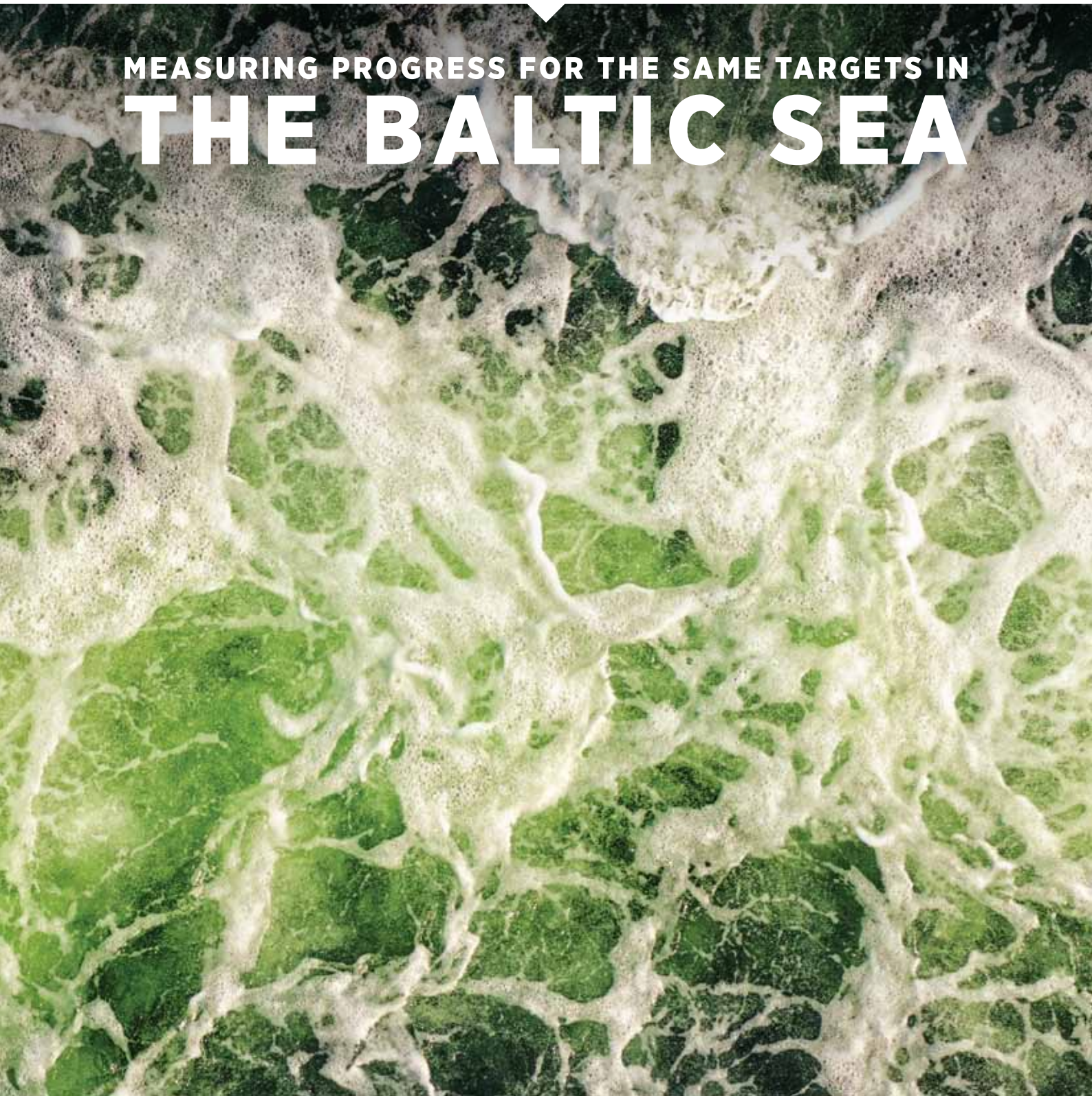
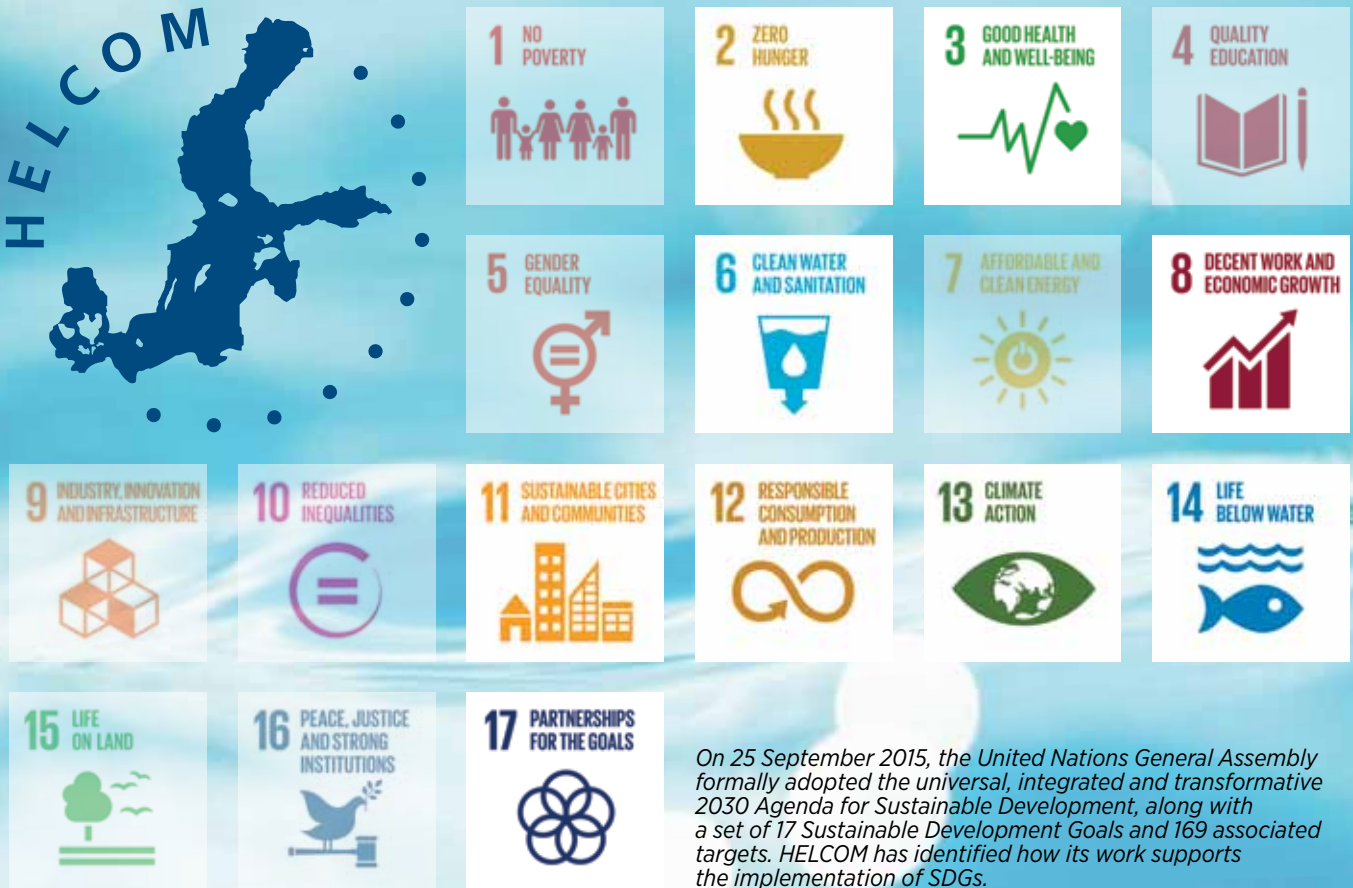




**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**

MEASURING PROGRESS FOR THE SAME TARGETS IN
THE BALTIC SEA





On 25 September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly formally adopted the universal, integrated and transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, along with a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets. HELCOM has identified how its work supports the implementation of SDGs.

HOW IS THE BALTIC SEA REGION DOING IN IMPLEMENTING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

HELCOM, the regional body established over four decades ago to protect the Baltic marine environment and encompassing all the coastal countries and the EU, can already demonstrate concrete progress.

This publication marks the ten-year anniversary of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan. It highlights some of the trends and accomplishments to achieve a healthy marine environment.

HELCOM targets, SDG targets and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity are aligned. Full implementation of the Baltic

Sea Action Plan will be a milestone towards achieving the global commitments. Following the High-level meeting on 28 February 2017, HELCOM will continue its efforts to meet the ocean-related targets of Agenda 2030 in the Baltic Sea. In doing so, HELCOM will cooperate with stakeholders, other Regional Seas Conventions and UN Environment.

The SDG targets will have associated indicators. For years, HELCOM has developed regional indicators, some of which are directly related to the proposed SDG indicators and can be used

as such in reporting progress towards the implementation of the SDGs. The established Baltic Sea indicators and follow-up systems will serve the regional follow-up of the status of SDG implementation.

Member countries bear the main responsibility for implementing actions, but they do not have to work alone. Regional HELCOM cooperation, also involving a wide range of stakeholders, advances the application of the ecosystem approach in real life and ensures that all are working towards the same goals.



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HELCOM'S IMPLEMENTATION OUTLOOK OF THE OCEAN-RELATED SDGS IN THE BALTIC SEA A ROADMAP TO AGENDA 2030

High-level representatives of the Baltic Sea countries and EU met on 28 February 2017 on the occasion of the 38th Meeting of the Helsinki Commission to discuss the regional aspects in achieving ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and targets in the Baltic Sea, as well as progress and challenges in addressing regional environmental challenges.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015. It contains 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets, many of which are highly relevant to the work of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. Governments have a primary responsibility for implementing commitments to achieve these targets and goals, while Regional Seas Conventions are the natural home for considering any new regional actions and following up and reviewing the relevant SDGs. Regional Sea Conventions are also best suited to apply the ecosystem approach and to form multi-stakeholder partnerships, thus, enhancing inter-institutional cooperation and coordination. This is also in line with the EU Chairmanship priorities until

2018 and the next Ministerial Meeting of HELCOM.

Contracting Parties met in a high-level session on 28 February 2017 and pointed out the following issues to implement SDGs in the Baltic Sea region.

HELCOM SUCCESSES ALREADY DELIVER ON SDG IMPLEMENTATION...

Contracting Parties will coordinate the regional implementation of ocean-related SDGs in the Baltic Sea using the HELCOM platform. HELCOM can concretely contribute to achieving SDG 14 and targets 6.3., 12.4 and 13.2. Also a number of targets under SDGs 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 12 and 17 are also relevant to reaching the objectives of the Helsinki Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area.

Strengthened implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, based on the ecosystem approach and the commitment to achieve a Baltic Sea in good environmental status by 2021, is needed to fulfil the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Baltic Sea. 66 out of 106 regional actions and 11 out of 68 national level actions of the Baltic Sea Action Plan have been fully implemented so far, with successes in setting up a nutrient reduction scheme, curbing airborne emission and discharges from shipping, tackling some hazardous substances, piloting ecosystem approach in maritime spatial planning, and covering 11.8% of the Baltic Sea with marine protected areas. All these examples showcase the added value of a regional approach, addressing more than

HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES (back row from left): Mr **MINDAUGAS GUDAS**, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Environment, Lithuania • Ms **IVETA TEIBE**, Head of Water Resources Division, Department of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvia • Mr **HELGE WENDENBURG**, Director General, Water Management and Resource Conservation, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, Germany • Mr **HARRY LIIV**, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of the Environment, Estonia • Mr **VLADIMIR IVLEV**, Deputy Director of the DIC, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, Russia • Mr **PER ÅNGQUIST**, State Secretary for Environment and Energy, Sweden (Front row from left): Ms **MONIKA STANKIEWICZ**, Executive Secretary of HELCOM • Mr **MARIUSZ GAJDA**, Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of the Environment, Poland • Ms **MARIANNE WENNING**, Chair of HELCOM • Ms **LISBET ØLGAARD**, Head of Division, The Agency for Water and Nature Management, Ministry of Environment and Food, Denmark • Ms **HANNELE POKKA**, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of the Environment, Finland • Ms **JOANNA DRAKE**, Deputy Director General of DG Environment in the Commission, European Union | Photo: Florent Nicolas/HELCOM

one target of SDG 14 in a coherent way. Policy making based on commonly agreed principles and best available science, paired with a transparent and participatory stakeholder involvement, as well as partnerships for integrated management of human activities, are proven factors underlying these HELCOM achievements.

