

Scenario-based cumulative impact assessments for ecosystem-based planning and management

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Cumulative pressures affect the seas



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Eutrophication

Overfishing

Hazardous
substances

Disturbance

Marine litter

Tourism

etc.



Tourism



Pressures and biodiversity in the Baltic Sea

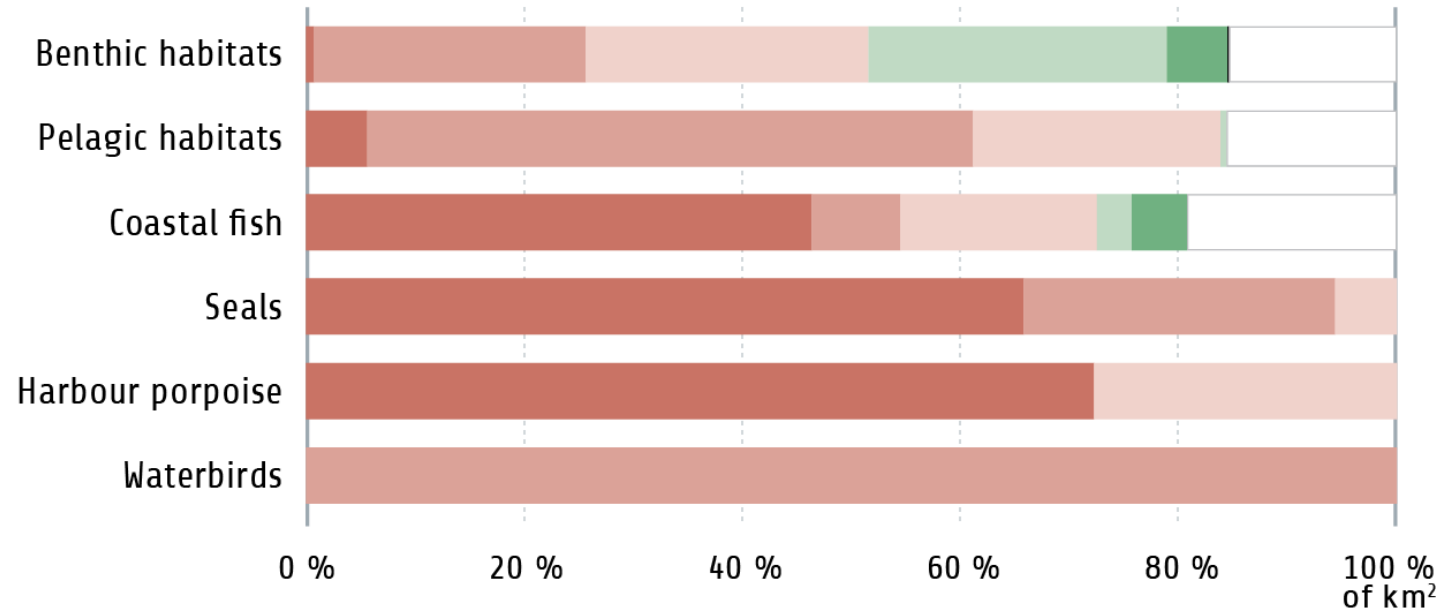
State of Baltic Sea pressures and biodiversity 2016–2021



PRESSURES

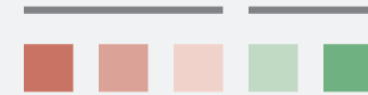


BIODIVERSITY

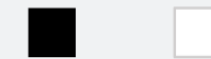


INTEGRATED ASSESSMENTS

Not good Good



Loss Not assessed



For the following topics included in the holistic assessment no integrated assessment was done:

Marine litter
Underwater noise
Non-indigenous species

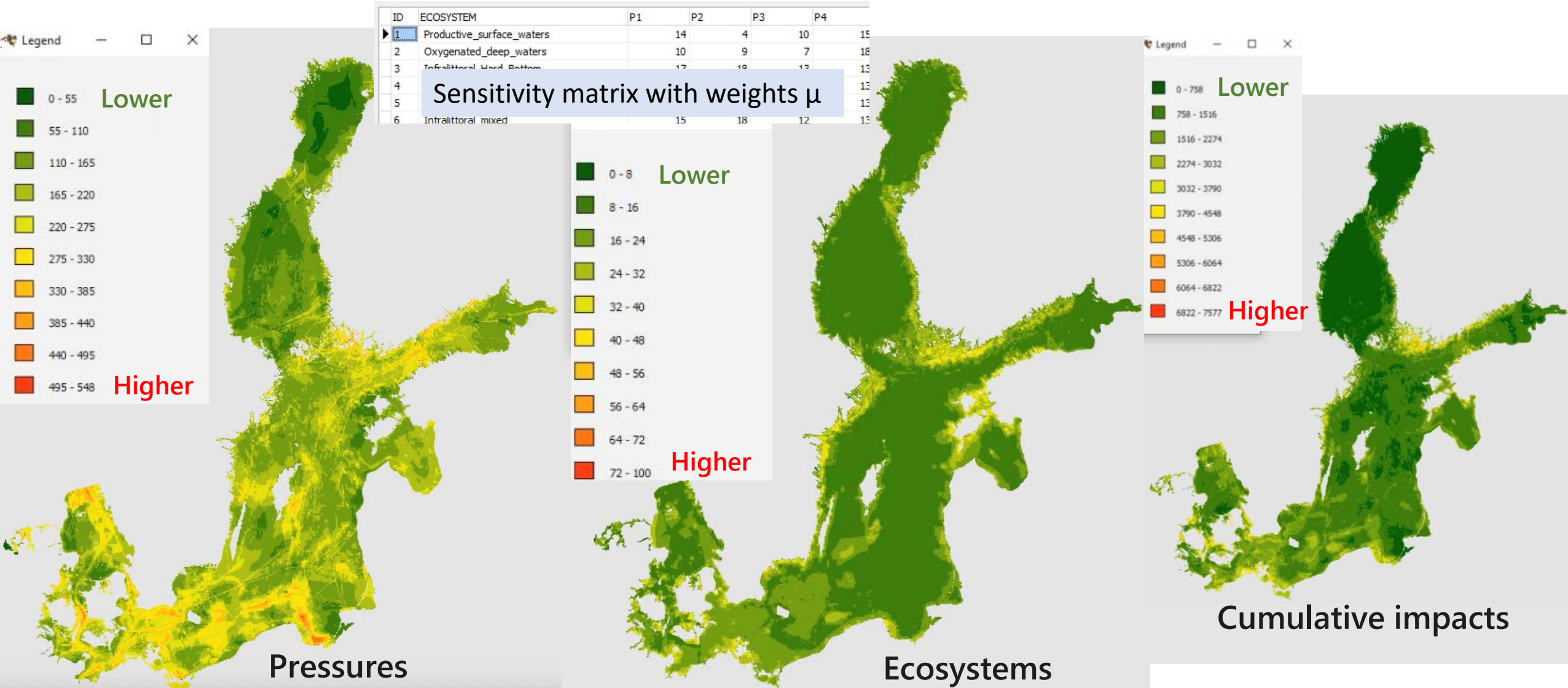
The CIA method by Halpern et al. (2008)



