Monitoring of a million-hectare marine protected area

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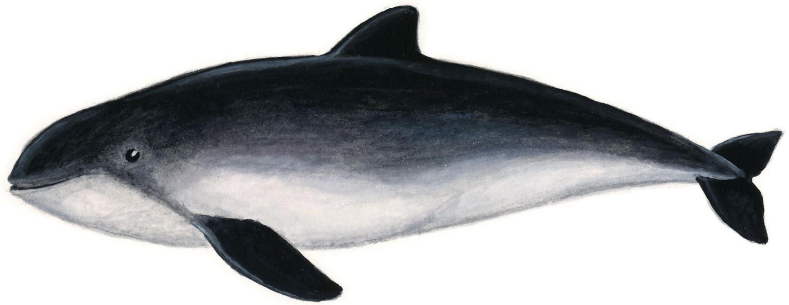
Photo: Solvin Zankl

A million-hectare protected area

- Hoburgs bank och midsjöbankarna (SE0330308)
  - Reproductive site of critically endangered Baltic Proper harbour porpoise



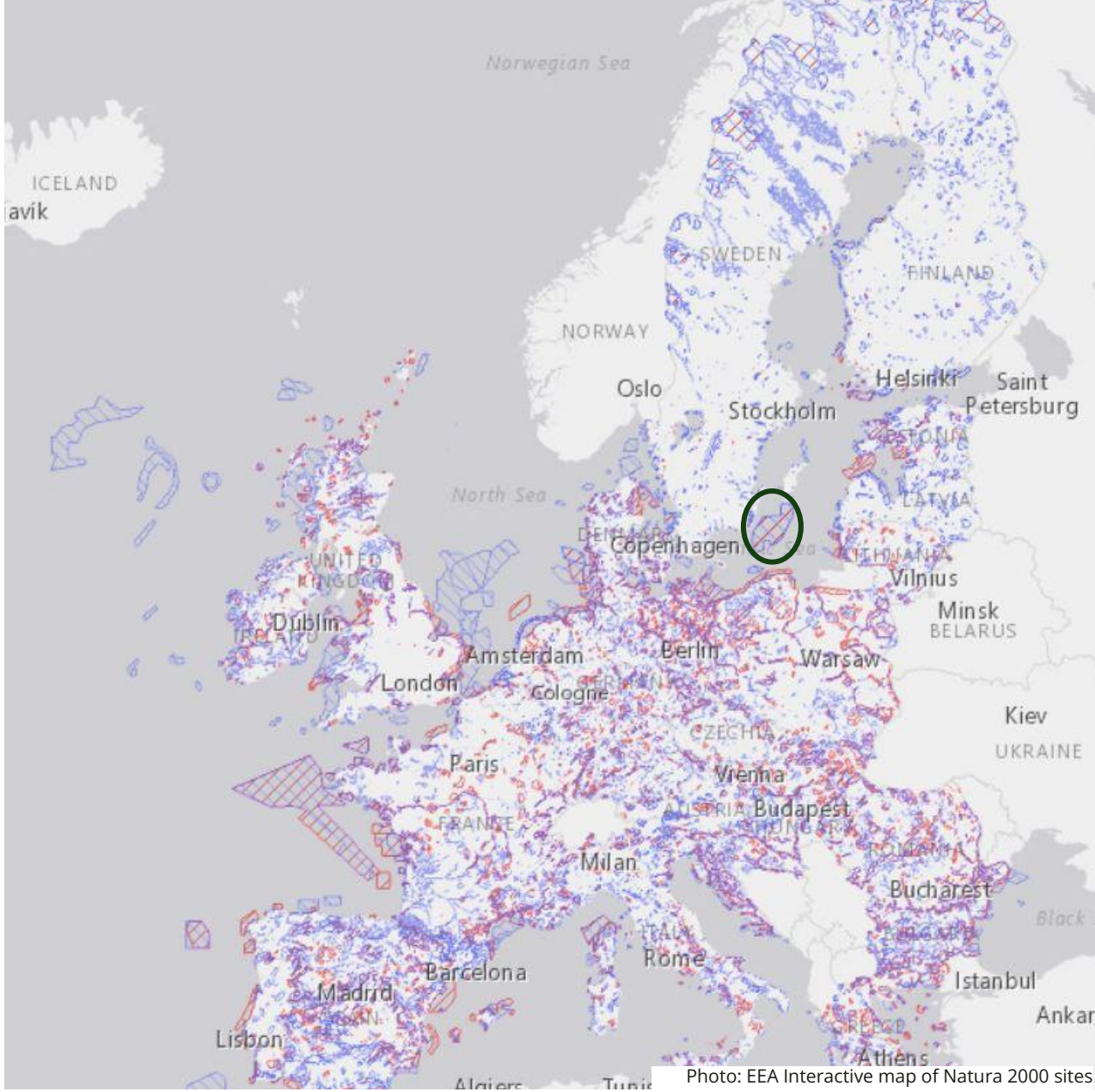


