An aerial photograph of the Baltic Sea region, showing the sea and surrounding landmasses. The text is overlaid on the image.

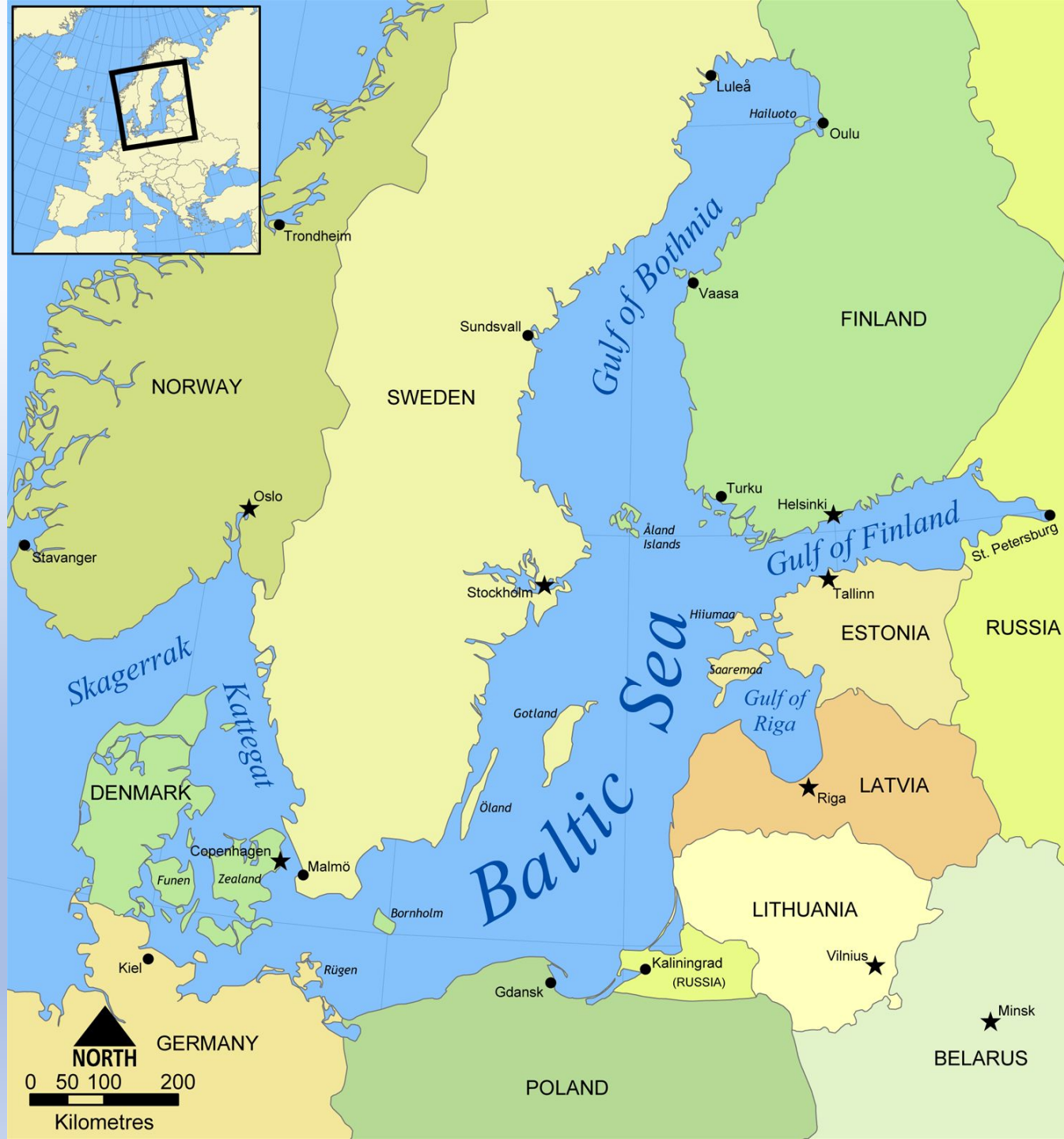
Threats to critical maritime infrastructure in the Baltic Sea region

