



# Baltic Sea Ranger

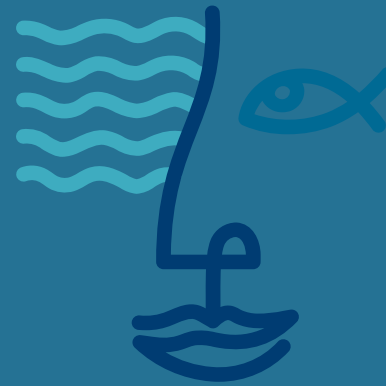
An approach to  
saving  
traditional  
small-scale  
coastal fisheries



# Small Scale fishery & sustainability

2022 the United Nations proclaimed the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture to highlight the important role of small-scale fisheries in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal targets and to promote successful action towards the four betters:

- better production
- better nutrition
- a better environment
- a better life



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF  
**ARTISANAL FISHERIES  
AND AQUACULTURE**  
2022



[www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)



# Sustainable Development Goals



Environmental sustainability:  
Use biodiversity sustainably



Social sustainability:  
Secure social inclusion and well-being



Economic sustainability:  
Support inclusive value chains



Governance:  
Ensure effective participation



# Sustainable Development Goals



Gender equality and equity



Food security and nutrition: Promote the contribution to healthy diets from small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in sustainable food systems



Resilience: Increase the preparedness and adaptive capacity to climate change



# European Union

As part of the European Green Deal, the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is the regulatory framework for climate protection, food supply, biodiversity and management of fish stocks for the member states.

A well-known example are the historically low annual catch quotas issued by the EU Commission.

The Baltic Sea Action Plan (2023) for sustainable and resilient fisheries emphasizes Small Scale Fisheries´

- cultural and historical values
- the social and economic safety net
- an unmatched skillset to restore and protect marine habitats

Although landings from small-scale coastal fisheries in the EU 2023 appear marginal at 5.4 %, the EU member states acknowledge, that returns are not only to be seen in terms of economic figures.



# Baltic Sea

The Baltic Sea is among the most intensively used and ecologically stressed marine regions in the world. As an enclosed, semi-brackish system, it is particularly vulnerable to the combined pressures of

- climate change
- eutrophication
- biodiversity loss
- competing maritime activities

Despite decades of scientific advances and increasingly sophisticated policy frameworks, a persistent gap remains between conservation targets and measurable ecological progress.



# Baltic Sea Action Plan

The Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) has identified a worrying state of the Baltic Sea in its report 'State of the Baltic Sea' 2023 and published a 'Red List of Habitats and Biotopes' in 2022.

The Commission is pursuing a holistic ecosystem approach in which all Baltic Sea states are obliged to systematically collect data as the basis for management plans and put the Baltic-Sea Action Plan in place.

In coastal waters with incomparably high biodiversity, there is a lack of data on most biotopes and regular monitoring activities, though. Lagoons, straits and coastal zones are despite mandatory management plans e.g. for Fauna-Flora-habitat zones often white spots on the scientific nautical chart.