...AND A FUTURE HELCOM AGENDA WILL BE GEARED TOWARDS FULL SDG IMPLEMENTATION

HELCOM will intensify and focus its efforts towards SDGs addressing issues of regional concern and interest. HELCOM will speed up the implementation of the marine litter regional action plan, continue its battle against eutrophication, especially to cut inputs of phosphorus, and start the elaboration of a regional action plan on underwater noise, to fulfil SDG 14.1. It will ensure close cooperation on any maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea area and management plans for all marine protected areas, to fulfil SDG 14.2 and 14.5. HELCOM will continue supporting more sustainable agricultural practices, to contribute to SDG 2.4, and ecosystem-related fishery measures, towards SDG 14.4 and 14.6. HELCOM will strive for more resilient marine ecosystems to be better prepared for human-induced climate change challenges. It will also promote

further regional development of social and economic analyses to create tailor-made connecting points between implementation of different SDGs.

Furthermore, the HELCOM holistic state of the Baltic Sea assessment will serve as baseline scenario for SDG implementation. SDGs will also be used as guidance when reviewing and setting up new HELCOM priorities, as needed, until 2030, to fill in gaps, for instance, in relation to climate change adaptation and acidification issues, or on enhanced partnerships with sectorial bodies.

...INCLUDING STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABILITY...

In response to ever growing challenges in the Baltic Sea region, Contracting Parties will strengthen and expand the cross-sectorial, regional and inter-regional partnerships, in the region, Europe and globally. HELCOM will collaborate with other Baltic Sea organisations, such as the Council of the Baltic Sea States and with OSPAR and with other Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans to draw from each other's experience on SDG issues. HELCOM knowledge will continuously be utilized to support implementation efforts, including within the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

...AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE GLOBAL PROCESS

HELCOM will continue leading the coordination of regional efforts to deliver on the relevant SDGs, through improved monitoring and stronger implementation of agreed measures towards healthy oceans. Contracting Parties will coordinate the use of HELCOM indicators to measure and compare progress towards reaching ocean-related SDGs. HELCOM's Baltic reports will serve as input to the World Ocean Assessment and the High-level Political Forum. Contracting Parties, in close collaboration with relevant international organisations, may also make use of HELCOM as a platform to coordinate regional, synchronized voluntary reviews on SDG 14 implementation as national input to the High-level Political Forum to reach "the Future We Want".

Contracting Parties will draw from the existing HELCOM experience to support the UN Conference "Our oceans, our future: partnering for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14". HELCOM will contribute with voluntary commitments on SDG 14 to be registered for the Conference. Finally, Contracting Parties and HELCOM may consider presenting joint commitments at Our Ocean Conference in October 2017 in Malta.

GREEN IMPLEMENTATION

STATE OF THE BALTIC SEA REPORT – “HOLAS II”

For the second time, HELCOM is assessing the ecosystem health of the entire Baltic Sea (first results available in June 2017). The assessment provides updated information on the status of the marine environment and cumulative pressures and impacts from major human activities. For the first time, social and economic analysis is being incorporated in the assessment, giving insight regarding the contribution of the Baltic Sea to economic activities and human well-being as well as the costs of the degradation of the marine environment. Overall, HOLAS II demonstrates improved application of the ecosystem approach on a sea basin scale as well as a regional baseline situation for future implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and their ocean-related targets.

BALTIC MARITIME ASSESSMENT

The new HELCOM maritime assessment 2017 presents the current maritime and response situation in the Baltic Sea region based on the latest data emerging from monitoring activities supported by national information. In addition to a comprehensive overview of the status of shipping and other maritime activities, the assessment portrays measures that are being implemented for achieving the objectives of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and other regional requirements.

HELCOM EXPLORER – A REGIONAL FOLLOW-UP SYSTEM

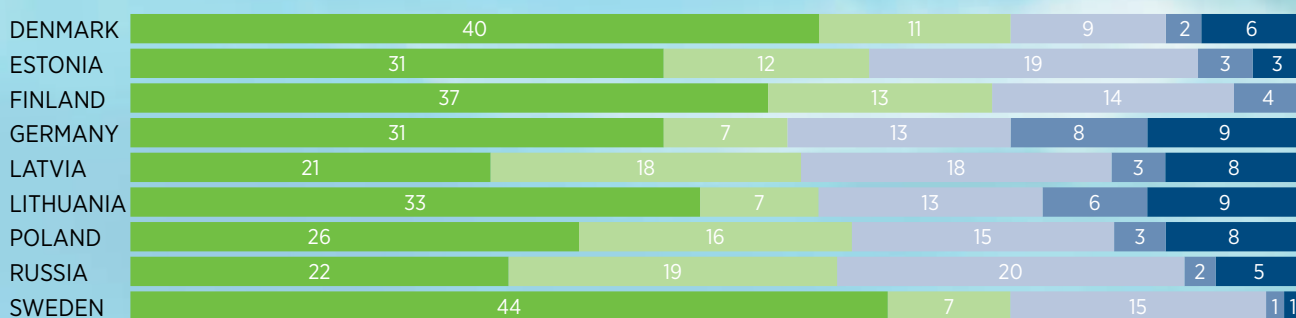
The online HELCOM Explorer makes it possible for anyone to instantly check the implementation status for most actions stemming from the 2007

HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan to achieve a sea in a good environmental status by 2021. There are currently 174 joint or national actions that are followed up, with clear and measurable targets. Joint actions are carried out regionally through HELCOM, such as the development of HELCOM Recommendations, joint management guidelines, or assessments of environmental status. Overall, 60% of the regional actions have been completed by 2016, and over 40 actions still remain to be fully implemented. National actions require steps to be taken mostly at the national level.

Deadline for full implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan is 2021. HELCOM Explorer: <http://maps.helcom.fi/website/HELCOMexplorer/index.html>

REAL

NATIONAL ACTIONS - PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION



■ Accomplished
 ■ On-going
 ■ Not accomplished
 ■ Reporting on-going
 ■ N/A
 Level of accomplishment of all agreed HELCOM national actions indicating overall progress in the Baltic Sea Action Plan and Ministerial Declarations of 2010 and 2013.

REGIONAL ACTIONS - PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION



■ Achieved
 ■ Partly accomplished
 ■ Not accomplished
 ■ Future target year
 Level of accomplishment of all agreed HELCOM joint actions in the Baltic Sea Action Plan and Ministerial Declarations of 2010 and 2013.

NUTRIENT TRENDS

INPUTS OF NUTRIENTS

Eutrophication, one of the main problems faced by the Baltic Sea, is caused by excessive inputs of nutrients. An assessment of eutrophication status of the Baltic Sea covering the

period 2007-2011 indicated that most areas of the Baltic Sea suffer from eutrophication. An updated 2017 assessment draws conclusions on how the status of eutrophication has changed and improved.

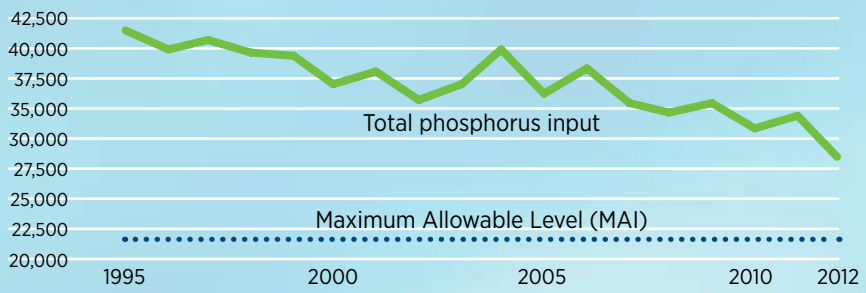
HELCOM NUTRIENT REDUCTION SCHEME

The HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme was first agreed on in 2007 and updated in 2013. It is a regional approach to fair sharing of the burden of nutrient reductions to achieve the goal of the Baltic Sea unaffected by eutrophication.

The scheme has two main components:

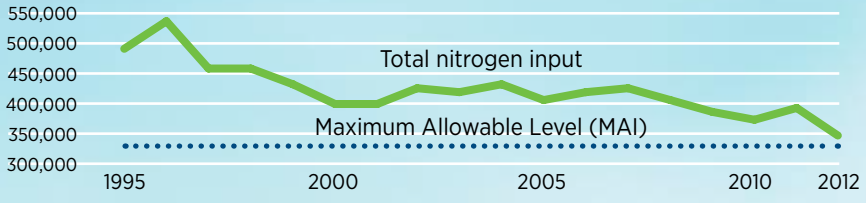
- Maximum Allowable Inputs (MAI) of nutrients, indicating the maximal level of inputs of water- and airborne nitrogen and phosphorus (per year) to individual sub-basins that should not be exceeded in order to eventually obtain good environmental status in terms of eutrophication.
- Country-Allocated Reduction Targets (CART), indicating how much nutrient inputs each HELCOM country needs to reduce comparing to a reference period (1997-2003).

DECLINING TREND OF PHOSPHORUS



Phosphorus input (tonnes) to the whole Baltic Sea during 1995-2012 compared to the Maximum Allowable Input (MAI) level as set in the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme.

NITROGEN ALSO TRENDING DOWN



Nitrogen input (tonnes) to the Baltic Proper sub-basin as an example during 1995-2012 compared to the Maximum Allowable Input (MAI) level as set in the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme.

MAIN HELCOM CONTRIBUTION TO:

SDG 14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

HELCOM

Data on inputs of nutrients are regularly collected for the whole region by the HELCOM Pollution Load Compilations (PLC) and assessed against the maximum allowable inputs. According to the latest estimates, most countries have advanced in reducing their nutrient inputs. For most Baltic Sea sub-basins, nitrogen inputs have decreased significantly, but the trends for phosphorus are less clear.



FURTHER REDUCTION OF NUTRIENT INPUTS TO SOME BALTIC SEA SUB-BASINS STILL NEEDED

- Reduction of nitrogen and phosphorus inputs needed
- Reduction of phosphorus inputs needed
- Baltic Sea catchment area

HELCOM CORE INDICATOR OF EUTROPHICATION, BASED ON DATA FROM 2010-2012

FOOD PRODUCTION



MORE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

The Helsinki Convention in its Annex III Part II, Prevention of Pollution from Agriculture, lists requirements to reduce the adverse environmental effects of agriculture. The Annex III Part II regulations are partly stricter than the relevant EU requirements when it comes to storing and spreading manure as well as environmental permits.

The Annex on agriculture states that the minimum level of storage capacity for manure

required is six months. Apart for nitrogen, there is also a limit of 25 kg/ha of phosphorus spread in manure per year. In addition to pig and poultry farms of certain size, cattle farms with 400 animal units or more shall have an environmental permit.

Currently, four HELCOM members have reported that the provisions of Annex III Part II are accomplished, three have reported that the process is ongoing and two have reported “not accomplished”.

The HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices is also promoting farm level nutrient accounting and advanced manure standards to help farmers use nutrients more efficiently. Nutrient accounting is an important tool to balance fertilization with the crops’ need of nutrients. Manure management and full utilization of valuable manure nutrients with the help of manure standards is an essential part of nutrient recycling and reducing nutrient loading to the Baltic Sea.

