2025

18 - 23 AUGUST 2025

OUR COMMON BALTIC COURSE

OCB 2025 & Coalition Clean Baltic

Catherine Stauffer

Co organised by

Latvijas Zaļā kustība
Latvian Green Movement

Co funded by

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Nordic Council of Ministers

Credit Camille Fraizy

Coalition Clean Baltic

- **17.00 Introduction of Our Common Baltic 2025**
- **17.15 Presenting of Coalition Clean Baltic**
- **17.30 Introduction of the participants**
- **18.15 Social media projects intro**
- **19.00 Dinner**
- **20.00 Screen and debate on documentary “Focus on the coast”**

TODAY 18.08

OUR COMMON BALTIC 2025

01

AGENDA

02

EXPECTATIONS

03

LEARNING GOALS

04

TEAM & RULES

01

AGENDA
OCB 2025

INTRO

EROSION

OPEN SEA & EROSION

NATURE ACCESSIBILITY

COAST WATCH & EVALUATION

SOCIAL MEDIA PROJECTS

WORKSHOPS AFTER 9pm

02

YOUR EXPECTATIONS

LEARNING GOALS

03

- Get a deeper understanding of **climate change influence** on Latvian coast.
- Get a live practice of the **coastal protection methods**.
- Be ready for **organizing public observations** of the sea coast in your area, informational events and restoration activities.
- Get the tools for **identifying coastal problems** caused by climate change.
- Learn how to **involve relevant stakeholders** (authorities, natural reserves administrations, active citizens, business community) into finding solutions.
- Get the practice of analyzing the current situation and **expressing concerns in the form of short-videos, story-telling**, and meeting with local communities in order to motivate people for a positive change in their attitude towards Baltic Sea environmental protection.

04

TEAM & RULES

Communication

Order at place

Level of energy

Coalition Clean Baltic

Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB) was established in Helsinki, in February 1990.

CCB is a politically independent, non-profit association and unites Member and Observer organizations, as well as partners and individual experts in all countries of the Baltic Sea Region (Belarus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Sweden, and Ukraine).

Combined, the CCB member organizations have almost 1 500 000 members in all countries surrounding the Baltic Sea.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

The area covered by dead zones in the Baltic Sea is larger than the territory of Lithuania?

The Baltic Sea in numbers:

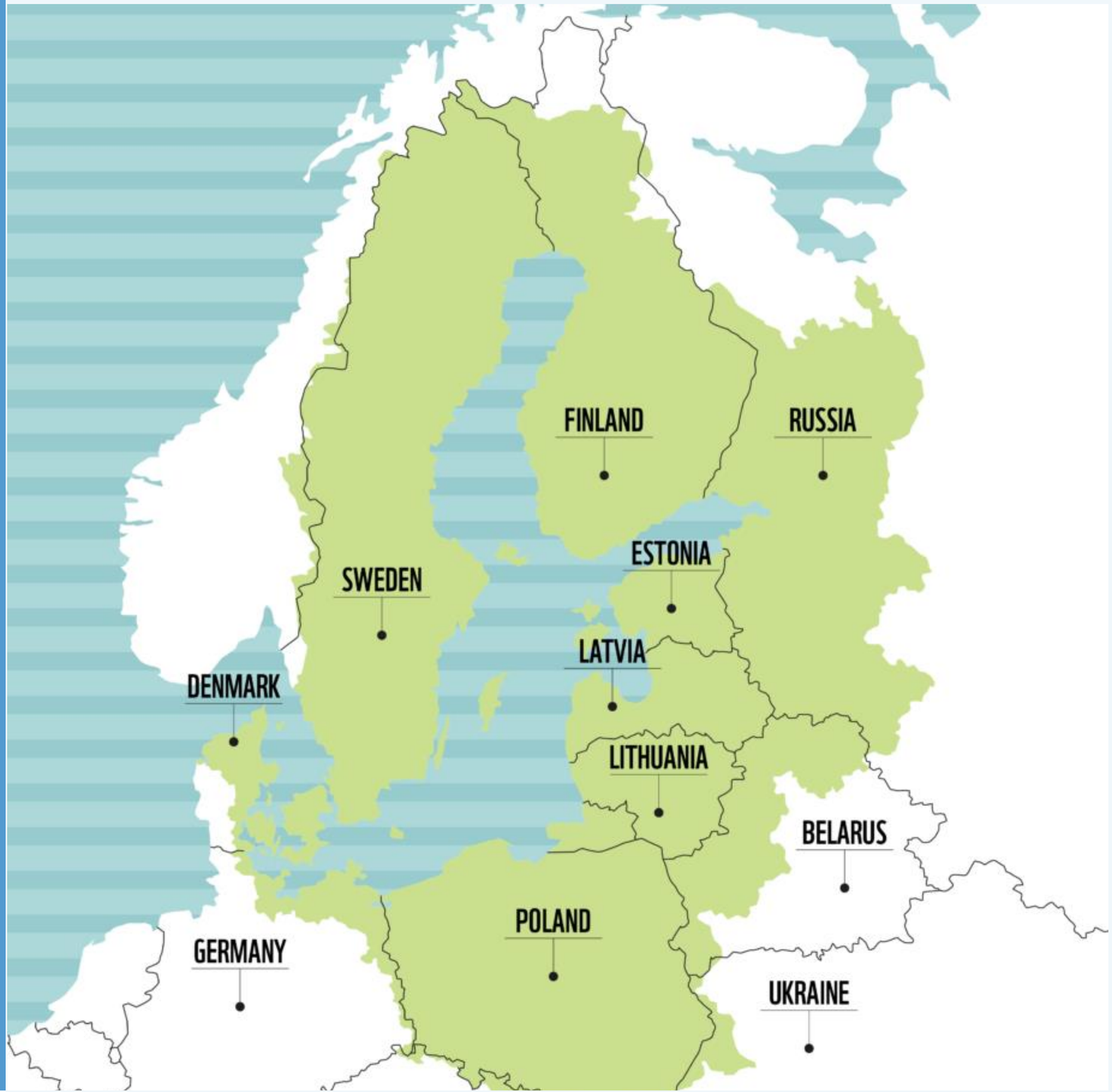
Surrounded by 9 countries, which have a total of 95 million inhabitants.

