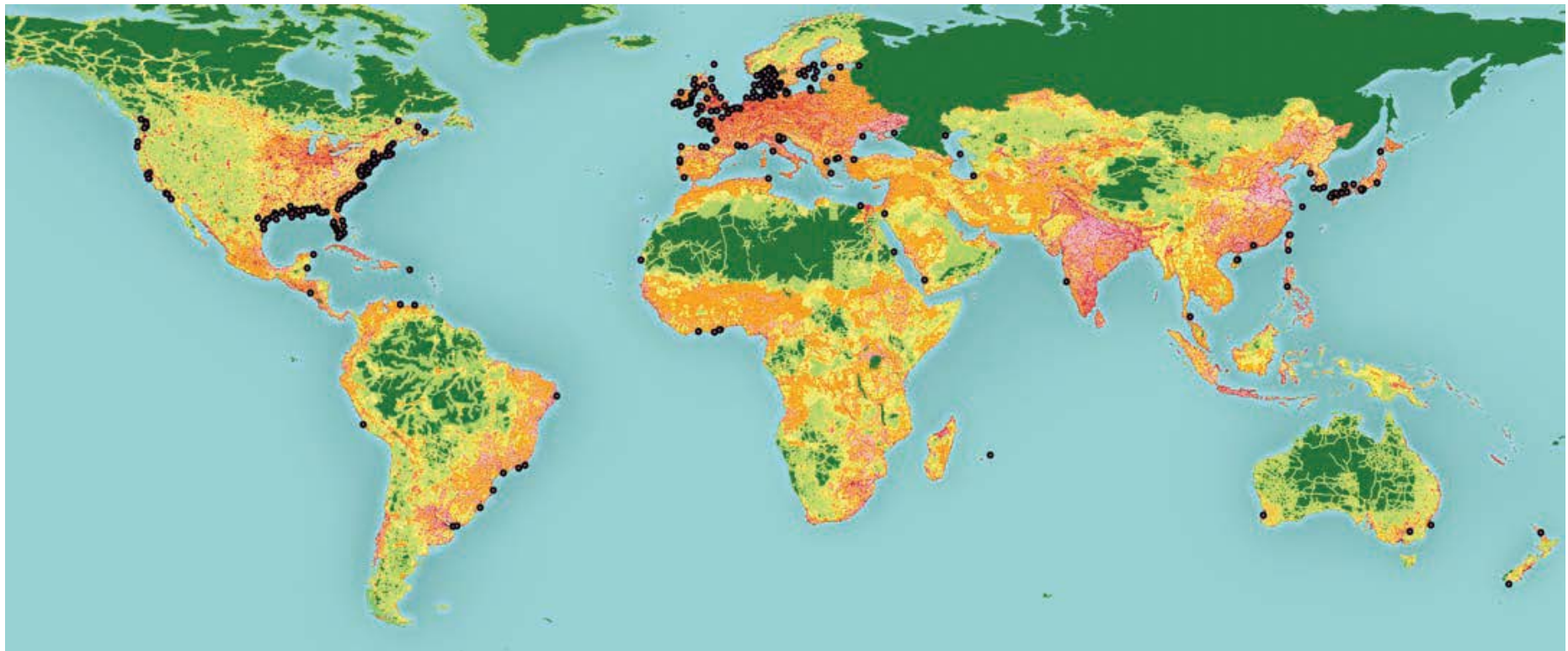


# Challenges for biogeochemical modeling on centennial time scales

**H.E. Markus Meier**

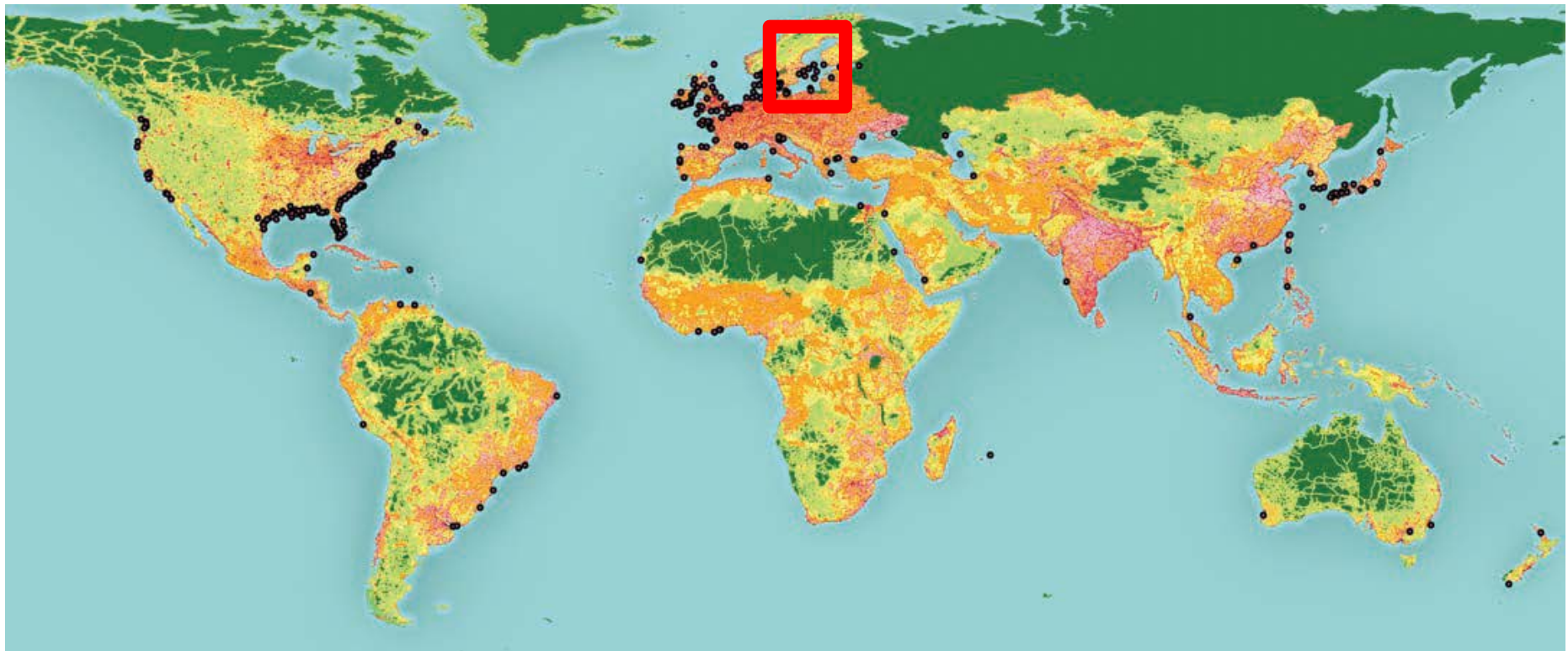
**Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute  
and  
Stockholm University**

**E-mail: [markus.meier@smhi.se](mailto:markus.meier@smhi.se)**



Eutrophication-associated dead coastal zones

(Source: Diaz and Rosenberg, 2008)



Eutrophication-associated dead coastal zones

(Source: Diaz and Rosenberg, 2008)

