

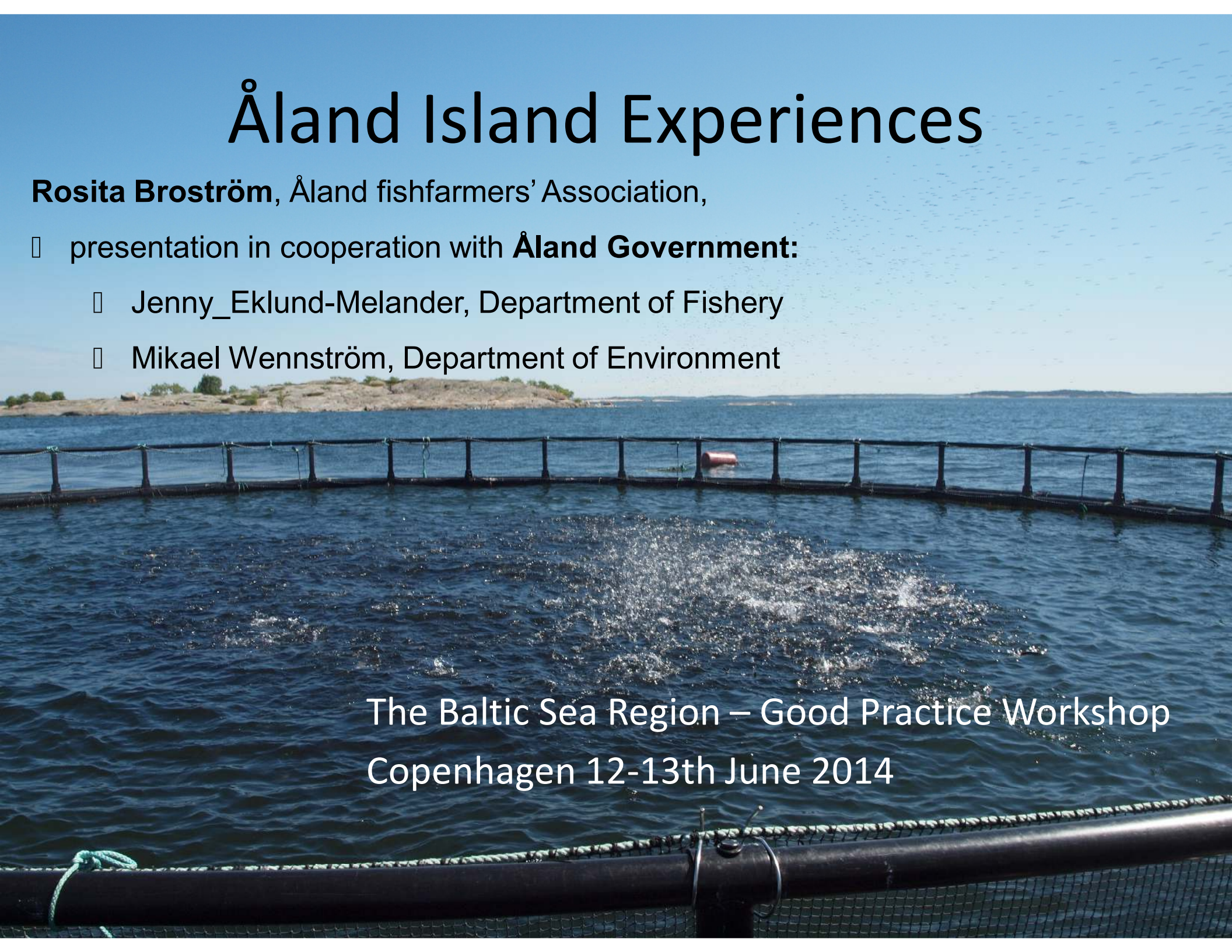
Åland Island Experiences

Rosita Broström, Åland fishfarmers' Association,

□ presentation in cooperation with **Åland Government**:

□ Jenny_Eklund-Melander, Department of Fishery

□ Mikael Wennström, Department of Environment



The Baltic Sea Region – Good Practice Workshop
Copenhagen 12-13th June 2014

Presentation outline:

- What is Åland
- Our aquaculture sector
 - Main trends of development
 - Fish farmers' perspective
- Aquaculture and the WFD
- Nutrient discharges and reduction goals
- Examples of good practice from Åland
 - Spatial planning
 - Constructive dialogue and cooperation
- Finally: conclusions, questions

