

BLUE ACTION BANOS

EMPOWERING

SUSTAINABLE TRANSITIONS FOR BALTIC & NORTH SEA BLUE COMMUNITIES

Turning Ideas into Action – Stories from Community Projects
Part 2, 18th of February 2026



Funded by
the European Union

www.blueactionbanos.eu

Agenda

1. Introduction to BlueActionBANOS (BAB)
2. Frequently Asked Questions
3. Stories from Community Projects
 - *LIFE IP Rich Waters*
 - *'My Sea' campaign*
 - *Fisheries Sustainability: Strategy*
 - *8+fjordar*
4. Q&A, next steps and closing

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Introduction to BlueActionBANOS (BAB)

Jonas Lescroart

Science Officer

Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ)

An underwater photograph showing a fish swimming above a field of green seagrass. Sunlight rays penetrate the water from the top right.

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Mission Ocean



Protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity.

Make the sustainable blue economy carbon-neutral and circular.

Prevent and eliminate pollution of our oceans, seas, and waters.

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MISSION LIGHTHOUSES

Mission lighthouses are sites to test, demonstrate, and deploy the Mission activities across EU seas and river basins. They try out new ideas and involve local businesses and people in the process.



ATLANTIC - ARCTIC



BALTIC & NORTH SEA



DANUBE-BLACK SEA



MEDITERRANEAN

Netherlands



Netherlands Enterprise Agency

Norway



Norsk institutt for vannforskning

Sweden



innovatum
science
park



Swedish Environmental
Research Institute

Finland



Latvia



LATVIJAS
HIDROEKOLOGIJAS
INSTITUTS

Belgium



BLUE
CLUSTER



VLIZ pioneer in
marine science

Coordination



SUBMARINER NETWORK

Estonia



TARTU ÜLIKOOL
UNIVERSITY OF TARTU
1632

Lithuania



Klaipeda
University

Denmark



Food & Bio Cluster
Denmark



SDU



FundingBox
#FundingChampions



UBC
UNION OF THE BALTIC
CITIES



ERRIN
European Regions
Research and
Innovation Network

Germany



Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel

Poland



GDANSK MARITIME UNIVERSITY
1920
POLAND

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BlueActionBANOS: Vision

Provide **targeted financial assistance**, **technical guidance**, and **strategic knowledge-sharing** to support the scale-up and deployment of Mission Ocean solutions within the **Baltic and North Sea Lighthouse Area**.

Community-Led
Actions



Transition
Agendas



Technical Assistance &
Knowledge-Sharing

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Two open calls

COMMUNITY-LED ACTIONS OPEN CALL



WHO CAN APPLY:

Teams/consortia of a minimum of 2 up to 12 entities registered in the Baltic and North Sea basin (BANOS) countries



Grants between **€200,000 and €2 million** to carry out action-oriented projects that tackle pollution, restore marine ecosystems, or advance sustainable blue economy solutions.

24 months Support Programme at maximum

1ST TRANSITION AGENDAS OPEN CALL



WHO CAN APPLY:

Individual entities or consortia of up to 3 entities registered in the Baltic and North Sea basin (BANOS) countries



Up to **€100,000 each** to design action plans guiding local sustainability, marine or freshwater ecosystem restoration, decarbonisation and climate adaptation pathways

18 months Support Programme at maximum



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Open Call: Timeline



WHAT and WHO can be funded

What

- Actions are bottom-up, but need justification through Mission Ocean objectives
- Possible actions described in **Annex I** (p. 21) in **Terms & Conditions**
 - BAB website under ‘Funding’

Who

- Any legal entity registered in a Baltic or North Sea basin (BANOS) country
- For descriptions of actors and communities, see **Terms & Conditions** (p. 7)

See recording of "Turning Ideas into Action – Stories from Community Projects (Part 1)"

- BAB website under ‘Resources’

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Inspiration for your project

Solutions databases accessible through

<https://www.blueactionbanos.eu/funding/inspiration-for-your-project/>



Find existing solutions across Europe

Mission Solutions Library

A library of solutions, best practices, project outcomes and any other relevant material that can be replicated and scaled across Europe and beyond.

Why use it?

Explore how projects have addressed challenges related to the Mission Ocean and Waters, such as marine protection & restoration, pollution prevention & management, decarbonisation of blue economy, etc.

What can you find?

- technological solutions
- regulation and governance
- financing and business models
- knowledge-sharing and capacity-building
- tools and models
- sustainable goods and consumables

Find solutions in your region

WaveLinks

A web platform that maps the landscape of the Mission Ocean and Waters.

Why use it?

Search and filter the database to find existing initiatives and solutions across the European basins and gain inspiration for your own work.

What can you find?

- projects
- stakeholders
- solutions
- public engagement methods
- citizen science initiatives

BlueMissionMed Portfolio Of Innovative Transformative Solutions

Explore how the Mediterranean has engaged with prevention, minimisation,

- technological solutions
- frameworks for citizen engagement,

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Frequently Asked Questions

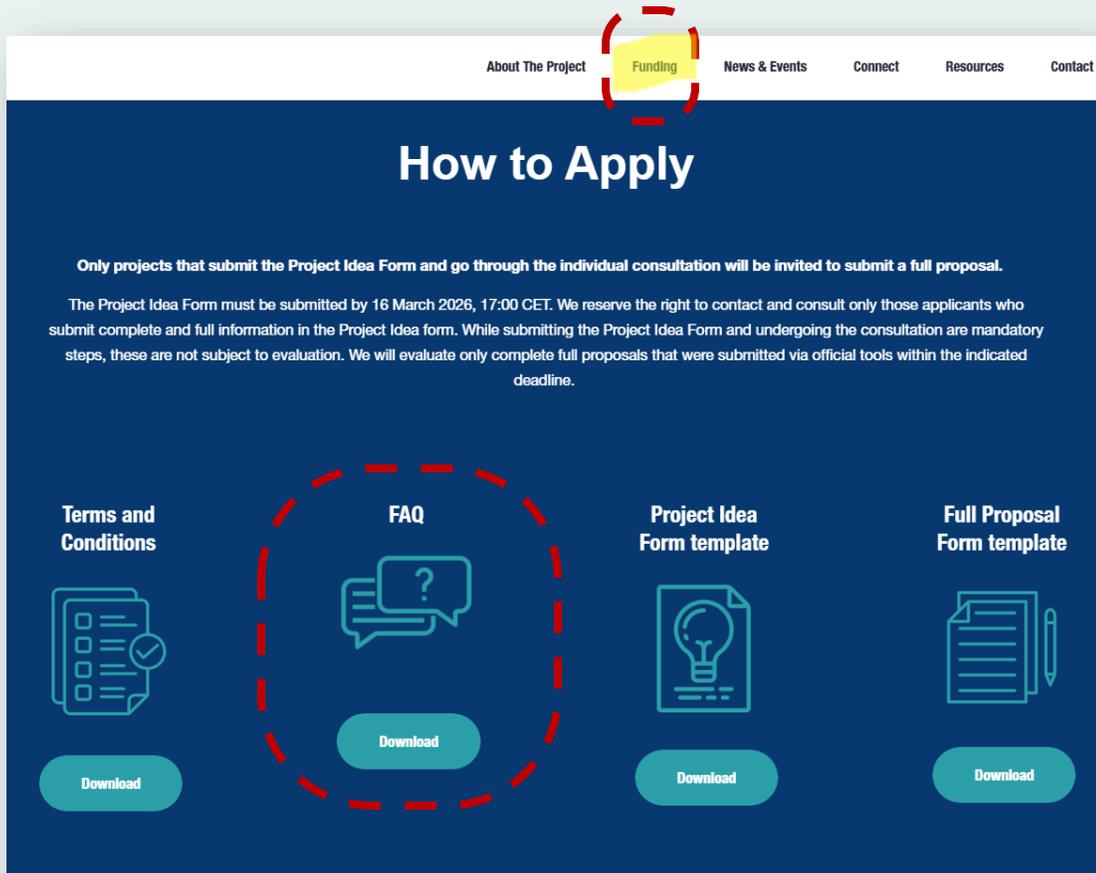
An underwater scene with a fish swimming above a field of seagrass. Sunlight rays filter down from the surface, creating a bright, clear blue environment.

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Frequently Asked Questions

- FAQ on www.blueactionbanos.eu, one per call. Please refer to these documents as the authoritative version of the FAQ.



About The Project **Funding** News & Events Connect Resources Contact

How to Apply

Only projects that submit the Project Idea Form and go through the individual consultation will be invited to submit a full proposal.

The Project Idea Form must be submitted by 16 March 2026, 17:00 CET. We reserve the right to contact and consult only those applicants who submit complete and full information in the Project Idea form. While submitting the Project Idea Form and undergoing the consultation are mandatory steps, these are not subject to evaluation. We will evaluate only complete full proposals that were submitted via official tools within the indicated deadline.

