



THE BALTIC SEA BETWEEN BLUE GROWTH AND GREEN LIMITS

The HELCOM Youth Forum 2012 Proceedings

Hosts

Baltic Sea Forum e.V.

As a non-governmental organisation supported by a network of representatives from economy, politics and culture, the BSF is a strategic partner of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS). The BSF has observer status at the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC), the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) and consultative status at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN. Further, the BSF is involved in several third party funded projects such as 'Clean Baltic Sea Shipping', 'Amber Coast Logistic' or 'InnoShip'.



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The Department Maritime Systems unites researchers from various academic fields such as biology, oceanography, engineering, agricultural studies, economic and social sciences as well as humanities. Together they develop interdisciplinary scenarios and strategies for the protection and sustainable use of marine and coastal spaces.



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The HELCOM Youth Forum 2012

In December 2012 students, young scientists and experts representing research, politics and public administration from around the Baltic Sea Region met in the Hanseatic City of Rostock to join the HELCOM Youth Forum 2012.

They discussed current issues of the protection of the highly sensitive Baltic Sea ecosystem and prospects of the sustainable use of its marine resources.

In workshops and plenary sessions they worked on recommendations which were finally adopted in the resolution "The Baltic Sea between Blue Growth and Green Limits".

The resolution will be forwarded to the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2013 in Copenhagen.

CONTENTS

I.	Foreword	4
II.	Welcome from the hosts and chair	5
III.	Minutes	6
IV.	Agenda	11
V.	HELCOM Youth Forum Resolution 2012	12
VI.	Participants	14
VII.	Preview: HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2013 in Copenhagen	15
VIII.	Impressions	16
IX.	Promoting the HELCOM Youth Forum 2012	19
X.	Beyond the HELCOM Youth Forum 2012	20
XI.	Acknowledgements	22

FOREWORD



Monika Stankiewicz

Executive Secretary
HELCOM

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I had the pleasure to take part in the HELCOM Youth Forum in Rostock with over 30 bright young people. As an intergovernmental organisation working on the policy level with vast scientific networks, HELCOM appreciates close contacts with young academics, future decision-makers of our region.

For decades HELCOM has worked to improve the environmental status of the Baltic Sea, building a bridge between science and policy makers. The signatories of the Helsinki Convention – nine countries and the European Union – share the deep concern for the future of our common sea and the will to decide and act together.

The timing of the Youth Forum was excellent: in October 2013 the Ministers of the HELCOM Countries and the EU Commissioner will meet in Copenhagen to take stock of the situation six years after the initiation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan. They will review how the Baltic Sea ecosystem is doing and consider whether we are on the right track towards reaching a good environmental status. The resolution adopted by the Forum provides valuable contribution to this process.



Heike Imhoff

Head of Dept. Marine Environmental
Protection, Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation and
Nuclear Safety

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Being one of the riparian states, the Federal Republic of Germany shares a common vision with all other countries bordering the Baltic Sea: a clean and healthy sea, being in a good environmental status.

During the last 20 years the Baltic Sea Region has undergone enormous and rapid changes, not at least with regard to a coherent marine environment policy approach. The particular Baltic Sea region 'identity' has facilitated strong and efficient cooperation amongst States in the framework of HELCOM, being a pioneer in this process.

Since the Federal Government of Germany strongly promotes and supports the regional approach of marine protection policy as the starting point for further European or even global developments, it was an honour to participate in the HELCOM Youth Forum 2012. Who if not 'the youth around the Baltic' should successfully pick up the basic idea of regional cooperation? The HELCOM Youth Forum is an excellent example for handing over an idea, maybe even a kind of 'virus', to the coming generation and putting into practice what policy calls an "integrated approach".

WELCOME FROM THE HOSTS AND CHAIR

The Baltic Sea Forum encourages young people to see the Baltic Sea as a part of their own identity. This way we work for an even deeper integration within the Baltic Sea Region. Events like the HELCOM Youth Forum help to share the sense of responsibility to protect the Baltic Sea and its long beautiful coasts. Thus, we welcome students with a high commitment for a clean and thriving marine environment. We see the HELCOM Youth Forum as important component of a professional training including the development of social and emotional competences and the strengthening of an ecological mindset. I am most grateful for the financial support of the HYF2012 by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation & Nuclear Safety and the Federal Environment Agency.



Kurt Bodewig

Chairman of the Board Baltic Sea Forum e.V., Federal Minister (ret.)

© K. Bodewig

The Helcom Youth Forum is an excellent opportunity for young people from the Baltic Sea region to share their ideas towards the future development of their native region. Being from different countries and having different scientific backgrounds such as natural sciences, engineering or social sciences, the students at the forum have the experiential possibility to enter in an dialogue with each other and to learn that interdisciplinary thinking and working is a prerequisite for sustainable management and smart utilization of the Baltic Sea region.



