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RACE FOR THE BALTIC

YEAR IN REVIEW 2023

RACE FOR THE BAL TIC



Race For The Baltic (onward referred to as RFTB) is an independent non-profit accelerating solutions to ensure a healthy Baltic Sea for future generations.

To achieve the greatest positive impact, RFTB's efforts are focused on solving the root problem of the Baltic Sea - eutrophication.

RFTB is a business oriented non-profit organisation, with vast experience from the private sector. The work is focused on solution-oriented and cost-effective projects with measurable impact.

The organisation works in close collaboration with researchers, governmental institutions, non-profit organisations, entrepreneurs, and the private sector.

RFTB is funded by a small group of philanthropists. The organisation was founded, and continues to be supported, by Zennström Philanthropies.

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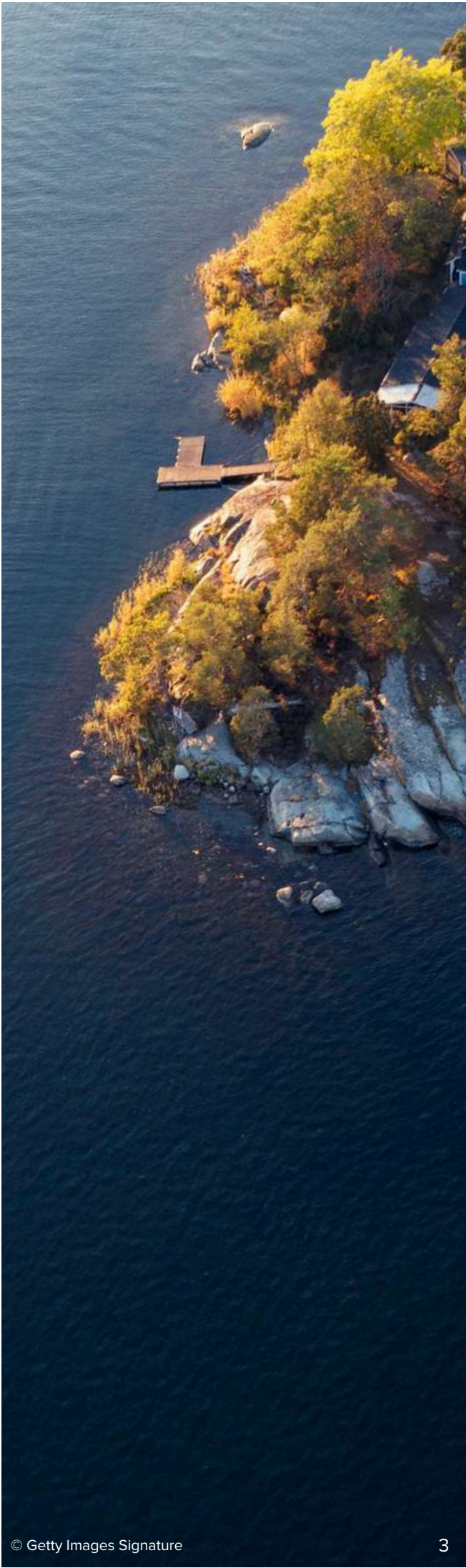
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IMPACTFUL MEASURES RESULTED IN A RECORD YEAR

A message from the CEO

2023 was a year when we had the opportunity to reap the rewards of long-term efforts. In total, we succeeded in implementing measures estimated to prevent 48 tonnes of phosphorus from reaching the Baltic Sea each year. This is three times more than what we achieved in 2022, which was a record year in itself.

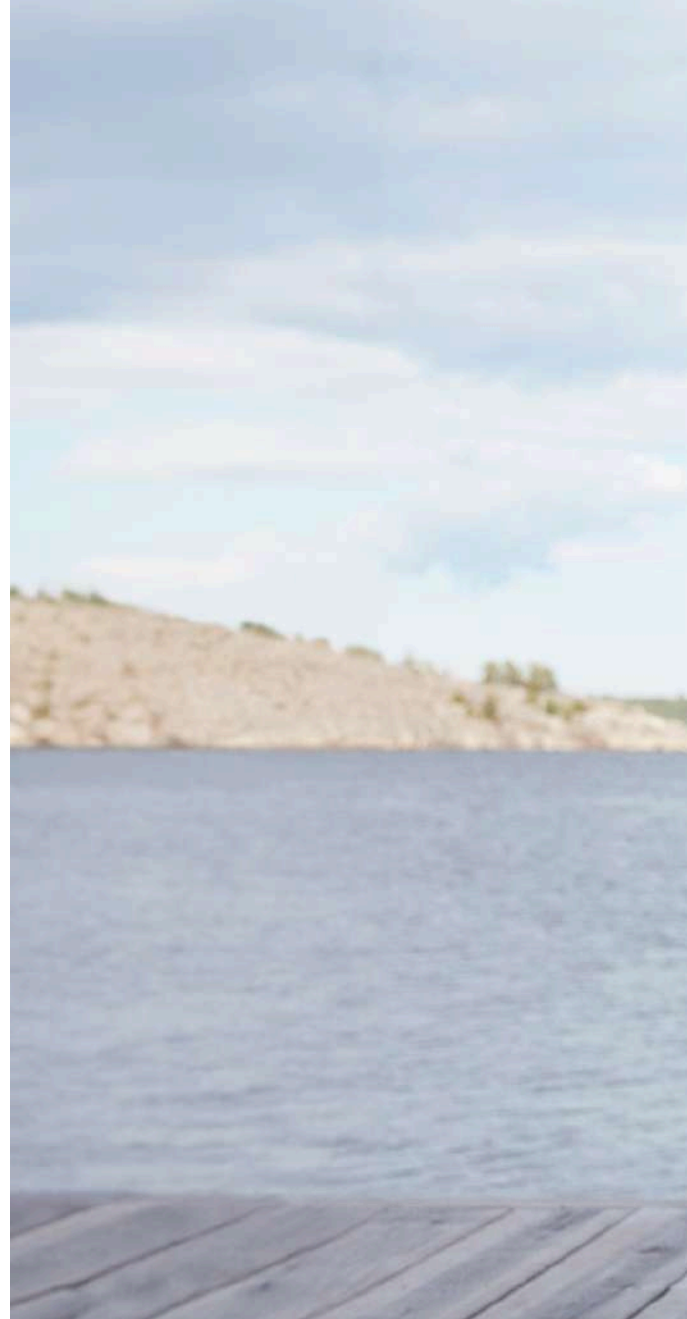
At the same time, 2023 was a year of subtle change. We started the conclusion of our Port Project, which has been a significant success for us. Simultaneously, we were building for the future. We took significant steps in the development of new projects that we believe have potential. We structured the organisation for growth, opened offices in Poland, and initiated two projects with EU funding, which could become a new important financing channel.

