

1160 Large shallow inlets and bays

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EU-definition

1160

Large shallow inlets and bays

PAL.CLASS.: 12

- 1) Large indentations of the coast where, in contrast to estuaries, the influence of freshwater is generally limited. These shallow¹³ indentations are generally sheltered from wave action and contain a great diversity of sediments and substrates with a well developed zonation of benthic communities. These communities have generally a high biodiversity. The limit of shallow water is sometimes defined by the distribution of the *Zosteretea* and *Potametea* associations.
Several physiographic types may be included under this category providing the water is shallow over a major part of the area: embayments, fjards, rias and voes.
- 2) Plants: *Zostera* spp., *Ruppia maritima*, *Potamogeton* spp. (e.g. *P. pectinatus*, *P. praelongus*), benthic algae.
Animals: Benthic invertebrate communities.

National interpretations

Original data was not consistent

- Large lagoons (with notable fresh water input) etc. and even some estuaries in the data.
- Really differing environments.
- Size
- Shape
- Depth

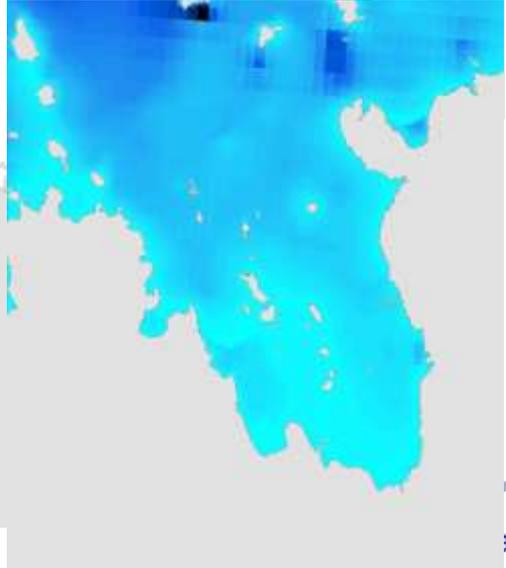
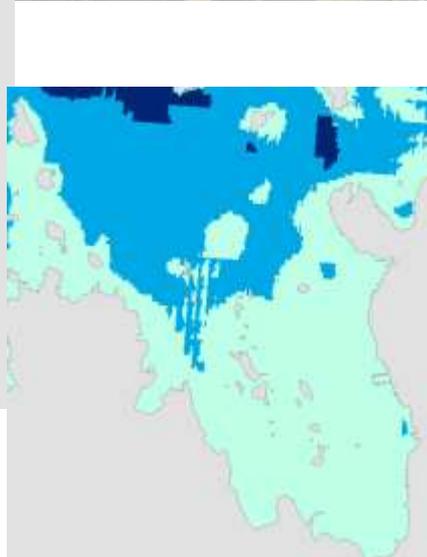
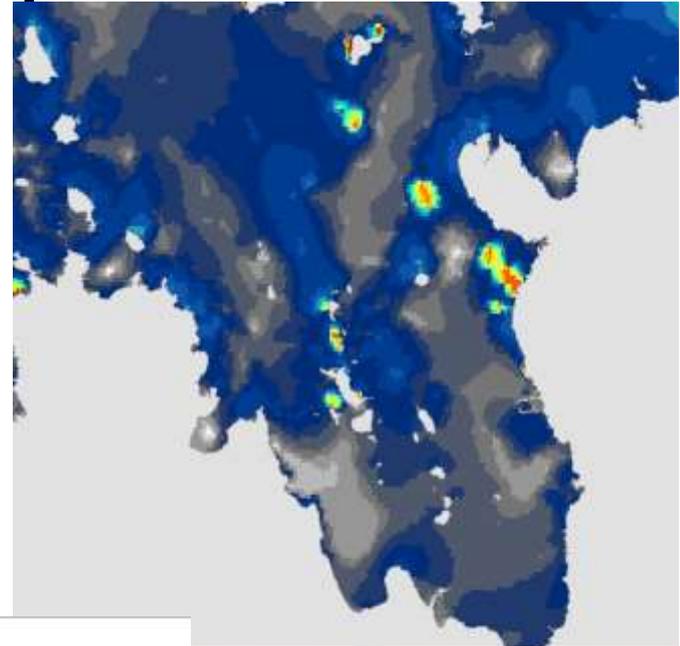
National interpretations

	EU	Sweden	Finland
Size limit	No limits	>25Ha	100 Ha
Shape	No limits	No limits	Width greater than length
Maximum depth	Most areas are shallow	Shallow	Maximum 6m
Bottom material	“great diversity of sediments and substrates”	Different kind of sediments and substrates	Sand/ soft / organic

