



Introduction to Lake Mälaren and the work of Lake Mälaren Water Conservation Association

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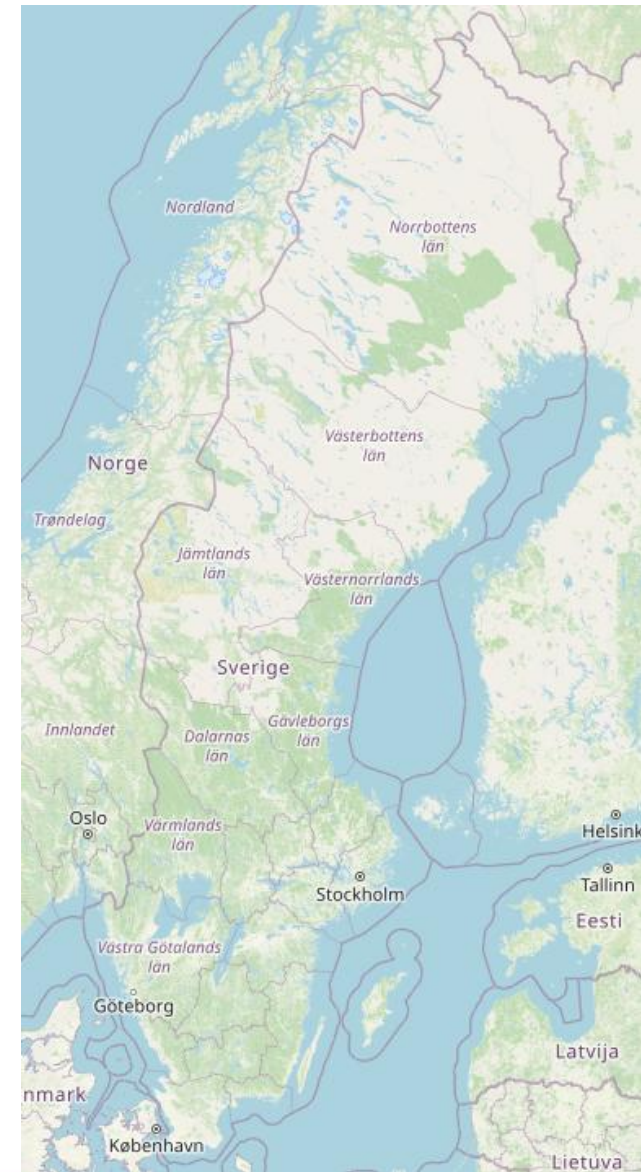
Water in Sweden

- Approx 500 000 km of rivers
- Approx 100 000 lakes > 1 ha
- 9% of Swedens area
- 23 lakes > 100 km²
- 3% of Swedens area
- Big lakes in Sweden:

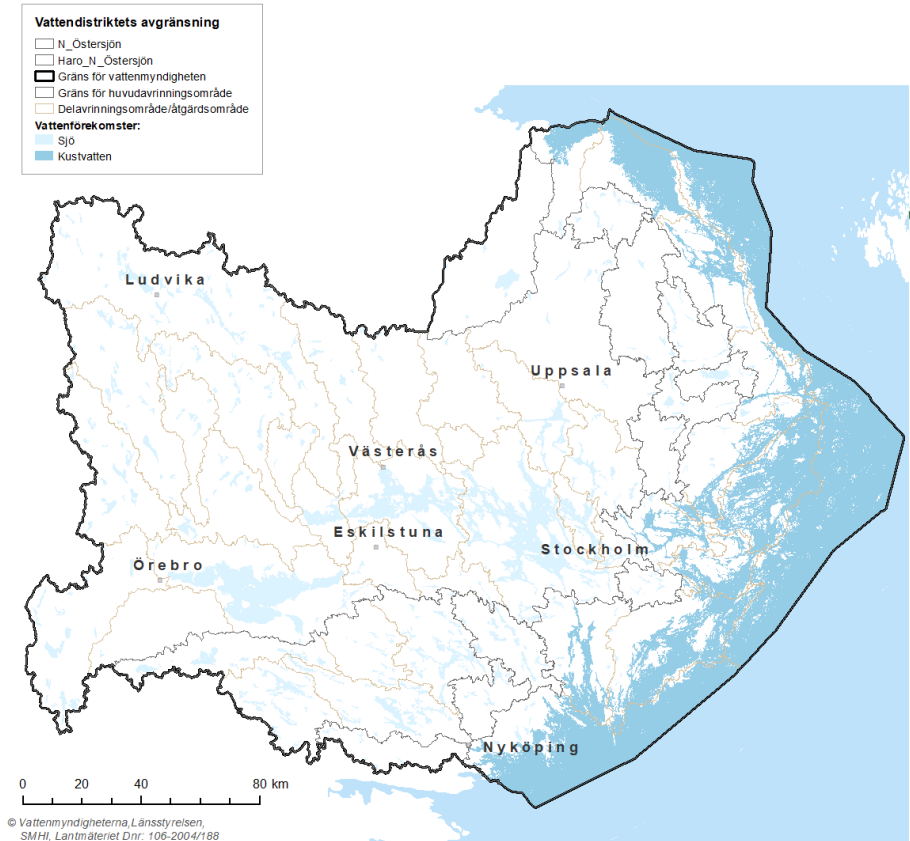
Vänern (3:rd in Europe)