We observe how our emphasis on Poland is paying off and anticipate continuing to increase our focus on Poland. Throughout the year, we received several requests to participate in various EU applications, which feels like a confirmation that we have generally strengthened our position in the industry, both as an organisation in general but especially as a cooperative actor.

We are delighted to continue fostering open collaboration among Baltic Sea partners, as seen in joint initiatives on Baltic Sea Day, and increasingly engaging in collaborative projects with other non-profits.

Looking ahead to 2024, we eagerly anticipate the development of the Production Project in Poland and the initiation of a new project after the conclusion of the Port project. Additionally, we look forward to witnessing and contributing to the development of Baltic Sea Day celebrations, the continuation of the Reed Project, and many other exciting endeavors.

In conclusion, the future feels more exciting than ever. 🐟



Peter Wiwen-Nilsson,
CEO, Race For The Baltic.



“When I began studying the issues with the Baltic Sea, I quickly realised that there were few entrepreneurs or philanthropists engaged in the matter. I saw that there was a concrete opportunity for me to make a difference.”

**Niklas Zennström,
Founder, Race For The Baltic.**

© Christopher Hunt

10 YEARS OF WORK FOR THE BALTIC SEA

This year was a special year for RFTB, since it marked the 10th anniversary of the foundation. It all began in the summer of 2013, with a cycling tour through all nine countries around the Baltic Sea, and 25,000+ collected signatures calling on Environmental Ministers to fulfil the goals agreed upon in the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan.

The awareness campaign “Race For The Baltic” united more than 100 organisations, businesses, municipalities, and NGOs. A collaborative effort involving FishSec - Fiskesekretariatet, Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB), Oceana and Zennström Philanthropies. Together, we called for concrete political action to preserve the Baltic Sea. The campaign consisted of a 3,700 km cycling tour spanning three months, we visited nine countries and 50 cities along the Baltic Sea coastline. This allowed us to witness firsthand the evolving conditions of the Baltic Sea and its impact on the people living around it.

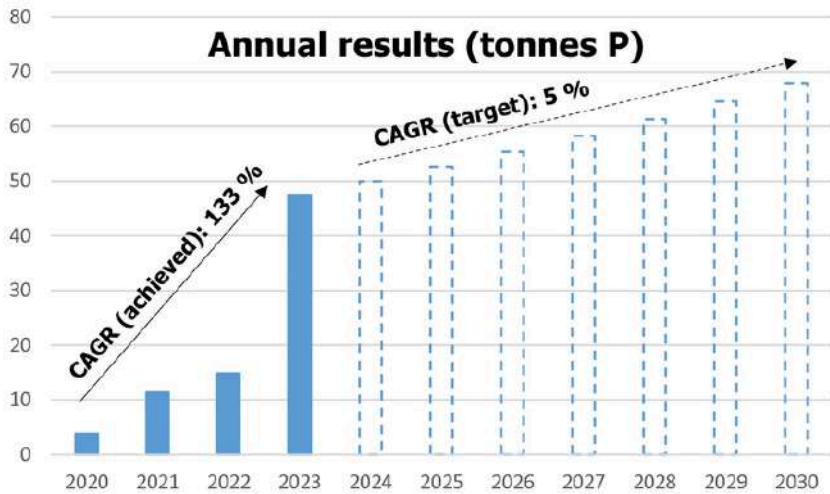
It was after the awareness campaign in 2013, the entrepreneur Niklas Zennström, together with his wife Catherine Zennström, evolved Race For The Baltic from a campaign to a foundation. The foundation's purpose was established to finance its own projects and focus its efforts on reducing eutrophication in the Baltic Sea.

“We started Race For The Baltic, because we wanted to influence decision-makers and politicians to prioritise correctly. However, we realised that it was more effective to implement projects ourselves than to try to get others to do it.”

Said Niklas Zennström to Dagens Industri in an interview published regarding the 10th year anniversary [1].

[1] “Skypegrundarens billiga vapen i kampen mot utsläppen”, Josefin Jacobson, [DI](#), 7.10.23

RESULTS IN 2023



IMPRESSIVE GROWTH YEAR BY YEAR

Since we set our target we have, on average, increased our results by 133% annually.

To reach our target of 500 tonnes P by 2030, the average annual growth over the next seven years needs to be 5,25%.

COST EFFICIENCY

48 tonnes of reduction per year is more than Sweden has achieved on an annual budget of several hundred million SEK [2]. For comparison, RFTB's total costs in 2023 were 10 MSEK. This year's result was 225 % higher than last year's [3]. At the same time, RFTB's overall costs increased by 27 %, leading to a cost efficiency improvement of 60 %.

