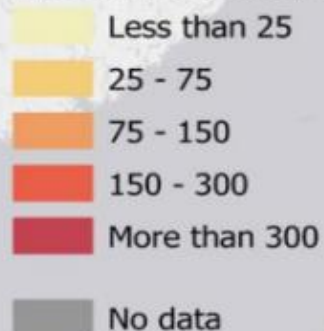
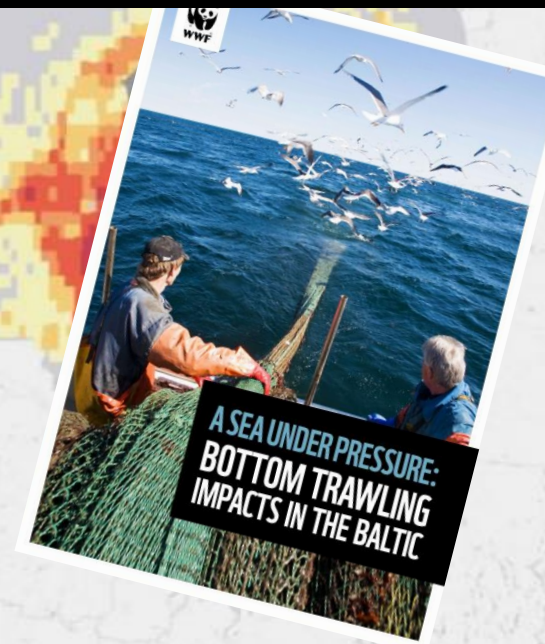


Trawling intensity score - number of fishing hours per year (2016)



Impacts of bottom-trawling on the seafloor and wider ecosystem of the Baltic Sea

Ottilia Thoreson, Director
WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme
28th September 2020 – Our Baltic



