



THE SPECIES OF THE BALTIC SEA

Baltic Sea school: primary school

ÖSTERSJÖPROJEKTET
BALTICSEAPROJECT
ITÄMERIPROJEKTI



BSAG
Baltic Sea Action Group

WELCOME TO GET TO KNOW LIFE IN THE BALTIC SEA!

In this BSAG slide show, you get to know about the interesting life in the Baltic Sea and learn new things about its animals, plants and algae.

Now let's dive into the depths of the Baltic Sea!



Photo: Juuso Haapaniemi, Metsähallitus

Animals of the Baltic Sea

Did you know that there are many animals living in the Baltic Sea that you may have never even heard of?

Let's get to know a few. Some of them can also be found in Finnish lakes.



BENTHIC ISOPOD CRUSTACEAN *SADURIA ENTOMON* (KILKKI)

- Saduria lives at the bottom of the Baltic Sea. Crawls around the bottom eating dead animals, mussels and prawn.
- Lives in deep and cold water.
- Can grow up to ten centimeters in length!
- A favorite food of many fish.



Photo: Essi Keskinen, Metsähallitus

BLUE MUSSEL (SINISIMPUKKA)

- Lives on the rocks at the bottom, often in dense communities.
- Empty mussel shells are homes for small animals.



Photo: Pekka Lehtonen, Metsähallitus

FIFTEEN-SPINED STICKLEBACK (VASKIKALA)

- Tall and slim fish with a special appearance.
- Builds a nest in early summer by tying algae into a ball, and the male stays to guard the nest until the fry are ready to go out into the world.
- Eats plankton and fish fry, which it preys on among the vegetation.



Photo: Visa Hietalahti

BALTIC SHRIMP (LEVÄKATKARAPU)

- Lives on bottom rocks and stones.
- Baltic shrimps are almost transparent, so they are good at hiding.
- Eats everything from plants to small fish, including its own species.



Photo: Visa Hietalahti

THREE-SPINED STICKLEBACK (KOLMIPIIKKI)

- A short fish, a few centimeters long, with three spines on its back.
- In addition to the Baltic Sea, it lives in large lakes in Lapland.
- The male builds a nest in the bottom, where it lures females to by dancing.
- The male takes care of the newborn fry until they are ready to fend for themselves.



Photo: Visa Hietalahti

LUMPSUCKER (RASVAKALA)

- Ball-like shape.
- Has a jelly-like layer of fat beneath the skin.
- The male turns red during spawning.
- Clings to rocks in the bottom with the suction discs on its belly, and stays in place a lot.
- Eats benthic animals and small fish, sometimes even its own species.



Photo: Visa Hietalahti

FLOUNDER (KAMPELA)

- Lives on the muddy and sandy bottoms of the Baltic Sea.
- The favorite food of the flounder are mussels.
- When young it still looks the same as other fish.
- When it matures, the flounder settles down to lie on the bottom and its eyes wander to the other side.



Photo: Visa Hietalahti

STRAIGHTNOSE PIPEFISH (SILONEULA)

- Lives on the shores of the Baltic sea hiding among the vegetation.
- Ties its long tail into bladder wrack (rakkohauru) and sways in the water hunting for plankton.
- Is a cousin of the seahorse!
- The male carries the fry in its brood pouch (like kangaroo mothers), from which they are born in late summer.



Photo: Visa Hietalahti

SEA MAT *ELECTRA* *CRUSTULENTA* (LEVÄRUPI)

- Tiny animal that forms calcium covered colonies.
- The colonies look like lace mats and cover rocks and seashells.
- Catches small organisms using its tentacles.



Photo: Heidi Arponen, Metsähallitus

PERCH (AHVEN)

- Finland's **national fish**, perch, is common in both lakes and the Baltic Sea.
- Perches can live up to more than 20 years.



Photo: Visa Hietalahti

FOURHORNED SCULPIN (HÄRKÄSIMPPU)

- Likes to live in cold water, both in the Baltic Sea and in large lakes.
- Probably a relict from the **Ice Age**.



Photo: Visa Hietalahti

EURASIAN RUFFE (KIISKI)

- Small, blunt-nosed and big-eyed fish.
- Lives in fish flocks both in the Baltic Sea and in lakes.
- Lives near the bottom and preys at night.