[2] The 2020 budget for direct eutrophication measures was 240 MSEK, press release, Sep 6, 2019, Regeringskansliet. According to HELCOM PLC-8, Nutrient Input Ceiling assessment 1995-2020, Sweden's phosphorus input to the Baltic Sea was reduced by 43 tonnes per year on average during the latest reported period, namely 2017-2020.

[3] As projects often span over several years, results can sometimes be difficult to measure on an annual basis. We expect 2024 to be a build-up year with substantially less additional reductions.

[4] Calculation made by Finnish Environmental Institute for John Nurminen Foundation. 1 kg phosphorus (P) = 1 tonnes of algae.

[5] Based on the average result in the Swedish Board of Agriculture's compilation of all wetlands in the rural development program.



The total result for 2023 is an additional inflow reduction of 48 tonnes of phosphorus per year into the Baltic Sea.

48 tonnes is enough to stop 320 000 bathtubs filled with toxic algae every year [4] and comparable to 13 500 hectares of wetlands [5].



Other Updates

- ① Celebrated RFTB's 10th year anniversary. A decade of saving the Baltic Sea, starting with a cycling tour.
- ② Cooperation started with one of the largest fertilizer factories in Poland.
- ③ Started two EU-projects: Baltic Reed, Interreg Baltic Central Programme, and GYPREG, Interreg Baltic Sea Region.
- ④ Opened an office in Gdańsk, Poland.
- ⑤ Updates to the webpage resulted in a 33% increase in overall webpage traffic compared to 2022, with a notable 118% growth in visitors from Poland. Improvements primarily attributed to Search Engine Optimisation efforts and the integration of a translation tool.



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THE CHALLENGE

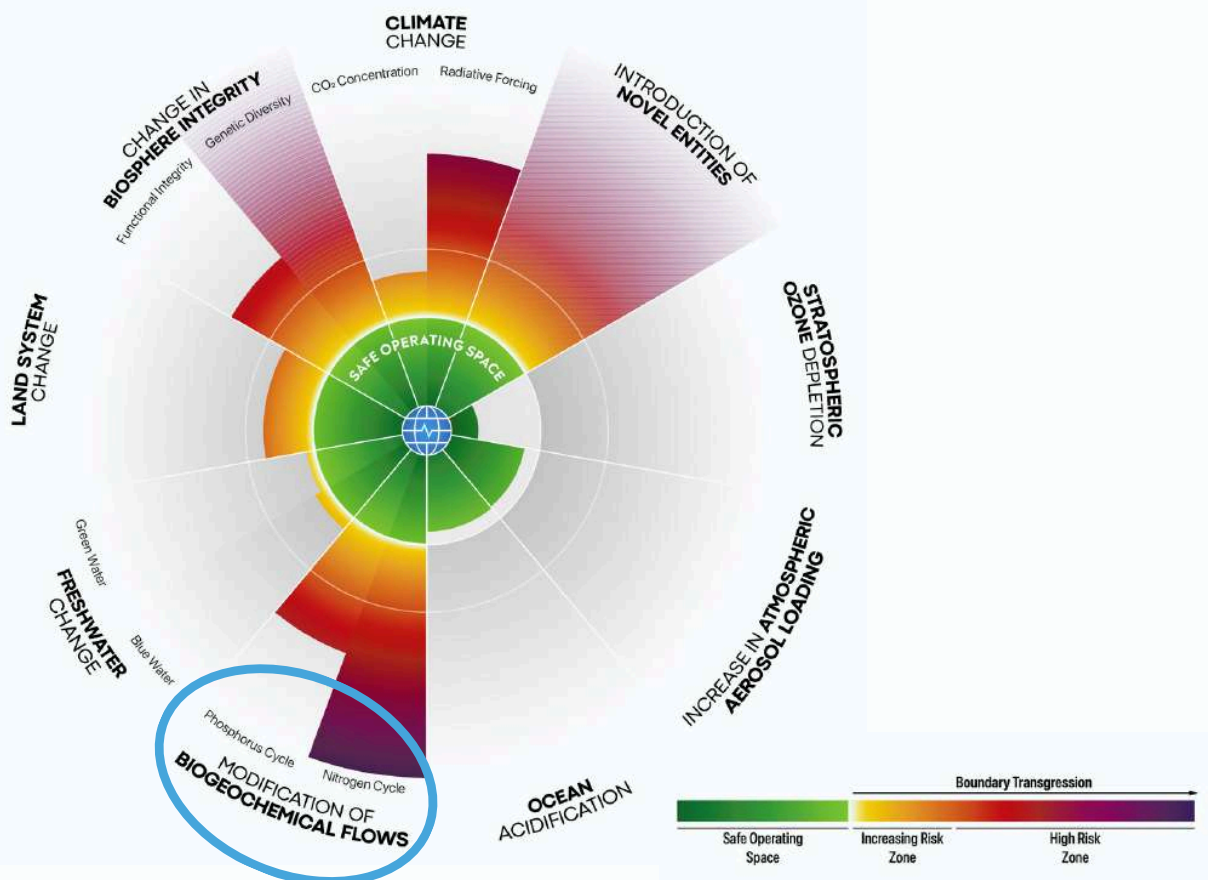
Eutrophication - a global issue

The Baltic Sea, recognised as one of the most polluted bodies of water globally, is severely impacted by eutrophication, with 97% of its area affected [6]. It also has the world's largest hypoxic marine area (dead zone) caused by humans [7]. In fact, seven out of the world's ten largest dead zones are in the Baltic Sea [8]. Eutrophication persists as a predominant environmental pressure on the Baltic Sea, significantly impacting its ecosystems and the services they provide. According to HELCOM third holistic assessment of the Baltic Sea, called HOLAS3, eutrophication and hazardous substances together constitute more than three-quarters of the total environmental impact on the Baltic Sea [9].

