

Catchment officer program in Denmark

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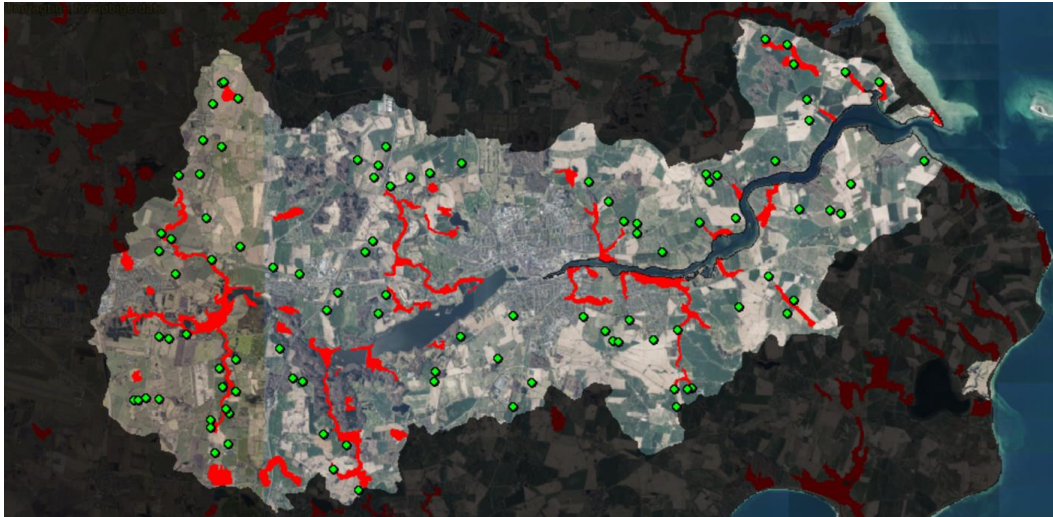
Agenda for the presentation

- What is a Catchment Officer?
- Background for the Catchment Officer program in DK
- Where did we start?
- Experiences
- Where are we heading?

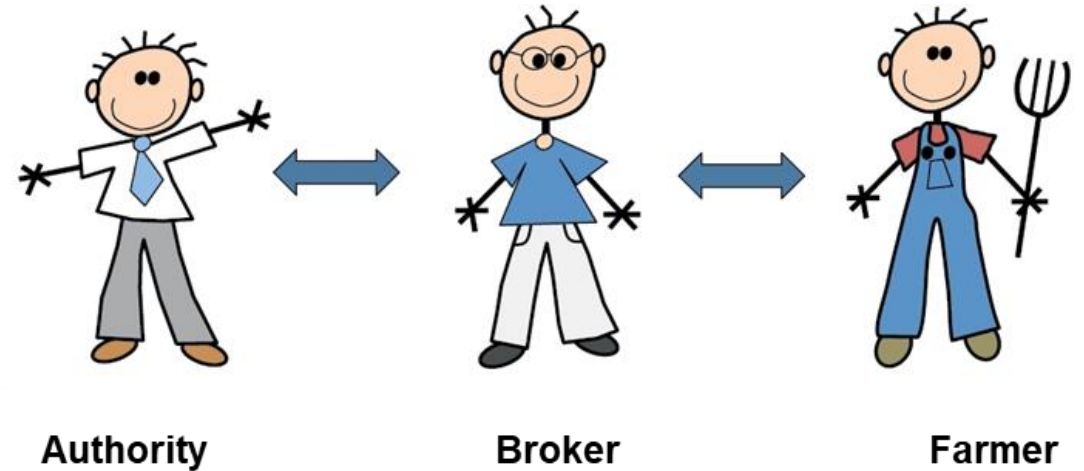
Catchment Officer

Catchment based approach

Understanding their local waters/catchment
Identifying issues impacting the waters
Find and implement solutions
Community/stakeholder engagement
Education



Deliver Trust



Officers from authorities:

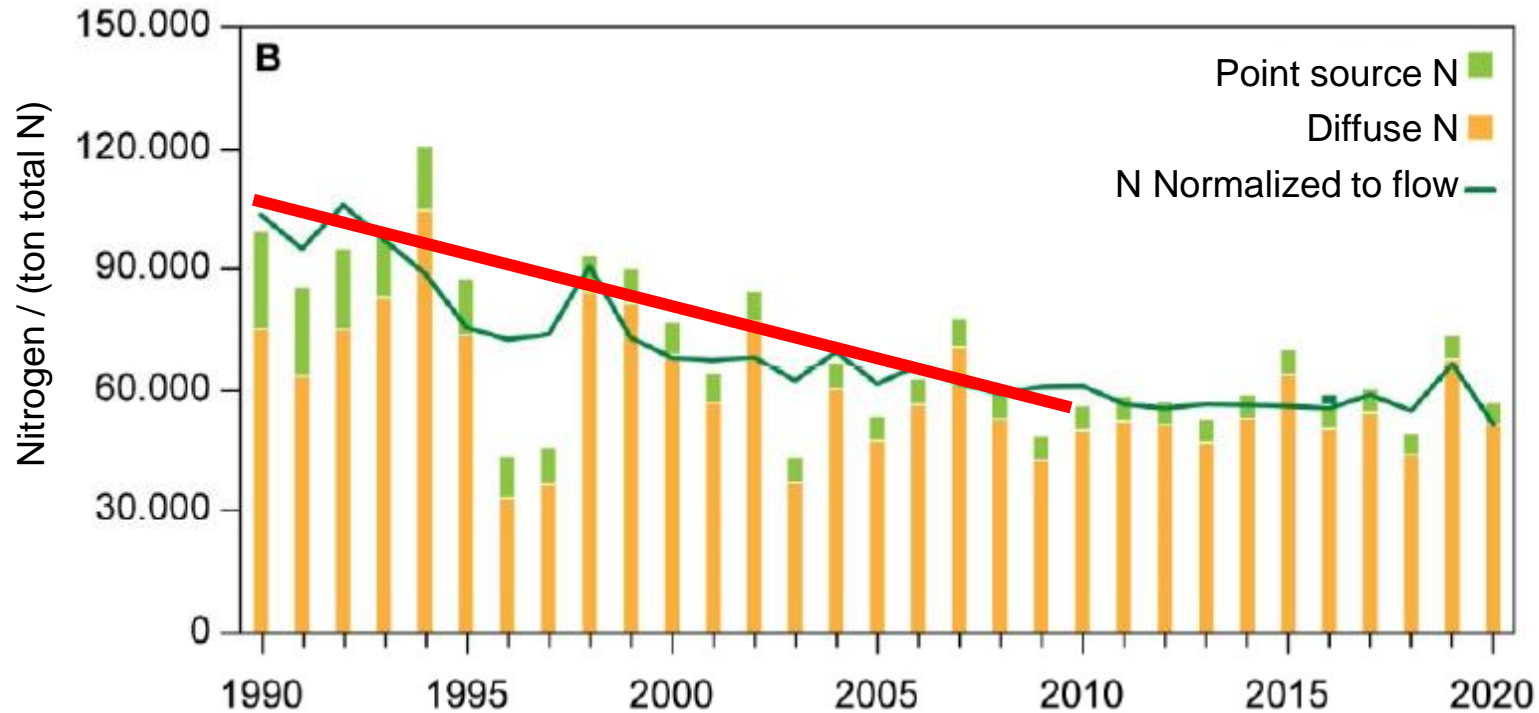
Trust to person
Trust takes time

Officers from agriculture advisory:

Trust to the organization and person
Instant trust

DK water governance structure since 1990s

Nitrogen to Danish coastal waters



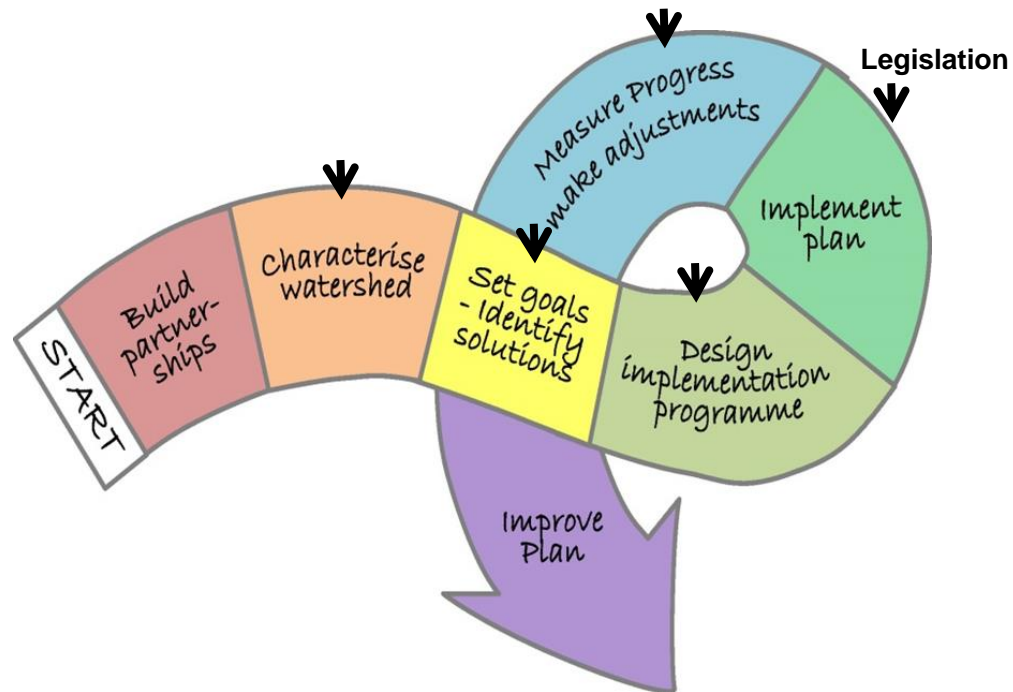
Goal: 50 % reduction in N

Achieved by:

- Regulation
- Legislation
- Better use of manure
- Mandatory catch crops
- Less mineral fertilizer
- winter green fields
- etc.

Top-down methods

Top down regulation - consequences



- Lack of trust
- No ownership to solve problems
- Confrontation

Re-meandering/wetland restoration and constructed wetlands

Typically 100-500 ha (up to 2000 ha)
Minimum effect : 100 kg N/ha



Re-meandering/wetland restoration
More than 20.0000 ha since 1990s
Done by national or local authorities

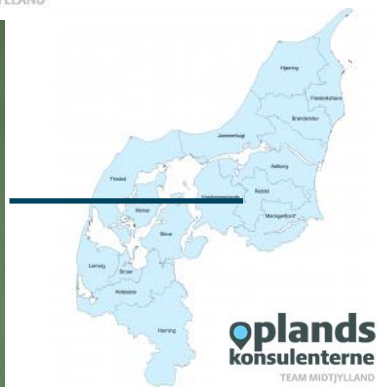
Typically 0.2 - 1- ha (up to 2 ha)
Minimum 1% of the drainage catchment
Effect : approx.. 25-35 % reduction in N and 60% in P



Government decision in 2015 to make
constructed wetlands
2017 a national program for catchment officers