MAIN HELCOM CONTRIBUTION TO:

SDG 14.1 *By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution*

ALSO RELEVANT TO HELCOM WORK:

SDG 2.4 *By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding*

and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

SDG 6.3 *By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving*

AQUACULTURE

HELCOM Recommendation 37/3 on sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea Region was adopted in March 2016, as agreed in the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in 2013. The Recommendation aims to limit the negative impacts on the environment from aquaculture facilities located in the catchment area of the Baltic Sea and in the Baltic Sea by applying Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practice (BEP).

ing the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

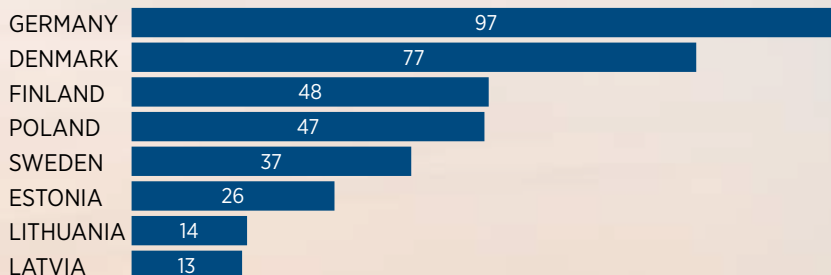
SDG 8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to

decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead

SDG 12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

SDG 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

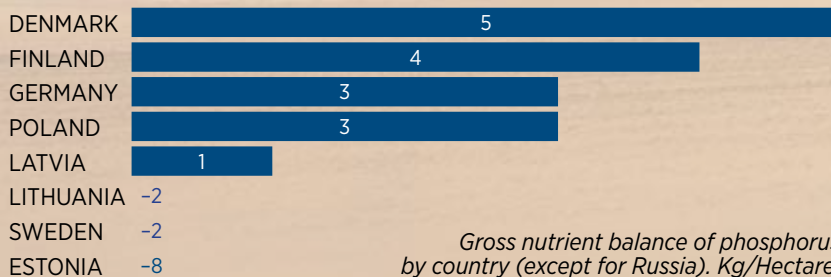
NUTRIENT BALANCE, NITROGEN



Gross nutrient balance of nitrogen by country (except for Russia). Kg/Hectare. Nutrient balance indicates the amount of nutrients from fertilizers that have not been taken up by the crop but left on the field. The more nutrients left on the field, the larger the risk of nutrients leaching to watercourses and eventually to the Baltic Sea.

EUROSTAT 2011

NUTRIENT BALANCE, PHOSPHORUS



Gross nutrient balance of phosphorus by country (except for Russia). Kg/Hectare.

EUROSTAT 2011

PROGRESS MADE IN ACTIONS ON AGRICULTURE



Implementation of the provisions on agriculture in the Helsinki Convention by number of countries.

HELCOM EXPLORER 2016

SHIPPING

CUT IN EMISSIONS FROM BALTIC SHIPPING

As proposed by HELCOM countries, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has agreed to limit nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from ships' exhaust gases in the Baltic Sea. A similar proposal from the North Sea countries was also approved in October 2016. These two decisions will create a larger Nitrogen Emission Control Area (NECA) for new ships built in or after 2021.

The estimated cut in airborne deposition of nitrogen will be significant. According to estimates, the annual reduction in total nitrogen deposition to the Baltic Sea catchment area will be 22,000 tons as a combined effect of the Baltic and North Seas NECAs and compared to a non-NECA scenario. It should be noted that fleet renewal, which may take a long time, is needed before the regulation will show its full effect.

BAN ON DISCHARGE OF SEWAGE

The Baltic was the first sea in the world to receive status as a special area for sewage and to have this status enforced by IMO, in response to a joint application by the HELCOM countries. Set to come into effect in June 2021, new limitations will prohibit passenger ships from disposing of their sewage directly into the sea. Sewage will need to be discharged into port reception facilities, unless it can be treated in advanced onboard sewage treatment plants capable of reducing nutrient input.

Global rules on ship sewage have typically addressed sanitary concerns of sewage – but not nutrient content. At the same time, the Baltic coastal countries have applied increasingly stringent nutrient limits to sewage discharges from land.

While not the biggest source of nutrients in the Baltic Sea, ship sewage is not insignificant. With over 7.15 million person days spent on cruise ships in the Baltic Sea, and 40 million international ferry passengers per year, proper sewage disposal is important to protect the health of the Baltic Sea.

HELCOM MARITIME AND RESPONSE

HELCOM Maritime Working Group and HELCOM Response Working Group have worked for a long time for the regional



MAIN HELCOM CONTRIBUTION TO:

SDG 14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

ALSO RELEVANT TO HELCOM WORK:

SDG 14.C Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the

Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of “The future we want”

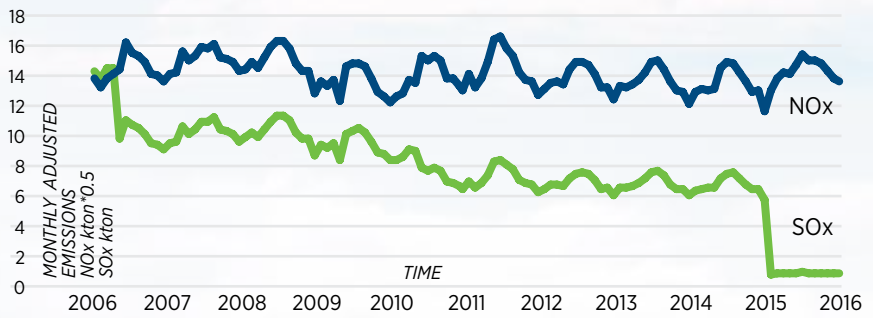
NOG

development of sustainable maritime activities, including clean and environmentally sound technologies. They cover, among others, emissions and discharges from ships and ballast water management.

HELCOM has further intensified its cooperation on sustainable shipping with public, private and civil society partners. Such new forms of cooperation will strengthen implementation of the new measures e.g. for exhaust gas emissions and discharges of sewage.

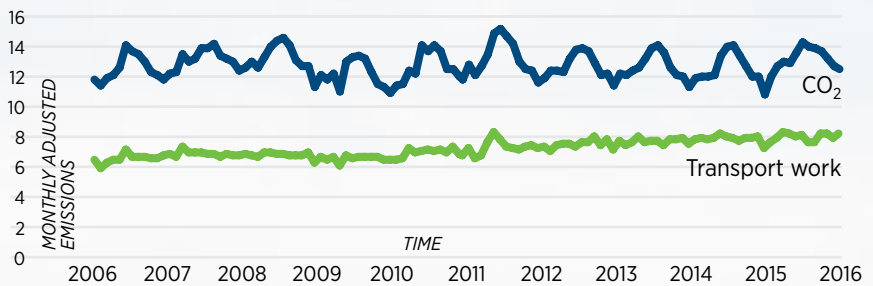
Two dedicated HELCOM groups on such partnerships, the “Green Technology and the Alternative Fuels Platform for Shipping” and the “Cooperation Platform on Special Area According to MARPOL Annex IV”, will both launch a new rounds of activities in 2017.

LIMITING SHIPS' SULPHUR POLLUTION



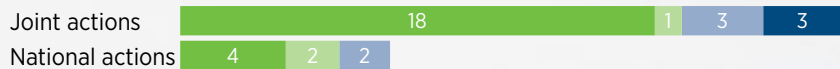
Seasonal variation of ship emissions of NO_x and SO_x in the Baltic Sea during 2006–2015. Baltic Sea Sulphur Oxide (SO_x) Emission Control Area (SECA) was applied in May 2006 and the more stringent limit of 0.1% sulphur content in ship fuel oil was introduced in January 2015.

MORE SHIP TRAFFIC, CLEANER TECHNOLOGIES



Seasonal variation of ship emissions in the Baltic Sea during the period 2006–2015. The level of CO₂ compared to transport work shows a trend of reduced pollution from shipping.

PROGRESS MADE IN MARITIME ACTIONS



Accomplished On-going Partly accomplished Not accomplished
Level of accomplishment of agreed HELCOM joint and national actions related to maritime activities indicating overall progress in the Baltic Sea Action Plan and Ministerial Declarations of 2010 and 2013.

SDG 3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

SDG 8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

SDG 9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries

to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities

WASTE TREATMENT

For 10 years, the Baltic Sea countries have been implementing stricter HELCOM requirements for waste water treatment. There are recommendations for both municipal waste water treatment plants and smaller units like small businesses or single family homes. The strictest requirements apply for waste water treatment plants with a load of more than 100,000 person equivalents. In the largest plants, at least 90% of phosphorus and 70-80% of nitrogen should be removed.

Countries around the Baltic Sea have made significant progress in upgrading their waste water treatment plants to meet adequate environmental standards. Improved waste water treatment has cut nutrient discharges to the Baltic Sea. HELCOM regularly assesses the progress in reducing nutrient load to the Baltic Sea by producing a Pollution Load Compilation (PLC). The next assessment (PLC 6) will be ready in 2017.



MAIN HELCOM CONTRIBUTION TO:

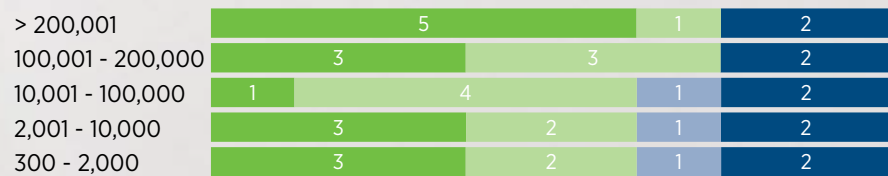
SDG 14.1 *By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution*

ALSO RELEVANT TO HELCOM WORK:

SDG 6.3 *By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and*

WATER

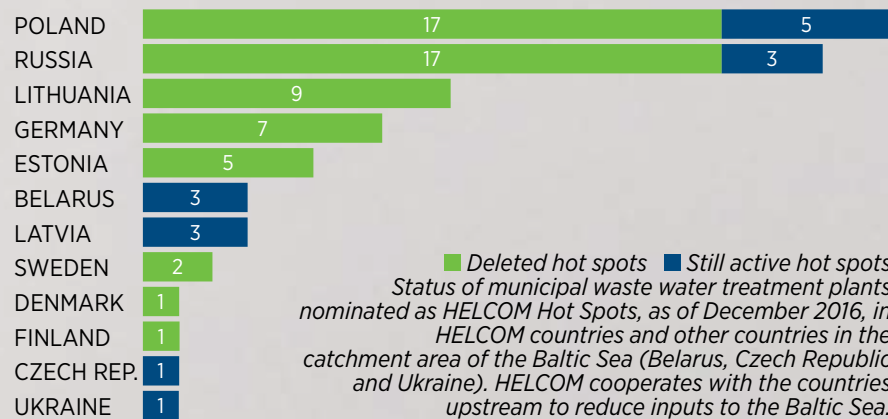
WORK ONGOING TO MEET HELCOM WASTE WATER TREATMENT REQUIREMENTS



■ Implemented ■ Work ongoing ■ Not implemented ■ No information reported
 Status of implementation (by country) of HELCOM requirements for municipal waste water treatment plants by size (person equivalent). Most Baltic Sea countries have implemented or are in the process of implementing the HELCOM discharge requirements (HELCOM Recommendation 28E/5).

OVERVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELCOM BALTIC SEA ACTION PLAN (BSAP), 2013

MOST OF THE WASTE WATER HOT SPOTS UPGRADED



■ Deleted hot spots ■ Still active hot spots
 Status of municipal waste water treatment plants nominated as HELCOM Hot Spots, as of December 2016, in HELCOM countries and other countries in the catchment area of the Baltic Sea (Belarus, Czech Republic and Ukraine). HELCOM cooperates with the countries upstream to reduce inputs to the Baltic Sea.

HELCOM

materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

SDG 6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

SDG 11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

Hazardous substances can cause harmful effects on organisms at the level of molecules, cells, tissues and organs. Reduced fitness, pathological disorders or disturbed reproduction may alter population size and/or structure, as well as community structure, and thus affect whole ecosystems. An assessment of the status of the Baltic Sea in terms of contamination by hazardous substances made in 2010 (using data from 1999-2007), indicated that all open sea areas were disturbed by

hazardous substances. An updated 2017 assessment of the chemical status of the Baltic Sea draws conclusions on how the contamination status has changed.

Another regional assessment is the first region-wide compilation on:

- the use of pharmaceuticals in the coastal countries,
- pathways of pharmaceuticals to the environment,
- concentrations of pharmaceuticals in municipal waste water treatment plant (influent and

effluent as well as sewage sludge), and in river water

- handling of pharmaceutical waste in countries.

The report also identifies data and information gaps, as well as potential measures for reducing inputs of pharmaceuticals into the environment.

Information on trends in air emissions and depositions of heavy metals, benzo(a)pyrene, PCBs, and PCDD/Fs into the Baltic Sea is available in HELCOM Baltic Sea Environment Fact Sheets.