Terms and Conditions **FAQ** Project Idea Form template Full Proposal Form template

Download Download Download Download

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Frequently Asked Questions

- Can I, or my organization, submit an application to both open calls?
 - Not advised! Strictly speaking, yes. However, each entity can receive BAB funding only once. Therefore, if both projects are selected, for one of those projects you'd have to contribute in-kind or withdraw, putting that project at serious risk.
- Can I submit a full proposal without Project Idea Form (PIF) and Consultation?
 - No, both are mandatory in order to gain access to the full proposal form. If you have not submitted or joined a consortium at PIF submission, you are still allowed to join as partner in a developing consortium which did submit a PIF.
- What is a lump sum?
 - Simplified payment method in Horizon Europe. No need to present invoices etc. Instead, you demonstrate implementation of the Action in line with budget and milestones set out in an Individual Integrated Project Plan (IIPP).

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Frequently Asked Questions

- What is “better”: to keep a broad or specific thematic focus, to apply with a small or large consortium, with national or cross-border action, and to request a small or a large budget?
 - None of these aspects are factored into the independent evaluation procedure. What’s important is to argue why you maintain a certain thematic focus, why you need partner x and y in your consortium, why a certain budget is appropriate... all in relation to the proposed action and envisioned impact.
- Are applicants from outside the BANOS area eligible?
 - Yes, **(1)** if registered in an EU Member State or HE Associated Country, and **(2)** if the impact of the proposed action is within the BANOS area and the non-BANOS partner’s contribution is strongly justified.
- Is a published Gender Equality Plan (GEP) required?
 - Published GEP is required in HE project applications (incl. BAB) since 2022 for public bodies, higher education institutions and research organisations.



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Frequently Asked Questions

- Are subcontracting costs eligible?
 - Yes, to be included in the category of ‘purchase costs’.
- Is investment in infrastructure considered an eligible cost?
 - Yes, if necessary to achieve the project goals. Note that where it concerns a fixed asset to be taken in continued use after project duration, you should only request the depreciation cost, incurred during the project.
- Is it possible to combine BAB funding with other funding sources?
 - Yes, as long as there is no conflict with State Aid rules. The BAB funding rate is 100% of the budget indicated in the full proposal. That means **co-financing is not required, but it is allowed.**

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Inspiration for **Community-Led Action (CLA)** funding

LIFE IP Rich Waters

Jenny Herbertsson

Environmental Strategist and Water Coordinator

Municipality of Katrineholm



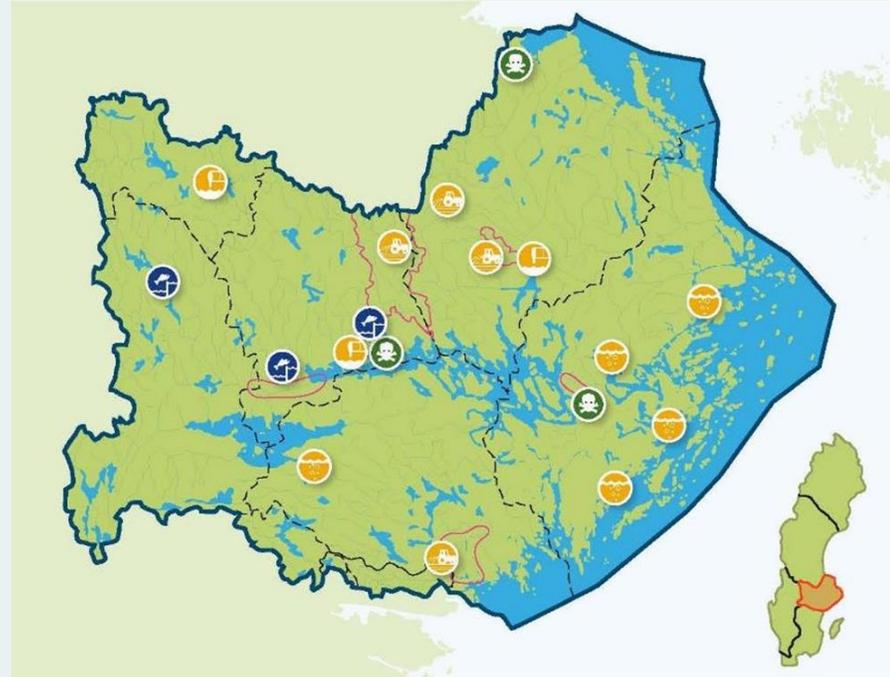
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LIFE IP Rich Waters

- **RBMP targeted: Northern Baltic Sea District**

- **Beneficiaries: 35 partners**
- **Total Budget: € 30 030 380**
- **Start and end dates:
01/01/2017 - 30/06/2025**



- **Presented by:**
- **Jenny Herbertsson,
Environmental strategist/Watercoordinator**



Swedish Agency
for Marine and
Water Management

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The first LIFE IP water project in Sweden



- **Total budget: 30 Million EURO**
- **10 Million from EU**
- **5 Million from Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management**
- **15 Million from the participants**



Swedish Agency
for Marine and
Water Management

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Involving actors at various levels and with different roles



Together we reach further!

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Five thematic areas



Addressing all the major environmental problems

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Different types of results

- Direct environmental effects
- Concrete measures – good examples
- Contribution to water administration
- Decision making tools
- Methodology development
- New solutions and new technology
- Project development
- Networks and new forms for cooperation
- Visibility and public debate
- Social and economic effects



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“Actions against internal phosphorus loading in lakes and coastal waters”



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Background

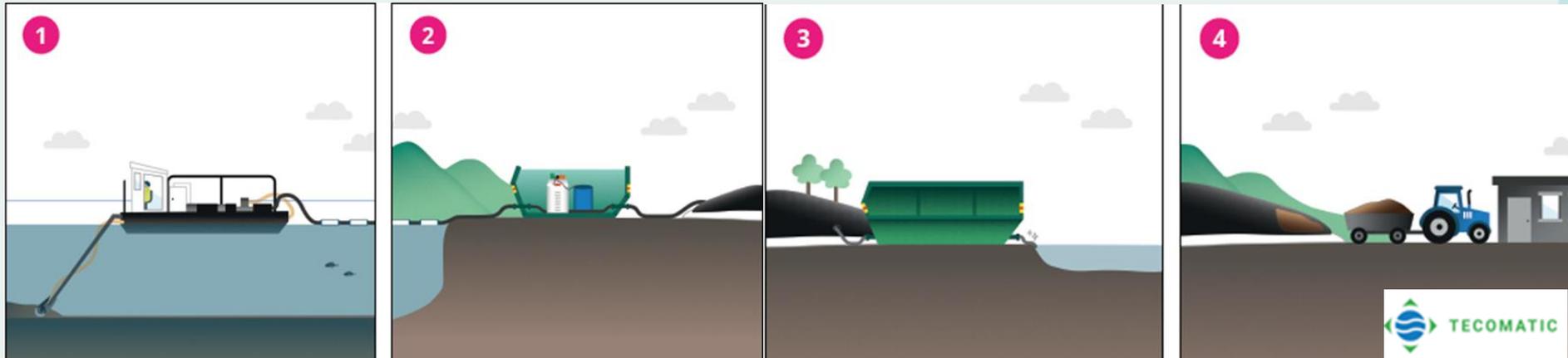
Internal loading in Öljaren causes fishdeath and algeabloom →

Test of the method low flow dredging



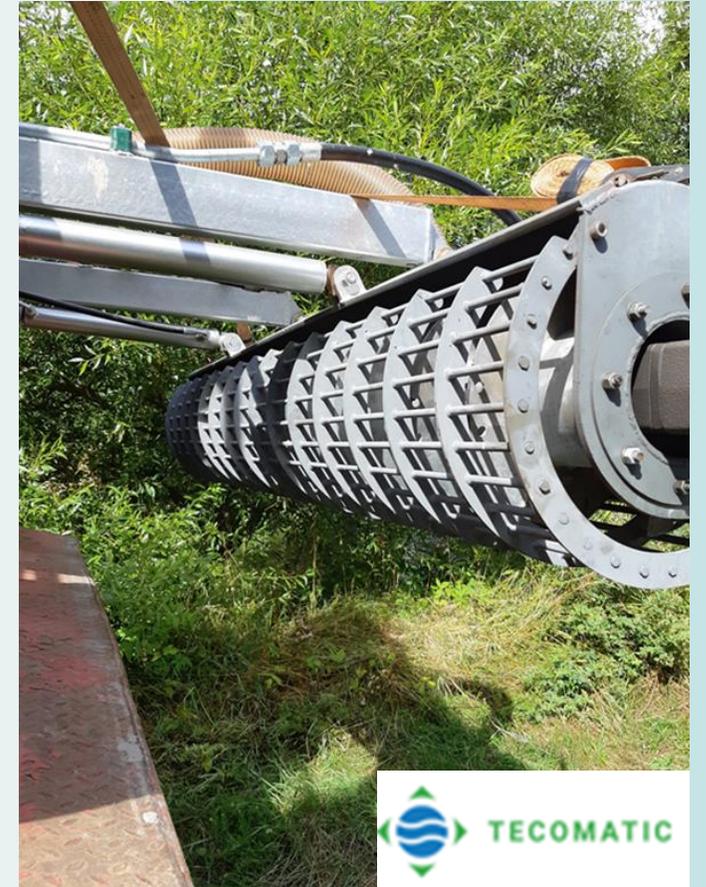
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How does it work?