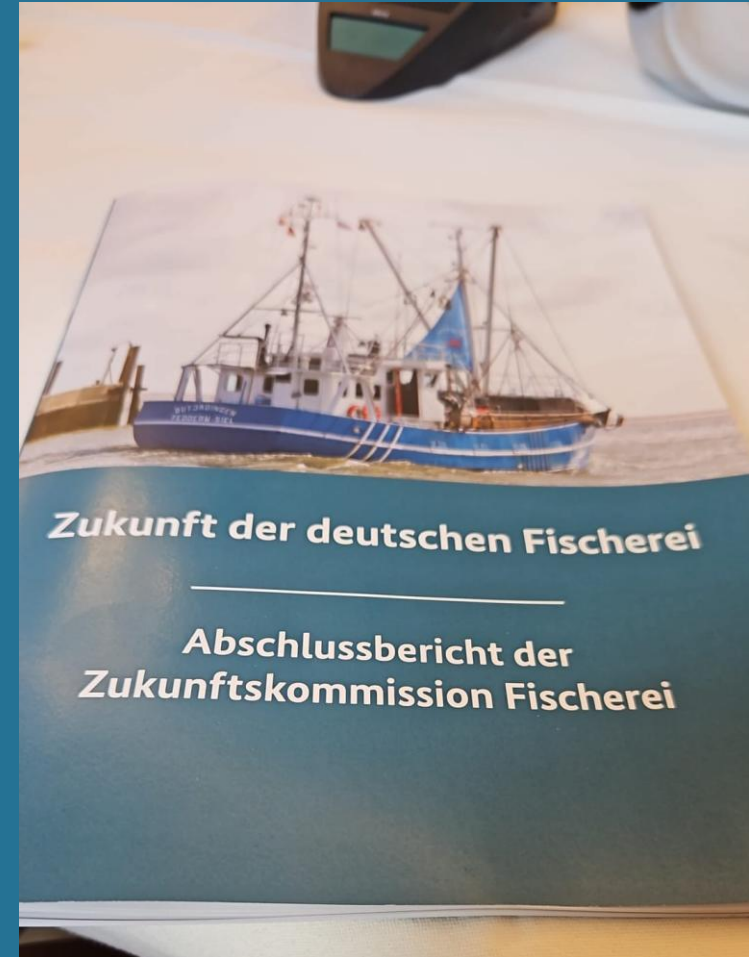


# Germany

German government has committed itself 2025 to preserving Small Scale Fishery:

- **Mission Statement Commission Future of German Baltic Sea Fisheries** has been appointed by the Ministry Food and Agriculture. Federal Stakeholder dialogue
- **National Fisheries Future Commission** Stakeholder dialogue on a national level.

Agency: Informations- und Koordinierungsstelle  
Transformation Fischerei (IKTF): [iktf@thuenen.de](mailto:iktf@thuenen.de)



# Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (M.-V.)

Viewing the Western Baltic Sea from an ecological and economical point of view pure fishing activities are no longer economically viable. The remaining companies are without exception dependent on state subsidies.

The average age of fishermen in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania is currently 60 years and there are almost no new trainees. So particularly alarming is the imminent loss of specific fishermen knowledge within only one generation.

Due to uncertain sources of income small scale fishery has lost a lot of its attractiveness. Today, almost only companies can survive that have already found a second or third economic pillar through diversification, for example in processing, restaurants or tourism.

On the part of the fishermen involved in M.- V. there is no longer a professional interest representation in place representing fishing operations at a federal, national and EU level. On the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2021, the ‚Kutter- und Küstenfisch Verband ‘ in Stralsund decided to dissolve their professional association.



# Initial concept

In 2023 a proprietary education program in artisanal fishery has been piloted by fishermen themselves in close cooperation with scientists (living lab @ Cooperative Wismar Bay). The initial concept was published in late 2023. Besides ecological and economical challenges of coastal fisheries today, the core task of this entirely new approach is to preserve nature and motivating a new generation of fishermen to carry on with the Baltic Sea fisheries' tradition through alternative income sources.

The brochure cover features a blue header with logos for 'Center for Ocean and Society', 'C4S', and 'SpaCeParti'. The title 'FÖRSTER DES MEERES: Idee für eine nachhaltige Zukunft der KLEINEN KÜSTENFISCHEREI' is prominently displayed. The main content is divided into two columns. The left column, titled 'Das Reallabor Wismarbucht', discusses the challenges of small coastal fisheries and presents a solution approach. The right column, titled 'Die Umsetzung in Reallaboren', describes the implementation through participatory workshops and dialogues. A central diagram illustrates the 'Lösungsansatz' (solution approach) as a cycle of 'Ko-Design', 'Ko-Produktion', and 'Ko-Evaluation'. A map of the Baltic Sea highlights the 'westliche Ostsee' (western Baltic Sea). The bottom section, 'SpaCeParti', provides contact information and a QR code for more information. The footer lists the authors and various partner organizations, including DAM, Bundesministerium für Bildung, Freie Hansestadt Bremen, Hamburg, and others.

**Center for Ocean and Society** **C4S** **SpaCeParti**

## FÖRSTER DES MEERES: Idee für eine nachhaltige Zukunft der KLEINEN KÜSTENFISCHEREI

**Das Reallabor Wismarbucht:**  
Fischerei und Forschung entwickeln gemeinsam Lösungskonzepte und partizipieren weitere Stakeholdergruppen.

**Hintergründe**  
Die Krise der kleinen Küstenfischerei ist eng verknüpft mit der ökonomischen Entwicklung von Küstenorten, dem Klimawandel und dem Biodiversitätsverlust:

- Eutrophierung, Sauerstoffmangel & Hitzeperioden in der Ostsee
- Überfischung von Dorsch & Hering
- Abnahme des Laichbestands der Hauptzielarten Dorsch & Hering
- Stark sinkende Erträge, dadurch Rückgang der Anzahl von Fischern und Auszubildenden
- Drohender Verlust der Fischerei als kulturelles Erbe, Tradition und Identität von Küstengemeinden

**Lösungsansatz**  
Neue Herausforderungen brauchen neue Lösungen! Für den Erhalt der traditionellen kleinen Küstenfischerei braucht es eine Anpassung des Fischereiberufs an die aktuelle Situation.