# Baltic Sea - where are we now?

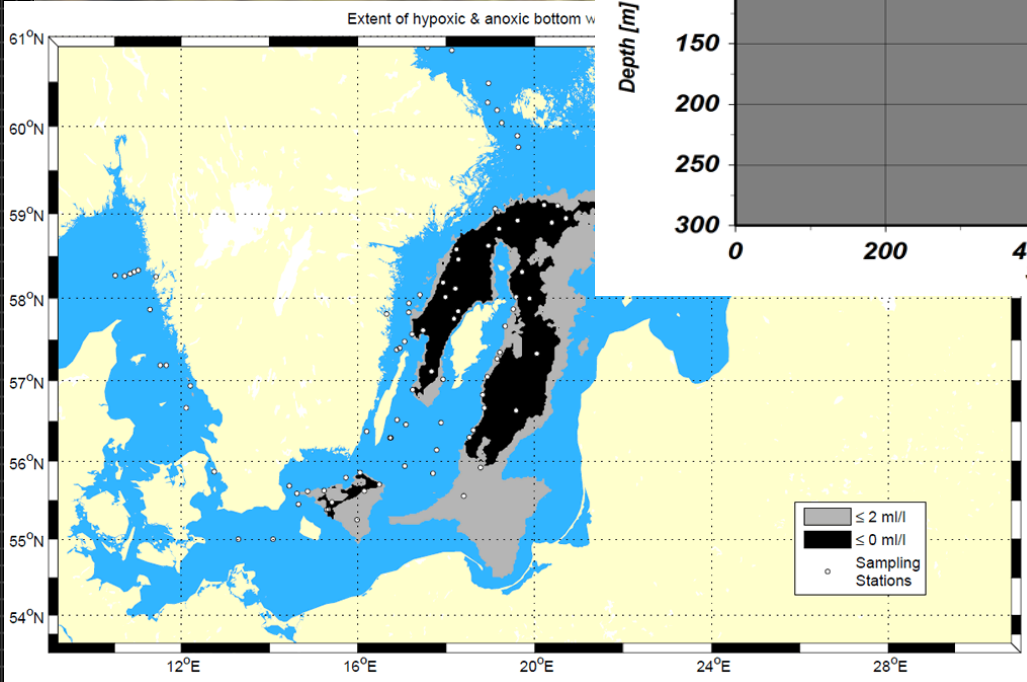
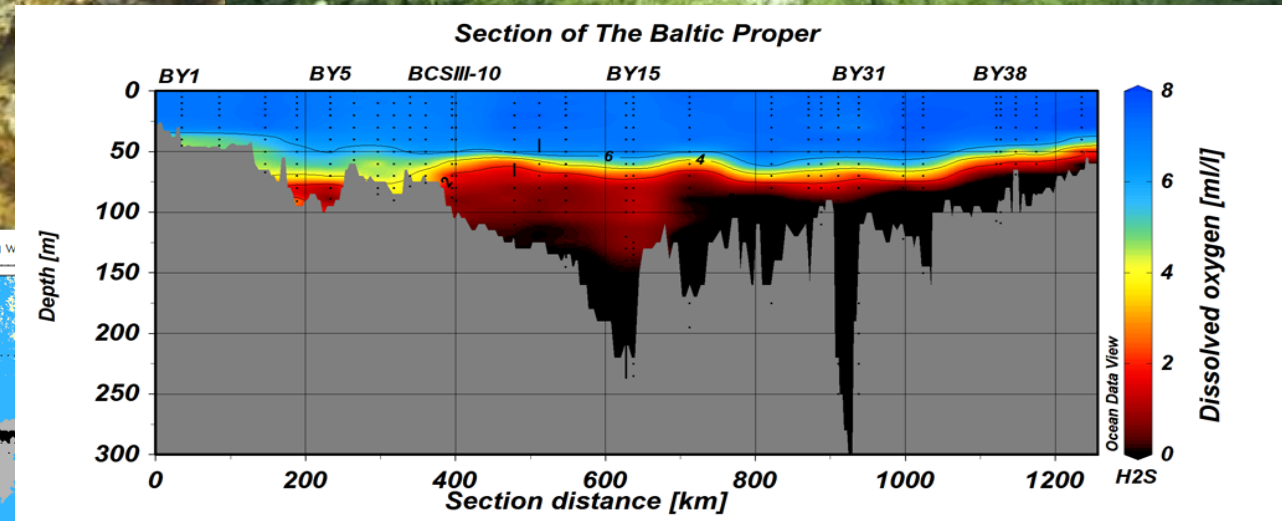
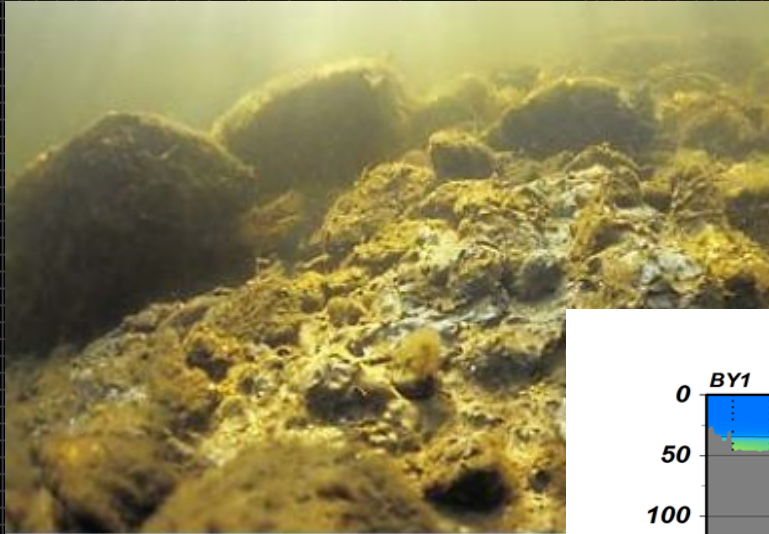


Large Cyanobacterial  
blooms



# Baltic Sea - where are we now?

SMHI

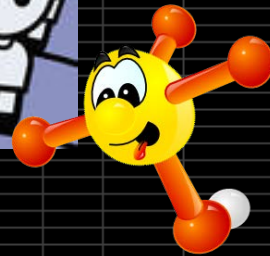
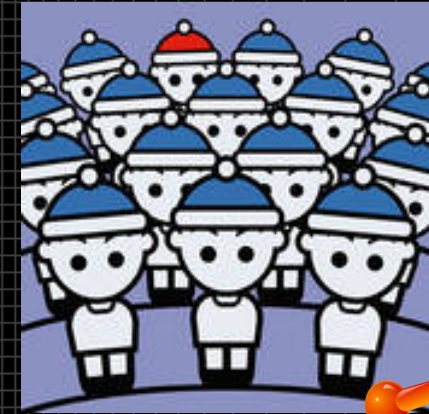
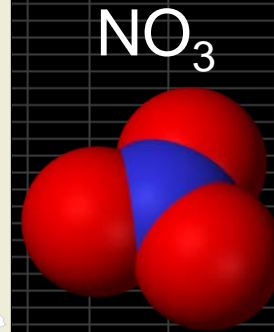
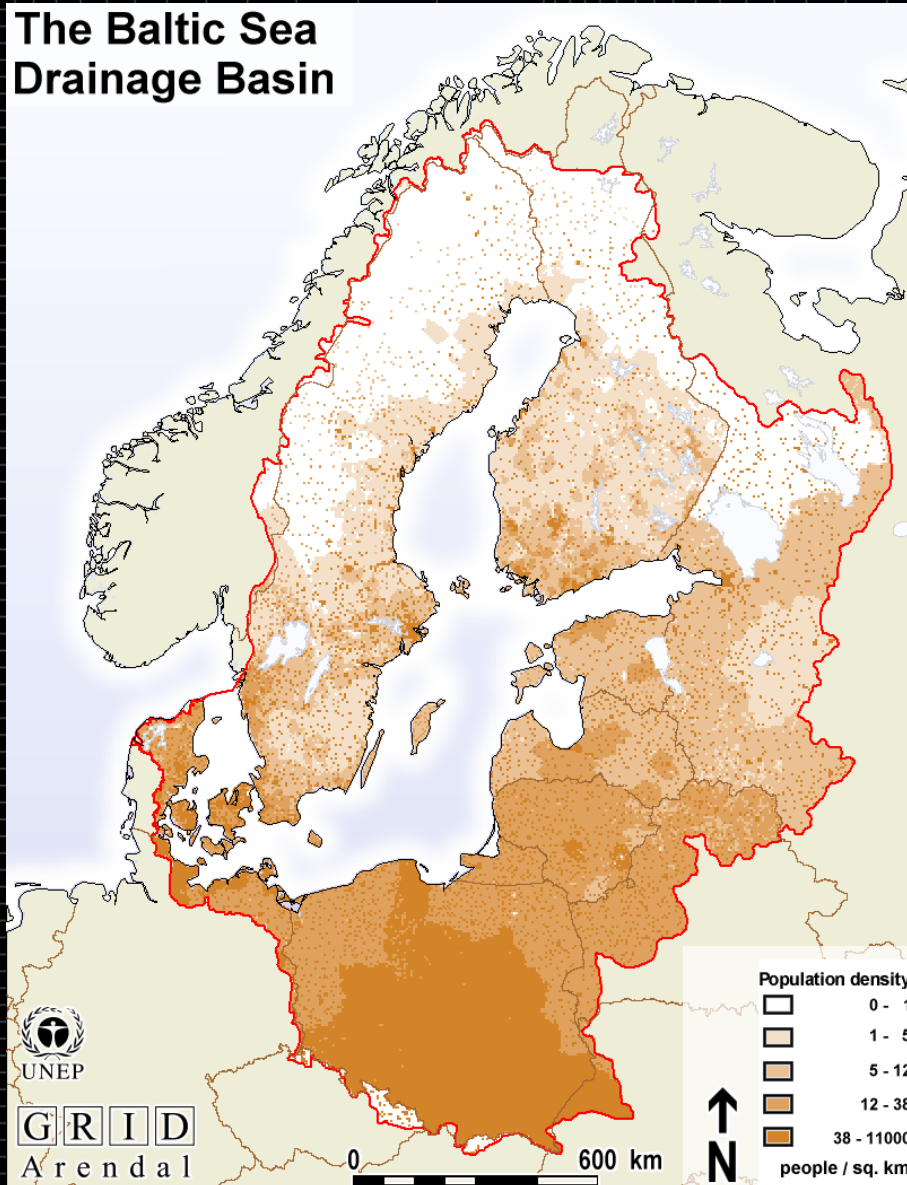


