Approaching 30x30 – Identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas

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Suomen ympäristökeskus
Finlands miljöcentral
Finnish Environment Institute

Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas

Special places in the world's oceans

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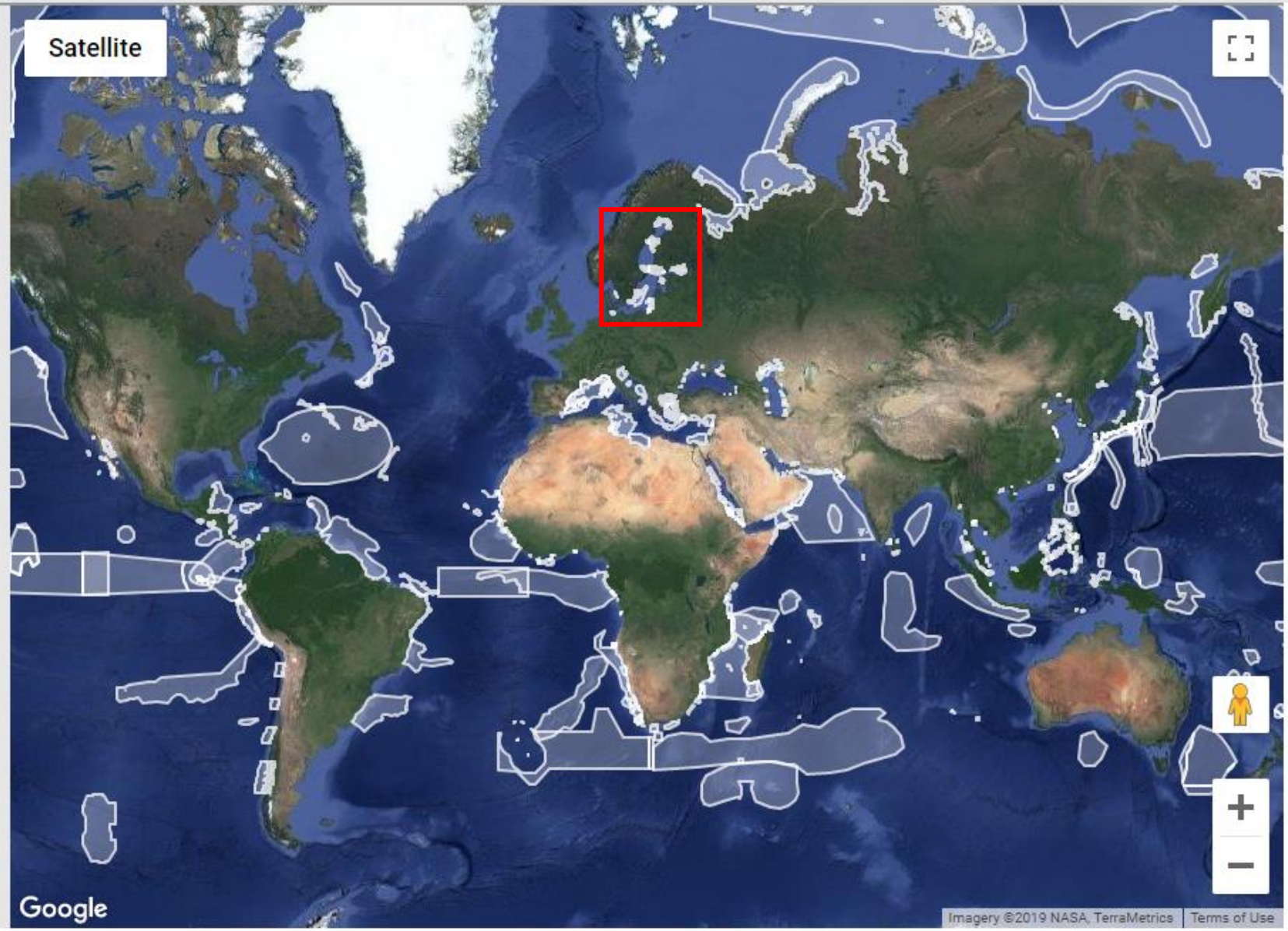
View Areas Meeting the EBSA Criteria

- **All Regions**
- Arctic
- Baltic Sea
- Black and Caspian Seas
- East Asian Seas
- Eastern Tropical and Temperate Pacific
- Mediterranean
- North Pacific
- North-East Indian Ocean
- North-west Atlantic
- North-West Indian Ocean and Adjacent Gulf Areas
- South-Eastern Atlantic
- Southern Indian Ocean
- Western South Pacific
- Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic



- 9 EBSAs for the Baltic Sea (2018)

- Seven criteria:
  1) uniqueness, rarity, or notable presence;
  2) special importance for life history stages of species;
  3) importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats;
  4) vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity, or slow recovery;
  5) biological diversity;
  6) naturalness and
  7) biological productivity

- Adoption of EBSA criteria for national applications: 87 EMMA areas
- Not the 30x30 solution!