ÅLAND

~6,700 islands – of which 60 are inhabited



Population: 28,666 31 Dec 2013

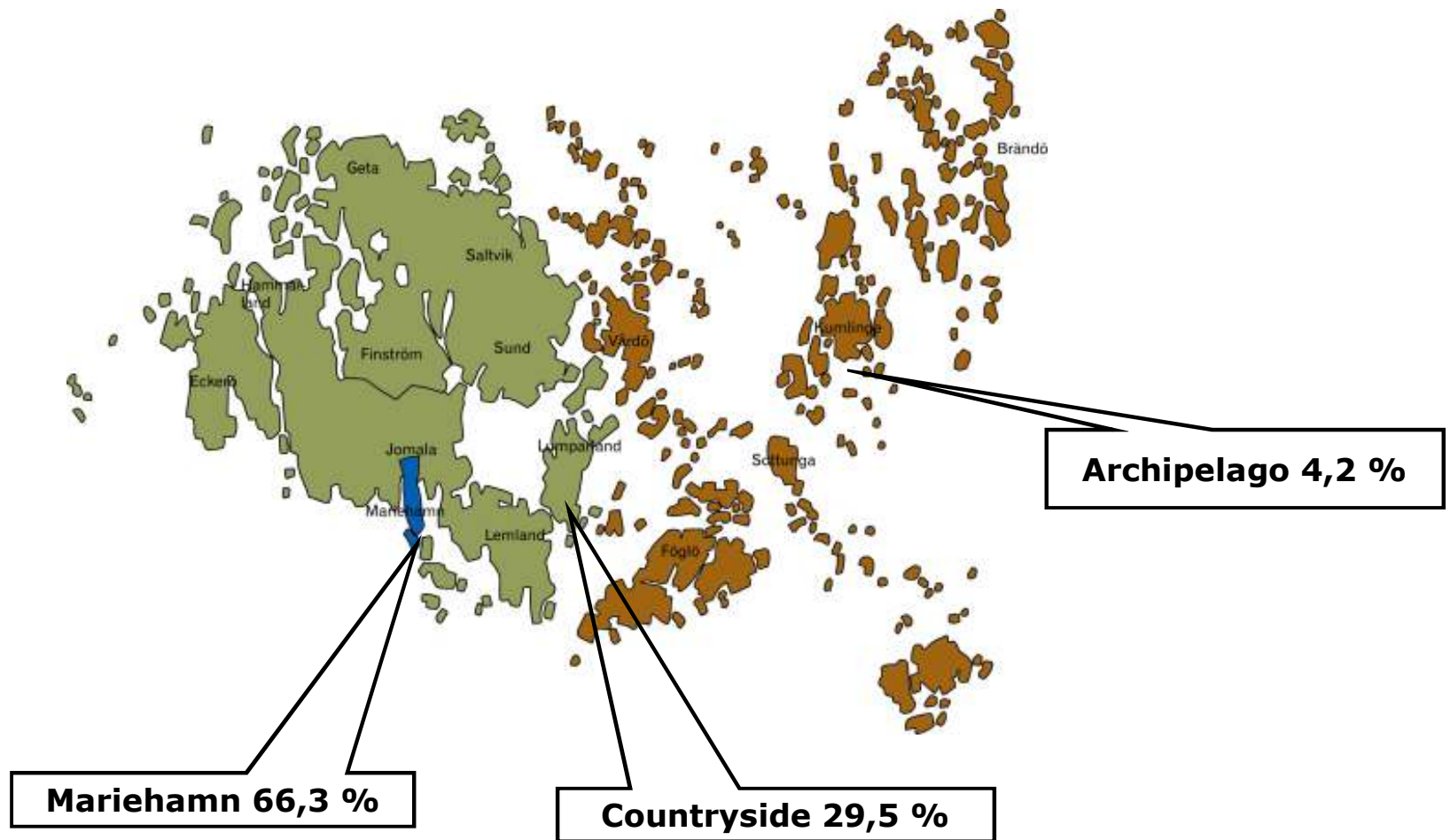
SELF-GOVERNING, AUTONOMOUS REGION OF FINLAND



The Åland Parliament has legislative power in areas such as:

- **fishery**
- **environmental issues**
- **trade and industry**
- **education, culture**
- **health care and hospitals, social care**
- **local transport**
- **municipal administration**
- **policing**
- **postal service, radio and TV**

Where the jobs are on Åland



AQUACULTURE ON ÅLAND

- Production 5 100 000 kg (marine farming in net cages) (2013)
- Mainly rainbow trout, some white-fish and sea trout
- First hand value: ~ EUR. 25 million (over 90 % from companies in the archipelago)
- Employs 75 people directly + more indirectly
- ~ 40 % of the Finnish aquaculture production

