#### The ecological state of Baltic Sea

## The Baltic Sea as a complex system: its function, present state and future projections

M S

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Web sources:

http://www.baltex-research.eu/BACC2/index.html http://www.baltex-research.eu/ecosupport/ http://www.myocean.eu/ http://www.boos.org/ Thanks: MSI colleagues, BACC2, ECOSUPPORT, MyOcean, BOOS-HIROMB

Summer school , August 2014 Sustainable chemistry and process technology

Estonian fractal coastline is ca 3800 km long

#### **Main content**

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- 1. Basic features and processes of the Baltic Sea
- 2. State and recent changes of the Baltic Sea

**3.** Forecasting of marine conditions: state of the art and future developments

Sea surface temperature from MODIS

## 1. Basic features and processes of the Baltic Sea

**Topics:** 

- basic aspects of oceanography
- physics of the Baltic Sea
- loads of nutrients and aspects of ecology

Cyanobacteria from remote sensing

# Possible "narrow" viewpoints in oceanography

- series of Fourier' components
- T, S, O<sub>2</sub> etc profile collection
- ensamble of pulsations
- gridded data sets
- concentrations in water samples
- species in the microscope
- layers in the sediment cores etc

(waves and currents researcher)
(descriptive oceanographer)
(turbulence researcher)
(modeller)
(marine chemist)
(marine biologist)
(marine geologist)

## Forcing: atmosphere, land, adjacent sea basins





#### **The Baltic Sea**

## viewpoints as:

 huge estuary large-scale processes

exchange between sub-basins

large lake

wind-driven circulation wind-induced waves thermocline evolution

## small ocean

fronts mesoscale eddies thermohaline effects and finestructure





#### **Steady Knudsen budget**



water budget

$$Q_R + Q_B = Q_S$$

salt budget

$$S_R Q_R + S_B Q_B = S_S Q_S$$

 $S_R = 0$ 

$$Q_B = \frac{Q_R S_S}{S_B - S_S}$$

 $Q_{S} = \frac{Q_{R}S_{B}}{S_{R} - S_{S}}$ 

residence time

 $T_R = \frac{V}{Q_S}$ 

## **Hydrostatic balance**

...holds for motions with time scale > hour vertical pressure gradient force = gravity force per unit volume

$$\frac{\partial p}{\partial z} = -g\rho$$

Pressure at vertical level z (counted here upwards from undisturbed surface) is calculated by integrating hydrostatic equation from depth h (where z = -h) up to sea level elevation  $\xi$  (positive upwards)  $p = p_a - g \int_{z}^{0} \rho(x, y, z, t) dz + g \rho_0 \xi(x, y, t)$ 

or

 $p = p_a + g\overline{\rho}h + g\rho_0\xi$ 

where  $p_a$  - atmospheric pressure  $\overline{\rho}$  - mean density of water column

Density range 1000-1025 kg m<sup>-3</sup>

1 m of depth  $\approx$  1 dbar of pressure



Newton III Law  $p dA - (p + dp) dA - \rho g dV = 0$ . using dV = dA dz we obtain  $p dA - (p + dp) dA - \rho g dA dz = 0$ and further  $\frac{dp}{dz} = -\rho g$ 

## **Pressure gradients**

Horizontal pressure gradient at a given depth depends on the gradients of water density  $\rho$  and sea level  $\xi$ .

If **density is constant**, then  $p = \rho g(z + \Delta \xi)$  and pressure gradient is determined by sea level gradient  $\frac{\Delta p}{\Delta x} = \rho g \frac{\Delta \xi}{\Delta x}$ .

Density variations can be often treated by **two-layer approach**, *ie* density is constant in both layers but pycnocline depth h is variable.

