

# Contents

## Part I Introduction

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
U. Schiewer		
1.1	The Baltic Sea	1
1.1.1	Geological Background	3
1.1.2	Climate, Hydrology and Chemistry	4
1.1.3	Catchment Area, Eutrophication and Pollution	6
1.1.4	Ecological Structure and Function	10
1.2	Pelagial	10
1.3	Benthal	12
1.4	Conversion of Substances	16
1.5	Spatial and Temporal Variations in the Baltic Sea	18
1.6	Protection	20
	References	20
<b>2</b>	<b>The Baltic Coastal Zones</b>	<b>23</b>
U. Schiewer		
2.1	Coastal Structures and Types	23
2.2	Coastal Dynamics	25
2.3	Ecology of Coastal Waters	29
2.4.	Anthropogenic Loads and Protection Measures	30
	References	33

## Part II Ecological Case Studies

### Part II.A Southern Baltic Coast

<b>3</b>	<b>Darß-Zingst Boddens, Northern Rügener Boddens and Schlei</b>	<b>35</b>
U. Schiewer		
3.1	Introduction	35
3.2	Darß-Zingst Boddens	35

3.2.1	Environmental Characteristics . . . . .	35
3.2.2	Planktonic Communities . . . . .	44
3.2.3	Benthic Communities . . . . .	52
3.2.4	Benthic–Pelagic Coupling and Eutrophication . . . . .	59
3.3	Northern Rügener Boddens . . . . .	63
3.3.1	Environmental Characteristics . . . . .	63
3.3.2	Planktonic Communities . . . . .	65
3.3.3	Benthic Communities . . . . .	68
3.3.4	Benthic–Pelagic Coupling and Eutrophication . . . . .	70
3.4	Schlei . . . . .	71
3.4.1	Environmental Characteristics . . . . .	71
3.4.2	Planktonic Communities . . . . .	73
3.4.3	Benthic Communities . . . . .	76
3.4.4	Benthic–Pelagic Coupling and Eutrophication . . . . .	78
3.5	Conclusions and Protection Measures . . . . .	80
	References . . . . .	81
<b>4</b>	<b>Greifswalder Bodden, Wismar-Bucht and Salzhaff . . . . .</b>	<b>87</b>
	U. Schiewer	
4.1	Introduction . . . . .	87
4.2	Greifswalder Bodden . . . . .	87
4.2.1	Environmental Characteristics . . . . .	87
4.2.2	Planktonic Communities . . . . .	96
4.2.3	Benthic Communities . . . . .	100
4.2.4	Benthic–Pelagic Coupling and Eutrophication . . . . .	102
4.3	Wismar-Bucht and Salzhaff . . . . .	104
4.3.1	Environmental Characteristics . . . . .	106
4.3.2	Planktonic Communities . . . . .	108
4.3.3	Benthic Communities . . . . .	109
4.3.4	Benthic–Pelagic Coupling and Eutrophication . . . . .	111
4.3.5	Protection Measures . . . . .	111
4.4	Conclusions and Summary . . . . .	111
	References . . . . .	112
<b>5</b>	<b>The Szczecin (Oder-) Lagoon . . . . .</b>	<b>115</b>
	T. Radziejewska and G. Schernewski	
5.1	Introduction . . . . .	115
5.2	Environmental Characteristics . . . . .	116
5.3	Pelagic Communities . . . . .	120
5.4	Benthic Communities . . . . .	121
5.5	Eutrophication and Benthic–Pelagic Coupling . . . . .	123
5.6	Summary and Conclusions . . . . .	125
	References . . . . .	126

**6 Near-Shore Zones: Koserow and Tromper Wiek . . . . . 131**

U. Schiewer

6.1	Introduction . . . . .	131
6.2	Environmental Characteristics . . . . .	131
6.3	Results . . . . .	132
6.4	Discussion and Conclusions . . . . .	133
	References . . . . .	138

**Part II.B Eastern Baltic Coast****7 Gulf of Gdańsk and Puck Bay . . . . . 139**

L. Kruk-Dowgiałło and A. Szaniawska

7.1	Introduction . . . . .	139
7.2	Gulf of Gdańsk . . . . .	140
7.2.1	Environmental characteristics . . . . .	140
7.2.2	Planktonic Communities . . . . .	147
7.2.3	Benthic Communities . . . . .	150
7.3	Puck Bay . . . . .	154
7.3.1	Environmental Characteristics . . . . .	154
7.3.2	Planktonic Communities . . . . .	156
7.3.3	Benthic Communities . . . . .	157
7.3.4	Fish Communities . . . . .	159
7.4	Eutrophication and Benthic–Pelagic Coupling . . . . .	160
7.5	Conclusions . . . . .	162
	References . . . . .	162

