

## **Better evidence for MSP in BSR**

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**#BalticMSP** 

## "Data! Data!

"I can't make bricks, without clay!"

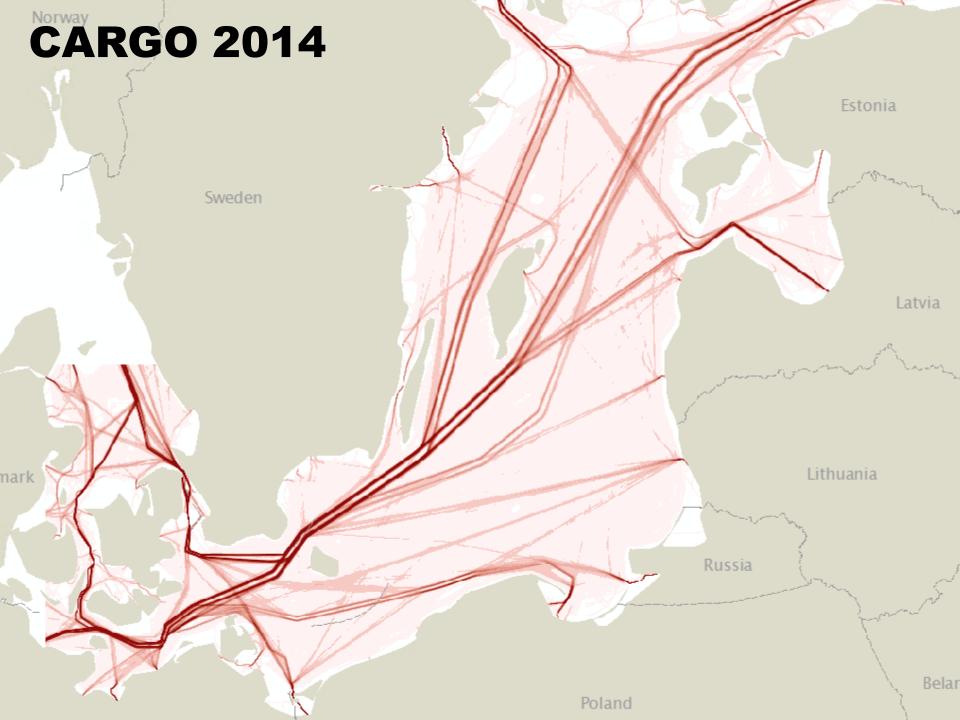
Sherlock Holmes, The Adventure in the Copper Beaches

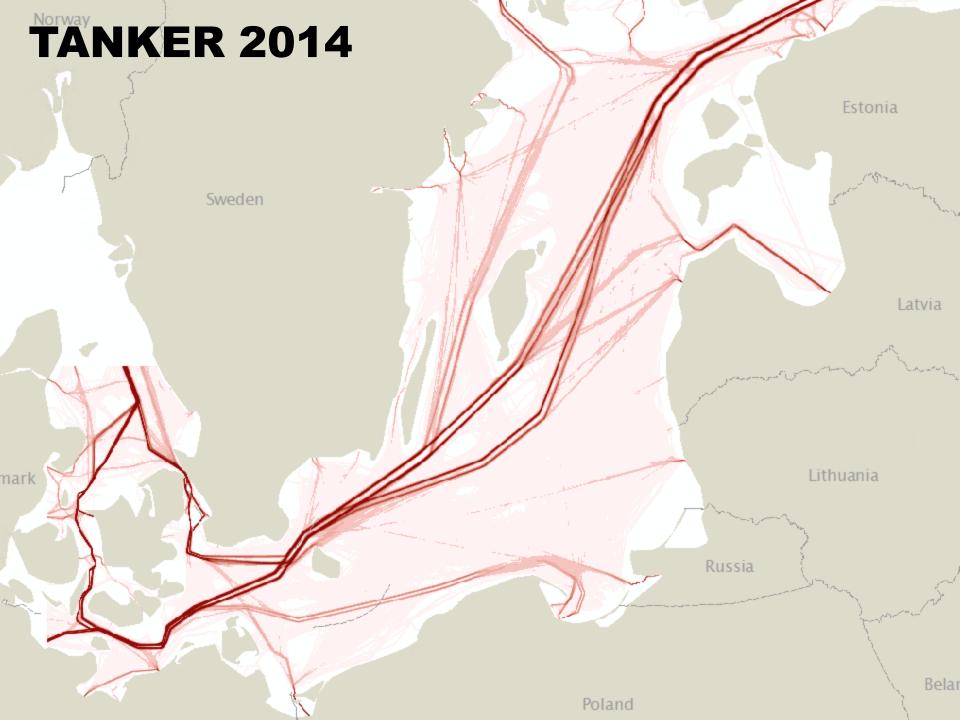
## "Data! Data!

