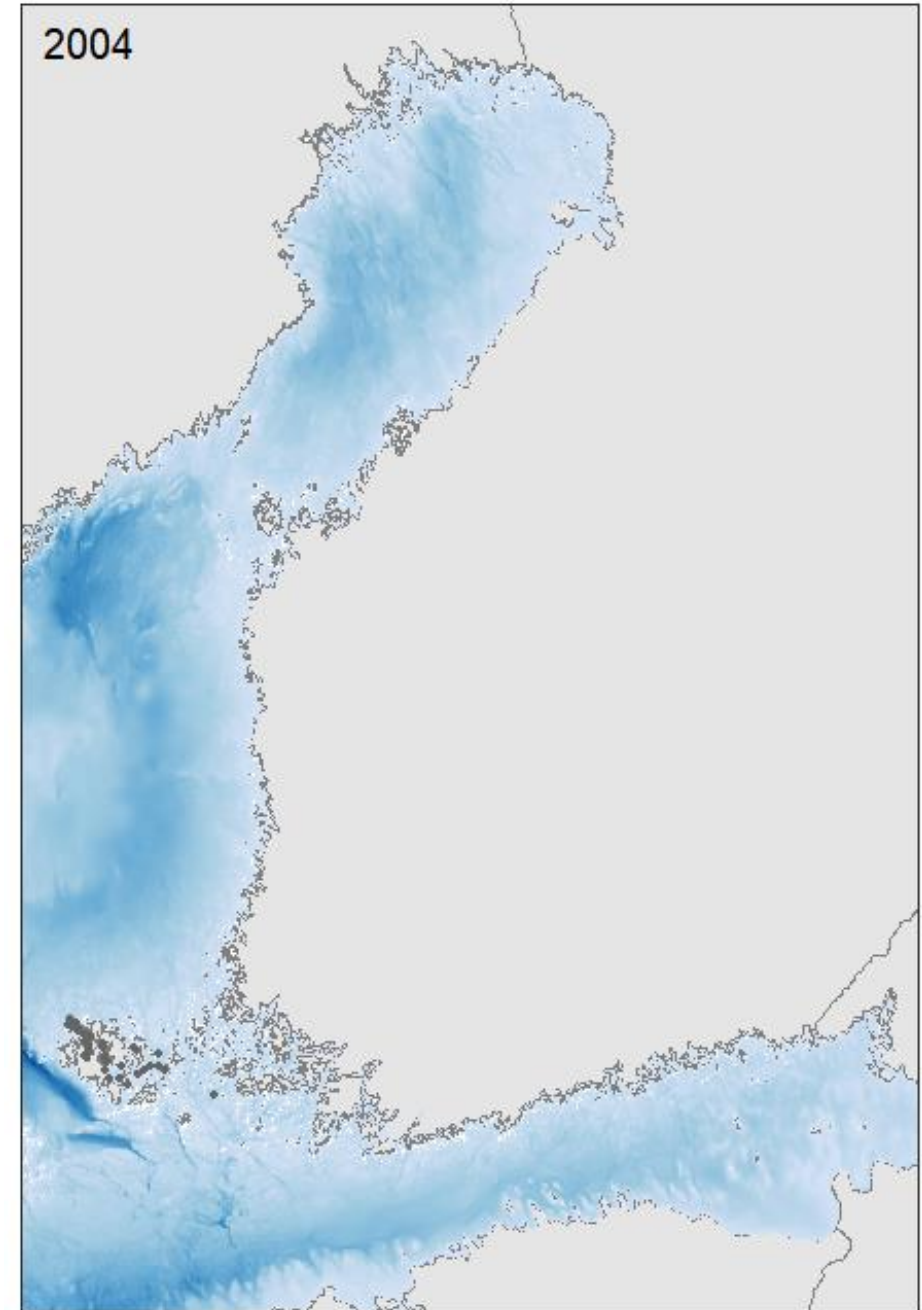


Accumulation of VELMU observations

2004—2022:
170.000+ spatially explicit observations
on habitats and species

- diving
- videos
- benthic sampling
- fish larvae sampling
- echosounding
- remote sensing

Louise Forsblom, SYKE



Knowledge on biodiversity hotspots and rare species



Shallow coastal bays and lagoons:
biodiversity hotspots – if not
eutrophied

Bladderwrack
Fucus vesiculosus
belts



Heidi Arponen, Parks & Wildlife Finland



Fish larvae “nurseries”