The flow of nitrogen and phosphorus, that causes eutrophication, is responsible for significant problems like algal blooms, diminished water clarity, lifeless sea beds, and increased fish mortality. The issue extends beyond local concerns, as nitrogen and phosphorus flows are among the top global environmental challenges.

The latest Planetary Boundaries update indicates that six out of nine boundaries have been crossed, suggesting that Earth is now well outside of the safe operating space for humanity [10]. Among these, biogeochemical flows (nitrogen and phosphorus) are among the most significantly exceeded. Since the 2015 update, the degree of transgression for previously transgressed boundaries - biogeochemical flows, climate change, biosphere integrity, and land system change - has increased.

The state of the Baltic Sea is the biggest environmental issue in the Baltic region and involves all surrounding countries. Despite established targets, no country in the region has yet achieved these goals, highlighting the need for concerted efforts across diverse sectors and nine nations. The Baltic Sea cannot be solved by one party alone, therefore an international approach and cooperation between the parties is essential.



THE OPPORTUNITY

Closing the gap

Despite efforts made [to reduce nutrient inflow] since the signing of the Helsinki Convention in 1974, the agreed-upon targets for the maximum allowable input (MAI) [11], where the Baltic Sea status starts improving every year, have not yet been met. The primary outstanding challenge is the inflow of phosphorus. Although we've cut the annual inflow by over 40,000 tonnes since the 1980s, there's still a remaining 6 000 [12] tonnes to reach the MAI.

With a focused effort and structured approach, RFTB believes this can be achieved by 2030. If we can achieve this the Baltic Sea will start to restore itself.

Calculations by HELCOM in the holistic assessment of 2023, which examines the state of the Baltic Sea from 2016 to 2021, indicate that the financial benefits of a healthy Baltic Sea significantly exceed the costs

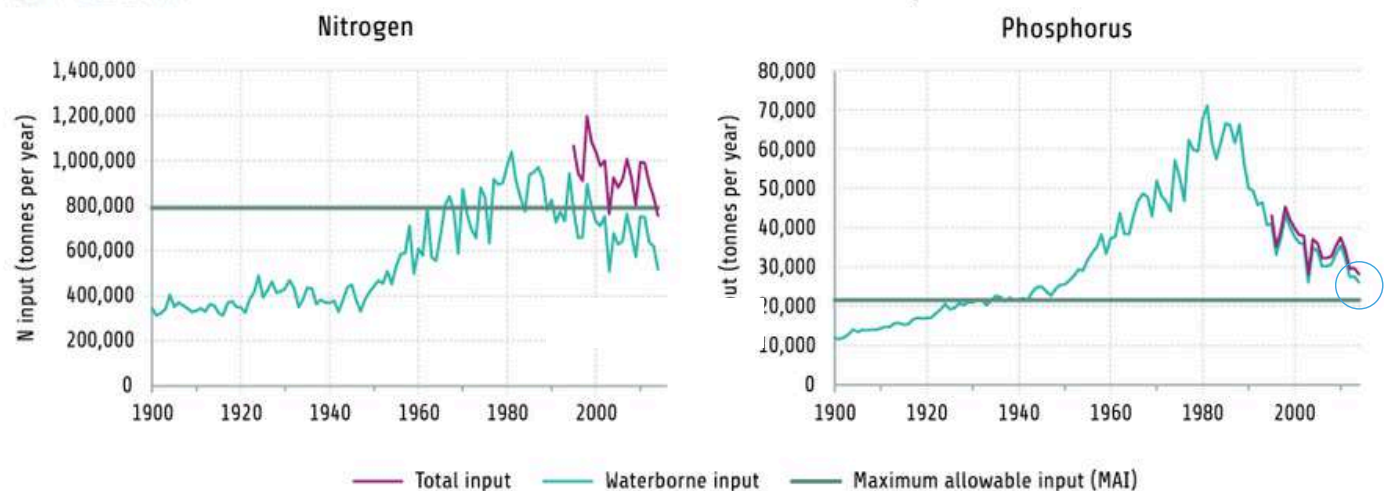
required to achieve good environmental status. An unhealthy Baltic Sea clearly has a negative impact on the profitability of, for example, fisheries and tourism. Thus, achieving good environmental status, is an investment in the sustainable economic and societal development of the Baltic Sea region. If a healthy Baltic Sea is achieved by 2040 it has been estimated to be worth 5.6 billion euros per year to the citizens around the Baltic Sea. [13]

Continued collaboration, support, and awareness are crucial to ensuring the Baltic Sea's restoration. HELCOM's latest assessment State of the Baltic Sea show that measures to reduce pressures on the Baltic Sea are effective, when implemented, and the time for action is now.

© NASA CCO Images



Waterborne and total nutrient inputs



[6] Helcom <http://stateofthebalticsea.helcom.fi/pressures-and-their-status/eutrophication/>

[7] Carstensen et al. "Deoxygenation of the Baltic Sea during the last century"

[8] Encyclopedic Entry Dead Zone <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/dead-zone/>

[9] The Baltic Sea Impact Index is a ranking of pressures themes attributed to cumulative impacts at regional scale. See Third HELCOM holistic assessment 2016-2021 (2023)

[10] "Earth beyond six of nine planetary boundaries" Katherine Richardson et al Science Advances 9, eadh2458 (2023).

[11] MAI (Maximum Allowable Input) are targets for nutrient inputs agreed upon by the Baltic States. If the MAI's are met, the Baltic Sea is assumed to restore itself. [Gustafsson et al. \(2012\)](#), [Savchuk et al. \(2012\)](#).