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The dredging device



Geobag for dewatering



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Reject water and sediment



Emptying the geobag



[Lågflödesmuddring mot övergödning i sjön Öljaren](#)

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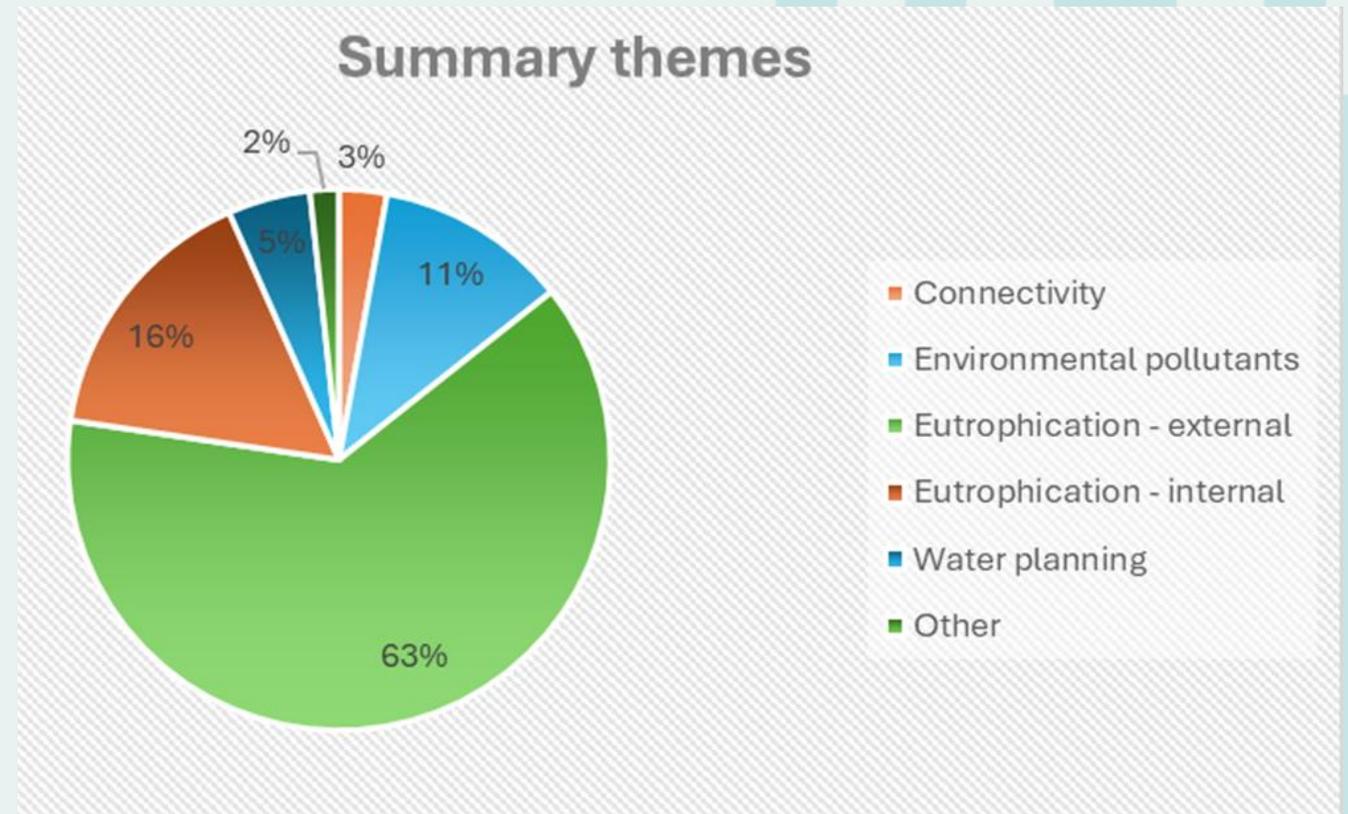
Complementary Actions (CA) in numbers

Total amount committed and/or spent by Final Report **121 961 139 EUR**.

In total about **219 projects**.

31 of 34 beneficiaries are partners in projects reported as CAs.

68 out of 74 municipalities in the water district have participated in activities related to project development.



Complementary actions and after LIFE

- CA: Source tracking PFAS
- Knowledge exchange and networks
- After LIFE: "From Lake to plant power"



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Questions?!

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Inspiration for **Community-Led Action (CLA)** funding

'My Sea' campaign

Jānis Ulme

Chair of the Board

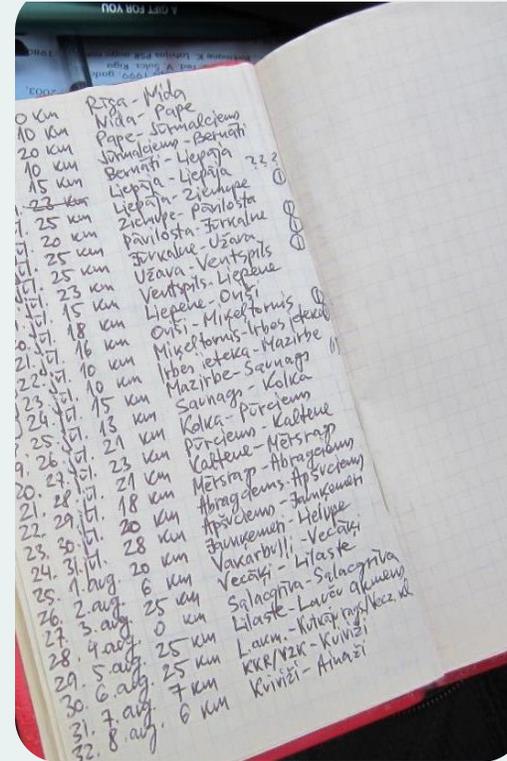
Foundation for Environmental Education Latvia (FEE Latvia)



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hiStory of My Sea

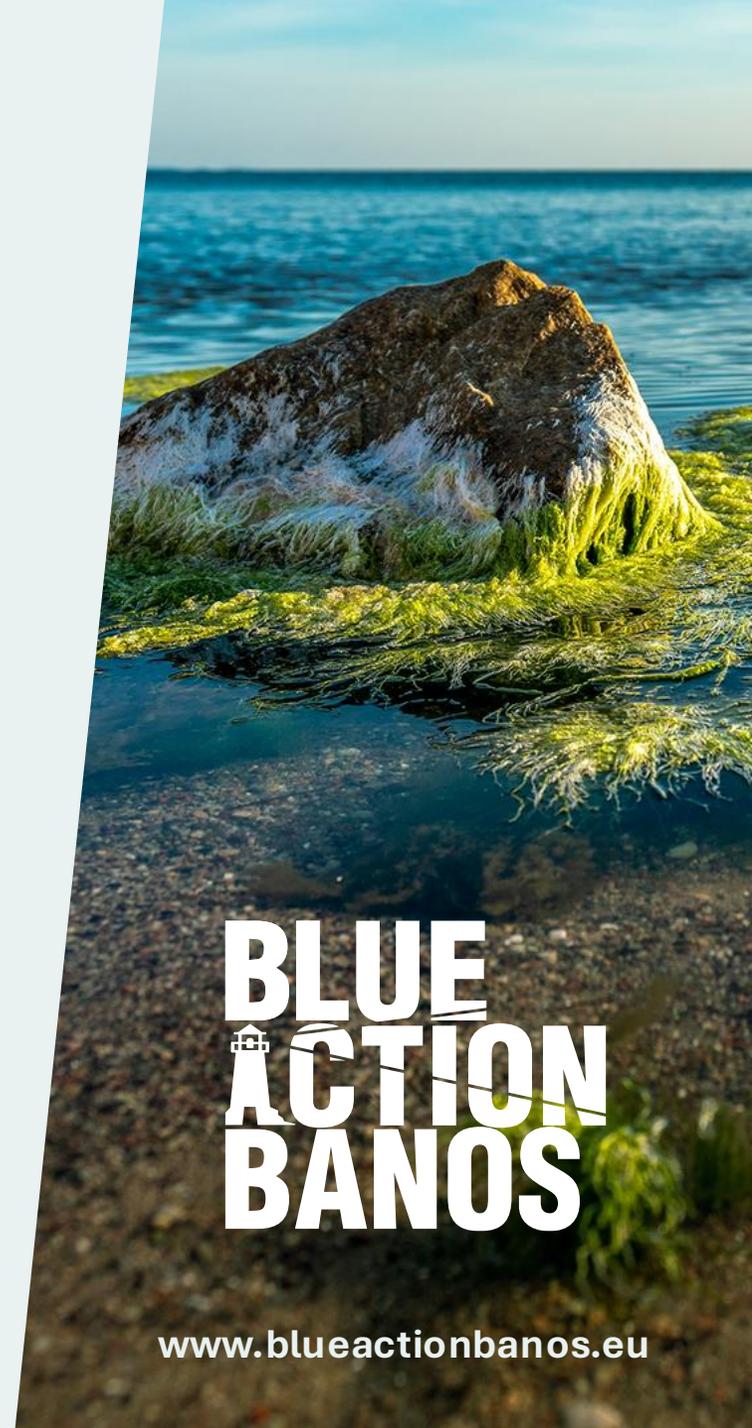


Established in 2012, intended as one-time initiative...