Catchment officers in Denmark

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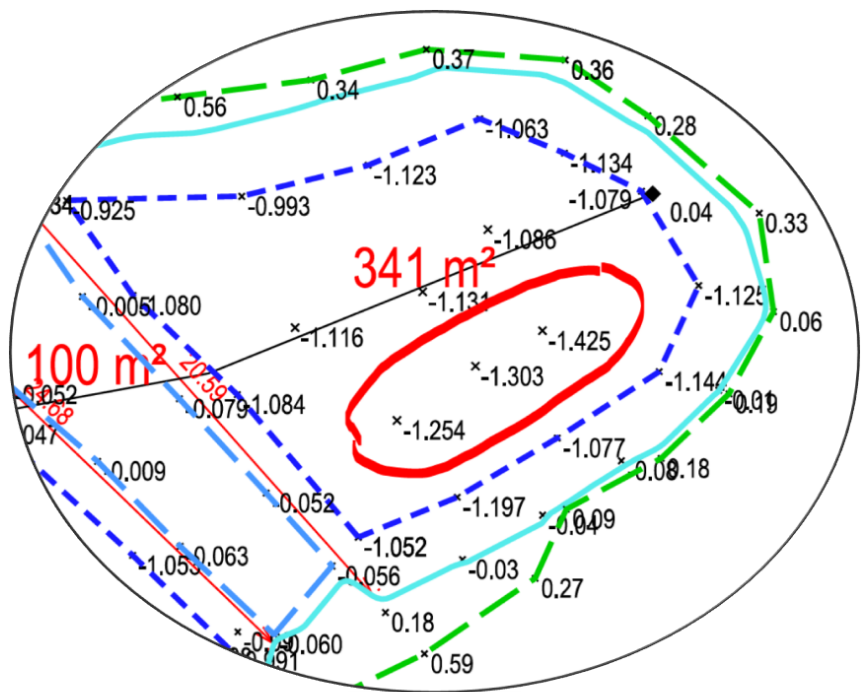
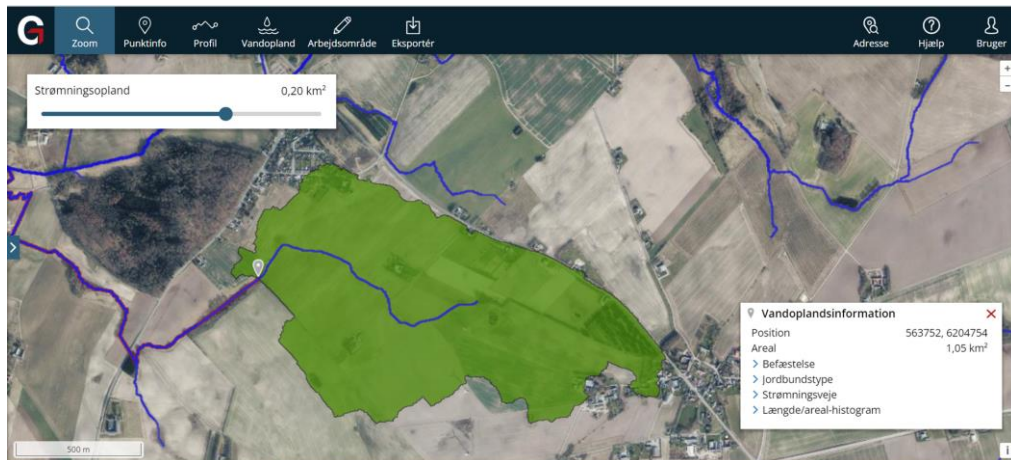
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Capacity, tools and training





- EU funded
Danish homemade problems:
- Control
 - Bureaucracy
 - Waiting time

Constructed wetlands – the farmers own projects



Sub-catchment meetings with only farmers

Using drainage mapping to understand and discuss the landscape and possible solutions

Using **acknowledgement** from other farmers to speed up the process



Future

Rewetting organic soils (CO2 reduction)

Working better together with local authorities – creating steering/technical groups for better planning and implementation (new “implementation architecture”)

Mostly focus on wetland / constructed wetland / organic soils

Local based Water Plans (are tested in 4 pilot projects rest of 2023)

Wishes for the future:

More measures and flexibility – a landscape perspective to solve problems

Less bureaucracy and administrative burdens concerning funding

Conclusions

Catchments officers in DK

- Accelerated implementation of measures in the landscape
- Trust is a key factor
- Too much top-down regulation can be an obstacle to involvement/cooperation
- Sub-catchment meeting with farmers – acknowledgement – can accelerate implementation
- Building capacity (tools/training) is essential
- “Implementation architecture” – adapted to region/country
- Funding measures - landscape perspective – less administrative burdens
- Funding Catchment officers? (government funded in DK)

Thankyou for your attention

