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HERRING

Joint cross-border actions for the sustainable management of a natural resource

- An international project in the South Baltic -



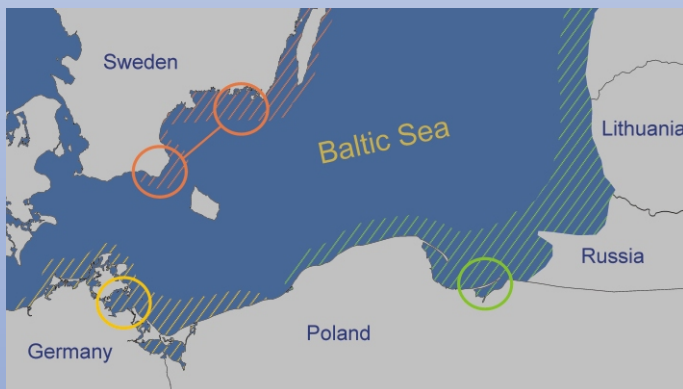
Project idea

Coastal areas provide habitat for a great variety of living organisms and are valuable parts of the Baltic Sea environment. They are also important areas for human activities and as such of high economic interest. Increasingly, they support human uses and claims for space through transport, fishing, tourism, and energy generation and supply activities.

The project **HERRING** exemplary looks at a typical ecosystem resource where these demands for space collide: Baltic herring and its coastal spawning grounds. The fish species plays a crucial role in the food chain of the marine ecosystem and has a long tradition as food fish in the region.

As South Baltic coastal waters provide spawning and nursery habitats for several Baltic herring populations, four regional case study areas have been selected:

- **Greifswalder Bodden** in Germany
- **Vistula Lagoon** in Poland
- **Coastal waters of Blekinge and Skåne** in Sweden



HERRING's coastal case study areas



Offshore wind energy production in South Baltic waters

Management of coastal spawning areas has to balance many claims and economic interests. Despite the crucial role for development of fish populations, these areas are often inadequately included in existing management strategies and regulations.

Using **herring** as an example, the project aims to improve the consideration of coastal spawning area management in order to foster an integrated coastal management in the South Baltic Sea.

Regional case studies

The coastal case study activities compile knowledge on

- the **ecological parameters and conditions** and on the impacts of present and future **human activities and spatial uses** and
- the **multi-level institutions** and **management instruments** governing the use and protection of coastal herring spawning grounds.

The project case studies share their findings with regional scientists, fishermen, and coastal and planning authorities. Discussions aim at identifying crucial influences and conflicting structures as well as good-practice examples of regional coastal management.

Transnational level

Knowledge and results gained on case study level will be exchanged internationally to share experiences and best-practice and to identify possible intervention points for the introduction of new and improved forms of resource governance.

By consolidating natural science results, policy and planning levels, the project **HERRING** will develop strategy options and joint recommendations for an improved management of coastal areas as spawning habitats.

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Project funding: 786.607 €



Sandy coastal seashore with eelgrass habitat; herring eggs on pondweed