Aufbau einer Zusatzqualifikation für FischerInnen in den Bereichen Natur- und Umweltschutz, Öffentlichkeitsarbeit und Tourismus sowie Kooperation mit Forschung und Bildung.

Diese soll:

1. eine **KOMMUNALE (TEIL-)FINANZIERUNG** für Fischer ermöglichen, weil Aufgaben für die Allgemeinheit übernommen werden.
2. den **FISCHEREIBERUF FÜR ZUKÜNFTIGE AUSZUBILDENDE ATTRAKTIVER GESTALTEN**, indem u.a. Ziele der Nachhaltigkeit stärker in den Fokus gerückt werden und der Lebensunterhalt sichergestellt wird.

**Förster des Meeres:**  
Zusatzqualifikation Fischerei und Meeresumwelt  
Eine Idee der Fachzeitschrift Wismarbucht #1

**Fischereimanagement mit wissenschaftlicher Begleitung:**

- Ökosystemmanagement
- Testen von alternativen Bewirtschaftungsansätzen

**Natur- und Umweltschutz:**

- Pflege und Schutz von Biotopen
- Erhalt und Aufbau von Laichgründen
- Mitentwicklung und Testen nachhaltiger sowie alternativer Fangmethoden

**Tourismus und Kulturerbe:**

- Erhalt der Fischerei als Erwerbsform und des Fischereibildes in Küstengebieten
- Begleitung und Durchführung von touristischen Angeboten zum Thema nachhaltige Fischerei
- Präsentation des Kulturerbes der kleinen Küstenfischerei in Kooperation mit Museen, Kommunen, Hafenbetreibern, Tourismusveranstaltung etc.

**Die Umsetzung in Reallaboren**  
erfolgt in partizipativen Workshops, Dialogforen und Arbeitskreisen:

Selbstverständnis für die koordinative Zusammenarbeit aller Akteure

Ko-Design Ko-Produktion Ko-Evaluation

Problem → Lösungsansatz → Lösung

westliche Ostsee

**SpaCeParti:**  
Küstenfischerei, Biodiversität, räumliche Nutzung und Klimawandel: Ein partizipativer Ansatz zur Navigation der westlichen Ostsee in eine nachhaltige Zukunft

Für mehr Infos und Kontaktdaten den Code scannen.

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**DAM** **Bundesministerium für Bildung** **Freie Hansestadt Bremen** **Hamburg** **Landesbetrieb Meeres- und Küstenschutz** **MV** **SH** **sustainMore**



# Sea Ranger Training

The Sea Ranger concept consists of a state-recognized job training for small-scale coastal fishers.

- Entry requirement: 3 years of compulsory (dual) apprenticeship
- 8 weeks lectures, 4 weeks intern-ship, 1 week excursion (DK,S) & graduation project
- Certified Specialists in Fisheries & Marine Environment
- qualifies graduates for project jobs procured by their organisation Sea Ranger e.V..



# Ecosystem, marine science & legislation

- Marine biology
- Ecosystem and legal system
- Environmental regulations and spatial planning
- Environmental monitoring
- Production of marine organisms



# Communication & PR

- Communication basics
- Environmental Education
- Public relations
- Project management



# Fisheries in transition

- Historical fishing vessels and fishing techniques
- Diversification and marketing strategies
- Changes in marine environment
- Sustainable fishing operations



# Sea Ranger e.V.

The Sea Ranger e.V. is a non-profit association founded 2023 by the eleven pioneering fisherman as their professional representation. The new ecosystem based approach in marine conservation, supporting fisheries and coastal communities was very well acclaimed by media and public sector. Eleven Sea Rangers (Specialists fisheries and marine environment) initially offered ecosystem services and in-depth-know-how on the water, regionally, at the coast of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania in a first step. Chairman of the Board is Oliver Greve, promoting the idea from the very beginning. Sea Ranger e.V. prepares the next training course with our german Fishery Information Center (IKTF) addressing fishermen from three coastal federal states.

Traditional Small Scale Fishery at the coastline and lagoons in M.-V.:

UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage 2026





EU- Comission Stakeholder Dialog

<https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu>

Bund/Länder-Arbeitsgemeinschaft Nord- und Ostsee (BLANO)

<https://mitglieder.meeresschutz.info/de/blano>

<https://www.baltic-coast-dialog.org>



# Sea Ranger e.V. office

Since August 1st, 2024, the Sea Ranger e.V. office in Wismar evaluates and supports innovative projects, project planning, implementation and control of effective operational measures at sea and in coastal communities. Three project employees work for the protection and sustainable use of the sea of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. They serve as a back office to the members organized in the association. These positions are co-financed by the European Social Fund - Structural Development through Ministry of Economics, Infrastructure, Tourism and Labour M.-V. and additionally funded by German Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMELH) through license fees from Offshore-Powerplant operations.