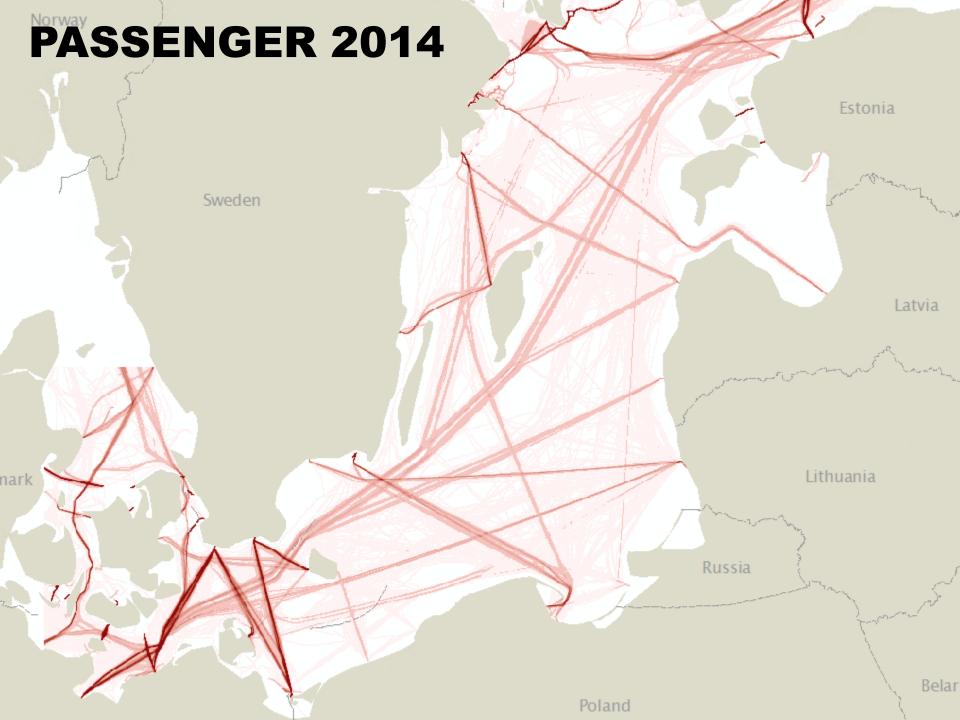
"I can't make MSP without data!"

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## **Plan Bothnia**



## HELCOM Maritime Assessment

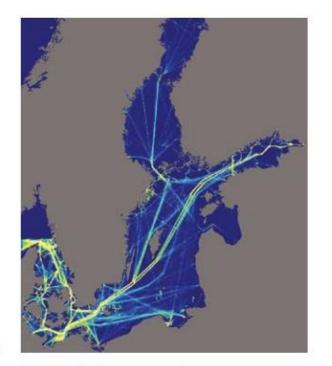
#### **Chapter I: Introduction**

Due to its narrow straits, shallow waters and its vast labyrinths of skerries and islands, the Baltic Sea has always been a difficult area for ships to navigate; nevertheless, the Baltic has always also been a blessing. Together with the forests and fields it has been a central lifeline to peoples living on these northern shores and this relationship continues today in the form of a multitude of maritime activities. Alongside maritime traffic, which has grown remarkably during recent years, there are extensive plans for wind power and continuing fisheries among others. The role of the first part of this report is to give a short overview of a suite of maritime activities in the Baltic Sea to be complemented by more specific chapters mainly focusing on shipping.

#### Ships in numbers

Since 1 July 2005, the whole Baltic Sea area has been covered by an interlinked network of land-based Automatic Identification System (AIS) stations. AIS was invented for the exchange of information between ships and between ships and shore stations. Ship traffic in the Baltic Sea based on AIS signals is presented on **Map 1**.

The HELCOM shore-based AIS network provides a monitoring tool for supervision, risk analyses,



Map 1: Ship traffic in the Baltic Sea during one week in 2008. Data are calculated on a grid, showing the areas of heavy traffic. Source: HELCOM AIS.

In 2009, vessels entered or left the Baltic Sea via Skaw 62,743 times (figure representing the





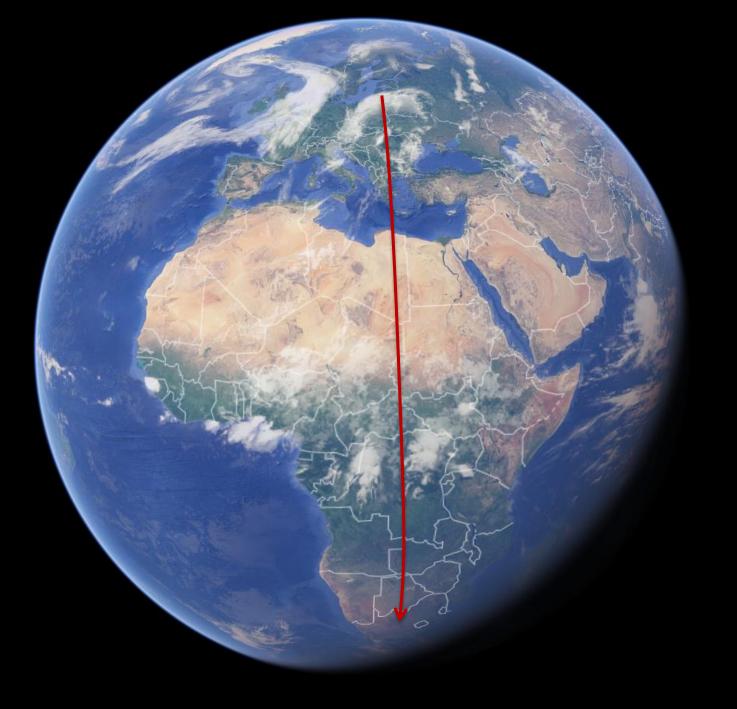
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