

# HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration

Taking Further Action to Implement the Baltic Sea Action Plan  
- Reaching Good Environmental Status  
for a healthy Baltic Sea

3 October 2013, Copenhagen, Denmark



## Taking Further Action to Implement the Baltic Sea Action Plan

### - Reaching Good Environmental Status for a healthy Baltic Sea

Declaration of the Ministers of the Environment of the Baltic Coastal Countries and the EU Environment Commissioner, HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration 2013

Six years after the adoption of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) and three years after the first Ministerial review and update, responsible Ministers and the EU Commissioner **ASSEMBLED** in Copenhagen, Denmark, in order to assess the progress towards reaching the common goal of the Baltic Sea in a good environmental status by 2021, on the occasion of the Ministerial Meeting of the Helsinki Commission, on 3 October 2013.

The Ministers and the Commissioner reconfirmed the commitment to implement the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) and decided on further action needed as well as the future strategic approach of HELCOM;

**APPRECIATING** the High-level Conference on the Protection of the Environment of the Baltic Sea Region (Baltic Sea Forum), organized on 5-6 April 2013 in St. Petersburg in the context of the Russian Presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, where high-level political decision-makers gave their support to the joint protection of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea, including the Baltic Sea Action Plan, and pointed to specific priorities to be dealt with in the future.

**RECALLING** the fundamental principles the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention shall apply in their efforts to restore the good environmental status of the Baltic Sea, including the polluter-pays principle, the use of Best Environmental Practice and Best Available Technology, and that when applying an ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities, while enabling a sustainable use of marine goods and services, priority should be given to achieving or maintaining good environmental status in the marine environment;

**CONFIRMING**, our aim is to contribute to coherence between different policies and foster the integration of environmental concerns into other policies, such as in fisheries, agriculture and other relevant policies;

***We believe that the Baltic Sea region can make an important contribution to international commitments in the field of environmental policy, including climate change policy***

1. **RECALLING** the chapter on "Oceans and seas" of the Rio+20 outcome, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Strategic Action Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its associated Aichi Biodiversity Targets which are also addressed under the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020;
2. **SUPPORTING** HELCOM's continued commitments to contribute to global efforts for healthy and productive oceans and seas, especially under the framework of the UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from the Land-based Activities and in cooperation with other Regional Seas Conventions, in particular the OSPAR Convention and the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution;
3. **CALLING** for enhanced action across the relevant sectors to respond, prepare and better adapt to the current and future impacts of climate change on the Baltic Sea environment;

***We are concerned about the still unsatisfactory environmental status of the Baltic Sea***

4. **NOTING WITH ALARM** that the environmental status of the Baltic Sea, which is especially fragile, is still impaired;
5. **RECOGNIZING WITH CONCERN** the magnitude and intensity of human pressures and their cumulative impacts, affecting all areas of the Baltic Sea and exceeding levels compatible with achieving good environmental status;
6. **BEING AWARE** that climate change already has an impact on ecosystems and exacerbates pressures on the marine and coastal environment;

***We believe that Baltic Sea ecosystems, and the services they provide, are vital for our well-being and economies***

7. **RECALLING** the agreement of HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan that the Baltic Sea shall become a model of good management of human activities and **COMMITTING** to make the Baltic Sea region a model for sustainable growth, applying best practices in the maritime field, providing jobs and prosperity;
8. At the same time **REAFFIRMING** that sustainable development, as well as sustainable growth in the region must be supported by an ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities, including consideration of possible cumulative effects, and while enabling a sustainable use of marine goods and services, priority should be given to achieving or maintaining good environmental status in the marine environment, to continuing its protection and preservation and to preventing subsequent deterioration; In this respect, increasing general awareness is the cornerstone of successful implementation of the ecosystem approach and thus also ecosystem based management;
9. **NOTING** that the economic benefits of reaching the targets of the Baltic Sea Action Plan concerning eutrophication alone are in the magnitude of one billion Euros per year in welfare gains (according to BalticStern);
10. **RECOGNIZING** that green investments in cleaner technologies, developing environmental know-how, and applying best environmental practices, are necessary to implement the Baltic Sea Action Plan will strengthen the economy in the Baltic Sea region and will improve the quality of the environment for all;

***We strive for more coherent policies and implementation***

11. **STRESSING** the need to further develop marine and maritime governance capacity and to integrate environmental concerns and internationally agreed targets into all relevant policies;
12. **NOTING** with satisfaction the HELCOM platform for the implementation of the ecosystem approach and **WELCOMING** the opportunities which it creates for identifying mutual goals and approaches between the Baltic Sea Action Plan, the Maritime Doctrine of the Russian Federation, and the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive as an environmental pillar of the EU's Integrated Maritime Policy, to reach a good environmental status of the Baltic Sea by 2021;
13. **WELCOMING** the well-established cooperation between HELCOM and VASAB on coherent and ecosystem-based Maritime Spatial Planning in the Baltic Sea, and **CALLING FOR** the use of maritime spatial planning in combination with other policy instruments including coastal zone management, strategic environmental assessment, designation of marine protected areas, internalization of environmental costs in prices and phasing out environmentally harmful subsidies;
14. **ENCOURAGING** development of activities and projects in the environmental field under the cooperation of the EU and Russian Federation;

***We commit to strengthen our efforts***

15. **APPRECIATING** that nearly one third of the actions contained in the Baltic Sea Action Plan, to be completed by 2021, have been implemented, however;
16. **EXPRESSING CONCERN** about the low level of activities in implementing some of the measures of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and **STRESSING** the need to fulfill HELCOM requirements by the agreed deadlines. In particular actions for preserving biodiversity, further improvements in municipal waste water treatment and prevention of pollution from agriculture as well as prevention of emissions and discharges of hazardous substances, require special attention;
17. **UNDERLINING** the key role of agriculture, land-based and offshore industries, fisheries, shipping, waste water management, tourism, the private sector, local actors as well as science in fulfilling the Baltic Sea Action Plan in a cost efficient way, and **CALLING ON** stakeholders and civil society at large to actively engage in working towards reaching the targets for a healthy Baltic Sea environment, including nutrient reduction targets;

18. **DETERMINED** to take further measures, initiatives or efforts needed to reach a healthy marine ecosystem supporting a prosperous Baltic Sea region, including addressing pollution of the marine environment by litter, as well as impacts on marine organisms from underwater impulsive and continuous noise;
19. **WITHOUT PREJUDICE** to national legislation, international agreements and legislation of the European Union;
20. **WE DO HEREBY ADOPT** this HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration.