**Hypoxia/anoxia**  
4 times as large today  
compared to 100 years  
ago

# Baltic Sea - where are we now?

SMHI

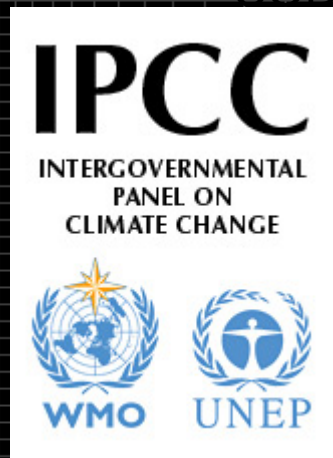
The Baltic Sea  
Drainage Basin



- Huge catchment area
- 85 million people
- Freshwater supply  $15,000 \text{ m s}^{-1}$

# Baltic Sea; how to approach the future?

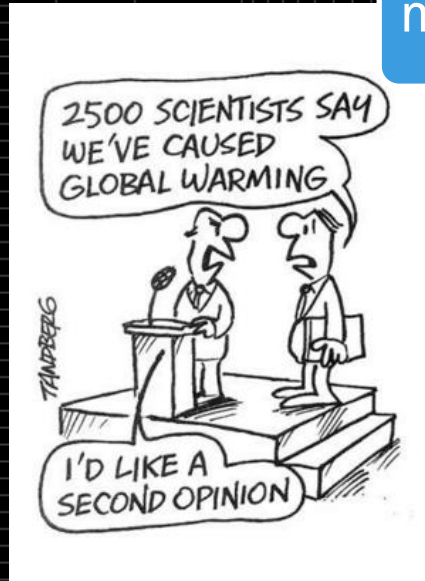
**SMHI**



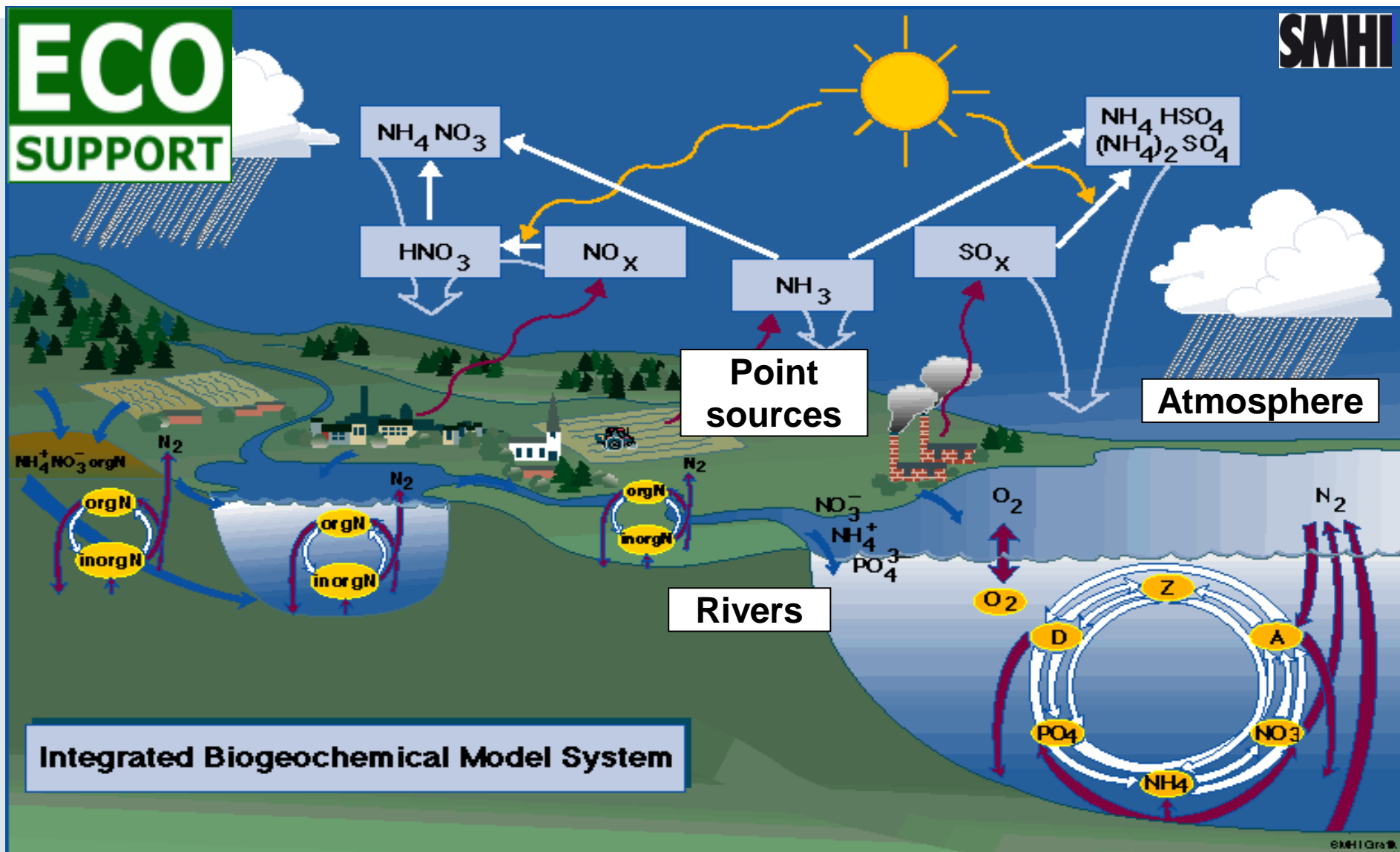
Combined effects of climate change and nutrient loads

Ensemble modeling to quantify uncertainty

Decision support to policy makers



# Coupled climate - environmental modeling

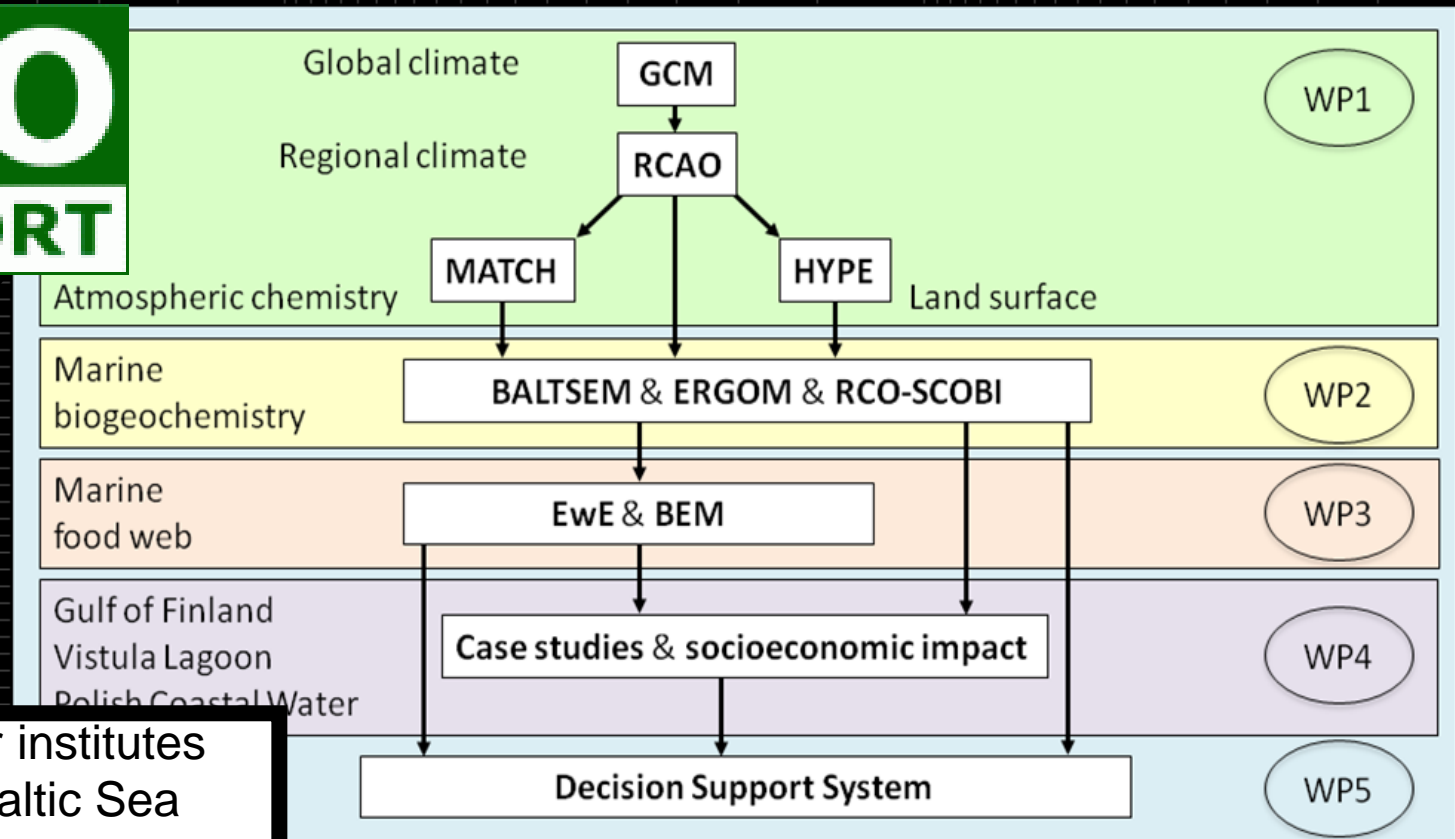


# Baltic Sea; how to approach the future?

**SMHI**

Advanced modeling tool for scenarios of the Baltic Sea  
ECOsysteM to SUPPORT decision making

