For the Baltic Sea’s Issues, Knowledge of the Problem and the Commitment to Fix It is Not enough.

For endless years, states surrounding the Baltic Sea have been relentlessly trying to mitigate the environmental problems plaguing the body of water. This is despite the immense amount of scientific literature and studies written about the Baltic Sea’s environmental misfortune.

But the states aren’t yet giving up – they have developed some new ideas to help out, at least on the margin.

BONUS’s (Joint Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme) ESABALT project has developed a program to enable casual boaters to make observations and report human activity to researches. This program was utilized as a pilot to understand the potential of future crowdsourcing projects.

Another proposal is HELCOM’s Roadmap for a Baltic Sea NOx (Nitrogen Oxide) Emissions Control Area. Cargo ships are a major polluter of nitrogen, which aggravates the serious eutrophication issue of the Baltic Sea. Some estimates indicate that the Baltic Sea NECA has the potential to significantly reduce Nitrogen input in the Sea.

However, these sorts of experiments and multilateral agreements are nothing new for the region, having long-standing precedent. While many are successful, they just are not enough to solve the problem. BONUS is starting a new initiative to study the *social* factors that influence success, a relatively un-studied variable.

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