***Future strategic approach for HELCOM***

- I. **WE DECIDE** to continue to strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation in the fields of maritime traffic, maritime spatial planning, integrated coastal management, agriculture and fisheries and stimulate the implementation of the ecosystem approach in all sectors and policies, through awareness raising, exchange of experiences and implementation of adequate management principles and measures;
- II. **WE ALSO DECIDE** to further pursue the coordinated development and implementation of programmes of measures for the protection of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea, through HELCOM, building on the Baltic Sea Action Plan and its follow up, including the BSAP National Implementation Programmes and the nutrient reduction scheme, with the aim to reach good environmental status in the most cost-efficient way;
- III. In order to further align the implementation of the ecosystem approach through the HELCOM BSAP, the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive implemented by the HELCOM Contracting States being also EU Member States and the Maritime Doctrine of the Russian Federation, **WE DECIDE** to:
  - promote the regional knowledge and specificities of the Baltic Sea at the European and international fora;
  - use limited resources effectively by better drawing on synergies between the work of HELCOM, other relevant international organisations, including Regional Seas Organizations, and the Common MSFD Implementation Strategy;
  - produce joint documentation in support of regional coordination and coherence - "Baltic Sea roof reports";
- IV. **WE FURTHER DECIDE** to cooperate with institutions having leading expertise on economic and social analysis of the use of the Baltic Sea and of the cost of degradation of the marine environment in order to contribute to the holistic assessment's socio-economic analysis;
- V. **WE ACKNOWLEDGE** that environmental deterioration such as oxygen depletion is increasingly affecting marine life by e.g. affecting the geographical distribution and reproductive success of cod and accelerating eutrophication by increasing the internal load;
- VI. **RECOGNIZING** the need to reduce human pressures and their cumulative impacts, **WE AGREE** to strengthen the protection of biodiversity, including an improvement of the network of the Baltic Sea Protected Areas, in such a way that Baltic Sea biodiversity will effectively contribute to the resilience and buffering capacity of the ecosystem in the face of external stressors, and that biodiversity can optimally contribute to mitigation of global climate change by storing and absorbing carbon;
- VII. **WE DECIDE** to better prepare and adapt policies in response to the impacts of climate change on the Baltic Sea ecosystem and its services, taking necessary measures in areas such as agriculture and forestry, informed by modelling practices and assessments of the effects of climate change on the Baltic Sea ecosystem, its catchment and the resulting inputs of nutrients to the sea;
- VIII. **BEING SERIOUSLY CONCERNED** about the growing evidence of harmful effects of marine litter on wildlife and habitats and on marine biodiversity and the environment with a dominance of plastics of different sizes (ranging from macro- to microparticles);
- IX. **WE AGREE** to prevent and reduce marine litter from land- and sea-based sources, causing harmful impacts on coastal and marine habitats and species, and negative impacts on various economic sectors, such as fisheries, shipping or tourism, and to this end **DECIDE** to develop a regional action plan by 2015 at the latest with the aim of achieving a significant quantitative reduction of marine litter by 2025, compared to 2015, and to prevent harm to the coastal and marine environment;
- X. **WE AGREE** to continue the intensified efforts to improve data and information quality and availability as well as coordinated monitoring practices, constituting the basis of HELCOM work, which is to ensure a sufficient knowledge base for devising cost-efficient measures and overall the implementation of the ecosystem approach and management of human activities in the Baltic Sea;

XI. **WE DECIDE** to further streamline HELCOM working structures, make resources available for identified priorities and foster cross-sectorial cooperation and synergies, in a focused, cost efficient way.

**TO THIS END:**

**WE ADOPT**

- HELCOM Recommendation 34E/1 "Safeguarding important bird habitats and migration routes in the Baltic Sea from negative effects of wind and wave energy production at sea";
- Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013-2020;
- HELCOM Recommendation 34E/2 "Further testing and development of the concept of proactive route planning as well as other e-navigation solutions to enhance safety of navigation and protection in the marine environment in the Baltic Sea Region";
- HELCOM-BSHC Harmonised Re-survey Scheme 2013, with time schedule estimations and funding arrangements, bearing in mind that these are likely to be modified when new national needs or priorities arise;
- HELCOM Recommendation 34E/3 "Amendments to Annex VII Response to Pollution Accidents of the 1992 Helsinki Convention, concerning response on the shore";
- HELCOM Response Manual Volume III "Response to Pollution Incidents on the shore";
- HELCOM Recommendation 34E/4 "Airborne surveillance with remote sensing equipment in the Baltic Sea Area";

**WE FURTHER ADOPT** the Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Guidelines on the granting of exemptions under the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, Regulation A-4 and the related HELCOM online decision support tool and port survey database, and **AGREE** to develop further necessary details of the Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Guidelines through a continuation of cooperation with OSPAR;

**WE ENDORSE** regional HELCOM Interim Guidance on technical and operational aspects of delivery of sewage by passenger ships to port reception facilities and **NOTING** that there are some outstanding issues identified in the Guidance, **AGREE** to clarify these open issues latest by 2014;

**WE ENDORSE** the updated HELCOM Palette of optional agro-environmental measures to be implemented through corresponding international and national instruments;

**WE ALSO ENDORSE** the Palette of measures on management options to reduce discharges, emissions, and losses of hazardous substances from various sources. The document is meant to be used by national authorities and industries as a background on indicative measures and their cost-efficiency and to inform further work on regional level;

**WE ADOPT** the revised HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy implying a six-year monitoring and assessment cycle;

**WE WELCOME** that the provisional nutrient reduction scheme of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan has been reviewed and revised based on a new and more complete dataset as well as an improved modeling approach and revised harmonized eutrophication status targets, which resulted in the following Maximum Allowable Inputs;

Baltic Sea Sub-basin	Maximum Allowable Inputs		Reference inputs 1997-2003		Needed reductions	
	TN, tons	TP, tons	TN, tons	TP, tons	TN, tons	TP, tons
Kattegat	74,000	1,687	78,761	1,687	4,761	0
Danish Straits	65,998	1,601	65,998	1,601	0	0
Baltic Proper	325,000	7,360	423,921	18,320	98,921	10,960
Bothnian Sea	79,372	2,773	79,372	2,773	0	0
Bothnian Bay	57,622	2,675	57,622	2,675	0	0
Gulf of Riga	88,417	2,020	88,417	2,328	0	308
Gulf of Finland	101,800	3,600	116,252	7,509	14,452	3,909
<b>Baltic Sea</b>	<b>792,209</b>	<b>21,716</b>	<b>910,344</b>	<b>36,894</b>	<b>118,134</b>	<b>15,178</b>

**WE RECOGNIZE** that the revised Maximum Allowable Inputs represent best available scientific knowledge base and data, and characterize the HELCOM long-term vision of the Baltic Sea unaffected by eutrophication that we aspire;

**WE ARE COMMITTED** to implement nutrient reductions to improve the environmental status of eutrophied Baltic Sea sub-basins including coastal areas, even if the modelling approach taken did not establish reduction requirements for these areas<sup>1</sup>;

**WE WELCOME** the overall progress in reducing phosphorus and nitrogen inputs to the Baltic Sea and **RECONFIRM** the goal of the Baltic Sea Action Plan to reach good environmental status by 2021. **WE NOTE**, however, that the Baltic Sea is still affected by eutrophication and that, while due to natural processes it may take a long time before the HELCOM eutrophication objectives are reached, modeling indicates that significant improvement is expected to take place rapidly and immediately after reaching the Maximum Allowable Inputs;

With this background, **WE RECOGNIZE** that in order to reach the ecological objectives of the Baltic Sea Action Plan by 2021, HELCOM Contracting States need to confront the continuing challenge to further cut their discharges and emissions to the marine environment and that the challenge is likely to be further exacerbated due to the expected impacts of climate changes on the Baltic Sea basin;