Photo: EEA Interactive map of Natura 2000 sites

Conservation targets

1. The area should contribute to reaching favourable conservation status for Baltic proper harbour porpoise

2. The area should act as a nursery

3. Food availability should be such that a favourable population is supported

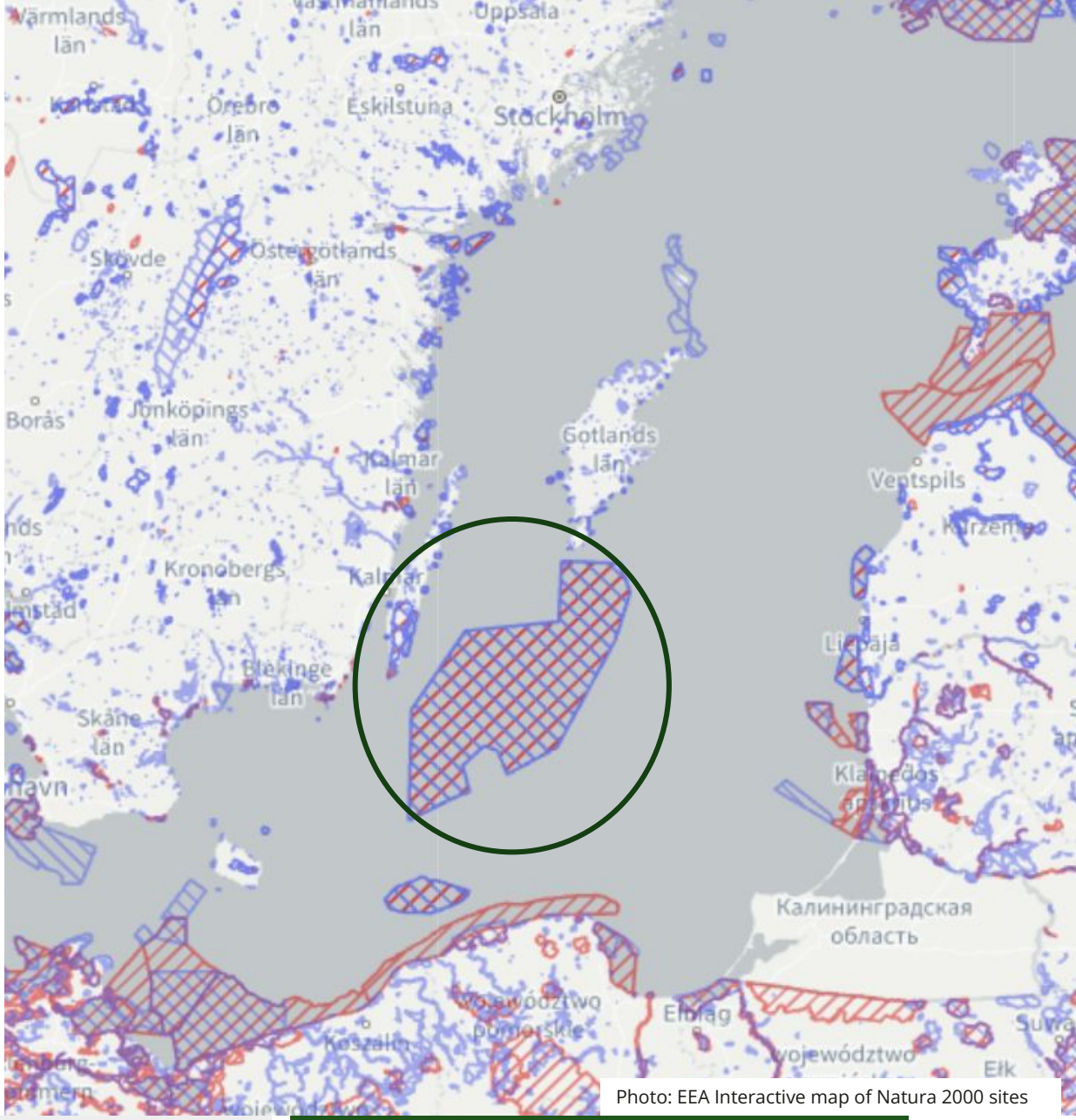
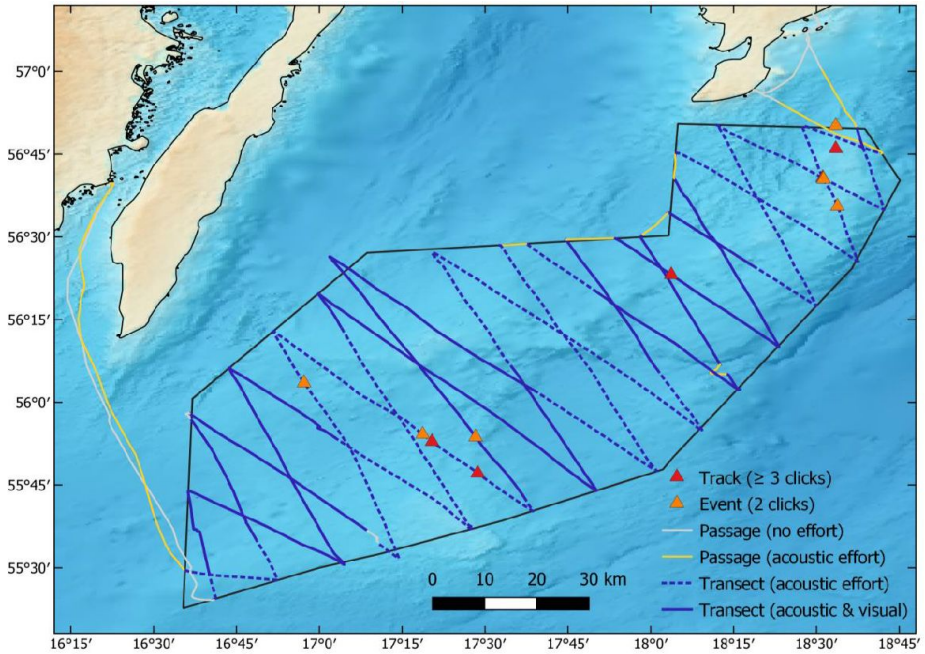