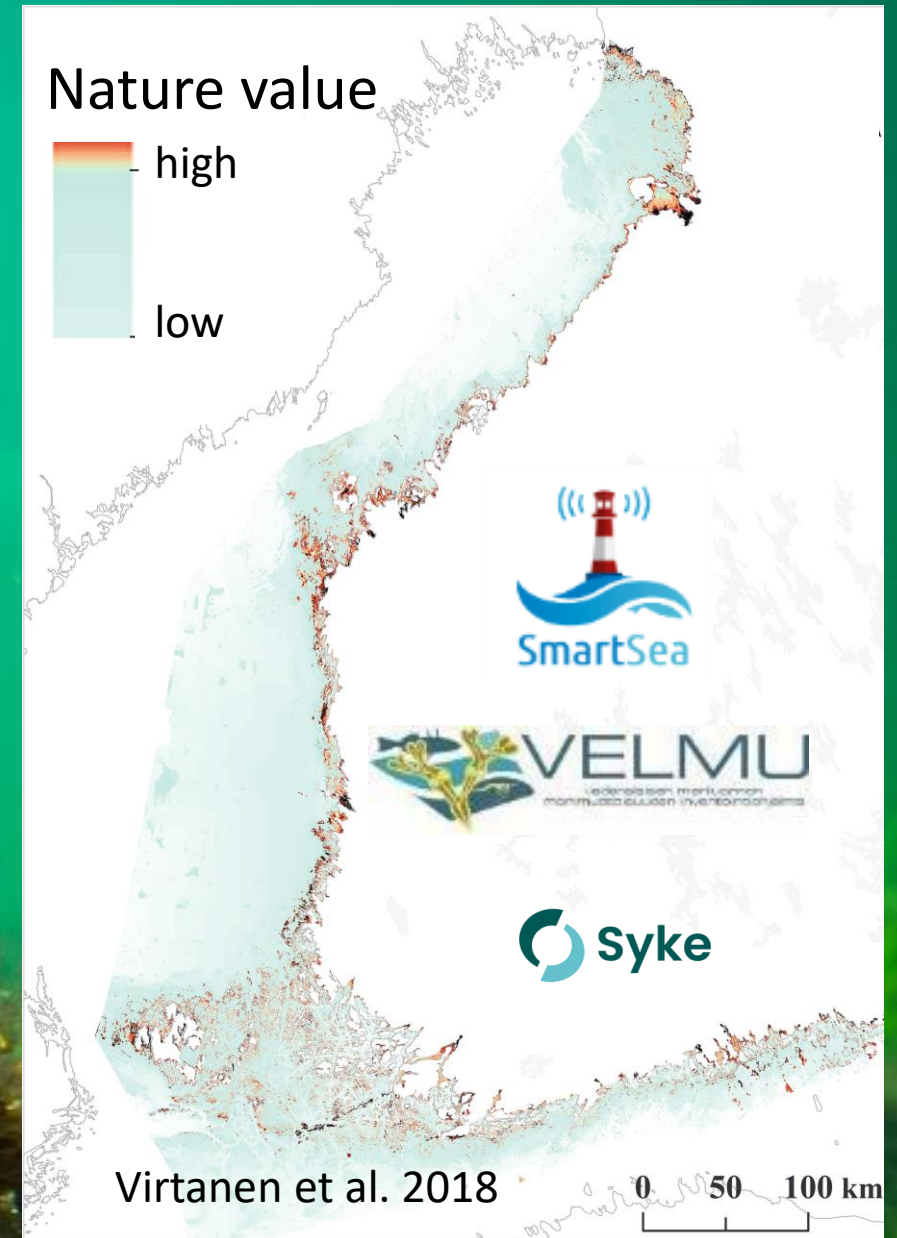
Macroplea pubipennis
– a rare leaf beetle



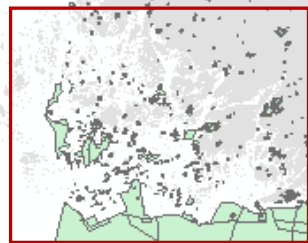
Fourleaf mare's tail
Hippuris tetraphylla
- in EU only occurs in
Finland