[12] According to HELCOM's latest assessment 2022, phosphorus input in 2020 was at 27 695 tons and the agreed MAI is 21 716 tonnes.

[13] HELCOM HOLAS 3, p. 7

SOLUTIONS FOR A HEALTHY BALTIC SEA

RFTB is an independent non-profit accelerating solutions to ensure a healthy Baltic Sea for future generations by 2030.

OUR APPROACH

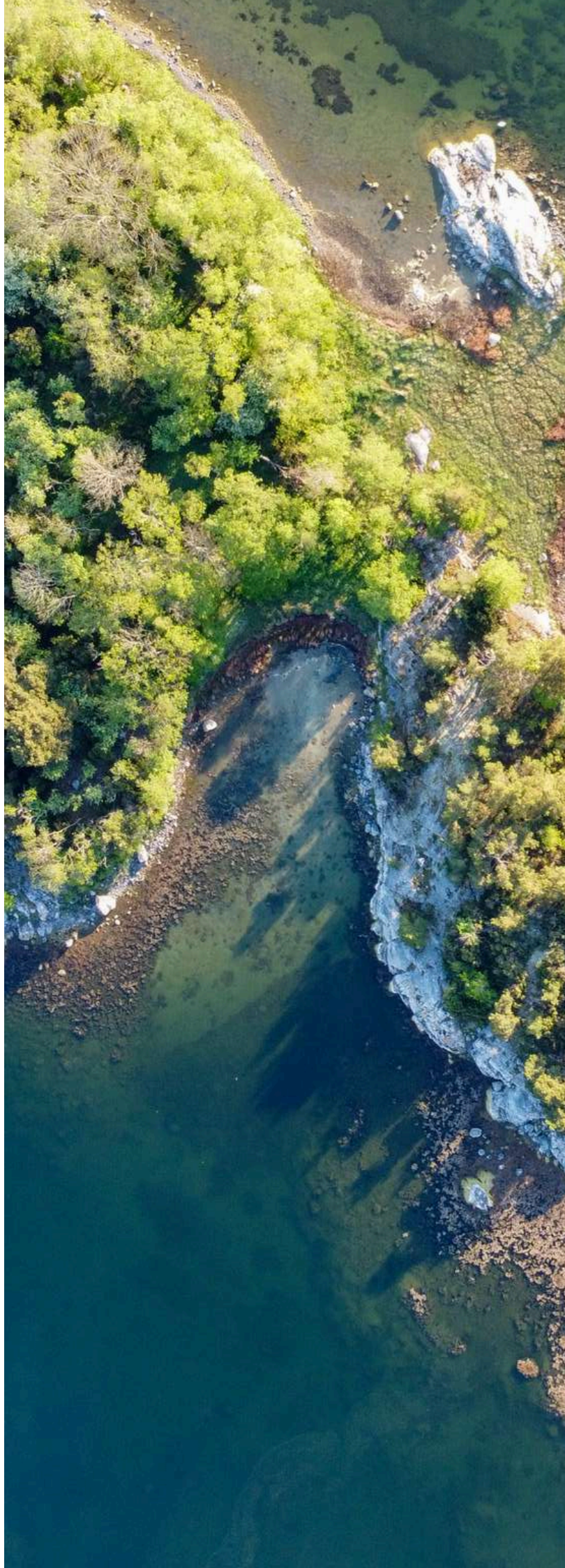
Solution-oriented

RFTB is run by people with a background in the private sector. The strategy is based on an analysis of how to maximise impact. This has led us to focus on hands-on and measurable projects that reduce the inflow of phosphorus.

We are firm believers that more can be achieved by cooperating with others. Therefore, RFTB has taken an active role to gather, share information, and cooperate with other Baltic Sea organisations.

Many of RFTB's projects are run together with other organisations. Projects are prioritised based on their impact efficiency with the overall objective to achieve maximum return (for the Baltic Sea) on the foundation's assets. Return is measured as reduction of phosphorus [14] in the Baltic Sea. The evaluation considers several aspects such as cost per kilo of reduced phosphorus, likeliness of success, scalability, and strategic fit with the organisation.

[14] The Baltic Sea Impact Index is a ranking of pressures themes attributed to cumulative impacts at regional scale. See Third HELCOM holistic assessment 2016-2021 (2023)





PROJECTS 2023

BALTIC REED STARTED Q2

CITY ACCELERATOR

PORT

PRODUCTION

RESTORATION

HORSE MAINTENANCE

FISH MAINTENANCE

GYPREG STARTED Q4



RFTB's projects addresses, SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and reduction) SDG 14 (life below water) and SDG 17 (partnership for the goals).



BALTIC REED

The objective of the Baltic Reed Project is to recycle nutrients from eutrophicated coastal waters of the Baltic Sea to land. At the same time, the project promotes the sustainable utilisation of reed biomass as a raw material for diverse purposes, for example replacing peat.

A thick reedbed binds significant amount of nutrients: a hectare of reedbed can contain 10 kg of phosphorus, 100 kg of nitrogen, and more than 2 tonnes of organic carbon. When the reeds are mowed and the reed biomass is utilised, large amounts of nutrients are removed from the coastal waters. Thus, reed harvesting, when planned in synergy with nature conservation needs, provides a cost-effective measure for reducing nutrient reserves in Baltic Sea coastal ecosystems, and supports and supplements other ongoing activities aiming at improving the state of the Baltic Sea.

This project is RFTB's first EU Interreg project and involves partners from Finland, Åland, and Sweden. The project officially commenced in the spring of 2023 and is set to continue for three years.