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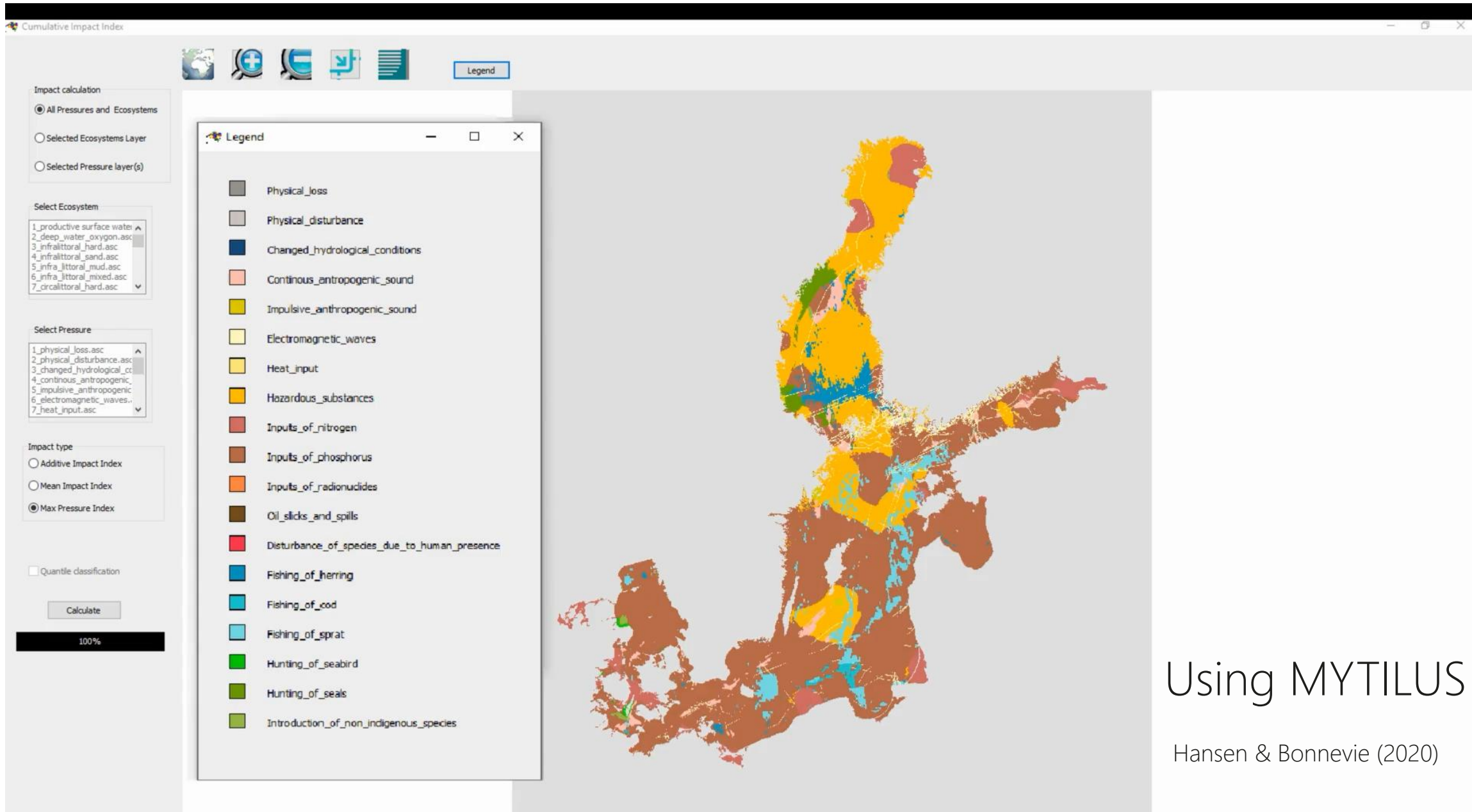
The additive approach
$$I_{Sum}(x, y) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m D_i(x, y) e_j(x, y) \mu_{i,j}$$