**ECO  
SUPPORT**



11 partner institutes  
from 7 Baltic Sea  
countries  
2009-2011



Forskningsrådet Formas

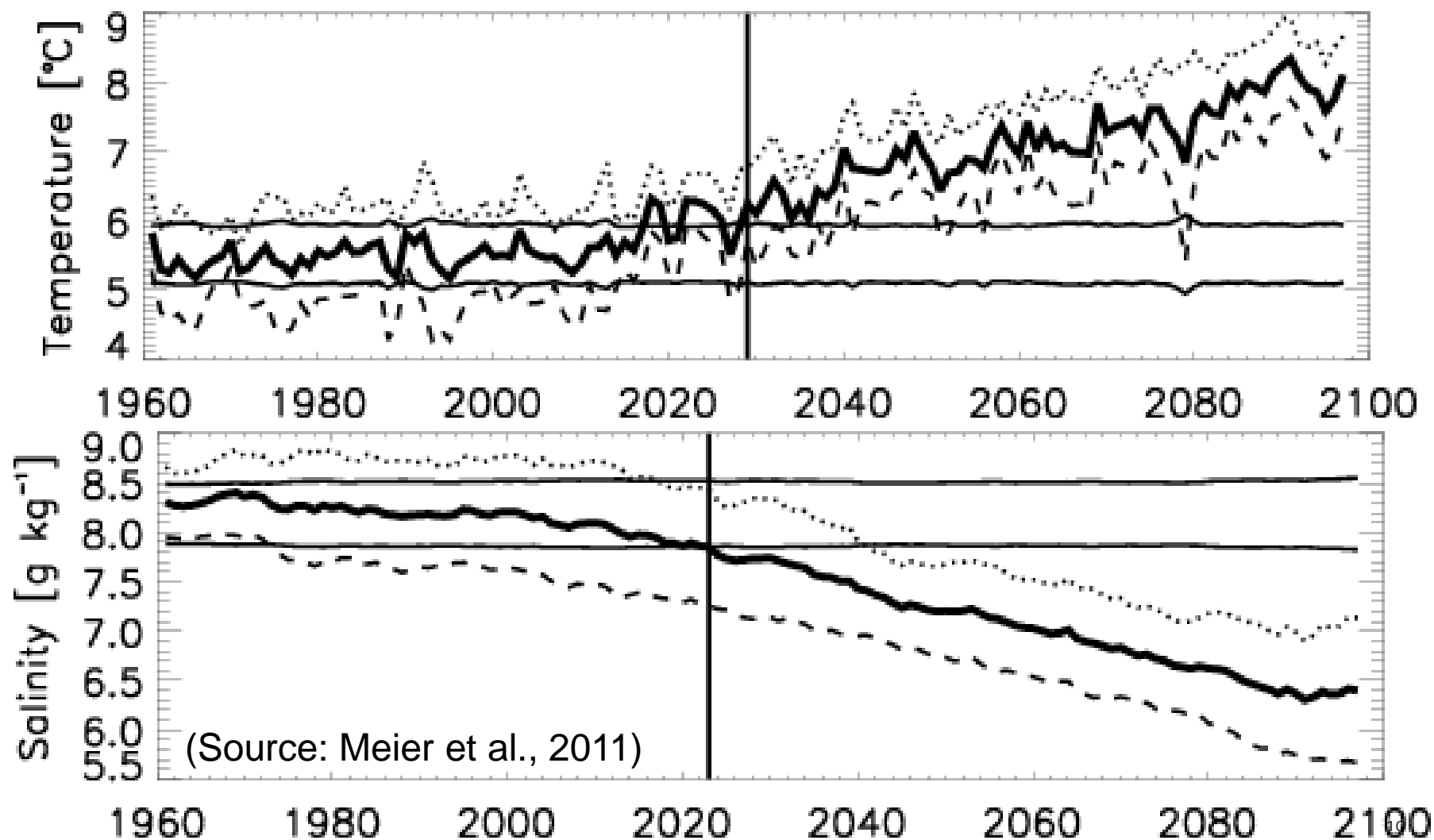
Formas främjar framstående forskning för hållbar utveckling