**WE AGREE** that the following revised Country Allocated Reduction Targets (CARTs), covering both pollution from land and airborne, substitute the provisional country-wise nutrient reduction requirements of the Baltic Sea Action Plan:

	Nitrogen	Phosphorus
Denmark	2890	38
Estonia	1800	320
Finland	2430 +600*	330 +26*
Germany	7170 +500*	110 +60*
Latvia	1670	220
Lithuania	8970	1470
Poland <sup>2</sup>	43610	7480
Russia	10380*	3790*
Sweden	9240	530

*The figures are rounded*

**WE DECIDE** to take strong actions to reduce the nutrient inputs from HELCOM countries further, to reach good environmental status, to be included in national implementation programmes, river basin management plans and schemes as well as programmes of measures by 2016, and jointly address common challenges, including through sub-regional and bilateral projects, as well as develop additional reduction measures as needed based on cost-efficiency to be in place by 2020;

**WE ACKNOWLEDGE** that sustainability of agricultural production is a key to the success of reaching input reductions for Good Environmental Status, **RECALLING** that agriculture substantially contributes to the nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea;

**WE STRIVE** for the development and application of sustainable agricultural practices with the least environmental impacts on the Baltic Sea, underpinned by technical, economic and regulatory measures. Based on the latest developments and best practice **WE AIM** at improved farm nutrient

<sup>1</sup> Finland's view is that according to HELCOM assessment open parts of the Bothnian Sea, Åland Sea and the Archipelago Sea are eutrophied and need reduction of nutrient levels, although BALTSEM model did not establish nutrient input reduction requirements to the drainage basins of these sea areas. Finland will address water protection measures to the drainage basins of these areas in its national plans.

<sup>2</sup> At this point in time Poland accepts the Polish Country Allocated Reduction Targets as indicative due to the ongoing national consultations, and confirms their efforts to finalize these consultations as soon as possible.

\* Reduction requirements stemming from

- German contribution to the river Odra inputs, based on ongoing modeling approaches with MONERIS;
- Finnish contribution to inputs from river Neva catchment (via Vuoksi river)
- these figures include Russian contribution to inputs through Daugava, Nemunas and Pregolya rivers

The figures for transboundary inputs originating in the Contracting Parties and discharged to the Baltic Sea through other Contracting Parties are preliminary and require further discussion within relevant transboundary water management bodies.

management, especially manure nutrient recycling, including calculation of nutrient surplus in fertilization practices, and nutrient accounting at the farm level;

**WE STRESS** that the achievement of good environmental status in relation to eutrophication in the Baltic Sea also relies on additional reduction efforts by non-Contracting Parties as follows:

- 18720 tons of airborne nitrogen from non-Contracting Parties assuming full implementation of the Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone of the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution until 2020;
- 3230 tons of waterborne nitrogen and 800 tons of waterborne phosphorus from non-Contracting Parties assuming that they take the same responsibility to reduce as the Contracting Parties,

**RECALLING** the decision of the Moscow Ministerial Meeting on reduction of air-borne nitrogen pollution from shipping which will lead to the reduction of 6930 tons on nitrogen over thirty years

**WE ALSO STRESS** that the achievement of good environmental status in relation to eutrophication in the Baltic Sea also relies on additional reduction efforts by shipping;

**THEREFORE WE AGREE** that transboundary pollution originating in the non-Contracting States should be addressed by initiating joint activities e.g. by bi- and/or multilateral projects and through other existing funding mechanisms as well as by international agreements such as the 1992 UNECE Convention on Transboundary Waters and Lakes, and the River Basin Management Plans of the EU Water Framework Directive for HELCOM Contracting States being also EU Member States;

**WE APPRECIATE** the upcoming scientific background report "Revision of the maximum allowable inputs and country allocation scheme of HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan", **NOTING** that it contains in particular a more detailed overview of the airborne and waterborne contributions of the Contracting and non-Contracting Parties to form the basis for a detailed follow-up of the achievement of the reduction targets set above, and **AGREE** that this process needs to be further developed based on the best available scientific knowledge, **NOTING** that for those HELCOM Contracting Parties being also EU Members States it would need to be compatible with the requirements of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive;

**RECOGNIZING** that reductions in nutrient inputs in sub-basins may have wide-spread effects, **WE AGREE** that extra reductions can be accounted for, in proportion to the effect on a neighboring basin with reduction targets, by the countries in reaching their Country Allocated Reduction Targets;

**WE SUPPORT** development of environmentally sound approaches to remove the nutrients before they enter inland waters and the sea, and to address the internal loading, in coastal areas and semi-enclosed lagoons, as well as in the open sea;

**WE AGREE** to monitor and evaluate regularly the progress in implementing the measures;

**WE RECALL** and **CONFIRM** that there is a need for review of nutrient reduction scheme based on best available scientific knowledge as necessary;

Finally, **WE AGREE** to fully implement the 2007 Baltic Sea Action Plan by 2021. With this Declaration with its general and specific approaches, actions and measures **WE FURTHER AGREE** to step up efforts for further strengthened implementation of the BSAP **WE NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** the following further general and specific approaches, actions and measures. **WE WILL** continuously **REVIEW and REPORT** how these commitments are implemented.



## Biodiversity and resilient ecosystems which underpin ecosystem services, human well-being and prosperity

**1 (B).** WE DECIDE to maintain biodiversity of the Baltic Sea and ensure that the quality and occurrence of habitats and the distribution and abundance of species is in line with prevailing physiographic, geographic and climatic conditions;

**2 (B).** WE AGREE to mainstream the conservation of biodiversity, specifically marine biodiversity, across government and society through more effective policy integration, planning processes, incorporation into national accounting, as appropriate, reporting systems and via awareness raising;

**3 (B).** WE AGREE, for Contracting Parties being also EU Member States, to use HELCOM as the regional cooperation platform implementing the biodiversity related aspects of relevant EU Directives and Strategies;

**4 (B).** WE DECIDE to implement on a regional level the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the 2011-2020 period of the UN Convention of Biological Diversity, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, taking into account the special characteristics of the Baltic Sea, bearing in mind that the implementation of the Plan in the EU and its Member States is carried out through the EU Biodiversity Strategy, and more specifically DECIDE to:

- develop by 2015 regional targets for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, including the completion and further development of a set of HELCOM core indicators for biodiversity and their monitoring;
- increase positive incentives to enhance reduction of pressures on biodiversity and to work towards elimination by 2020 of incentives and subsidies which could be harmful to biodiversity in order to improve the buffering capacity of the marine and coastal ecosystems for a better resilience ;
- take measures so that by 2020, regionally, the loss of all red listed marine habitats and biotopes in the Baltic Sea will be halted and they have largely recovered, and that degradation and fragmentation have been significantly reduced, the progress of which will be measured with a core indicator to be produced; develop by 2015 a new HELCOM Recommendation on conservation plans for species, habitats and biotopes which are at risk of extinction;
- protect seabirds in the Baltic Sea, taking into consideration migratory species and need for co-operation with other regions through Conventions and institutions such as the Agreement on Conservation of African Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), and particularly in the North Sea (OSPAR) and Arctic (Arctic Council) areas;
- protect sturgeon through supporting the HELCOM project on Baltic sturgeon remediation as well as raise public awareness concerning re-introduction of sturgeon among fishermen, other relevant stakeholders and the public;
- protect the ringed seal in the Gulf of Finland, whose population is severely depleted and faces extinction in this area, STRESSING that immediate action is needed to significantly reduce by-catch and to improve the understanding of the other direct threats on the seals, and URGE transboundary co-operation between Estonia, Finland and Russia to support achieving a viable population of ringed seals in the Gulf;
- take decisive action to work towards a favourable conservation status of the harbor porpoise based on implementation of the CMS ASCOBANS Jastarnia Plan for the harbor porpoise in the Baltic Sea, in particular by addressing the pressing problem of by-catch;

**5 (B).** WE AGREE to revise by 2014 HELCOM Recommendation 15/5 “System of coastal and marine Baltic Sea protected areas (BSPAs)”, taking into consideration new developments under relevant legislation of the Contracting Parties as well as under the CBD, IUCN and other institutions;

**6 (B).** WE DECIDE to re-enforce action to achieve by 2020 an ecologically coherent network of well-managed marine protected areas for the Baltic Sea as decided in the BSAP and the Moscow Ministerial Declaration, including the objective to provide specific protection to those species,

habitats and biotopes included in the HELCOM Red Lists that are considered to be priorities for protection and hence contributing to achieving a good environmental status of the marine environment;

**7 (B).** WE AGREE to modernize by 2014 the HELCOM BSPA database to make it publicly available and to update by 2015 the assessment of ecological coherence of the network of protected areas in the Baltic Sea, with an evaluation of marine areas in need of further protection;

**8 (B).** WE AGREE to strengthen the efforts to implement the decision made at the HELCOM 2010 Moscow Ministerial Meeting to develop and apply by 2015, management plans and/or measures for already existing Baltic Sea Protected Areas; and to follow every new BSPA designation by the establishment of a management plan and/or measures within five years;

***Fisheries-related actions, especially within Marine Protected Areas***

**9 (B).** WE AGREE to ensure that measures to address fisheries practices which have a negative impact on conservation goals and/or threatened or declining species and habitats are continued, including new measures to be initiated by 2015;

**10 (B).** WE AGREE to further work to develop and implement, as soon as possible, sustainable fishing methods and practices into management plans for marine protected areas, in order to contribute to meeting the specific conservation objectives set for the marine protected areas, including protecting essential fish habitats, and cooperate with the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) and regional stakeholders including EU Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council and BALTFISH Forum, when doing so;

**11 (B).** WE SUPPORT the further development and testing of the HELCOM generic decision-support tool to map possible negative impacts of specific gear types on threatened or declining species and habitats, and which helps to develop and/or recommend measures to address these;

***Ecosystem-based fisheries***

**12 (B).** WE AGREE that populations of all commercially exploited fish and shellfish should be within safe biological limits, exhibiting a population age and size distribution indicative of a healthy stock and that Maximum Sustainable Yield shall be achieved by 2015 where possible and on a progressive, incremental basis at the latest by 2020 for all stocks;

**13 (B).** WE WELCOME the introduction, as from 2015, of the discard ban under the EU Common Fisheries Policy and SUPPORT regionally appropriate solutions to solving the discard problem such as through improved selectivity and fishing behavior and incentives to facilitate a smooth transition to applying the ban;

**14 (B).** WE SUPPORT an ecosystem-based approach for fisheries management with the development of a multi-species management plan for the main commercial Baltic Sea fish stocks including conservation measures to maintain or restore fish stocks above levels capable of producing Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) exploitation rates by 2015 where possible and by 2020 at the latest; This approach should contribute to the achievement of Good Environmental Status as measured by indicators under the coherent implementation of HELCOM BSAP and the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive;

**15 (B).** WE DECIDE to take action to reduce the negative impacts of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem and to this end, SUPPORT the development of fisheries management and technical measures to minimize unwanted by-catch of fish, birds and mammals in order to achieve the close to zero target for by-catch rates of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and minimize damage to sea bed habitats;

**16 (B).** WE AGREE to continue the work on strengthening ecosystem-based management for coastal fish populations, utilizing, and enhancing as far as possible, monitoring for assessment of coastal fish communities;

**17 (B).** WE AGREE to continue to work to develop common procedures to facilitate the sharing of aggregated data on fisheries activities in the Baltic Sea in an applicable format for the purpose of assessing pressures on marine and coastal ecosystems e.g. to be applied in maritime spatial planning.

**Salmon and sea-trout**

**18 (B).** WE NOTE the regional perspective in the European Commission proposal for a multi-annual plan for the Baltic salmon stock and its targets on protection and restoration of riverine habitats and populations based on HELCOM results and the scientific advice from ICES;

**19 (B).** BEING AWARE that many of the Baltic salmon and sea trout stocks are unlikely to achieve MSY by 2015, WE AGREE to prioritise and intensify implementation of HELCOM BSAP (2007) conservation goals for the Baltic salmon and sea trout to be met by 2015, based on HELCOM Recommendation 32-33/1 "Conservation of Baltic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) and Sea Trout (*Salmo trutta*) populations by the restoration of their river habitats and management of river fisheries", and the upcoming EU multi-annual plan for the Baltic salmon stock and the fisheries exploiting that stock (as applicable to EU Member States), through exchange of best practices, knowledge and experiences on regional level, as well as follow-up initiatives addressing salmon and sea trout restoration activities and further development and implementation, by 2015 and onwards, in co-operation with ICES, of:

- common practices for breeding, rearing and releasing salmon and sea trout as reintroductions in potential salmonid rivers;
- investigations of needed improvements for stocking practices (e.g. biological and genetical guidelines);
- recommendations for riverine and estuarine management and conservation measures, such as fish ways for up and down migration, restoration and protection of spawning grounds, concerning fisheries within rivers and estuaries;
- comparable methodology for data collection through surveys, especially on recreational fisheries;

**Baltic Sea cod**

**20 (B).** ACKNOWLEDGING the important recovery of the Eastern cod spawning stock biomasses in the Baltic Sea, WE SUPPORT the further implementation of commitments under the BSAP and relevant legislation to secure the full recovery of all cod stocks to healthy population size and age distribution by 2020 and management consistent with achieving MSY, with the aim of further developing and applying an ecosystem approach to fisheries;

**European eel**

**21 (B).** BEING CONCERNED with the critical status of European eel and that fisheries management and other measures undertaken by individual countries have not yet shown any significant improvement in the status of eel, WE AGREE to continue the efforts underway and enhance co-ordination of measures within the Baltic Sea as well as with other European countries, for the conservation of eel stocks, in line with national eel management plans and to consider additional measures if necessary, such as reducing fishing mortality in accordance with the ICES Advice, removing migration barriers, and re-stocking in eel-safe river systems, e.g. utilising the outcomes of co-operation between ICES, HELCOM and other stakeholders on this issue;