Analysis data from:
HOLAS 2 (HELCOM 2017a)





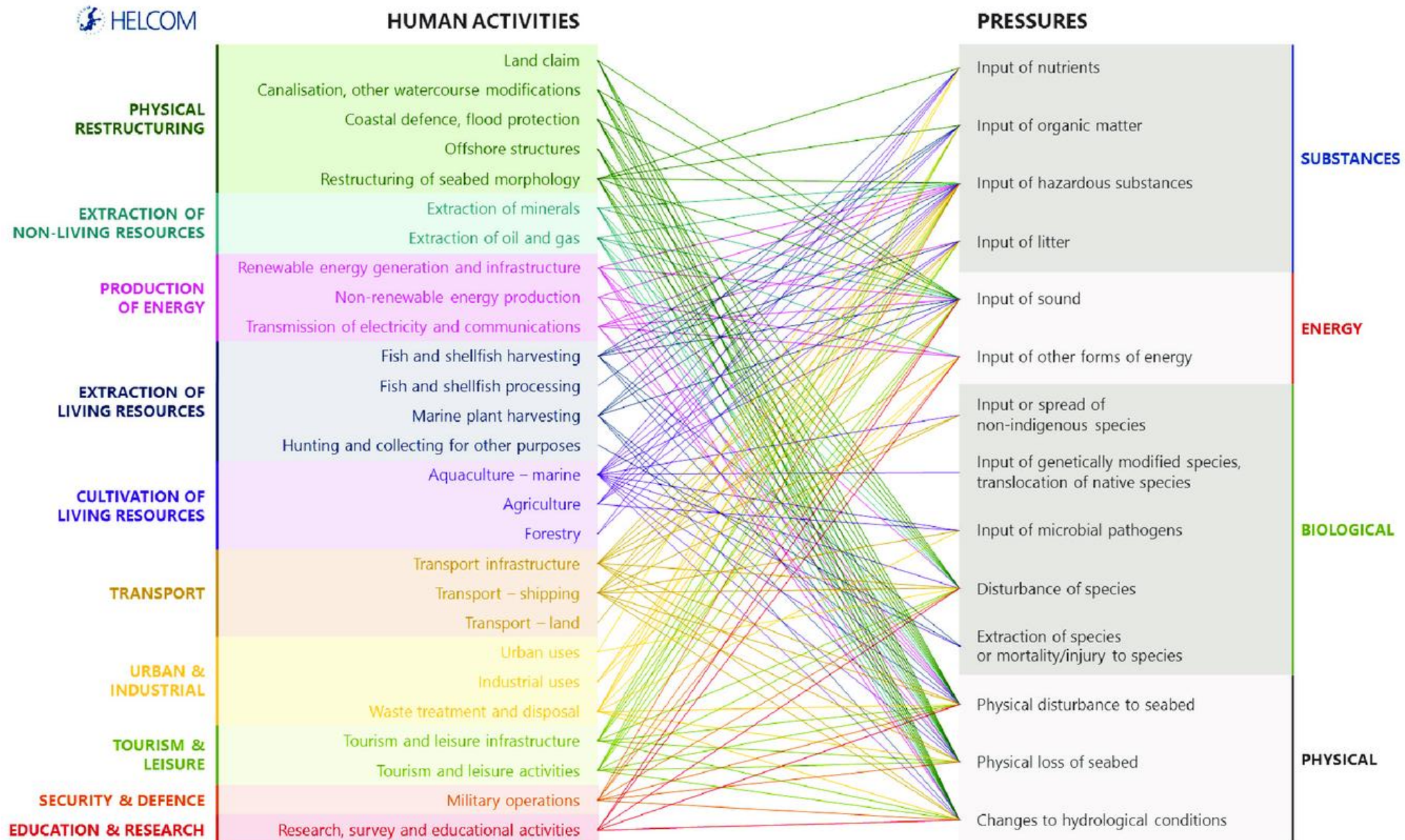
Scenario-based approach to fishing



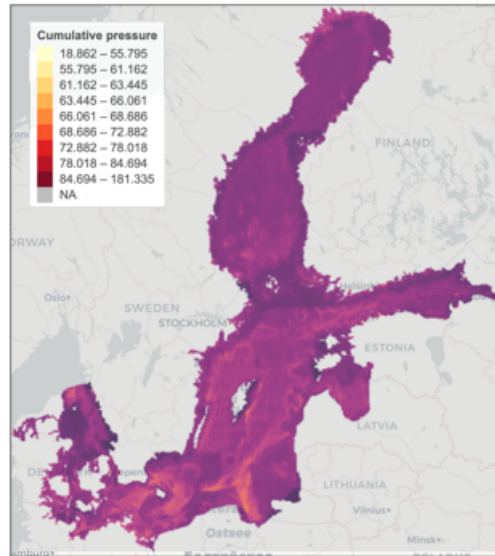
Using MYTILUS

Hansen & Bonnevie (2020)

Human activities and their pressures



What-if scenarios in MSP



A) Cumulative Pressure Index:

$$BSII(x, y) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m PLi(x, y) * ECj(x, y) * SSi, j$$