MAIN HELCOM CONTRIBUTION TO:

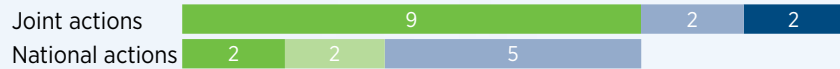
SDG 14.1 *By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution*

ALSO RELEVANT TO HELCOM WORK:

SDG 14.2 *By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans*

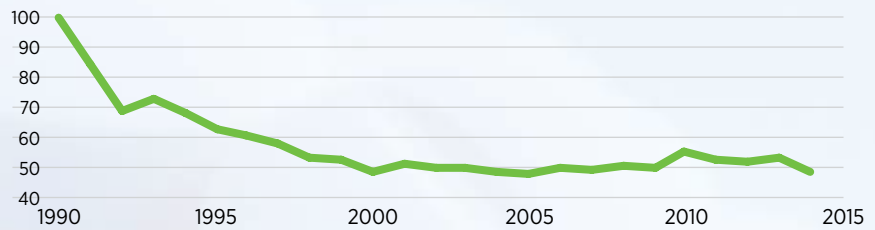
SDG 6.3 *By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally*

70% OF JOINT ACTIONS UNDER HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES ACCOMPLISHED



■ Accomplished ■ On-going ■ Partly accomplished ■ Not accomplished
 Level of accomplishment of 22 agreed HELCOM joint and national actions related to hazardous substances in the Baltic Sea Action Plan and Ministerial Declarations of 2010 and 2013.

AIR EMISSIONS OF BENZO(A)PYRENE DECREASE



Annual air emissions of benzo(a)pyrene (B(a)P) from HELCOM countries (as percent compared to 1990). Benzo(a)pyrene, or B(a)P, is classified as a carcinogen and described as affecting the nervous-, the immune and reproductive systems. The main source of atmospheric BaP is residential wood burning.

AIR EMISSIONS OF DIOXINS AND FURANS HAVE DROPPED BY 40%



Annual air emissions of dioxins and furans from HELCOM countries (as percent compared to 1990). Dioxin emissions – still a major polluting factor in the Baltic Sea region – are caused e.g. by waste incineration, burning fuels (wood, coal or oil), chlorine bleaching of pulp and paper and chlorinated pesticides manufacturing.

HELCOM core indicators provide information on the status of concentrations of the following hazardous substances in the marine environment: heavy metals, HBCDD, PBDE, PFOS, PCB, dioxins, PAH and metabolites, as well as TBT. In addition, information is available on White-tailed eagle productivity, which has been shown to be strongly linked to the effects of persistent chemical pollutants, in particular PCBs.

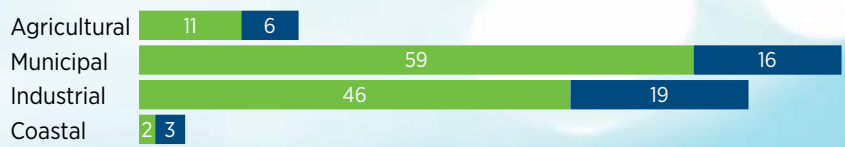
SDG 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

SDG 8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead

SDG 6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

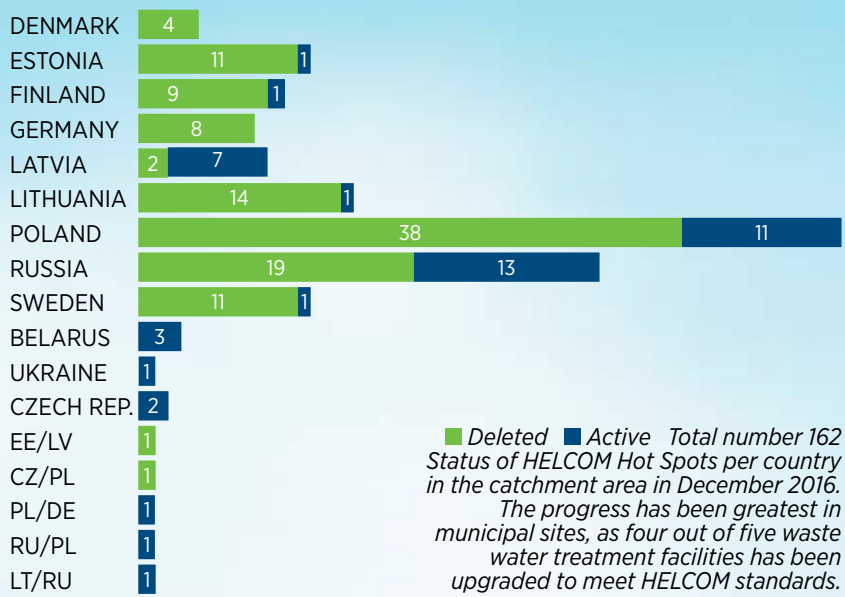
HOT SPOTS

OVER 70 % OF POLLUTION HOT SPOTS DELETED



■ Deleted ■ Active
 Active and deleted HELCOM Hot Spots as of December 2016. The list of significant pollution sites around the Baltic Sea – HELCOM Hot Spots – was established in 1992. Since then, three quarters have been cleaned up.

OVERVIEW OF POLLUTION HOT SPOTS PER COUNTRY



■ Deleted ■ Active Total number 162
 Status of HELCOM Hot Spots per country in the catchment area in December 2016. The progress has been greatest in municipal sites, as four out of five waste water treatment facilities has been upgraded to meet HELCOM standards.

MAIN HELCOM CONTRIBUTION TO:

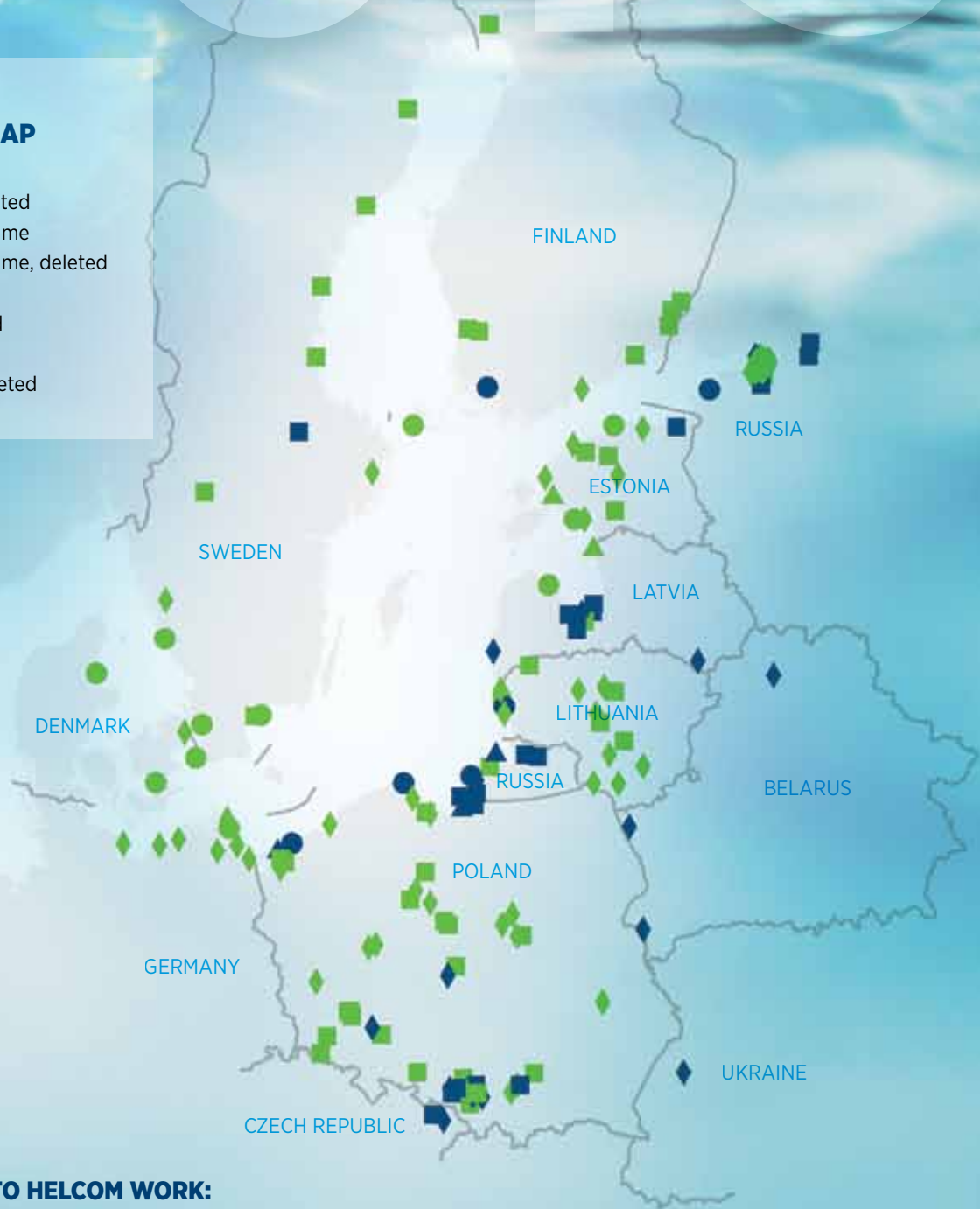
SDG 14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particu-

lar from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

HOT SPOTS

HELCOM HOT SPOTS MAP

- Agriculture
- Agriculture, deleted
- ▲ Coastal programme
- ▲ Coastal programme, deleted
- Industry
- Industry, deleted
- ◆ Municipality
- ◆ Municipality, deleted



ALSO RELEVANT TO HELCOM WORK:

SDG 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and

materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

SDG 6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

MARINE LITTER

Significant amounts of beach litter can be found in the region. Up to 40 tonnes of microplastics – particles <5mm in diameter – are released annually into the Baltic Sea catchment through the use of products like body wash, shower gels, and scrubs.

The HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter was adopted in 2015, an expert network has been established to facilitate its implementation, and a Conference held in 2016 for increasing active stakeholder participation.

There are 27 regional actions listed in the regional plan and most deadlines for completing the tasks have been set for 2016-2018, and will be reported about, for the first time, by 2018. Cooperation with other Regional Seas Conventions has been established to jointly tackle the common problem of marine litter.

MAIN HELCOM CONTRIBUTION TO:

SDG 14.1 *By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution*

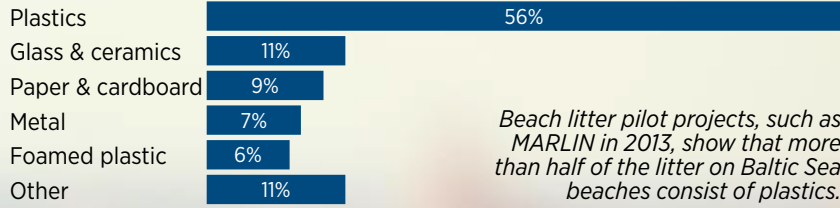
ALSO RELEVANT TO HELCOM WORK:

SDG 8.4 *Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation,*

in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead

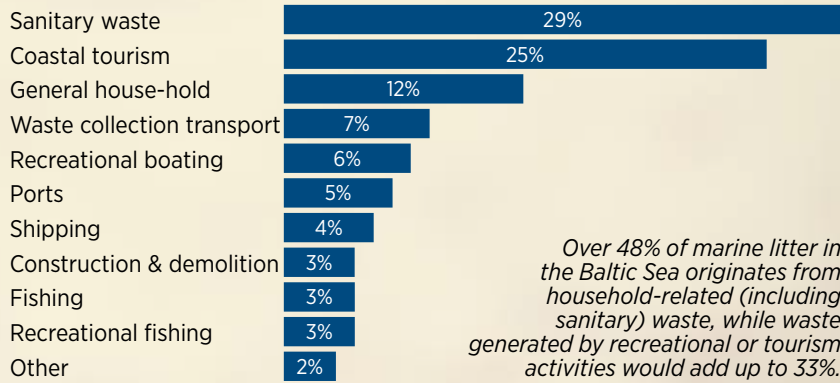
REPORT

BEACH LITTER IN THE BALTIC SEA ESTONIA, FINLAND, LATVIA, SWEDEN



Beach litter pilot projects, such as MARLIN in 2013, show that more than half of the litter on Baltic Sea beaches consist of plastics.

