

Indicator for habitat status and extent

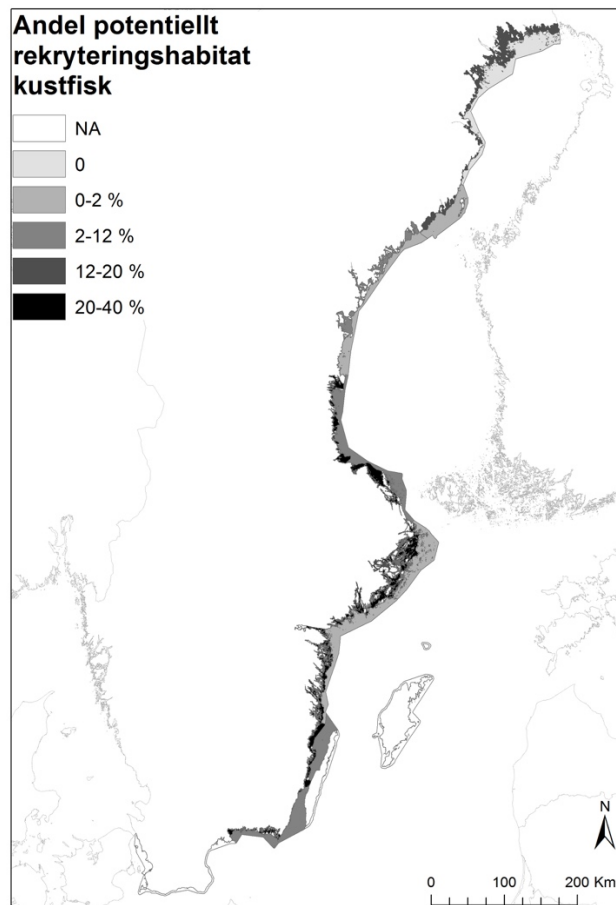
Future indicator for habitat status and extent?

Background:

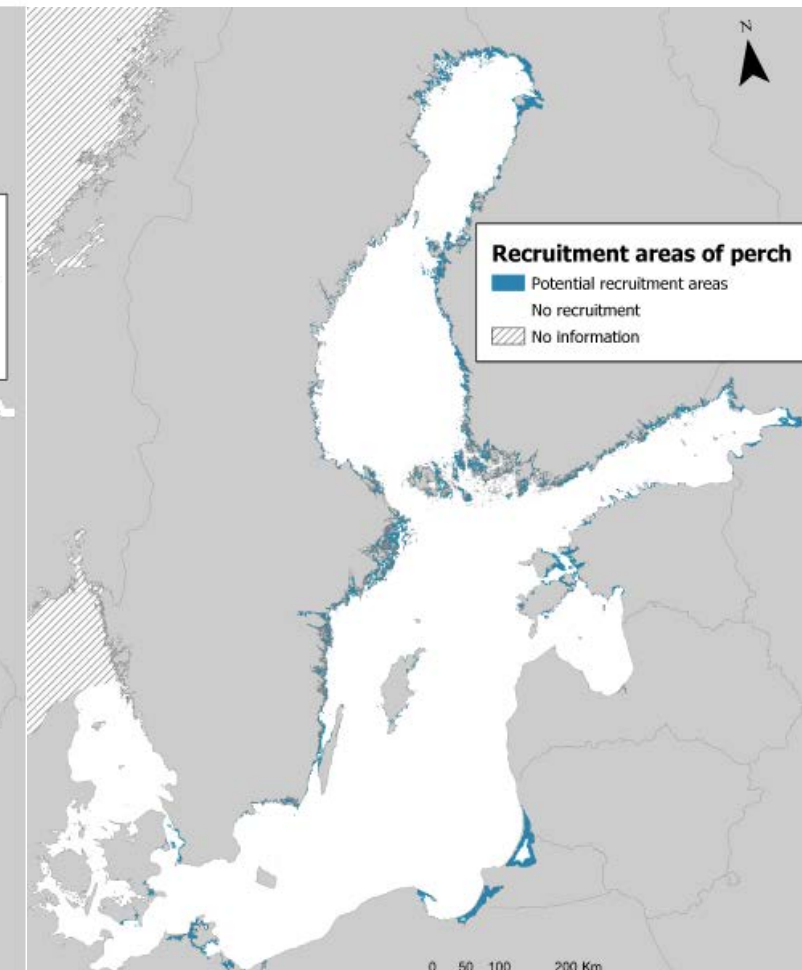
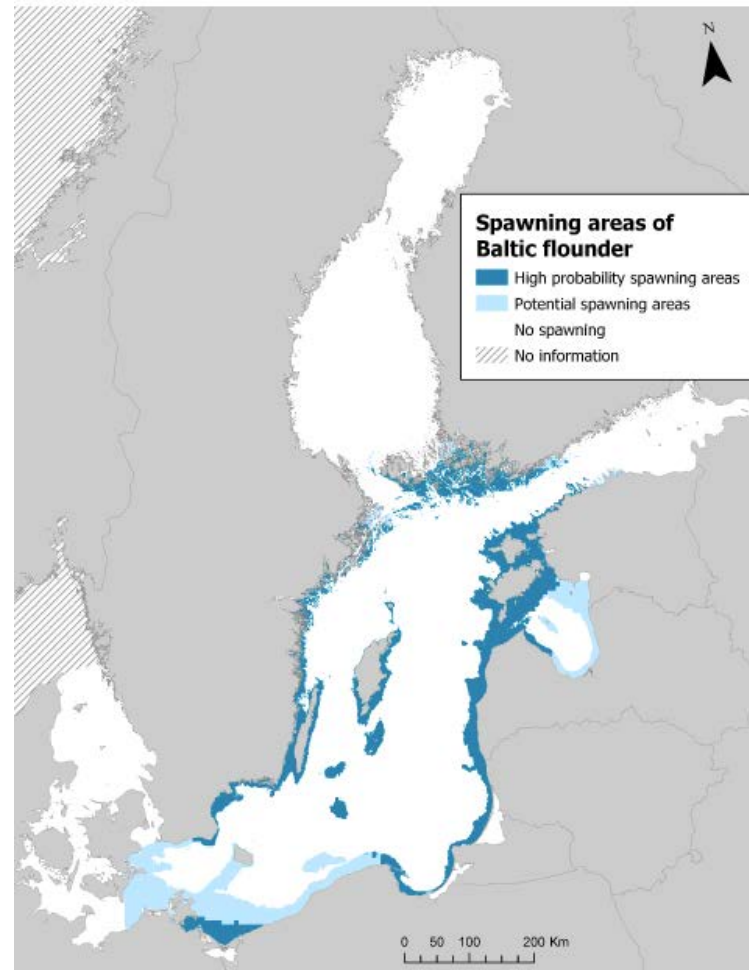
- Request from HELCOM FISH and other HELCOM bodies to develop an indicator for coastal fish habitat status and extent
- No such indicator exists today
- National projects aimed at mapping and predicting the habitat of coastal fish have been undertaken (reviewed in Kraufvelin et al. 2018)
 - > Diversity of methods used and species included. Harmonization needed
- PanBaltic scope produce Baltic wide habitat maps for perch, pikeperch, both flounder species, herring, sprat and cod -> potential habitat in focus

Future indicator for habitat status and extent?

Potential recruitment habitat for coastal fish (perch, pike and roach) in Sweden



Pan Baltic Scope



Future indicator for habitat status and extent?

Discussion points:

- Focus on **EFH in its broad concept or only recruitment and spawning habitats?**
- **Which species** to address? PanBaltic Scope also made aggregated maps for all species
- How to handle **diversity of data and methods** in the Baltic Sea?
- Existing maps aim at showing the extent of potential habitat available to some extent. **How to move to status of the habitat?**
- How to monitor change and in the long run **establish threshold values, reference values and status assessment** for a habitat indicator?
- **Literature review** needed?
- **Lessons learned from the habitats directive?**

- > Should we engage in this work? If so, how? Who should lead the work? Funding for the work?