Photo: EEA Interactive map of Natura 2000 sites

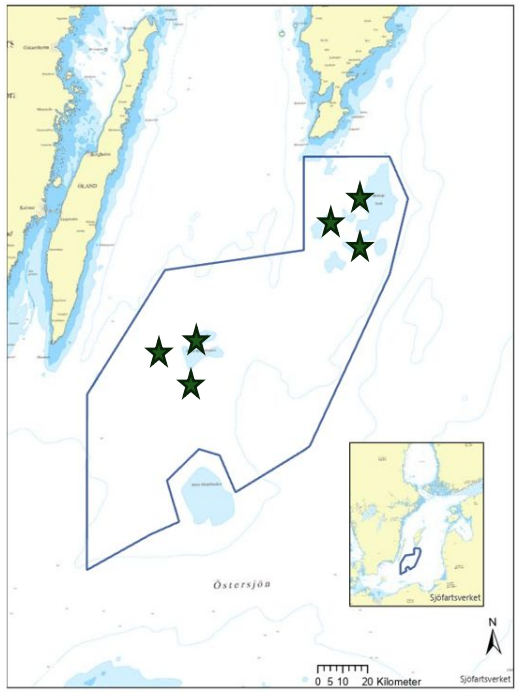
1. Favourable conservation status

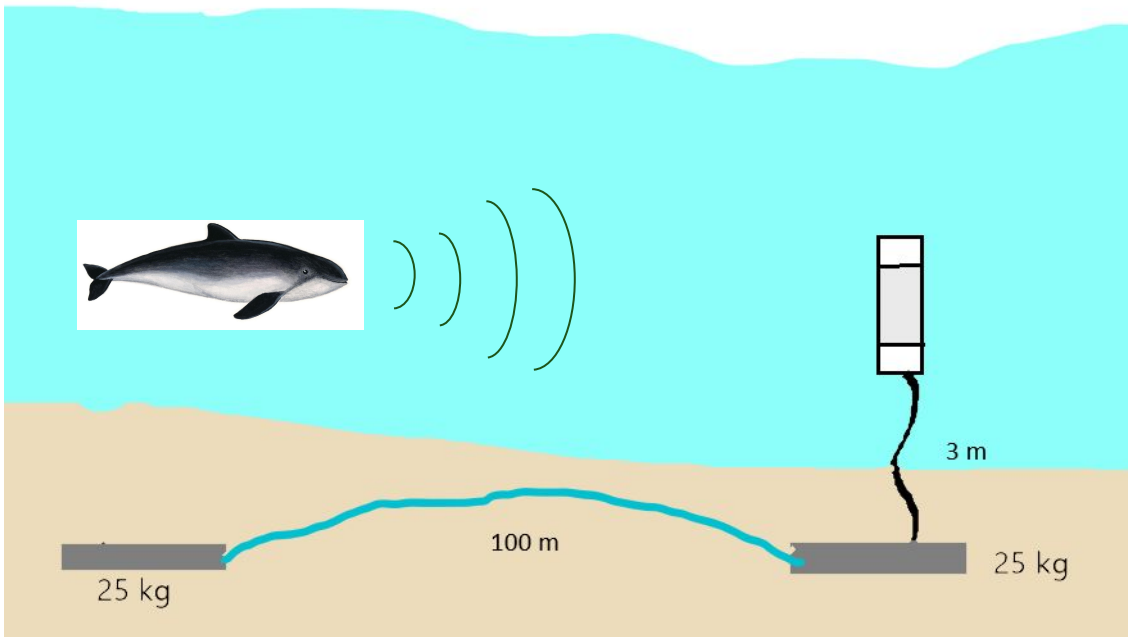
- Monitoring using underwater hydrophones + daytime visuals