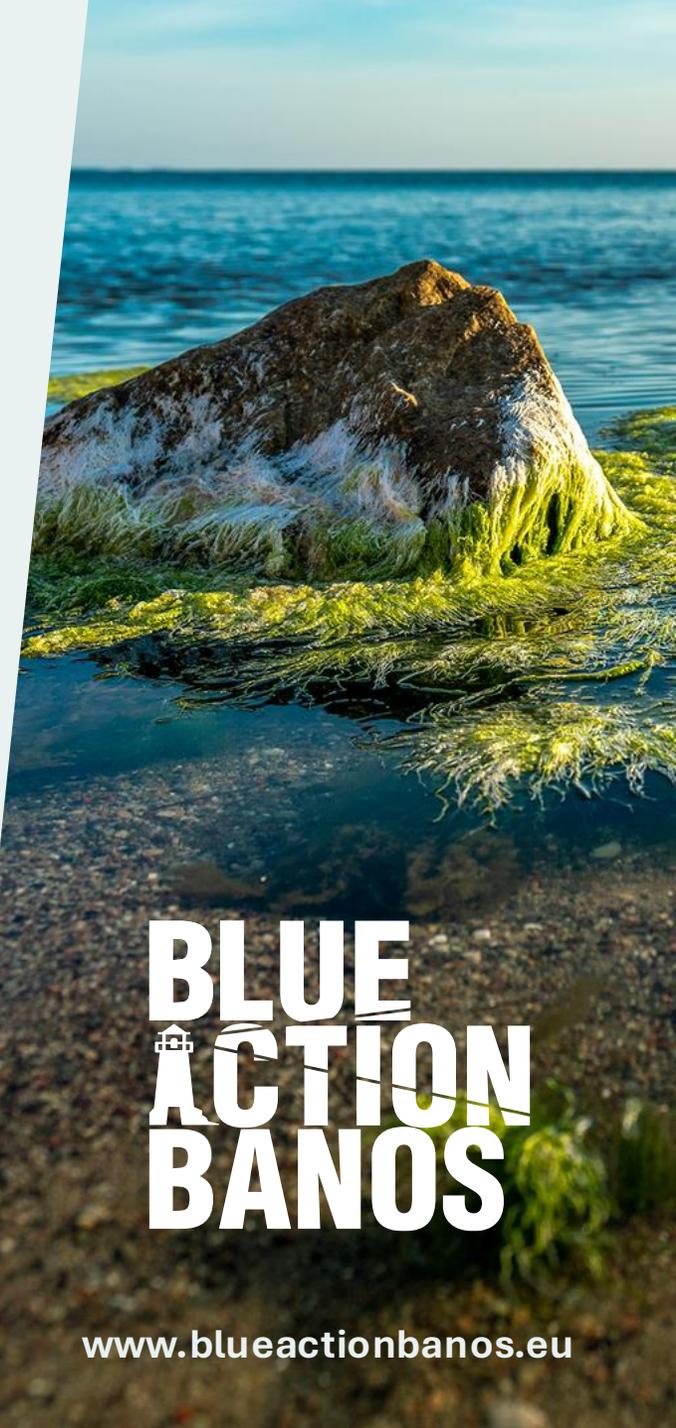
...15 years, >600 monitorings and 6000 expedition kilometres later...

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How we work?



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From adventure to routine

- Established monitoring network;
- Annual activities with core element “Green Expedition”;
- From community engagement to becoming a community.

From data to community

- Citizen science and volunteer engagement;
- Lobbying and work with stakeholders;
- Educational activities and piloting solutions.

What have we done?



Data supported action promotion

Community outreach and engagement



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Lessons?

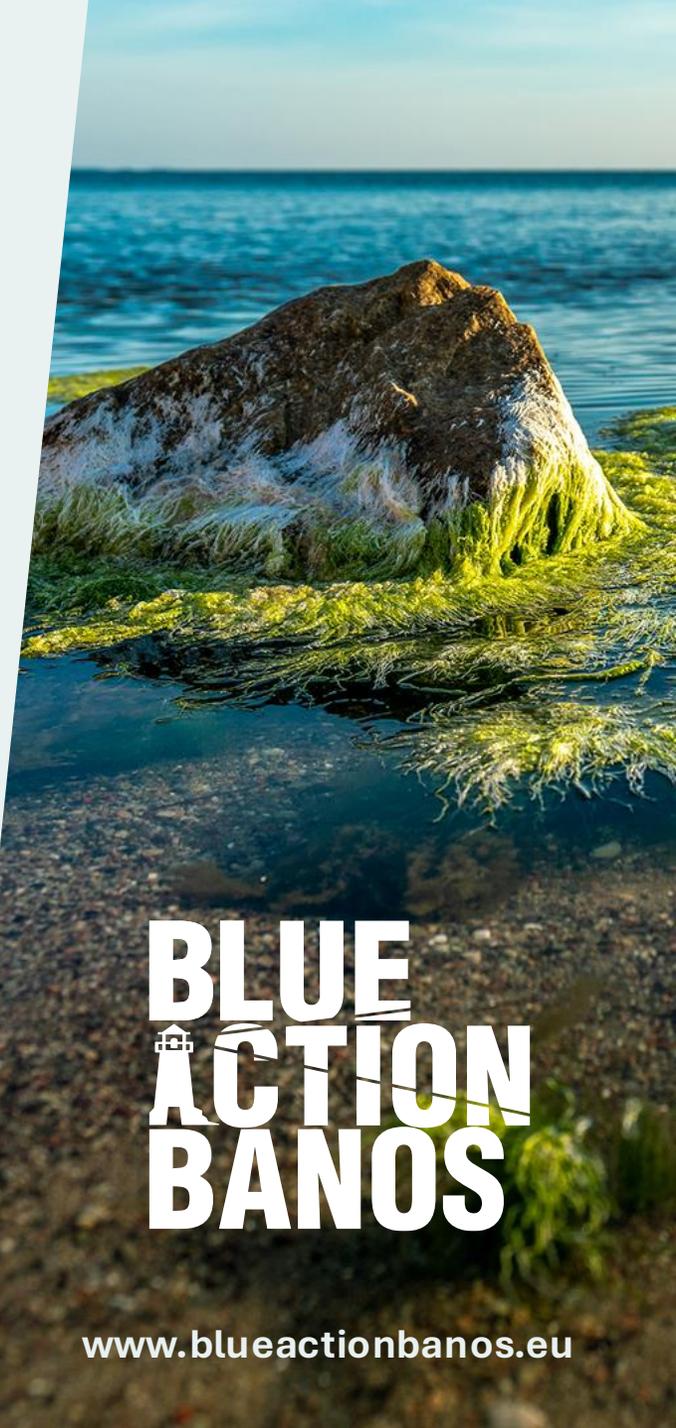
Make it direct!



Make it diverse!



Be patient!