First underwater nature value map for Finland

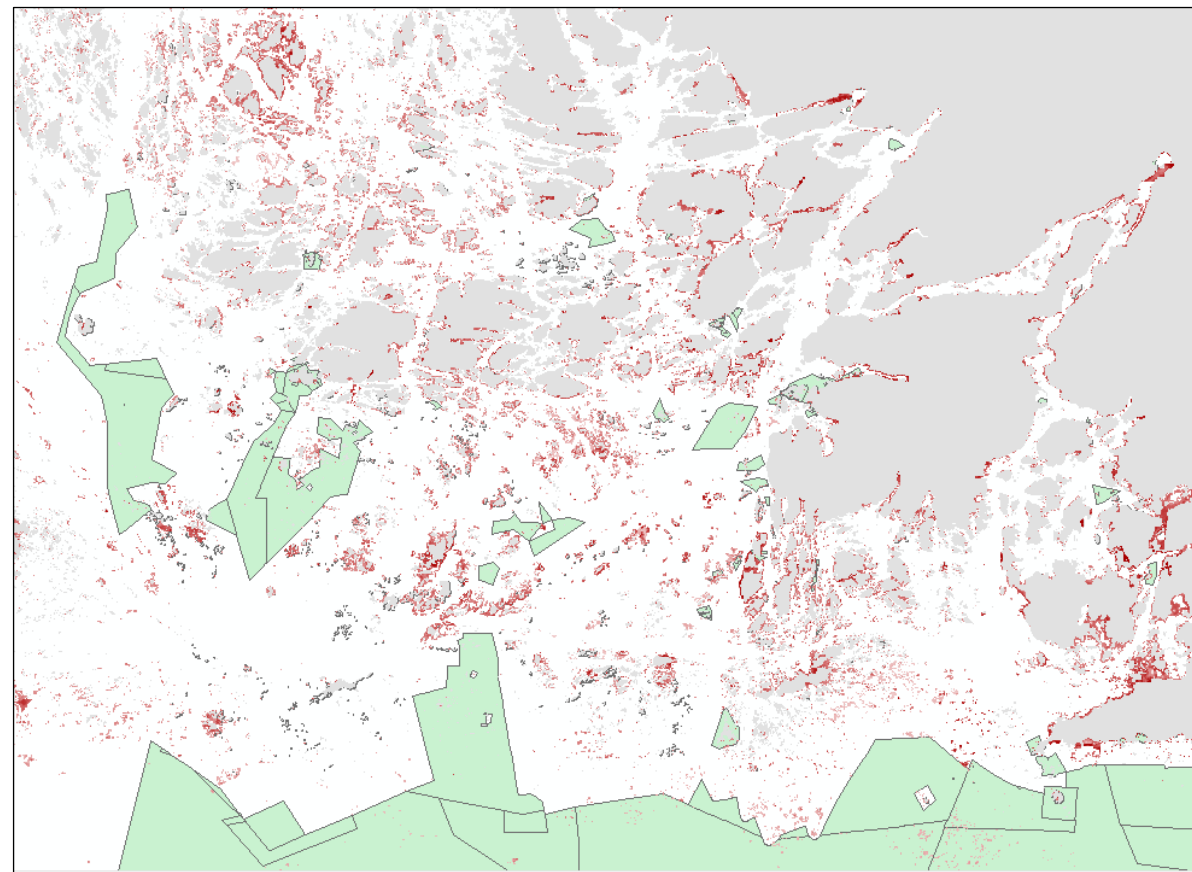
The main conclusion: The present MPA network only covers 27 % of the ecologically most significant areas



State
owned sea
areas



Where are the most valuable *unprotected* biodiversity hotspots?