**8 The Vistula Lagoon . . . . . 167**

B. Chubarenko and P. Margoński

8.1	Environmental Characteristics . . . . .	167
8.1.1	Lagoon Morphometry . . . . .	167
8.1.2	Lagoon Hydrography . . . . .	168
8.1.3	Transboundary Aspects . . . . .	169
8.1.4	Lagoon Hydrology . . . . .	169
8.1.5	Lagoon Water Dynamics . . . . .	172
8.1.6	Hydrological–Hydrodynamical Typology of the Vistula Lagoon System . . . . .	173
8.1.7	Sediment Regime . . . . .	174
8.2	Eutrophication . . . . .	174
8.2.1	Water Quality . . . . .	174
8.2.2	Limitation of Primary Production . . . . .	178
8.2.3	Trophic State Index . . . . .	178
8.3	Planktonic Communities . . . . .	179

8.3.1 Primary Production . . . . .	179
8.3.2 Bacterioplankton . . . . .	179
8.3.3 Phytoplankton . . . . .	180
8.3.4 Zooplankton. . . . .	182
8.4 Benthic Communities. . . . .	184
8.4.1 Macrophytes . . . . .	184
8.4.2 Macrozoobenthos. . . . .	185
8.5 Fish and Fisheries . . . . .	187
8.6 Conclusions and Summary . . . . .	190
References. . . . .	191
<b>9 The Curonian Lagoon. . . . .</b>	<b>197</b>
Z.R. Gasiūnaitė, D. Daunys, S. Olenin, and A. Razinkovas	
9.1 Environmental Characteristics . . . . .	197
9.2 Historical Overview . . . . .	201
9.3 Phytoplankton . . . . .	202
9.4 Zooplankton . . . . .	204
9.5 Fish. . . . .	206
9.6 Benthic Communities. . . . .	207
9.7 Biological Processes and Interactions . . . . .	209
9.8 Protection . . . . .	210
9.9 Summary . . . . .	211
References. . . . .	211
<b>10 Gulf of Riga and Pärnu Bay. . . . .</b>	<b>217</b>
J. Kotta, V. Lauringson, G. Martin, M. Simm, I. Kotta, K. Herkül, and H. Ojaveer	
10.1 Environmental Characteristics . . . . .	217
10.2 Plankton Communities. . . . .	222
10.3 Benthic Communities . . . . .	228
10.4 Benthic–Pelagic Coupling and Eutrophication . . . . .	233
10.5 Conclusions and Summary . . . . .	239
References. . . . .	239
<b>11 Haapsalu and Matsalu Bays. . . . .</b>	<b>245</b>
J. Kotta, A. Jaanus, and I. Kotta	
11.1 Environmental Characteristics . . . . .	245
11.2 Plankton Communities. . . . .	249
11.3 Benthic Communities . . . . .	252
11.4 Benthic–Pelagic Coupling and Eutrophication . . . . .	253
11.5 Conclusions and Summary . . . . .	257
References. . . . .	257

**Part II.C Northeastern Baltic Coast**

<b>12 The Neva Estuary Ecosystem . . . . .</b>	<b>259</b>
I.V. Telesh, S.M. Golubkov, and A.F. Alimov	
12.1 Environmental Characteristics . . . . .	259
12.2 Planktonic Communities . . . . .	264
12.2.1 Phytoplankton . . . . .	264
12.2.2 Bacterioplankton . . . . .	267
12.2.3 Zooplankton . . . . .	268
12.3 Fish Communities . . . . .	271
12.4 Benthic Communities . . . . .	272
12.5 Benthic–Pelagic Coupling, “Biological Pollution” and Eutrophication . . . . .	276
12.6 Functional Response of Aquatic Communities to Anthropogenic Stress . . . . .	278
12.7 Conclusions . . . . .	280
References . . . . .	281
<b>13 The Gulf of Finland . . . . .</b>	<b>285</b>
H. Pitkänen, J. Lehtoranta, and H. Peltonen	
13.1 Introduction . . . . .	285
13.2 An Infinite Estuary Sensitive to Physical Forcing . . . . .	286
13.3 Geomorphology and Hydrodynamics . . . . .	287
13.4 External Nutrient Loading . . . . .	290
13.5 Water Column Nutrients . . . . .	291
13.5.1 Strong Vertical and Seasonal Variations . . . . .	291
13.5.2 Temporal Trends: Increasing for P, Decreasing for N . . . . .	294
13.5.3 Trends in Eutrophication . . . . .	296
13.6 Internal Nutrient Fluxes . . . . .	298
13.6.1 Sediment–Water Exchange and Denitrification . . . . .	298
13.6.2 The Role of Benthic Macrofauna . . . . .	300
13.7 Nutrient Dynamics are Reflected in the Phytoplankton . . . . .	301
13.8 Fish Assemblages and Environmental Conditions . . . . .	302
13.9 Conclusions – Is Recovery Possible? . . . . .	304
References . . . . .	304