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Marine Policy

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/marpol

Full length article

Identifying ecologically valuable marine areas to support conservation and spatial planning at scales relevant for decision making

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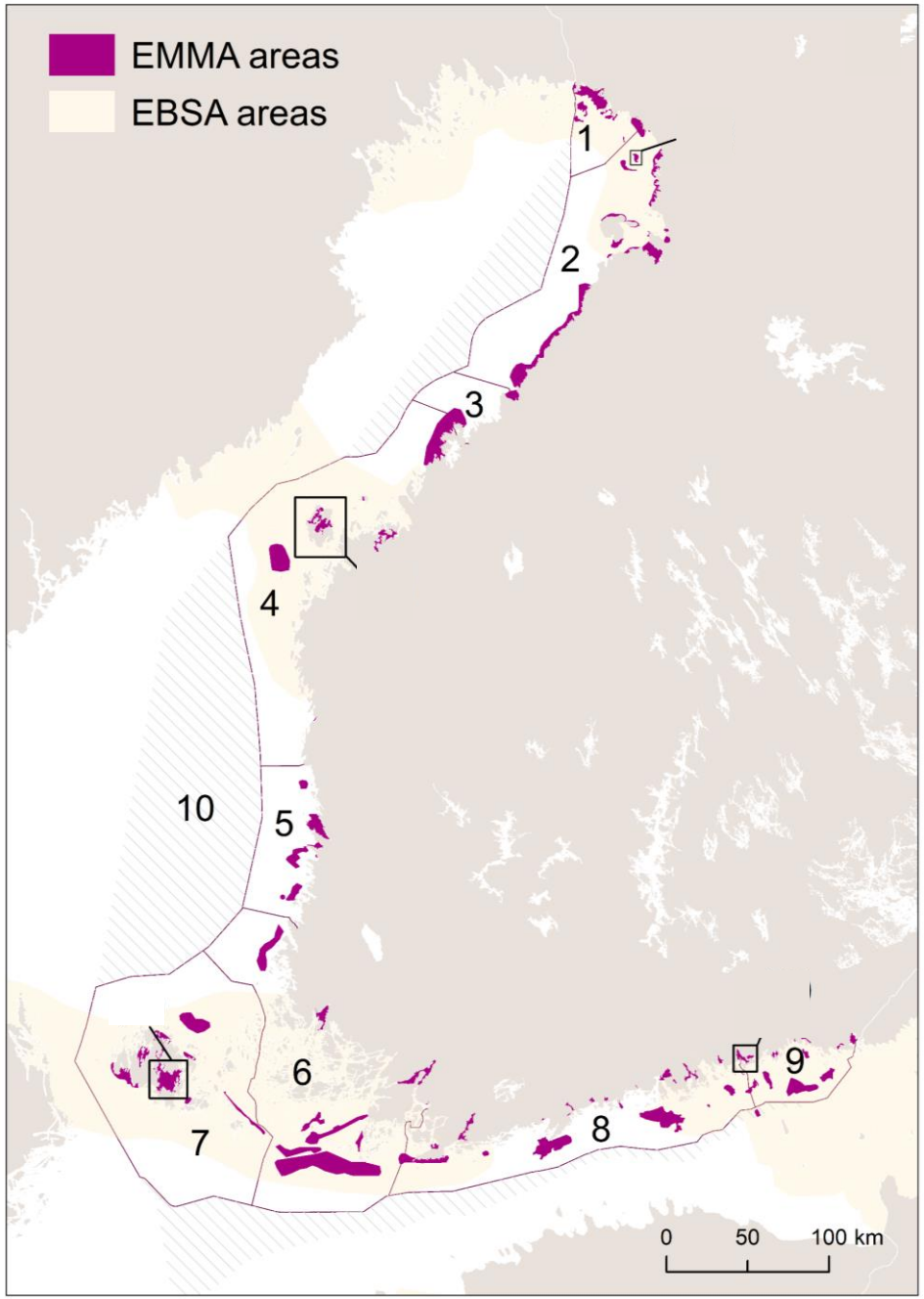
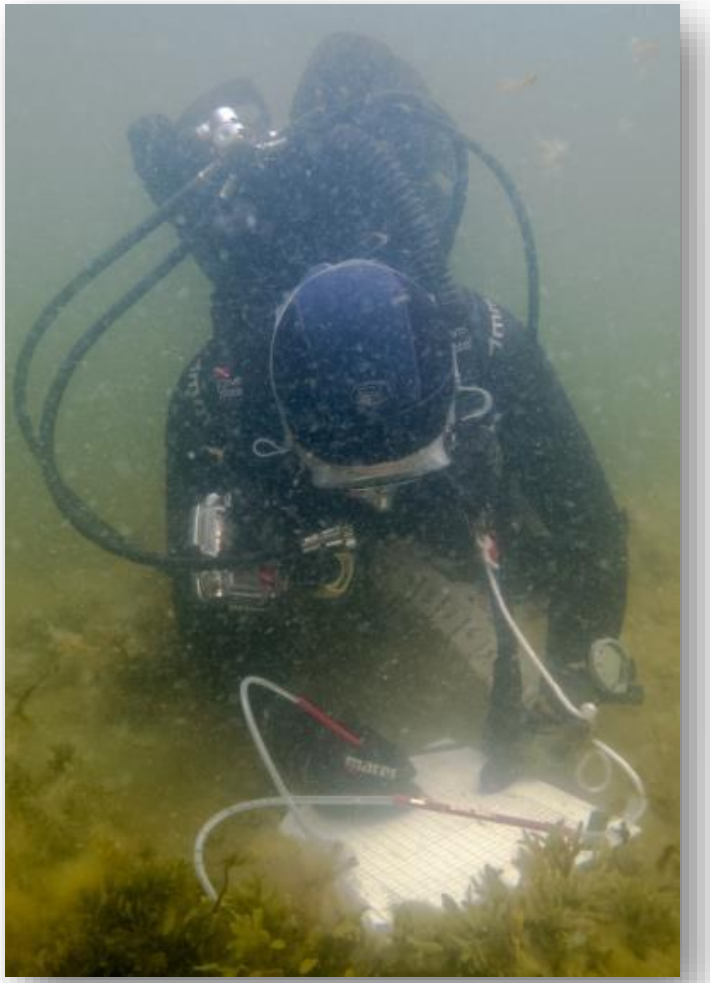