**Barotropic motions** have no horizontal density gradient (vertical density gradient is allowed) and all the pressure gradient comes from sea level

**Baroclinic motions** have both the density and sea level contribution to the pressure gradient



## **Coriolis force**

is perpendicular to velocity  $\frac{\vec{m}_c}{\rho} = (fv, -fu, 0)$ 

- becomes evident due to Earth rotation
- deflects motion to the right in the Northern Hemisphere
- allows geostrophic balance
- causes inertial oscillations

It is expressed by Coriolis parameter  $f = 2\Omega \sin \varphi$ ,

 $\Omega\,$  - angular velocity of Earth,  $\varphi\,$  - geographic latitude

Momentum equations for inertial oscillations

 $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - fv = 0$ 

$$\frac{y}{t} + fu = 0$$

that has solution

 $u = A\sin ft, \quad v = A\cos ft$ 

(a)

This means that **current vector rotates clockwise** with a period

$$T_f = \frac{2\pi}{f} = 14 \,\mathrm{h}$$
 at latitude 60<sup>°</sup> N

**Inertial period**  $T_f$  is frequently dominating in current observations in the interior of large basins



## **Geostrophic balance**

In geostrophic motions horizontal pressure gradient force is balanced by Coriolis force

$$-fv = -\frac{1}{\rho}\frac{\partial p}{\partial x}$$
  $fu = -\frac{1}{\rho}\frac{\partial p}{\partial y}$ 

Geostrophic flow is along the lines of constant pressure. In the Northern Hemisphere the **flow is to the right from the pressure gradient** (from high to low pressure).



## **Drift currents: Ekman spiral**

Nansen noticed in 1890s that surface drift currents deflect  $20^{0}$ - $40^{0}$  to the right from wind. Ekman found explanation: **frictional force is balanced by the Coriolis force:** 

$$-fv = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} v \frac{\partial u}{\partial z}, \qquad fu = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} v \frac{\partial v}{\partial z}$$

where u, v are horizontal velocity components, f - Coriolis parameter, v - turbulent viscosity. Boundary conditions are

 $v \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} = \tau_x, \quad v \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} = \tau_y \quad \text{if} \quad z = 0$  $u = 0, \quad v = 0 \quad \text{if} \quad z \to -\infty$ 

In case of northerly wind  $\overline{\tau} = (0, \tau_y)$  the solution is

$$u(z) = \frac{\tau_{y}}{2\nu\gamma} e^{\gamma z} (\cos \gamma z - \sin \gamma z) ,$$
  

$$v(z) = \frac{\tau_{y}}{2\nu\gamma} e^{\gamma z} (\cos \gamma z + \sin \gamma z) ,$$
  
where  $\gamma = \sqrt{\frac{f}{2\nu}} .$ 

**Ekman** (frictional) **depth** (10-100 m) is  $D = h_E = \frac{\pi}{\gamma} = \pi \sqrt{\frac{2\nu}{f}}$ 

Surface current speed is  $u_0 = v_0 = \frac{\pi \tau_y}{h_E f}$ 



Surface current vector is deflected by 45° to the right from wind. By depth, current speed decreases and vector further deflects to the right. Mean transport is by 90° to the right from wind.



## Upwelling

Steady frictional drift currents form in the upper layer **Ekman transport** that **is deflected by 90<sup>°</sup> to the right from wind direction** on the Northern Hemisphere under the **influence of Coriolis force**.

Along-shore wind may blow the surface water offshore. Near the coast deeper waters below the pycnocline (density jump layer) rise to the surface to replace the offshore transported surface waters. This process is called **upwelling**.

**Upwelling is a time-dependent** phenomenon. It modifies the temperature, salinity, nutrients and other water properties in the coastal embayments. Largest changes in the near-shore water take place when the pycnocline outcrops to the surface.



## **Upwelling effects on the nutrient cycle** example from 2006: combination of 3 research methods





## Fronts: zones of enhanced gradients



# Frontal area at the entrance to the Gulf of Finland

Pavelson, J., J. Laanemets, K. Kononen, S. Nõmmann, Quasi-permanent density front at the entrance to the Gulf of Finland: Response to wind forcing. *Cont. Shelf Res.*, Vol. 17, No. 3, 253-265, 1997.

