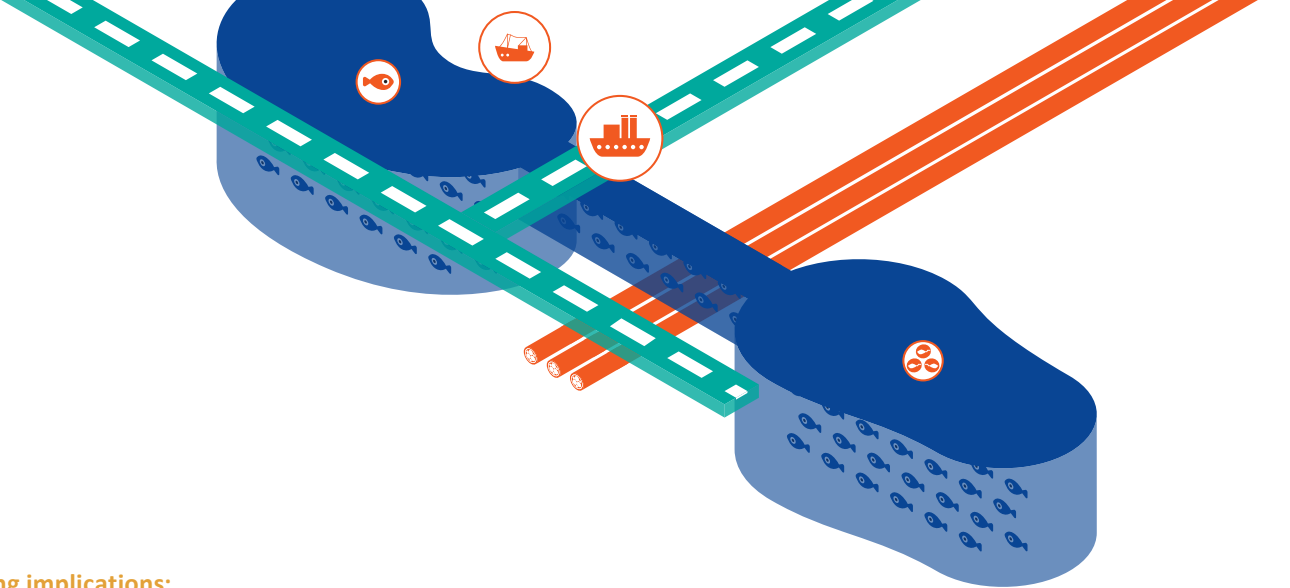


## 4.5 Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture 2030

Fishing in the Baltic Sea is intense, and there are a number of problems associated with it such as habitat destruction by bottom trawling and overfishing. At the same time, fishing contributes to the economy and represents important cultural heritage in the Baltic. In 2030 fisheries have become sustainable in the sense that they are ecologically sound (based on maximum capacity of fish stocks to sustain themselves), in line with Good Environmental Status, and non-destructive. Fisheries are relevant for local communities, providing economic benefits and immaterial value as Baltic Sea culture. Marine aquaculture forms a new economic sector with local relevance for employment and income, and a range of new products is obtained from different types of marine aquaculture. In particular:

- Baltic Sea fisheries and mariculture deliver high quality food.
- Baltic Sea fisheries are managed in such a way that sustainable stocks are secured and the integrity of ecosystems is preserved. Sustainable fishing gear has been introduced across the entire Baltic Sea.
- Established fishing practices in the Baltic are supplemented by extensive sea ranching schemes co-managed by licensed fishing communities in cooperation with national and transnational experts and guided by transparent social, cultural, economic and ecological objectives and mechanisms.
- Management practices take into account the dynamic nature of the resource and respond flexibly should there be any change. This may include economic trade-offs and offering alternatives for local fishermen who are requested to stop fishing for a certain period due to stock changes.
- Marine aquaculture producing high quality and healthy products has gained in relevance as a result of more sustainable fishing practices and consumer demand for sustainable local fish and seafood. Marine aquaculture is environmentally sound.
- The cultivation of algae is gradually developing as an economic activity for pharmaceutical and other industries. Algae are also grown for bioenergy and contribute to nutrient reduction in parts of the Baltic Sea.



### Spatial planning implications:

- Blue corridors for fish are guaranteed (including rivers) that ensure connectivity of habitats necessary for species survival and adaptation to change (e.g. climate change).
- Where appropriate, sea ranching is carried out for particular fish species as an addition to the existing system.
- Spawning and nursery areas are adequately protected by means of permanent or temporary zoning.
- No-take rules and management practices have been implemented alongside spatial protection measures for certain conditions or in certain areas.
- Areas for marine aquaculture have been carefully selected to avoid negative impacts on water quality and natural fish stocks. Site specific regulations accompany aquaculture licenses. Where possible from environmental and safety points of view the principle of spatial efficiency is in place, e.g. placing aquaculture sites as co-use within already used areas such as wind farms.
- Fisheries management legislation has been revised to allow spatial management regulations and zoning of fisheries activities to be fully integrated into the spatial planning framework.