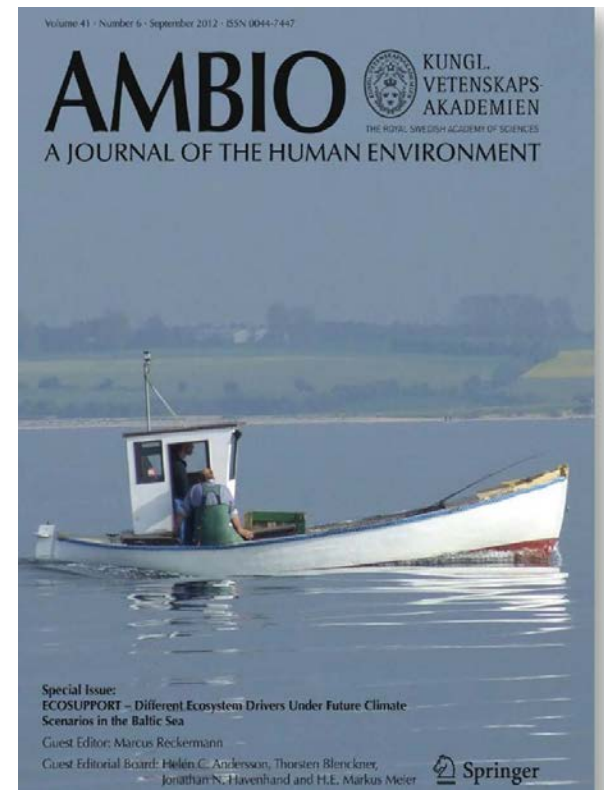
**BONUS**

SCIENCE FOR A BETTER FUTURE OF THE BALTIC SEA REGION

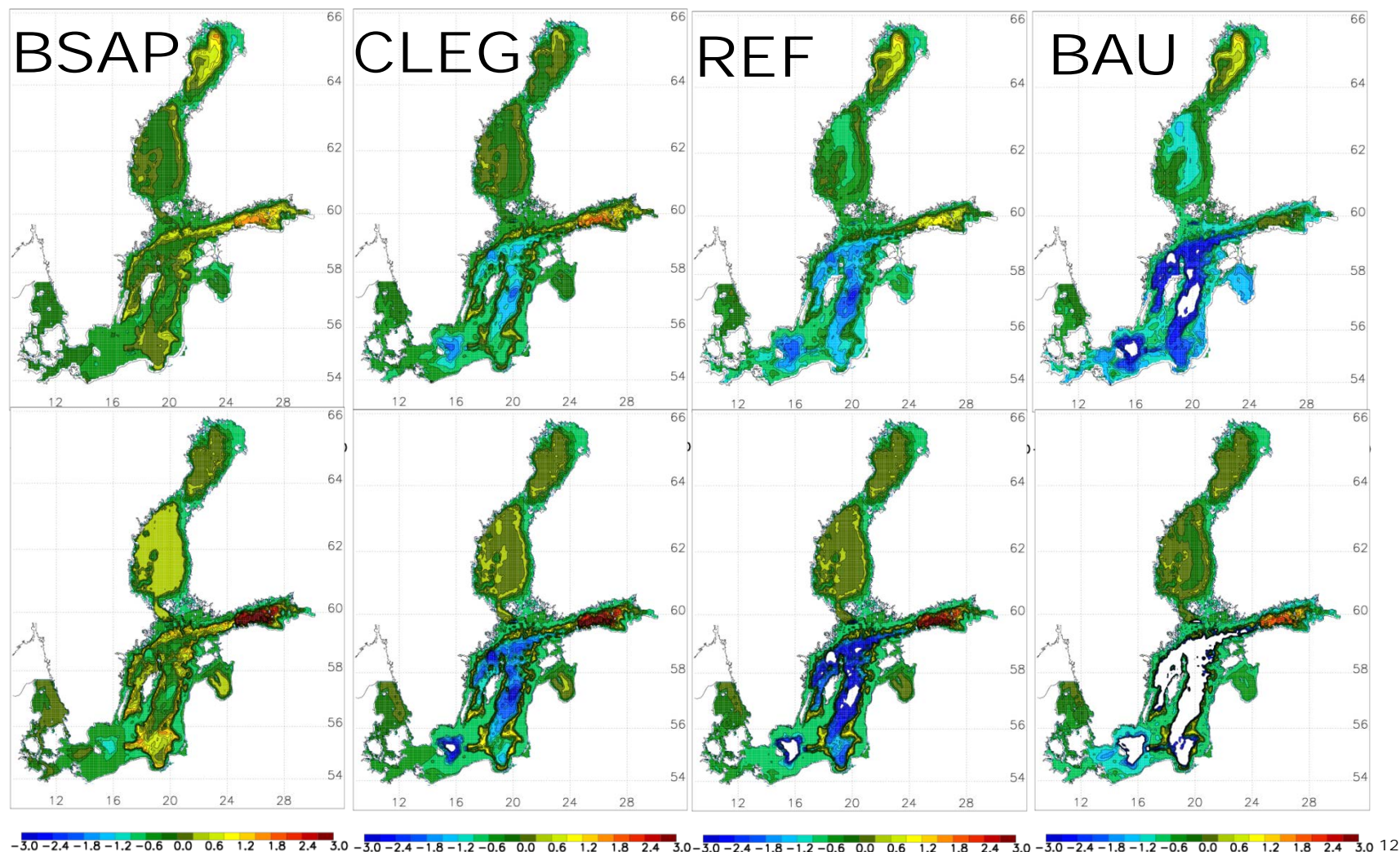
## Ensemble mean volume averaged temperature and salinity



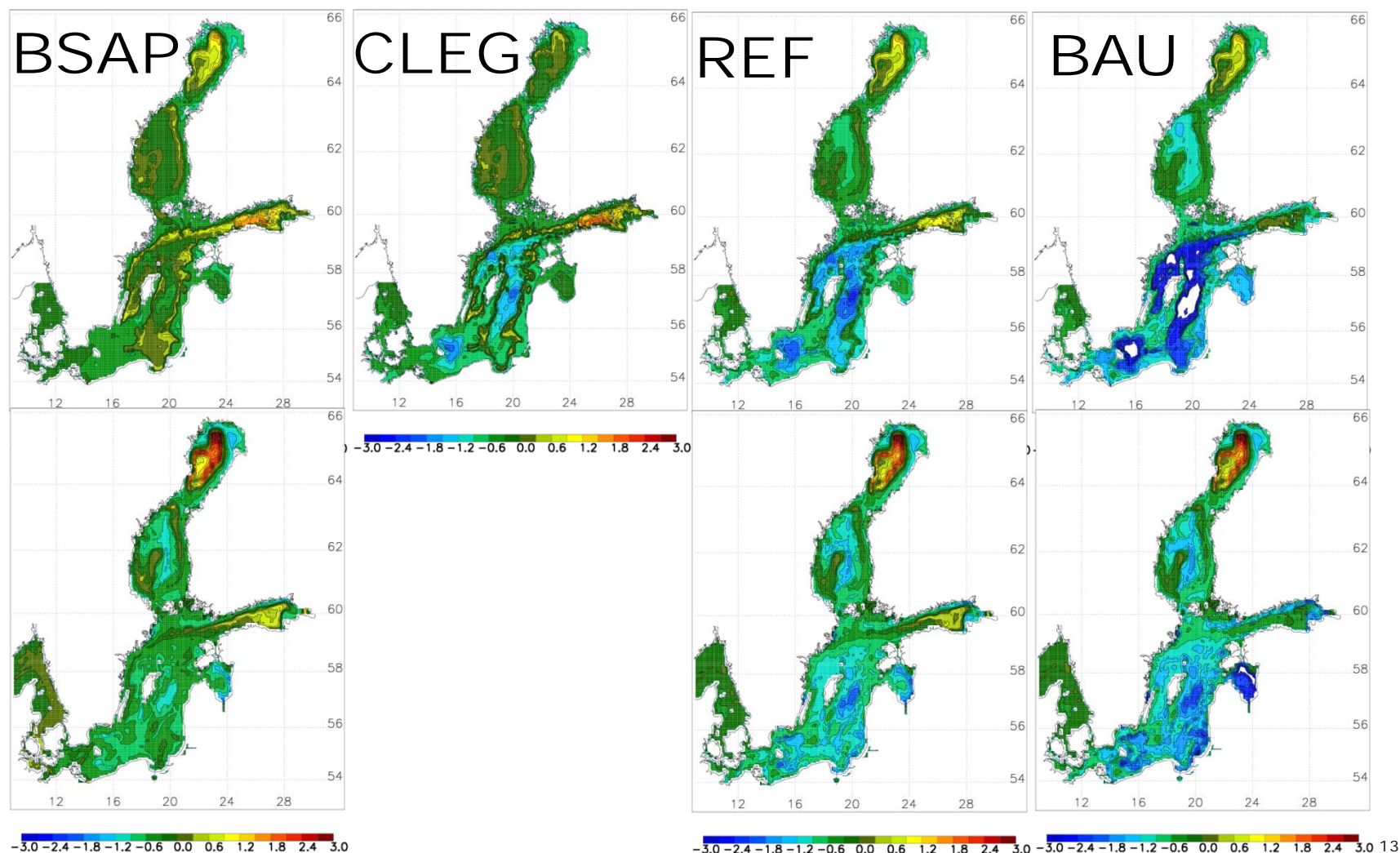
# Results of the ECOSUPPORT project (e.g. AMBIO special issue, September 2012)



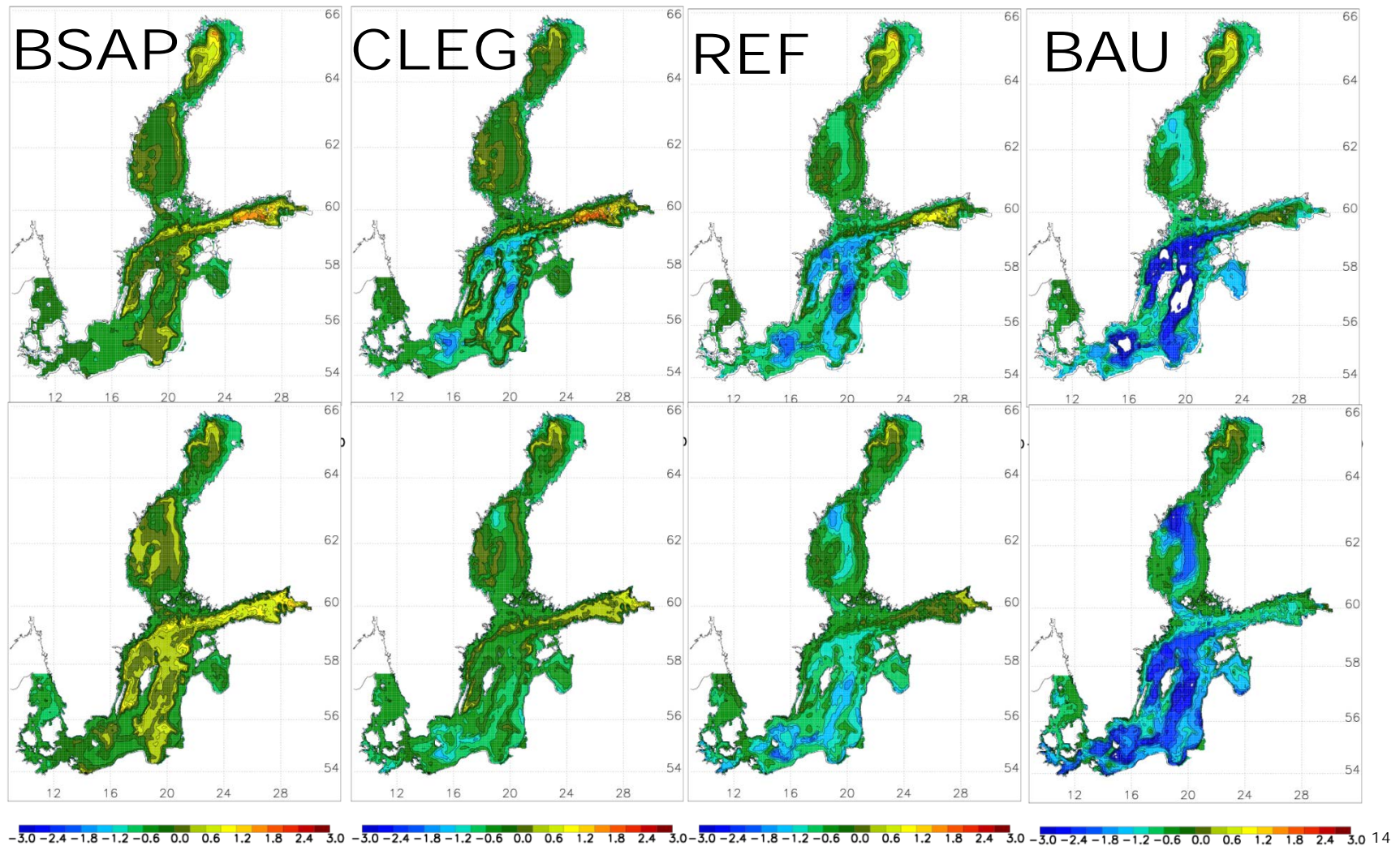
Ensemble (upper) and BALTSEM (lower) mean summer bottom oxygen concentration changes between 2070-2099 relative to 1978-2007