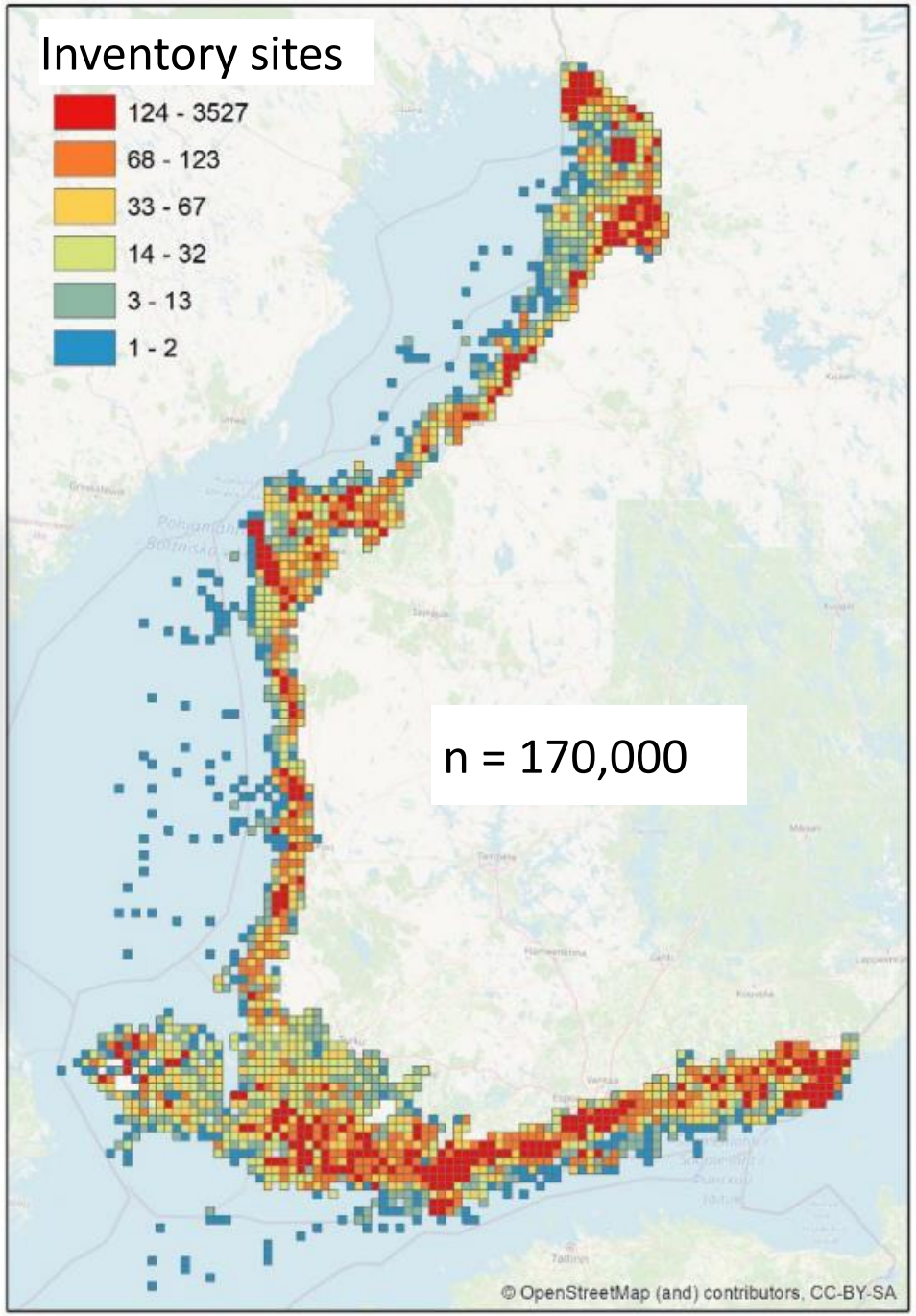
Kuismanen et al. 2023

Finnish Inventory Programme for Underwater Marine Diversity (Velmu)



