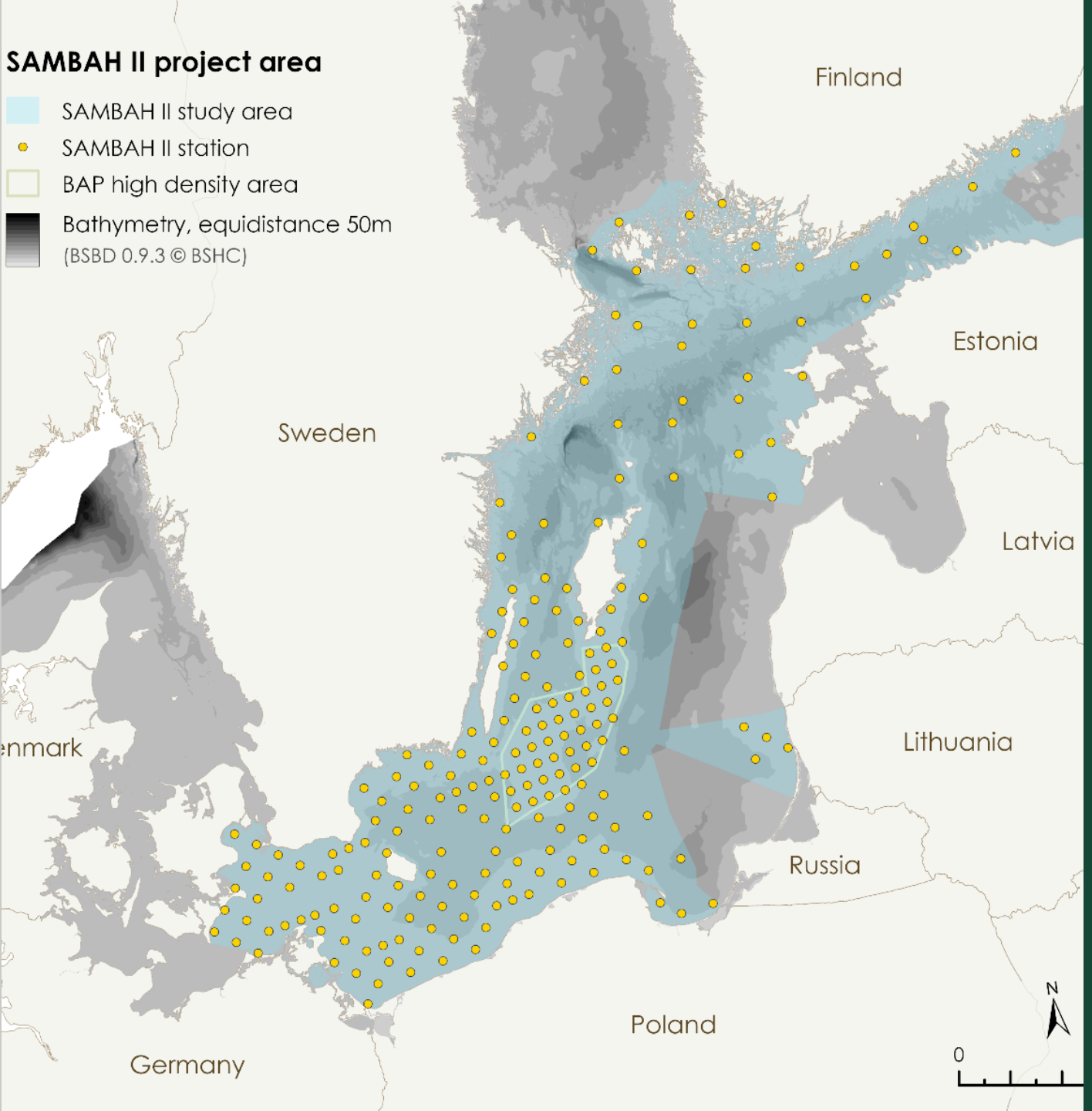
SAMBAH II – Data collected, challenges and successes