Vättern (6:th in Europe)

Mälaren (7:th in Europe)



Five Water Authorities decides on environmental quality standards



The Northern Baltic Sea Water District contains
1 327 lakes, streams and coastal waters

This is Lake Mälaren



- Swedens third biggest lake
- 1/3 of the population in Sweden lives in the valley of Lake Mälaren
- Area: 1 072 km²
- Average depth: 13 m
- Maximum depth: 76 m
- Approx 8 000 islands
- 1 500 km shores

Why take care of lake Mälaren?





Lake Mälaren provides us with:

- Tap water/drinking water to 2,3 millions of people
- Water to industrial processes
- Open-air bath
- Recreation
- Fishing, both commercial and sports fishing
- Transportation route for cargo ships
- Meadows and wetlands for migratory birds
- Cleaning and dilution of pollutants and bacterias
- Biodiversity



Lake Mälarens value:
127 billions SEK/year – or more?



History



- The valley of Lake Mälaren has been an important settlement for a long time
- The picture shows a 3500-3000 year old rock carving near Köping, at the north from Mälaren
- At that time, Lake Mälaren was a sea inlet
- In the 1200s, Mälaren began to become a freshwater lake due to land uplift

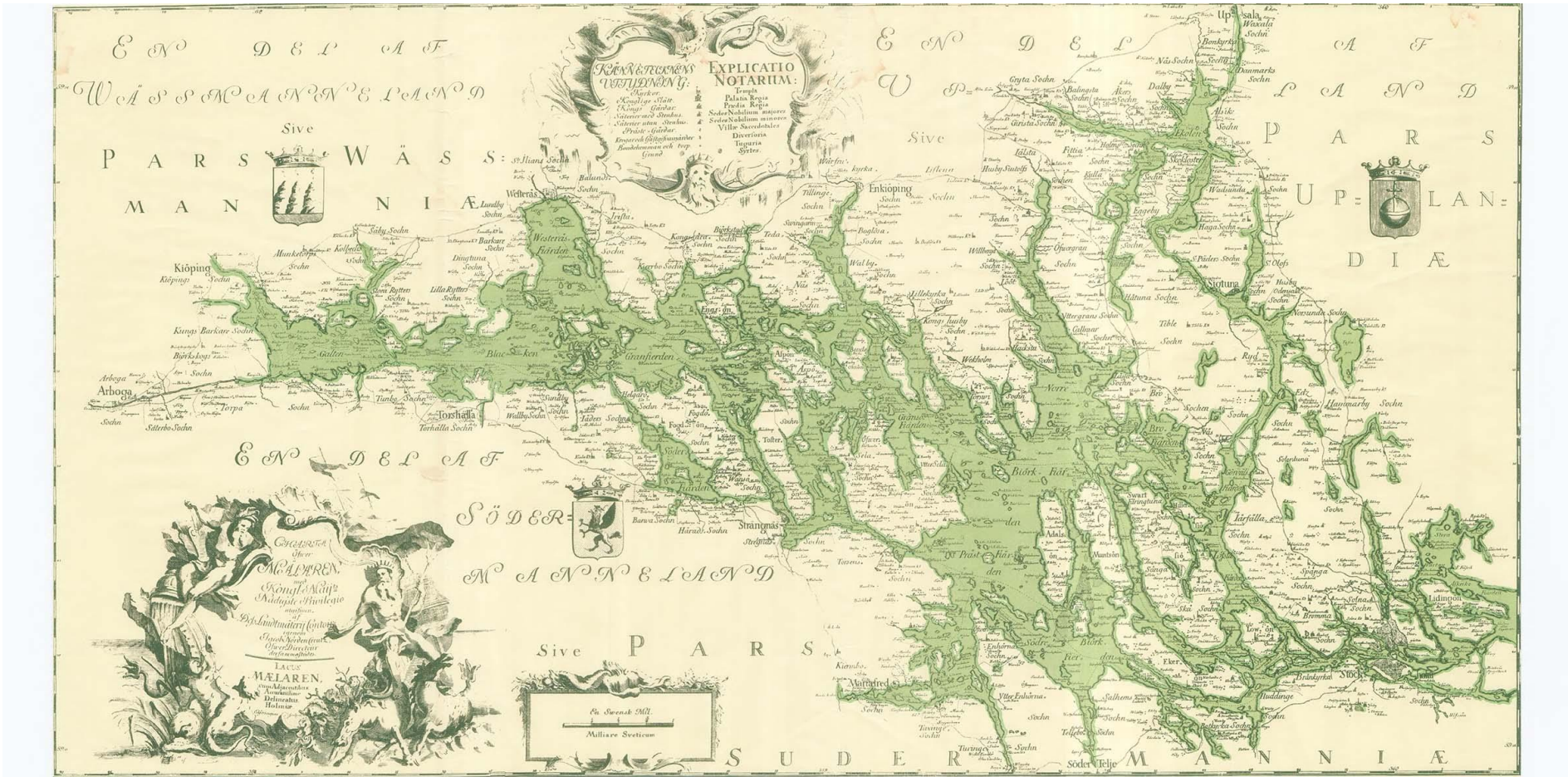
Gripsholms slott, byggt 1537



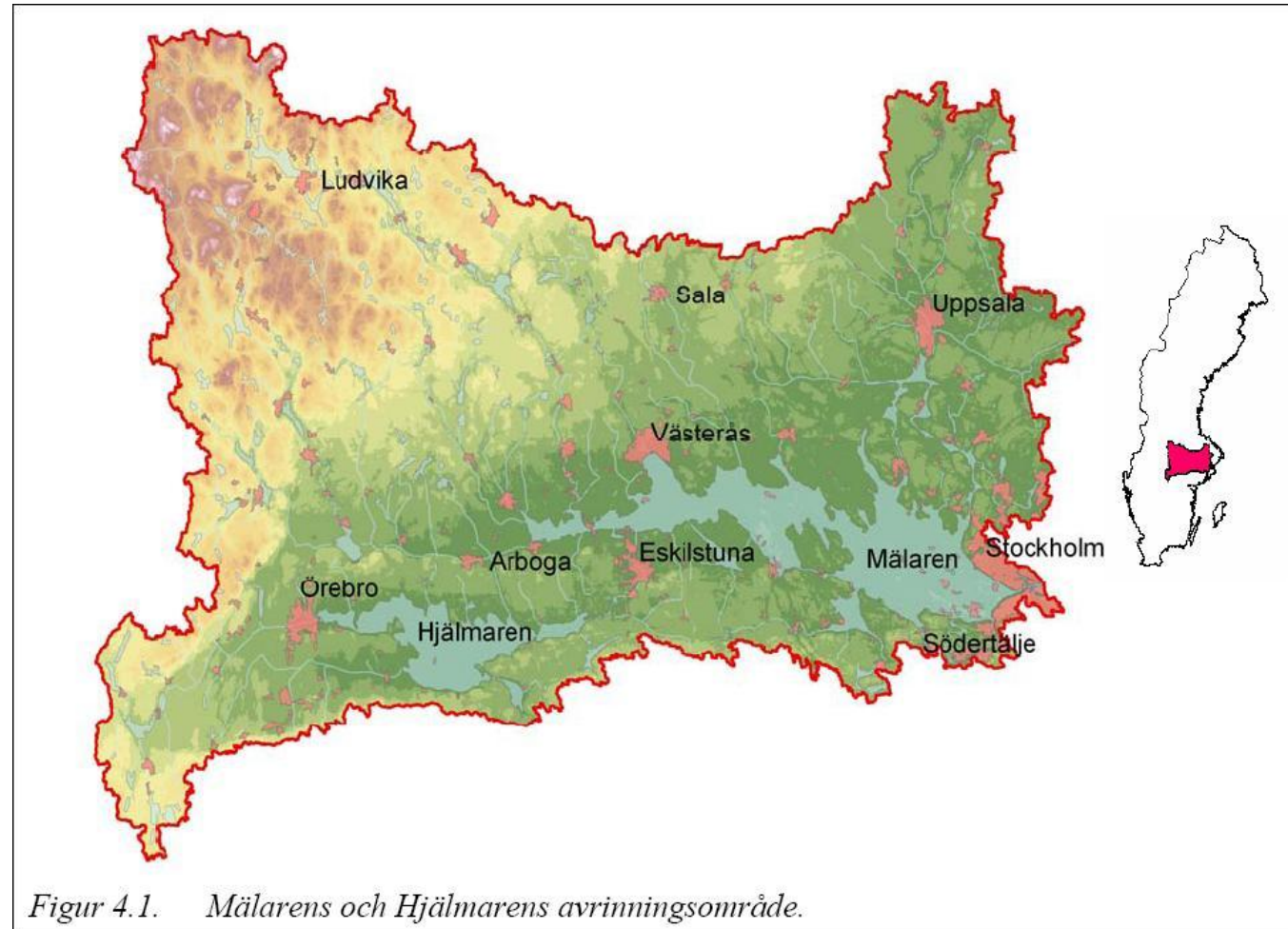