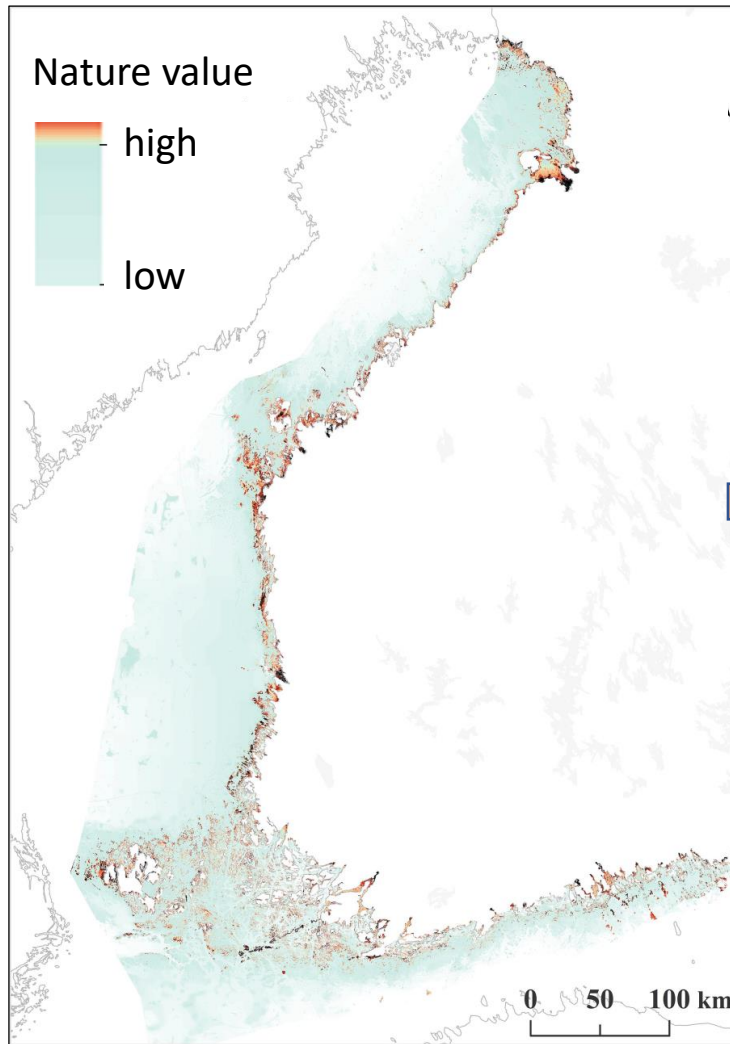


Private protection is needed to reach
the conservation goals of the Baltic Sea!



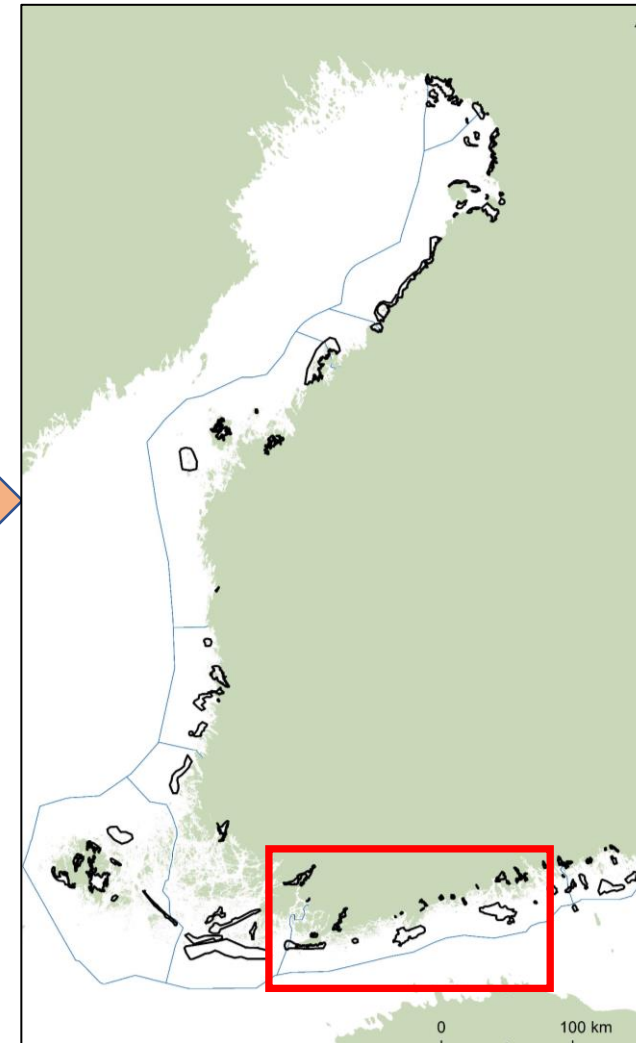
**How in practice can private
protection be increased?**