Photo: Visa Hietalahti

POLYPS (POLYYPPI)

- Polyps form colonies, in which some polyps are specialized for predation, some for defense and some for reproduction.

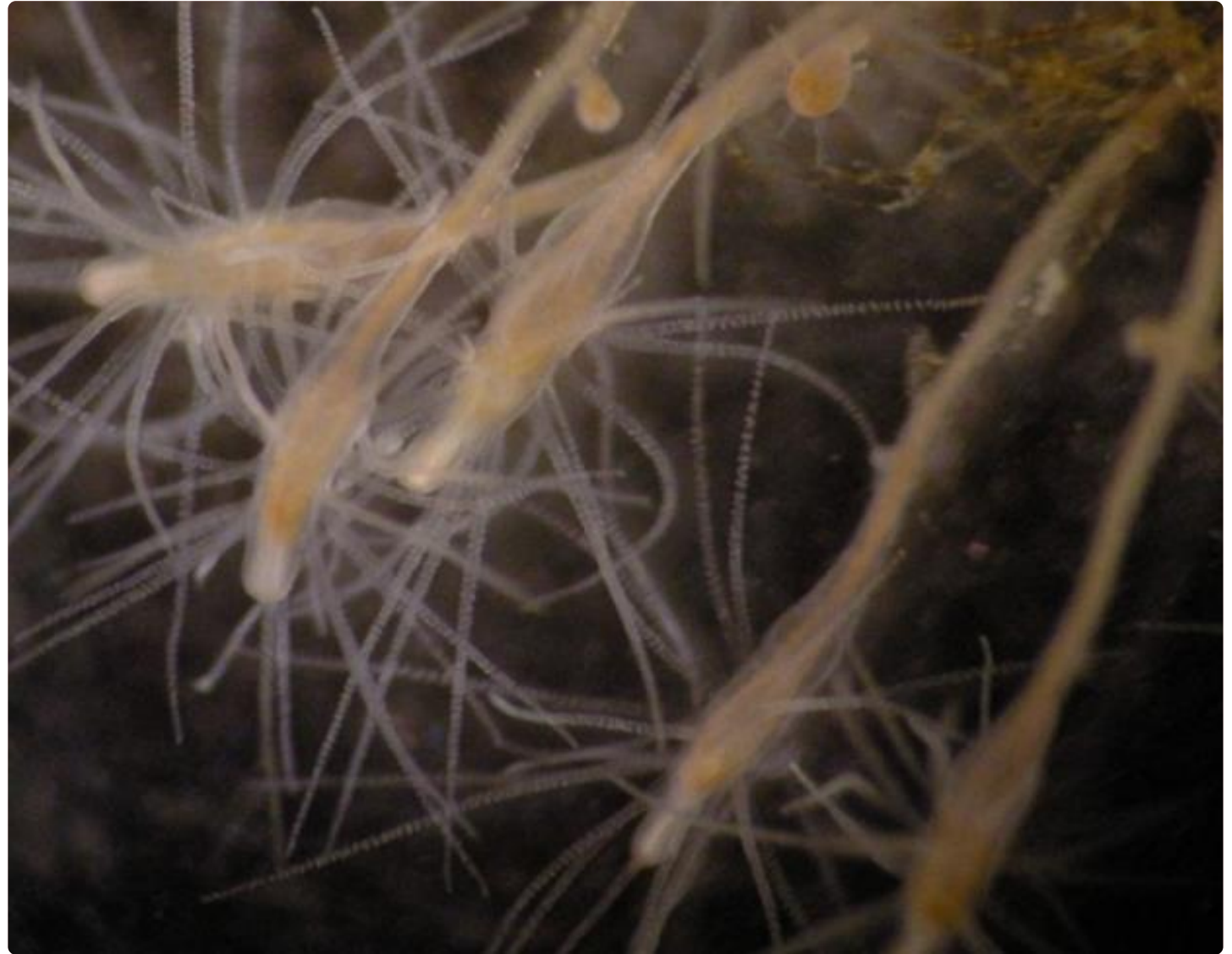


Photo: Essi Keskinen, Metsähallitus

EELPOUT (KIVINILKKA)

- An elongated, bottom-dwelling fish.
- Eelpout's specialties include its green bones!
- Gives birth to live fry instead of spawning.