250 rivers flow into it.

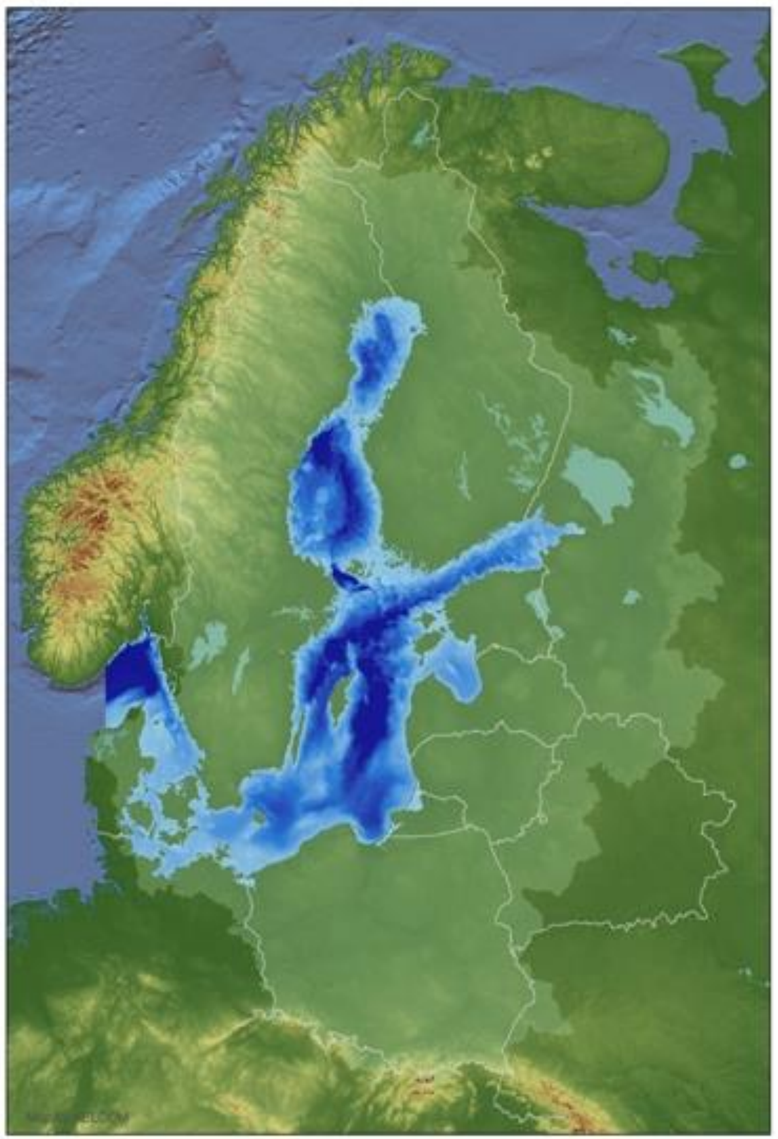
200 ports are in operation.

Almost 1/5 of the world's cargo is transported through it.

Around 2,000 vessels navigate through it at the same time.



The nature of the Baltic Sea



An almost enclosed sea

- limited exchange of water with the North Sea (the same water along with all the organic and inorganic matter remains in the Baltic for up to 30 years),
- a series of sub-basins, each having their own water exchange characteristics.