The 1st value map of the Finnish marine environment



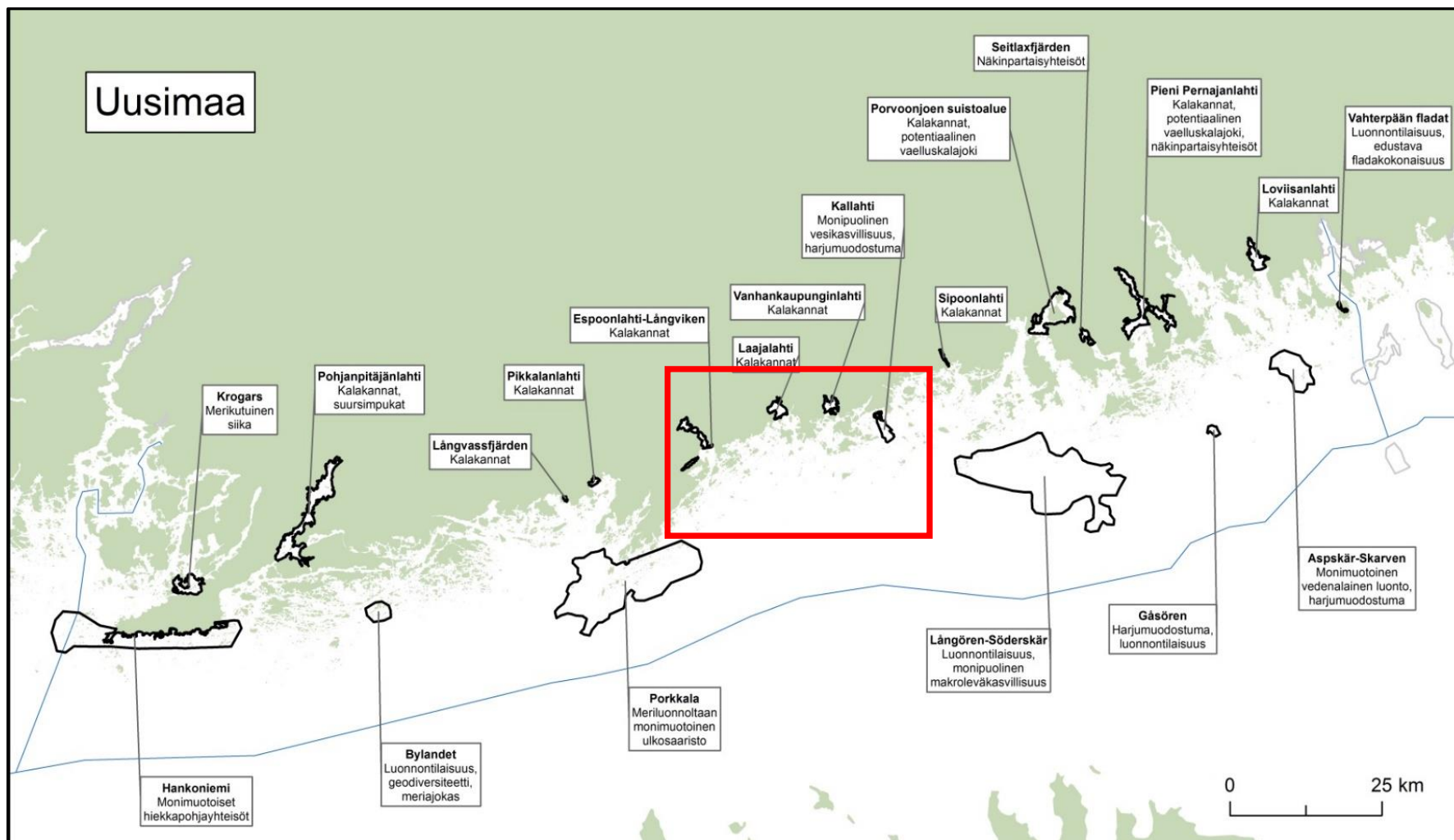
Virtanen et al. 2018

"EMMA" – CBD EBSA criteria used for determining 87 nationally significant areas



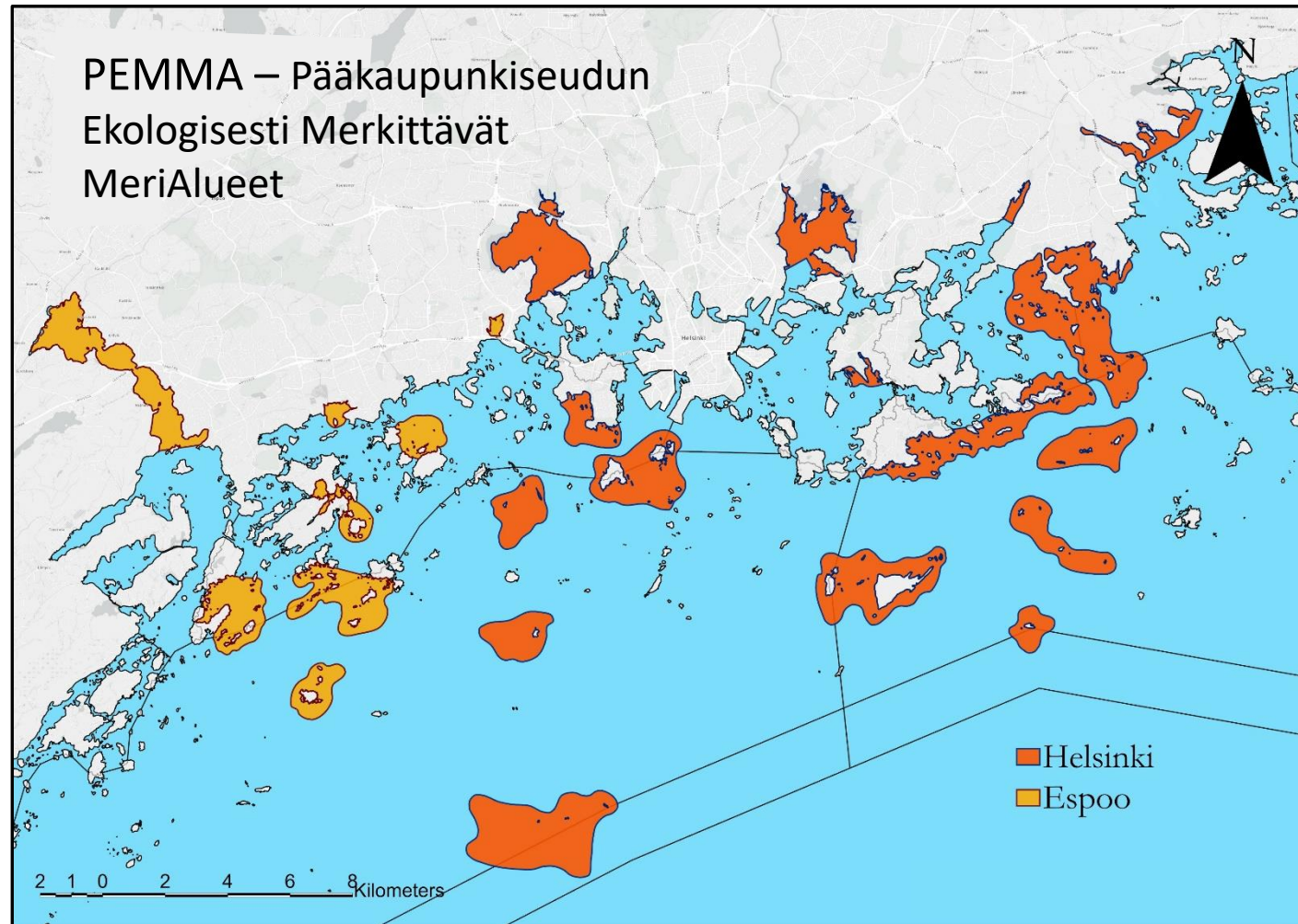
Lappalainen et al. 2020

The "EMMA" information was used in national maritime spatial planning (MSP)



Private protection, Case 1: the Capital City area

“PEMMA”: 24 locally significant marine areas identified



The “PEMMA” information will be used in planning new conservation areas by cities of Helsinki and Espoo

Rasmus Boman, Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland

Private protection, Case 2: Gullkrona



The Guest Harbour of the Year 2022

MPA process in Gullkrona

22 land-owners + BSAG, Finnish Environment Institute, Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland, Min. Environment, South-West Finland Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (CEDTE)