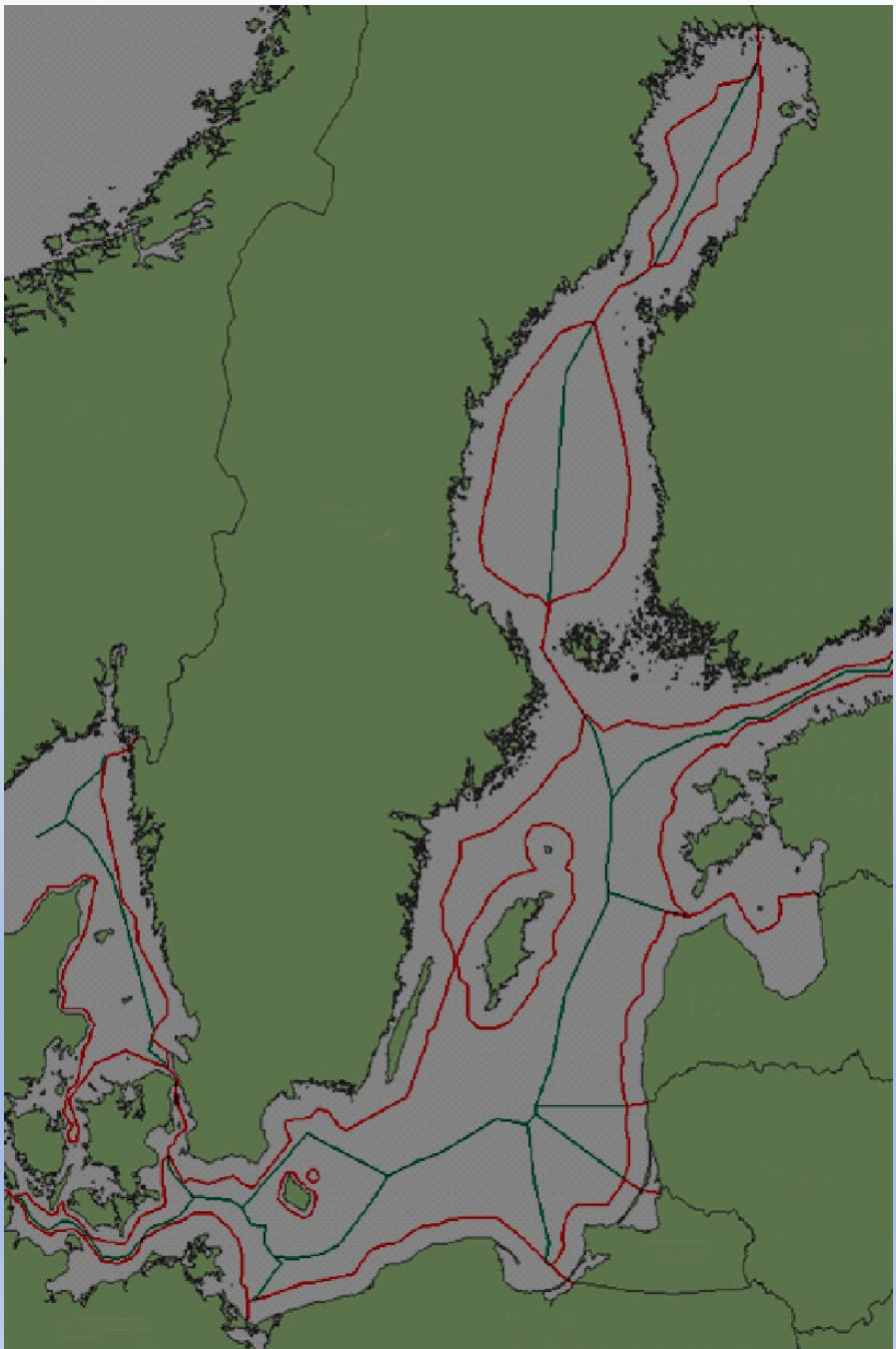
Examples of measures taken by States
in response.