Runoff enters the shallow Baltic Sea from a large catchment area

-average depth of just 53 metres (much shallower than most of the world's seas)
- Baltic Sea's catchment area is almost four times larger than the sea itself.

Brackish water

- one of the world's largest bodies of brackish water
- brackish water of the Baltic Sea is a mixture of sea water from the North Sea and fresh water from rivers and rainfall.
- salinity of its surface waters varies from around 20 psu (≈parts per thousand) in the Kattegat to 1–2 psu in the northernmost Bothnian Bay and the easternmost Gulf of Finland, compared to 35 psu in the open oceans (salinity levels also vary with depth).

Limited biodiversity

– limited biodiversity includes a unique mix of marine and freshwater species adapted to the brackish conditions, as well as a few true brackishwater species.

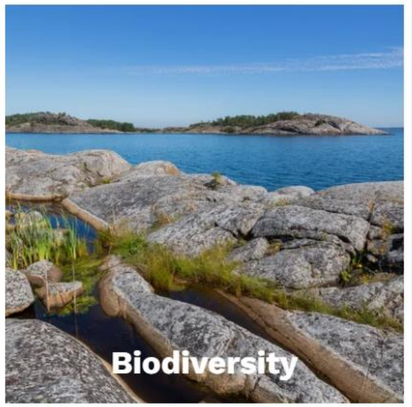
The Baltic Sea is highly sensitive to the environmental impacts of human activities in its sea and catchment areas

CCB's main goal

Promote the protection and improvement of the environment and natural resources of the Baltic Sea region for present and future generations.

Picture here

CCB Working areas



Baltic Sea

The ecological state of the Baltic Sea **is not good**.

The main cause of this – human activities.

Biodiversity

Continuing decrease of species and habitats

Hazardous Substances

Harmful chemicals in air, soil and water

Eutrophication

97% of the sea area affected by eutrophication

Climate change

Increase of average surface-water temperature

Ways to Reach the Goal

Advocacy

CCB creates international public opinion about issues regarding the Baltic Sea both within and outside the region

Information, environmental education and other activities

CCB gathers, produces and distributes information about environmental problems in the Baltic Sea region

Coordinated actions and field work

CCB and its Member Organizations have undertaken a number of field projects covering a wide range of issues

THE BALTIC SEA WE WANT

The Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) adopted in 2007, had the goal to restore the Baltic marine environment to a good ecological status by 2021. However, the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention are nowhere near achieving this goal. On any given day, marine life in the Baltic Sea has to navigate increasingly acidic waters, while also dodging trawling nets and abandoned fishing gear, sea bed disturbances and extraction activities, noisy and heavily polluting ships, marine infrastructure, invasive species, diseases from farmed fish, eutrophication and anoxic zones, construction, tourism, and hazardous substances including plastics.

HARBOUR PORPOISE

BIODIVERSITY

B8: *By 2022 at the latest, specify knowledge gaps on all threats to the Baltic Proper harbour porpoise population, and by 2023 for the western Baltic population, including by-catch and areas of high by-catch risk, underwater noise, contaminants and prey depletion. Knowledge gaps related to areas of high by-catch risk are to be addressed and by 2028 at the latest additional areas of high by-catch risk for both Baltic Sea populations are to be determined. To strengthen the Baltic harbour porpoise population, by 2025 identify possible mitigation measures for threats other than by-catch and implement such measures as they become available.*

