



Revised HELCOM Recommendation 19/3

Adopted 26 March 1998 and amended 5 March 2018
having regard to Article 19 [3]
of the Helsinki Convention

MANUAL FOR THE HELCOM JOINT COORDINATED MARINE MONITORING

THE COMMISSION,

RECALLING the provisions of Articles 4 and 24 of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, 1992, (Helsinki Convention), concerning the application of the Convention and scientific and technological cooperation,

NOTING the concern on the state of the Baltic Sea, due to discharges of pollutants from various sources, especially from land-based sources, in spite of comprehensive measures taken by the Contracting Parties to reduce the discharges,

RECALLING the previous decisions to use a joint coordinated programme in monitoring and the principles of the [HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy](#), adopted in 2013,

REFERRING to the HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration agreements to start implementing the revised HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy immediately, and emphasizing the importance of active and regionally harmonized data collection, including making data and information available in the regional data pool,

BEING MINDFUL of the need of reliable physical, chemical and biological data, necessary for assessments as needed of the state of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea,

RECALLING ALSO the need for a coordinated implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and, for those Contracting Parties who are also EU member states, the Water Framework and Marine Strategy Framework Directives (including the monitoring and indicator based assessment systems) to achieve good status of the Baltic Sea,

RECOMMENDS to the Governments of the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention that:

- a) the monitoring of the state of the marine environment¹ of the Baltic Sea should be performed in accordance with the HELCOM [Monitoring and Assessment Strategy](#) and the HELCOM [Monitoring Manual](#);
- b) the annual coordinated monitoring data, as committed by the Contracting Parties in the [HELCOM Data and Information Strategy](#), should be reported or made available to the Commission on deadlines given in the HELCOM Monitoring Manual ([Introduction](#), chapter "Data and reporting").

¹ The whole waterbody of the Baltic Sea as covered by the Helsinki Convention