**Baltic parameters**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| surface area | 415 266 km2 |
| volume of water | 21 721 km2 |
| maximum depth | 459 m |
| average depth | 52,3 m |
| average salinity | 7,5 % |
| water temperature | summer around 20°C, winter around 0°C |
| tides | till 0,5 m |

**Characteristics of the Baltic Sea and their consequences**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Characteristic | Consequences |
| The Baltic Sea is an inland sea. Narrowly connected by the Danish straits to the North Sea. | The narrow straits result in limited water exchange with the more saline North Sea, making the Baltic Sea less saline. |
| Located in the mid-latitudes. | The Baltic Sea is relatively cool; in summer, water temperatures range from 20°C in the south to 12°C in the north. In winter, the Gulf of Bothnia is often covered with ic |
| Shallow with an average depth of 52.3 meters. | It becomes polluted quickly. The main sources of pollution are the over 250 rivers flowing into it. |