BALTIC SEA

BALTIC SEA DAY

Baltic Sea Day is celebrated around the Baltic Sea on the last Thursday in August.

A SHARED SEA

The Baltic Sea has nine coastal countries - Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Russia.

NICKNAMES

East, West and Baltic, the sea has many names: Östersjö, Läänemere, Ostsee, Baltijos Jūro, Østersøen, Morze Bałtyckie, Baltiyskoye and more.

ALWAYS CHANGING

Following the pressure of the Ice Age, uplift is still occurring along the shores of the Gulf of Bothnia. In the future, the Gulf of Bothnia will close at the Kvarken if there is no significant acceleration in ocean rise.

CATCHMENT BASIN

The Baltic Sea drains the waters of a population of around 90 million. In addition to the coastal countries, the catchment area includes parts of Belarus, Ukraine, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Norway.

A TREASURE TROVE OF WRECKS

Remnants of human culture are often better preserved at the bottom of the sea than on land. There are thousands of wrecks in the Baltic Sea, for example.

PROBLEMS

Climate change is accelerating the biggest problem: eutrophication. Heavy maritime traffic increases the risk of accidents.

MARINE AREAS

Can you place on a map

Baltic Sea
Archipelago Sea
Bothnian Sea
Gulf of Finland
Kvarken?

GARBAGE

Littering has also increased in the Baltic Sea. Plastic debris, which breaks down into microplastics, is transported to the sea by many routes.

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EUTROPHICATION

THE BALTIC SEAS BIGGEST PROBLEM

Eutrophication is caused by excessive nutrient loads and leads to excessive growth of algae and plants.

RUNOFF NUTRIENTS

Human activity puts pressure on the ocean. The largest sources of nutrients are run-off from fields and commercial forests.

ALGAE

Duringn summer, eutrophication is visible as blue-green algal blooms. Light and warmth and abundant nutrients feed the blue-green algae.

SLIME AND STENCH

Eutrophication causes rocks and cliffs to become slimy and rotting algae to cause odours.

WASTE WATER TREATMENT

Wastewater from cities and other settlements is now reasonably well treated for nutrients. It used to be different!

INTERNAL LOAD

Nutrients that have been spilled into the Baltic Sea circulate in the marine ecosystem and eutrophicate the sea for a long time.

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ECO SYSTEM

HERRING

FUCUS VESICULOSUS

EELGRASS

MUSSLE

KEY SPECIES

... are species that play a more signifigant role than other species in the functioning or diversity of an ecosystem or community of organisms.

A SPECIAL ENVIRONMENT

Water stratification, cold, darkness and the lack of acidity in deep water. Shallow, variable salinity and low biodiversity.

BRACKISH WATER

Only organisms that can adapt to low-salinity water and salinity variation can thrive.

LITTLE COUSINS

In the Baltic Sea, herring and mussels cannot grow as large as herring and mussels in the oceans because of the low salt content.

AGE

The Baltic Sea is still young. Formed after the Ice Age, the sea is still changing, both due to land uplift and human activities.

NATURAL HABITAT

... is an area with similar environmental conditions, such as soil quality, nutrient content and species. There are many different types of habitats.

INVASIVE SPECIES

... can endanger the local ecosystem. Invasive species have entered the Baltic Sea from other seas, including from ballast water from ocean-going vessels.

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WATER ICE SALT

DEPTH

The average depth of the shallow Baltic Sea is only 54 metres. The deepest point is 459 m in the Gotland Basin.
The average depth of the Atlantic Ocean is 3 332 m.

SALINITY

... averages 7 per mil: around 20 per mil in the Danish Straits, around 3 per mil in the Gulf of Finland and less than 1 in the Gulf of Bothnia. The Atlantic salinity is 35 per mil.

WATER EVAPORATION

... lasts 30-50 years. Fresh water runs off rivers. Large saltwater flows from the North Sea, "salt pulses", are rare.

WATER CIRCULATION

In the northern hemisphere, water rotates counter-clockwise due to the rotation of the Earth. Water currents are also affected by weather conditions, temperature, water stratification, islands and sub-surface features.

FREEZING OVER

The Baltic Sea differs from many other seas in that it freezes at least partially every year.
In winter, the surface layer of water can be as low as freezing.

HALOCLINE

... means a salinity step, where the salinity of the water changes. In the Baltic Sea, the halocline is at a depth of about 70 metres. At the surface, the water is sweeter, and the saline water sinks more densely near the bottom of the sea.

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GEO HISTORY

1 BALTIC ICE LAKE

The whole of Finland was covered by more than a kilometre of continental ice and meltwater about 11 000-18 000 years ago.

2 YOLDIAN SEA

Around 11 000 years ago, the continental ice sheet retreated and the Ice Age ended. The Baltic Ice Lake joined the North Sea at the Great Lakes of Sweden.

3 ANCYLUS LAKE

About 10 000 years ago, the ice mass retreated from the Baltic Sea and land uplift closed the connection to the North Sea.

4 LITTORAL SEA

Salt water started to flow into the region again as the ocean level rose - this time from the Danish Straits. The littoral sea was born 8 500 years ago.

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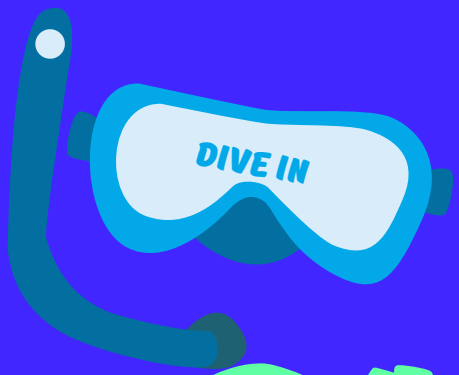

BALTIC SEA ACTIONS

DIET

Go for vegetarian meals and eat sustainably caught fish (roach, herring, vendace or perch) twice a week instead of meat meals. Reduce dairy and other animal products.

DETERGENTS

Avoid unnecessary chemicals and plastics in everyday life. Choose eco-labelled products and detergents.

CONSUMPTION

Buy less, recycle and repair. Avoid single-use products.

TRAVELLING

Travel near and across the country. Get around on foot, by bike, public transport and carpooling.

WASTE

Sort your waste correctly and collect rubbish, nicotine pouches and cigarette butts in the bin. Remember to take any unused medicines to the pharmacy.

THE SEA IS NOT A RUBBISH BIN OR A SEWER

So don't:
Jump into the water soapy.
Dump anything in the water that doesn't belong there.

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