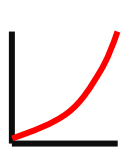
Parks & Wildlife Finland

VELMU



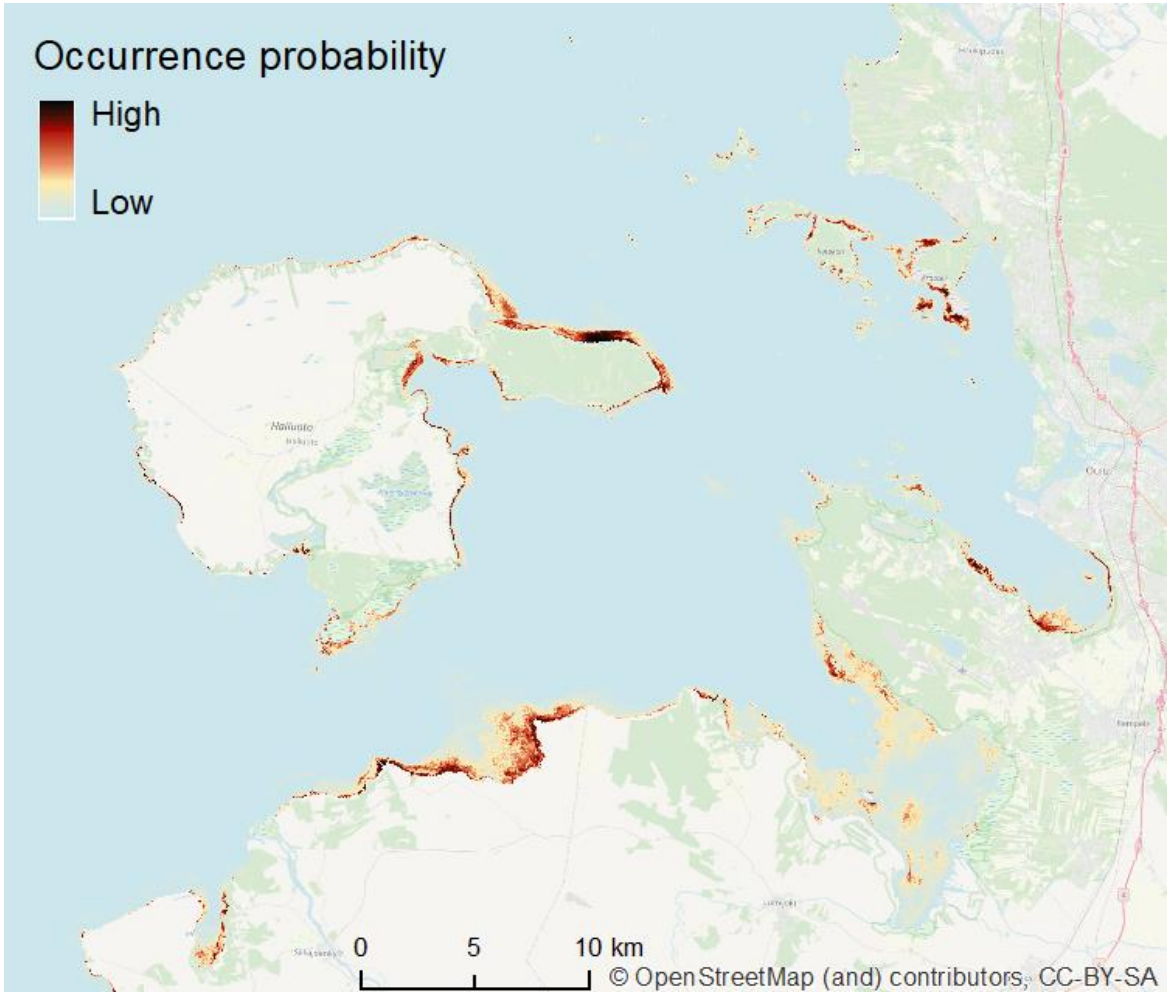
Species distribution models

Macroplea pubipennis
-a rare leaf beetle
in EU mainly occurring in Finland


