

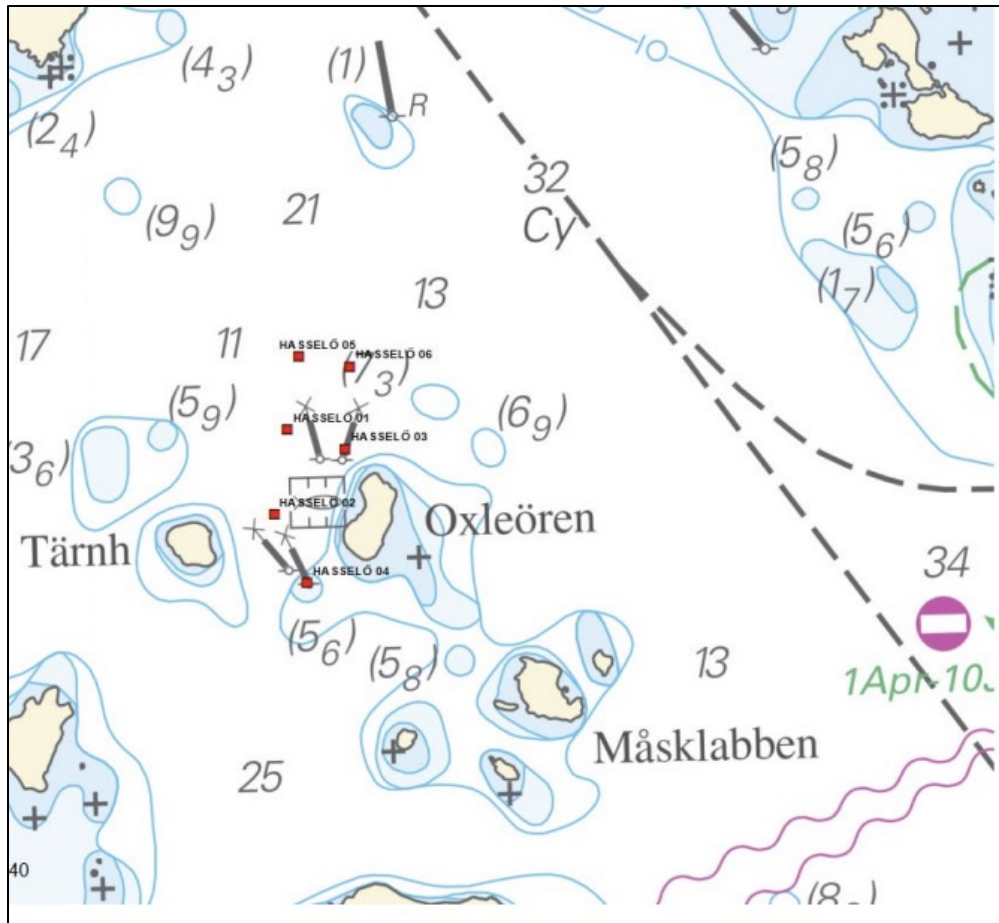
The do and don'ts of permits for low-trophic aquaculture farming

Ecopelag EF– A recent case from the Baltic Sea
Susanna Minnhagen

THEME: **Policy and regulation**

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The case: Take-over and expansion of a mussel farm site in Västervik archipelago, Sweden 2023



