

# 2009 – an important year for the Baltic Sea environment



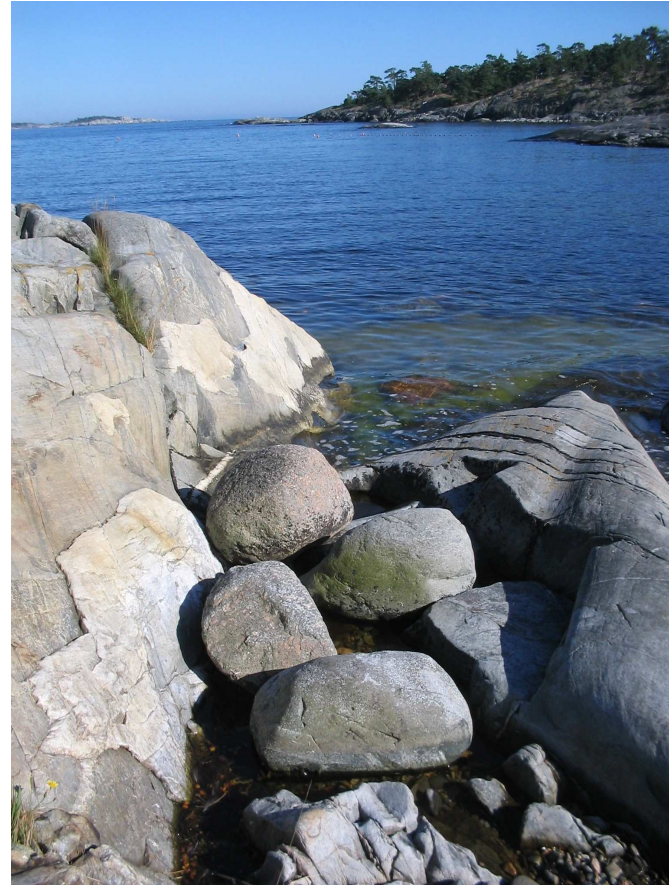
Gabriella Lindholm

Ambassador for the marine environment



# 2009 –focus on the marine environment

- **Swedish Presidency of the EU – EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and other activities related to the marine environment**
- **HELCOM – preparations for the Ministerial meeting in 2010**
- **Swedish integrated maritime policy presented**



# International marine policy

**EU Maritime Policy**

**EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region**

**The Marine Strategy Framework Directive**

**The EU Water Framework Directive**

**Helcom  
OSPAR  
Barcelona  
Bukarest  
EURO-MED**

## **The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region - a Long-term EU Commitment for the Baltic Sea**

- **EU 5 years after enlargement – 8 of 9 Baltic Sea states EU MS – time to bring the Baltic Sea closer to the EU**
- **Great interest shown from EP, countries, organisations and regions – Baltic Sea concern for all**
- **High-level commitment: EU Council Conclusions 2009 and follow-up**
- **Baltic Sea in focus but interest for other regional seas and water: EU Environment Council policy debate in December**
- **The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region Action Plan – a platform for long-term regional stakeholder dialogue**