Ensemble (upper) and ERGOM (lower) mean summer bottom oxygen concentration changes between 2070-2099 relative to 1978-2007

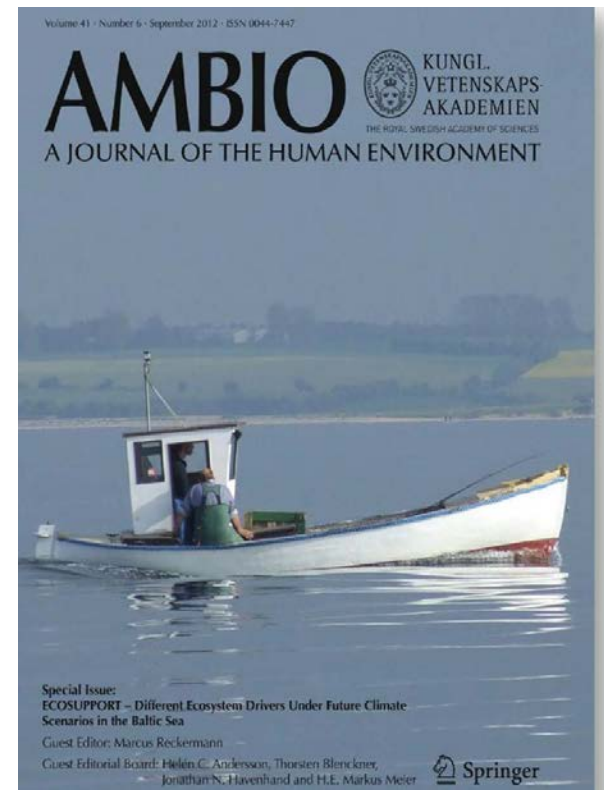


Ensemble (upper) and RCO-SCOB1 (lower) mean summer bottom oxygen concentration changes between 2070-2099 relative to 1978-2007



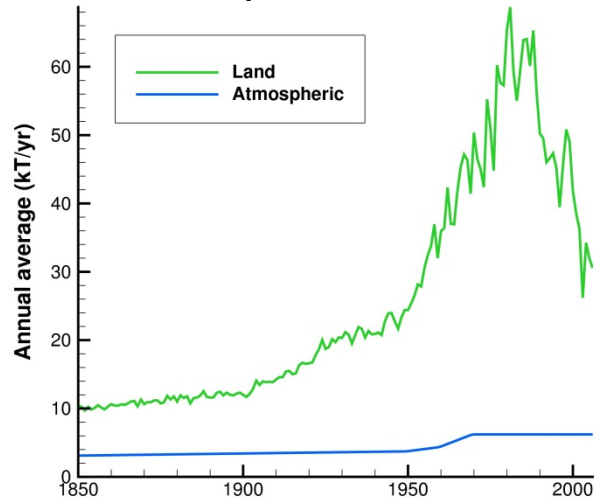
# Results of the ECOSUPPORT project (e.g. AMBIO special issue, September 2012)

## Evaluation of Climate System Responses ?

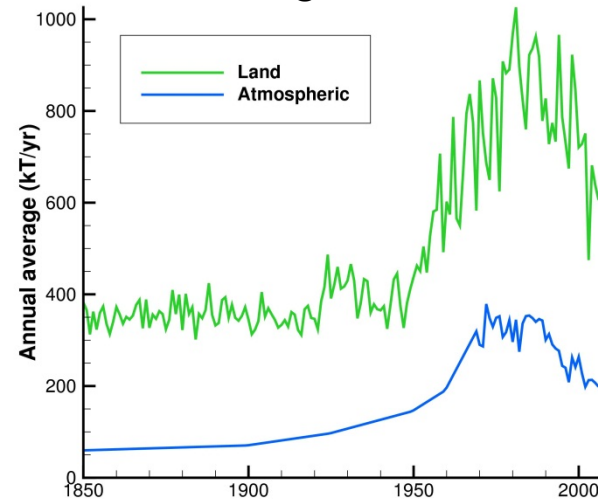


# Reconstruction of the past since 1850 **SMHI**

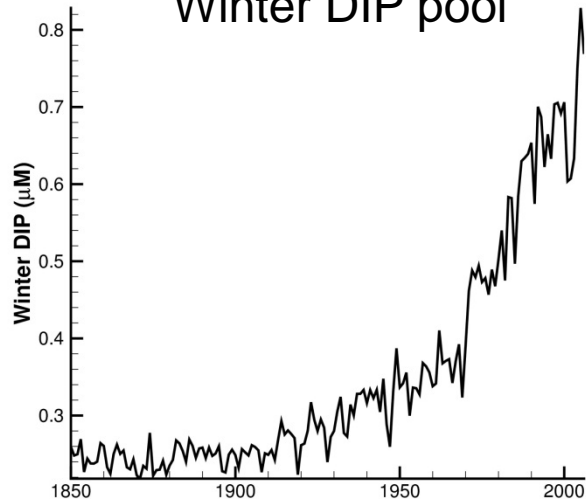
## Phosphorus loads



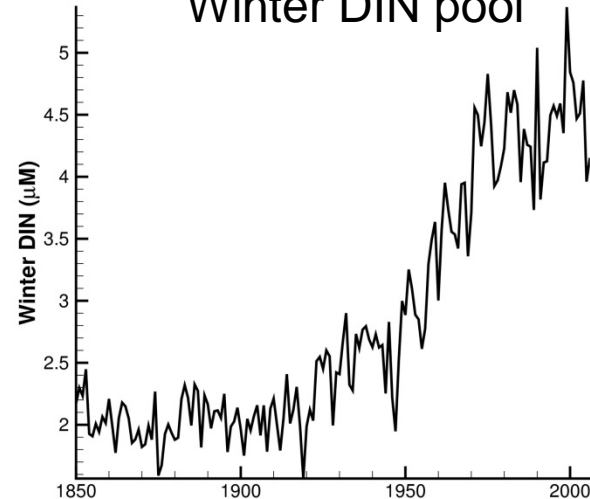
## Nitrogen loads



## Winter DIP pool

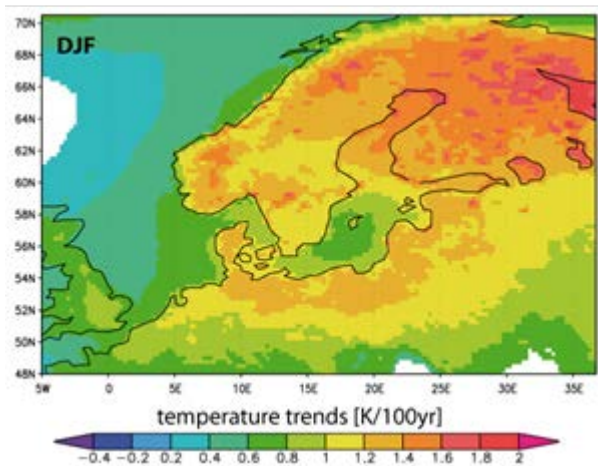


## Winter DIN pool

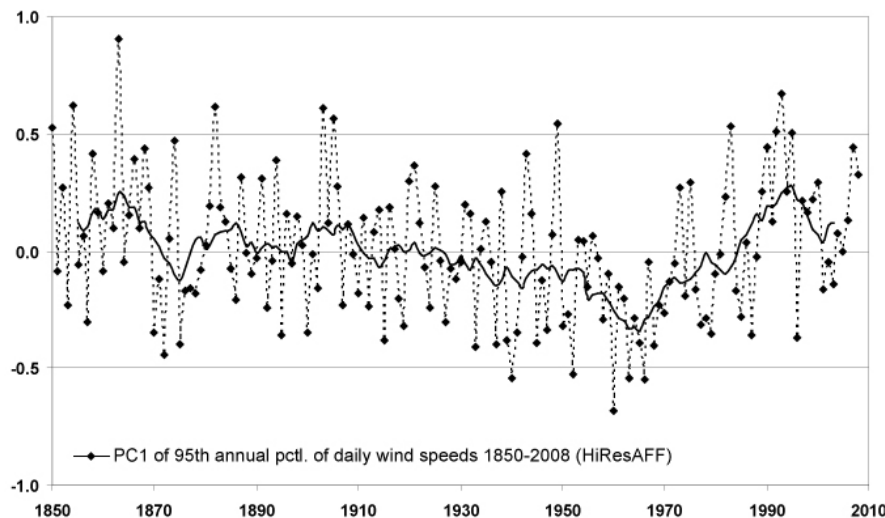


(Source:  
Gustafsson  
et al., 2012)