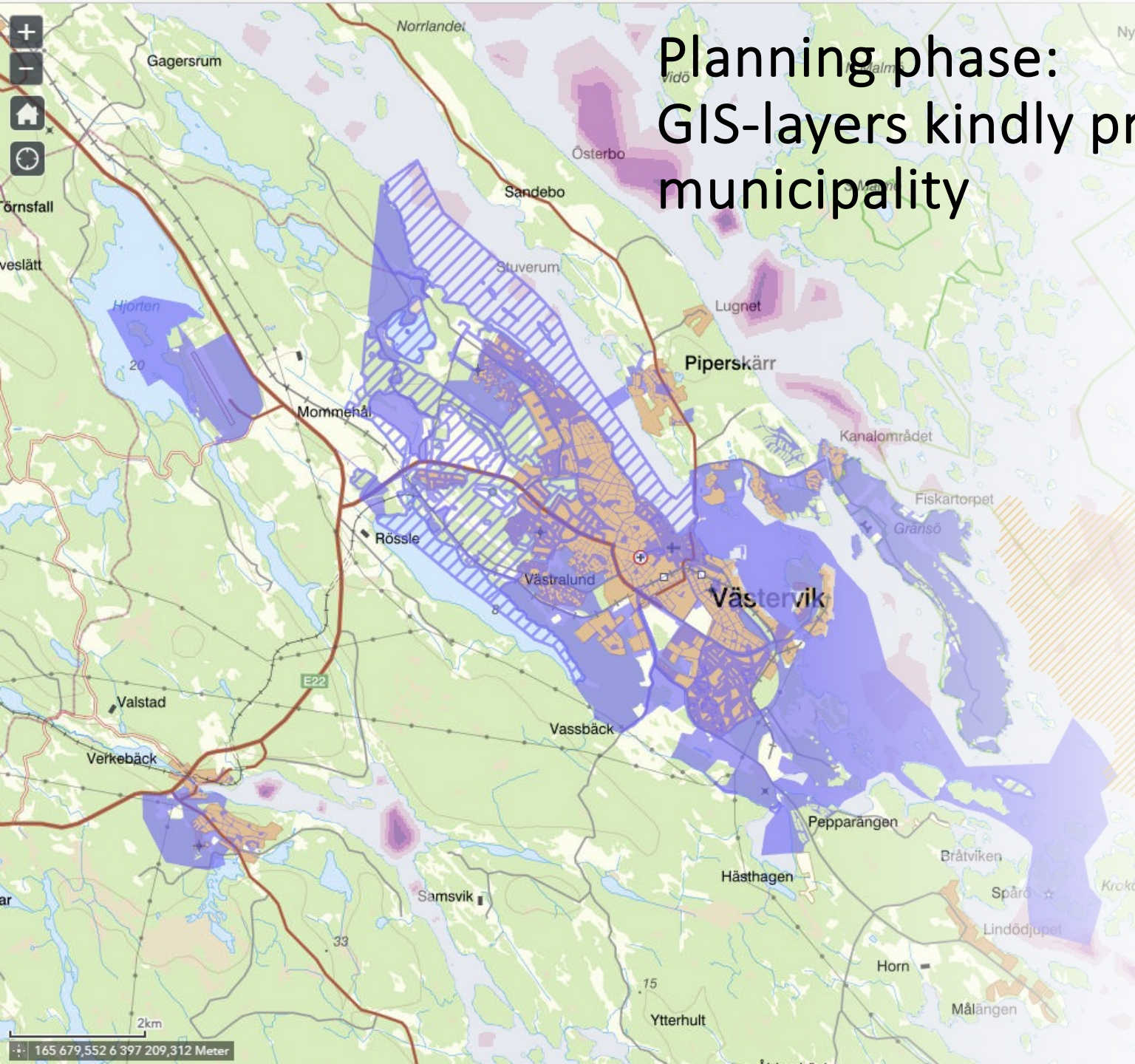
- Part of the site has been used since 2014 for pilot mussel farming by Västervik municipality
- Part of the water-area is jointly owned by local land-owners from nearby islands
- Negotiating party for water-rights was the Fishery area association.
- Some of it's members had before taken care of the pilot mussel farm
- We pay water owners a yearly water leasing fee

Planning phase: GIS-layers kindly provided from the municipality

Legal water owners

- Private (Sv. enskilt) water
- Joint (Sv. samfällt) water
- Municipal water
- Public (Sv. allmänt) water

+ more detailed depth
mapping



Permit application(s)