SOURCES OF MARINE LITTER IN THE BALTIC SEA



Over 48% of marine litter in the Baltic Sea originates from household-related (including sanitary) waste, while waste generated by recreational or tourism activities would add up to 33%.

Several HELCOM countries have raised particular concerns about measures for mitigating microlitter in cosmetics as well as the single use of plastic bags, both known as top items of litter in the region. Adoption of mitigation measures will be the next step.



SDG 8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

SDG 12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

SDG 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

BIODIVERS

HELCOM produced comprehensive Red Lists of Baltic Sea species and biotopes in 2013.

The Red List assessments evaluated ca. 1750 species and 210 underwater biotopes in the Baltic Sea according to the IUCN red list criteria. In all, 4% of the

evaluated species were regarded threatened and in danger of becoming extinct in the Baltic Sea. The most critically endangered species include four fish species (European eel, Porbeagle, Spiny dogfish, Grayling), three bird species (Kentish plover, Black-

throated diver, Red-throated diver) and one marine mammal (harbour porpoise).

Of the evaluated biotopes, 8% were regarded threatened, meaning that they are in danger of collapse. Only one biotope, which occurs in deep muddy areas and is dominated by the ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica* - a species that requires oxygenated, saline water for successful reproduction and growth during the first decade of its lifespan), was assessed as critically endangered.



MAIN HELCOM CONTRIBUTION TO:

SDG 14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for

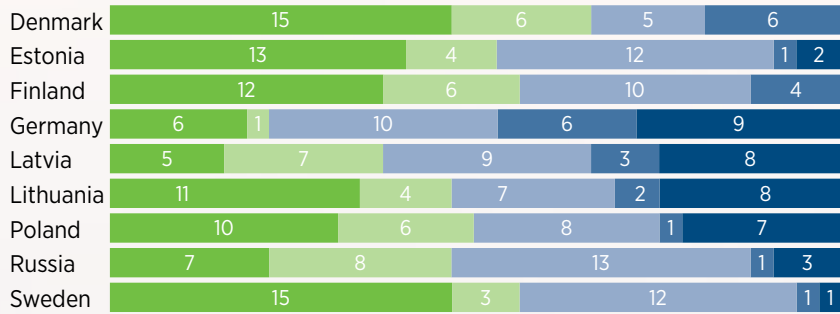
their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

ALSO RELEVANT TO HELCOM WORK:

SDG 14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based

BIODIVERSITY

HOW COUNTRIES PROGRESS IN ACTIONS ON BIODIVERSITY



■ Accomplished ■ On-going ■ Not accomplished ■ Reporting on-going ■ N/A
 Level of accomplishment of agreed HELCOM national actions related to biodiversity indicating overall progress in the Baltic Sea Action Plan and Ministerial Declarations of 2010 and 2013.

Based on the results of the Red Lists, HELCOM countries are working jointly on conservation of Baltic Sea species and biotopes categorized as threatened. To implement relevant conservation measures, a new HELCOM Recommendation for species has been agreed and HELCOM is working on a comparable Recommendation for underwater biotopes, habitats and biotope complexes.

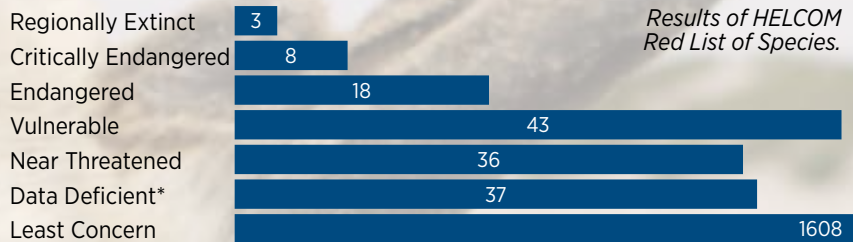
HELCOM is aiming to update the Red List assessment in 2025, which will allow for an evaluation of whether the goal to reduce the number of threatened species and biotopes has been achieved.

NUMBER OF ASSESSED BALTIC SEA BIOTOPES PER CONSERVATION STATUS CATEGORY



Results of HELCOM Red List of Baltic Sea underwater biotopes, habitats and biotope complexes.

NUMBER OF ASSESSED BALTIC SEA SPECIES PER CONSERVATION STATUS CATEGORY



Results of HELCOM Red List of Species.

*NOT CATEGORIZED, DUE TO LACK OF DATA. HELCOM, 2013

management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics

SDG 14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information

SDG 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

UNDERWATER NOISE

Many aquatic animals in the Baltic Sea rely on sound for navigation, finding prey or avoiding predators, and for communication. Noise may disrupt behaviour, increase stress levels, mask important signals and/or reduce the hearing sensitivity either temporarily or permanently in an individual. Effects of noise on individuals have the potential to decrease fitness and could potentially lead to a reduction of the survival of juveniles, thereby affecting a population.

HELCOM has worked on improving knowledge and understanding of sources of underwater noise and their impacts on Baltic Sea species.

The mapping of the underwater soundscape has been done in a systematic way in the Baltic Sea for the first time in 2014 within the BIAS project. In addition, a regional monitoring programme of

ambient noise has been developed with the aim to coordinate monitoring activities among the coastal countries.

A new HELCOM registry of licenced events causing impulsive underwater noise - such as pile driving, controlled explosions from naval operations and other energy-releasing activities - has been established, based on national reporting and together

with OSPAR. The aim of the registry is to evaluate the occurrence of impulsive noise regionally and, in the future, plan to mitigate possible negative effects.

Species in the Baltic Sea have been prioritized according to their sensitivity to anthropogenic noise based on the available knowledge, and the HELCOM list includes harbour porpoise,

MAIN HELCOM CONTRIBUTION TO:

SDG 14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid

significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for

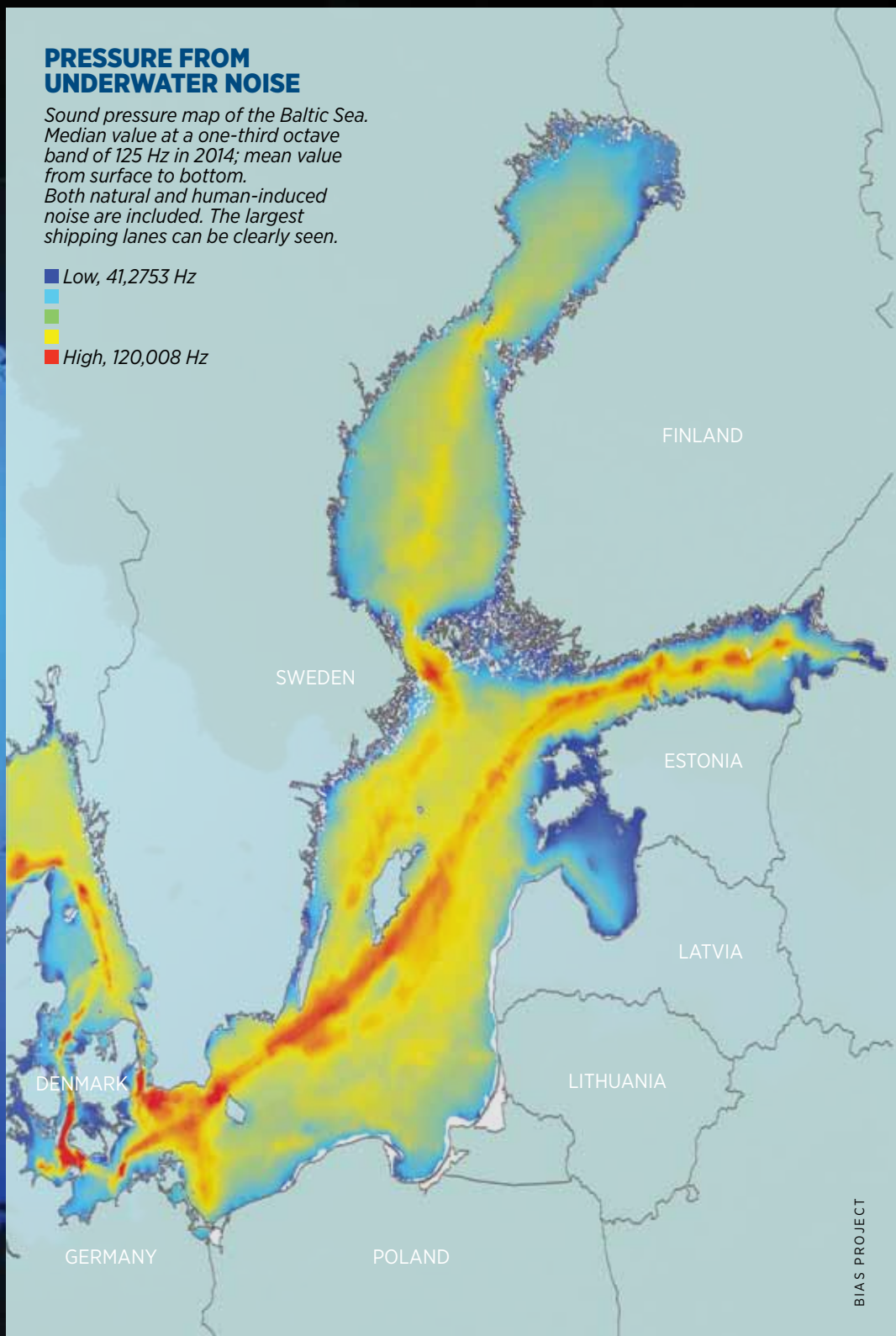
their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans



PRESSURE FROM UNDERWATER NOISE

Sound pressure map of the Baltic Sea. Median value at a one-third octave band of 125 Hz in 2014; mean value from surface to bottom. Both natural and human-induced noise are included. The largest shipping lanes can be clearly seen.

- Low, 41,2753 Hz
- High, 120,008 Hz



harbour seal, Baltic ringed seal, grey seal, cod, herring and sprat. This new knowledge and information provides a basis for Contracting Parties to consider future measures, according to the Regional Baltic Underwater Noise Roadmap 2015-2017 and towards a regional action plan on underwater noise foreseen to be prepared in 2017/2018.

ALSO RELEVANT TO HELCOM WORK:

SDG 14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particu-

lar from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING

Dealing with Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) purely on a national level will not help in reaching the goals of policies related to oceans and seas. Therefore, interaction between countries sharing the same waters is needed.

The Baltic Sea Broad-scale Maritime Spatial Planning Principles (2010) provide a common framework for the Baltic Sea countries to develop their national maritime spatial plans that are coherent across the borders and apply the ecosystem approach. The requirement of coherent plans applying the ecosystem approach is also included in the EU Directive on MSP, applicable to eight out of nine HELCOM countries.

TEN BALTIC MSP PRINCIPLES

1. Sustainable management
2. Ecosystem approach
3. Long term perspective and objectives
4. Precautionary Principle

5. Participation and Transparency
6. High quality data and information basis
7. Transnational coordination and consultation
8. Coherent terrestrial and maritime spatial planning
9. Planning adapted to characteristics and special conditions at different areas
10. Continuous planning

Two sets of joint regional guidelines have been agreed (2015) to further specify how the principles on ecosystem approach and transboundary consultations, public participation and cooperation are to be applied.

HELCOM-VASAB MSP working group is the regional forum for information exchange and implementation follow-up in the Baltic Sea, with focus on a transboundary context. The group is single point of contact for MSP-related projects,

activities and policies including for the Horizontal Action on Maritime Spatial Planning of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

Globally, the role of Regional Seas Conventions as regional cooperation frameworks, information hubs and knowledge holders is yet to be fully utilized in maritime spatial planning. HELCOM-VASAB cooperation pioneers transboundary, sea-basin approach to MSP and offers unique experience to share. Results of HELCOM work on assessment of cumulative impacts of human activities and ecosystem health, social and economic analysis and official and harmonized data of MSP relevance are examples of possible contribution of Regional Seas Conventions to MSP.