Light

Substrate

Salinity

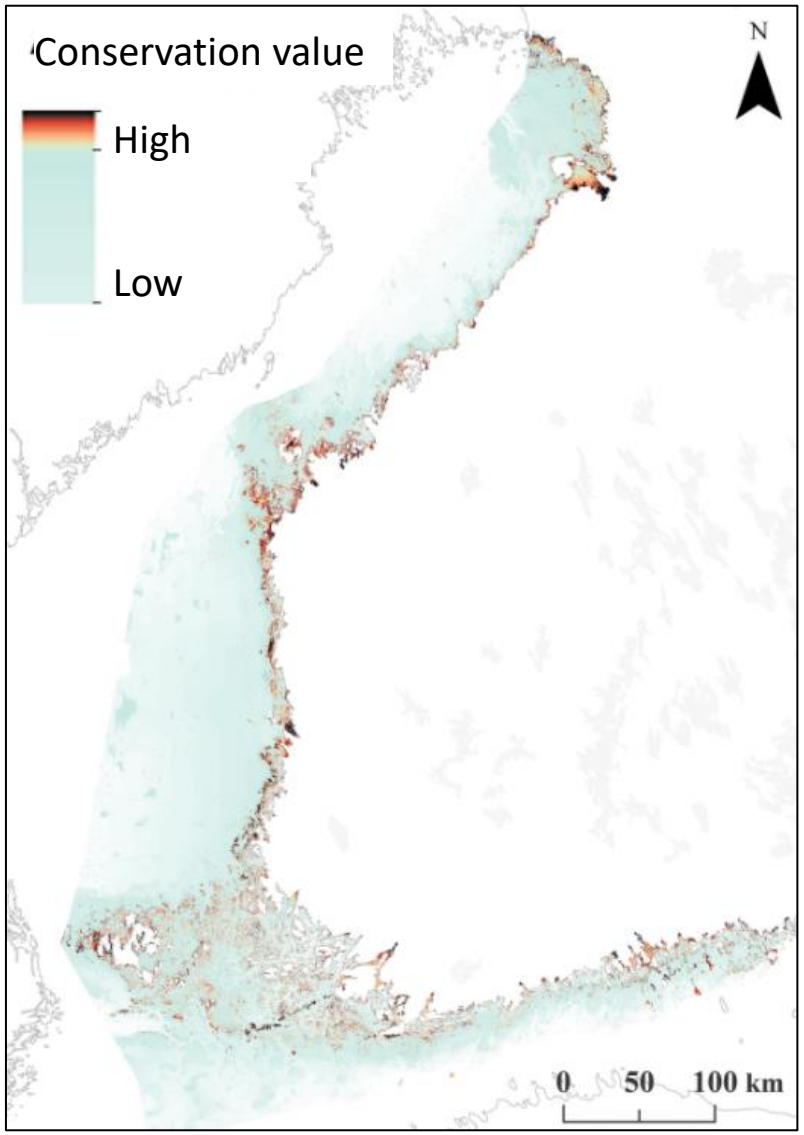


Identification of key areas of conservation importance

- Biodiversity features (species, habitats, ecosystems)
- Threats
- Ecological connectivity