Marie Jacobsson
16 September 2025

The Baltic Sea Region







Some of the incidents in the Baltic Sea Region

- **Nordstream I and II**, 26 September 2022
- *Newnew Polar Bear*, 7- 8 October 2023
- **Yi Peng 3**, 17 - 18 November 2024
- *Eagle S* - 25 December 2024
- **Vezhen** - 25 January 2025
- *Silver Dania* – 26 January 2025
- Finland's EEZ, 9 February 2025 – Russian cable cut, repaired
- Sweden's EEZ, 21 February 2025 – suspected cable cut
- *Kiwala* - 11 April 2025
- *Jaguar* - 13 May 2025
- *Green Admire* - 19 May 2025
- *Sirtaki* 17 May 2025

Also active: the Russian shadow fleet

- **Shadow fleet transported 70% of Russian seaborne oil and 89% of crude oil exports**
- **Approximately 50% of Russian oil exports pass through the Baltic Sea region**



Measures taken

- **EU sanctions**
- **Nordic Warden, under JEF**
- **Baltic Sentry (NATO)**
- **MARCOM (NATO)**
- **NATO's Critical Undersea Infrastructure Network**
- **Insurance inspections**

- **Increased cooperation: nationally, regionally and multilaterally**

***Despite the measures
taken....***

**Stateless or
fake-flagged tankers
transiting the Baltic
Sea....**

23/06/2025	Entering	9522324	Malawi	FALSE	SIERRA
30/06/2025	Leaving	9522324	Malawi	FALSE	SIERRA
02/07/2025	Leaving	9332810	Malawi	FALSE	PUSHPA
12/07/2025	Entering	9236004	Panama	FALSE	KATIUSKA
13/07/2025	Entering	9402471	Malawi	FALSE	DELVIKA
13/07/2025	Entering	9319686	Malawi	FALSE	HU PO
21/07/2025	Entering	9014432	Cameroon	FALSE	FALCON
21/07/2025	Leaving	9319686	Malawi	FALSE	HU PO
21/07/2025	Entering	9236353	Benin	FALSE	BLUE
22/07/2025	Entering	9282792	Aruba	FALSE	AQUA LIVE
24/07/2025	Leaving	9402471	Malawi	FALSE	DELVIKA
24/07/2025	Leaving	9236004	Panama	FALSE	KATIUSKA
30/07/2025	Entering	9319674	Malawi	FALSE	NIGHT GLORY
30/07/2025	Leaving	9014432	Cameroon	FALSE	FALCON
31/07/2025	Leaving	9282792	Aruba	FALSE	AQUA LIVE
31/07/2025	Leaving	9297553	Benin	Unknown	MONTE 1
01/08/2025	Entering	9326718	Sierra Leone	Unknown	FULGER
01/08/2025	Entering	9292981	Aruba	FALSE	NOBLE WALKER
01/08/2025	Leaving	9236353	Benin	FALSE	BLUE
02/08/2025	Leaving	9319674	Malawi	FALSE	NIGHT GLORY
02/08/2025	Leaving	9299886	Panama	FALSE	WALL
06/08/2025	Entering	9255244	Aruba (False)	FALSE	WHITE CONDOR I

**“No, we are not at war.
But we are certainly not at peace
either.”**

NATO SG Rutte 12 Dec 2024

Hybrid war?

What rules apply?