60°۱

59° N

#### frontal transects



#### frontal maps (time sequence)



#### **Coastal - offshore exchange: upwelling filaments**



When the strong westerly winds producing the upwelling/downwelling weaken, the long-shore jets become unstable and produce transverse jets, cold/warm water squirts.

Zhurbas et al, 2008

## Mesoscale variability: quasigeostrophy

Mesoscale variability is **quasigeostrophic**. Each time instant horizontal currents are along the isobars, but **pressure patterns evolve slowly**.

Slow evolution is due to conservation of potential vorticity  $\frac{\zeta + f}{H}$  along fluid particle trajectories. Here  $\zeta$  is absolute vorticity, f is Coriolis parameter and H is depth.

As a result, slow **Rossby waves** (due to variation of f with latitute) and **topographic waves** (due to variable H) appear.

Main types of mesoscale motions are **fronts** and **eddies**. They are generated by baroclinic instability of large-scale flows. Most unstable wave length determines the **lateral scale** of mesoscale motions that is given by **baroclinic Rossby deformatsion radius** 

$$R_d = \frac{NH}{f}$$

which value is ca 1000 km in the atmosphere, 50 km in the ocean and 10 km in the Baltic. Here N is buoyancy (Väisälä) frequency.

## **Mesoscale variability: observations from PEX-86**

14 ships working 2 weeks in a 20 x 40 mile box



Observation of **mesoscale eddies** 

phytoplankton spring bloom started in the cores of eddies



### Water exchange and mixing in connected rotational basins



• wind transport in Ekman layer  $\Rightarrow$  compensation flow below

- vertical transport due to continuity  $w_i(z,t) = \frac{1}{A_i} \int_{z}^{H_i} (q_{i+\frac{1}{2}}^- q_{i-\frac{1}{2}}^+) dz$  has to be balanced by halocline erosion
- mixing in the halocline is mainly due to internal waves,  $K_i^V = \frac{\alpha}{N_i}$



Salinity

Temperature

-250

## **Baltic Sea water cycle**



#### Elken & Matthäus, BACC 2008



Baltic Sea drainage basin (catchment area)

Annual river discharge is 2.1% of the sea volume

80% of freshwater enters into the NE bays



**Figure 3.1** Conceptual model of nutrient sources and loads to the Baltic Sea.

**HELCOM BSEP115B (2009)** 



**Figure 2.3** Simplified conceptual model for N and P nutrients in the Baltic Sea, where DIN = Dissolved inorganic nitrogen, TN = Total nitrogen, DIP = Dissolved inorganic phosphorus and TP = Total phosphorus. Flows along arrows into the blue sea area tend to increase concentrations, and flows along arrows out from the sea act in the opposite direction. Management refers to nutrient load reductions.

#### **HELCOM BSEP115B (2009)**

## **Nutrient limitation**

In the seawater the nutrients N:P are consumed by 16:1 Redfield ratio (molar values). If in "general" N:P > 16 then the sea area is P limited, otherwise N limited.

With N limitation (most of the Baltic, except Bay of Bothnia), there can be more or less P but it does not affect eutrophication. All additional N input is consumed for eutrophication, since there is enough P.

A special case is cyanobacteria blooming during end of July – August. They can fix N from the atmosphere, therefore they are limited by P while other phytoplankton is limited by N. For cyanobacteria blooms there must be high temperature and enough P in the surface layers, usually formed during the preceding winter.

P is often released from the sediments, when anoxic conditions take place. Nutrients in sediments have been accumulating over longer time scales.