Spatial prioritization

Zonation 5



Virtanen *et al.* 2018

ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE
Front. Mar. Sci., 08 November 2018 | https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2018.00402

Evaluation, Gap Analysis, and Potential Expansion of the Finnish Marine Protected Area Network

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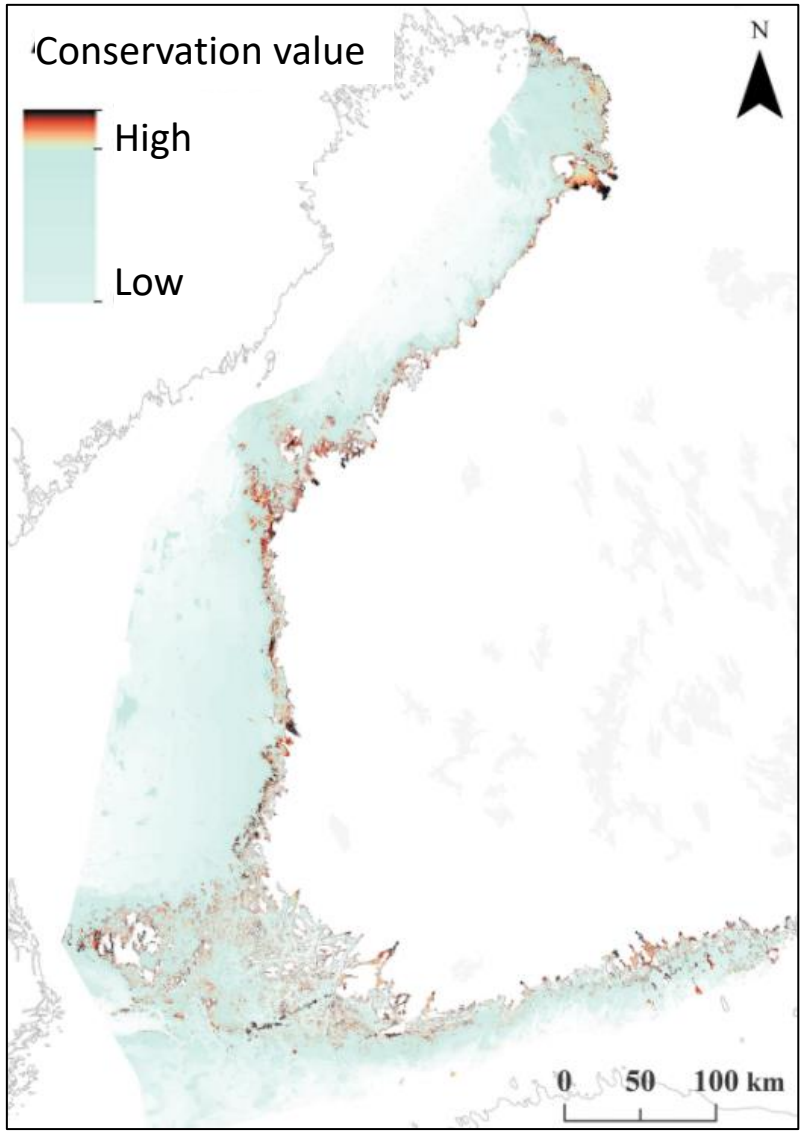
Approaching 30x30



- Conservation areas
  - → strict 10%
  - → 20% other protection
- Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)
- Multi-use areas
- Marine spatial planning

BIODIVERSEA
meriluonnon puolesta

VELMU

What should be taken into account in identifying ecologically or biologically significant areas, for 30x30?

- Representative data, expert knowledge and key tools (e.g. spatial prioritization) to support the identification of areas of importance for biodiversity
- Conservation should not only concentrate on achieving area-based targets, but to maximize benefits for biodiversity
- The importance of scales: national, regional vs. global conservation efforts