Summer 2020 – spring 2021

Contacting
landowners

Drafting an
application

Spring 2021

Land-owners
make an
unanimous
decision to
establish an
MPA

Summer 2021 – spring 2022

Adjustments of
the application

Application
submitted to
CEDTE

Autumn 2022

CEDTE
accepts the
application

The MPA is
established

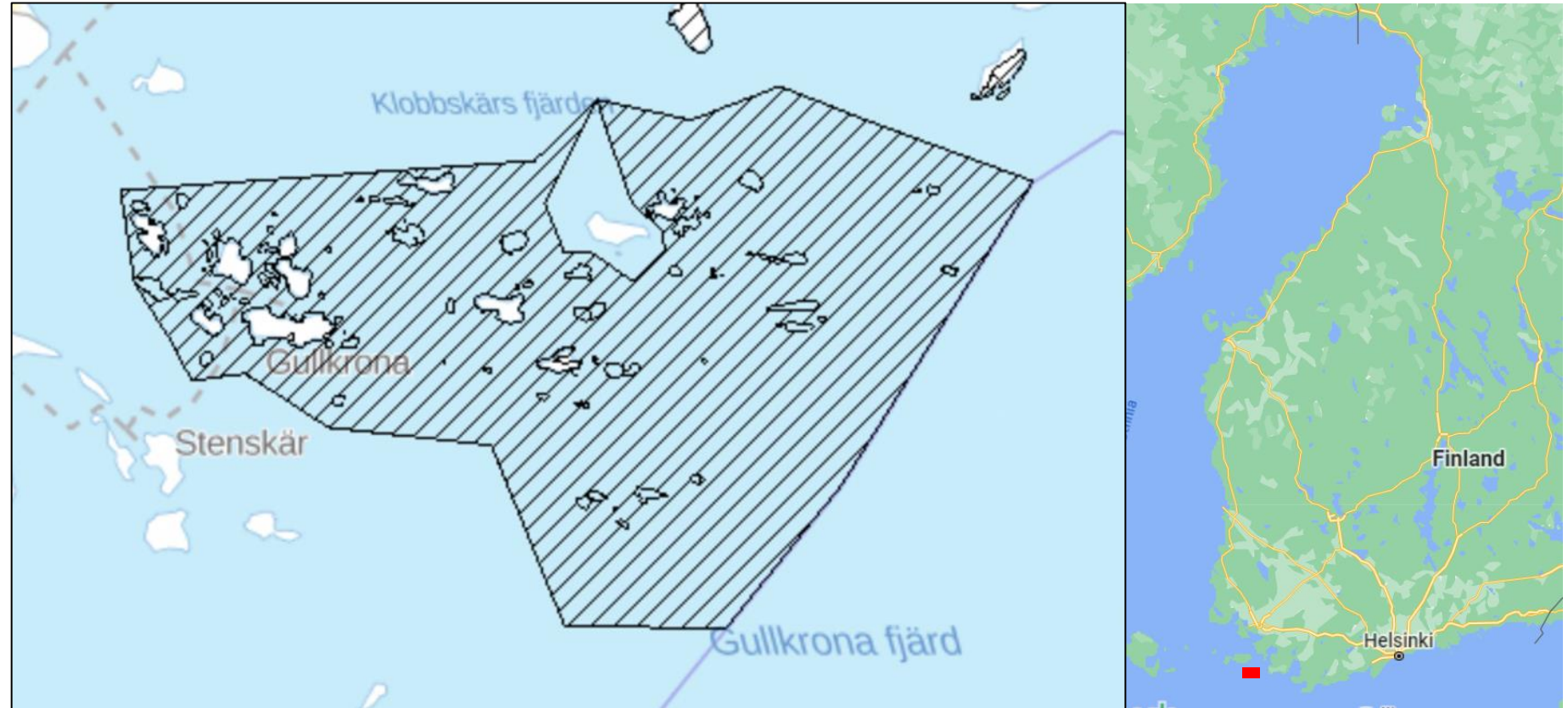
Prohibited: Dredging, fish
farms, damage to the seafloor,
landing on bird nesting islands