Prof. Gerhard Graf

Head of Dept. Maritime Systems,
Faculty of Interdisciplinary Research,
University of Rostock

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For three decades I have taken part in the work of the Helsinki Commission, twice by chairing the Commission for a two years period. The protection of the Baltic Sea is a core issue of my scientific and academic activities, either. So I initiated and was in charge of the first HELCOM Youth Forum in Helsinki in 2004 with the aim to address young students for shaping the Baltic Sea of tomorrow. Again I chaired both the two following youth fora which were organised by the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and the Baltic Sea Forum. I am very pleased having also conducted the fourth HELCOM Youth Forum jointly with the Baltic Sea Forum being a member of its Board of Trustees. When discussing at the forum the subjects of maritime governance and cooperation, maritime technology and innovation, sustainable use and the Baltic ecosystem the students showed great creativity, accompanied by a richness of ideas which were extremely inspirational. It is my sincere hope that their wishes and visions will be met with interest and will contribute to the conservation of the marine environment by balancing the protection and the use of the Baltic Sea.



Prof. Peter Ehlers

Member of the Board of Trustees
Baltic Sea Forum e.V.
President of the Federal Maritime and
Hydrographic Agency (ret.)

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MINUTES



Brainstorming session during the World Café

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What is a World Café?

World Café is a creative process for facilitating collaborative dialogue and the sharing of knowledge and ideas. A café ambience is created, in which participants discuss a question or issue in small groups around café tables. At regular intervals the participants move to a new table. One table host remains and summarises the previous conversation to the new table guests. Thus the proceeding conversations are cross-fertilised with the ideas generated in former conversation with other participants. At the end the main ideas are summarised in a plenary session.

N. Slocum, 2005: Participatory Methods Toolkit: A practitioner's manual

Monday, 10 December 2012

Welcome, world café and guided tour through the old-town

Registration, the first get-together and the opening of the Helcom Youth Forum 2012 took place in cosy atmosphere in the Café Europa. After short welcome addresses from the hosts Kurt Bodewig, former Federal Minister and current chairman of the board Baltic Sea Forum e.V. and Prof. Gerhard Graf, Head of Department Maritime Systems (University of Rostock), the participants were invited by moderator Uwe Weissflog to take part in a brainstorming session about Baltic Sea issues using the World Café method. World Café is a creative process for facilitating collaborative dialogue and the sharing of knowledge and ideas in regularly regrouping small groups around café tables (see Box). After three hours of discussion, the main ideas were summarised in a plenary session. In this way the participants had the chance to express their expectations about the upcoming forum days.

Main findings of the HYF2012 World Café included a commonly shared concern about the environmental status of the Baltic Sea, raised awareness regarding the diversity of perspectives on different issues i.e. new maritime technologies, use of marine resources, policy formulation and the importance for interdisciplinary cooperation and further, raised interest to get involved in environmental policy issues more frequently.



The town hall of the Hanseatic City of Rostock

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After the World Café session the participants were invited to meet the Mayor of the Hanseatic City of Rostock, Roland Methling. In the town hall the Mayor welcomed the HYF2012 participants and presented facts and figures about Rostock being a green baltic metropolis. The HYF2012 participants were especially interested in topics related to green harbour development or town twinning and possibilities of co-operation between Baltic Sea Region cities to exchange best practices.

Finally, the first day of the HELCOM Youth Forum 2012 was completed with a guided tour across Rostocks old town led by a traditional medieval night watch man.

Tuesday, 11 December 2012

Key note lectures, working groups and joint dinner

The second day of the HELCOM Youth Forum 2012 was designated to the HELCOM Key Note Lectures and discussions in specific working groups in terms of preparing the HELCOM Youth Forum 2012 Resolution. **Prof. Peter Ehlers**, member of the BSF e.V. advisory board and former president of the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency in Germany, led through the programme of this and the following day. He not only moderated the event but gave valuable and profound insight into the processes of negotiating in the field of maritime and environmental policy.

Lectures

The lecture series was opened by Monika Stankiewicz (Executive Secretary HELCOM) and Heike Imhoff (Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety). The following presentations on *"Sustainable use of the Baltic Sea Ecosystem"* (Prof. Heide Schulz-Vogt, Head of Department Biological Oceanography; Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemuende), *"Maritime Technologies and Innovation"* (Prof. Mathias Paschen, Chair of Ocean Engineering, University of Rostock) and *"Governance and Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region"* (Jan Lundin, Director General, Council of the Baltic Sea States) outlined the different perspectives on the development and challenges concerning the governance and use of the Baltic Sea space.