**Part II.D Western Baltic Coast**

<b>14 The Stockholm Archipelago.....</b>	<b>309</b>
C. Hill and K. Wallström	
14.1 Environmental Characteristics .....	309
14.2 The Pelagic Zone .....	314
14.2.1 Nutrient Cycles.....	314
14.2.2 Plankton .....	315
14.2.3 Fish.....	316
14.2.4 Seabirds .....	318
14.2.5 Marine Mammals.....	318
14.3 Benthic Communities.....	318
14.3.1 Bottom Substrate .....	318
14.3.2 Vegetation of Hard Bottoms.....	319
14.3.3 Macrozoobenthos of Hard Bottoms.....	320
14.3.4 Vegetation of Soft Bottoms .....	320
14.3.5 Macrozoobenthos of Soft Bottoms.....	322
14.4 Effects of Eutrophication and Other Anthropogenic Disturbances	322
14.5 Environmental Pollutants .....	325
14.6 Physical Exploitation and Erosion of Shorelines.....	327
14.7 The Spread of Alien Species .....	327
14.8 Recruitment Failure in Coastal Fish.....	328
14.9 Abnormal Mortality in Seabirds.....	328
14.10 Nature Conservation.....	328
14.11 Summary and Conclusions.....	329
14.11.1 Final Remarks .....	331
References.....	331
<b>15 The Askö Area and Himmerfjärden.....</b>	<b>335</b>
H. Kautsky	
15.1 Askö Area .....	335
15.1.1 Environmental Characteristics.....	335
15.1.2 Planktonic Communities .....	339
15.1.3 Benthic Communities .....	342
15.1.4 Long-Term Change .....	348
15.1.5 No Recent Increase in Eutrophication.....	348
15.1.6 Production and Energy Flow .....	352
15.2 Himmerfjärden Area .....	355
15.2.1 Environmental Characteristics.....	355
15.2.2 Eutrophication .....	356
References.....	357

<b>16 Odense Fjord and Kerteminde Fjord/Kertinge Nor . . . . .</b>	<b>361</b>
H.U. Riisgård, M.H. Jensen, and N. Rask	
16.1 Introduction . . . . .	361
16.2 Case Study: Odense Fjord . . . . .	361
16.2.1 Basic Characteristics . . . . .	361
16.2.2 Nutrient Loads . . . . .	367
16.2.3 Nutrients in Water and Sediment . . . . .	367
16.2.4 Phytoplankton . . . . .	371
16.2.5 Macrophytes . . . . .	372
16.2.6 Benthic Filter-Feeders and Grazing Impact . . . . .	373
16.2.7 Fish . . . . .	377
16.2.8 Impacts of Hazardous Substances . . . . .	377
16.3 Case Study: Kerteminde Fjord/Kertinge Nor . . . . .	378
16.3.1 Basic Characteristics . . . . .	378
16.3.2 Nutrients and Phytoplankton . . . . .	379
16.3.3 Biological Structure and Nutrient Dynamics in Kertinge Nor . . . . .	380
16.3.4 Implications of Density-Driven Currents for Predation Impact by Jellyfish . . . . .	385
16.3.5 Density-Driven Currents and Grazing Impact of Filter-Feeding Benthos . . . . .	386
16.3.6 Biogeochemistry, Microphytobenthos and Macrozoobenthos . . . . .	388
16.3.7 Fish . . . . .	390
16.4 Odense Fjord and Kerteminde Fjord/Kertinge Nor: Protection Measures and Environmental Objectives . . . . .	390
16.4.1 International Protection Measures . . . . .	390
16.4.2 National Protection Measures . . . . .	391
References . . . . .	392

### Part III Synthesis

<b>17 Synthesis . . . . .</b>	<b>395</b>
U. Schiewer	
17.1 Common Features and Differences . . . . .	395
17.1.1 Type 1: Open Coast/Near Shore . . . . .	397
17.1.2 Type 2: Big Bays . . . . .	398
17.1.3 Type 3: Good Water Exchange with the Baltic . . . . .	399
17.1.4 Type 4: Impeded Exchange with the Baltic . . . . .	399
17.1.5 Type 5: Coastal Waters Dominated by River Inflow . . . . .	399
17.1.6 Characteristics of Baltic Coastal Waters . . . . .	400

17.2	Eutrophication . . . . .	405
17.2.1	Zooplankton . . . . .	406
17.2.2	Protozooplankton . . . . .	406
17.2.3	Fish Populations . . . . .	407
17.2.4	Submersed Macrophytes . . . . .	407
17.2.5	Sediments . . . . .	408
17.2.6	Microbial Food Webs and Aggregates/ Fluffy-Sediment-Layer . . . . .	408
17.2.7	Benthos . . . . .	410
17.3	Other Threats . . . . .	410
17.4	Buffer and Filter Capacity . . . . .	411
17.5	Ecosystem Stability . . . . .	412
17.6	Knowledge Gaps . . . . .	413
17.7	Protection Measures . . . . .	413
17.8	Conclusions and Outlook . . . . .	415
	References . . . . .	416
	<b>Index . . . . .</b>	<b>419</b>