

Coalition Clean Baltic

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Polish Coastal Hot Spots – an NGO perspective

Jurmala 2011

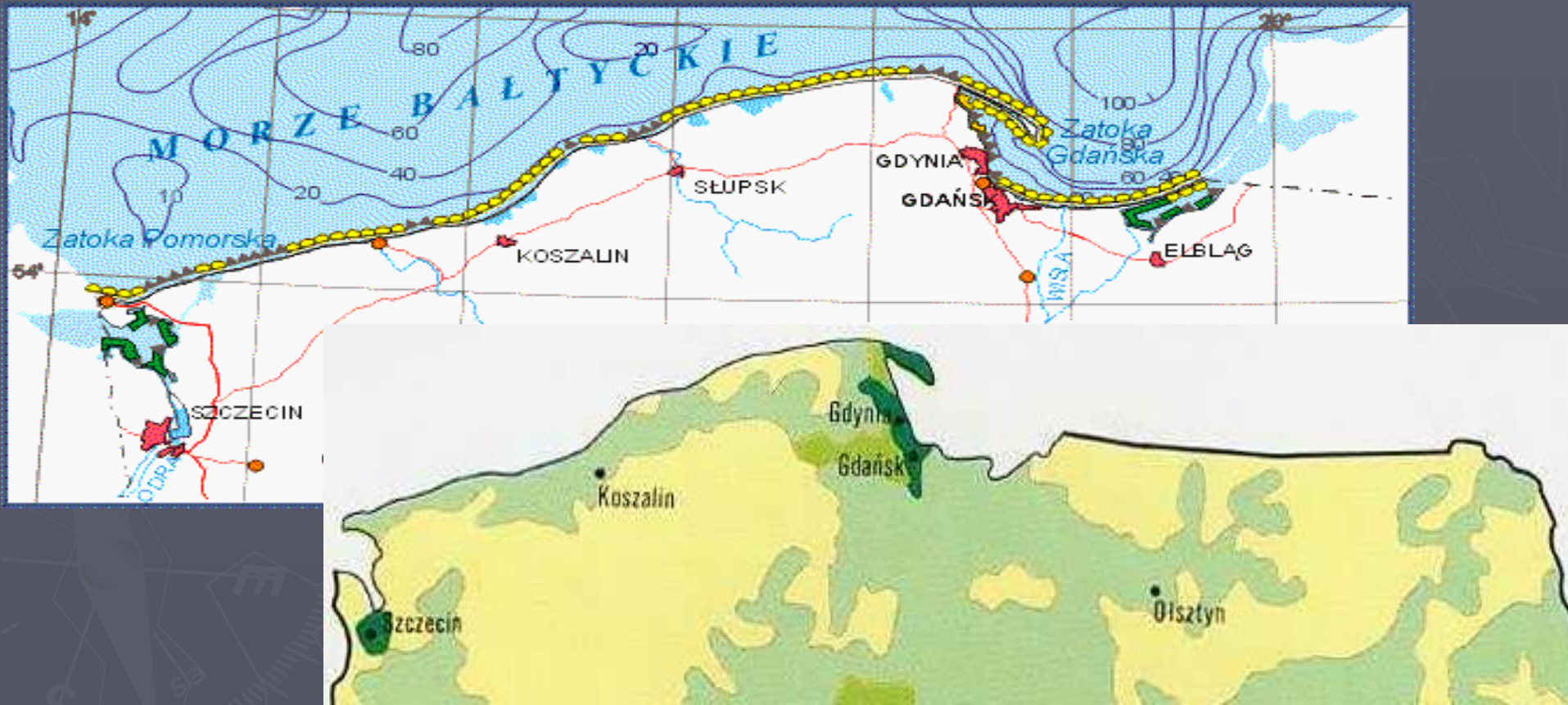


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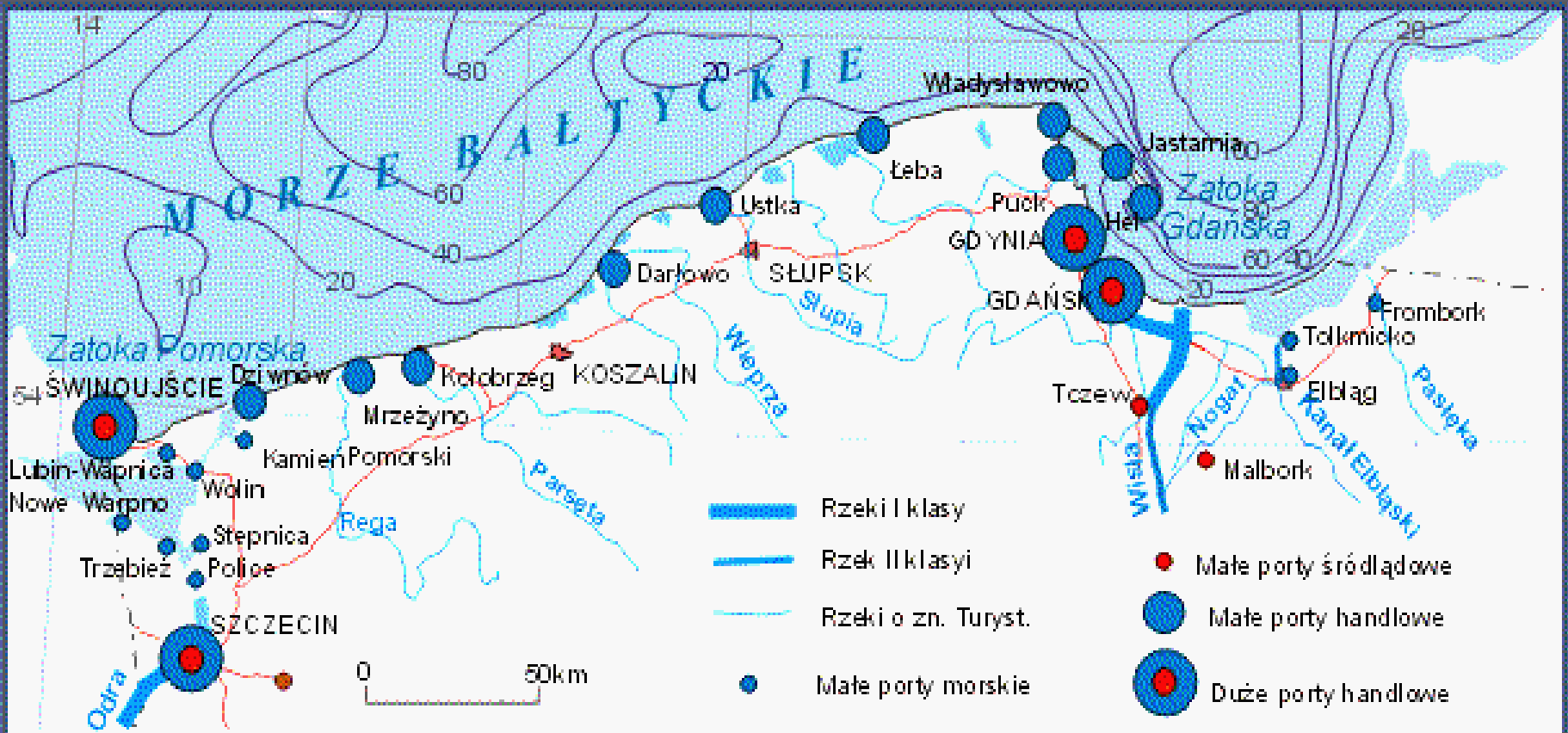
organizacja pożytku publicznego
istniejemy od 1993 roku

- The coastline is rather smooth and regular and include four types of coastal landscape – dune, deltaic, lacustrine-lagoon-swamp and cliffs.



- Two densely populated areas – Gdansk-Gdynia-Sopot conurbation and Szczecin agglomeration.

- Five seaports of great economic significance at the Polish seaside – Gdansk, Gdynia, Swinoujscie, Szczecin and Police. About 10-20 smaller cargo and/or passenger ports.