**Sustainable aquaculture**

**22 (B).** HIGHLIGHTING the increasing importance of sustainable aquaculture, WE AGREE to develop a new HELCOM Recommendation on sustainable aquaculture by 2014 to substitute the existing HELCOM Recommendation 25/4 aiming at limiting potential environmental impacts of aquaculture activities such as the introduction of non-indigenous species, ecological and genetic impacts on wild fish stocks from unintended releases of farmed species, nutrient pollution, as well as introduction of antibiotics and other pharmaceuticals;

**Recreational fisheries**

**23 (B).** RECOGNIZING that recreational fisheries conducted e.g. from boats using commercial gears at a certain scale may contribute to fishing mortality of certain commercially exploited fish stocks and impacts on biodiversity, WE AGREE to ask for advice from Regional Coordination Groups within the EU Data Collection Framework and ICES on how to improve data collected on such recreational fisheries, with a view to evaluate the impacts of such recreational fisheries on the marine environment;

**Marine litter**

**24 (B).** WE AGREE that the regional action plan on marine litter should allow to:

- carry out concrete measures for prevention and reduction of marine litter from its main sources with the aim of achieving significant quantitative reductions focusing *inter alia* on working with industry to reduce or phase out microbeads in certain products in the market
- develop and test technology for removal of microplastics and nanoparticles in municipal waste water treatment plants by 2020 and *inter alia* work with industry to ban the use of microplastics and on the assessment of the use of nanoparticles within the production process (e.g. in cosmetics);
- utilize existing networks to address marine litter issues;
- develop common indicators and associated targets related to quantities, composition, sources and pathway of marine litter, including riverine inputs, in order to gain information on long-term trends, and carry out the monitoring of the progress towards achieving the agreed goals and to gain an inventory of marine litter in the Baltic Sea as well as scientific sound evaluation of its sources. Where possible, the harmonized monitoring protocols based on the recommendations of the EU Technical Subgroup on Marine Litter will be used;
- identify the socio-economic and biological impacts of marine litter, also in terms of toxicity of litter;
- review regularly the effectiveness of the measures, for the first time by 2020;

**Introduction of energy, including underwater noise**

**25 (B).** WE AGREE that the level of ambient and distribution of impulsive sounds in the Baltic Sea should not have negative impact on marine life and that human activities that are assessed to result in negative impacts on marine life should be carried out only if relevant mitigation measures are in place, and accordingly as soon as possible and by the end of 2016, using mainly already on-going activities, to:

- establish a set of indicators including technical standards which may be used for monitoring ambient and impulsive underwater noise in the Baltic Sea;
- encourage research on the cause and effects of underwater noise on biota;
- map the levels of ambient underwater noise across the Baltic Sea;
- set up a register of the occurrence of impulsive sounds;
- consider regular monitoring on ambient and impulsive underwater noise as well as possible options for mitigation measures related to noise taking into account the ongoing work in IMO on non-mandatory draft guidelines for reducing underwater noise from commercial ships and in CBD context;

**Nutrient Pollution from air and waterborne sources on land****Agriculture**

**1 (N).** RECOGNISING challenges in addressing diffuse pollution, ACKNOWLEDGING that sustainable agricultural production is a key to the success of reaching Good Environmental Status, and BEING AWARE that modernization and future development of agriculture production in the Baltic Sea region, including effective nutrient management can bring opportunities for better addressing nutrient losses to the sea;

**2 (N).** WE AGREE to make use of appropriate policy and economic instruments such as full implementation of EU *aquis* including EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Nitrates Directive, Water Framework Directive, Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control and Common Agricultural Policy for EU Member States and funding opportunities on national and international level, as well as economic levies and incentives, in order to minimize nutrient losses in agriculture and thus contribute to keeping the nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea below the Maximum Allowable Inputs;

**3 (N).** RECOGNIZING the value of an open dialogue on the regional level among authorities, farmer organizations, industry and other stakeholders, WE ACKNOWLEDGE the HELCOM Agriculture and Environment Forum as a platform for thematic discussions on the applicability and development of measures;

**4 (N).** WE AGREE to initiate activity to identify/verify areas critical to N and P losses, utilizing the available data and as a starting point, to enable directing targeted and cost-effective measures where they can bring the greatest environment effect, e.g. compulsory measures on manure handling (storage and application) for installations of intensive rearing of cattle, poultry and pigs;

**5 (N).** WE AGREE to facilitate enhanced transfer of knowledge and technology and exchange of good examples as well as development of co-operation projects to reduce agricultural impact on the Baltic Sea;

**6 (N).** WE RE-ITERATE the commitment to implement and enforce the provisions of part II of Annex III "Prevention of Pollution from Agriculture" of the Helsinki Convention and SUPPORT its effective and cost-efficient implementation;

**7 (N).** WE DECIDE to investigate measures to reduce nutrient surplus in fertilization practices to reach nutrient balanced fertilization with the objective to come to an agreement on national level by 2018;

**8 (N).** WE AGREE to promote and advance towards applying by 2018 at the latest annual nutrient accounting at farm level taking into account soil and climate conditions giving the possibility to reach nutrient balanced fertilization and reduce nutrient losses at regional level in the countries, noting the positive examples of mandatory requirements on nutrient bookkeeping in some HELCOM countries and with an aim to apply it region-wide, as a first step, in areas critical to nutrient losses;

**9 (N).** WE AGREE to follow-up and exchange experiences and ideas for potential development of policy instruments, both voluntary and mandatory, as well as measures for improved farm nutrient management;

**10 (N).** With a view to fully utilize nutrient content of manure in fertilization practices and to avoid overfertilization WE ALSO AGREE to establish by 2016 national guidelines or standards for nutrient content in manure and to develop by 2018 guidelines/recommendation on the use of such standards;

**11 (N).** WE AGREE to initiate and accomplish by 2016 a review and an updating of part II of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention, in order to better serve the purposes of reaching good environmental status;

**12 (N).** Awaiting the release of the updated EU's BREF document and Conclusions on BAT for intensive rearing of poultry and pigs (to become legally binding under the EU Directive on Industrial Emissions), WE AGREE on the application of at least equally ambitious BAT throughout the region, especially for the facilities located within areas critical to nutrient losses;

**13 (N).** RECOGNIZING the concerns about limited future supplies of nutrients, especially phosphorus, and the water and soil pollution caused by the losses at several steps of their lifecycle, STRESSING the need for sustainable use of nutrients, AGREE to enhance the recycling of phosphorus (especially in agriculture and waste water treatment) and to promote development of appropriate methodology;

**14 (N).** WE AGREE to apply innovative water management measures, in particular under difficult soil conditions, to ensure that upgrading and renovation of the agricultural drainage systems aim at reducing nutrient concentrations in the outlets of the adjacent catchment;

#### **Point sources**

**15 (N).** WE AGREE to prioritize further upgrading of waste water treatment to fully implement HELCOM Recommendation 28E/5, *inter alia* through launching pilot activities by engaging a wider network of municipalities, and where appropriate enhancing co-operation in environmental field under the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region between HELCOM countries being EU Member States;