A) Cumulative Pressure Index

Drivers
e.g. population,
GDP

Response
in MSP

Pressures
aggregated

Human
Activities

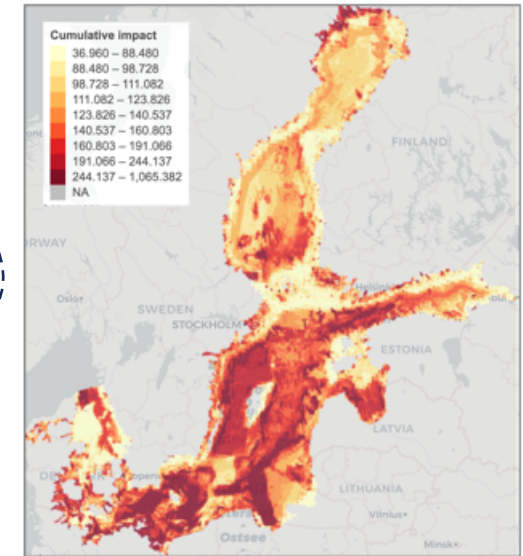
State of
ecosystem
components

B) Cumulative Impact Index

Impact on
ecosystem
services



What-if scenarios



B) Cumulative Impact Index:

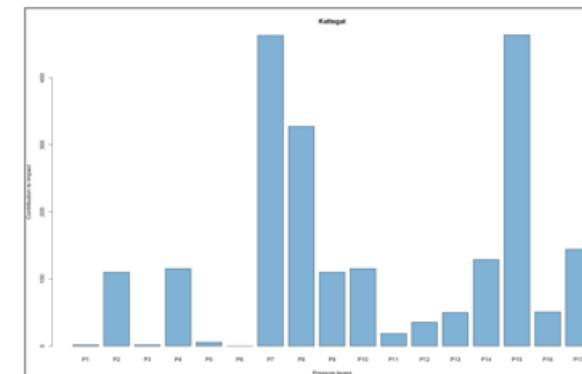
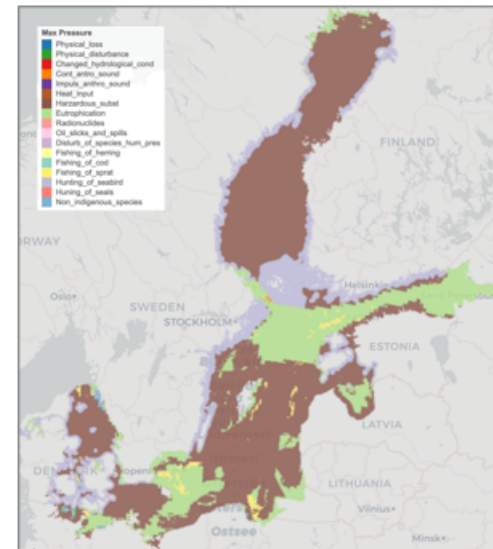
$$BSPI(x, y) = \sum_{i=1}^n (PLi(x, y) \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m SSi, j)$$

Hansen & Bonnevie (2025) - MPA in MSP conference in Bødø 2025

P7: Hazardous substances
P8: Nutrients concentration (N and P)
P15: Hunting seabirds

The MYTILUS-R suite provides several analytical diagnostics to support the identification of adverse impacts on the ecosystem as well as finding appropriate measures to mitigate the impacts and apply a scenario-based approach to compare various options.

Max Pressure



Score changes reflect changed conditions



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	Physical loss	Physical disturbance	Changes to hydrological conditions	Inputs of continuous sounds	Inputs of impulsive sounds	Inputs of electromagnetic waves	Inputs of heat	Inputs of hazardous substances	Inputs of nitrogen	Inputs of phosphorus	Introduction of radiocesiums	Oil slicks and spills	Disturbance of species	Extraction of herring	Extraction of cod	Extraction of sprat	Hunting of seabirds	Hunting of seals	Introduction of non-indigenous species
ECOSYSTEMS VERTICAL / PRESSURES HORIZONTAL																			
Productive surface waters (Chl-a)	4	0	-2	0	4	0	0	0	-3	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	5	5	0
Deep water habitats not influenced by permanent anoxia	-6	-2	0	0	4	0	0	0	-1	0	4	0	3	3	3	3	3	3	0
Infralittoral coarse sediment	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	0
Infralittoral sand	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	0
Infralittoral mud	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	0
Infralittoral mixed sediment	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	3	0
Infralittoral mud or Infralittoral sand																			
Infralittoral rock and biogenic reef																			
Circalittoral coarse sediment	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	5	0
Offshore circalittoral coarse sediment																			
Circalittoral sand	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	0
Offshore circalittoral sand																			
Circalittoral mud	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	0
Offshore circalittoral mud																			
Circalittoral mixed sediment	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	0
Circalittoral mud or Circalittoral sand																			
Circalittoral rock and biogenic reef																			
Offshore circalittoral mixed sediment																			
Offshore circalittoral mud or Offshore circalittoral sand																			
Offshore circalittoral rock and biogenic reef																			
Furocellaria lumbricalis distribution	-1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	4	3	3	0
Zostera marina distribution	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	0	5	3	4	0	0
Charophyte distribution	-1	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	5	3	3	0	0
Mytilus distribution	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-1	0	2	0	-1	0	0
Fucus distribution	-1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Sandbanks (1110)	-1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	1	5	3	3	0	0
Estuaries (1130)	-1	0	0	0	0	-3	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	2	7	2	4	0	0
Mudflats and sandflats (1140)	-1	0	0	0	0	0	-2	0	0	0	0	3	8	8	8	2	4	0	0
Coastal lagoons (1150)	-1	0	0	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	4	7	1	3	0	0
Large shallow inlets and bays (1160)	-1	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	2	7	1	3	0	0
Reefs (1170)	0	0	-1	-4	-4	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	2	1	5	4	4	0	0
Baltic Esker islands (1610)	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	5	0	2	0	0
Submarine structures made by leaking gas (1180)	-2	-2	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	1	-1	5	7	9	0	0
Boreal Baltic islets and small islands (1620)	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	5	0	1	0	0
Cod abundance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Potential spawning areas for cod (PBS)	-7	-1	-2	0	0	-2	2	0	2	-3	0	2	-4	2	1	1	0	0	0
Herring abundance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sprat abundance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Potential spawning areas for European flounder (PBS)																			
Potential spawning areas for Baltic flounder (PBS)																			
Potential recruitment areas for perch (PBS)	-2	1	1	-2	-1	-1	-1	2	1	-2	4	7	15	9	-1	-1	0	0	0
Potential recruitment areas for pikeperch (PBS)	-2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	2	-2	3	11	13	12	3	3	0	0	0
Recruitment areas of roach																			
Wintering areas for birds	-4	-2	0	0	-2	1	0	0	-4	0	0	0	3	0	-2	14	0	0	0
Breeding areas for birds	-4	-1	0	-2	-3	1	0	0	-6	0	0	0	2	0	-2	15	0	0	0
Migration routes for birds																			
Grey seal distribution	0	-2	-2	0	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	-3	0	0	0	0	14	-4	0	0
Harbour seal distribution	0	-2	-2	0	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	17	-1	0	0
Ringed seal distribution	-2	-2	-2	0	0	-5	0	0	1	-1	-2	0	7	0	14	-4	0	0	0
Harbour porpoise distribution	0	1	-3	0	0	0	-2	-2	0	0	-2	0	0	0	0	-2	-1	0	0