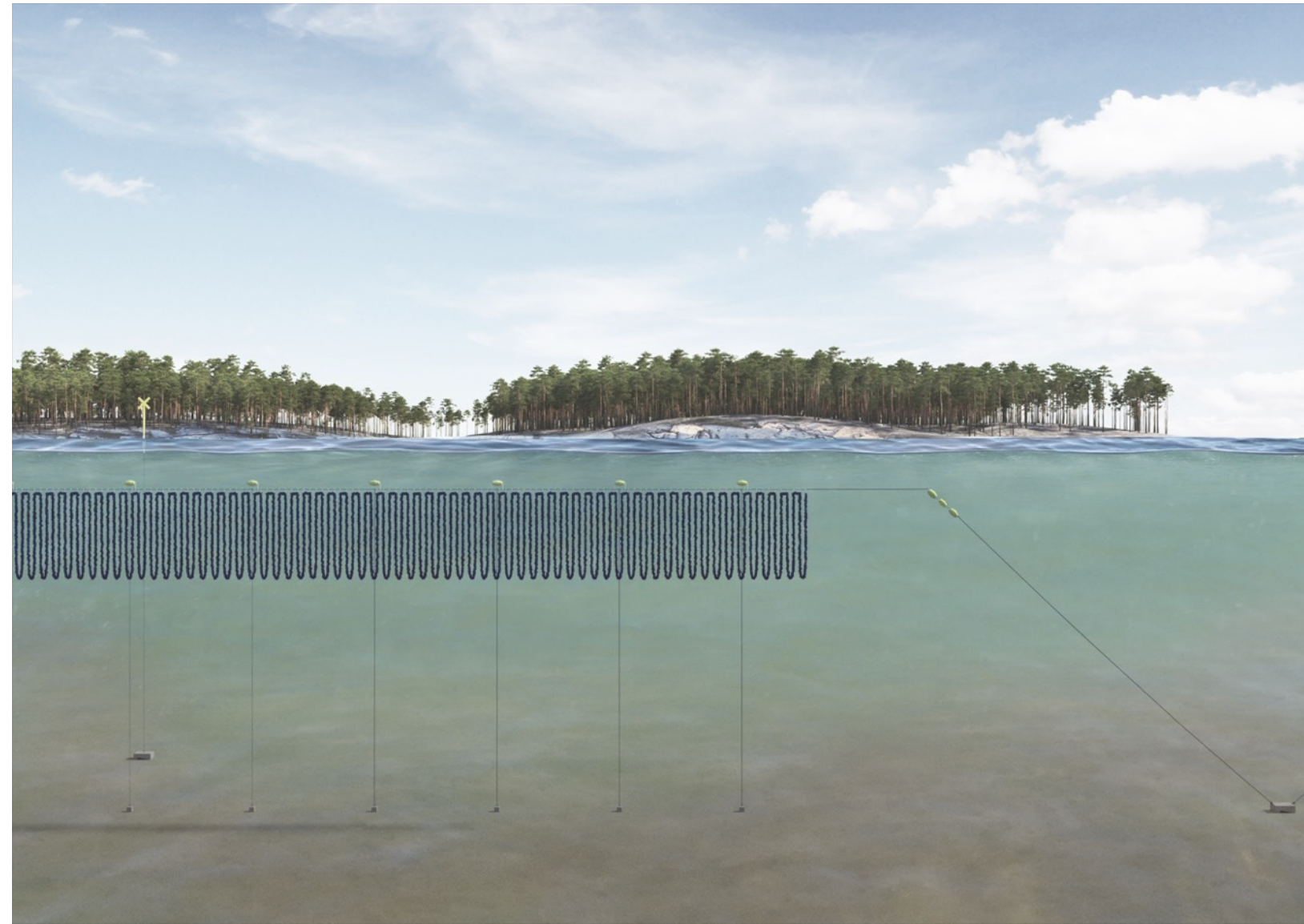
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- Max production (wet weight):

300 tons per 2 years

- Submerged longline units: 50-100

- Permit until 2033



Swedish aquaculture regulators:

- The Countyboard - Farm permit
- The Municipality – Exception from shore-protection
- The Transport agency – Permit to put out navigation aids
- The Maritime administration – For inclusion of new navigation aids to official sea-charts
- The Agricultural administration – Registration to the aquaculture register and obligatory bio-safety plan

- For feed: Register as primary producer to the Countyboard
- For food: Register a production area to the Food Safety Agency

Lokal stakeholder discussions:

- Waterowners
- Fishers
- Union of islanders (regional interest association)