Photo: Visa Hietalahti

Plants of the Baltic Sea

An underwater photograph of a diverse marine ecosystem. The foreground is dominated by large, yellowish-green seaweed with broad, flat blades. Below this, there are patches of reddish-brown seaweed and smaller, green, grass-like plants. The water is clear and blue, with some small fish visible in the distance. The overall scene is vibrant and colorful, showcasing the variety of life in the Baltic Sea.

Baltic Sea plants serve as food and shelter for animals. Plants also produce oxygen, just like all plants on dry land. Their roots help hold the seabed in place.

FENNEL PONDWEED (HAPSIVITA)

- Thrives on sandy bottoms, where they form tassel-like growths.
- The stems of the fennel pondweed may reach more than one meter in length.
- Their flowers rise to the surface with the help of gas bubbles.



Photo: Mats Westerborn, Metsähallitus

EELGRASS (MERIAJOKAS)

- At its best, eelgrass forms huge meadows that act as a shelter and home for many animal species.



Photo: Metsähallitus

SPINY NAIAD (MERINÄKINRUOHO)

- Grows in sheltered places right next to the shore.
- There are often spikes along the stem.



Photo: Heidi Arponen, Metsähallitus

BRACKISH WATER- CROWFOOT (MERISÄTKIN)

- Lives near the shore.
- The presence of brackish water-crowfoot can be recognized by the white flowers that rise above the water surface - and can form even dense meadows.



Photo: Pekka Lehtonen, Metsähallitus

PERFOLIATE PONDWEED (AHVENVITA)

- Can grow huge, up to two and a half meters long.
- Offers good shelter for many fish.



Photo: Essi Keskinen, Metsähallitus

SPIKED WATERMILFOIL (ÄRVIÄ)

- Grows creeper-like in soft areas of the bottom, such as sand.
- Usually found only in lakes, but some have learned to live in the Baltic Sea as well.



Photo: Petra Pohjola, Metsähallitus


QUILLWORTS (LAHNARUOHO)

- Grows in shallow rosettes in clear, low-salinity water.



Photo: Jussi-Tapio Roinonen, Metsähallitus

Algae of the Baltic Sea



A diverse group of different algae lives in the different depths of the Baltic Sea. They give shelter to organisms and provide habitats. Let's get to know them together!

MOSS BALL (AHDINPALLERO)

- Can grow both on the surfaces of stones or as a loose ball of algae.
- In the Baltic Sea there are moss balls about the size of a golf ball, but in other parts of the world the balls can grow much larger.



Photo: Lari Järvinen, Metsähallitus

STONEWORTS (NÄKINPARTAISET)

- They can form dense meadows on the seabed, which serve as shelter for fish fry.
- It is not very popular meal for other animals, as it releases a pungent smell that drives away hungry pests.



Photo: Pekka Lehtonen, Metsähallitus

BLADDERWRACK (RAKKOHAURU)

- Bladderwrack is familiar to many people.
- It forms dense habitats on rocky shores. The habitats provide shelter and food for many organisms.



Photo: Visa Hietalahti

CRUSTOSE BROWN ALGA *PSEUDOLITHODERMA SP.* (LAIKKURUSKOLEVÄ)

- You might not immediately think of pseudolithoderma as algae, because it covers the surfaces of rocks as a thin, paint-like film.
- A single pseudolithoderma is tiny, but it grows in large colonies.



Photo: Visa Hietalahti

CLAWED FORK WEED *FURCELLARIA LUMBRICALIS* (HAARUKKALEVÄ)

- It is large-sized and belongs to red algae.
- It lives on rocky shores in deeper water layers.



Photo: Visa Hietalahti

RED-BEAD ALGA *CERAMIUM TENUICORNE* (HELMILEVÄ)

- Ceramium algae are found in all the seas of the world.
- When viewed up close, the stem of the algae looks like a small necklace with pearls.
- Forms shallow reddish communities.



Photo: Julia Scheinin, Metsähallitus

MERMAID'S HAIR
CLADOPHORA
GLOMERATA
(VIHERAHDINPARTA)

- If you have spent time on the shores of Baltic Sea, you most likely know this hair-like algae.
- Bright green in colour, it sways in the waves right by the shoreline, attached to stones and rocks.