Change in sensitivity scores from

HOLAS 2 (2011-2016^a) minus

HOLAS 3 (2016-2021^b)

^aHELCOM 2017a

^bHELCOM 2023

Negative change: score increase

Positive change: score decrease

Missing data

Score changes reflect changed conditions



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	Change s to hydr	Inputs of Con	Inputs of imp	Inputs of mag netic	Inputs of Haz ardous sub stances	Inputs of nitro gen	Inputs of pho sph orus	Intro duct ion of radi onu clides	Oil spill s and spill s	Dist urban ce of spe cies	Extr action of herri ng	Extr action of cod	Extr action of sprat s	Hun ting of birds	Hun ting of Seals	Intro duct ion of non indi gen ous spe cies	
Deep water																	
Infralittoral coarse sediment	-1	0															
Infralittoral sand	-1																
Infralittoral mud	-2																
Infralittoral mixed sediment	-1	0															
Infralittoral mud or Infralittoral sand																	
Infralittoral rock and biogenic reef																	
Circalittoral coarse sediment	-1	0	0	0	0									4	5	5	
Offshore circalittoral coarse sediment																	
Circalittoral sand	-1	0	0	0	0									1	3	3	
Offshore circalittoral sand																	
Circalittoral mud	-2	0	0	0	0									3	1	2	
Offshore circalittoral mud																	
Circalittoral mixed sediment	-1	0	0	0	0									3	3	3	
Circalittoral mud or Circalittoral sand																	
Circalittoral rock and biogenic reef																	
Offshore circalittoral mixed sediment																	
Offshore circalittoral mud or Offshore circalittoral sand																	
Offshore circalittoral rock and biogenic reef																	
Furcellaria lumbicalis distribution									0	0	2	2	0	4	3	3	
Zostera marina distribution									0	6	4	0	5	3	4		
Charophyte distribution									0	3	3	0	5	3	3		
Mytilus distribution									0	1	-1	0	2	0	-1		
Fucus distribution									0	0	2	0	3	0	0		
Sandbanks (1110)																	
Estuaries (1130)																	
Mudflats and sandflats (1140)	-1	0	0	0	0												
Coastal lagoons (1150)	-1	0	0	-2													
Large shallow inlets and bays (1160)				-1													
Reefs (1170)																	
Baltic Esk																	
Submarine																	
Boreal									0	0	1	1	0	5	0	1	
Cod abundance									0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Potential spawning areas									-2	2	0						
Herring abundance									0								
Sprat abundance									0								
Potential spawning areas for European flounder (PBS)																	
Potential spawning areas for Baltic flounder (PBS)																	
Potential recruitment areas for perch (PBS)	-2	1	1	-2	-1												
Potential recruitment areas for pikeperch (PBS)	-2	0	1	0	0												
Recruitment areas of roach																	
Wintering areas for birds	-4	-2	0	0	-2				1	0	0						
Breeding areas for birds	-4	-1	0	-2	-3				1	0	0						
Migration routes for birds																	
Grey seal distribution	0	-2	-2	0	0				0	0	-1						
Harbour seal distribution	0	-2	-2	0	0				0	0	-1						
Ringed seal distribution	-2	-2	-2	0	0				-5	0	0						
Harbour porpoise distribution	0	1	-3	0	0				0	-2	-2						

Physical loss > habitats without deep sea anoxia

Nitrogen > productive surface waters

Continuous sounds > reefs

Extraction of fishes > mudflats and sandflats

Physical loss > cod spawning areas

Extraction of cod > recruitment areas

Hunting of seals > bird breeding

Change in sensitivity scores from

HOLAS 2 (2011-2016^a) minus

HOLAS 3 (2016-2021^b)

^aHELCOM 2017a

^bHELCOM 2023

Negative change: score increase

Positive change: score decrease

Missing data

The diagram illustrates various environmental impacts on coastal ecosystems, overlaid on a background grid of impact scores. The impacts are categorized by color-coded ovals:

- Orange Ovals:** Physical loss > habitats without deep sea anoxia; Nitrogen > productive surface waters; Continuous sounds > reefs; Physical loss > cod spawning areas.
- Blue Oval:** Worse living conditions for cod fishes.
- Green Oval:** Extraction of fishes > mudflats and sandflats; Extraction of cod > recruitment areas.
- Yellow Oval:** Vulnerable reefs.

