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MUNIMAP: Baltic Sea Munitions Remediation Roadmap

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The Baltic Sea is a vital marine environment, serving not only the nations that border it but also an estimated 100 million people who rely on its resources. However, this region faces a significant environmental and safety challenge due to submerged munitions from historical conflicts. These remnants pose severe risks to marine biodiversity, maritime activities, the economic viability of seafood industries, and the overall health of the Baltic marine ecosystem.

MUNIMAP, the Baltic Sea Munition Remediation Roadmap, is a pioneering initiative aimed at addressing these challenges. The project's primary goal is to develop a modular, adaptable roadmap tailored to the specific conditions and needs of individual countries in the region. This roadmap outlines comprehensive strategies for policy development, site selection, monitoring, and the implementation of effective remediation methods.

The MUNIMAP initiative is supported by an international consortium of 42 organizations from 9 countries around the Baltic Sea. This diverse group includes scientists, public administrators, and practitioners who have long been engaged in addressing underwater munitions issues. Key stakeholders span a wide range of sectors, including environmental management agencies, research institutions, offshore and maritime transportation businesses, public safety organizations, NGOs focused on environmental protection and human rights, tourism industry representatives, underwater heritage protection groups, and local communities such as coastal residents and fishermen.

While collaboration with such a diverse group presents challenges, it also creates a unique opportunity to develop comprehensive solutions. These efforts aim not only to mitigate the immediate risks posed by underwater munitions but also to promote sustainable development and foster cooperative governance across the Baltic Sea region.