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Thank you!



www.facebook.com/tirajuravieno

www.manajura.lv

www.videsfonds.lv

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Inspiration for **Transition Agenda (TA)** funding

Visserij Verduurzaamt: a transition agenda for sustainable fisheries & market access

Lancelot Blondeel

Researcher

Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO)



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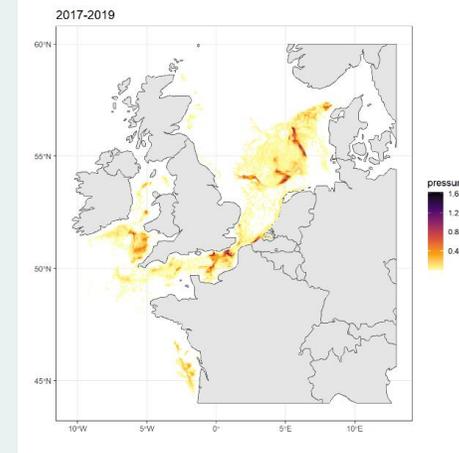
www.blueactionbanos.eu

Belgian Fishery In a nutshell

Traditional beam trawl



Chain mat/tickler chains



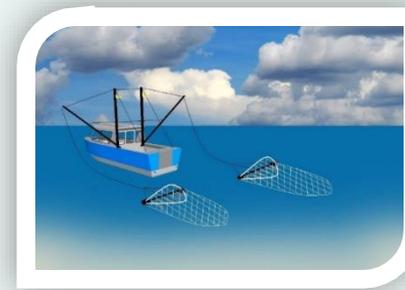
Total: 60 (active) vessels

Mixed demersal fishery (sole, plaice, brown shrimp, *Nephrops*)

I. Belgian Fishery Challenges

- Issue

- Communicating effort on sustainability becoming very important for market access
- Existing methods and labels expensive, hard to achieve and not integrated
- No method / scheme exists that is adapted to the local context and has the ability to **evaluate sustainability on vessel and fleet level**



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I. Belgian Fishery -Community

30 August 2011

Covenant for the promotion of a sustainable Belgian fishing sector



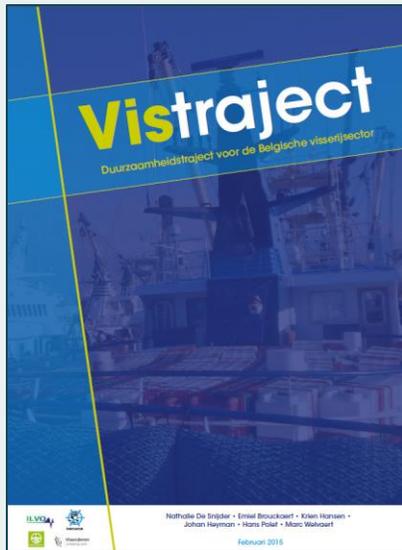
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I. Belgian Fishery

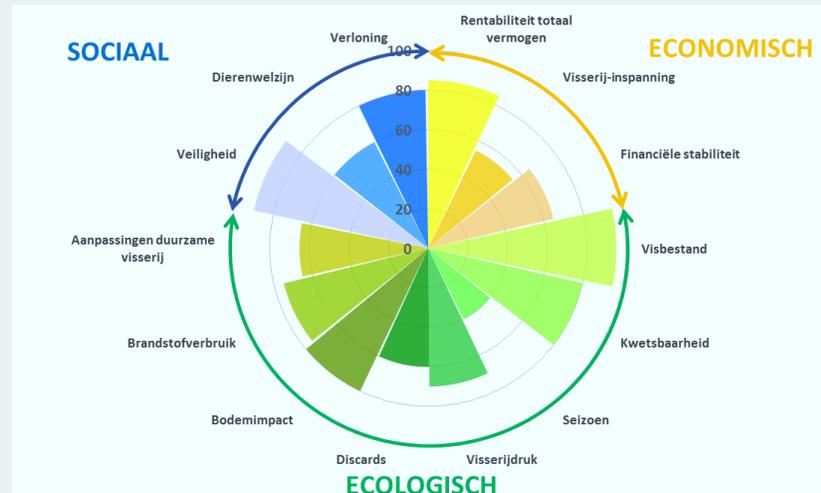
Two projects

Vistraject



Goals and actions for a sustainable fishery

VALDUVIS



Indicator-based sustainability assessment tool

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I. Belgian Fishery Stakeholders

- **Stakeholders**
 - Environmental NGO – *Natuurpunt and WWF*
 - Fishers' Producer Organisation - *BFPO*
 - The Province
 - The Department for Agriculture and Fisheries
 - Research Institute (ILVO)
- **Development**
 - Early years (2011-2014): ILVO (Valduvis) and Vistraject (Natuurpunt)
 - Currently (2015-..) : ILVO and BFPO
 - 2026 – Financial structure consolidation and strategic coupling to GSSI
- **Financing**
 - European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
 - OVIS
 - Part of Horizon projects
- **Market**
 - Retail
 - Fish Auctions
 - Processors
 - Traders



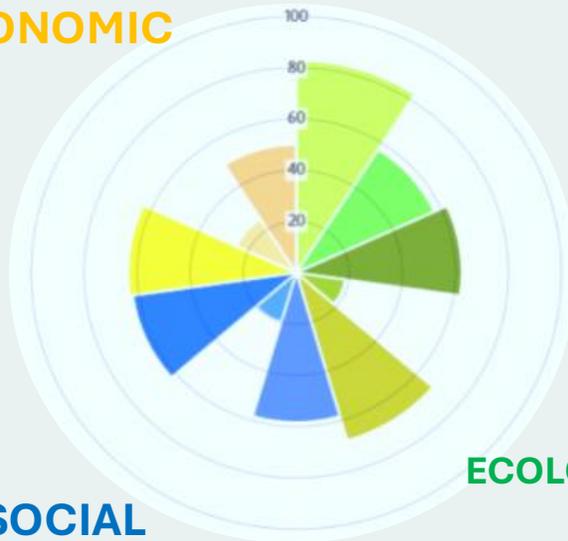
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VALDUVIS?

Tool to assess, visualize and monitor the sustainability of the Belgian fishing fleet

ECONOMIC



ECOLOGIC

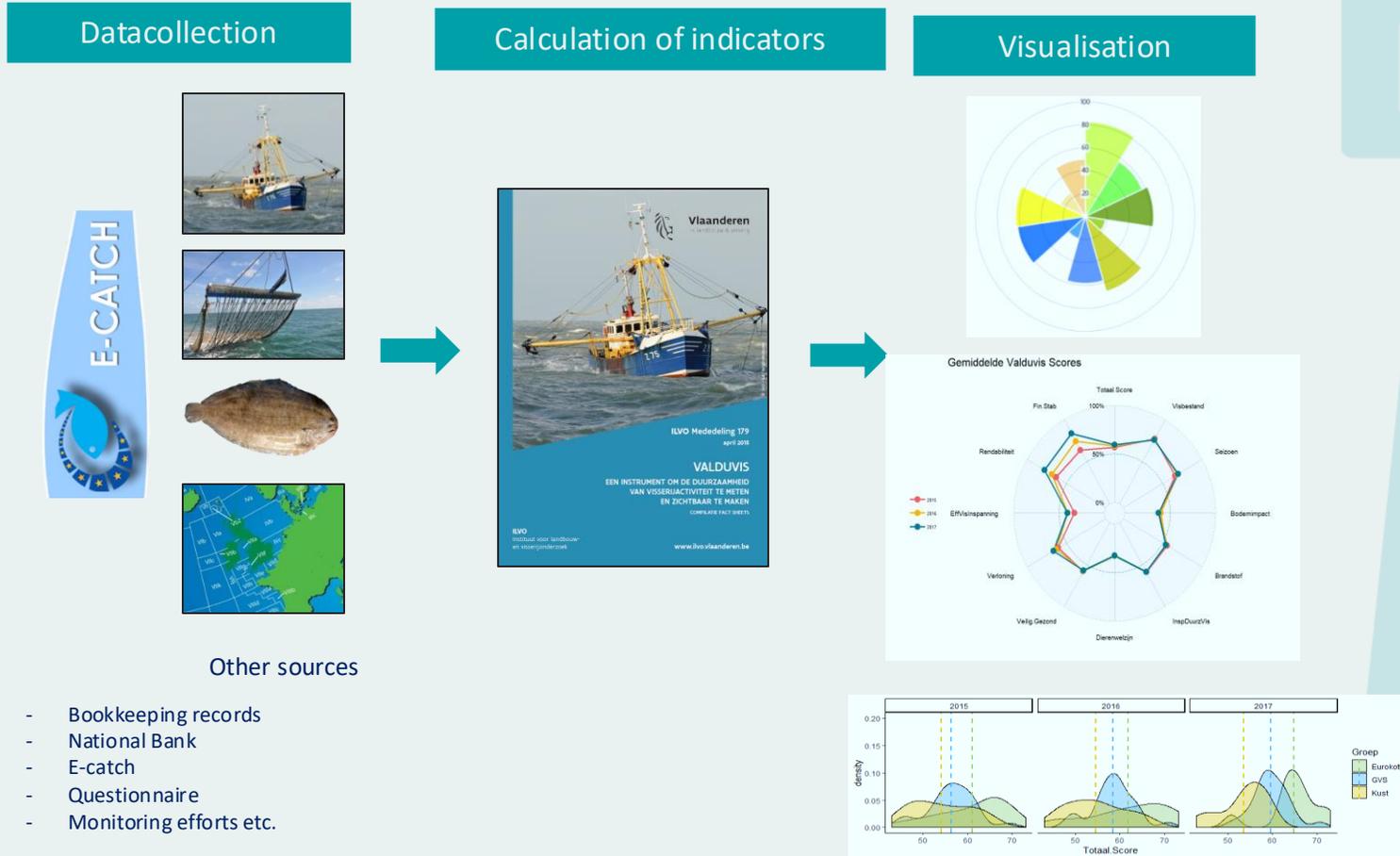
SOCIAL



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How does it work?