✓ **Technical development**

✓ **Inner archipelago farms** □ **outer archipelago farms**

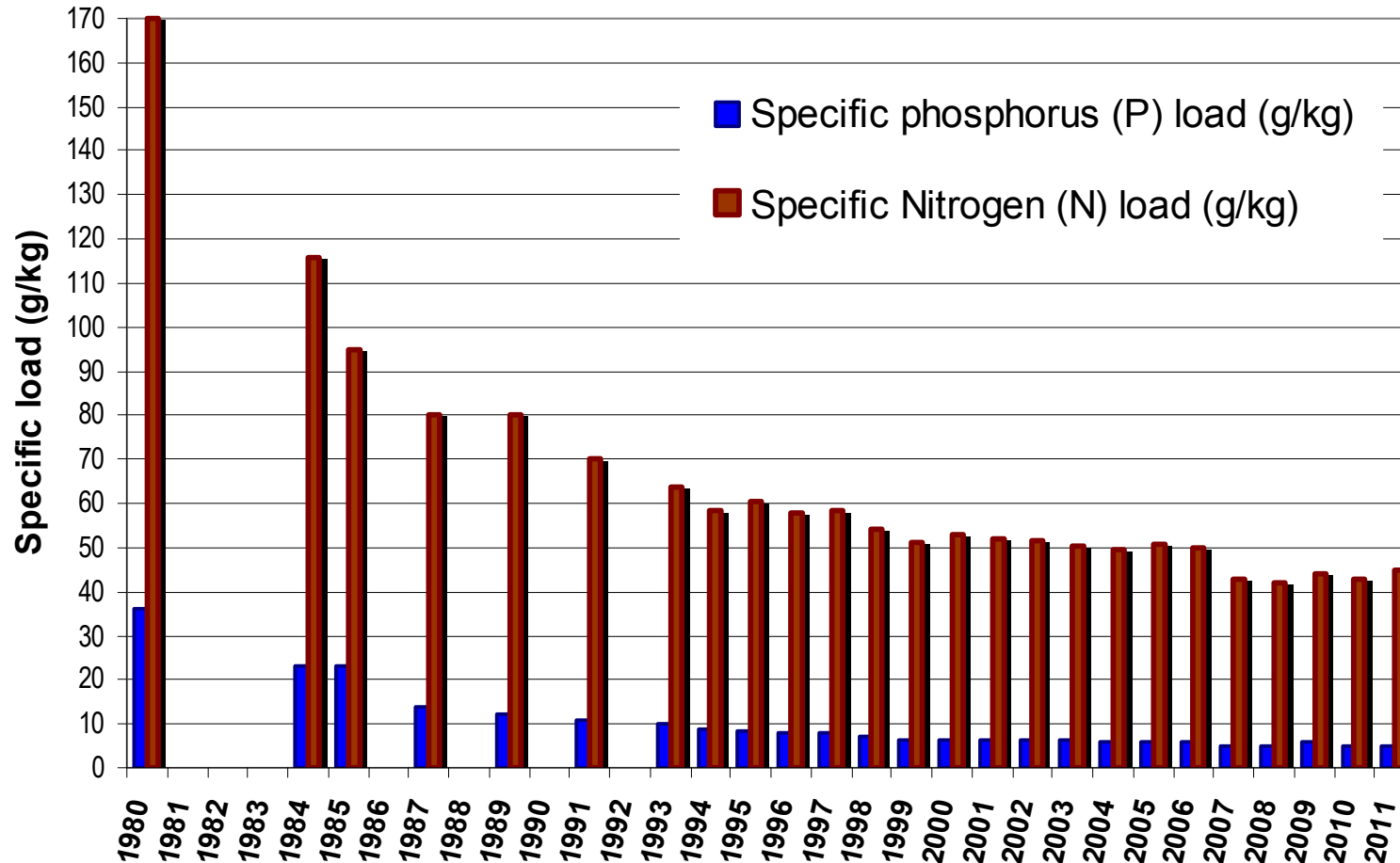


Inner archipelago

Outer archipelago



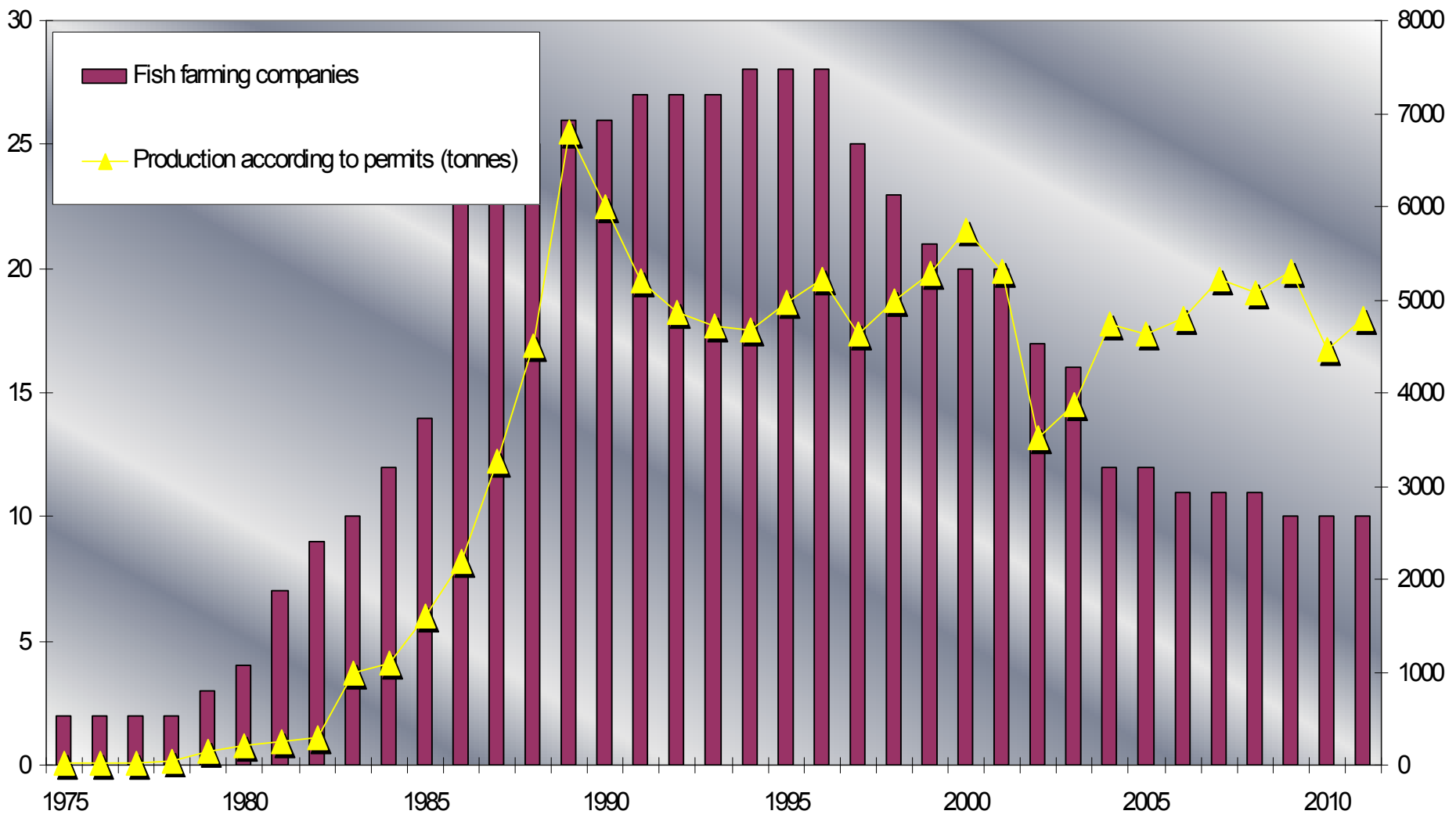
✓ Improved feed and feeding technique



Specific load (g/kg)