Engelsberg Ironworks, founded in 1681



Lake Mälaren 1690



The present-day Mälaren and its river basin



How is lake Mälaren today?





Environmental problems and challenges

- Eutrofication
- Pollution
- Physical change
- Invasive alien species
- Risk of spread of infectious bacterias
- Depletion of biodiversity
- Exploitation of the shores and the lake Mälaren
- Effects of climate change



Some history...

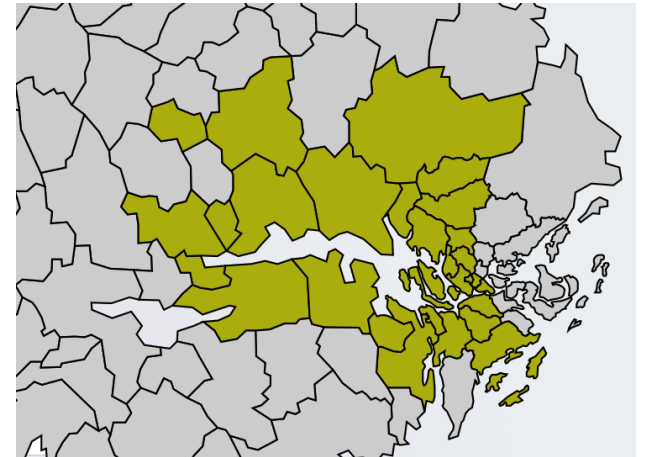
- The comitte for Lake Mälaren, founded 1959.
- It become a water conservation association 1998.
- Monitoring of lake Mälaren have been carried out since 1965

We work together for a healthy lake Mälaren!