0 75 150 km

THE IMPACTS OF BOTTOM TRAWLING - BEFORE AND AFTER



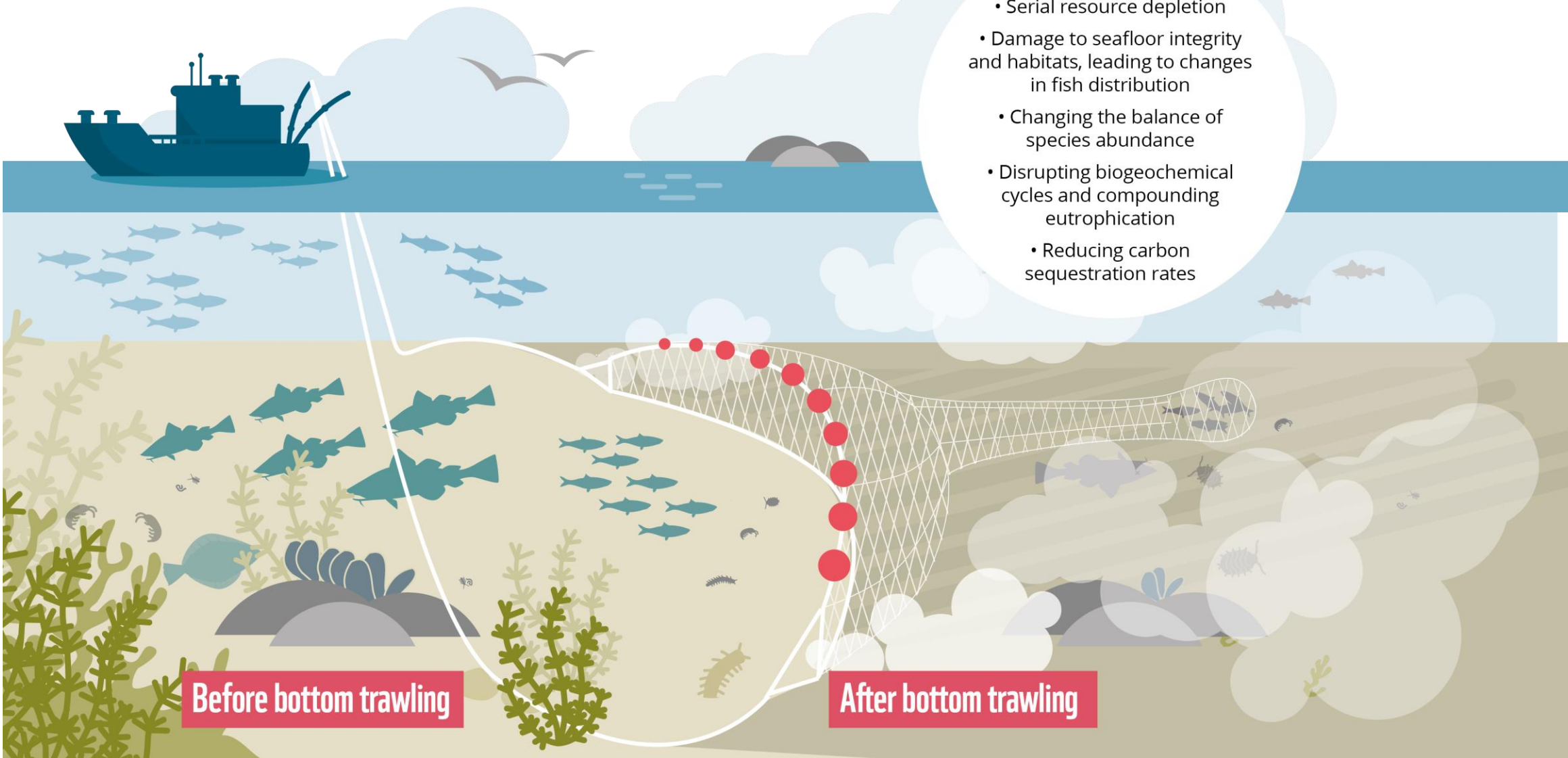
SOURCE: BT REPORT

IMPACTS:

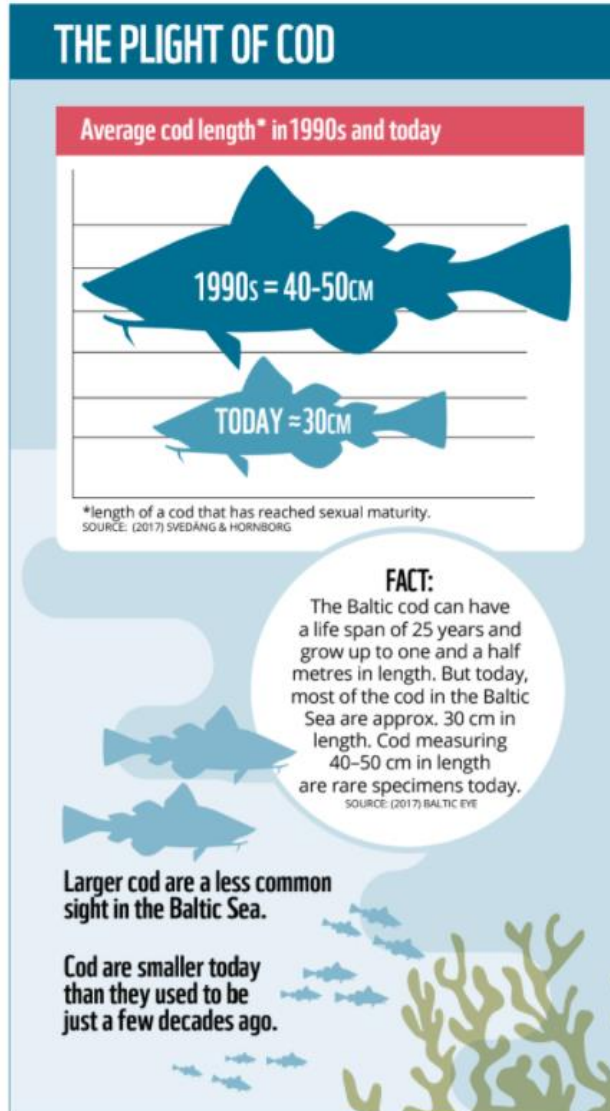
- Serial resource depletion
- Damage to seafloor integrity and habitats, leading to changes in fish distribution
- Changing the balance of species abundance
- Disrupting biogeochemical cycles and compounding eutrophication
 - Reducing carbon sequestration rates