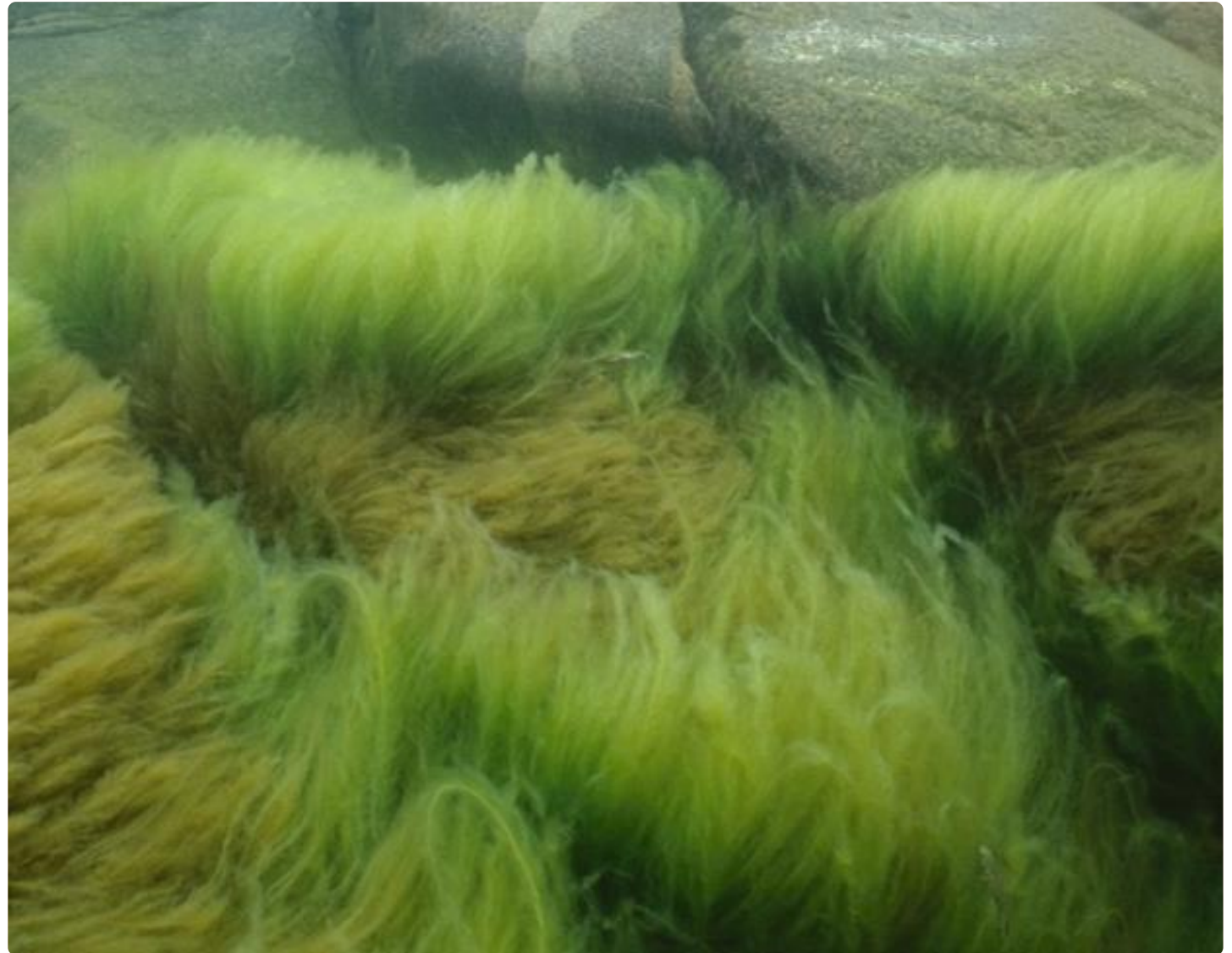



Photo: Visa Hietalahti

An underwater scene featuring several jellyfish of various sizes and colors (blue, purple, yellow) swimming in clear, greenish water. The seabed is covered with green and yellow seaweed. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

The Baltic Sea is important, and it is especially important to get to know it better. You have now gained a lot of new information and hopefully learned many things about the life in the Baltic Sea.

**If you want to learn more, you can visit:
bsag.fi/en/the-baltic-sea/**

**With sunny wishes
BSAG**

**Sources and images: www.marinefinland.fi/en-US
& www.bsag.fi/en/**

Thank you for the journey to the depths of the Baltic Sea!

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