65 member organisations:

- Municipalities (27)
- County boards (4)
- Drinking water plants
- Companies
- NGO:s



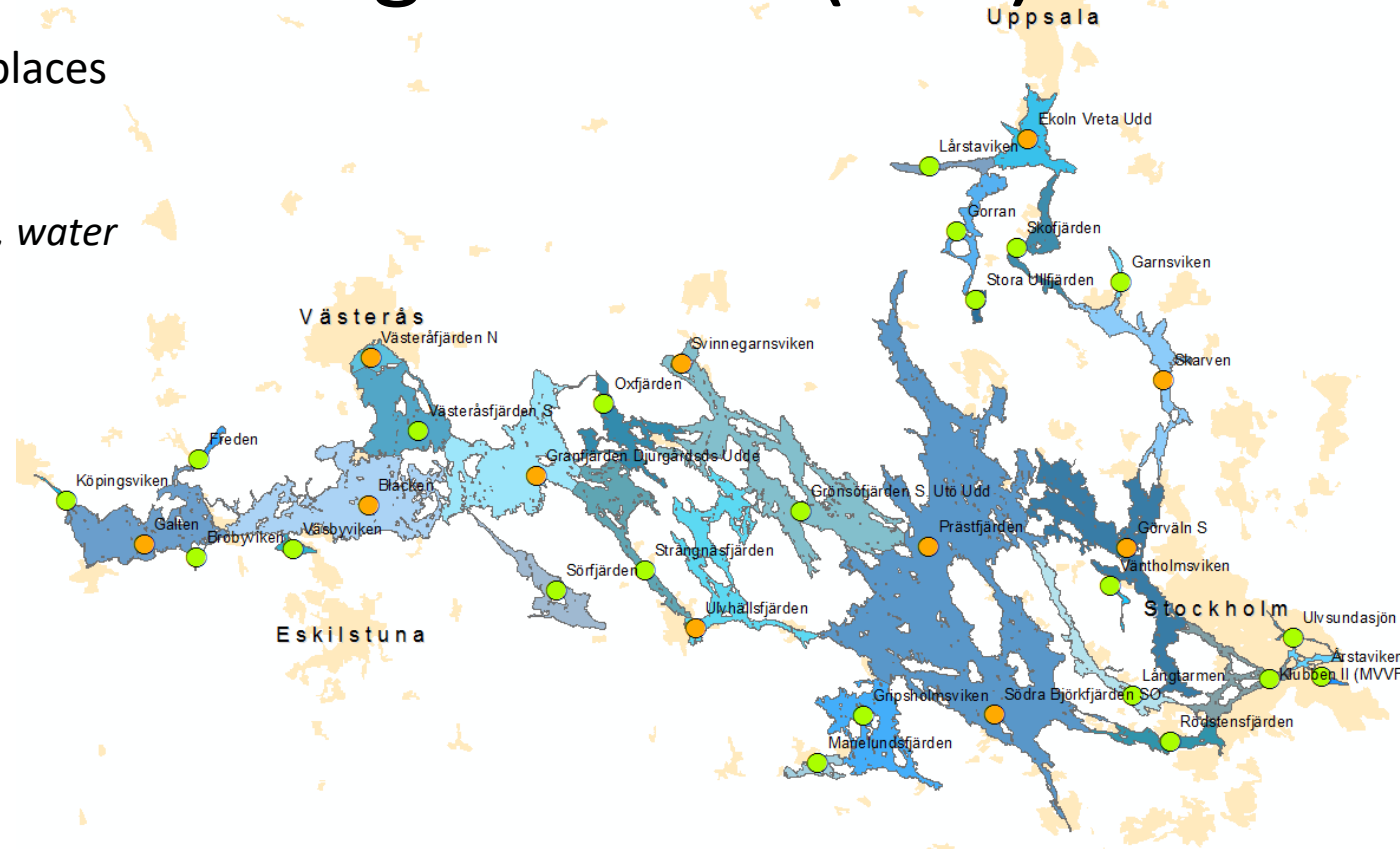
Verksamhet enligt stadgarna:

- Environmental monitoring
- Spreading results from monitoring
- Collaboration of information and actions/measures for better water quality

Lake Mälaren monitoring in collaboration with Swedish University of Agriculture (SLU)