- **Industry: petroleum, chemical, heavy industry, electronic, automotive and spirit, gathered mainly in Szczecin and Gdansk industrial districts.**



- **Coast is the largest Polish tourist region, with about 60 coastal tourist centres.**



- **1 military training ground located on the Polish shore and 4 military areas in the territorial waters.**
- **Several types of nature protection areas were established in the Polish Shoreland: 2 national parks, 4 landscape parks, 382 nature reserves, 253 NATURA 2000 sites, 5 Baltic Sea Protected Areas, 1 UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and 3 Baltic Sea fisheries closures.**

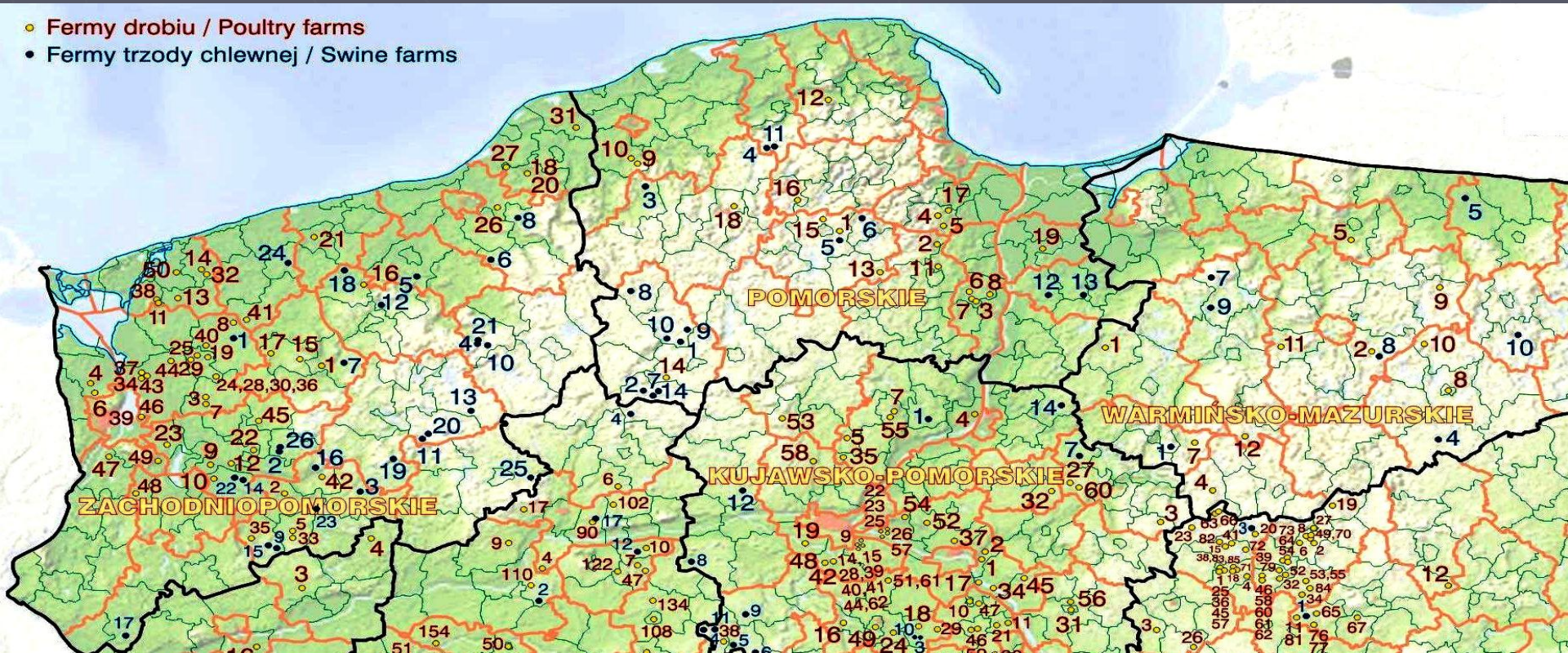


Polish coastal Hot Spots

1. INDUSTRIAL ANIMAL FARMS

132 industrial animal farms in Polish coastal areas, including 51 pig farms (35 farms with more than 2000 places for pigs over 30 kg and 16 farms with more than 750 sows) and 81 poultry farms.

- Fermy drobiu / Poultry farms
- Fermy trzody chlewnej / Swine farms



Frequent problems are:

- **improper manure storage and management,**
- **overfertilization,**
- **enormous nitrogen and phosphorus run-off,**
- **eutrophication,**
- **odour emission,**
- **lack of transparency of the administrative procedures regarding industrial animal farms,**
- **lack of access to public information about those installations and their negative influence on the environment.**



2. DUMPED CHEMICAL WEAPONS STORAGE SITES

In the Polish EEZ there are 5 marine areas of the total area of app. 450 square kilometres, where there is a risk of contamination of chemical weapons sunk in the Baltic Sea after World War II.