Central to the project is the exploration of reed's commercial applications, including roofing, soil improvement, building material, and biochar. Harvesting methods and processing techniques vary depending on the end product. RFTB is building a comprehensive network involving various stakeholders to cover all aspects of the reed product value chain.

The project includes extensive research on market assessments, production chain mapping, and cost analysis. Plans are underway for large-scale harvesting across Sweden, Finland, and Åland, aiming to absorb significant amounts of phosphorus and nitrogen.

A milestone in 2023 was the successful reed harvest in Vaxholm, Stockholm, a collaborative effort with local authorities, a harvesting company, and SLU researchers. The harvested reed is currently under evaluation for its suitability as animal fodder. HRH The Swedish Crown Princess visited the Baltic Reed project on Baltic Sea Day. She witnessed the reed utilisation chain, from harvesting to product delivery, and observed livestock feeding on ensilaged reed at the public farm 4H Vallentuna.

KEY RESULTS

- Kicked off in May 2023
- Reed harvest in Vaxholm, Stockholm, collaborative effort with local authorities, a harvesting company, and SLU researchers.
- Initiated a comprehensive network involving various stakeholders to cover all aspects of the reed product value chain.





CITY ACCELERATOR

In Q223, RFTB hosted a three-day event in Stockholm with participants from Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, and Sweden, aimed at fostering knowledge exchange and networking. The event featured a stormwater management session linked to eutrophication, a field trip to Norra Djurgårdsstaden for advanced stormwater systems, and a presentation on addressing internal loading by Ernst Witter from Örebro, part of the LIFE IP Rich Waters project. It also highlighted funding opportunities and challenges for Baltic municipalities.

Furthermore, in the third quarter, RFTB announced Katrineholm Municipality's expanded role within the City Accelerator Club. Starting from the third quarter of 2023 and extending into 2024 and 2025, Katrineholm Municipality will take on project management duties for the Club. While RFTB will continue to fund and strategically guide the Club, Katrineholm Municipality will be responsible for planning and coordinating its activities.

Member municipalities

Vaxholm, Sweden	Klaipėda District, Lithuania
Värmdö, Sweden	Panevėžys, Lithuania
Katrineholm, Sweden	Sopot, Poland
Västervik, Sweden	Gdynia, Poland
Kalmar, Sweden	Viimsi, Estonia
Karlshamn, Sweden	
Simrishamn, Sweden	
Blekinge Arkipelag, Sweden	
Helsinki, Finland	
Turku, Finland	

“Katrineholm is a great partner for advancing the mission of the City Accelerator Club. Not only are they familiar with the operations, having been a member of the Club since its founding in 2018, but through their exemplary work with numerous water-related projects that have received attention both nationally and internationally, and their engagement in LIFE IP Rich Waters, they are also well-versed in participating in projects that are based on partnerships between national authorities, municipalities, companies, researchers, and independent foundations.”

– Peter Wiwen-Nilsson, CEO, Race For The Baltic.

KEY RESULTS

- Successful three-day event with 11 municipalities in Stockholm.
- Agreement signed with Katrineholm municipality on the future management of the City Accelerator.





PORT PROJECT

Throughout the past year, RFTB has reached significant achievements in its commitment to enhancing the management of dry bulk fertilizer, aiming to reduce nutrient emissions into the Baltic Sea, particularly around Polish ports. In 2024, we will be taking a crucial final step to conclude the Port Project: organising a roundtable with key stakeholders to ensure the integration of Best Available Techniques/Best Environmental Practices (BAT/BEP) into the daily operations of ports. This meeting is designed to encourage knowledge exchange and collaborative efforts. Our goal is to create a standardised method for minimising dry bulk fertilizer leakage across most of the leading fertilizer ports.

A standout achievement is the funding and successful installation of a prevention cover at a Gdansk Port terminal in early February, which is now fully functional. This development represents a fruitful collaboration between RFTB and the Gdansk terminal, underscoring a shared commitment to environmental stewardship.

Furthermore, RFTB has embarked on a project to fund the design of two prevention covers for fertilizer terminals Fosfan and Baltic Stevedoring Company in Szczecin, Poland. These initiatives not only bolster environmental protection efforts but also pave the way for disseminating key findings and best practices.

In partnership with Baltic Stevedoring Company and Fosfan, RFTB has also invested in making the cleaning

process more efficient by financing cleaning sweepers that can be attached to compact loaders. These steps will significantly contribute to reducing nutrient runoff and the phosphorus emissions into the Baltic Sea.

Beyond direct interventions, RFTB has collaborated with international partners, including the John Nurminen Foundation (Finland) and the Coalition Clean Baltic, to lead a workshop in Gdynia, Poland, in partnership with HELCOM. This workshop, focused on identifying best practices and equipment to curb dry bulk fertilizer leakage, brought together industry and governmental bodies, fostering an essential dialogue aligned with the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan.

KEY RESULTS

- Organised a well-attended HELCOM workshop on Best Practices for dry bulk handling in ports, which was incorporated into HELCOM's Baltic Sea Action Plan.
- Financed cleaning equipment in two fertilizer terminals in Szczecin and got one of them started with designing a prevention cover.
- One prevention cover was implemented at a terminal in Gdansk port.





PRODUCTION PROJECT

In 2023, the Production Project made remarkable progress in its mission to reduce environmental impacts from fertilizer production. This initiative, a collaboration with a key stakeholder within the fertilizer industry, has significantly advanced its goals.

Throughout the year, RFTB deepened its partnership with this crucial ally, setting the stage for broader industry collaboration in 2024. A milestone was reached in Q3 with the signing of a formal agreement with the fertilizer producer and port terminal owner, establishing a solid framework for cooperation on phosphorus emission reduction. Subsequent meetings have focused on projects aimed at curbing phosphorus emissions, laying a strong foundation for the Project's endeavours in the coming year.