= how many grams of nutrient is released into the sea per kg of produced fish

- ✓ Production expansion □ Production stagnation
- ✓ Declining number of fish farming companies

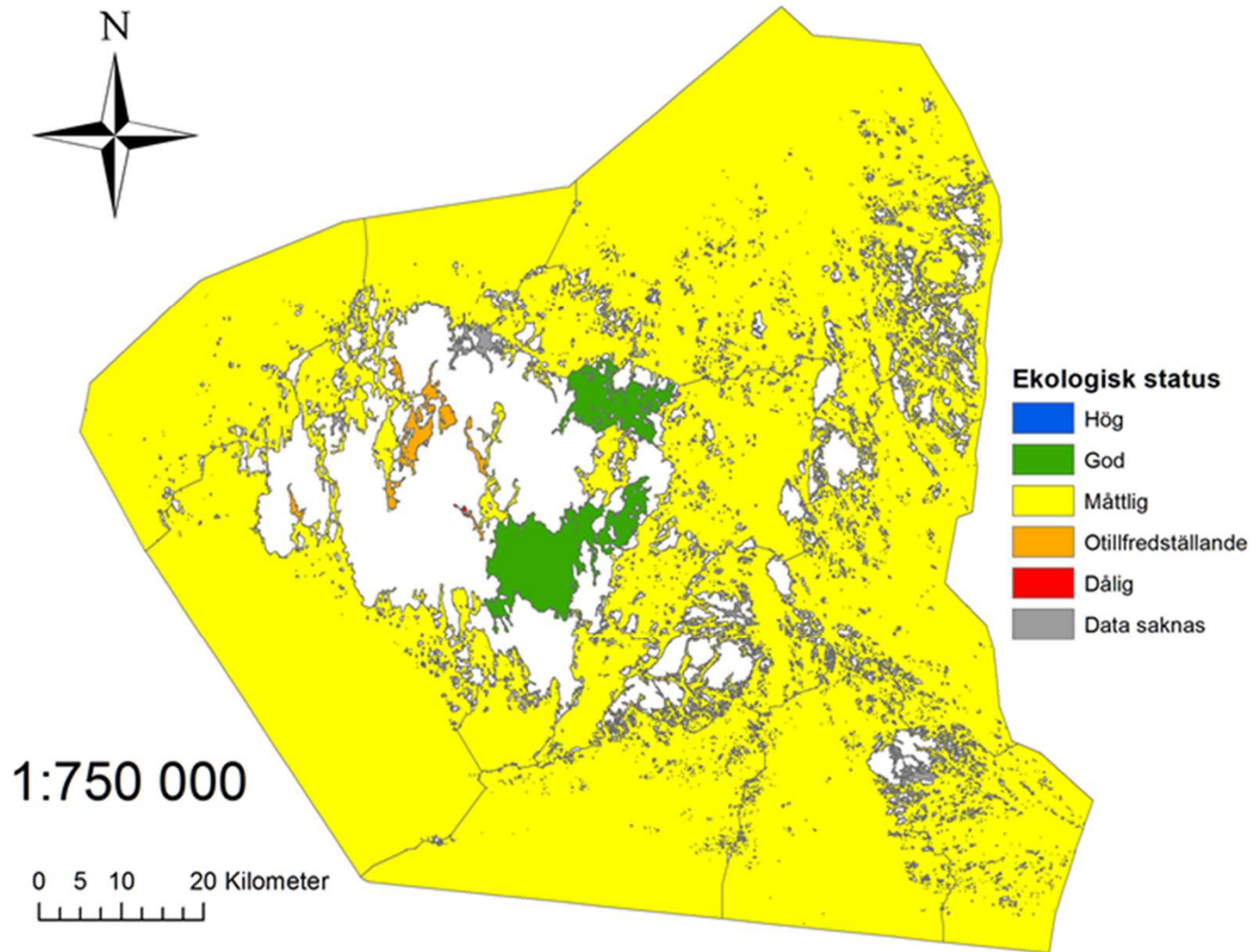


THE ÅLAND PRODUCERS' PERSPECTIVE ON FISH FARMING

The fish farming sector on Åland needs:

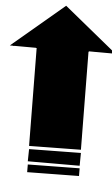
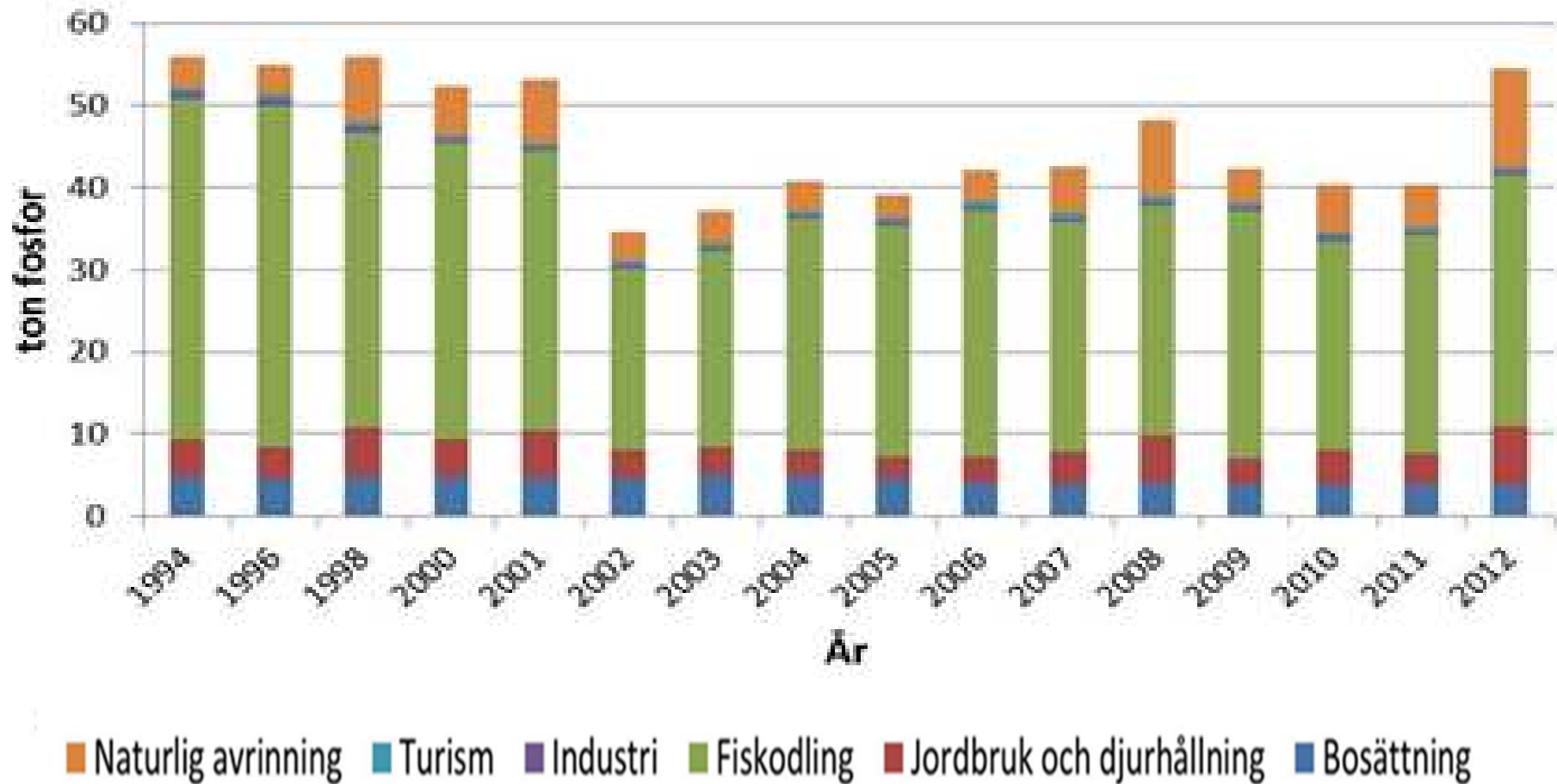
- **Economic and administrative stability** in order to survive, as well as being able to make long-term investments in environmentally friendly techniques
- A **balanced view** of the social- economic- and environmental factors of fish farming;
 - Fish farming should be put in it's proper perspevice as a minor contributor to the total pollution load of the BS and as being the most efficient way of producing healthy animal protein and fat
- A **harmonisation of legislation** between the BS countries;
Should reflect the reality of a regional Ecosystem and a global market

WFD – classification of water bodies



Sources of nutrient discharge

- Ton P, without atmospheric deposition



Aquaculture and the Water Framework Directive

• In our WFD programme of measures 2009-2015 tentative reduction goals for aquaculture regarding net load:

20 % P by 2015 and >20 % of both P and N by 2021.

The vision for 2030 is 100 % reduction;

Nutrient neutral sector through closing the nutrient loop, i.e. using Baltic raw materials in fish feed