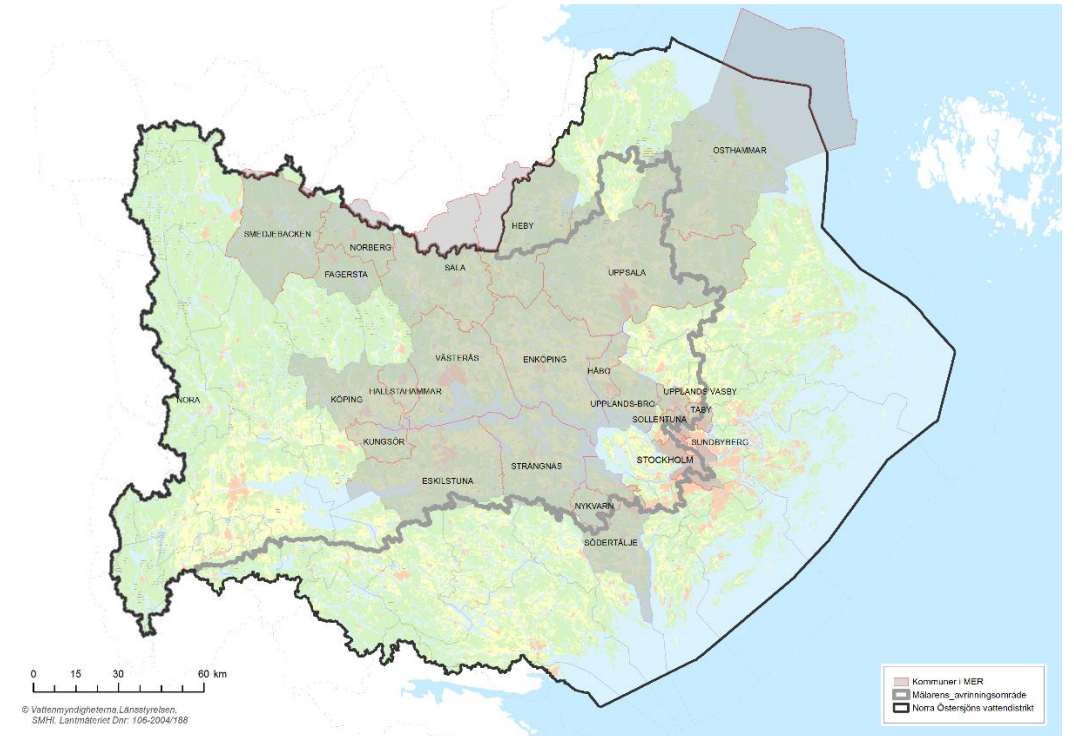
32 test sites 1 ggr/år
11 of these 6 ggr/år
5 extensive monitoring places