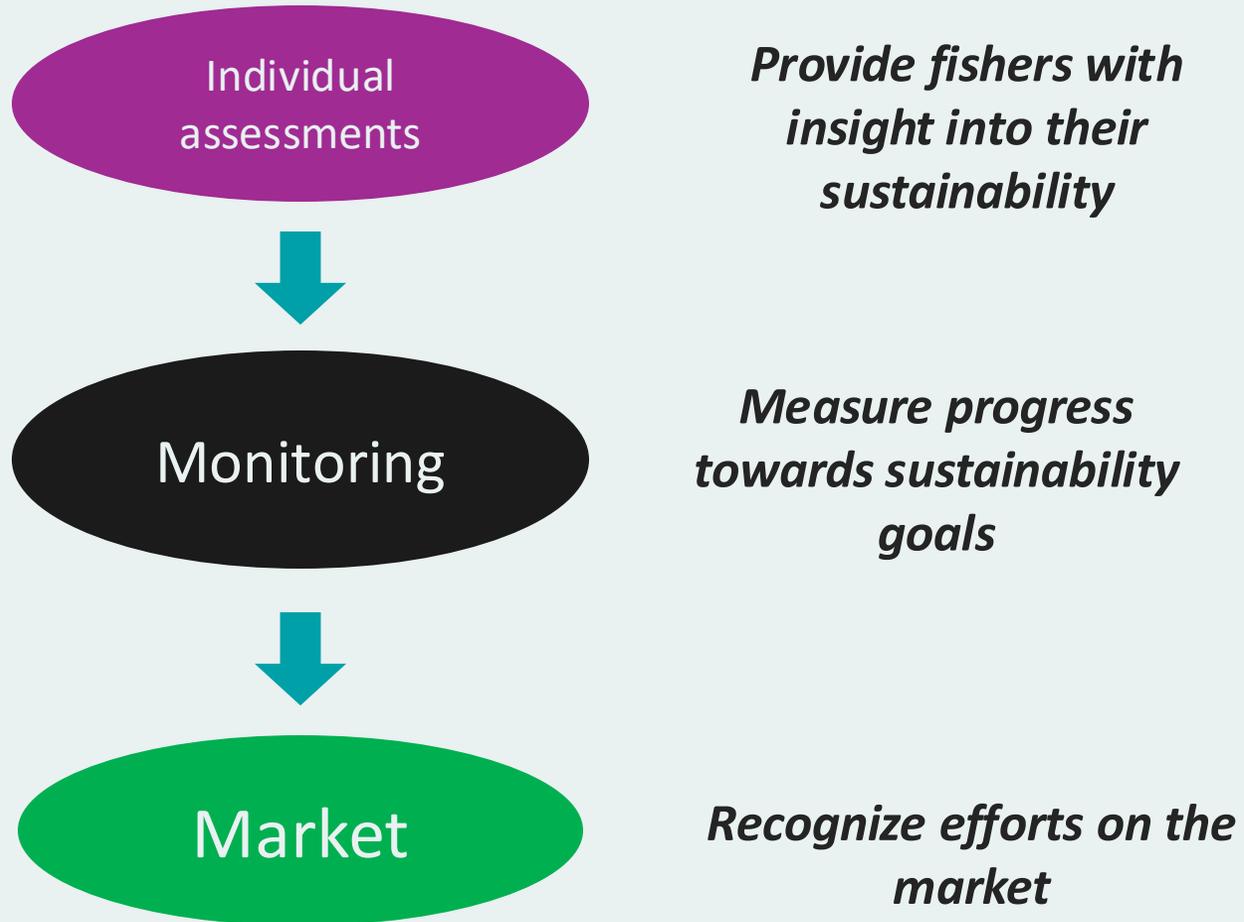
Use of available data



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IV. Applications of VALDUVIS

Multi-use

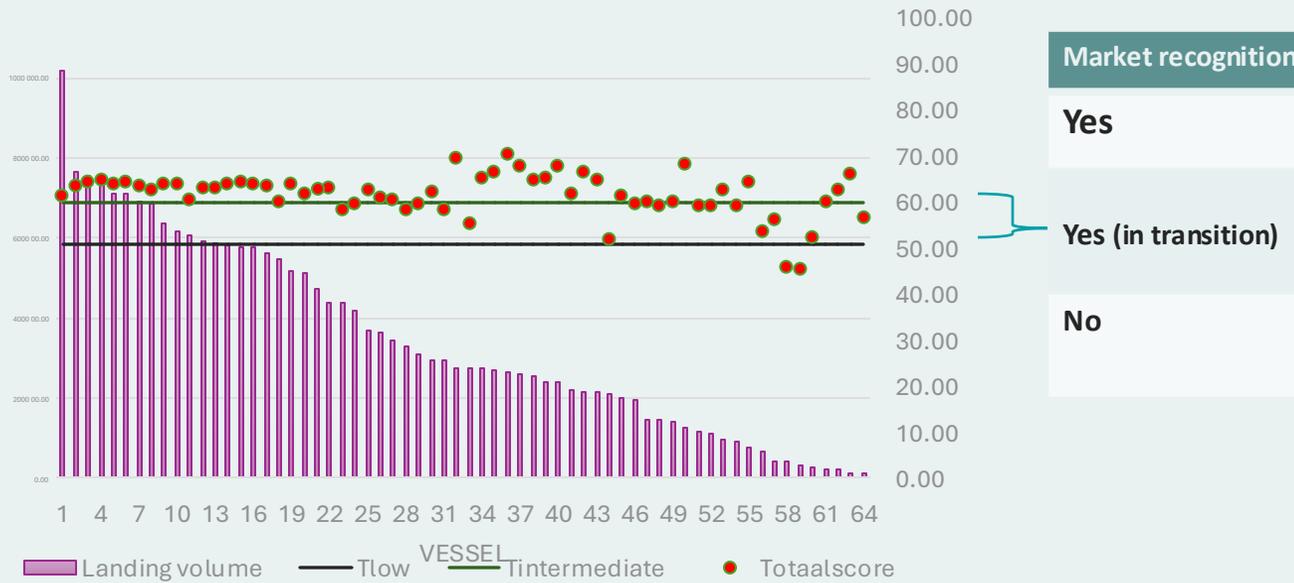


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Visserij Verduurzaamt

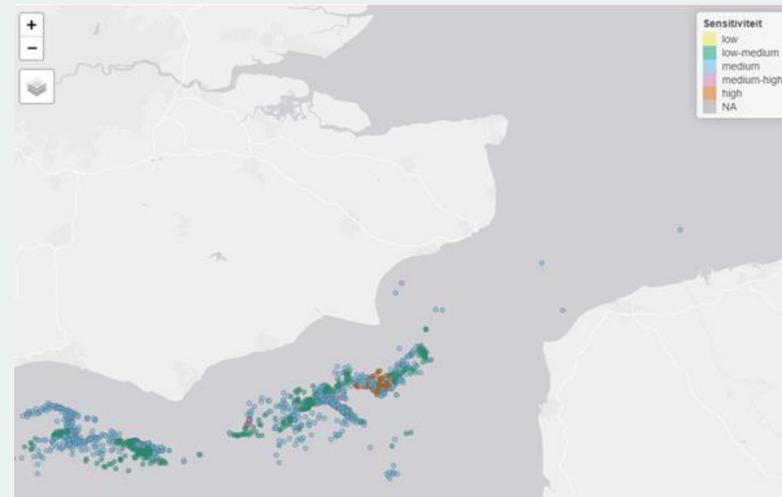
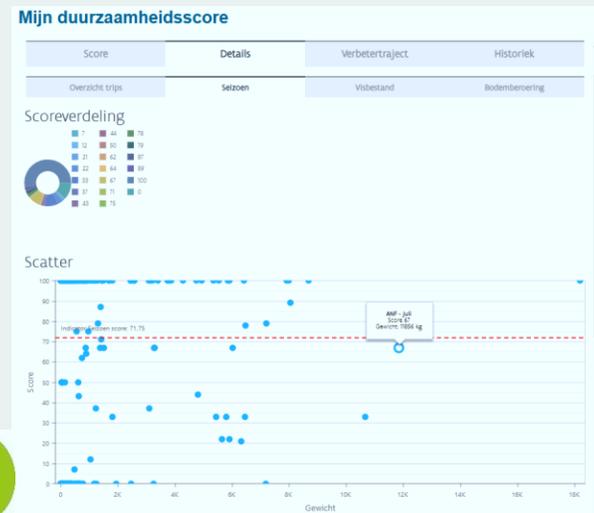
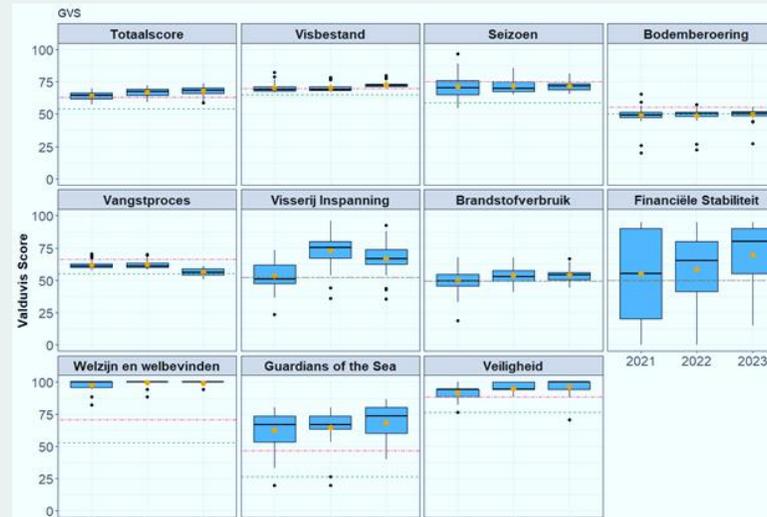
Voluntary Sustainability Assessment Scheme



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Visserij Verduurzaamt Improvement plan



Applications of VALDUVIS

Result?