The overall weight of chemicals dumped there is estimated from several to tens of thousands of tons.

By the end of the 70s XX century Baltic Sea throwing missiles and aerial bombs to the beaches.

In 1955, on the beach in Darłówko 120 children and 6 adults plagued with mustard gas, which escaped from the chemical munitions. Since the end of the war over 160 people have been injured in such cases.

3. CROSS-BORDER PROMENADE IN SWINOJSCIE

By the cross-border promenade between Swinoujście and Heringsdorf a platform will be built with an area of 425 square meters, from which will depart to the sea a footbridge completed by a viewpoint.

Construction and operation of the promenade presents a risk to the dunes by construction of the promenade directly on the strip of protective dunes and pollution associated with heavy tourist traffic.



4. CHANNEL THROUGH THE VISTULA SPIT

The project of the Vistula Spit Channel, near Skowronki village, is planned as an alternative water way for Elblag harbour.

Channel would be about 1 200 m long, 40 meters wide and 5 meters deep.

Braking the continuity of the Vistula Spit will:

- influence the water salinity in the Vistula Lagoon,**
- change composition of fish species,**
- increase risk of flooding,**
- have negative impact on wintering waterbirds,**
- reduce touristical attraction of the area.**

The localization of the channel is also problematic, as it is planned to be situated in the NATURA 2000 site.

5. PROBLEMS OF PROTECTION OF THE MARINE CULTURAL HERITAGE

The problem with protection of archaeological heritage is lack of procedures for determining the principles of cooperation between the maritime administration and conservation services.

There are no explicit requirement to coordinate with provincial development plans and historic monuments conservators in the law on marine areas and marine administration.

As a result, there has been irreversible damage in the course of the work in the construction of the North Port of Gdansk, and the deepening of the port areas (f.i. cog wreck destroyed in the port of Rowy).

6. TOURIST PRESSURE ON COASTAL AREAS – KASHUBIAN CLIFFS

Kashubian Cliffs, NATURA 2000 area from the Shadow List, includes 9-kilometer cliff shore from Wladyslawowo to Jastrzebia Gora.

The main threat is pressure from tourism – camping, campsites, gastronomic infrastructure, sport and recreation facilities, buildings boarding gesthouses and hotels.

Property owners are trying to circumvent any legal prohibitions, building houses and shelters as "public purpose investments".