# HiResAFF (Schenk and Zorita 2012, Climate of the Past) 1850-2009



**Seasonal near-surface temperature trends in winter 1850-2009 (HiResAFF). Non-significant trends ( $p < 0.05$ ) in white.**

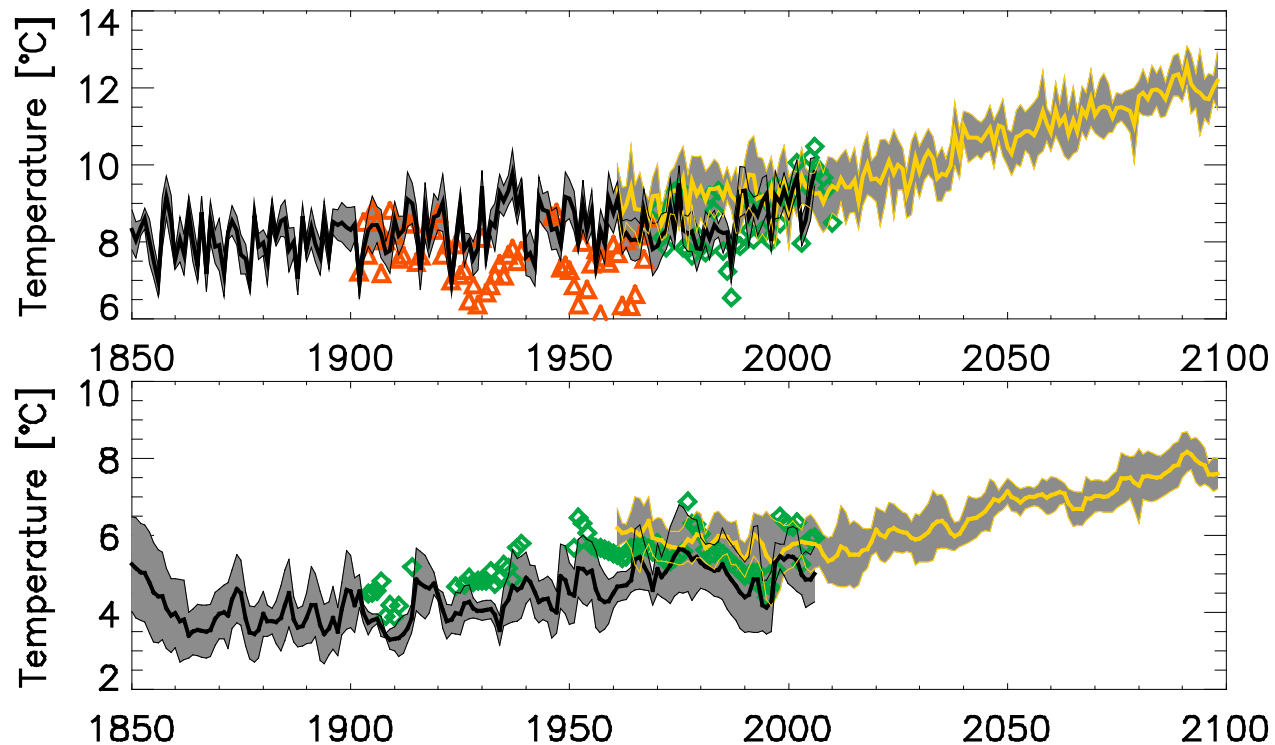


**Time series of the first Principal Component (PC1) of the 95<sup>th</sup> annual percentile of daily wind speeds representing storminess over Northern Europe in the period 1850-2008 (HiResAFF).**

(Source: Meier et al., 2012, ERL)

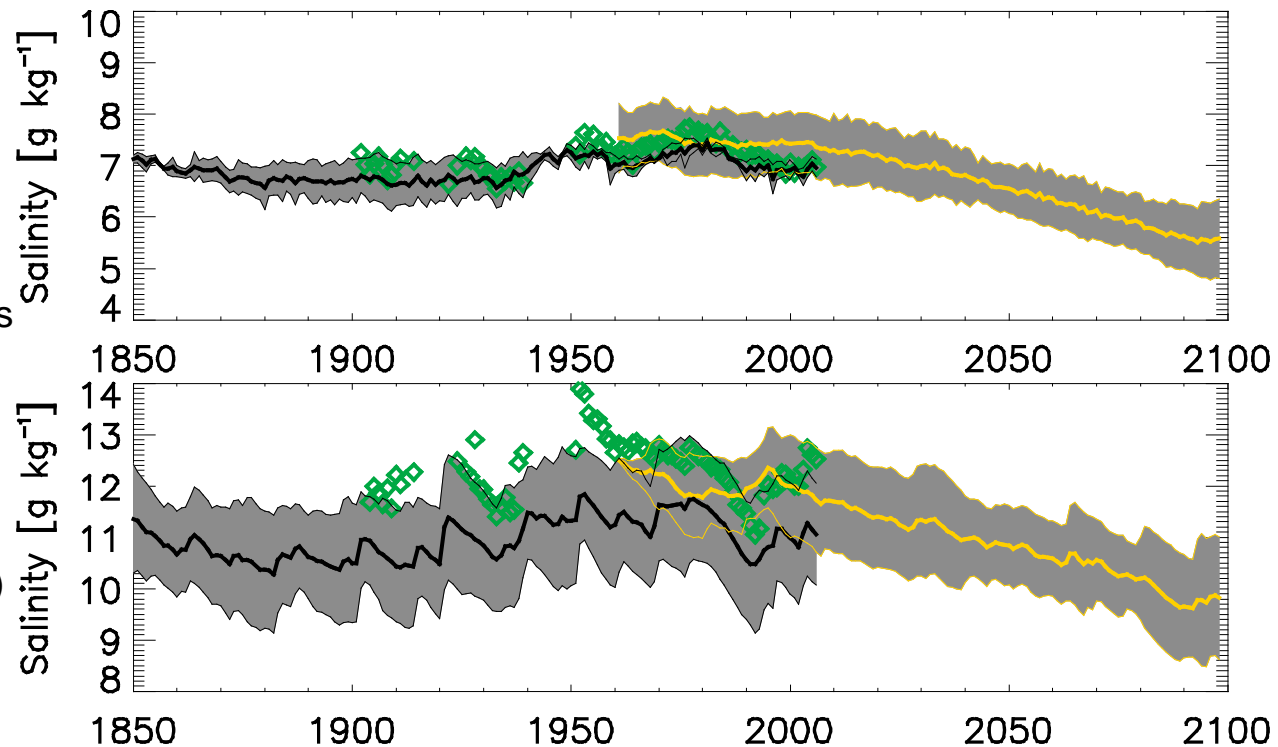
Simulated ensemble averages and observed annual mean water temperatures ((a), (b)) and salinities ((c), (d)) at Gotland Deep at 1.5 and 200 m depth, annual mean oxygen concentrations at 200 m depth (e), and winter (January–March) mean surface phosphate (f) and nitrate (g) concentrations.

Shaded areas denote the ranges of plus/minus one standard deviation around the ensemble averages. The various nutrient load scenarios (1961–2098) are shown by colored lines (REF—yellow, BSAP—blue, BAU—red) and the reconstruction (1850–2006) by the black line. For comparison, observations from monitoring cruises at Gotland Deep (green diamonds, in panel (a) since 1970 only) and from the light ship Svenska Björn, operated during 1902–1968 (orange triangles in panel (a)), were used.