2. Area should act as a nursery

- Monitoring using underwater hydrophones





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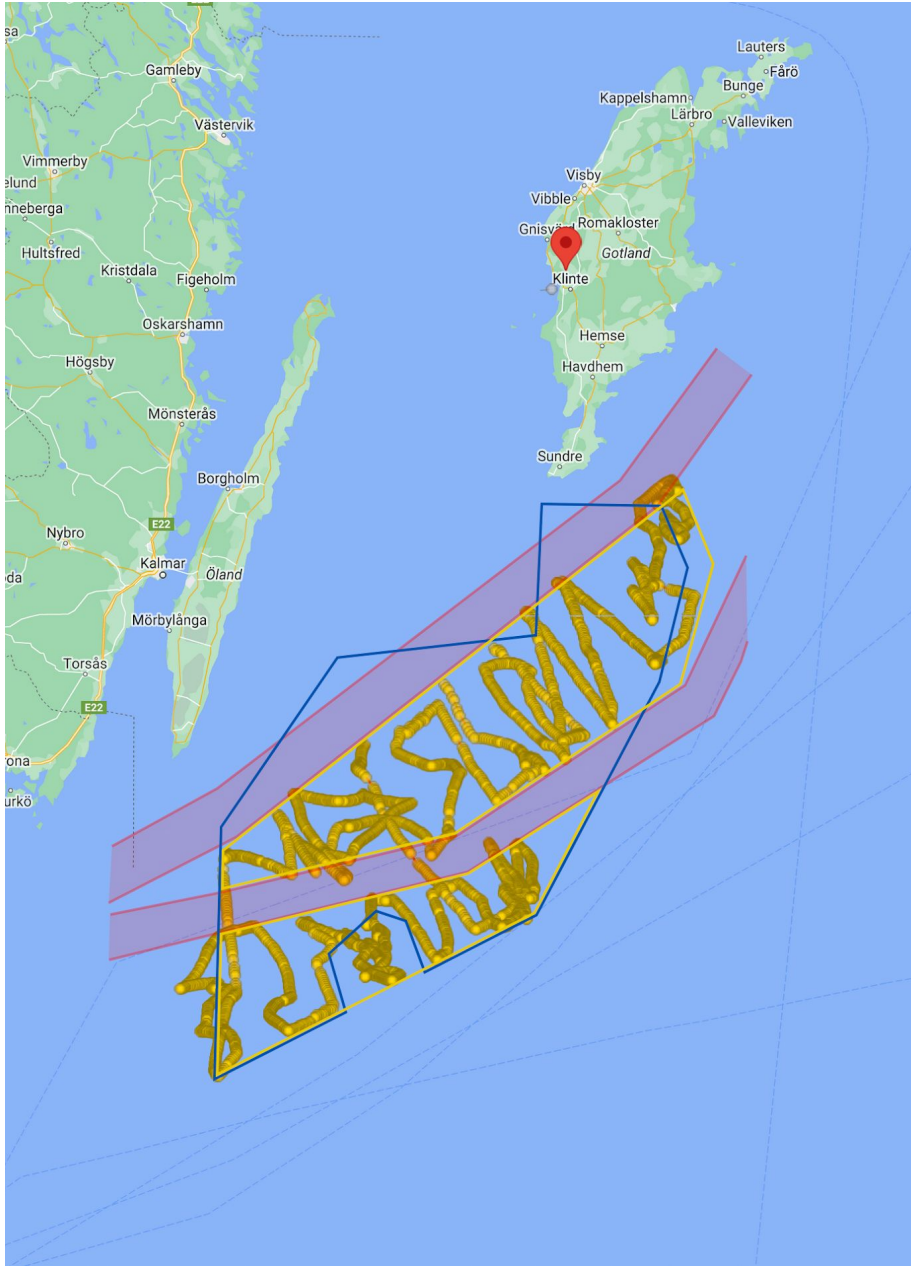
3. Enough food to support the population

