

THE NORD STREAM BALTIC PIPELINE AND UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT IN THE SWEDISH EEZ

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A decade ago, few monuments were known in Swedish Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Baltic Sea. Since then, we have experienced a trend towards more activity in this zone. Development projects are more common and technical development has made it possible for anybody to search for, and to dive on, deeply located shipwrecks. The result is an increasing number of very well preserved shipwrecks in the EEZ.

However, monuments in the Swedish EEZ don't have the same strong legislative protection as monuments in territorial waters.

There is a general public support, also among policy makers, for a stronger protection of the cultural heritage of the Swedish EEZ, especially since many shipwrecks has proven stunningly well preserved and scientifically valuable. This, in combination with the unclear legal scope of heritage protection within the EEZ, and activities that may threaten the cultural heritage has resulted in management practices that are new and different to practices in the Swedish territorial waters. This paper aims to discuss the development of cultural heritage management in the Swedish EEZ through the example of the Nord Stream gas pipe.