## Average nutrient loads to the different parts of the Baltic

Baltic Nutrient Noad (thousand tons/year of N and P)							
Basin and Area	Riverine Load, Natural + Anthropogenic	Coastal Point Sources	Atmospheric Load, Natural + Anthropogenic	Sum Total	N:P Ratio (molar)		
Gulf of Bothnia* (115,500 km <sup>2</sup> )	N: 100 P: 5	N: 10 P: 1	N: 48 P: <1	N: 158 P: 6	58		
Baltic proper (211,100 km <sup>2</sup> )	N: 363 P: 23	N: 27 P: 4	N: 185 P: 2	N: 575 P: 29	44		
Gulf of Finland (29,600 km <sup>2</sup> )	N: 126 P: 6	N: 31 P: 4	N: 23 P: <1	N: 180 P: 10	40		
Gulf of Riga (16,300 km <sup>2</sup> )	N: 113 P: 2	N: 5 P: 1	N: 11 P: <1	N: 129 P: 3	95		
Baltic Sea total (373,200 km <sup>2</sup> )	N: 702 P: 37	N: 73 P: 9	N: 267 P: 3	N: 1042 P: 48	48		

\* Gulf of Bothnia = Bothnian Bay + Bothnian Sea. Modified after Elmgren and Larsson[49].

Sources: Riverine load[35], coastal point sources[45], atmospheric N load[53] multiplied by 1.25 to include organic N. Atmospheric P load calculated as 1% of N load.

## All the loads are P limited, while most of the sea areas are N limited due to the internal processes

Elmgren and Larsson, 2001

## **Evolution of eutrophication concepts**

#### Table 3. Changes over time in our views of Baltic proper nutrient pollution.

Early view, ca 1968	Mid-way view, ca 1985	Present or emerging view
Is there open-sea eutrophication? P increase in water shown, N increase not documented	Open-sea eutrophication major problem, both N and P increase continuously	Open-Baltic eutrophication still a major problem, but nutrients no longer increasing
Sediments could be source of increased P concentration	Sediment sink for both N and P, increases must come from land/air and be anthropogenic, continuous increase of N and P loads suspected	Same, except loads have changed little since 1970, internal dynamics important for nutrient changes, decreased N and P fertilizer use, but recovery time long
Only P removal needed	Both N and P removal needed	Same for coastal zones, renewed debate over need for N removal for open sea
Nitrogen unimportant	N presently main limiting nutrient, N removal costly (6–8 USD kg <sup>-1</sup> N)	N main limiting nutrient since ~7000 years, N removal now cheaper (2–4 USD kg <sup>-1</sup> N)

## Do we need to remove P or N or both N removal costly

Elmgren, 2001 (AMBIO)





Number of marine animal species (1), brackish water and euryhaline animal species of marine origin (2), and freshwater species (of freshwater origin, 3) (after Khlebovich (1962, 1969)).



Telesh et al, 2013: Life in the salinity gradient



**Figure 1.2** Distribution limits of some marine (dark blue) and freshwater (light blue) species due to salinity, as well as bottom salinity (Al-Hamdani and Reker 2007). Based on Fuhrman et al. (2004).

**Typical marine** (dark blue) and freshwater (light blue) species depending on the mean bottom salinity

**HELCOM BSEP122 (2010)** 



## **Eutrophication**



## 2. State and recent changes of the Baltic Sea

#### **Topics:**

- physical variables and climate
- nutrient loads and responses
- quantification of ecological status

## Changes (past 130 years) of physical system



## **Observed salinity in the Gotland Deep**



## **Observed deep temperature in the Gotland Deep**



## Changes of marine conditions: sea surface temperature and upwelling

Analysis from remote sensing data 1990-2008

Sea surface temperature has recently increased. Frequency of upwelling on western coasts has increased due to the increased westerly winds.



Lehmann et al 2011

**Upwelling frequency** 



## Changes of marine conditions / surface temperature: *in-situ*

Annual mean temperature has recently increased. Highest increase has occurred during summer.



Normalized and homogenized data set, processed by advanced methods.

MacKenzie & Schiedek, 2007

... also faulty assessment may be obtained: surface temperature has decreased ??