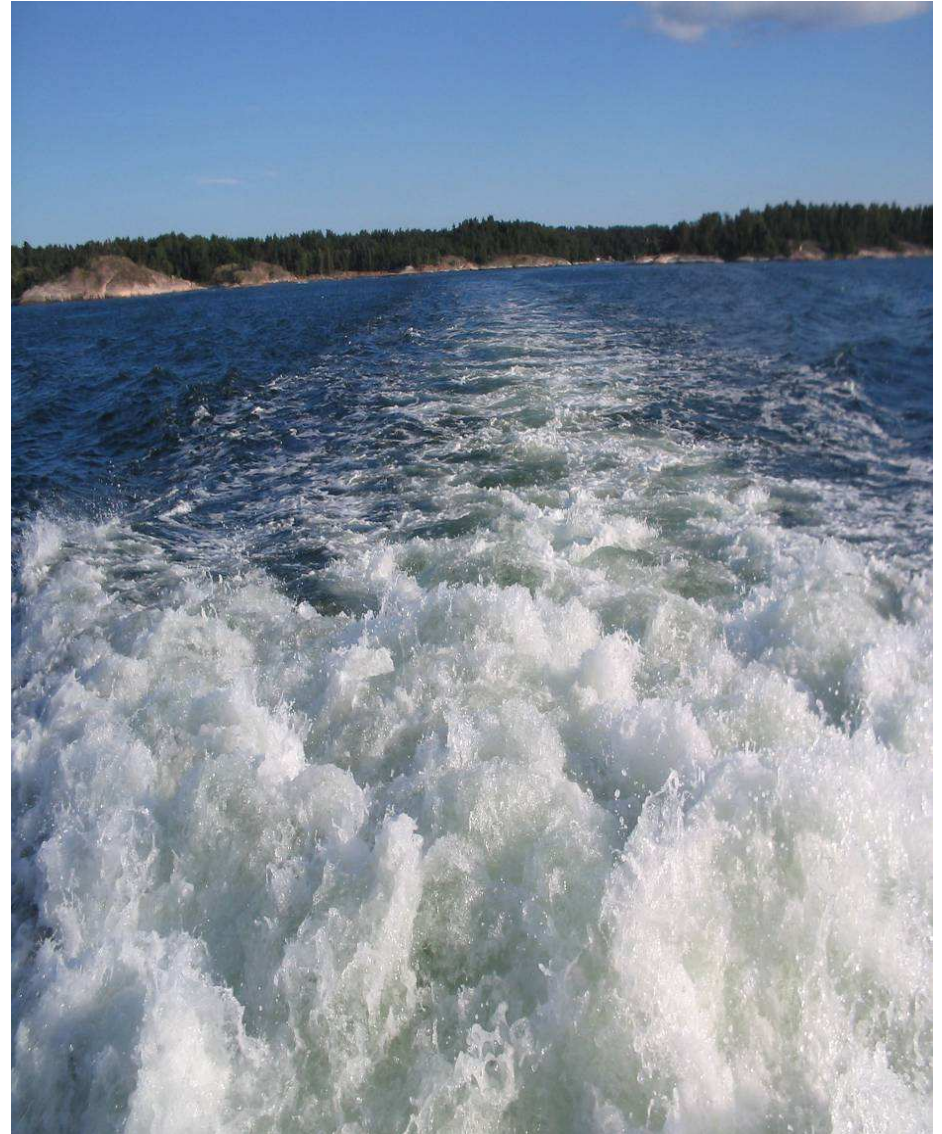


## Swedish priorities for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

- How can we enhance the link between high-level commitment and on the ground action?
- How does EU policy affect the Baltic Sea environment? What can be improved?
- How can EU and other regional financial resources be better used to achieve our priorities?
- Key issue - facilitate for HELCOM BSAP Implementation
  - 1) Make the Baltic Sea a pilot project under the MSFD
  - 2) Strengthen regional work on maritime spatial planning
  - 3) Improve possibilities for waste-water treatment and banning of phosphates in detergents
  - 4) Short-term and long-term action to decrease nutrient input from agriculture to the Baltic Sea
  - 5) Take action towards sustainable fishing

## Marine focus for EU Presidency

- **Maritime bluebook, spatial planning (Stockholm, September)**
- **Inland Waters brings Life into the Sea (Lund, September)**
- **The value of our marine environment (Stockholm, September)**
- **Water and marine directors meeting (Malmö, November)**
- **EU-Russia meeting on environment, including marine environment (Moscow, November)**



# HELCOM – key issues preparing for ministerial meeting in 2010

- **National Implementations Plans (NIP) to be presented – exchange of experience between countries, e.g. Russia-Swedish project on BSAP NIP**
- **Projects on municipality level needed, e.g. in Blekinge and exchange of experiences between regions, e.g. Trelleborg and Poland**
- **Investments in waste-water treatment, both large scale e.g. Kaliningrad, and small-scale e.g. summer houses**
- **NIB/NEFCO fund – possibility for feasibility studies and investments**



# An integrated maritime policy



# Combat eutrophication - possibilities for regional / local action

- Government grants to local water management initiatives that improve the marine environment
- Fee systems for emissions of phosphorus and nitrogen
- Limits of farmyard manure
- The rural development programme
- Developing mussel farming
- Tax credits for conversion of private waste water systems
- Ban on phosphates in detergents and cleaning agents
- Discharge of human waste from leisure craft and merchant ships
- Reducing the use of hazardous substances in anti-fouling paints
- Inventory of unowned wrecks

## **2009 – an important year for the Baltic Sea How can the regions contribute?**

- **Participate in EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region action plan implementation and long-term stakeholder dialogue**
- **Search for cooperation with other regions to share experiences and take local action against eutrophication (for EU funds, NIB/NEFCO fund etc)**
- **Involve in the development of national implementation plans of the Baltic Sea Action Plan**
- **Build public awareness and environmental education about the Baltic Sea**