# Sea Ranger activities

- scientific research on herring migration
- investigation into the spread of toxic algae
- seaweed samples for radioactivity analysis
- recovering ghost nets
- hydrographic measurements on fisheries vessels
- Sea Ranger at Schools and Universities
- Maritime festivals
- Fairs and Events
- Workshops
- Panels and Conferences



# Science and local knowledge

## Dem Hering auf der Spur

**Dr. Franziska Maria Schade, Freya Eckhardt, Dr. Malte Dorow, Gerd-Michael Arndt, LFA M-V - Institut für Fischerei**

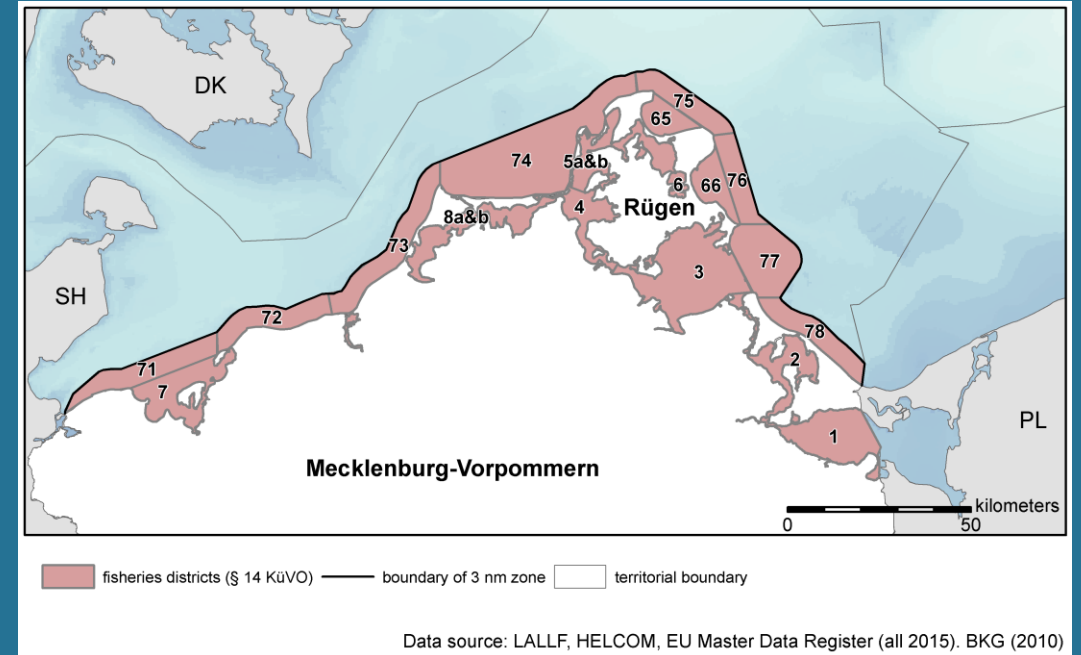
Der Hering der westlichen Ostsee lässt sich aufgrund seiner unterschiedlichen Laichzeiten in Frühjahrs- und Herbstlaicher unterteilen. Charakteristisch für den Frühjahrslaicher sind die ausgedehnten Wanderungen zwischen den Fraßgebieten im Kattegat, Skagerrak und in der östlichen Nordsee, den Überwinterungsgebiete-

ten im Öresund und südlichen Kattegat und den Laichgebieten im Küstenbereich der westlichen Ostsee. Ansammlungen von frühjahrslaichenden Heringen finden sich ab Februar entlang der Küste Mecklenburg-Vorpommerns (M-V) ein, um anschließend zum Abbläichen in die jeweiligen inneren Küstengewässer einzuwan-

30



Abb. 2: Persönlicher Austausch zwischen LFA-Mitarbeiterinnen Freya Eckhardt und Dr. Franziska Schade, Fischereibedarfshändler Eike Peters und Fischer Martin Saager.



