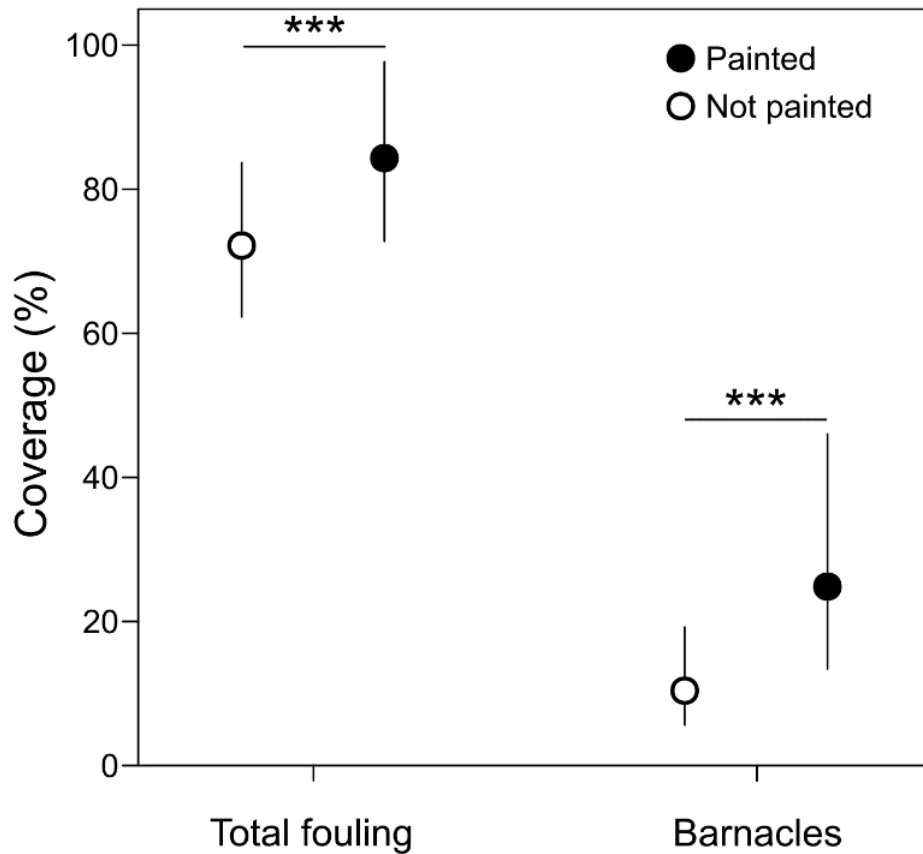


## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

**Table S1.** Name and coordinates of the 17 marinas monitored along the Baltic Sea and some of their most relevant environmental characteristics.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Harbor name</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>	<b>Number of berths</b>	<b>Area of harbor (m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Mean depth (m)</b>	<b>Inlet width (m)</b>	<b>Yearly mean surface salinity</b>	<b>Yearly mean surface temp.</b>
Strömstad	Municipal Marina Holkedalen	58.928115°N	11.184307°E	176	82704	4	25	25.1	10.3
Fiskebäck	GREFAB, Gothenburg municipal marina	57.647232°N	11.853132°E	950	144013	2.4	180	19.3	10.4
Halmstad	Skallkrokens Yacht Club, Haverdal	56.727333°N	12.641820°E	136	10524	2	40	15.9	10.4
Helsingör	Helsingor North Harbour	56.043120°N	12.617491°E	1000	45000	2.5	35	12.0	10.7
Malmö	Yacht Club Lagunen, Limhamn	55.597444°N	12.936852°E	550	44060	3	30	10.3	10.8
Grömitz	Jachthafen, Königsredder	54.135779°N	10.949564°E	780	91875	3	50	14.7	10.9
Simrishamn	Municipal Marina in Simrishamn	55.560325°N	14.354432°E	280	54921	2	25	8.3	10.2
Karlskrona	Jämjö Boat Club	56.166362°N	15.825231°E	83	14598	1.8	170	7.9	9.7
Kalmar	Sailing Yacht Club Vikingarna	56.650518°N	16.333591°E	150	16018	1.4	22	7.4	10.2
Västervik	Westervik Sailing Yacht Club	57.730415°N	16.676881°E	245	251583	6	220	7.4	9.0
Askö	Askö Field Station, Trosa	58.814510°N	17.654174°E	10	89767	4	250	6.9	8.1
Nynäshamn	Nynäshamns Sailing Club, Fagerviken	58.890735°N	17.943935°E	210	68245	3.4	150	6.8	8.5
Bullandö	Bullandö Marina	59.298415°N	18.653049°E	1400	242416	3	200	6.3	8.6
Gävle	Flisskärsvarvet	60.683400°N	17.214133°E	635	81736	1.5	176	4.5	7.8
Helsinki	Kivenlahden Boat Club	60.156076°N	24.623189°E	540	44277	3	56	5.8	7.4
Turku	Turun Pursiseura Ry, Sailing Yacht Club	60.425923°N	22.157868°E	200	28367	2	260	5.6	8.7
Vaasa	Vaasa Motor Yacht Club, VMK.	63.096499°N	21.582806°E	194	1000002	3	500	3.5	7.0