- Launch of market recognition **Visserij Verduurzaam** on 06/11/2018
- 56 vessel owners participate
- Making first steps towards consumer, also in large retail
- Has not led to price premium, but to more **market access**
 - *retailers are motivated to offer local products if sustainability can be 'proven'*



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Some thoughts

- **What worked**

- Co-creation with all stakeholders
- Stepwise improvement
- Auction visibility

- **What needs or needed tuning**

- **Balance** between **engaging the fishery** community and being **strict in sustainability terms**
- Finding a **consensus in what sustainability (or transition) means** for every stakeholder
- Indicators are not always **'fair' – manage expectations**
- **Measuring transition:** Monitoring, improving vs being actionable

Inspiration for **Transition Agenda (TA)** funding

8+fjordar: Transition to ecosystem-based management

Peter Thor

Senior Researcher

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)



Swedish Agency for Marine and Water
Management



SWEDISH UNIVERSITY OF
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

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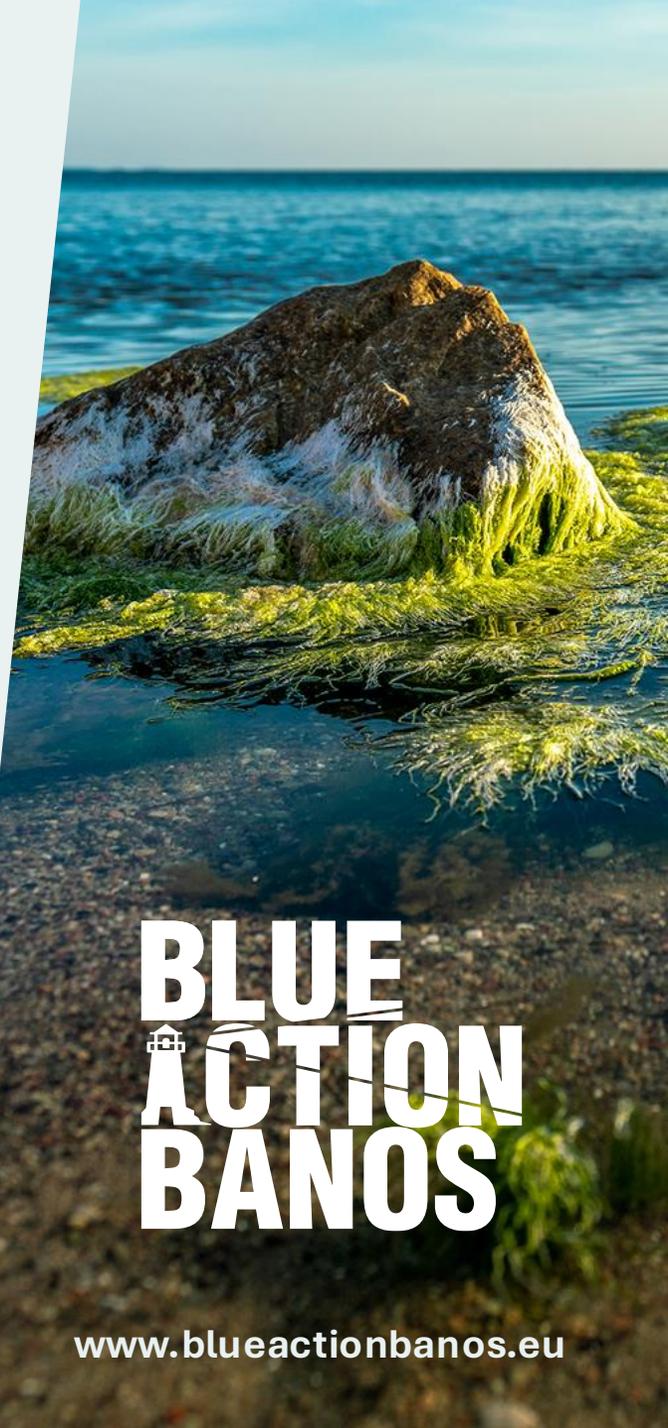
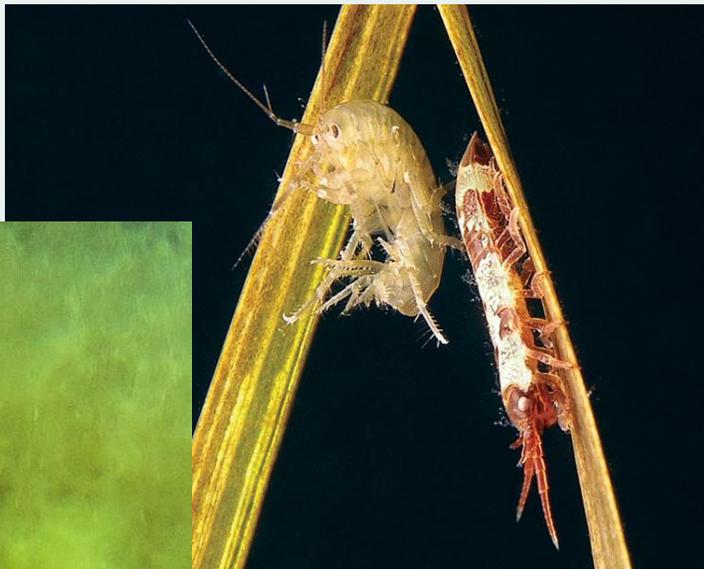




