

NATO Munitions clearing NW Fehmarn (Germany) August 2019



Coalition Clean Baltic
FOR PROTECTION OF THE BALTIC SEA ENVIRONMENT



WW II	3896 groundmines dropped into Kiel Bight by the Royal Navy Current estimates: 800 mines still there
2015-2016	64 mines found in Kiel-Fehmarn traffic lane
2015/2017	Lübeck Waterways and Shipping Authority (WSA) Announcements for Seafarers BfS (T) 130/15 and 14/17: „ <i>Foul (explosives) anchoring and fishing is dangerous</i> “
29 Aug - 18 Sep 2019	Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Group 1 (SNMCMG1) detonated 45 mines using underwater drones, charge weight approximately 500 + 125 kg



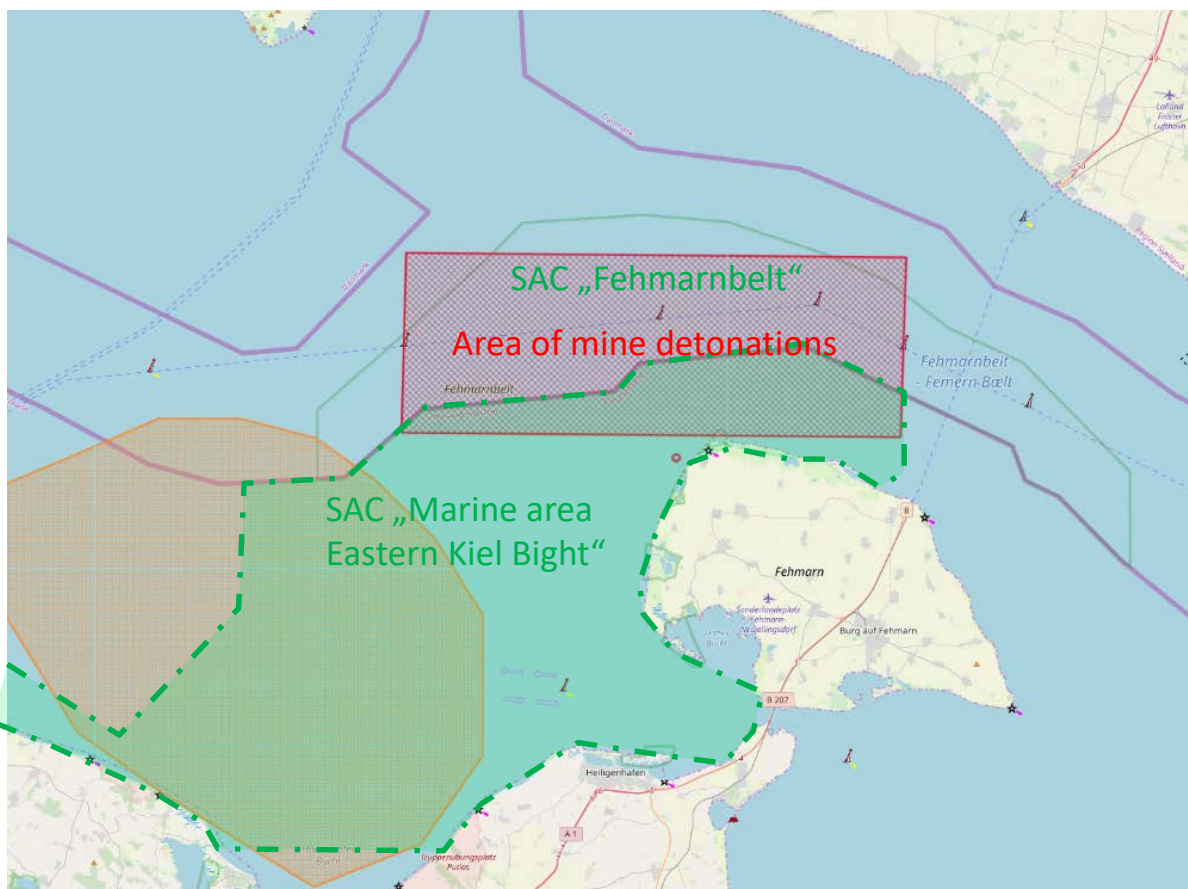
British ground mine Mark VII



Drone „Penguin B3, wikimedia: HGW-VW24)

NATO is not obliged to comply with nature conservation laws

- 45 detonations in harbour porpoise calving and nursing area
- ... during the nursing period
- ... in MPAs
- ... without involving nature conservation agencies.
- Usually the State EOD Teams are responsible for mine clearance in German waters.
- German Federal Government: bubble curtains BAT and BEP for munitions blasting
- no bubble curtains used
- operating instructions by NATO and/or Navies for mitigation and use of deterrents unclear



How can the threats from underwater munitions be further addressed and progress be made with respect to

- available information on impacts of underwater munitions and their removal on marine mammals?
- the use of appropriate mitigation methods by national Navies/EOD teams/companies/the NATO?

How can national Navies/EOD teams/companies/the NATO be encouraged to share information on detonations (beforehand) with national and regional conservation bodies?

How can international guidelines for removal of munitions be developed,

- taking into account wider environmental effects, considering evidence-based and efficient mitigation techniques,
- and removal using alternative technologies / robotics?