# HABBAL-2 (Prymnesium parvum und Alexandrium pseudogonyaulax)



Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel



# Seagrass and Seaweed

## ZOSTERATEC



Bundesministerium  
für Umwelt, Klimaschutz, Naturschutz  
und nukleare Sicherheit



Institut für  
Fischereiökologie



# HyFIVE Baltic

Reference Fleet hydrographic data in coastal waters



Bundesministerium  
für Landwirtschaft, Ernährung  
und Heimat



THÜNEN

Institut für  
Ostseefischerei



# Education, Culture, Coastal Communities



Christophorus school (Island of Rügen 9<sup>th</sup> grade)

Girls Day @ sea (Wismar)



# Project: Baltic Sea Ranger

Stewards of Marine Conservation and Resilient Seas

# BaltCF



Coordination | Partner | Funder

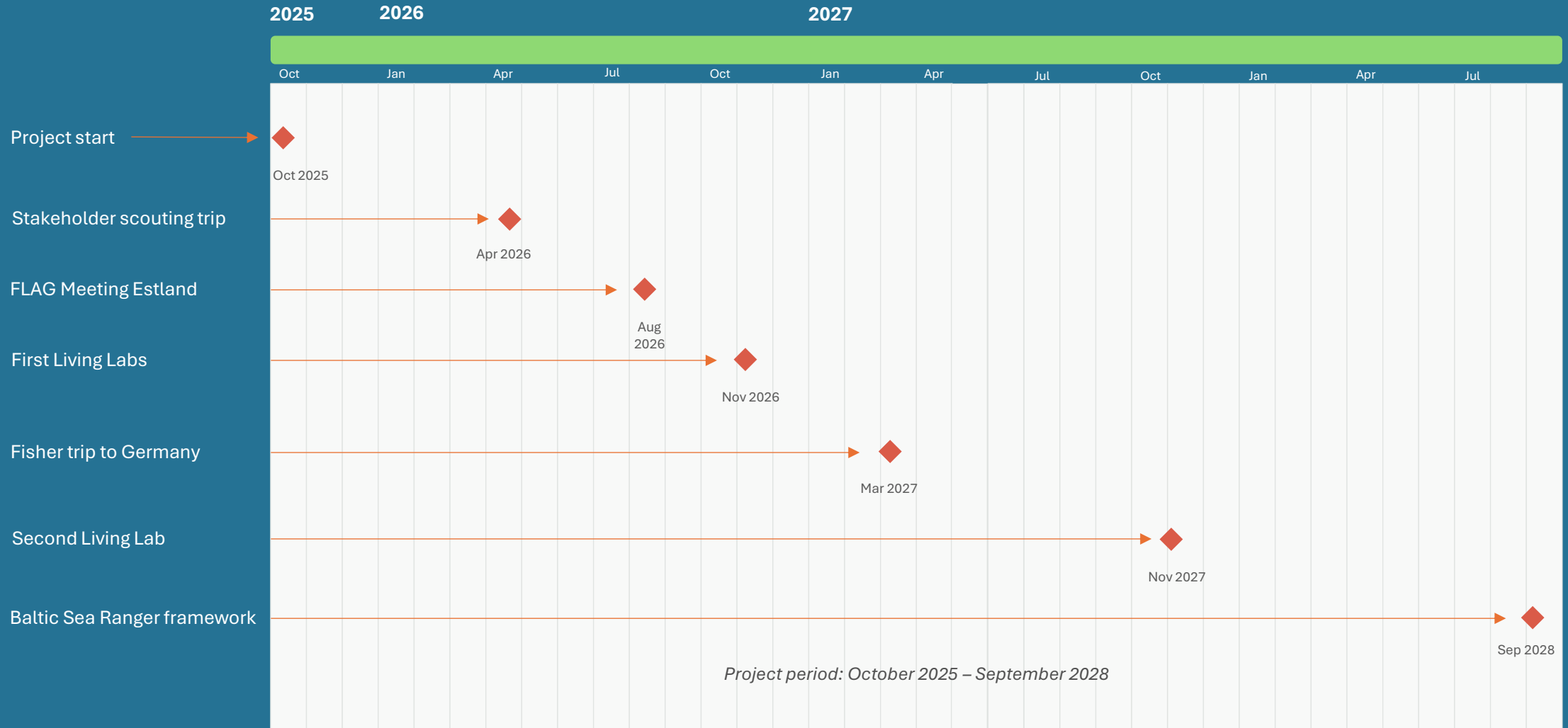


# BALTIC SEA RANGER PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Duration: October 2025– September 2028
- Overall aim: developing and implementing Sea Ranger concepts in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania
- living labs 2026 & 2027:
  - Stakeholder groups
  - Sea Ranger concept development
  - Founding of Sea Ranger associations
  - Training programme development
  - Preparation of a transferable Baltic Sea framework



# Baltic Sea Ranger Projekt – Key Milestones





# Thank you!



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