



## BALTHEALTH; Baltic Sea multilevel health impacts on key species of anthropogenic hazardous substances

### Project data

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Sponsorship:	Project Management Jülich (PTJ) for the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
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### Project description

The Baltic serves as a unique model ecosystem in which top predators can provide early warnings for ecosystem health. Over the last century the Baltic food web has been severely impacted by hazardous substances, hunting, fisheries and eutrophication. The main focus of the proposed project BaltHealth is therefore to investigate spatial and temporal trends in multilevel food web impacts of chemical substances, climate change, zoonotic diseases, and their interactions. The consortium, representing for BONUS countries, provides a unique synergism of extensive ecological, toxicological and veterinary expertise. The consortium has access to state of the art facilities and techniques, as well as decades of acquired samples and data, which will be used to develop novel indicators for animal health and good ecological status. Once having defined the interactions between key ecological and commercial species, separate work packages will investigate food web dynamics of energy and hazardous substances, linkages to pathological, immune and endocrine effect biomarkers, as well as important infectious and zoonotic diseases. All data will feed into an integrated model of health effects of multiple stressors for the Baltic food web. The BaltHealth outcome will furthermore provide novel knowledge for risk assessments by Baltic stakeholders, including HELCOM, ICES, OSPAR and ASCOBANS, and will have large impact through education, public media and the participating national history museum.



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