- Herring/Sprat
- Chlorophyll a
- Zooplankton
- Sticklebacks
- Temperature
- Depth



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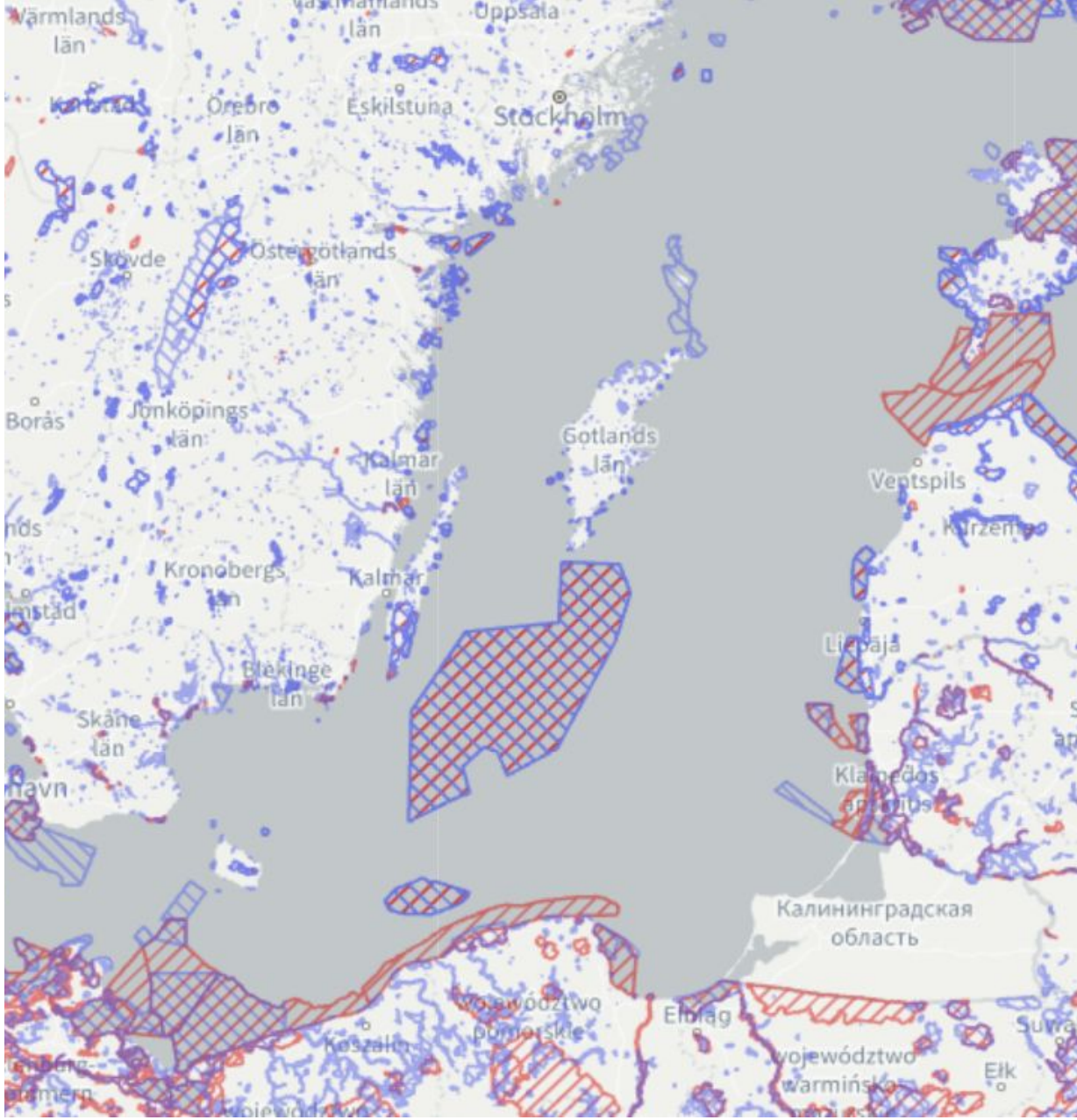
Next stage?

- 1 more year of surveys
- Analysis of food availability
- Habitat preference
- Hydrophone + fish survey in one
- AI modell for analysis



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Thank you

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