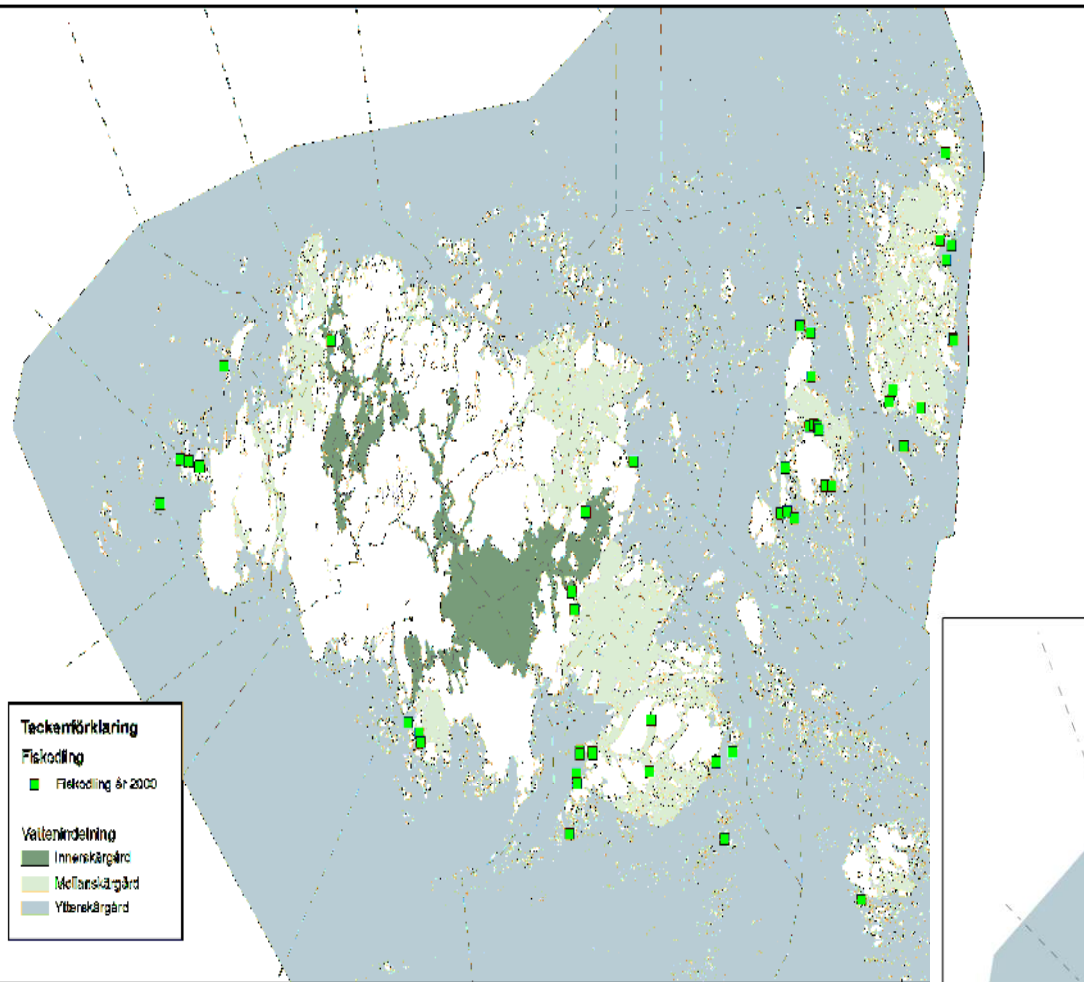
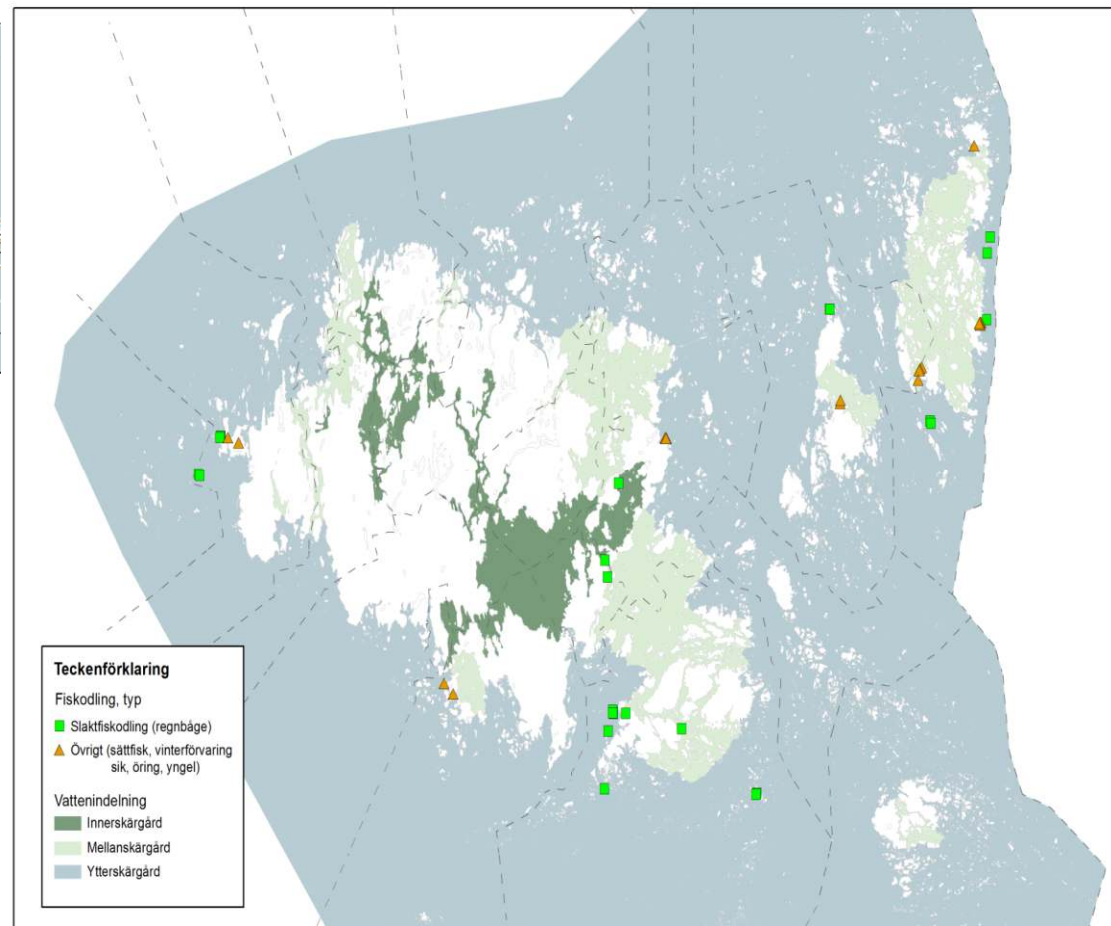
□ **The Baltic Sea Region needs guidelines and a common definition of what constitutes "nutrient neutral fish feed"**