**Figure S1.** Coverage of total fouling and barnacles (main component of hard fouling) on polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) panels painted and not painted with Lago racing. Circles represent mean coverages estimated after adjusting the variation among marinas and boating seasons (included as random effects), and the whiskers 95% confidence intervals. See further details on the generalized linear mixed models (GLMM) applied for the comparison of the fouling coverage on both types of panels in Table S2. \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ .

**Table S2.** Generalized linear mixed models (GLMM) comparing the coverage of total fouling and barnacles (main component of hard fouling) between not painted and painted (with Lago racing) polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) panels. Panels from all stations (see Fig. 1 in the main text) and boating seasons (2014, 2015, 2016) were considered in the analyses. The nested structure of boating season within station was used as random effect (see further details in the main text). Mean estimated difference between not painted and painted panels are presented in the scale of the link function (log). SE: standard error.

Response variable	Comparison	Estimate	SE	t-value	p-value
Total fouling	Not painted-painted	0.16	0.03	4.69	<0.001
Barnacles	Not painted-painted	0.88	0.01	139.26	<0.001

**Table S3.** Generalized linear mixed models (GLMM) comparing the coverage of hard fouling strongly attached (HFS), hard fouling weakly attached (HFW) and soft fouling weakly attached (SFW) among sub-regions (outer, central, inner) of the Baltic Sea (see the marinas located in each region in Fig. 1 of the main text). The coverages of the different fouling types were logarithmically transformed for the analyses. The nested structure of boating season within station was used as random effect (see further details in the main text). The presented statistics refer to the Tukey HSD post-hoc test applied for the multiple comparisons between pairs of sub-regions. SE: standard error.