*Water chemistry, algae,
zooplankton, benthic animal, water
plants, fish*

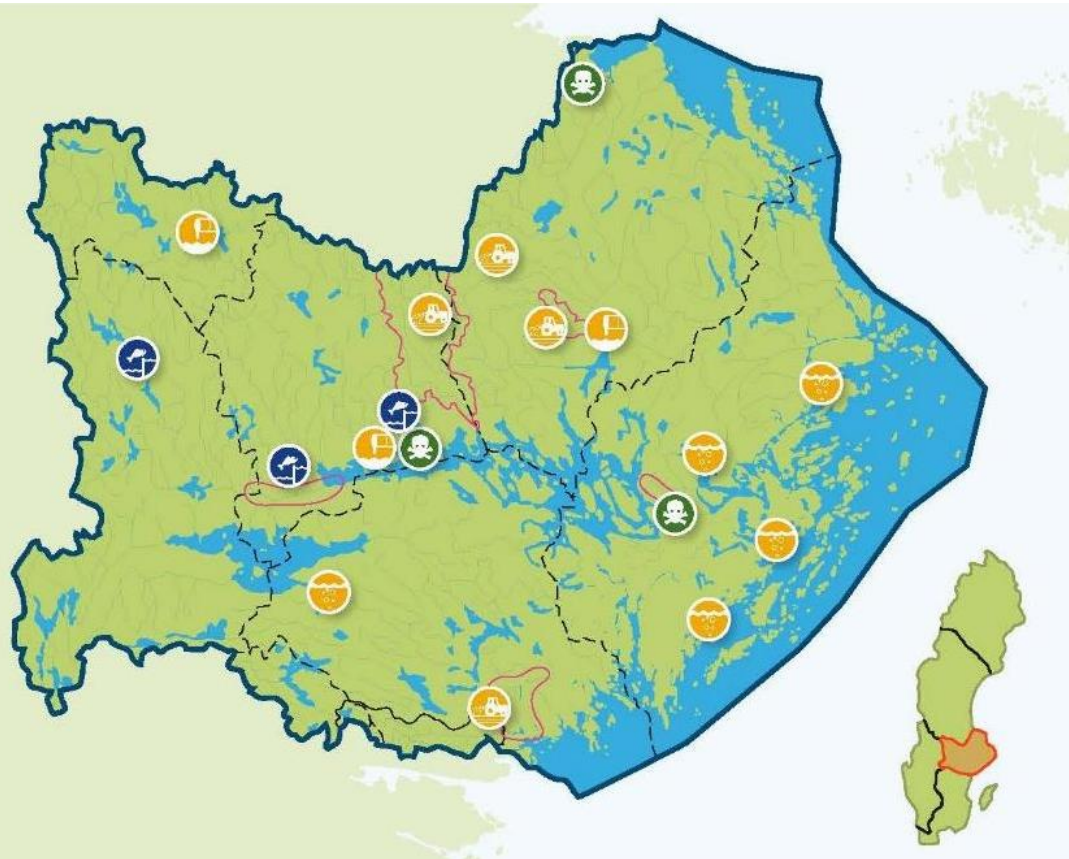


Mälaren – en sjö för miljoner!

- Mälaren – a lake for millions (MER)
- Project 2014-2021 aiming to help the municipalities in
- 23 municipalities participated
- Application of LIFE IP Rich Waters
- From 2022 this is a part of the ordinary activities in the association



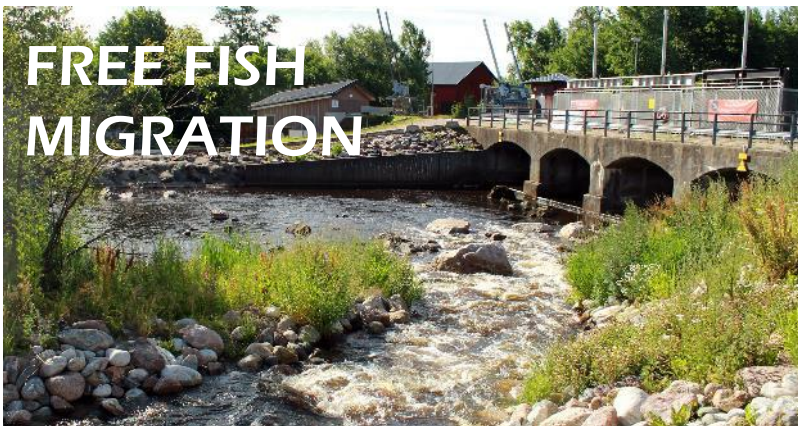
The first LIFE IP project in Sweden 2017-2024



- Northern Baltic Sea District
- 35 partners
- 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



ADDRESSING ALL THE MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS



**FREE FISH
MIGRATION**



**CLIMATE CHANGE
AND STORMWATER**



**EUTROPHICATION
EXTERNAL**



**ENVIRONMENTAL
POLLUTANTS**



**MUNICIPAL
WATER
PLANNING**



**EUTROPHICATION
INTERNAL**

Different types of results

Read more: www.richwaters.se
Actions for better water- Laymans report.



- 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

JOHANNISBERG



- * 9 400 m² of water surface at Johannisbergs Wetland Park
- * Reduce nutrients, heavy metals, PFAS and other pollutants
- * Recreation & biodiversity

