

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

Stefan Wessman – National Board of Antiquities, Finland

Today Environmental Impact Assessment is one of the most important tools for decision makers when it comes to assessment of the possible positive or negative impact that a proposed may have on the environment. The regulations for which type of projects needs an EIA vary from nation to nation, but usually the environment consists of natural, social and economic aspects. In many cases, the assessment of the impact on the cultural heritage seems to be questioned or even regarded unnecessary. During the planning process for the Nord Stream – natural gas pipeline through the Finnish EEZ, the underwater cultural heritage turned out to be one of the key issues when among other finds circa 50 previously unknown shipwrecks were found.