RFTB has also made strategic investments in cleaning technologies and prevention covers at the producer's seaport terminal. The cleaning equipment is already operational, and the design phase for the prevention covers is underway, with installation anticipated by spring 2024.

In the course of 2023 RFTB also maintained the cooperation with another large fertilizer producer in Poland where investments were discussed related to developments that would significantly reduce nutrient emissions into the Baltic Sea. We also visited the fertilizer producer's seaport terminal to check on the prevention cover that RFTB invested in a few years ago.

Participation in key events, such as the Baltic Sea Science Congress and industry conferences in Poland, has allowed RFTB to forge new connections and disseminate knowledge on effective strategies to minimise phosphorus leakage in fertilizer production.

In summary, the Production Project's collaborative endeavours in 2023 highlight RFTB's dedication to environmental stewardship and its efforts to diminish phosphorus emissions in the Baltic Sea through strategic partnerships and active participation in forums and workshops dedicated to sustainability.

KEY RESULTS

- Signed a cooperation agreement with one of Poland's largest fertilizer factories to support them in their work to lower emissions.
- The cooperation has included financing cleaning equipment in their port terminal and kicked-off the design of a prevention cover.





RESTORATION PROJECT

In April, a great milestone was achieved with the publication of the handbook for managing internal phosphorus loading in lakes. This Swedish handbook, a result of the LIFE project Rich Waters initiated in 2017, addresses the issue of eutrophication caused by phosphorus release from bottom sediments due to low oxygen levels. The handbook is accessible on the websites of the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) and LIFE IP Rich Waters and throughout the year RFTB has financed a translation of the handbook and shared the practices at several international conferences.

In connection with the launch of the handbook, a webinar was conducted by representatives of the LIFE IP Rich Waters and SwAM. This event, with approximately 90 participants, focused on discussing the handbook's conclusions and allowed for an interactive question-and-answer session.

April also marked the beginning of a new phase in the Restoration project, with data collection on water flows and quality in two bays each in Österåker and Blekinge.

The aim is to extend the handbook's applicability to coastal areas, adding to the understanding of internal phosphorus loading in these unique ecosystems.

In 2023, RFTB got concrete interest for the mineral treatment method from Estonia, Lithuania and Åland.

KEY RESULTS

- Launched a handbook on internal load in lakes together with Life IP Rich Waters. The handbook included a tool to assess and restore the internal loading in lakes. It has been translated and shared at several international conferences.
- Kicked-off data collection in two bays with the aim to extend the handbook's applicability to coastal areas.
- Received concrete interest for the method from Estonia, Lithuania and Åland.



Swedish Agency
for Marine and
Water Management





© Getty Images

HORSE PROJECT Maintenance

To assess the impact of the “Varje Skit Räknas” campaign, initiated in 2019, RFTB conducted its fifth survey on horse-keeping practices in Sweden in Q2. The survey, gathering insights from over 2,000 respondents, showed that improved mucking routines in paddocks and winter pastures among Swedish horse keepers have been sustained.

Furthermore, in Q3, RFTB celebrated an achievement in its role as an Observer to HELCOM and its participation in revising the Baltic Sea Action Plan. This collaboration has resulted in the integration of horse manure management into Action Point E14 of the plan, establishing a foundation for enhanced environmental impact throughout the Baltic Sea region.

KEY RESULTS

- Fifth survey indicate that improved mucking practises among Swedish horse keepers have been sustained.
- RFTB’s involvement in updating HELCOM’s Baltic Sea Action Plan have led to the inclusion of horse manure management in Action Point E14.



FISH PROJECT Maintenance

KEY RESULTS

- Bream from the Baltic Sea was given a 'green light' in the WWF Sustainable Seafood Guide 2023. RFTB extends its gratitude to all partners in the Baltic Fish project.
- Collaborative effort together with Axfoundation for a campaign in 2024 to promote sustainable bream.





2023 ACTIVITIES

MONTH	ACTIVITY	SUBJECT	PROJECT	ROLE	LOCATION
March	Helcom workshop	BAT/BEP dry bulk fertiliser management	Port	Co-Organiser	Gdynia
March	Helcom workshop	Hotspots	RFTB	Observer	Online
April	City Accelerator Club	Municipality networking	City Accelerator	Organiser	Stockholm
April	Helcom's Informal Consultation Session	Hotspots, phosphogypsum stacks, BAT/BEP dry bulk fertiliser storage	RFTB	Observer	Helsinki
June	PortSHAZ workshop	Port developments	Port	Project Partner	Elbląg & Gdańsk
June	Cleaning machine demonstration	BAT/BEP dry bulk fertiliser management	Port/Production	Organiser	Szczecin
June	Launch of handbook	Internal load and eutrophication	Restoration	Participant	Online
June	International Maritime Congress	Networking	Port/Production	Participant	Szczecin
June	Polish Ports 2030 Congress	Networking	Port/Production	Participant	Sopot
July	Östersjödagarna at Almedalen	EU's Water Framework Directive & Internal load	RFTB/Restoration	Co-organiser & presenter	Visby
August	Baltic Sea Day	Annual theme day	RFTB	Co-organiser	All over Sweden
August	Baltic Sea Science Congress	Eutrophication & Climate Change	RFTB	Participant	Helsinki
September	Baltic Reed project kickoff	Reed utilisation and productisation	Baltic Reed	Project Partner	Helsinki
November	GYPREG project kickoff	Application of gypsum on arable land	GYPREG	Project Partner	Helsinki
November	Baltic Stewardship Initiative Conference	Effective measures in agriculture	RFTB	Participant	Stockholm
December	Helcom Consultation	4th Informal Consultation Session of the Heads of Delegation	RFTB	Observer	Helsinki

BALTIC SEA DAY

It's gratifying to see the increasing recognition and establishment of Baltic Sea Day year after year.