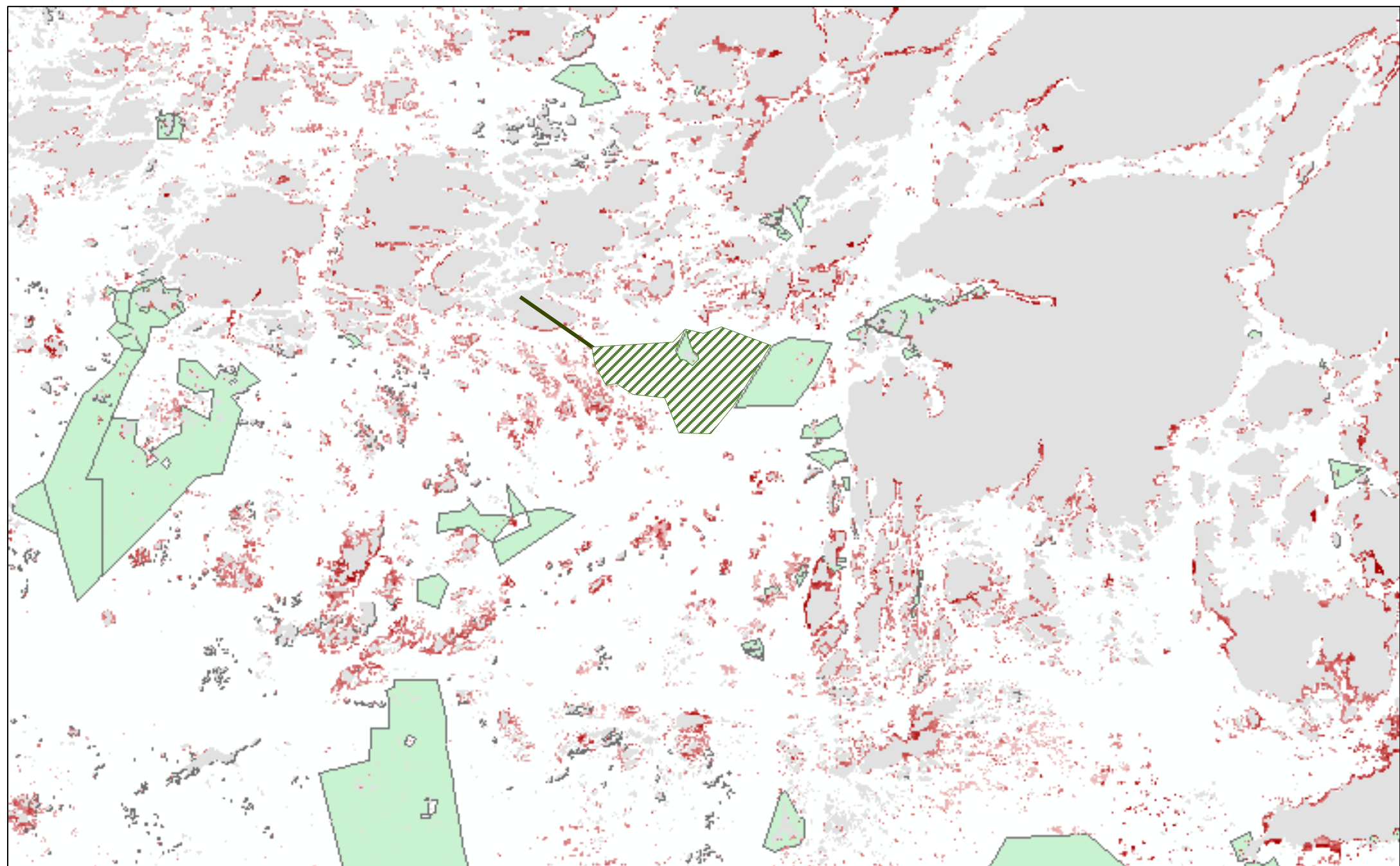
Allowed: Fishing, maintenance
dredging



Private protection, Case 2: Gullkrona

- 48 km²
- Seabirds, underwater reefs and sandbanks, shallow lagoons and an eelgrass meadow





Inspiration for the private sector

Private land-owners

- Find out possibilities of private protection; get involved
- Do not be shy to utter your concerns – demand data; the pros and cons of restrictions need to be clear!

Municipalities

- Include sea areas in conservation plans

NGOs, consultants and enterprises

- NGOs and consultants can take marine biodiversity on their agenda (cf. BSAG)
- Enterprises can find out about possibilities of protection, restoration, and compensation



Thank You!

Photo: Mats Westerborn