ASCOBANS JG22 15 April 2026

Julia Carlström on behalf of the SAMBAH II Team

Data/samples collected

Sven Koschinski/Fjord & Bælt



Data/samples to collect

1. C-POD data
2. Detection function data
3. Playback data
4. eDNA samples

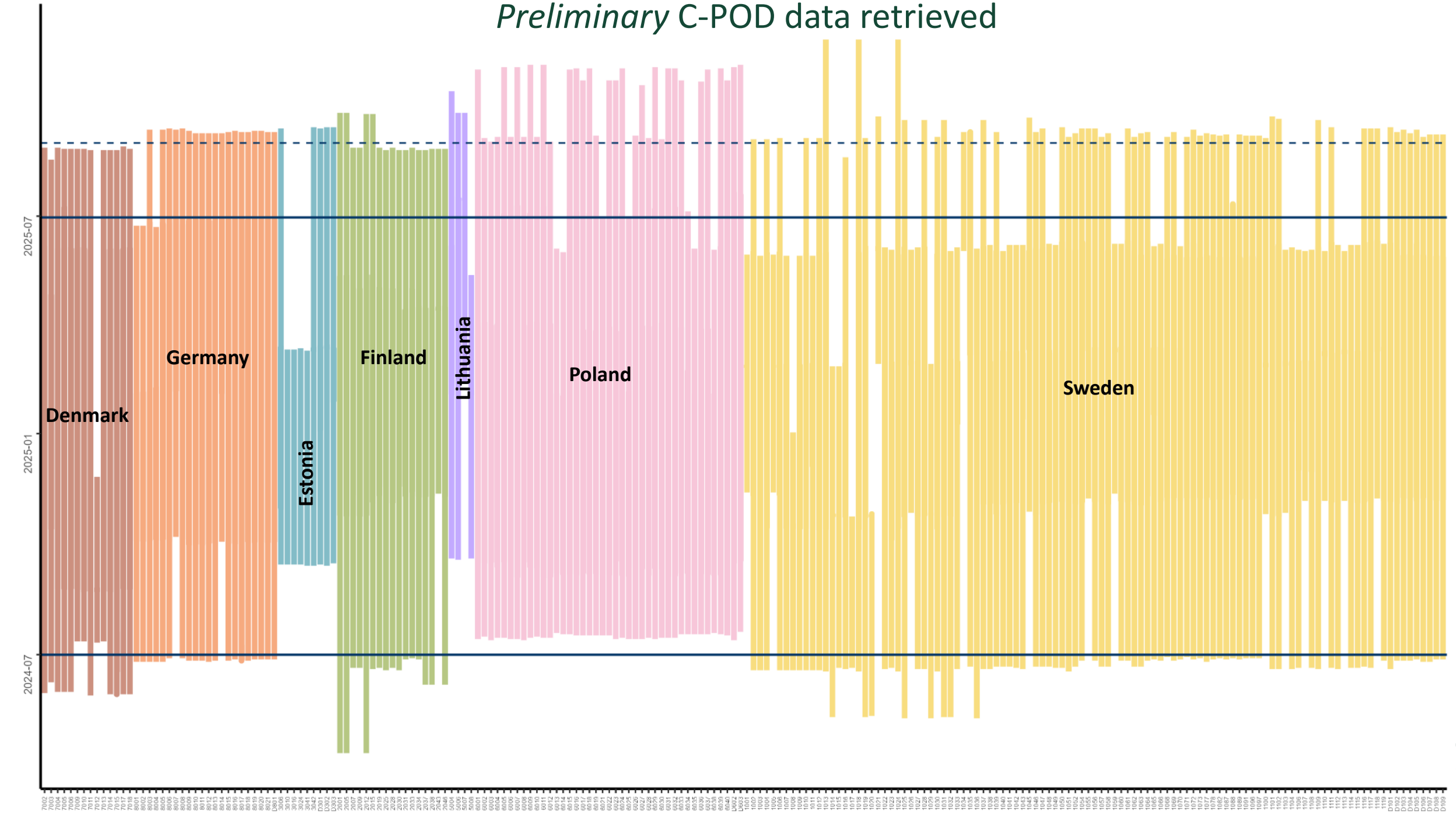
1. C-POD data collection

- Aim: Porpoise detection rate at each station
- 217 stations in total

1. C-PODs retrieved

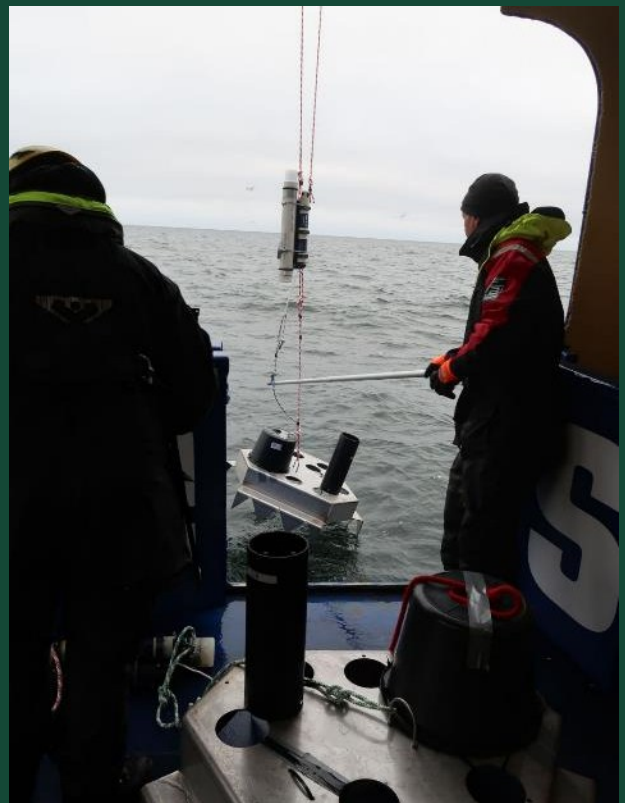
Country	# stations	# servicings	*Preliminary* % retrieved C-PODs
Denmark	22	4	99%
Estonia	10	2	70%
Finland	17	2	100%
Germany	14	5	100%
Lithuania	4	2	83%
Poland	42	6	94%
Sweden	108	4	82%
Overall	***217***		***88%***

Preliminary C-POD data retrieved



2. Detection function data collection

- Aim: Determine the likelihood of detecting a vocalising porpoise at any distance from a C-POD
- At one station each in DK, DE and SE



2. Detection function data retrieved

Country	# deployment rounds	Start – end (all rounds)	# landers / round
Denmark	3	Oct 2024 – Oct 2025	9, 4, 8
Germany	4	Feb 2025 – Oct 2025	4, 4, 4, 4
Sweden	3	Nov 2024 – Jul 2025	9, 5, 6

3. Playback data collection

- Aim: Model detection function results across survey area in time and space
- At least twice at each C-POD station, preferably at every servicing and across the year

3. Playback data retrieved

Country	# stations	# playbacks/station
Denmark	22	3.5
Estonia	10	0.9
Finland	17	2.0
Germany	14	2.0
Lithuania	4	2.5
Poland	42	2.7
Sweden	108	2.0
Overall	***217***	***2.2***

4. eDNA sampling

- Aim: Estimate prey availability
- Auxiliary study, sampling kits funded by WWF Sweden
- Twice at all C-POD stations during 2 seasons (Aug – Oct, Feb – Apr)
- Almost monthly by R/V Svea together with hydroacoustic fish survey

4. eDNA samples retrieved

Country	# stations	% samples of max for analyses
Denmark	22	95%
Estonia	10	100%
Finland	17	100%
Germany	14	96%
Lithuania	4	100%
Poland	42	100%
Sweden	108	100% + 68 extra
Overall	***217***	***99% + 68 extra***