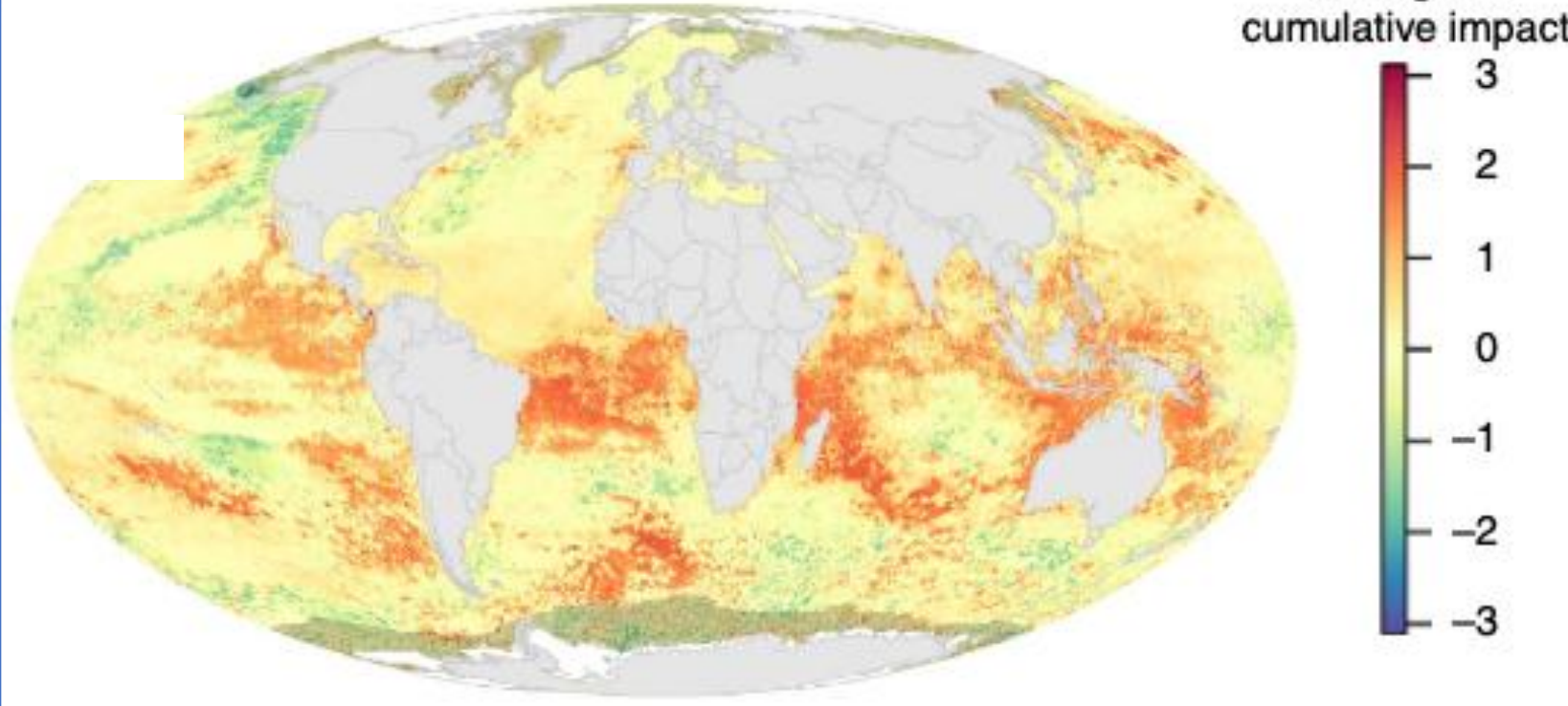
The background grid contains numerical values representing different types of impacts, such as "Change s to hydr", "Inputs of Con", "Inputs of imp", "Inputs of Elec tro mag netic", "Inputs of Haz ardo us sub stan ces", "Inputs of nitro pho rus", "Intro duction of radi onu clide s", "Oil slick s and spill s", "Dist urbance of spe cies", "Extr action of herri ng", "Extr action of cod", "Extr action of sprat", "Hun ting of Sea bird s", and "Hun ting of Seal s".

Hunting of seals >
bird breeding

Cumulative impact change over time

Halpern et al. (2007)

Halpern et al. (2015) drawing on Halpern et al. (2007)



- 12 stressors (a mix of pressures and activities)
- equivalent methods and data sources
- Change in 5 years 2008 to 2013

Ecosystem-pressure scores in 2008

Intertidal						Coastal			
Rocky intertidal	Intertidal mud	Beach	Marine reef	Salt marsh	Coastal reef	Seagrass	Kelp forest	Rocky reef	Subtidal/feeder reef
1.8	1.1	0.2	1.4	1.4	2.4	2.1	0.0	1.7	0.0
1.3	2.1	0.6	2.1	2.5	1.1	2.0	0.8	1.5	2.3
0.8	0.7	0.0	0.9	1.6	0.9	0.6	0.0	0.5	1.8
2.4	2.1	1.9	2.0	1.5	2.2	1.9	0.8	2.1	2.4
2.2	1.7	0.8	1.1	2.0	1.9	0.4	0.2	1.6	2.4
2.1	2.8	0.1	1.4	1.7	1.2	1.0	1.0	2.2	2.8
2.1	1.6	0.6	0.5	2.0	0.7	0.8	0.0	2.2	2.7