**16 (N).** WE DECIDE to continuously assess potential significant sources of nutrient pollution on land e.g. industries, fur- and fish-farming, and when needed, address them with abatement measures and/or emission limits;

### Hot Spots under Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme

**17 (N).** Based on the assessment of efficiency of the Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme (JCP), 1992-2012, WE ACKNOWLEDGE the efforts undertaken with support of International Financial Institutes and European institutions to clean-up and remediate 110 pollution hot spots, which has led to significant reductions of pollution loads, including nutrients from the hot spots and proving the overall value of the JCP in improvement of environmental situation in the Baltic Sea region;

**18 (N).** RECOGNISING the challenges in remediation of still active hot spots (52), especially represented by agricultural run-off (6) and coastal management programmes (3), WE AGREE to:

- aim for elimination of remaining hot spots from the JCP List as part of the implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan by 2018 latest, with a view that municipal (23) and industrial (20) hot spots should be removed from the List by 2016; Possible remaining JCP Hot Spots should then be included in the National Implementation Programmes of the Baltic Sea Action Plan;
- follow up the progress in hot spots remediation and support exchange of information and knowledge, especially on application of BAT for remaining industrial hot spots, with a view to facilitate necessary abatement measures to speed up remediation;

**19 (N).** WE ENCOURAGE and APPRECIATE national initiatives to promote green technologies and practices to implement all segments of the Baltic Sea Action Plan;

### Hazardous substances from air and waterborne sources on land

**1 (H).** WE SUPPORT intensification of efforts and co-operation to reduce inputs of hazardous substances with an ultimate aim to reach good environmental status, through e.g.:

- monitoring and assessment of airborne inputs and development of measures addressing airborne transport of hazardous substances;
- encouraging continued research on hazardous substances of specific concern to the Baltic Sea, including on their interaction and cumulative effects as well as source reduction measures and development of cost-efficient end-of-pipe solutions, in collaboration with e.g. the BONUS Programme and the Priority Area Hazard of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region;
- assessing the need for joint measures to reduce emissions and discharges of hazardous substances;
- making use of information generated by REACH Regulation, EU WFD and EU MSFD, e.g. substance-specific risk assessments and dossiers, etc., as well as exchanging information collected within HELCOM work with relevant legal frameworks and in the IPCheM exposure knowledge base, a platform to exchange and access monitoring information,

**2 (H).** NOTING that the Whole Effluent Assessment approach was tested and evaluated for possible introduction in the Baltic Sea region through a joint region-wide research initiative, WE AGREE that further research is needed before its region-wide application can be recommended as a cost-efficient instrument;

**3 (H).** RECOGNIZING that the concentrations of several of the 11 hazardous substances / substance groups identified within HELCOM as of specific concern to the Baltic Sea need to be further reduced in the marine environment in order to reach good environmental status and that additional risk management measures are needed especially for some substance groups:

- WE ENCOURAGE early ratification of the UNEP 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury, as well as a quick start of the implementation of the Convention, taking into account existing and possibly updated HELCOM Recommendations limiting the use of mercury in products and processes;



- WE RE-ITERATE the agreement to establish combustion efficiency requirements and/or emission limit values for dioxins according to HELCOM Recommendation 28E/8 by 2016 in order to minimize dioxin emissions from small-scale combustion sources as well as develop cost-efficient and BAT measures to large-scale industrial sources;

**4 (H).** BEING CONCERNED about the negative impacts of some pharmaceuticals and resistant micro-organisms, WE DECIDE to collect more information and assess the state of contamination with pharmaceuticals and their degradation products of the aquatic environment, which would also contribute to the development of the EU's strategic approach to addressing the pollution of water by pharmaceutical substances, and to develop measures, as appropriate, to prevent pharmaceuticals from reaching the Baltic Sea;

**5 (H).** RECOGNIZING the importance of raising public awareness in the field of hazardous substances, WE AGREE to further promote and continuously support actions aiming at changing e.g. consumer behavior towards “greener” (less associated with use of hazardous substances) products, processes and services;

**6 (H).** ACKNOWLEDGING that due to radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl accident the Baltic Sea has the highest concentrations of <sup>137</sup>Cs of any regional sea and RECOGNIZING the risk of pollution by radioactive substances caused by nuclear accidents in the Baltic Sea catchment area or farther away, WE AGREE to continue monitoring of radioactive substances in accordance with HELCOM Recommendation 26/3 and making assessments of the impacts of radioactivity on the marine environment and humans;

## Shipping and activities at sea

**1 (M).** RECOGNIZING the international nature of shipping and the need to agree on global rules for shipping in the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and RECALLING the role of HELCOM, according to the Helsinki Convention, in the effective and harmonized implementation of rules adopted by the IMO, WE REAFFIRM the importance of joint proposals to IMO regarding the rulemaking to promote clean and safe shipping in the Baltic Sea area;

### **Ballast Water**

**2 (M).** WE WELCOME the accessions to the IMO Ballast Water Management Convention by Sweden on 24 November 2009, the Russian Federation on 24 May 2012, Denmark on 11 September 2012 and ratification by Germany on 20 June 2013, and ENCOURAGE the remaining HELCOM countries to speed up the ratification of the Convention taking into account the agreement from 2007 to have the Convention ratified by all Baltic Sea countries by 2013;

**3 (M).** WE AGREE to develop, based on an overview of the situation, a comprehensive regional Baltic Sea implementation plan for the IMO Ballast Water Management Convention by the end of 2014 bearing in mind the possible need to accept a transitional period for exemptions in case of lacking data;

### **Sewage from Ships**

**4 (M).** EMPHASIZING the importance of reducing nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea from ships' sewage, and RECALLING the designation of the Baltic Sea as a Special Area under IMO MARPOL Annex IV, WE AGREE to continue efforts to upgrade port reception facilities in the remaining ports, in order to strive for that HELCOM countries are in the position to report to IMO, by 2014 (IMO MEPC 67), that adequate facilities are available for the regulation to enter into force by 1 January 2016 for new ships;

**5 (M).** WE WELCOME the efforts by the cruise industry to use on board waste water treatment plants on cruise ships operating in the Baltic Sea which meet the standards set by IMO for the Baltic Sea as part of the MARPOL Annex IV Special Area designation;

### **Airborne emissions from ships**

**6 (M).** EMPHASIZING the importance and RECOGNIZING the need of reducing nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea also from airborne emissions from shipping, which constitutes 7% of the overall nitrogen deposition to the Baltic Sea, and RECALLING the 2010 Moscow Ministerial decision to work towards submitting, preferably by 2011, a joint proposal by the Baltic Sea countries to the IMO applying for the NO<sub>x</sub> Emission Control Area (NECA) status for the Baltic Sea, taking into account the results of the study by HELCOM on the economic impacts of a Baltic Sea NECA;

**7 (M).** WE SUPPORT the idea of a designation of NO<sub>x</sub> Emission Control Area in other sea areas, particularly the neighbouring areas as larger geographic coverage of NECA would bring greater environmental benefits;

