



EU MISSIONS

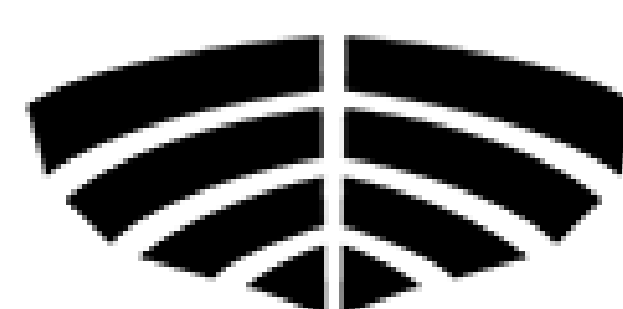
RESTORE OUR OCEAN AND WATERS



BACKGROUND

Blekinge, a coastal region in Southeast Sweden, integrates Mission Ocean and Waters into its Smart Specialization Strategy (S3), aligning marine technology, sustainability, and innovation to drive regional growth. The region leverages testbeds to validate new technologies in marine resource management, defence, and energy, fostering cross-sector collaboration.

Through partnerships with the Marine Technology Centre and companies like [NKT](#) and [Sculptur](#), Blekinge advances sustainability initiatives, such as seabed-cleaning practices in cable installation and recycled material-based manufacturing, strengthening its role in the circular blue economy.



REGION
BLEKINGE

MOTIVATION

Blekinge's strategy is driven by the need to mobilise funding, foster innovation, and create business opportunities while addressing global challenges like pollution and climate adaptation.

By adopting the Mission method, the region connects to Horizon Europe and national R&D programmes, ensuring access to key investments. Its testbed framework enables companies to experiment with low-carbon solutions, digitalisation, and multi-use projects, providing a model for scaling innovation across the Baltic-North Sea region.



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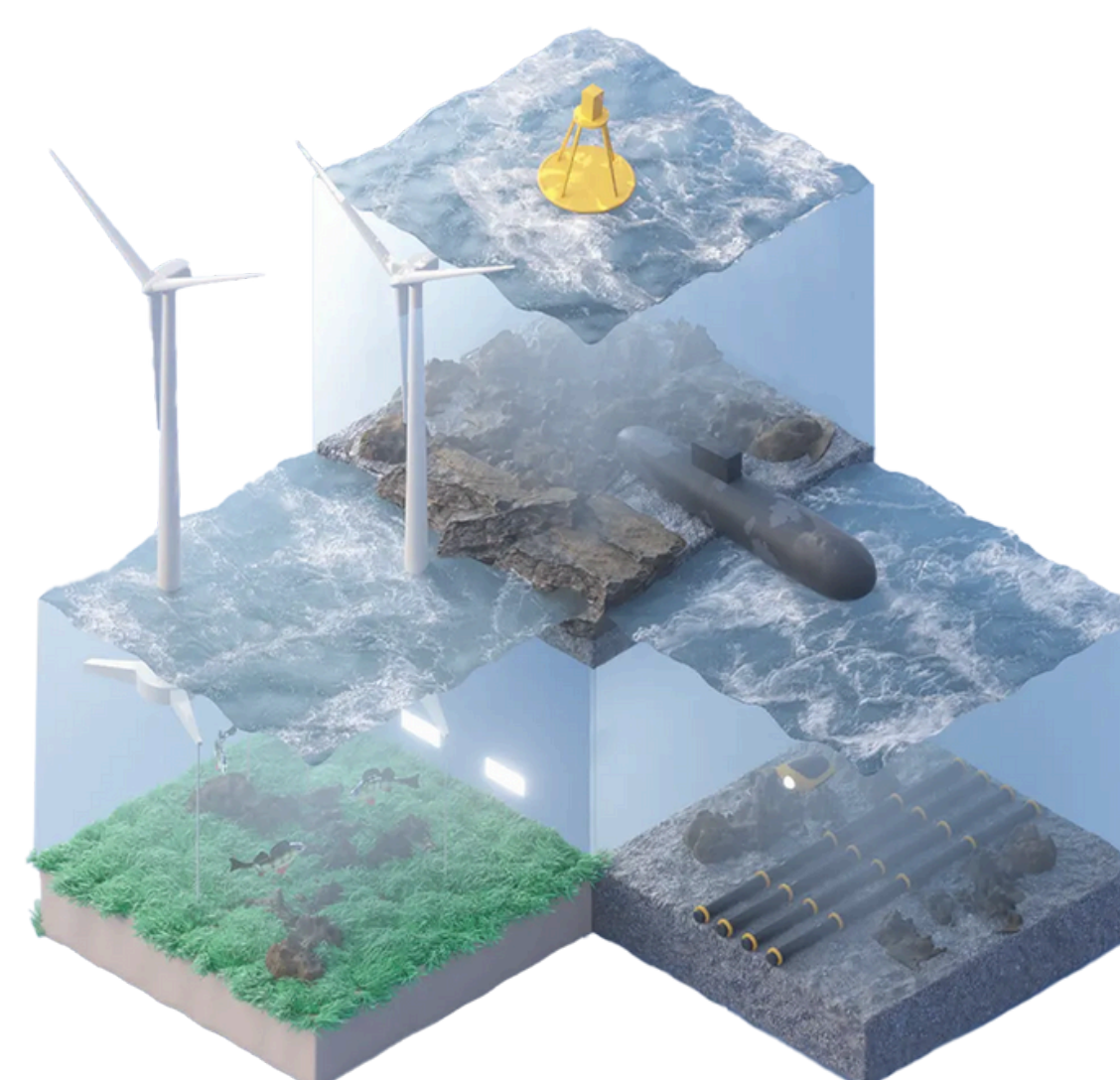
COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

Through the Marine Technology Centre cluster, Blekinge facilitates cooperation between research institutions, industry leaders, and local authorities. Large companies play a central role in advancing sustainable marine technology. The [Blekinge Institute of Technology](#) supports industry-relevant research in digitalisation and sustainability, while the [Blekinge Archipelago](#), a biosphere reserve, engages citizens and businesses in microplastic reduction and marine biodiversity protection.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Blekinge has successfully launched two innovation pilots: a multi-use ocean space project, combining defence, energy, and environmental protection, and a microplastics reduction project, integrating tourism, community engagement, and marine conservation.

By bridging research, business, and governance, Blekinge is establishing itself as a leader in blue economy innovation, attracting investment and shaping a sustainable future for the Baltic region and beyond.



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