HELCOM/ICES data from irregular monitoring, simple regression. During recent decades with less ice, fraction of wintertime observations has increased causing fictional "cooling". WoS journal paper, 2008

## Annual and spatial mean temperature of the Baltic Sea



Anomalies of the annual and decadal moving average of the modeled Baltic Sea spatially mean water temperature over the period 1500-2001. The dotted horizontal lines are the standard deviations of the water temperature during the standard period 1900-1999 (adopted from Hansson and Omstedt 2008).

## Freshwater discharge and nutrient loads, past 150 years



Time series of annual average total river runoff (Q), nitrogen (N), and phosphorus (P) loads from land and atmosphere to the whole **Baltic Sea** 

Gustafsson et al, 2012

#### Near-bottom oxygen and phosphate in the Gotland Deep



Time series of  $PO_4$  and  $O_2$  concentrations in the deep water of the central Gotland Sea. Negative  $O_2$  values represent hydrogen sulphide oxidation equivalents (Swedish National Monitoring Programme, SMHI).

## **Reconstructed eutrophication indicators**

#### Mean wintertime surface nutrients



Gustafsson et al, 2012

## Time series of N and P fluxes and pools



Integrated over the whole Baltic Sea and smoothed by decadal (11-year) running mean. The fluxes and pools are normalized with the 1850–1860 average.

#### Gustafsson et al, 2012

## "Good Environmental Status": Marine Strategy Framework Directive



Use Ecosystem Approach to management of the marine environment.

- It has a multisectoral focus
- It includes ecosystem services in decision making
- It recognises the tight coupling between social and ecological systems

Good Environmental Status to be defined for each sea region based on 11 descriptors

## Descriptors for "Good Environmental Status": Marine Strategy Framework Directive

- 1. Biodiversity
- 2. Non-indigenous species
- 3. Commercial species
- 4. Marine food webs
- 5. Human-induced eutrophication
- 6. Sea floor integrity
- 7. Hydrographical conditions
- 8. Contaminants
- 9. Contamination of fish and seafoods
- 10.Marine litter
- 11. Energy and noise

## **Nutrient management**



**Figure 12.** Framework for a Baltic Sea-wide nutrient management strategy. Based on National Research Council (2000) and Backer (2008).

**HELCOM BSEP115B (2009)** 

## Eval. of environmental status (left) and all impacts (right)



**Figure 2.1** Presentation of the 'eutrophication status' from HEAT classifications, the 'hazardous substances status' from CHASE classifications and the 'biodiversity status' from BEAT classifications. See Section 1.6 for details. White areas in the pie charts denote a lack of classification; large pie charts represent assessments of open sea areas and small pie charts of coastal areas.



#### **HELCOM BSEP122 (2010)**

## **Concept of arriving a "Good Environmental Status"**



Figure 4.5 Conceptual model for arriving at a 'Good Environmental Status' of the Baltic Sea. GES= 'Good Environmental Status'. Figure by courtesy of BALANCE, a Baltic Sea Region Interreg IIIB Programme project (www.balance-eu.org).

#### **HELCOM BSEP122 (2010)**



Mean Baltic surface circulation. Lehmann et al, 2002

#### Climatic

what is the Baltic Sea state in 2050 and 2100? what has to be done for the good ecological status, taking into account also changing climate ?

#### Seasonal

will blue-green algae start blooming in the coming summer? depends a lot on the wintertime phosphorus conditions

#### **Operational 48+ h**

what are the risks that will be created by a coming storm? are water temperature and algae conditions favorable for beach bathing? what danger will appear in what location after accidental pollution? will be there "hidden events" (like major deep water inflow), that cause rapid change of ecological conditions?