**8 (M).** WE TAKE NOTE of the fact that due to the need for further technical consultations amongst some of the Contracting Parties as regards to the availability of technology to implement the Tier III NO<sub>x</sub> emission standards under MARPOL Annex VI, the application on the Baltic Sea NECA has not yet been submitted to IMO. WE NOTE that in that context, in order to move forward, HELCOM Stakeholder Conference “Baltic Sea – NO<sub>x</sub> Emission control area” was organized in March 2013 which discussed the availability of technology to implement the Tier III NO<sub>x</sub> emission standards under MARPOL Annex VI, including further enhancement of existing and development of new relevant technology. A review of the status of technological developments to implement the Tier III NO<sub>x</sub> emissions standards has been prepared by IMO and considered in May 2013;

**9 (M).** EMPHASIZING the need to work jointly in co-operation with other regional governmental and non-governmental organizations, the industry and research community, to further promote development and enhanced use of green technologies and alternative fuels, including LNG, methanol as well as other propulsion technologies, in order to reduce harmful exhaust gas emissions and greenhouse gases from ships, WE AGREE to work towards the creation of a joint “Green Technology and Alternative Fuels Platform for Shipping” together with other regional actors in the Baltic Sea;

**10 (M).** WE WELCOME co-operation between the Contracting Parties to enhance the enforcement of the more stringent limits for SO<sub>x</sub> emissions that will come into force in 2015;

#### ***Safety of navigation***

**11 (M).** RECALLING the HELCOM Copenhagen 2001, Krakow 2007 and Moscow 2010 commitments to increase safety of navigation in the Baltic Sea, WE AGREE to further strengthen co-operation with IMO in the field of safety of navigation and to further develop technical co-operation between the European Maritime Safety Agency and HELCOM, including to ease collection and analysis of maritime data relevant for the Baltic Sea;

**12 (M).** WE AGREE to further work with regard to the regional HELCOM AIS system operational since 2005 in order to increase safety of navigation and gain environmental benefits;

**13 (M).** WE AGREE to comprehensively assess the status, environmental risks and opportunities of maritime activities in the Baltic Sea region within HELCOM by 2016, contributing to the HELCOM Holistic Assessment planned for 2016, as well as to safety measures including routeing and those on winter navigation, and further AGREE to disseminate information on the Baltic Sea environmental regime for mariners, by updating the “HELCOM Clean Seas Guide” and further developing the online Mariners' Routeing Guide Baltic Sea;

**14 (M).** RECALLING the HELCOM Copenhagen 2001, Krakow 2007 and Moscow 2010 commitments on hydrographic re-survey and COMMENDING WITH APPRECIATION the subsequent substantial progress made in systematic re-surveying of major shipping routes and ports in the region according to the HELCOM-BSHC Re-survey Scheme aimed at ensuring that safety of navigation in the Baltic Sea region is not endangered by inadequate source information;

**15 (M).** WE AGREE to take actions to ensure the completion of the re-surveys for areas used by navigation (CAT I and II) within the time schedules estimated in the 2013 Re-survey Scheme, to promote wider use of accurate and reliable depth information by e.g. developing existing and/or new products including an enhanced and freely accessible Baltic Sea Depth Model, and to foster CAT III re-surveys of other areas not primarily for safety of navigation purposes, e.g. for environmental protection;

**16 (M).** RECALLING the Helsinki Convention Article 9 on pleasure craft, WE AGREE to consider an assessment of pleasure craft activities in the Baltic Sea Area, including *inter alia* their environmental impacts and risks of accidents, in order to consider the safety of navigation of both recreational as well as commercial vessels;

#### ***Enforcement of international regulations***

**17 (M).** WE AGREE to enhance co-operation between Paris MoU and HELCOM by applying for advisor status of HELCOM to Paris MoU on Port State Control;



## Preparedness and response to pollution at sea and on the shore

**1 (R).** RECALLING commitments on regional co-operation in combatting marine pollution and notification and consultation on pollution incidents included in the Helsinki Convention and its Annex VII, WE AGREE to consider and implement the recommendations of the HELCOM BRISK and BRISK–RU projects to strengthen preparedness and response capacity to marine accidents in the Baltic Sea;

### ***Preparedness and response on the shore and oiled wildlife response***

**2 (R).** NOTING the current status of Oiled Wildlife Response (OWR) in the Baltic Sea countries, WE AGREE to develop and adopt national wildlife response plans by 2016; AGREE to strengthen the work on OWR under HELCOM RESPONSE through a targeted expert working group and by enhancing co-operation with NGOs and the private sector, *inter alia* in order to accommodate the involvement of volunteers;

**3 (R).** WE WELCOME the submission by Denmark, Poland and other countries to IMO of a paper regarding discharging of paraffin wax, the substance which has been found washed up on several beaches in the countries bordering the Baltic Sea during the last few years;

### ***Preparedness and response to accidents at sea***

**4 (R).** WE AGREE to update HELCOM Manual on Co-operation in Combatting Marine Pollution Volume II, focusing on response to accidents at sea involving spills of hazardous substances and loss of packaged dangerous goods by 2016;

**5 (R).** WE AGREE to further develop by 2015 regional preparedness and response related services including HELCOM SeaTrackWeb, HELCOM Automatic Identification System, HELCOM Pollution Reporting System (POLREP), HELCOM GIS and links to relevant EU systems towards a second generation HELCOM oil response information system covering the whole Baltic Sea on an equal basis;

### ***Hazardous submerged objects***

**6 (R).** WE AGREE to produce by 2015, a one-off HELCOM thematic assessment on environmental risks of hazardous submerged objects covering contaminated wrecks, lost or dumped dangerous goods (e.g. containers), and other objects, also utilizing the 2013 report on dumped chemical munitions;

## Marine knowledge, monitoring and assessment

**1 (K).** WE AGREE to develop regional assessments jointly and in such a way that they can be used by the Contracting Parties in assessments of their marine and coastal waters, as well as for their reporting purposes under EU MSFD and other international frameworks, and WE AGREE to start implementing the revised HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy immediately, including:

- a. as the first step, to review and update the monitoring programme by 2014, and related guidelines and manuals by 2015, and thereby streamline the work of the Contracting Parties to serve the BSAP and other international and national monitoring and reporting requirements such as the MSFD and Maritime Doctrine of the Russian Federation;
- b. to further develop, test and apply HELCOM assessment tools starting already in 2014;
- c. to develop and deliver operational assessments of pressures, including nutrient and hazardous substances inputs (PLC), impacts of fisheries on other species and on the seabed, pressures from shipping and other relevant pressures on the Baltic Sea and use these to update the Baltic Sea Impact Index and to support the implementation of ecosystem-based Maritime Spatial Planning;
- d. by 2016, to develop the second holistic assessment of ecosystem health, including the status of the Baltic Sea in regard to eutrophication, hazardous substances and biodiversity;
- e. to make the Red List assessments of Baltic Sea species and habitats/biotopes a regular activity which will enable the tracking of long-term trends in the status of the Baltic Sea biodiversity;

f. to make the assessment of regional climate change and its implications on the Baltic Sea ecosystem a regular activity, collaborating with Baltic Earth (BALTEX) in this respect, with the aim to make it an indicator-based assessment;