7. BIOTOPES DEGRADATION

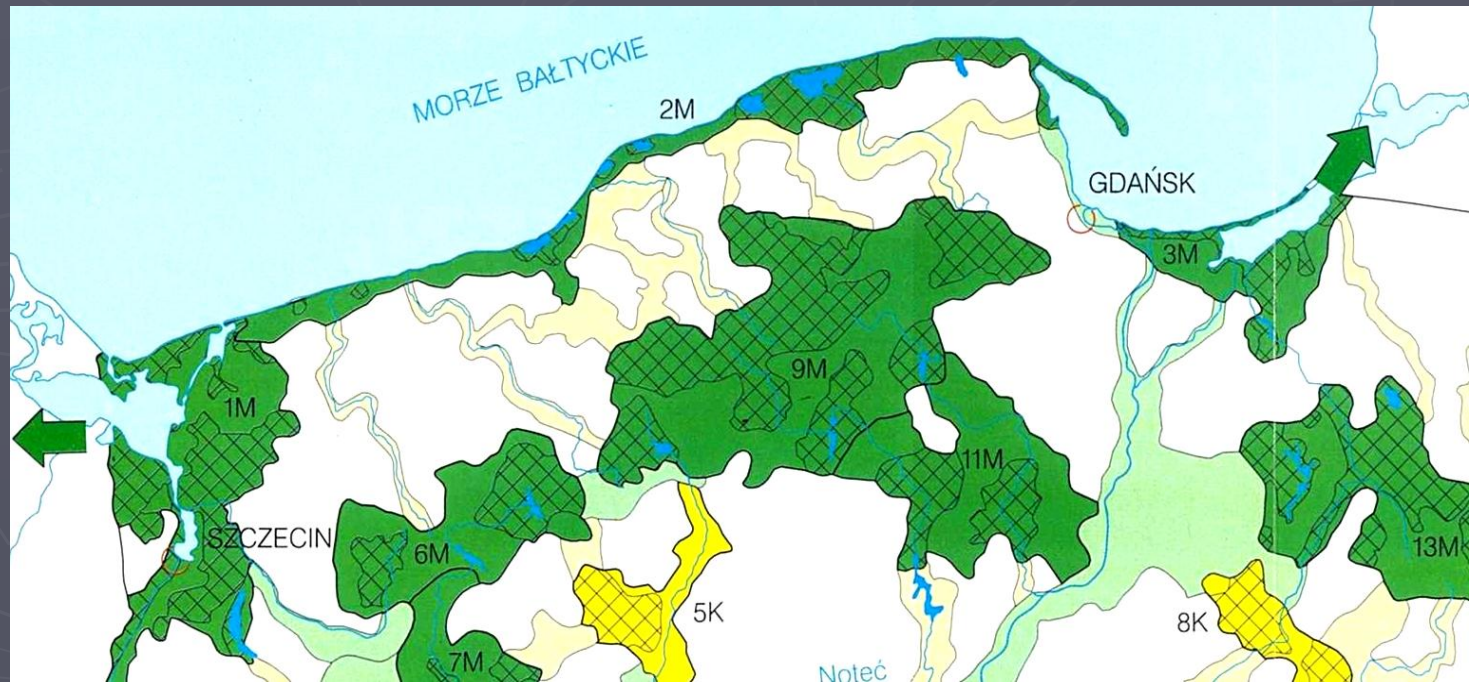
Almost all coastal biotopes are threatened by various forms of human activities:

- dunes – sand stabilization, replacement of natural broad-leaves forests by pine monocultures, disappearing of natural zonation of dune biotopes and vegetation,**
- coastal rivers – artificial features (regulated and straightened beds, natural banks changed into embankments),**
- marshlands, wetlands and peatbogs – drainage and reclamation,**
- halophilous meadows – transformation of wetlands and ineffective forms of protection.**

8. INEFFECTIVE PROTECTION OF ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS

In Polish law there are no effective tools for restoration and protection of ecological corridors.

The need to preserve or restore ECs is not sufficiently taken into account in planning procedures, ecophysiological reports and deciding about afforestation.



9. CRISIS OF THE LANDSCAPE PROTECTION

Poland does not comply with the European Landscape Convention, which is not transposed into Polish law.

Landscape protection issue is not at all taken into account when planning land use and spatial planning – as a result, in many coastal regions landscape values are at an alarming rate of degradation.

Protected Landscape Areas occupies the largest area of all forms of protection, but are protected only virtually and seems just improve statistics of the percentage of protected areas.

