The Baltic Sea is a unique basin of brackish water, both in terms of the environment and culture, sculptured by the interplay between man and nature. Due to human impact, the sea is in an alarming state. The sea suffers from an overdose of nutrients, which in turn leads to massive algal blooms. But freighting of chemicals and oil present serious threats as well, not to mention. Not to mention the climate change which makes the puzzle even more complex to resolve.

The book at hand, Baltic Sea in My Eyes, presents the Baltic Sea as seen by its inhabitants in different surrounding countries. The photos accentuate the beauty and importance of this body of brackish water instead or despite of its environmental problems.

The book has been compiled out of altogether 750 photos sent for the photo contest organised by the BalticSeaNow.info project. The project, including actors from Finland, Estonia, Sweden and Latvia, aims to promote environmental consciousness and to encourage citizens to discuss the state and the future of the Baltic Sea.

The Baltic Sea is clearly valuable for its citizens, as depicted in the intimate nature of the photos in this book, but the rescuing of the sea is easily outsourced to nations and industries. The people have an important role in the protection of the Baltic Sea. They can make a difference by choosing wisely in their everyday lives as consumers, and by putting pressure towards decision makers to take concrete steps to protect the sea.

The BalticSeaNow.info project thanks all the people who sent photos and shared their memories and stories related to the photos. We wish that the beauty of the Baltic Sea opened through the photos promotes the desire to act for the brighter future of the Sea.

Foreword

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