

Risks by Sea Dumped Ammunition

Baltic Sea Office, Green Cross Sweden



Information on chemical weapons dumped in the Baltic and Skagerrak

Roll: 1
Pitch: -30
Dpt: 111.2m

Hdn: 53

Date: 111110
CIK: 13:43:30



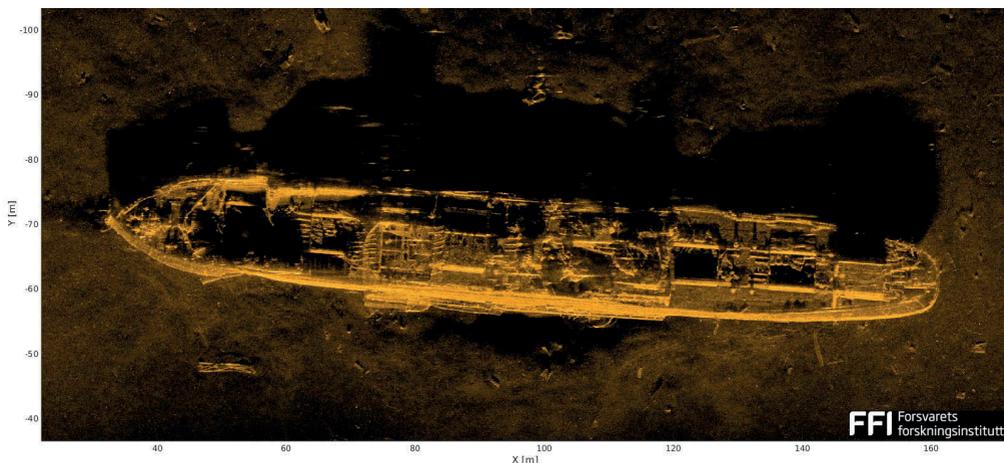
Abandoned bomb containing mustard gas in the depths of the Baltic Sea near the island of Gotaland. Photo courtesy of the Maritime Administration, 2013

Ammunition and Chemical Weapons in the Swedish Seas

After World War II, large quantities of ammunition were dumped in both the Baltic Sea and Skagerrak. This includes chemical weapons, which contain lethal chemicals and can kill a person in minutes. Fishermen find sea-dumped ammunition shells on a regular basis in their fishing nets.

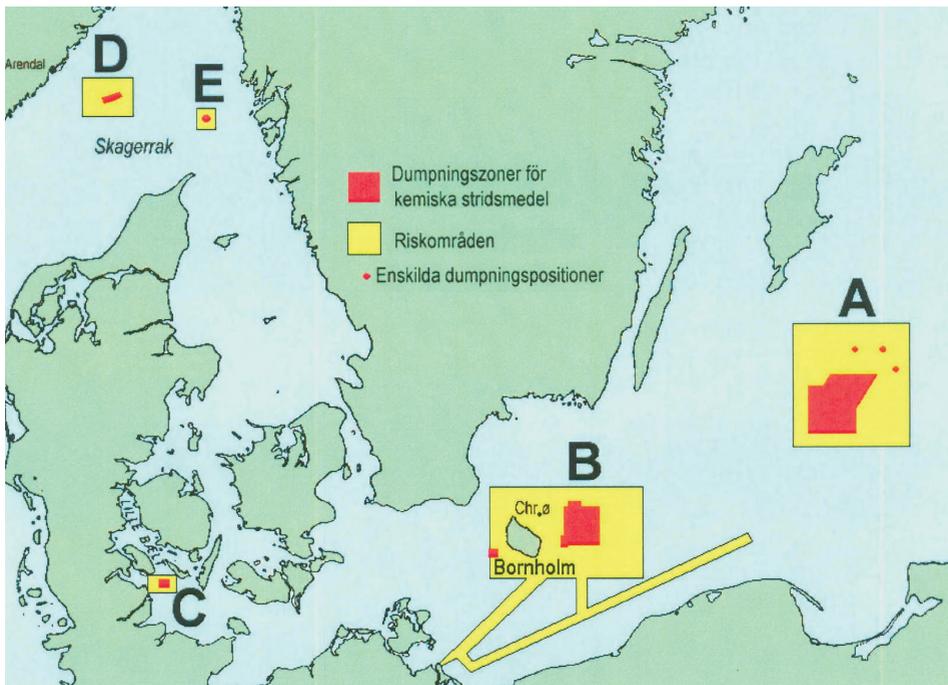
Five risk areas A - E are marked on the map on the following page. In areas A and B loose ammunition was dumped, while in areas C - E show whole vessels and barges loaded with ammunition. The actual dumping zones have been marked with red on the map.

Ammunition was transported by boat to areas A and B. It is presumed that the dumping of ammunition started already along the yellow-marked transport routes from the loading port Wolgast, Germany, before arriving at the actual dumping zones.



Photos courtesy of permission of the Norwegian Defense Research Institute.

IF YOU FIND UNEXPLODED AMMUNITION COME



The following table shows an overview of what is known about the five areas.

Dumping area		Depth	Property/material
A	Southeast Gotland	(110-120 m)	Loose ammunition Primarily mustard gas in aerial bombs Smaller amounts of sneeze gas and tear gas
B	Round and East Bornholm	(75-110 m)	Loose ammunition Primarily mustard gas in aerial bombs Smaller amounts of sneeze gas and tear gas
C	South inlet to the Little Belt	(20-30 m)	Sunken barges with ammunition containing nerve gas, choking agents and lung-damaging substances (eg phosgene)
D	The Norwegian Trench South East Arendal	(ca 700 m)	Sunken vessels with ammunition holding mustard gas and several other chemical warfare agents
E	West of Måseskär	(ca 200 m)	Sunken vessels with ammunition holding mustard gas and probably other chemical warfare agents

To learn more about the dumpsites and related risks visit the <https://green-cross.se/balticsea>

Contact information for the Baltic Sea Office:

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Please contact the authorities below if you have any questions about chemical warfare agents

Junction	Phone number	Matter
Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, Gothenburg	010-698 60 00	General questions about fishing and contaminated catch
Poison Center, Stockholm	112 emergency hotline 08-33 12 31	In case of emergency poisoning (toxicological, medical and chemical issues)
Coast Guard Central Management, Karlskrona	0455-35 34 00	General questions about actions to take when finding chemical munitions
Rescue Service Karlstad MSB	054-13 50 00	General questions about chemical weapons
Swedish Fishermen's National Board, Gothenburg	031-12 45 90	General questions about fishing and contaminated catch
Swedish Defense Research Agency (FOI), Umeå	090-10 66 00	Chemical, toxicological and medical issues
National CBRN Defence Centre (SkyddC), Umeå	090-17 55 00 090-17 56 00 (after hours)	Advice on decontamination
Marine Tactical Command (MTS) Overall responsibility	08-788 95 50	Support for identification and safe handling of weapons

DO NOT TOUCH SUCH WEAPONS WHEN YOU FIND THEM!