In MSP, Regional Sea Conventions can offer:

- expert knowledge of the marine ecosystems and their functioning;

MAIN HELCOM CONTRIBUTION TO:

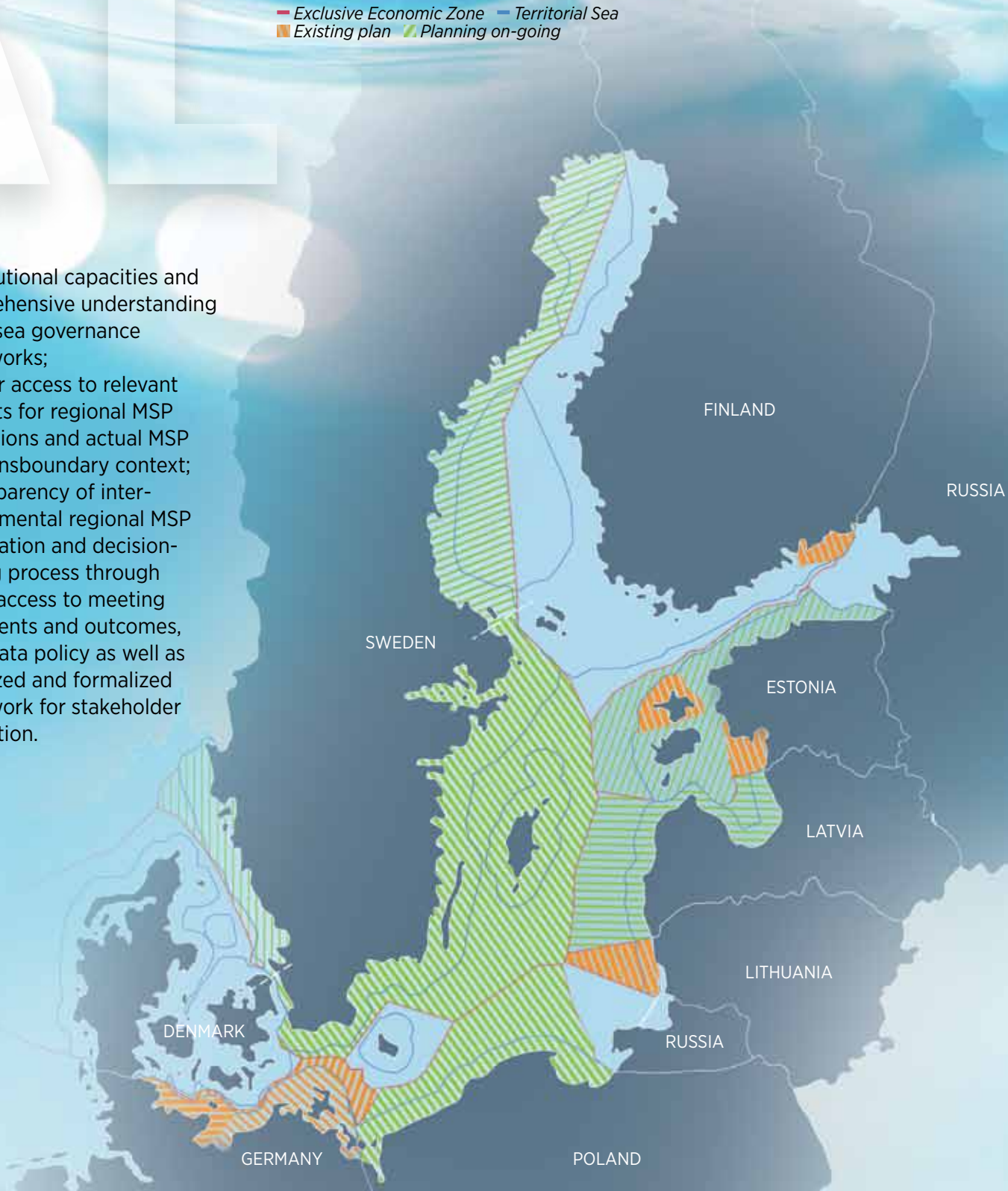
SDG 14.2 *By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans*

STAGES OF MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING

Maritime spatial plans covering the whole maritime territory exist in Germany and Lithuania, and pilot plans exist in Estonia and Finland. Sweden, Latvia, Estonia and Poland are in active phase of planning their whole maritime territory. Comprehensive planning is to start in Finland and Denmark while in Russia preparation of a legal framework is ongoing.

— Exclusive Economic Zone — Territorial Sea
■ Existing plan ■ Planning on-going

- institutional capacities and comprehensive understanding of the sea governance frameworks;
- better access to relevant datasets for regional MSP discussions and actual MSP in a transboundary context;
- transparency of inter-governmental regional MSP cooperation and decision-making process through public access to meeting documents and outcomes, open data policy as well as organized and formalized framework for stakeholder interaction.



FISHERIES

PLAN FOR CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN THE BALTIC SEA

Bridging marine environment and fisheries management has emerged as a key issue for HELCOM. A dedicated forum aiming to attract participation from both fisheries and environmental administrations from the Contracting Parties was established in 2008 and transformed to a formal intergovernmental group in 2014.

These steps followed longer HELCOM experience in including fish in overall scientific assessment work as well as in targeted

issues such as fisheries within marine protected areas, coastal fish communities and protection of salmon/seatrout. Commercial fish stocks as well as other fish are included in the second holistic assessment “State of the Baltic Sea” (2017).

As the most recent step in this field, the HELCOM Contracting Parties agreed in December 2016 to initiate a formal arrangement for closer cooperation between HELCOM and other fisheries related regional bodies, as part of the HELCOM plan on marine environment and fisheries management in the Baltic Sea. This was inspired by the ongoing global processes

and momentum to bring fisheries and marine environment management closer in line with the Ecosystem Approach within Sustainable Ocean Initiative. The initiative supports achieving a number of fisheries related targets of the UN Sustainable Development Goals as well as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Securing cooperation with regional fisheries bodies is a priority of the EU Chairmanship in HELCOM. More specifically, increase in information exchange between HELCOM Fish group, BALTFISH and the EU-Russian fisheries would enable explor-



MAIN HELCOM CONTRIBUTION TO:

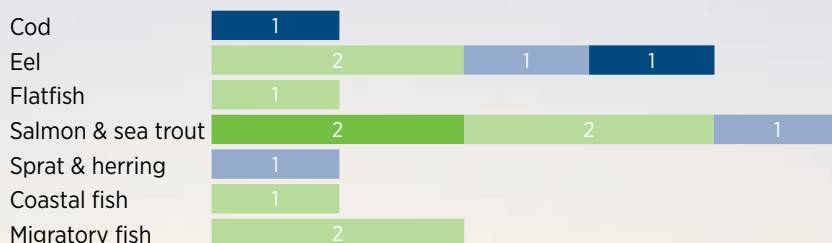
SDG 14.4 *By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the*

shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics

FISHERIES

ing synergies between fisheries related activities taking place within the different bodies in the Baltic Sea. It would also remove uncertainties regarding overlap of activities, for the benefit of national work and would contribute to making the Baltic Sea one of the world's leading regions in integrated management, also in the field of environment and fisheries.

WORK ONGOING FOR A NUMBER OF FISH SPECIES IN THE BALTIC SEA COUNTRIES



■ Accomplished ■ Partly accomplished ■ On-going ■ Future target year
Level of accomplishment of agreed HELCOM national actions by fish/fish type in the Baltic Sea Action Plan and Ministerial Declarations of 2010 and 2013.

HELCOM EXPLORER 2016



ALSO RELEVANT TO HELCOM WORK:

SDG 14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

SDG 14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies,

recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation

PROTECTED AREAS

HELCOM revised in 2014 the HELCOM Recommendation (35/1) related to Baltic Sea coastal and marine protected areas (MPAs) and has since modernised the HELCOM MPA database which was the basis for an updated assessment of ecological coherence of the network of protected areas in the Baltic Sea (2016).

There has been a substantial increase in the areal coverage of MPAs, reaching 11.8% in 2016. The continued work is focused on reaching the target of conserving at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, set by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in all sub-basins of the Baltic Sea, including EEZ. HELCOM Recommendation 35/1 emphasizes e.g. the development and implementation of

management plans for MPAs, as well as assessing the effectiveness of management plans, or other measures, to ensure protection. One of the commitments is to develop and apply management plans, or measures, for all existing HELCOM MPAs by 2015, and to establish a management plan, or measures, for every new MPA within five years after its designation. This work is progressing but has not yet reached the level of implementation agreed in HELCOM; for instance currently only 67% of the HELCOM MPAs have management plans.

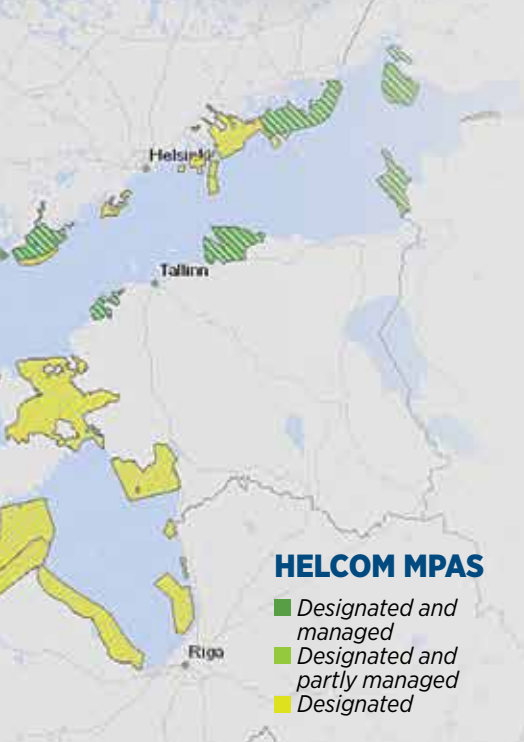
MAIN HELCOM CONTRIBUTION TO:

SDG 14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information

ALSO RELEVANT TO HELCOM WORK:

SDG 14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their

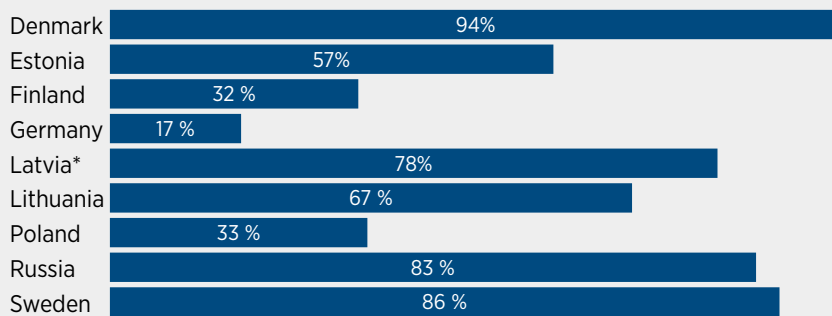
PROTECTED



HELCOM MPAS

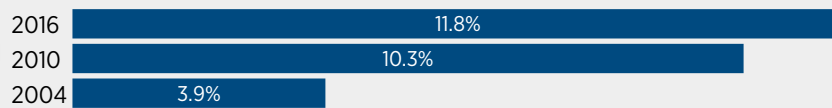
- Designated and managed
- Designated and partly managed
- Designated

MANAGEMENT OF MPAS PER COUNTRY



Percentage of HELCOM MPAs having management plans or measures in place indicating overall progress.