Photo: Jonas Thormar



Photo: W. Carter

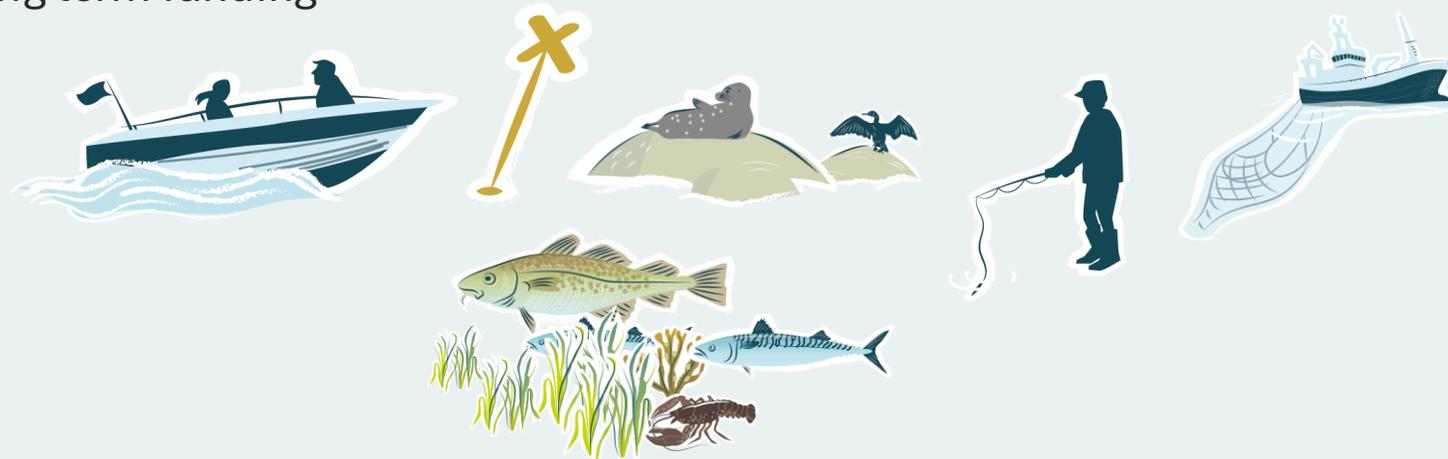


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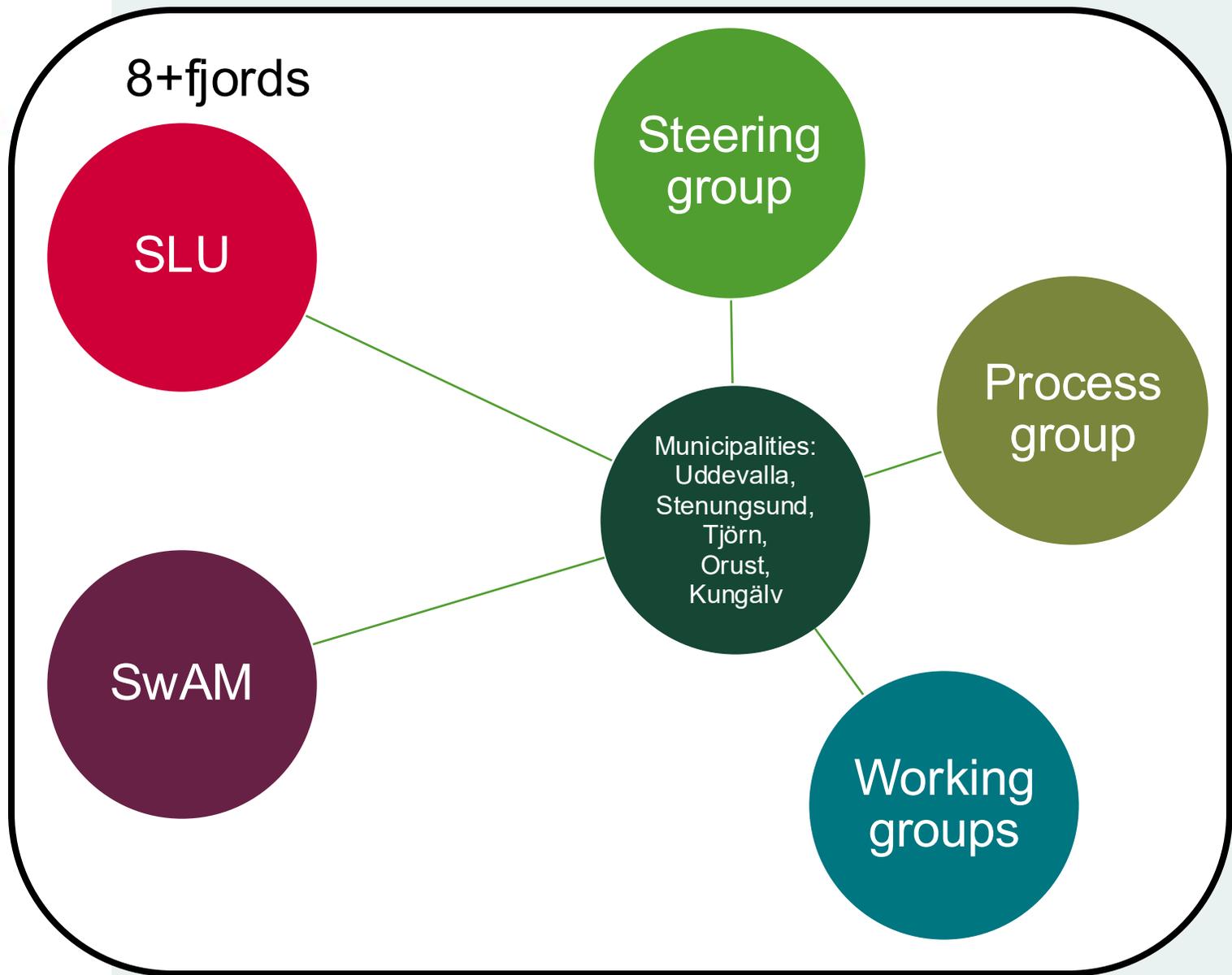
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EBM : Action plan

1. Involve local actors, stakeholders and municipalities
2. Transparent, adaptive, dynamic
3. Define responsibilities and mandates of involved actors
4. Establish clear structures for knowledge acquisition, learning, and collaborative processes
5. Identify and address goal conflicts
6. Plan and implement measures
7. Work towards stable long-term commitment with strong local anchoring and long term funding



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Scientific
knowledge

Community
knowledge

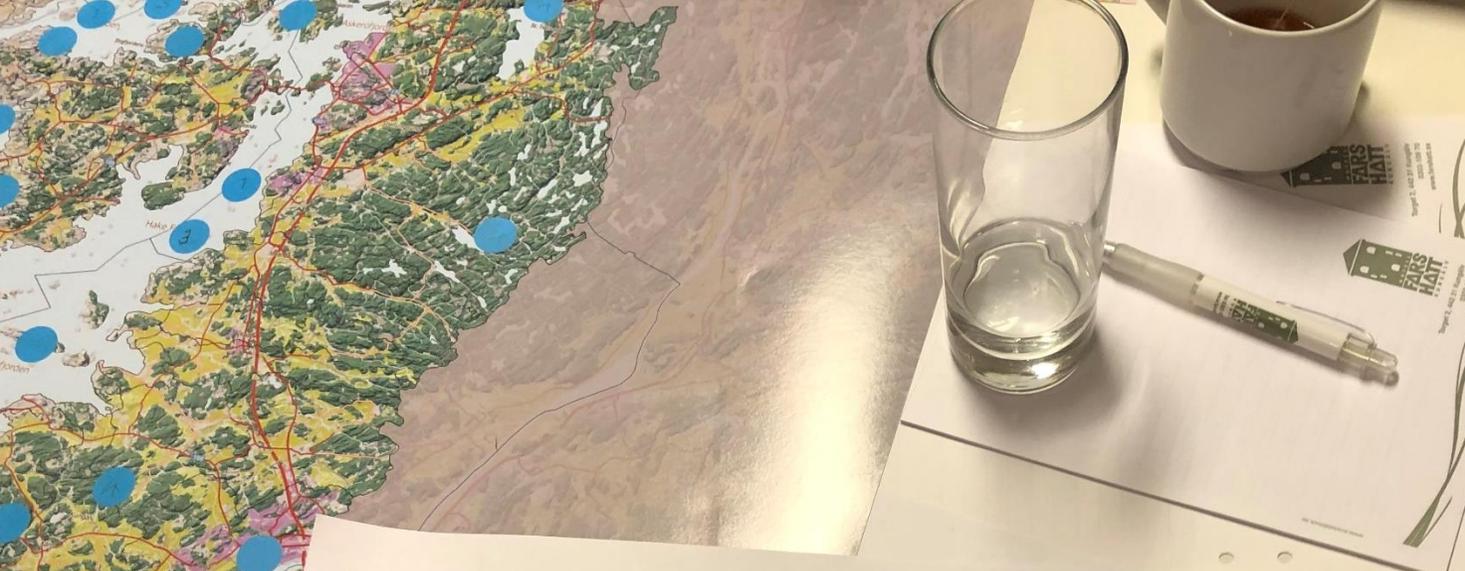
Assessment of
ecosystem services

Assessment of
stressors

Mitigation
measures

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Typ av värde:
 Exempelvis: Naturmiljö, kulturmiljö och historia, ekonomi, näringsliv, rekreation, friluftsliv och hälsa, personligt viktiga platser

Nr.: E Datum: 17/17
 Plats för mötet: Kungälv

Vad är värdefullt?	Varför är det värdefullt?	För vem mer än dig själv är det värdefullt?	Övriga tankar
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hakefjorden Marstrandarna Hästen Hövare Panoriet Kåberan Inland, Skogsjö 	Vattent i blått mörta fungera Närhet till tätort, natur Natur o kultur, blått mörta / odling Blått mörta, B-tår inte bara turist	Alla berörda + reglerna Boende o berörda	av: Högst-berörda 200 drott d. K-ålv Lägin-konst-turism!
För mer i	nsida, organisation)	Kända åtgärder eller åtgärdsbehov i området (klara, pågående, planerade, behov)	Kontaktpersoner





Figur 80. Up

Figur 2.13. Testplantering med skott. Testplantering med singelskottmetoden inom en planteringsruta på 1,8 m djup i Gullmarsfjorden. Foto: E. Infantes.

Lessons learned

1. Organizing projects as flexible networks without formal mandates creates space for collaboration among a diverse range of actors
2. Different types of governance approaches can be successfully combined
3. Utilize existing collaboration structures
4. A political steering group ensures longevity by embedding actions in local management structures
5. A process group that guides the project, monitors progress and supports the project enables adaptations based on the process and the needs of working groups. This is important!
6. Transparency and communication!
7. Core funding enabling upscaling through additional external funding
8. Design measures to be transferable



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Q&A and next steps

An underwater photograph showing a fish swimming above a field of seagrass. Sunlight rays penetrate the water from the top right corner. The text 'BLUE ACTION BANOS' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

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Next steps

1. Follow us on [LinkedIn](#)
2. Join our [BlueActionBANOS Community on BlueBioMatch](#)
3. Prepare your **Project Idea Form** and submit it before **16 March 2026**
4. Have a **consultation**
5. Webinars to assist full proposal development after 16 March
6. Submit your **full proposal** before **29 May 2026**



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Questions?

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