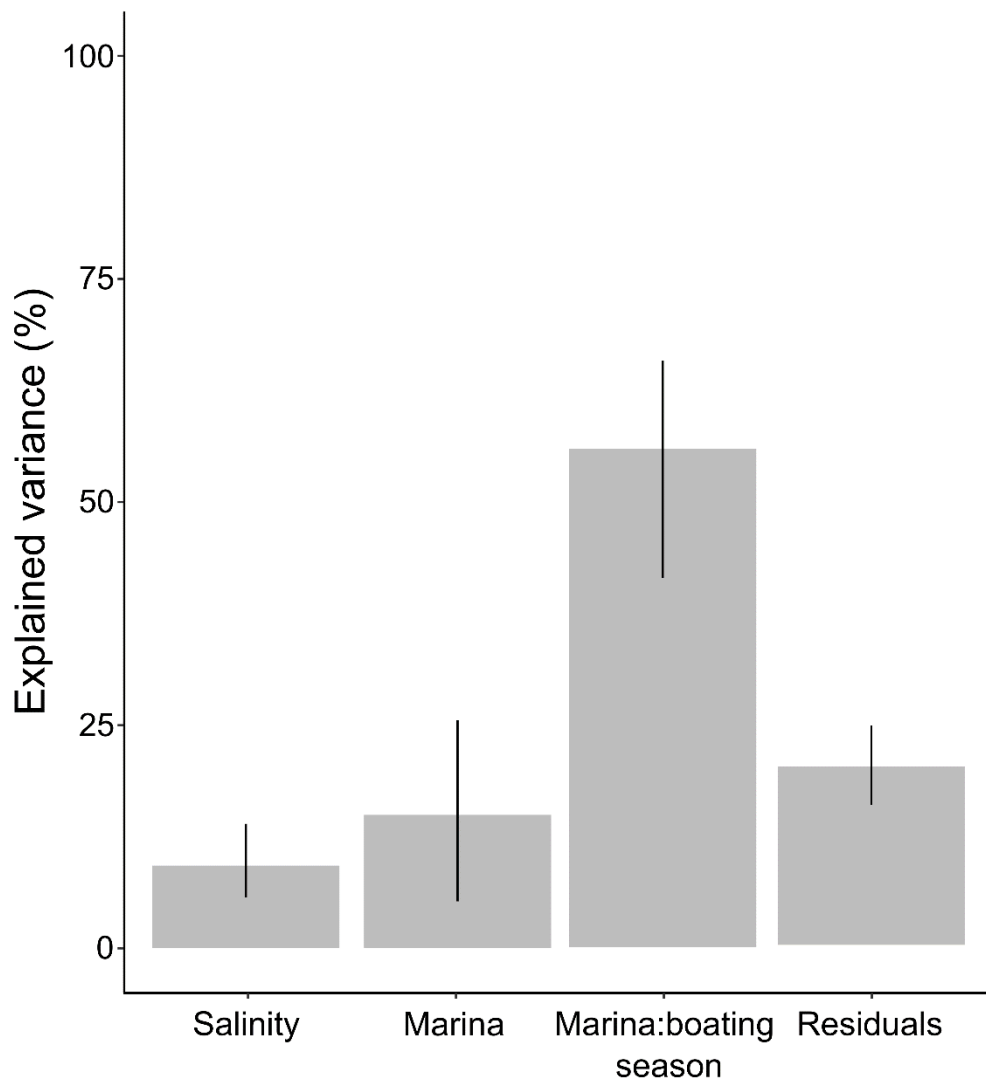
Response variables	Comparison	Estimate	SE	z-value	p-value
SFW	Central-Outer	-0.65	0.65	-1.00	0.577
	Inner-Outer	2.48	0.85	2.91	0.010
	Inner-Central	3.13	0.82	3.83	<0.001
HFW	Central-Outer	0.35	1.19	0.29	0.981
	Inner-Outer	-4.56	1.57	-2.93	0.009
	Inner-Central	-4.91	1.49	-3.29	0.003
HFS	Central-Outer	-0.39	0.65	-0.60	0.818
	Inner-Outer	-3.35	0.85	-3.94	<0.001
	Inner-Central	-2.96	0.81	-3.64	<0.001

**Table S4.** Model selection process for the generalized linear mixed models (GLMM) relating Fouling Index (FI, see details in the main text) and mean annual sea surface salinity (salinity), mean sea surface temperature for the boating season (temperature), volume of the marina and number of berths. In all the models the nested structure of boating season within station was used as random effect (see further details in the main text). Explanatory variables included in each model are indicated with crosses. DF: degrees of freedom, logLik: likelihood score, AICc: corrected Akaike’s information criterion,  $\Delta$ AICc: difference in AICc relative to the best model, AICcw: AICc weight. The most parsimonious model is listed at the top of the table.