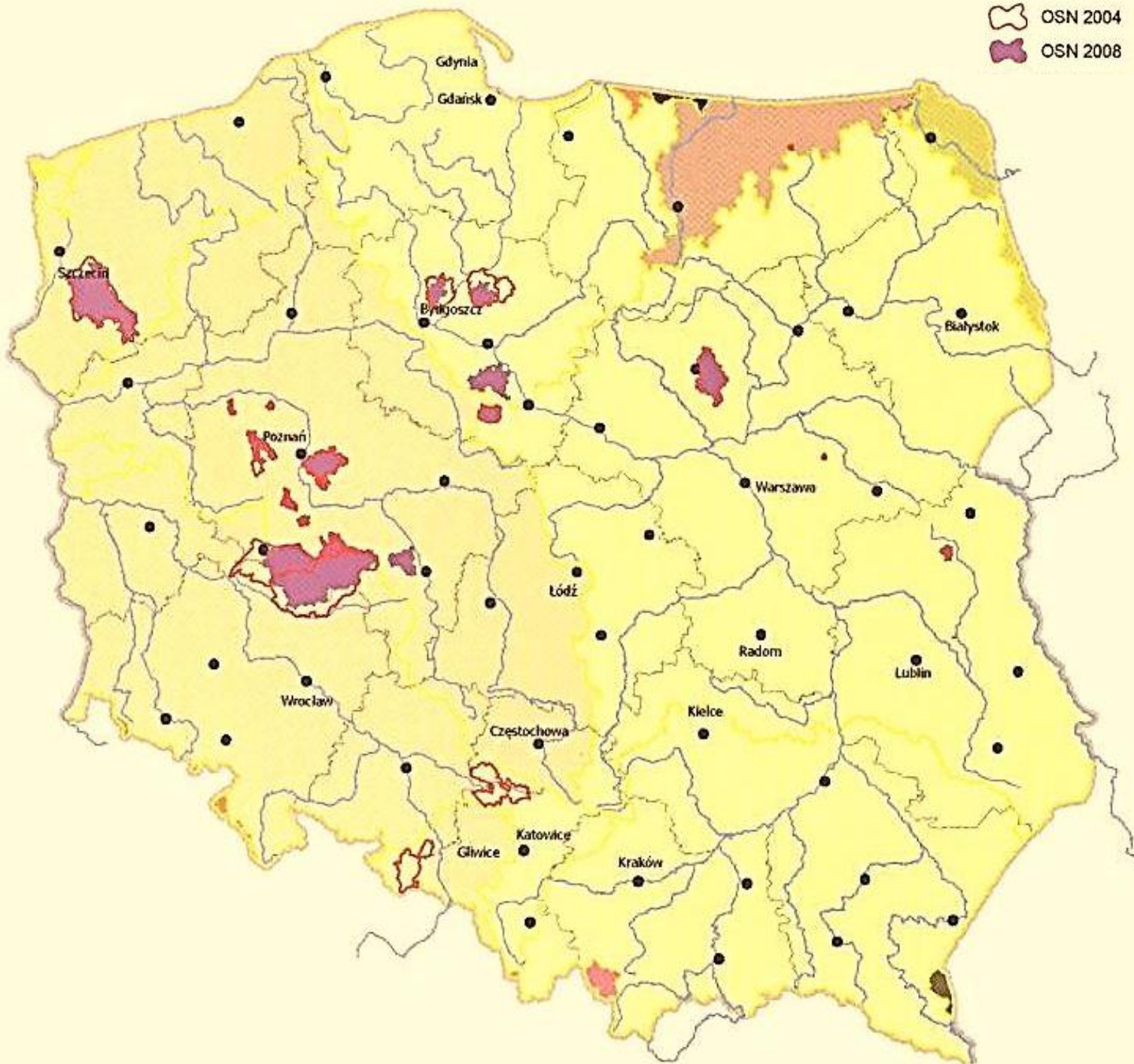
10. NITRATE VULNERABLE ZONES

In Poland in 2004 there were designated 21 Nitrate Vulnerable Areas, which cover about 2% of the total country area.

The verification of the existing NVZs in 2008 led to reduction of their number to 19 and limited its area to 1.49% of Polish territory (about 50% of Poland's land area is an agricultural land).

The problem is not only a very small areas occupied by the NVZs, but also the frequent lack of effective programmes of their management.

OSN 2004
OSN 2008



Nitrate Vulnerable Zones in – is it enough?

NITRATES DIRECTIVE EU-25

POTENTIAL VULNERABLE ZONES AND DESIGNATED VULNERABLE ZONES



Situation on 19/12/2006

Vulnerable zones

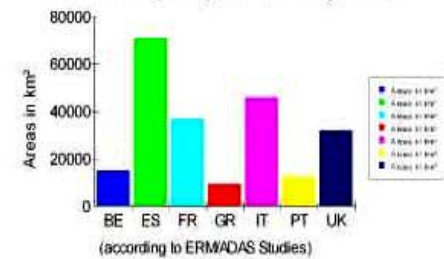
By period of official publication

-  Designated zone before 2000
-  Designated zone 2000-2003
-  New designated zones (since 2004)
-  Draft zone in progress
-  Valid drafted zone

Potential Zones

-  Requiring further designations
-  Requiring further studies

Zones requiring further designations



Conclusion

Recognition of the maritime space as an inherent part of the country, which means a tighter link between land and sea spatial planning.

This relationship should be provided mainly at the level of the national spatial planning concept.

Also, the Law on spatial planning should assume that the national spatial planning concept in the future will encompass the entire country, including the protection of marine waters.

Thank You for Your attention



For more information visit:
www.balticgreenbelt.uni-kiel.de