Examples of good practice

1. The Fish Farming Decree (2007) – a planning tool
 - Steers farms to the outer archipelago, where openness, water depth and water circulation are high
 - Has enabled fusion of units
 - Less **local** eutrophication **effects**, increased growth, improved fish health



Location of fish farms in 2012



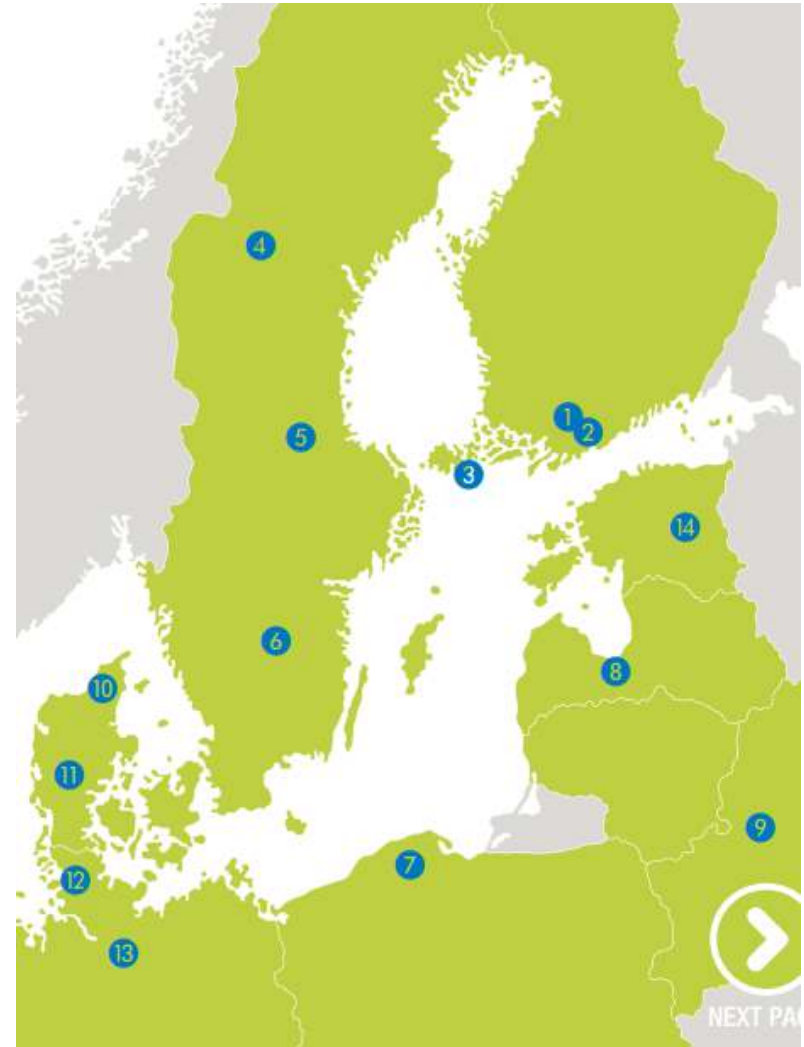
Location of fish farms in 2000

2. Cooperation and dialogue

- **Locally**, between authorities, farmers and other actors
 - Åland Aquaculture Implementation Plan
 - Åland Aquaculture Strategy
- **Regionally**, on the Baltic Sea level
 - AquaBest (Code of Conduct)

Code of Conduct

The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to provide principles and guidelines for governance, development and management of sustainable aquaculture at all stakeholder levels in the Baltic Sea Region.



AquaBest-partners

2. Cooperation and dialogue

- **Locally**, between authorities, farmers and other actors

- **WFD programme of measures 2009-2015**

- a consultation group was formed
- **a consultation report: Fishfarming on Åland from a holistic perspective**
- Åland Aquaculture Implementation Plan

- **Åland Aquaculture Strategy**

Aquaculture strategy

- Åland Government has adopted the aquaculture strategy "For sustainable growth and healthy food from a living sea"
- No growth goals could be agreed upon because of timetable and uncertainties of the fulfilment of the directives
- **The coming guidelines are very important!**