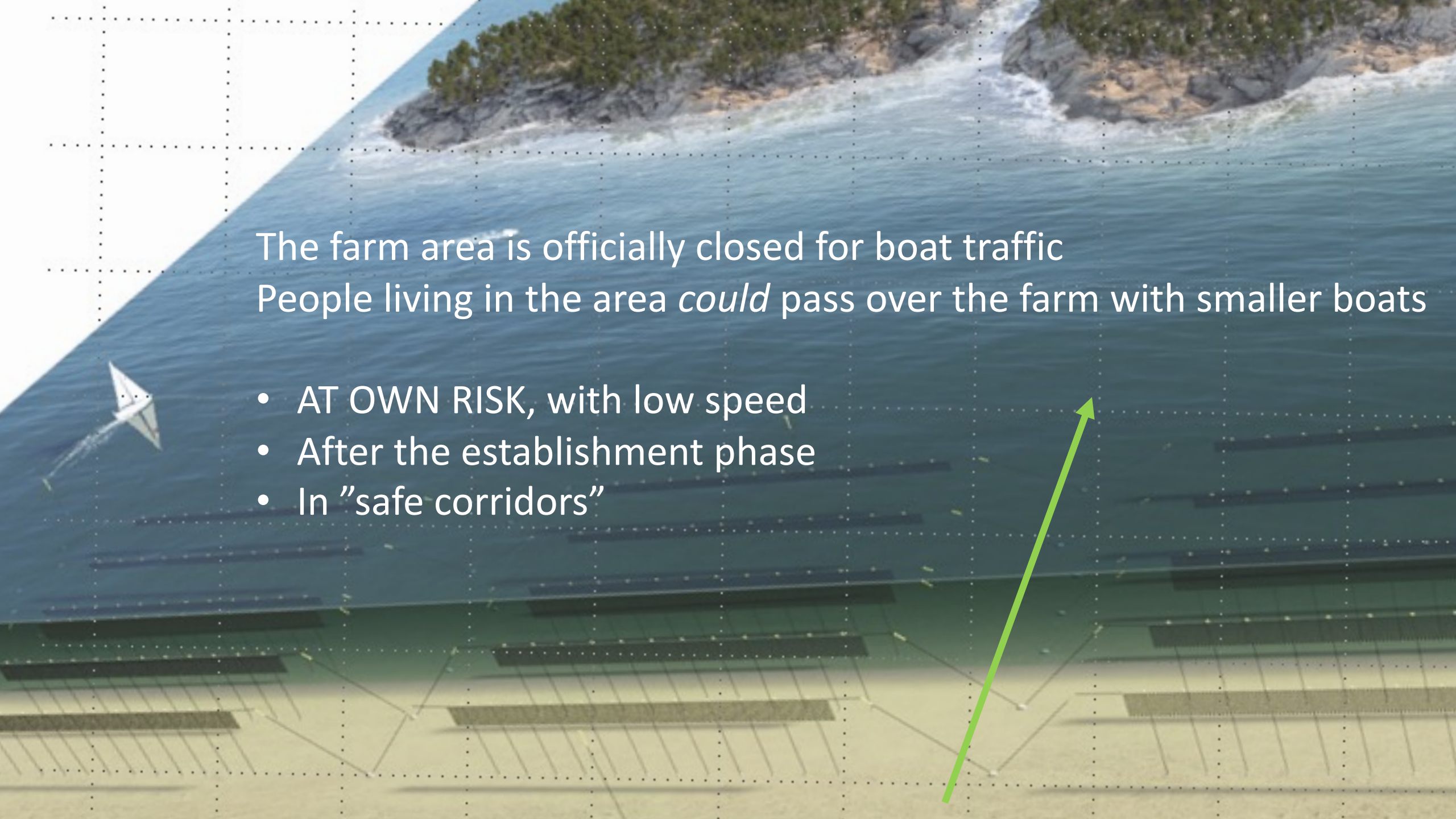
Issues:

1. Good or bad for the fishing?
2. Could you pass over the mussel-farm with boats?


Compromise is key!



Farm shape was adjusted to lokal fishers different views

An aerial photograph of a coastal area. In the upper left, a small white boat is moving across the blue water, leaving a white wake. The water transitions from deep blue to a lighter, greenish-blue area, which is the farm area. This area is marked with a grid of dotted lines and contains several long, dark, rectangular structures. In the upper right, a rocky coastline with green trees and white waves is visible. The overall scene is overlaid with a grid of dotted lines.

The farm area is officially closed for boat traffic
People living in the area *could* pass over the farm with smaller boats

- AT OWN RISK, with low speed
 - After the establishment phase
 - In "safe corridors"
- 
- A solid green arrow pointing from the bottom right towards the top right of the image.



Other keys: If possible, contract locals to do local jobs.
And try to get positive publicity in the local paper

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Permit promoting factors:

- We took over locally based networks and a farm-site from the municipality that had already done pilot mussel-farming
- Mussel farming is still new to the Baltic proper and has a good reputation
- Our mussel farms are relatively small, and submerged
- We actively try to involve local stakeholders as much as possible

So far so good – let's see what happens next!