Nord Stream I and 2

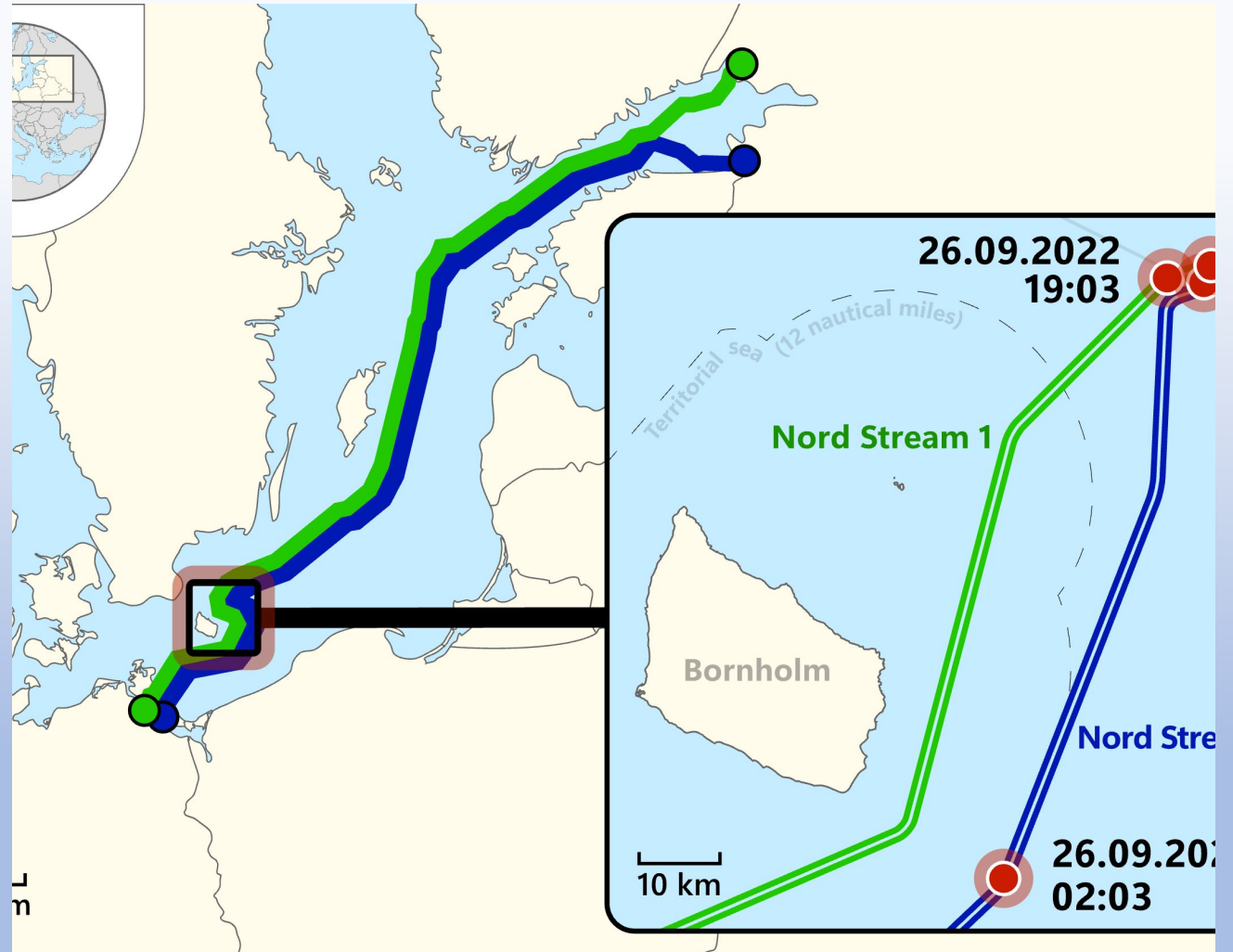
**NS 1, operational in
2011-2012**

**NS 2, never
operational**



Nord Stream 1 and 2

**26 Sept. 2022:
Explosions
Leaking methane
gas**

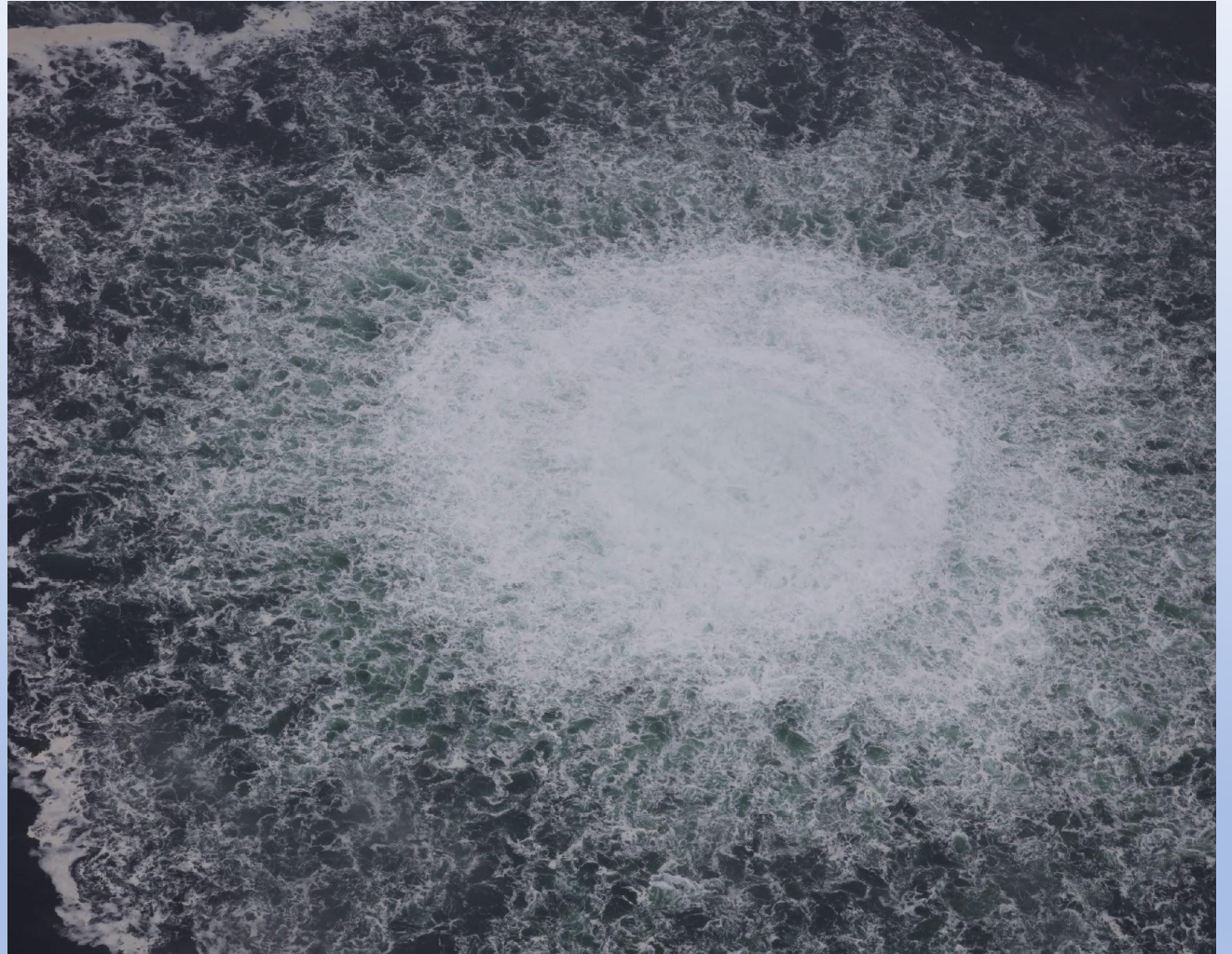


Gas leak:

**Environmental
effects?**

Sabotage?

Accident?



Yi Peng 3

Flag: Hongkong



From the North Sea to the Baltic Sea



Vezhen

Flag: Malta



Vezhen boarded



Strengths and weaknesses according to Swedish authorities:

- National law satisfactory**
 - European Arrest Warrant system is working**
 - Quick responses to verify activities on the spot**
 - Structured cooperation**
-
- Interpretation of international law = the challenge**

Challenges for international lawyers:

- Innocent passage interpretation, Article 19:2(I)
- Residual rights interpretation, Article 59
- Due regard, Article 58:3
- Applicable law, Article 293
- Peaceful uses, Article 301
- Meeting different threats: security and environmental
- Reciprocity
- How to reach the flag State
- Human rights of seafarers
- Protection of property rights

Multiple legal processes to come:

- **Criminal processes**
- **Civil processes**
- **International cases**
- **Human rights processes**

Thanks for listening!

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