



Land uplift at Kvarken archipelago and High Coast UNESCO World Heritage area

Markku Poutanen (1) and Holger Steffen (2)

(1) Finnish Geodetic Institute, Geodesy and Geodynamics, Masala, Finland (markku.poutanen@fgi.fi), (2) Lantmäteriet, Gävle, Sweden (holger-soren.steffen@lm.se)

The land uplift is a well-known phenomenon at the coastal areas of the Gulf of Bothnia in Finland and Sweden. Today, about 700 hectares of new land is rising from the sea every year. This is changing the landscape rapidly, especially at the shallow coastlines and archipelago of Kvarken where the uplift rate is about 9 mm/year. At the opposite side in Sweden, the High Coast has much steeper landscape and changes there are less prominent during one generation. Due to its unique nature, the area has received the UNESCO World Heritage status.

The area is at the uplift maximum of the Fennoscandian postglacial rebound. In this presentation we describe the uplift on the area, based on geodetic measurements, modelling and relations to the sea level rise and climate change. We also discuss future scenarios in this UNESCO World Heritage area.