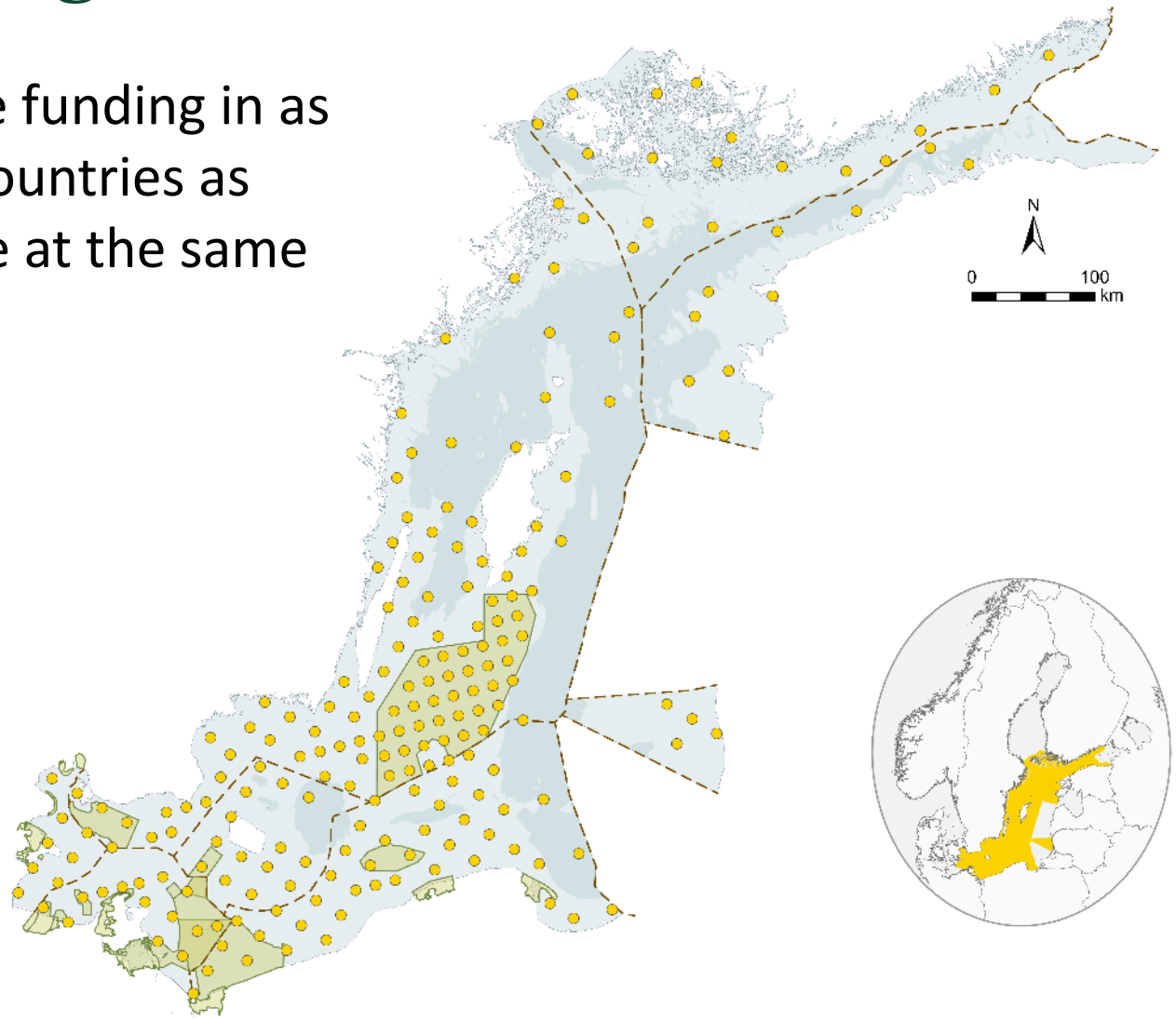
Platform	Period	# months sampled	# samples / month
R/V Svea	Sep 2024 – Sep 2025	11	6 – 7 (16)

Challenges and successes

Sven Koschinski/Fjord & Bælt

Challenge

- Allocate funding in as many countries as possible at the same time



Successes

- All but LV joined
- DE, DK, FI, PL and SE could extend for the delayed start by EE and LT

Challenge

- Allocate enough CPODs

Success

- Got enough by buying the very last from Chelonia and borrowing from other research groups

Challenges

- Finalise the design of the detection function experiment
- Design and manufacture the lander for the detection function experiment

Success

- Have collected detection function data at three locations (DE, DK, SE) for up to a year

Challenge

- Procurement of vessel and accomplishing the field work (SE)

Success

- Deployed at all stations in time, now 82% retrieved and further efforts are being planned

Major successes

Very high degree of collected data of *all* datasets!

Data collected using new stratified grid!

Detection function data collected with a new method inside the study area!

eDNA samples taken!

Swedish Coast Guard

It make take two to tango, but…

Ministries/agencies

National research teams

it takes four to SAMBAH ☺

External research teams

Porpoises

Florian Graner

Thank you!

Håkan Aronsson