**2 (K).** WE SUPPORT the first set of core indicators of environmental status and pressures with the intention that they will form the basis of an indicator-based follow-up system for measuring progress towards achieving good environmental status with a full set of operational core indicators, and further STRESS that the joint coordinated monitoring by the Contracting Parties should provide the data necessary for regular updating of the HELCOM core indicators and assessments;

**3 (K).** WE AGREE to develop monitoring and assessment methods for the rate of loss of quantity and quality of natural marine habitats to serve further core indicator development and the needs stemming from implementation of the UN CBD Aichi targets, and AGREE to enhance scientific understanding of Baltic Sea species and habitats and biotopes, as well as pressures and impact mechanisms acting on ecosystems, ecosystem services and the benefits provided by the Baltic Sea environment;

**4 (K).** WE AGREE to review the agreed set of HELCOM eutrophication indicators and status targets at regular intervals, especially in the light of new scientific findings and further developed ecological models for the assessment of eutrophication, and that this process should also aim for further regional differentiation of the targets, in particular in the coastal zone, with the view to seek coherence between open sea and coastal waters targets;

**5 (K).** STRESSING the need for spatially and temporally relevant data and information at scales corresponding to diverse planning and decision-making processes, and UNDERLINING the scarcity of such data and information for the Baltic Sea, WE AGREE to strengthen efforts to ensure that data and information meeting these requirements are obtained and made available;

**6 (K).** WE DECIDE to further develop and update HELCOM data and information systems with the view to strengthen HELCOM's role as the key Baltic Sea data hub for online information on the state of the environment as well as on human activities and their impacts on the Baltic Sea<sup>3</sup> complementing and compatible with the ongoing national, regional and European data management processes, to support the national data functions, and taking into account the need to make available and utilizable the data that have been compiled during various assessment processes;

**7 (K).** WE AGREE, in particular, to strive for active and regionally harmonized data collection on marine species and habitats, their distribution, abundance and trends, as well as the quality of habitats and biotopes with the view that the data will be made available in the regional data pool;

**8 (K).** WE ACKNOWLEDGE the increasingly evident conflict between the new and emerging economic uses of the sea (e.g. for offshore wind farms, cables, pipelines, sea bed mining) and the legacy of submerged hazardous objects in the Baltic Sea;

**9 (K).** WE RECOGNIZE the need for forward-looking options for solutions and an assessment of the environmental risks posed by all kinds of submerged hazardous objects containing harmful substances which may affect the environment and all activities in the Baltic Sea, including wrecks filled with oil and other hazardous cargo, sea-dumped munitions and warfare materials;

**10 (K).** WE WELCOME the 2013 report of the HELCOM Ad Hoc Expert Group To Update And Review The Existing Information On Dumped Chemical Munitions In The Baltic Sea (HELCOM MUNI) which has provided significant new information and insight but also reconfirmed that most of HELCOM's recommendations and advice on dumped chemical munitions are still valid. When significant new findings will be made available by e.g. CHEMSEA, preparation of updated report will be decided;

**11 (K).** WE REQUEST the Contracting Parties to further strengthen co-operation with ICES in responding to the scientific needs arising from the implementation of the BSAP and relevant global, European and national requirements, including integration of environmental and fisheries surveys,

---

<sup>3</sup> These systems include: the environmental information needed for the proposed core set of indicators, HELCOM AIS system, annually collected shipping accident data, the HELCOM POLREP, MSP related Geographic Information System (GIS) datasets, information on air- and waterborne pollution loads, etc.

and as the first step for the purposes of co-operation towards automatized data aggregation and further enhanced quality assurance for the assessments;

**12 (K).** WELCOMING the fruitful cooperation between BONUS and HELCOM, WE ENCOURAGE similarly good collaboration in the future;

**13 (K).** WE AGREE to revive the co-operation with the European Environment Agency for mutual benefits and to contribute to European wide assessments of marine and coastal waters;

### **Maritime Spatial Planning applying the Ecosystem approach**

**1 (MSP).** NOTING that the Baltic Sea countries are entitled to establish a legal regime for Maritime Spatial Planning throughout their Internal Waters, Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zones; WE AGREE to put national frameworks for coherent Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in place by 2017 reflecting HELCOM-VASAB MSP principles, including the ecosystem approach, taking into account the relevant EU policy instruments for the Baltic Sea countries being EU Member States;

**2 (MSP).** FURTHER AGREEING that the ultimate goal is to draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea region by 2020, which are coherent across the borders and applying the ecosystem approach, WE DECIDE to continue the work towards reaching common understanding and adopting guidelines on ecosystem approach, transboundary consultation and co-operation as well as public participation in the MSP framework according to the Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020;

**3 (MSP).** WE WELCOME the progress made within the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group since 2010 and SUPPORT the continuation of the HELCOM co-operation with VASAB and the role of the joint MSP Working Group to utilize the full potential of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and to serve transboundary and cross-sectorial co-operation and consultation;

**4 (MSP).** WE ENCOURAGE the development of effective and efficient exchange of experience and knowledge from all relevant disciplines taking into account the results from Maritime Spatial Planning practices and projects;

### **Benefits of protecting the Baltic Sea (section on financing)**

**1 (F).** WE APPRECIATE the results of the BalticStern network research that overall benefits of implementing the BSAP clearly exceed its costs, while the costs of inaction will be significant, and that the BSAP is an economically sound plan to solve the eutrophication problem;

**2 (F).** WE AGREE to make efforts to mobilize resources for the BSAP implementation on national and regional level by reflecting or prioritizing the BSAP targets in the country specific and co-operation programmes, including for the upcoming EU programming period 2014-2020;

**3 (F).** WE WELCOME the growing interest of the private sector to provide financing for the implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan;

**4 (F).** WE APPRECIATE and ENCOURAGE further co-operation with the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership contributing to reaching HELCOM's targets of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region through cost effective investment projects in the municipal infrastructure sector by combining IFI's lending with NDEP grants;

**5 (F).** WE INVITE the Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics to likewise co-operate with HELCOM to support the environmentally friendly and safe maritime activities in the Baltic;

**6 (F).** WE RECOGNIZE the important role of International Financial Institutions to speed up the implementation of the BSAP commitments and HELCOM Recommendations, and SUPPORT their broader engagement in projects reducing environmental impact on the Baltic Sea, both in HELCOM countries as well as non-Contracting Parties such as Belarus and Ukraine, including remediation of the remaining JCP Hot Spots;

**7 (F).** WE AGREE to identify and prioritize by 2016 the remaining investment needs for further reduction of nutrients, with the aim to bridge the gap in translating HELCOM nutrient reduction targets into area or site specific implementation and thus strengthen local contributions towards regional goals;

**8 (F).** WE AGREE to initiate or intensify the work to attribute economic value to marine and coastal ecosystem services and their contribution to societal, cultural and ecological well-being, in cooperation with initiatives such as the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for National and International Policy Makers (TEEB), with a view to starting more comprehensively embracing an ecosystem accounting approach;

**9 (F).** WE AGREE, to a greater extent, to incorporate the emerging environmental economics knowledge as well as socio-economic analysis in the work of HELCOM, with the purpose of ensuring and demonstrating cost-effectiveness of new measures to protect the marine environment.