Before bottom trawling

After bottom trawling

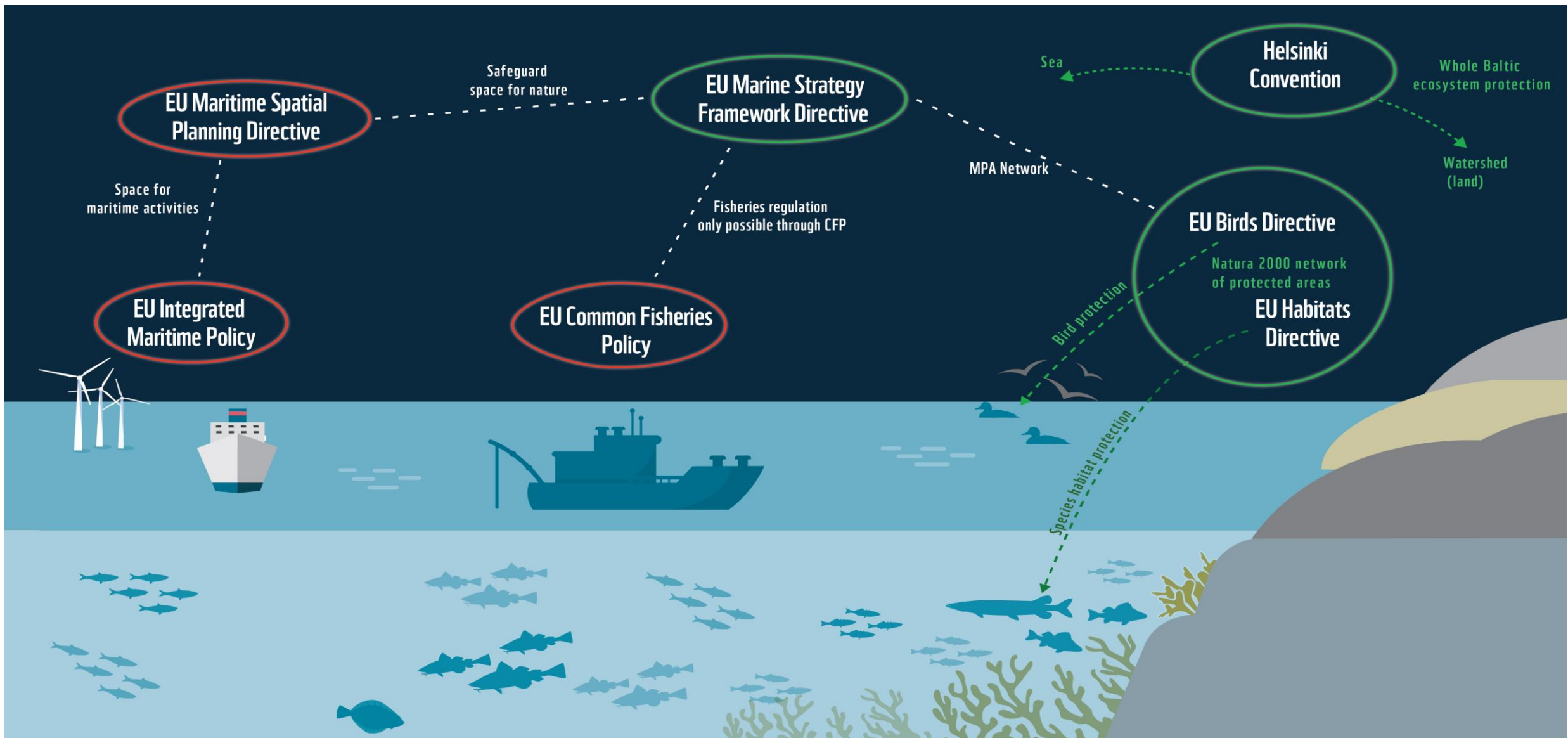


Impacts to Baltic cod fisheries



- ❖ Historically cod has been the main target species caught with bottom trawling gear
- ❖ Fishing quotas for all three cod stocks (Baltic and Kattegat) – ICES recommendation is for complete fishing closure for 2 of the 3 stocks
- ❖ Generated a trophic cascade effect on the food web
- ❖ Fisheries sector is at a crossroad

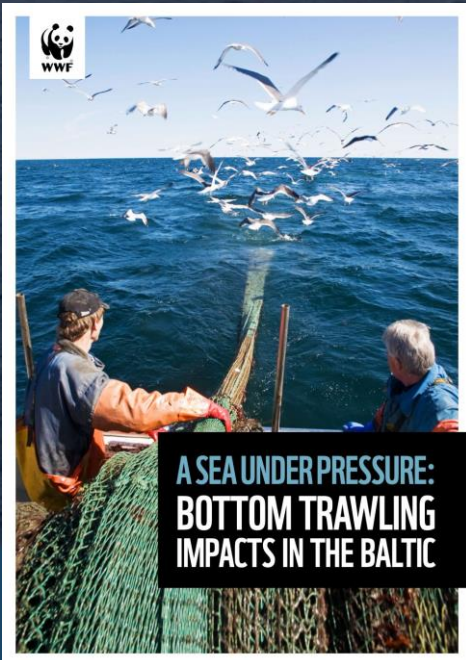
Governments have a legal obligation



A sea under pressure: Bottom trawling impacts in the Baltic

WWF Baltic Bottom Trawling Storymap

WWF, GRID-Arendal | August 18, 2020



Pressure

What is bottom trawling?

The impacts

Opportunity for change

Recommendations

Take action