(Source: Meier et al., 2012, ERL)

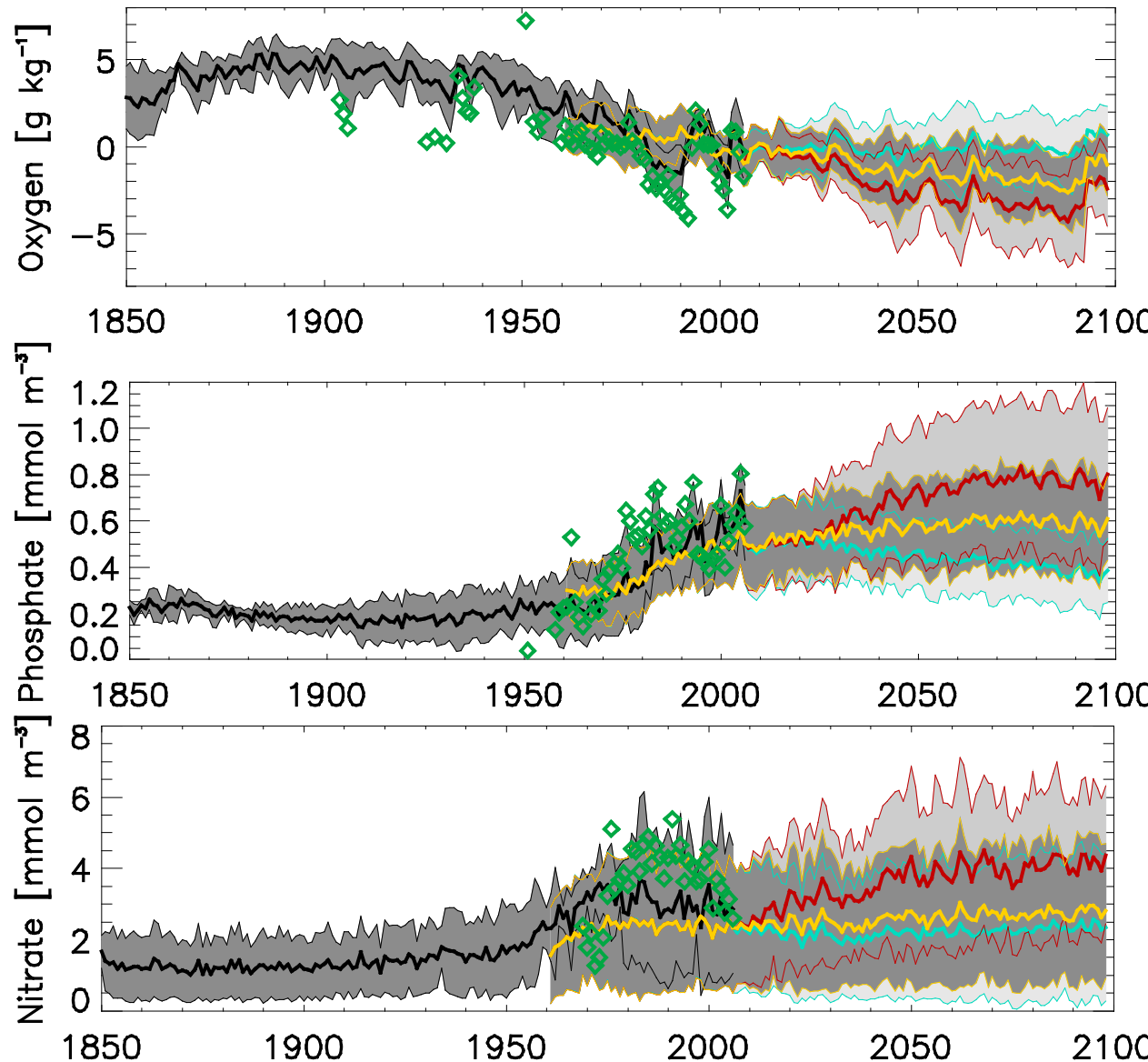
Simulated ensemble averages and observed annual mean water temperatures ((a), (b)) and salinities ((c), (d)) at Gotland Deep at 1.5 and 200 m depth, annual mean oxygen concentrations at 200 m depth (e), and winter (January–March) mean surface phosphate (f) and nitrate (g) concentrations. Shaded areas denote the ranges of plus/minus one standard deviation around the ensemble averages. The various nutrient load scenarios (1961–2098) are shown by colored lines (REF—yellow, BSAP—blue, BAU—red) and the reconstruction (1850–2006) by the black line. For comparison, observations from monitoring cruises at Gotland Deep (green diamonds, in panel (a) since 1970 only) and from the light ship Svenska Björn, operated during 1902–1968 (orange triangles in panel (a)), were used.



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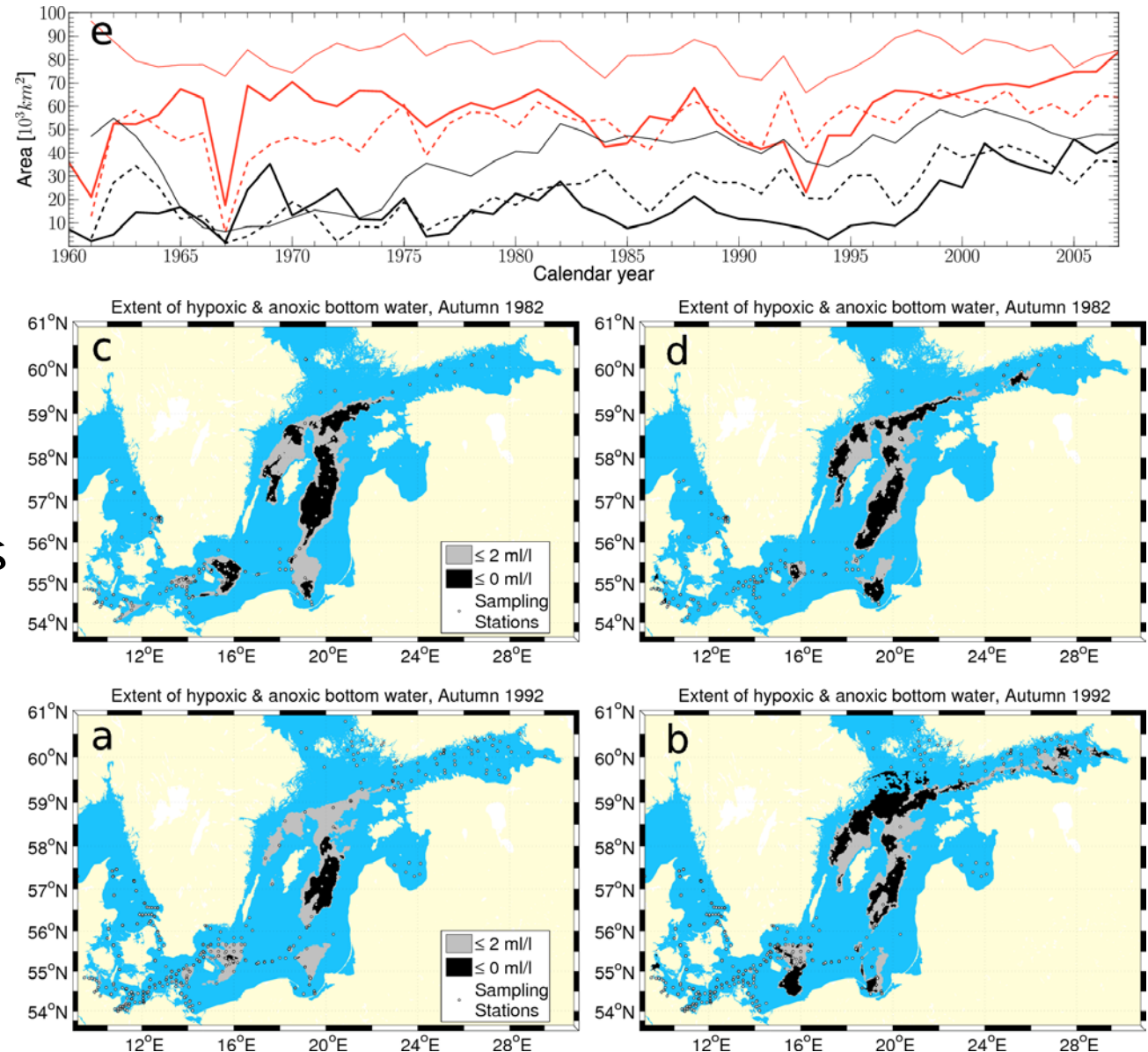


# Conclusions

- **Reconstructions of past climate variability help to constrain the sensitivity of biogeochemical models to nutrient load changes**
- **Projections suggest unprecedented changes in the future ecosystem despite large uncertainties due to unknown nutrient loads, biases of the GCMs, biases of the biogeochemical models and natural variability**

Records of  
**hypoxia** and  
 anoxia in  
 RCO-SCOB  
 (thin),  
 observations  
 (thick) and  
 model results  
 at observed  
 stations  
 (dashed)

(Source: Väli  
 et al., 2013)



An aerial photograph of a tropical coastline. The land is covered in dense green vegetation, with a narrow strip of beach and a small body of water visible. A small white boat is on the water in the upper right. The text "Thank you for your attention" is overlaid in white at the bottom.

Thank you for your attention