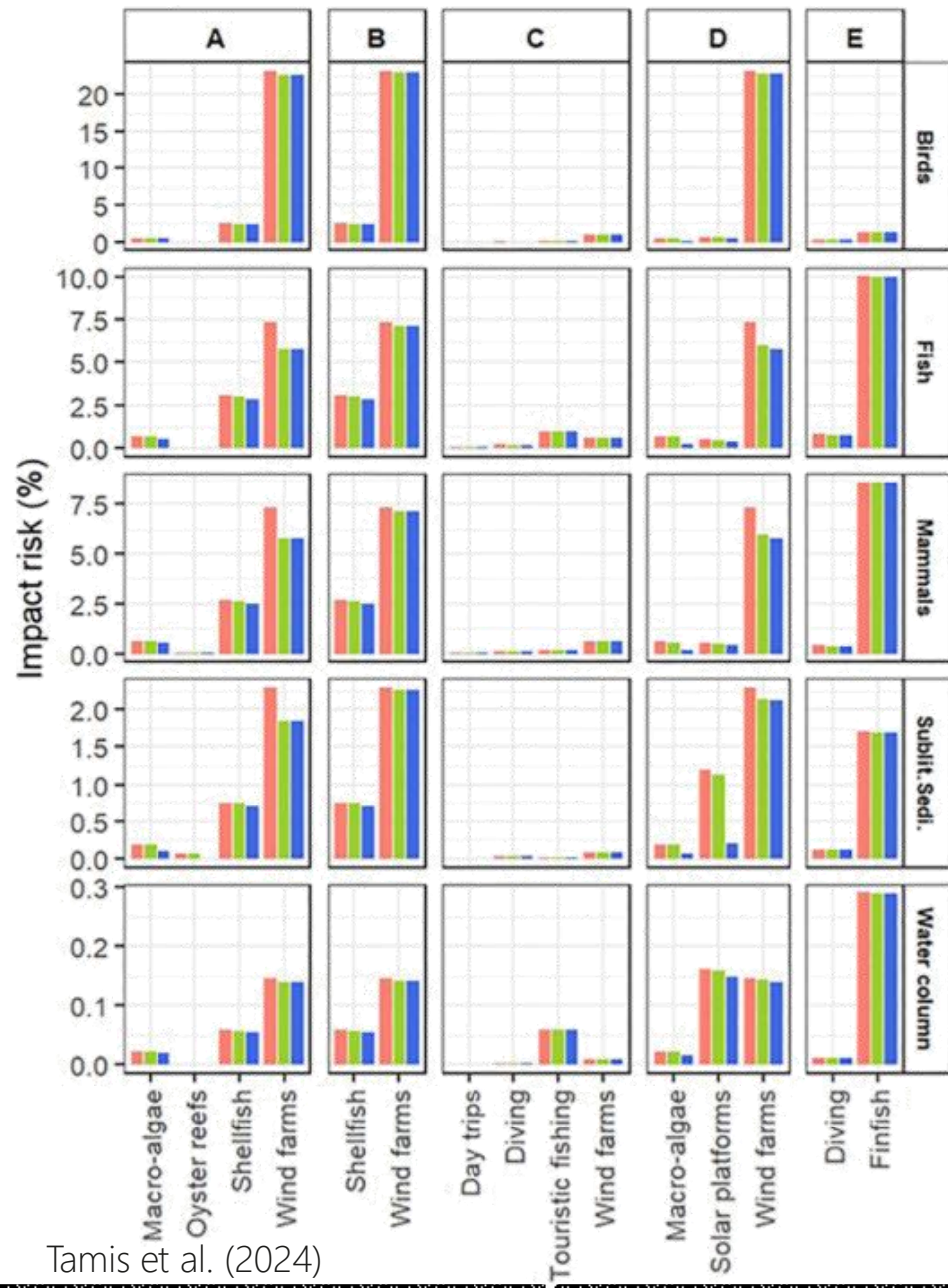
1 stressor. Values are modified from previous values²