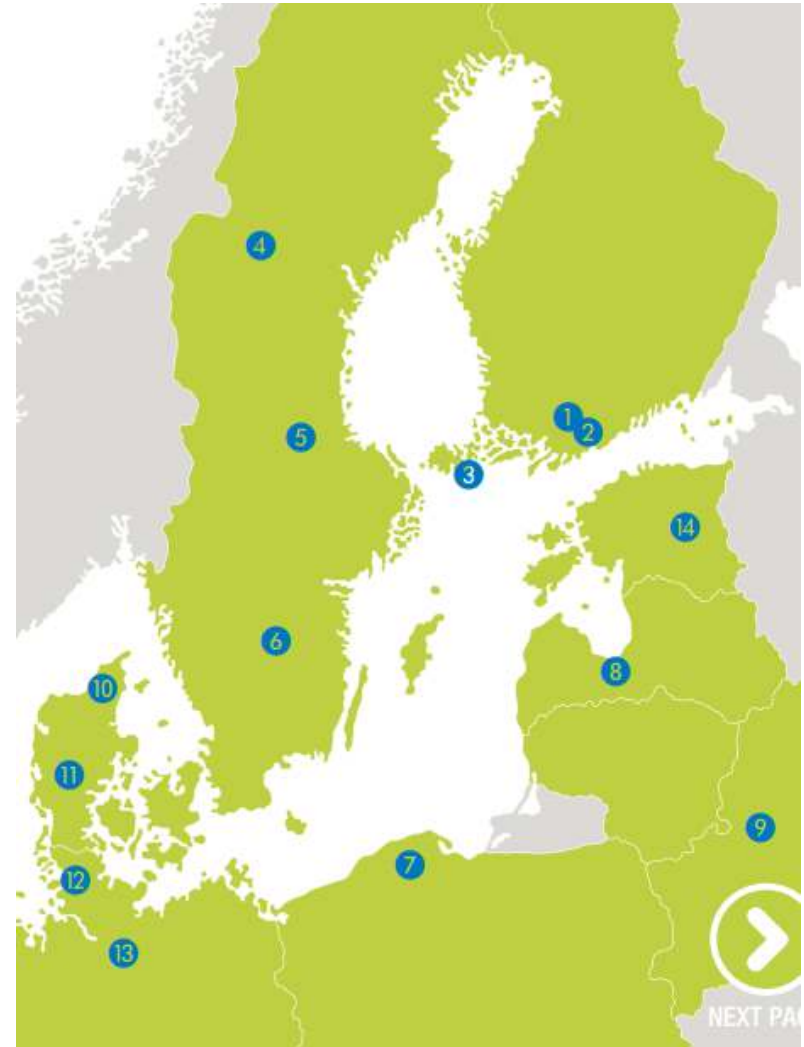


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Code of Conduct

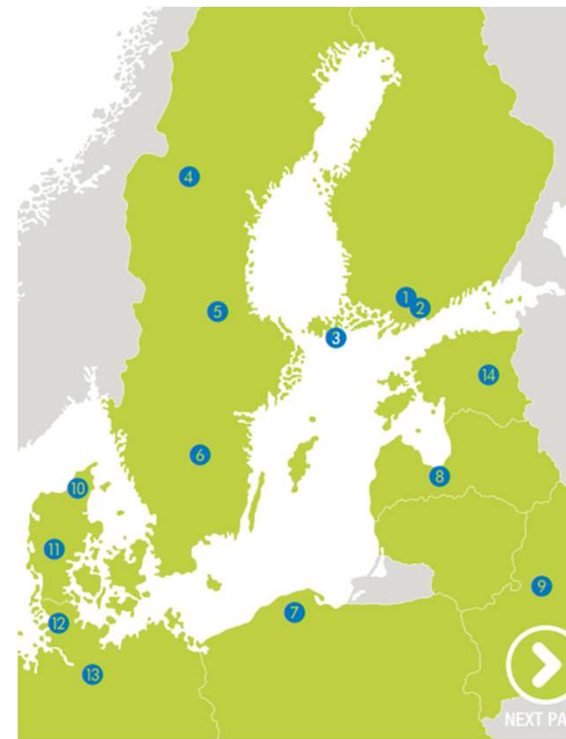
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AquaBest-partners

Good examples from and questions raised during AquaBest project:

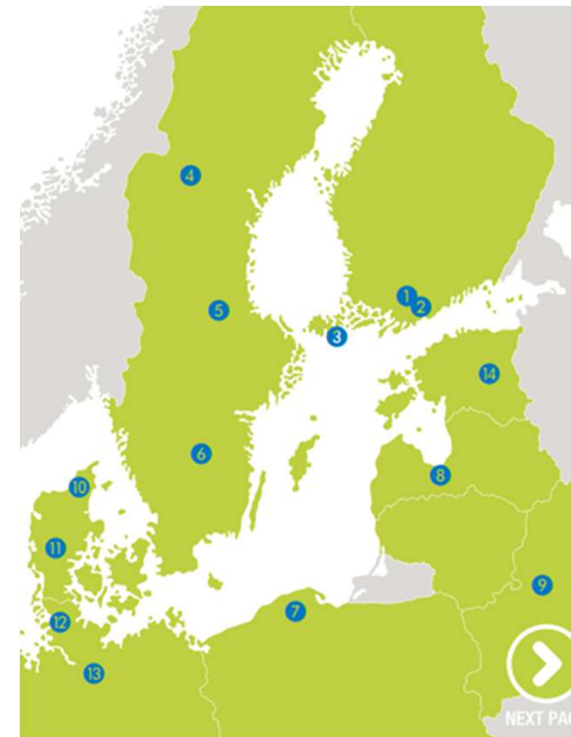
- **What are the best incentives for using feed with low P content?**
- **Is it possible to use IMTA, compensation measures and improvement surplus**
 - locally?
 - regionally, on a Baltic sea scale?
- **Is it possible with some kind of water improvement fund?**



Good examples from and questions raised during AquaBest project:

- Harmonisation of legislation / implementation of EU directives for aquaculture
 - **is it possible to reach agreement on implementation principles of the EU directives?**
 - **For example on emission space for aquaculture and principles for allocation of this space?**

Different interpretation give different possibilities for growth and expansion of aquaculture in different countries!



The background of the slide is a photograph of a coastal area. In the foreground, there is a concrete pier or dock extending into the water. Several boats are moored along the pier. The water is calm, and the sky is clear. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

Finally...

Our main conclusion:

The problems are common □ Cooperation is the solution (locally and regionally)

Our main question for the EU and this workshop:

How can we fulfil the obligations in the WFD and the MSFD and at the same time produce more fish and maintain important job opportunities in the archipelago?