AREAL COVERAGE OF MPAS IN THE BALTIC SEA



COVERAGE OF PROTECTED AREAS

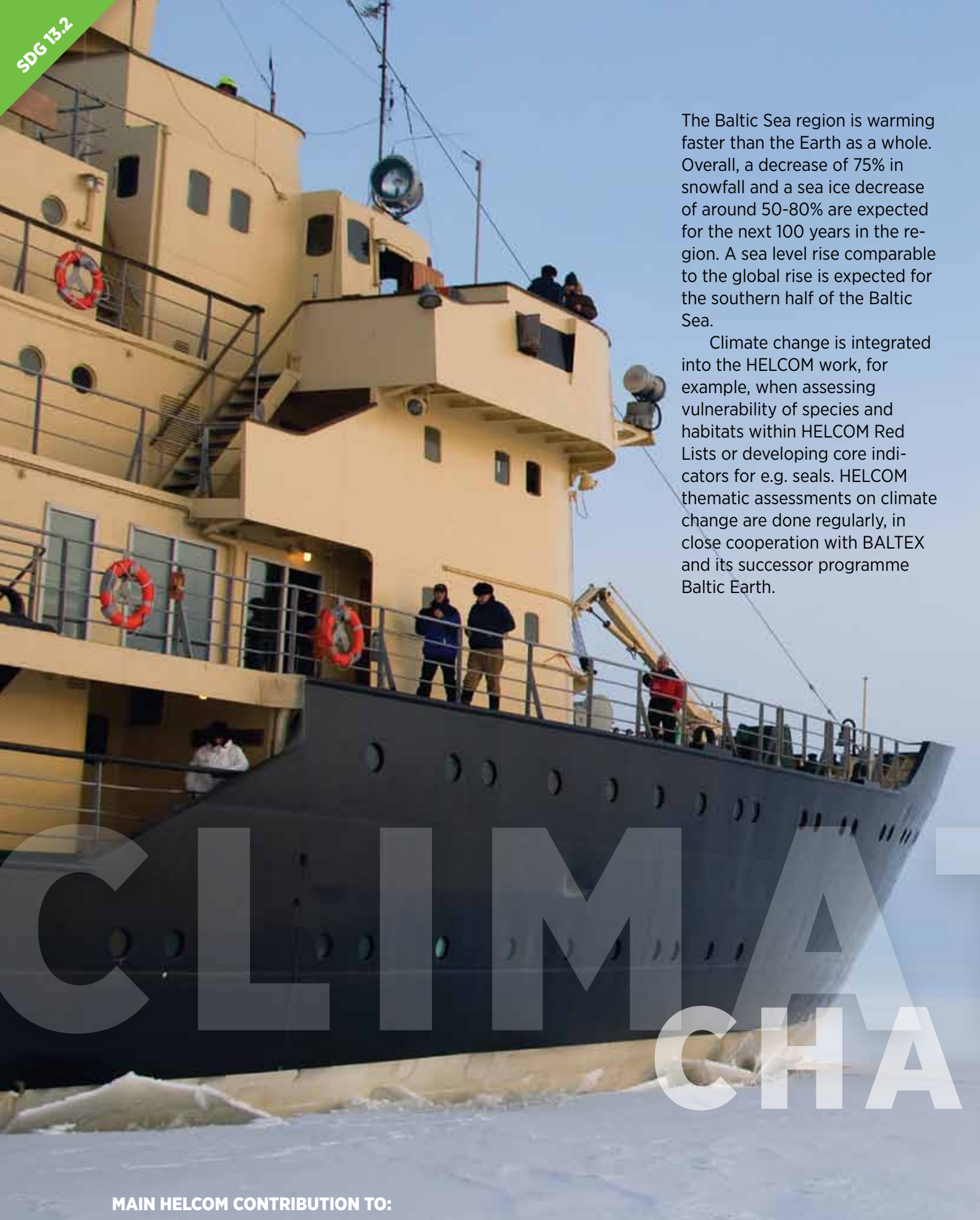
	Number of MPAs	Total area km ²	Marine fraction		Total marine area per country			Size of protected marine area (km ²) and fraction (%) of the national territorial waters (TW), exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and total area					
			km ²	%	TW km ²	EEZ km ²	Total km ²	TW km ²	%	EEZ km ²	%	Total km ²	%
Denmark	66	11,181	10,411	93	32,917	13,074	45,991	7,599	23	1,091	8%	10,411	23
Estonia	7	7,192	6,050	84	25,139	11,830	36,970	5,954	24	43	0%	6,050	16
Finland	33	6,523	6,039	93	53,176	28,660	81,836	3,066	6	83	0%	6,039	7
Germany	12	5,840	5,526	95	10,852	4,505	15,357	2,202	20	2,217	49%	5,526	36
Latvia	7	4,364	4,364	100	12,692	16,125	28,816	4,150	33	214	1%	4,364	15
Lithuania	6	1,393	1,005	72	2,274	4,259	6,534	1,393	61	0	0%	1,005	15
Poland	9	8,052	7,361	91	10,172	19,491	29,663	5,426	53	888	5%	7,361	25
Russia	6	1,435	977	68	16,315	7,373	23,902	894	6	0	0%	977	4
Sweden	28	8,387	7,375	88	83,013	65,272	148,284	3,599	4	2,750	4%	7,375	5
Total	174	54,367	49,107	90.3	246,550	170,589	417,352	34,283	14%	7,286	4%	49,107	11.8

Coverage of the HELCOM MPA network in 2016. The data is based on HELCOM MPA shapefiles from March 2016.

restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

SDG 14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based

management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics



The Baltic Sea region is warming faster than the Earth as a whole. Overall, a decrease of 75% in snowfall and a sea ice decrease of around 50-80% are expected for the next 100 years in the region. A sea level rise comparable to the global rise is expected for the southern half of the Baltic Sea.

Climate change is integrated into the HELCOM work, for example, when assessing vulnerability of species and habitats within HELCOM Red Lists or developing core indicators for e.g. seals. HELCOM thematic assessments on climate change are done regularly, in close cooperation with BALTEX and its successor programme Baltic Earth.

MAIN HELCOM CONTRIBUTION TO:

SDG 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

Adaptation to climate change is a central question for HELCOM. Possible actions to mitigate climate change impacts:

- Overall decrease of pressures from human activities
- Include impacts of climate change in HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme and measures
- Establish ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas to ensure a safe space for species and habitats
- Minimize the risk of introduction of alien species, e.g. implement the Ballast Water Management Convention
- Better prepare for the increasing risks of flooding, strong storms and associated sea level rise and coastal erosion
- Increase knowledge of the climate change and its impacts in the Baltic Sea, including acidification

**BALTIC SEA
MAXIMUM
ICE COVER
1960-1969**



**BALTIC SEA
MAXIMUM
ICE COVER
2005-2009**



CHALLENGE

SDG 14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships are a horizontal element and they penetrate all HELCOM work, as it simply would not function without good regional – as well as global – cooperation among partners.

While the particularities of the environment, surrounding countries and their contexts vary significantly between the regions around our globe, the work of the separate Regional Seas Conventions also shares many features.

HELCOM is one of 18 Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans in the world, the majority of which are established within the framework of the United Nations Environment Programme. HELCOM and a few UN Environment processes have close links, such as developing regional indicators on the marine environment as well as cooperation with regional fisheries management organizations and on marine litter.

Quite concrete inter-regional, ongoing cooperation with our neighbour Convention, OSPAR of the North-East Atlantic, covers sea birds, indicators, underwater noise, ballast water, and establishing simultaneously special areas regulating ships' exhaustion gases (Baltic and North Seas NECAs).

For HELCOM, the broad involvement of stakeholders of course also incorporates observer organizations, representing non-governmental organizations, financial institutions and interest groups, and the users of the marine waters. Nowadays, major cross-sectoral partnerships in HELCOM are on green shipping, Maritime Spatial Planning, sustainable fisheries and sustainable agriculture.

MAIN HELCOM CONTRIBUTION TO:

SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

HELCOM OBSERVERS

TO BECOME AN OBSERVER, THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION MUST BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF HELCOM.

GOVERNMENTS GOVERNMENT OF BELARUS • GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS (UNEP/AEWA)

AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF SMALL CETACEANS OF THE BALTIC, NORTH EAST ATLANTIC, IRISH AND NORTH SEAS (ASCOBANS)

COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES (CBSS) EXPERT GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - BALTIC 2030

BALTIC PILOTAGE AUTHORITIES COMMISSION (BPAC)

BALTIC SEA PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE (BSPC)

BLACK SEA COMMISSION

BONN AGREEMENT

GREAT LAKES COMMISSION

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (IOC) OF UNESCO

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE EXPLORATION OF THE SEA (ICES)

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)

OSPAR COMMISSION

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (UNECE)

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE (WHO/EURO)

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO)

INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

BALTIC FARMERS FORUM ON ENVIRONMENT (BFFE)

BALTIC OPERATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC SYSTEM (BOOS)

BALTIC PORTS ORGANIZATION (BPO)

BALTIC SEA ADVISORY COUNCIL (BSAC)

BALTIC SEA FORUM (BSF)

BALTIC SEA STATES SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION (BSSSC)

BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL

BONUS BALTIC ORGANISATIONS NETWORK FOR FUNDING SCIENCE EEIG

COALITION CLEAN BALTIC (CCB)

COASTAL AND MARINE UNION (EUCC)

CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS OF EUROPE (CPMR) - BALTIC SEA COMMISSION

CRUISE LINES INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION EUROPE (CLIA EUROPE)

EUROPEAN ANGLERS ALLIANCE (EAA)

EUROPEAN BOATING ASSOCIATION (EBA)

EUROPEAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY COUNCIL (CEFIC)

EUROPEAN CHLOR-ALKALI INDUSTRY (EURO-CHLOR)

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY SHIPOWNERS' ASSOCIATION (ECSA)

EUROPEAN DREDGING ASSOCIATION (EUDA)

EUROPEAN NETWORK OF FRESHWATER RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS (EURAQUA)

FERTILIZERS EUROPE

EUROPEAN SEA PORTS ORGANIZATION (ESPO)

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES (EUREAU)

FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN AQUACULTURE PRODUCERS (FEAP)

FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN PRIVATE PORT OPERATORS (FEPORT)

GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

INTERFERRY

INTERTANKO

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OIL & GAS PRODUCERS (OGP)

INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING (ICS)

INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON UNDERWATER MUNITIONS (IDUM)

JOHN NURMINEN FOUNDATION (JNF)

LOCAL AUTHORITIES INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANISATION (KIMO INTERNATIONAL)

MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (MSC)

NORDIC HUNTERS' ALLIANCE (NHA)

OCEANA

PLASTICEUROPE

SEA ALARM FOUNDATION

UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES (UBC)

WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE (WWF INTERNATIONAL)

SDG TARGET(S)

PLANNED SDG INDICATOR(S)

AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGET

HELCOM REGIONAL TARGET

HELCOM INDICATORS

- Baltic Sea Action Plan
- Ministerial Declarations 2010 & 2013

2.4. By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

2.4.1. Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture

4. By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.

14. By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

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 (MM2013)

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 management, especially manure nutrient recycling, including calculation of nutrient surplus in fertilization practices, and nutrient accounting at the farm level (MM 2013)

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 (...) and with an aim to apply it region-wide, as a first step, in areas critical to nutrient losses (MM2013)

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 (MM2013)

13(N). AGREE to enhance the recycling of phosphorus (especially in agriculture and waste water treatment) and to promote development of appropriate methodology (MM2013)

HELCOM Recommendation 37/3 on sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea Region (adopted by HELCOM 37-2016)
See also HELCOM target under SDG target 14.1

Status of implementation of the provisions of part II of Annex III "Prevention of Pollution from Agriculture" of the Helsinki Convention (as reported in the HELCOM Explorer)

3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

- 3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution
- 3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe WASH services)
- 3.9.3 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning

Designation of the Baltic Sea as a NO_x Emission Control area under Annex VI of MARPOL (MM2010)
 Examples of relevant HELCOM Recommendations:
 - 28E-8, Environmentally friendly practices for the reduction and prevention of emissions of dioxins and other hazardous substances from small-scale combustion
 - 29-1, Reduction of emissions from crematoria
 - 31E-3, Cadmium in fertilizers
 - 31E-4, Proper handling of waste/landfilling
 - 36-2, Management of dredged material.
 See also HELCOM target under [SDG target 14.1](#)

6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

- 6.3.1. Proportion of wastewater safely treated
- 6.3.2. Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality

8. By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.

HELCOM Recommendation 28E/5 on more stringent requirements for P removal from municipal wastewater treatment plants (above 10,000 p.e.) and introduction of cities requirements for small- and medium-sized municipalities (300 - 10,000 p.e.)
 HELCOM Recommendation 28/E6 on improvement of on-site wastewater treatment of single-family homes, small business and settlements up to 300 p.e.