Ecosystem-pressure scores in 2013

Salt Marsh																		
	coral	sea grass	Kelp Forest	rocky reef	Susp.-Feeder	shallow soft	soft shelf	hard shelf	soft slope	hard slope	soft deep	hard deep	seamounts	pelagic	pelagic-deep			
1.9	1.8	2.1	0.4	1.6	1.4	2.0	1.4	1.7	2.0	0.6	1.3	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0			
1.7	1.2	1.0	1.0	2.2	2.8	1.2	1.4	0.0	2.0	0.2	1.7	0.0	0.0	1.9	1.6			
2.0	0.7	0.8	0.0	2.2	2.7	1.5	2.1	0.2	2.1	0.2	1.8	0.0	0.0	2.3	1.6			
1.8	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.7	1.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0			
1.6	2.3	2.5	1.6	2.5	3.0	2.0	1.1	2.9	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0			
1.0	1.2	0.2	1.5	2.7	3.1	2.1	3.0	3.1	3.2	2.8	2.3	3.0	3.5	2.1	0.8			
1.0	1.6	1.1	2.1	2.9	0.7	2.1	2.0	3.2	2.3	2.4	2.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.0			
dem nd lb	0.6	1.4	0.7	0.7	0.8	1.2	0.8	1.6	2.2	0.5	1.6	1.5	2.4	1.8	1.8	1.5	0.0	0.0
pel hb	0.9	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	2.6	0.0	0.0	1.1	2.8	0.2	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0
pel lb	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.0	2.6	0.0	0.6	0.8	2.8	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0
artisanal	1.3	0.4	0.7	1.7	0.6	2.3	0.3	0.8	2.2	1.0	0.0	0.9	1.9	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.9
sst	2.8	1.4	0.6	2.4	1.4	2.8	2.1	2.0	1.9	0.8	0.5	2.5	2.9	2.3	0.9	2.5	1.5	1.8
uv	0.9	1.3	0.0	0.2	1.1	0.8	0.5	0.1	0.7	0.0	0.3	1.9	1.8	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0
acid	0.9	1.0	0.0	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.4	0.0	1.1	0.7	0.1	1.7	2.5	2.1	1.6	2.2	2.7	2.7
sea level rise	2.5	1.9	2.1	3.0	3.1	2.4	2.6	1.6	1.5	1.8	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
invasives	2.8	2.9	0.9	1.0	2.8	1.5	1.2	1.3	2.5	2.6	2.7	1.6	1.5	0.2	0.5	1.5	0.0	0.0
ocean pollution	1.3	0.8	0.5	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.5	0.1	1.7	0.0	1.1	1.2	0.3	1.4	1.7	2.3	1.2	1.2
shipping	0.3	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.4	1.5	1.9	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.3	1.7	0.9	0.1	1.0	0.9	0.0	0.0
oil rigs	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.3	0.9	0.5	1.6	0.0	1.7	0.4	0.1	0.5	2.1	1.6	2.2	1.9	1.6	1.4

Halpern et al. (2015)

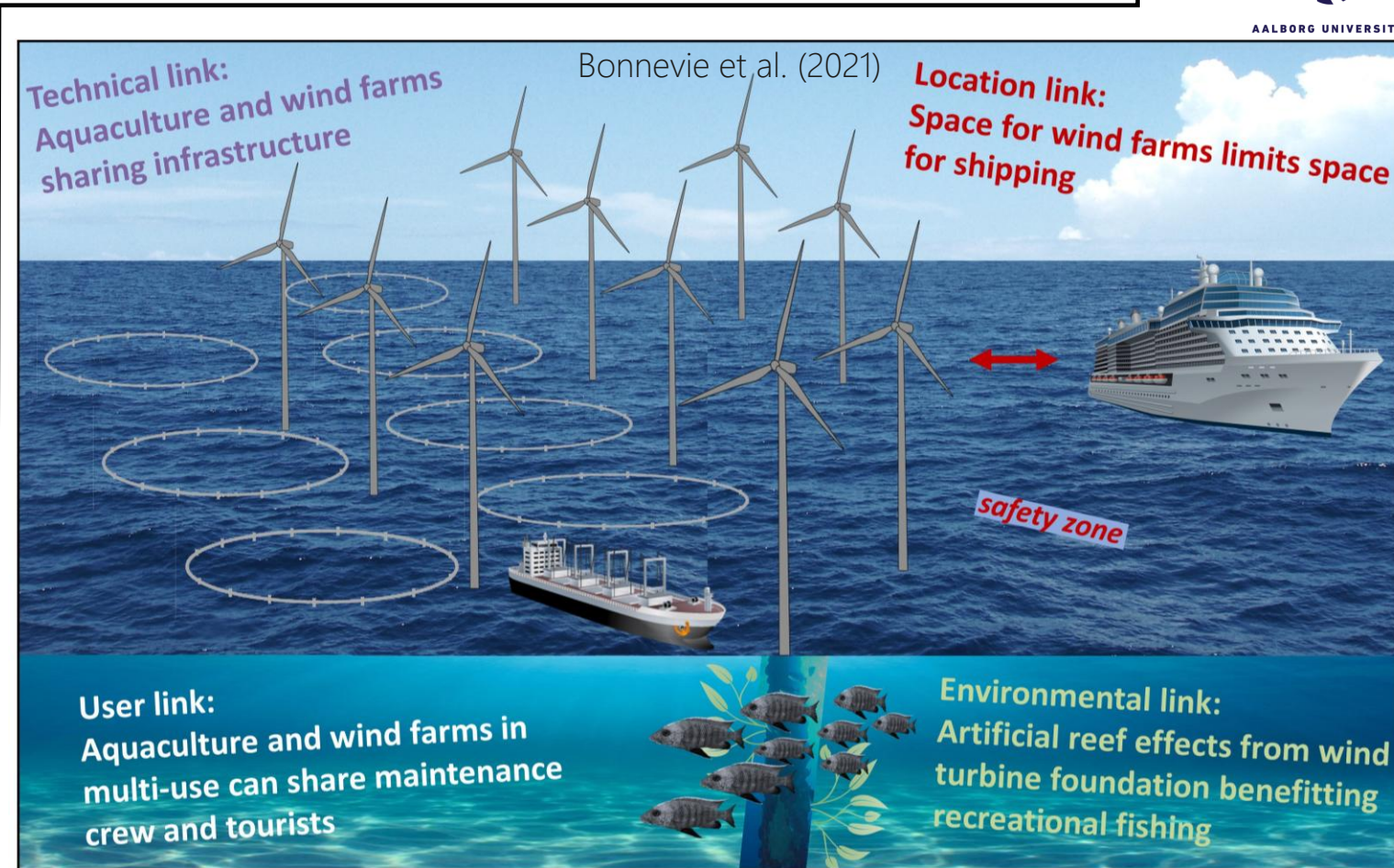
Decreasing cumulative impacts through multi-use



- Single Use
- Multi Use 1 = spatial proximity and shared services
- Multi Use 2 = integrated infrastructures



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Thank you!

References

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