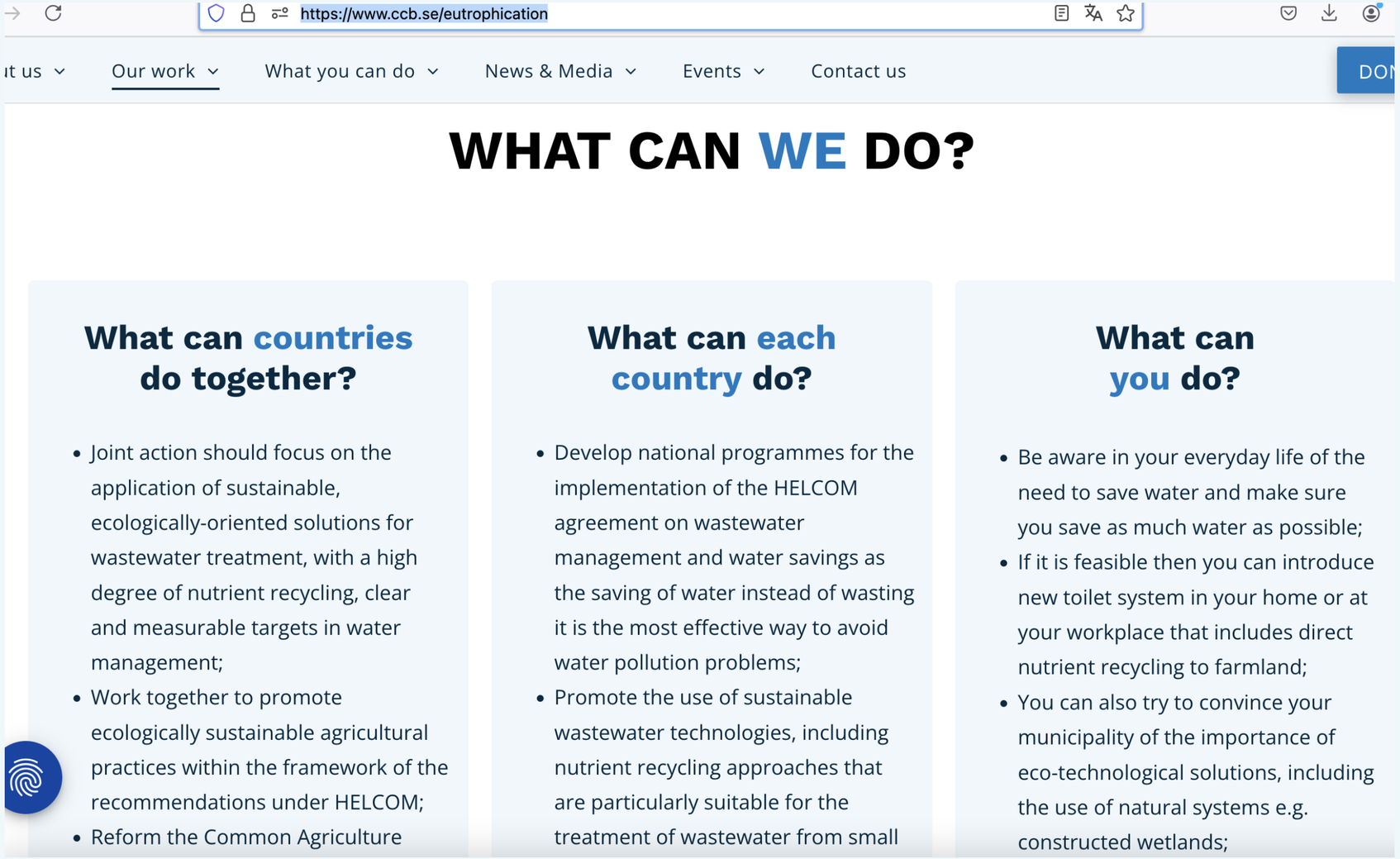
CHALLENGES

- Bycatch thresholds are exceeded in both the Baltic Proper and Belt Sea harbour porpoise populations
- Overfishing leads to a lack of food available for both populations
- Underwater noise causes disturbances in important behaviours such as mating and feeding
- There is a general lack of implementation of conservation measures

SOLUTIONS

- Ensuring that bycatch thresholds are adhered to
- Implementing fisheries restrictions both within MPAs designated for harbour porpoise, as well as outside MPAs, especially in the Baltic Proper
- EU MS should use Art. 20 of the CFP to implement fisheries regulations for MPAs within 12NM of the coast
- Fishing quotas should be set with the entire ecosystem in mind
- Impulsive and continuous underwater noise needs to be addressed

How can we make an input at our level?



CCB educational courses

Our Common Baltic

Aims to provide young Participants with practical knowledge about the Baltic Sea and ways to protect it, develop new project ideas.

*TA - students

River University

RiverUni aims to protect the Baltic Sea via protecting rivers, analysing riverine ecosystem services and their benefits for people and the environment.
It follows 'source to sea' approach.

*TA - professionals

Baltic Climate Literacy School

BCLS aims to increase literacy about the state of the Baltic Sea and the impact of human activities on marine and coastal areas.

*TA – journalists, bloggers, media professionals

CCB youth group

- **Professional & personal growth**
- **Strong involvement in CCB**
- **Network & exchange with other YGs around the Baltic Sea**

THANK YOU

Catherine Stauffer
CCB Youth Group Coordinator

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“FOCUS ON THE COAST”:

- **Scribing exercise**
- **Group work**
- **Debate**

TODAY 18.08

Group work questions:

1. Put in order the cards and describe the interconnections
2. What is coastal protection (CP)?
   Give examples of 2 approaches to CP.
3. Purposes and benefits of foredune construction.
4. What is meant by ‘no gain without a loss’?
   Why it is important to irradicate the pine trees at grey dunes?
5. Which Polish CP examples seem to be most efficient?
6. Elaborate on these conclusions:

- ‘Evolution in the way of thinking’
- ‘Exchanging best practices with the neighbours’
- ‘Baltic Sea does not have borders’