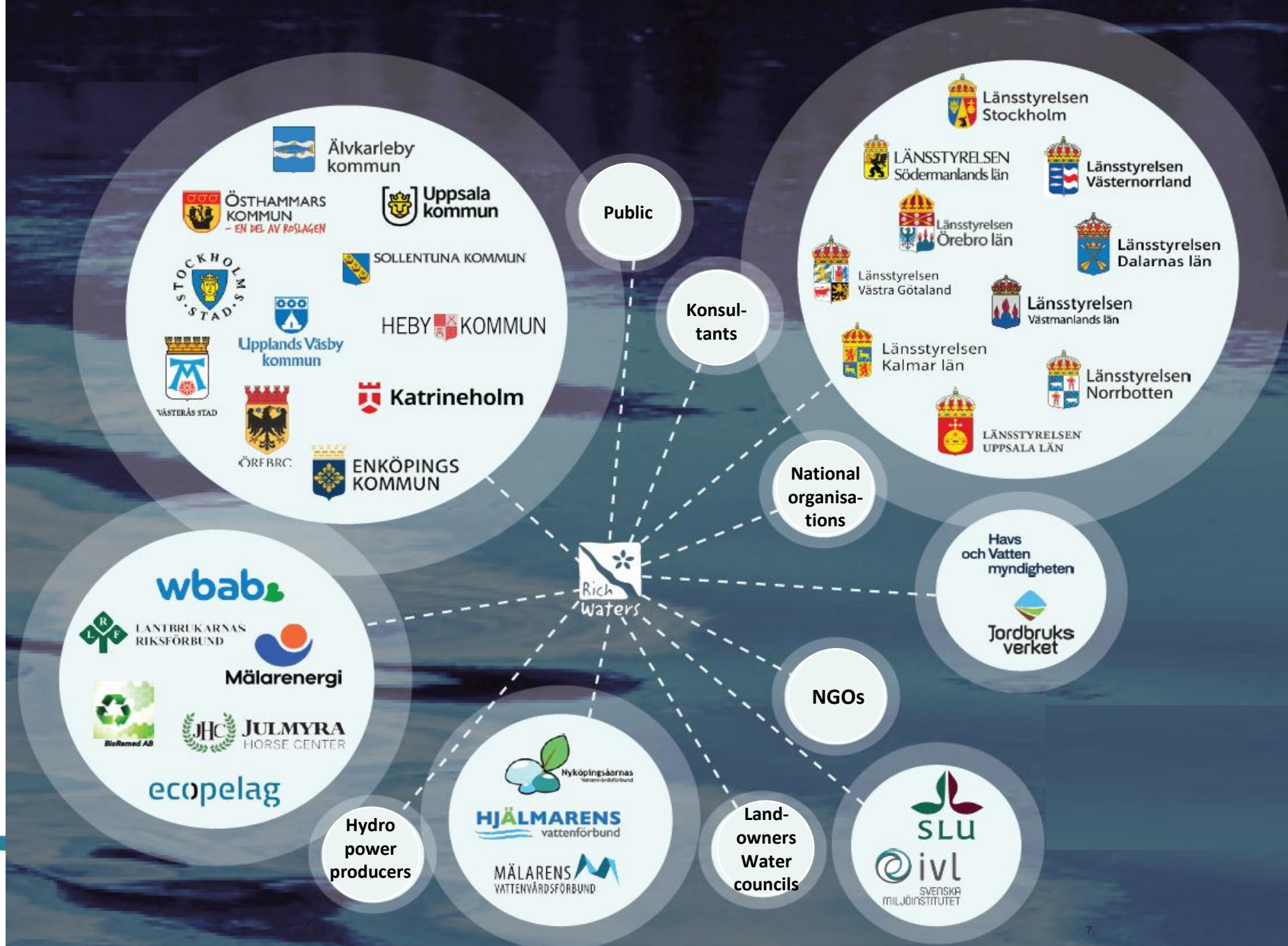
Free fish migration – faunapassage in the city

- 180 m
- sensitive cultural environment
- the design has required great consideration for the surroundings.
- The dam at the Turbine House has for over a hundred years been the first obstacle for migration in the Svartån river.



Foto: Johan Hammar/LIFE IP Rich Waters

INVOLVING ACTORS AT VARIOUS LEVELS AND WITH DIFFERENT ROLES



Towards action – how to get to physical measures

Networks

- Politicians
- Civil servants – water management
- Water producers (Water Treatment Plants)
- Catchment officers
- **Current challenges**
 - River continuity for fauna migration
 - Monitoring and measures PFAS/PFOS
 - Decreased spreading of toxic antifouling paint for boats (TBT tributyltin)
 - Project development
 - Fighting Fringed water lily (*N. Peltata*, *Yellow floating heart*)



Actions in catchment Sagån