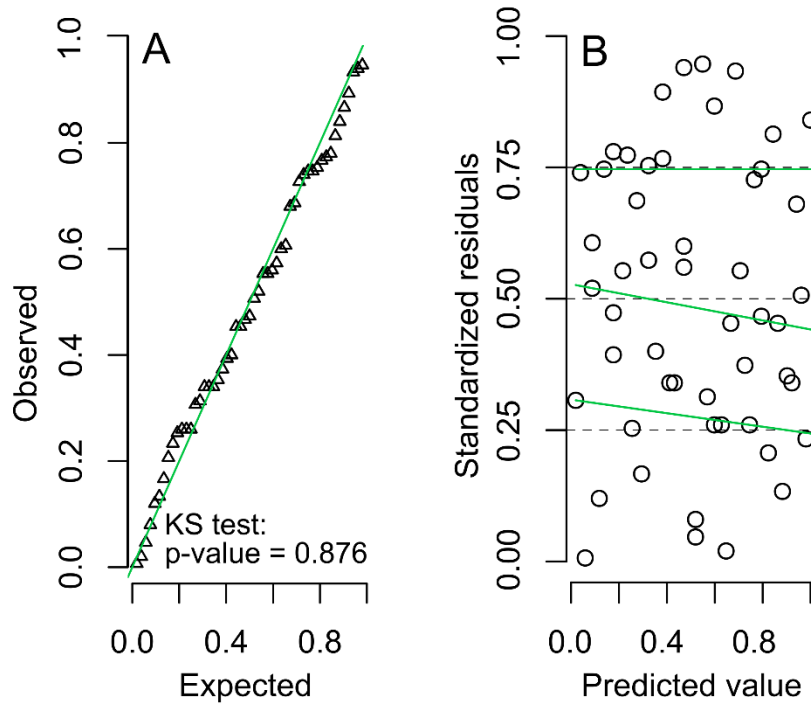
Predictor				Model performance statistics				
Salinity	Temperature	Number of berths	Volume	DF	logLik	AICc	$\Delta$ AICc	AICcw
+				5	81.79	-153.3	0.00	0.215
	+			5	81.22	-152.1	1.13	0.122
+	+			6	82.05	-151.7	1.59	0.097
				4	79.80	-151.4	1.87	0.085
+		+		6	81.86	-151.3	1.98	0.08
+			+	6	81.81	-151.2	2.08	0.076
	+	+		6	81.35	-150.3	3.00	0.048
	+		+	6	81.35	-150.3	3.00	0.048
			+	5	80.25	-150.2	3.08	0.046
+	+	+		7	82.13	-149.7	3.59	0.036
		+		5	79.97	-149.6	3.64	0.035
+	+		+	7	82.06	-149.6	3.72	0.034
+		+	+	7	81.88	-149.2	4.08	0.028
	+	+	+	7	81.47	-148.4	4.91	0.019
		+	+	6	80.39	-148.4	4.92	0.018
+	+	+	+	8	82.14	-147.5	5.74	0.012

**Table S5.** Fixed effects of the most parsimonious generalized linear mixed model (GLMM) relating the mean Fouling Index (FI, see details in the main text) calculated for each station in 2014, 2015 and 2016, and salinity. The identity of the stations was included as random effect. Degrees of freedom (DF), Standard errors (SE), t-values and p-values are presented.

Model component	Estimate	SE	DF	t-value	p-value
Intercept	0.29	0.16	17.89	1.84	0.081
log(Salinity)	0.15	0.07	18.95	2.12	0.048



**Figure S2.** Explained variance by the different components of the generalized linear mixed model (GLMM) adjusted for the fouling index (FI). Whiskers represent the 95% confidence interval estimated by bootstrap.



**Figure S3.** Diagnostic residual plots for the most parsimonious generalized linear mixed model (GLMM) relating the mean fouling index (FI, see details in the main text) with salinity. Presented plots were produced using the DHARMA package in R. (A) Q-Q plot of observed versus expected quantiles to detect deviations from the expected distribution. In (A) the visual inspection of the plot was complemented with a Kolmogorov-Smirnov test (KS test) of uniformity of residuals. (B) Standardized residuals versus predicted values. Green lines in (B) represent regressions for 0.25, 0.50 and 0.75 quantiles. With some deviation expected by chance, these adjusted lines should be straight and horizontal at y-values of 0.25, 0.50 and 0.75 (indicated with dashed lines).