Examples of other relevant HELCOM recommendations:

- 31E/1 on implementing HELCOM's objective for hazardous substances
- 31E/2 on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators containing mercury, cadmium or lead
- 31E/3 Cadmium in fertilizers
- 31E/4 Proper handling of waste/landfilling

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 (MM2013)
 See also HELCOM target under [SDG target 6.5, 8.9, 11.6 and 14.1](#)

6.5. By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

- 6.5.1. Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100)
- 6.5.2. Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation

11. By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

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; (MM2013)
 See also HELCOM target under [SDG target 6.3, 11.6 and 14.1](#)

Proportion of wastewater treated according to the requirements of HELCOM Recommendation 28E/5 on municipal wastewater treatment.

Proportion of transboundary rivers catchment areas with operational agreements on coordination of river management plans.

SDG TARGET(S)

8.4. Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead

8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities

11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

PLANNED SDG INDICATOR(S)

8.4.1. Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP

8.4.2. Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP

8.9.2 Number of jobs in tourism industries as a proportion of total jobs and growth rate of jobs, by sex

9.4.1 CO₂ emission per unit of value added

11.6.1 Percentage of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge with regard to the total waste generated by the city

11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) in cities (population weighted)

AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGET

4. By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

HELCOM REGIONAL TARGET

HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (Recommendation 36/1), in particular actions RL5, RL6, RL9, RL10, RL11

13 (M). 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; (MM2013)

HELCOM Recommendation 38/1 on sewage sludge handling
See also HELCOM target under SDG target 12.2, 12.5 and 14.1

HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (Recommendation 36/1)
See also HELCOM target under SDG target 8.4, 12.2, 12.5 and 14.1

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
See also HELCOM target under SDG target 3.9 and 14.1

HELCOM Recommendation 28E/5 on more stringent requirements for P removal from municipal wastewater treatment plants (above 10,000 p.e.) and introduction of requirements for small- and medium-sized municipalities (300 - 10,000 p.e.) HELCOM Recommendation 28/E6 on improvement of on-site wastewater treatment of single-family homes, small business and settlements up to 300 p.e.
See also HELCOM target under SDG target 6.3, 6.5, 8.9 and 14.1

HELCOM INDICATORS

Trend in annual emissions from ships (NO_x, CO₂, SO_x);

Proportion (number of) (sizeable) ships in the Baltic Sea using alternative fuels

See HELCOM indicator under SDG 6.3

12.2. By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

12.2.1. Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP

4. By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

See HELCOM target under SDG 8.4

12.2.2 Domestic material consumption (DMC) and DMC per capita, per GDP

12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement

12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita, proportion of hazardous waste treated and by type of treatment

Achieve a Baltic Sea with life undisturbed by hazardous substances (BSAP 2007)

Indicators on hazardous substances (see 14.2)
See also SDG targets 6.3, 6.5, 8.4 and 14.1

12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled

HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter - Recommendation 36/1, in particular action RL 11.
See also HELCOM target under SDG target 8.4, 8.9, 12.2 and 14.1

13.2. Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

13.2.1. Number of countries that have communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy/strategy/plan which increases their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production (including a national adaptation plan, nationally determined contribution, national communication, biennial update report or other)

10. By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

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 (MM2013)

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; (MM2013)
See also HELCOM target under SDG target 14.3 and other targets

SDG TARGET(S)

14.1. By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

PLANNED SDG INDICATOR(S)

14.1.1. Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density

AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGET

8. By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.

HELCOM REGIONAL TARGET

INPUTS OF NUTRIENTS

In order to diminish nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea to the maximum allowable level, WE AGREE to take actions not later than 2016 to reduce nutrient load from waterborne and airborne inputs aiming at reaching good ecological and environmental status by 2021 (BSAP2007)

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 (MM2013)

HELCOM Maximum Allowable Level of Inputs of nitrogen and phosphorus to individual sub-basins of the Baltic Sea (MM2010)

WE AGREE that the following revised Country Allocated Reduction targets (CART) (for P and N), covering both pollution from land and airborne, substitute the provisional country-wise nutrient reduction requirements of the Baltic Sea Action Plan Country Allocated Reduction targets (CARTs) (MM2010)

INPUTS OF MARINE LITTER

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 (MM2010)
See also HELCOM target under SDG target 8.4, 8.9, 12.2 and 12.5

POLLUTION HOT SPOTS

18 (N). 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.

INPUTS OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES:

Achieve a good environmental status of the Baltic Sea unaffected by hazardous substances by 2021 (BSAP 2007)
See also HELCOM target under SDG target 6.3, 6.5, 8.4 and 12.4

HELCOM INDICATORS

NUTRIENTS

Status of eutrophication
(assessed using five indicators: chlorophyll-a, nitrogen/DIN, phosphorus/DIP, water clarity, oxygen debt)

Progress in achieving Maximum Allowable Level of inputs of nutrients (N and P) in individual sub-basins of the Baltic Sea

Progress in reaching the Country-allocated Reduction Targets (N and P) by the individual HELCOM countries

MARINE LITTER

Indicator on beach litter
(indicators on litter on the sea-floor and micro litter in the water column are under development)

Status of implementation of the HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter

POLLUTION HOT SPOTS

Progress of individual countries in removal of hot spots from the HELCOM List

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES:

Status of hazardous substances (assessed using e.g. Hexa-bromocyclododecane (HBCDD), Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), Radioactive substances, White-tailed eagle productivity)

14.2. By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.

14.2.1. Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches.

5. By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.

6. By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.

14. By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

15. By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.

Achieve a good environmental status of the Baltic Sea by 2021:

- unaffected by eutrophication
- with a favourable conservation status of Baltic Sea biodiversity
- with life undisturbed by hazardous substances
- with maritime activities carried out in an environmentally friendly way (BSAP 2007)

4B) WE DECIDE

- to 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
- to 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:

- 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
- to 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 (MM2013)

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;

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; (MM2013)

Proportion of sea areas in a good environmental status (based on the integrated assessment of status of open sea and coastal areas with regard to eutrophication, hazardous substances and biodiversity, utilizing HELCOM quantitative core indicators).

Status of biodiversity (assessed using e.g. key coastal fish species and waterbirds in the breeding and wintering season, seal abundance and distribution)

Number of threatened species, habitats and biotopes in the Baltic Sea as baseline, the evaluation will be based on the outcome of the next HELCOM Red list assessments.

Indicator on harbour porpoise distribution and abundance is under development

Status of implementation of individual commitments in the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (HELCOM Explorer)

**SDG
TARGET(S)**

**PLANNED SDG
INDICATOR(S)**

**AICHI BIODI-
VERSITY TARGET**

**HELCOM
REGIONAL TARGET**

**HELCOM
INDICATORS**

HELCOM Recommendations:

- 37/2 on conservation of Baltic sea species categorized as threatened according to the 2013 HELCOM Red List
- 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”
- 27-28-2 Conservation of seals in the Baltic Sea Area
- 17-2 Protection of Harbour Porpoise in the Baltic Sea Area

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 (MM2013)

MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING

WE AGREE to jointly develop by 2010, as well as test, apply and evaluate by 2012, broad-scale, cross-sectorial, marine spatial planning principles based on the Ecosystem Approach (HELCOM Recommendation 28/9) (BSAP 2007)

2 (MSP) AGREE to draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea by 2020 which are coherent across borders and apply the ecosystem approach (MM2013) (...) 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 (MM2013)

HELCOM Recommendation 24/10 “Implementation of integrated marine and coastal management of human activities in the Baltic Sea area (2003)

See also HELCOM target under SDG target 6.3, 6.5, 8.4, 8.9, 12.4 and 14.1

UNDERWATER NOISE

Indicators on anthropogenic continuous and impulsive sounds are under development

MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING

Number of countries having maritime spatial plans coherent across borders and applying the ecosystem approach

14.3. Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels

4.3.1. Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations

10. By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

See also HELCOM target under SDG target 13.2

Re. 12 (B) the evaluation will be based on indicators developed by ICES for assessment "State of the Baltic Sea"

14.4. By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.

14.4.1. Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels

6. By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.

7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.

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; (MM 2013)

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; (MM 2013)

19 (B). 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, 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 [of a number of activities], by 2015 and onwards, in co-operation with ICES.

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 (MM2013)

See also HELCOM target under SDG target 14.1, 14.2 and 14.6

HELCOM core indicator on number of drowned mammals and waterbirds in fishing gear (data to operationalize the indicator is lacking)

SDG TARGET(S)

14.5. By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information

PLANNED SDG INDICATOR(S)

14.5.1. Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas

AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGET

11. By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

HELCOM REGIONAL TARGET

WE AGREE

- to secure the establishment of a network of BSPAs that fulfils the criteria of ecological coherence (representativeness, replication, adequacy and connectivity) and thereby contributes to the protection of the entire ecosystem;
- that where appropriate, the Contracting States identify additional BSPAs at the latest by the end of 2011 (...) and to designate the identified sites finally at HELCOM HABITAT 14/2012;
- in doing so, to focus on:
 - a) the needs for providing protection to species and habitats identified in HELCOM as being threatened or declining, and for the EU Member States taking into account the obligations stemming from the Birds and Habitats Directives and their Annexes as well as the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, and especially;
 - b) including off-shore areas also in the Exclusive Economic Zone with the aim that BSPAs not only cover a total of at least 10% of the Baltic Sea Area as a whole, but also when scientifically justified, at least 10% of all its sub-basins, following the COP 7 10%-decisions;
- to develop and apply by 2015, management plans and/or measures for already existing BSPAs; and
- that every new BSPA designation should within five years be followed by the establishment of a management plan and/or measures (MM2010)

HELCOM Recommendations:

- 35/1 on system of coastal and marine Baltic Sea protected areas
 - 28E/9 Baltic Sea Broad-scale maritime spatial planning principles
- 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: (MM2013)
- See also HELCOM target under SDG target 14.1 and 14.2

14.6. By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing

14.6.1. Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

3. By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed

HELCOM INDICATORS

Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas, including in individual sub-basins of the Baltic Sea and EEZ
Percentage of HELCOM MPAs having management plans or measures in place

that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation

and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.

6. By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.

14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of "The future we want"

14.c.1 Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting and implementing through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in UNCLOS, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources

WE AGREE that all HELCOM Contracting States shall by 2008-2009 ratify the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships (BSAP 2007) (Accomplished)

WE AGREE that all Contracting Parties will ratify MARPOL Annex VI not later than 1 January 2010 (BSAP 2007) (Accomplished)

WE AGREE on the goal of ratification of the IMO Ballast Water Management Convention by the HELCOM Contracting States preferably by 2010, but in all cases not later than 2013 (BSAP 2007)

RECOMMENDS the Governments of the Contracting States, who have not yet done so, to ratify as soon as possible:

- the 2003 Protocol establishing the International Oil Pollution Compensation Supplementary Fund (Fund Protocol 2003);
- the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage 2002 (Bunker Oil Convention);
- the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea, 1996 (HNS Convention) and its Protocol;
- the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims (LLMC Protocol 96);
- the Nairobi Convention on Removal of Wrecks, 2007; and to denunciate the International Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims 1976 (LLMC 76) (HELCOM Recommendation 31E/5)

SDG TARGET(S)

17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

17.16 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries

PLANNED SDG INDICATOR(S)

17.14.1 Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development

17.16.1 Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the sustainable development goals

17.17.1 Amount of United States dollars committed to public-private and civil society partnerships

AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGET

WE EMPHASIZE

- the need for close cooperation with other regional marine organisations/commissions, sharing best practices and, where appropriate, aiming at harmonising decisions; (MM2010)

We AGREE

- for those Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention being also parties to the other Regional Seas Conventions to further strengthen the co-operation with those commissions; in particular, with a view to achieve our common goals of a healthy marine environment. (MM2010)

1. WE DECIDE to continue to strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation in the fields of maritime traffic, maritime spatial planning, integrated coastal management, agriculture and fisheries

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; (MM2013)

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.

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; (MM2013)

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; (MM2013)

HELCOM REGIONAL TARGET

HELCOM INDICATORS



The Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission, usually referred to as HELCOM, is an intergovernmental organization of the nine Baltic Sea coastal countries and the European Union working to protect the marine environment of the Baltic Sea from all sources of pollution and to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources.

Since 1974, HELCOM has been the governing body of the 'Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area', more commonly known as the Helsinki Convention.



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MEASURING PROGRESS FOR THE SAME TARGETS IN THE BALTIC SEA

ALIGNING **UN** SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS WITH
HELCOM REGIONAL TARGETS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

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