### Long-term predictions/projections, methodology

#### **External forcing, climate**

Global scenarios, IPCC (HadCM3, ECHAM5) A1B: fast global economic growth with technology transfer A2: fragmented global and regional developments B1, B2: more conservative developments with less GG emissions Regional refinements: RCAO, CLM **External forcing, human actions** Nutrient loads according to the HELCOM action plan REF: present loads

BSAP: implementation of the load reduction scenarios

BAU: business as usual – agricultural loads will increase if no measures taken

#### **Baltic Sea models**

3D: RCO-SCOBI, MOM-ERGOM, GETM-ERGOM

1D: BALTSEM, PROBE-Baltic

Problem: quite significant scatter of projection results, especially for Baltic Sea ecology

Eilola et al 2011



#### **Climatic projections, "ensemble" results**

Mean and STDEV (36 cases) of ensemble forecast results. Climate: A1B and A2. Nutrient loads: REF – yellow, BSAP – blue, BAU – red. Points: past observations



#### **Climatic projections, oxygen deficiency**



3 models. Climate: A1B and A2. Nutrient load: REF – black, BSAP – blue, BAU - red

Hypoxia will decrease only with nutrient load reduction, other options will not give results



#### **External forcing**

Weather

"local" HIRLAM (48-60 h), ECMWF (10 days) Water and material exchange with the neighboring sea area operational forecast from larger sea area, nesting of boundary conditions Discharge from the land catchment area HYPE etc

#### **Operational observations for validation and data assimilation**

in-situ automatic observing systems

remote sensing of sea surface

classic shipborne observations with automated data delivery

#### **Model systems**

hydrodynamics, ice, waves, ecosystem data assimilation, validation of forecasts

#### **Coordinated real-time operations**

**BOOS, EuroGOOS, ECOMF?** 

Marine core services are provided with 3 mile (8 km) resolution Refined downstream services are needed to tackle local problems

## **Operational oceanography in Estonia**



Sea Level Information System home page. Automated observations are presented in real time



Observed (yellow) and forecasted (green) sea level time series in Pärnu. After stronger winds self-oscillations of the Gulf of Riga (5 hours) become visible. Real-time info 24/7

International cooperation EuroGOOS, BOOS, HIROMB etc

National cooperation: Weather Service, Maritime Administration, harbors, Tallink etc

- Sea level observations and forecast
- Observations at Tallinnamadal Lighthouse
- Mariners portal <u>METOC</u>
- Marine environment FerryBox TS, Chl, nutrients etc <u>Tallinn-Helsinki</u>

Numerical forecasts: sea level, currents, temperature and salinity, waves, ice, oil drift





## Baltic Monitoring and Forecasting Centre: models

#### Marine Core Service

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**Aim:** integrate different operational models into unified forecasting system of new generation

#### working prototype HIROMB-BOOS-Model HBM

joint development of model physics, source codes and IT platforms





## **GMES-Copernicus Marine Core Services** my Ocean





**END USERS** 

## GMES-Copernicus Marine Service regions



## **GMES-Copernicus marine service units**

Marine Core Service



6 thematic centres

(TAC: Thematic Assembly Center)

- "Observations"

 1 global and 6 regional production centres

(MFC: Monitoring and Forecasting Centers)

"Models / Assimilation"

#### Each unit

- service commitment
- development, integration and assessment commitment

#### **Operational forecasts, surface temperature calibration**





#### **Operational forecasts, analysis**



Monthly mean surface temperature, May 2007





RMS forecast error of surface temperature, May 2007





#### **Operational forecasts, calibration of surface salinity**

Different producers and system versions, compared with FerryBox observations







Lagemaa & Väli



## New production organization ECOMF?

This is the organization delivering the ocean monitoring and forecasting component of the GMES Marine Service

**Analogy to ECMWF** 







## **Developments of marine forecasting in near future**

#### Climatic

- BONUS, Horizon 2020 etc project calls
- uncertainty "determination" and reduction ( better process knowledge!)
- new variables of interest, extended time span, more local details
- ???

### **Operational 48+ h**

- integration and consolidation of core services GMES → EuroGOOS / MyOcean / ECOMF
- development of intermediate services for the benefit of specialized users

In the Baltic Sea the new generation model system HBM (*HIROMB-BOOS Model*) will enable:

- consolidation of development resources (one common model code)
- state-of-the-art IT platforms, fast and reliable
- ecosystem models built in
- improved accuracy
- increased capacity for data assimilation