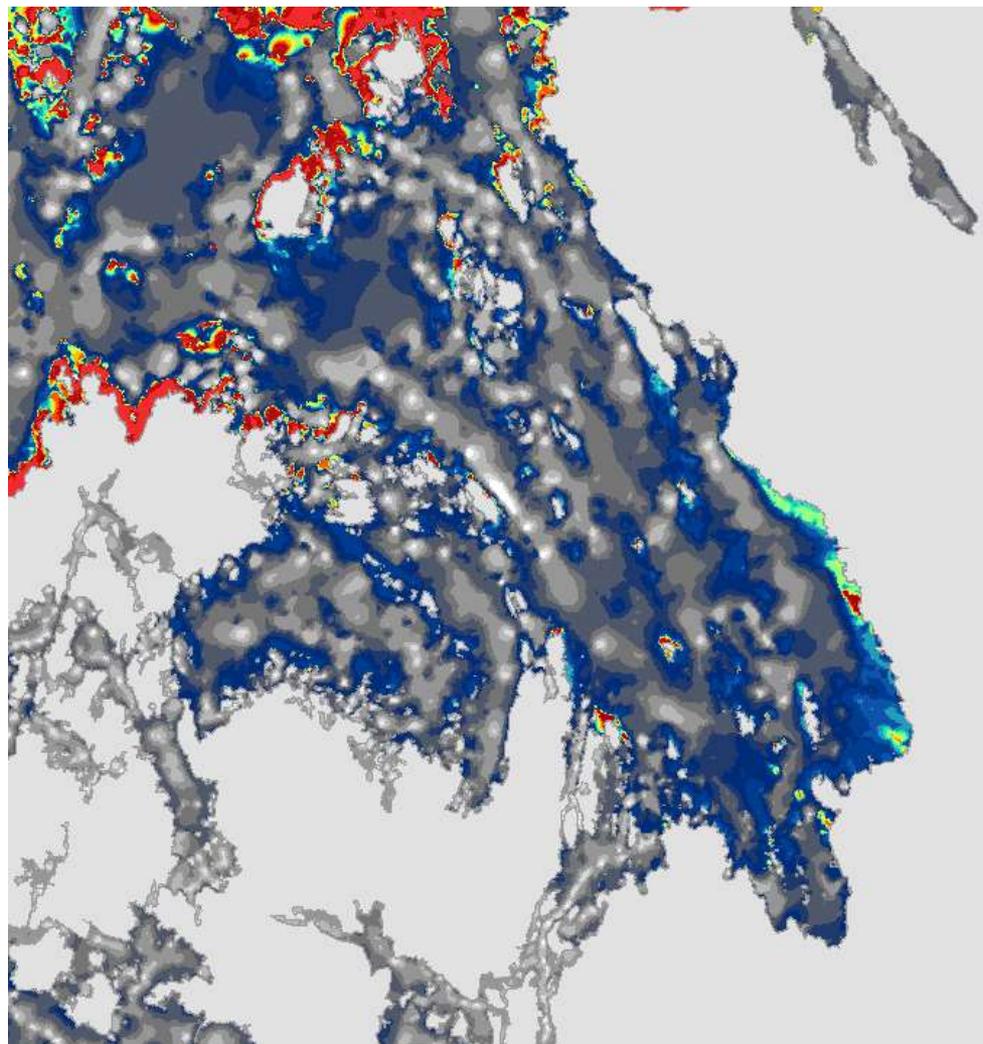
To harmonize the data

- We formed a working group in which we discussed the border situations and agreed on common rules how to choose the habitats
- We "discarded" the national interpretations
- ...and did a case by case evaluation on base of the EU definition
- Allowed us to harmonize the data already at the selection process
- Now preliminary data is done
- We can make alterations based on your comments
- Field inspections cannot be done in large scale yet (but we have some inventory data)

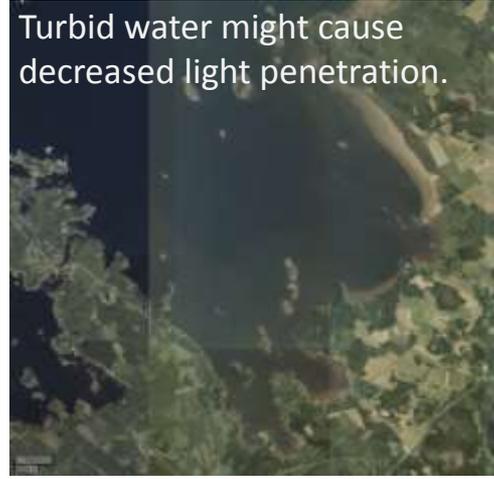
The data used to help identification



New bottom exposure model



Examples: Every large shallow bay is an individual



For discussion

- Areas sheltered by bottom formations?
- Areas of turbid water and high bottom fauna presence?
- Would you set a size limit (min or max)? Why?