Internationally, this year's celebration took place in 7 countries, 35 cities where 250 partners together achieved 180 news articles and over 4,400,000 in reach.

Regarding the engagement in Sweden, this year's celebration was a great success. About ten major events took place in the country during Baltic Sea Day, and a total of 70 Swedish partners got involved in various ways through their own channels, marking a 66% growth compared to Baltic Sea Day 2022.

Baltic Sea Day was initiated in 2019 in Finland by the John Nurminen Foundation. On the last Thursday in August every year, actors gather around the Baltic Sea to celebrate the sea.

On Baltic Sea Day, RFTB organised the full-day conference "Baltic Sea Solutions" with the blue economy as the overarching theme highlighting how the business sector can reduce its negative impact and contribute to a healthier Baltic Sea.

The conference was organised in collaboration with Havsfonden, Stiftelsen Hållbara Hav, Swedbank, Mannheimer Swartling, MSC, WWF, Guldhaven Pelagiska, Siemens, Vattenresurs AB, and Svenskt Vatten.

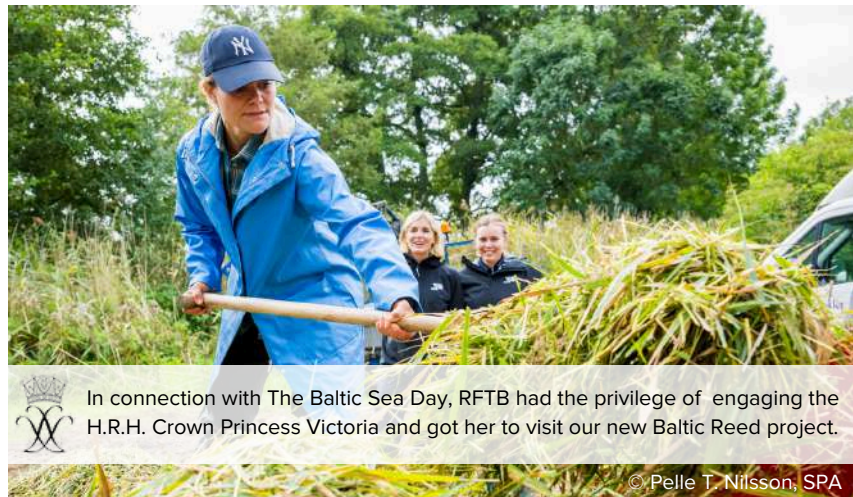
The keynote speakers for the day were Klas Eklund, Chief Economist at Mannheimer Swartling, and Peter Norman, former Minister for Financial Markets and current Chairman of Nasdaq. The day was moderated by environmental journalist Catarina Rolfsdotter-Jansson.

BALTIC SEA DAY

JOIN THE CELEBRATION ON AUGUST 29TH 2024!
READ MORE AT [ÖSTERSJÖDAGEN.SE](https://ostersjodagen.se)



Full-day conference "Baltic Sea Solutions" with the blue economy as the overarching theme.



In connection with The Baltic Sea Day, RFTB had the privilege of engaging the H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria and got her to visit our new Baltic Reed project.

EVENTS

In 2023 RFTB's recognition was strengthened with representation at a number of high level events and conferences. Here is a selection of activities from the year;

- ① NGO meet-up organised by Voice of the Ocean (VOTO), on current projects including a lecture on the Baltic Health Index by the Stockholm Resilience Centre. The participating organisations included John Nurminen Foundation, Coalition Clean Baltic, Baltic Sea Action Group, WWF, VOTO and RFTB.
- ② On HELCOM's request RFTB held a well-attended workshop on Best Practices for dry bulk fertilizer handling in ports, which was included in HELCOM's Baltic Sea Action Plan.

- ③ RFTB held an event on policy implementation of the Water Framework Directive at Almedalen with representatives from key Swedish authorities.
- ④ At Almedalen, RFTB also held a seminar on internal load in cooperation with Life IP Rich Waters and IVL Svenska Miljöinstitutet.
- ⑤ The Finnish Environment Institute (Syke) hosted an interesting first meeting in Finland to kick off the new Interreg Project GYPREG. The project brings together national and public authorities, NGOs, farmers and farmers' associations to increase the uptake of gypsum treatment of agricultural fields that allows to reduce phosphorus losses from agriculture.



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© VOTO



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ORGANISATION 2023



Peter Wiwen-Nilsson
CEO



Fanny Tham Ratz
Deputy CEO



Kamil Jagodzinski
Business Manager
Production project



Grzegorz Olszewski
Business Manager
Port project
Joined in Q2



Anil Ramel Singh
Business Manager
Baltic Reed project
Joined in Q3



Rosemari Herrero
Business Manager
Restoration project



Helene Isander
Communication Director



Anna Andersson
Content &
Office Manager

BOARD



Tomas Johansson
Chairman of the Board



Henrik Österblom
Board member



Sophia Bendz
Board member
Departing



Niklas Zennström
Founder



PARTNERS

RFTB is truly grateful for the support that our partners provide in terms of expertise, resources and venues. RFTB's partners are just as passionate about the Baltic Sea as we are and together we can make a difference. RFTB thanks our partners for the generous assistance and encouragement in the advancement of our mission, a clean and healthy Baltic Sea.



**MANNHEIMER
SWARTLING**

ÅLANDSBANKEN



**BOSTON
CONSULTING
GROUP**



RACE FOR THE BALTIC

Solutions for a healthy Baltic Sea

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 www.raceforthebaltic.com