Monika Stankiewicz pointed out that the HELCOM is known for building bridges between the Baltic Sea Region States and between science and policy to restore and protect a good environmental status of the Baltic Sea. Further she invited the participants to use their creativity and fresh thinking and to take the opportunity of the upcoming HELCOM Ministerial Meeting to forward their ideas and recommendations.

Heike Imhoff encouraged the participants to take personal commitment to deepen and focus the cooperation in the BSR. Bearing the unique geographical and historical features of the region in mind i.e., a nearly land-locked sea, the old Hanse traditions and the legacy of the Iron Curtain, cooperation between states and NGOs has come a long way. However, there is room for more cooperation. Even though science and political negotiations sometimes move only millimeter by millimeter the Baltic Sea is worth the effort.



Invitation to the key note lectures

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HYF2012 chair: Prof. Peter Ehlers

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HELCOM - building bridges between Baltic Sea Region States.

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There is always room for more cooperation.

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The Baltic Sea - beautiful but not unproblematic.
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Prof. Heide Schulz-Vogt provided a short overview of the distinct oceanographic and ecological features of the Baltic Sea. She stated that the Baltic Sea is a very sensitive ecosystem being rather shallow and with partially anoxic and hypoxic areas. With regard to shipping, offshore energy production, tourism and other uses she concluded that there is a growing need for research of the increasing anthropogenic activities in the Baltic Sea and their cumulative effects on the ecosystem. Institutions like the IOW in this regard have a leading role in providing decision makers with relevant and reliable information and scenarios.



There is a growing global demand for marine resources.
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Prof. Mathias Paschen presented facts and figures on the increasing global demand for marine resources. He pointed out that ocean engineers are often confronted with high expectations from different interest groups during the process of research, development and maintenance of new technologies, e.g., mineral extracting, safe shipping or offshore wind power production. New maritime technologies shall be cost efficient and consider the necessities of environmental conservation and nature protection. Meeting these requirements can be a challenging task. Ocean engineering is dependent on high investments. Almost all maritime technologies are individual products for specific types of environmental conditions and cannot be taken just off the shelf.



The network of organisations is an advantage of the Baltic Sea Region.
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Jan Lundin invited the participants to focus on the strengths of the Baltic Sea Region cooperation being a blue print to other less peaceful regions. It is a distinct feature of the region that all BSR States are in one way or another included in transboundary work. The CBSS and HELCOM are excellent examples in this regard. Even though not all resolutions and results of the regional work are legally binding, it is this informality which may open windows of opportunity to exchange best governance practices and views also about sensitive issues. He encouraged the HYF participants not to underestimate documents like the HYF2012 resolution and introduced the idea of a future joint CBSS-HELCOM Youth Forum.

Historical venue - the Barocksaal

Built in 1750 and situated in the center of Rostock at the famous Universitätsplatz the Barocksaal with its beautiful interior formed a spectacular and inspiring environment for the HYF 2012.

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Working Groups

With the key note lectures in mind the HYF2012 participants joined the specific working groups (WG) moderated by senior experts. WG 1 discussed issues of the sustainable use of the Baltic Sea ecosystem, WG 2 focussed on maritime technologies and innovation and WG 3 scrutinized challenges and opportunities of governance and cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region. The aim of each working group was to draft recommendations to be debated and adopted for the HELCOM Youth Forum 2012 Resolution.

The working groups were mentored by experts from administration and research. Prof. Bodo von Bodungen from the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea research Warnemuende joined WG 1, Dr. Sebastian Schreier from the Chair of Ocean Engineering, University of Rostock moderated WG 2 and Dr. Nico Nolte from the German Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency supported the WG 3. While the HYF2012 participants developed their own ideas and recommendations, the mentors gave advice in regard to the structure of the discussions, time management and advised the participants in formulating the working group results in a presentable manner for the plenary session on the following day. This approach proved to be very practical and was highly regarded by the participants as well as by the mentors.

The second HYF2012 day closed with a joint dinner at the Café Heumond accompanied by Jochen Schulte, representing the Landtag of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.



International and interdisciplinary - the HYF2012 working groups (Working Group 1)

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Working Group Mentors: Dr. Nico Nolte (left), Prof. Bodo von Bodungen (top right) and Dr. Sebastian Schreier (down right)

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The HELCOM

Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission - HELCOM) is the intergovernmental focal point for Marine Protection Policy in the Baltic Sea Region. For almost 40 years HELCOM has effectively contributed to the improvement of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea.

HELCOM's vision for the future is a healthy Baltic Sea environment with diverse biological components functioning in balance, resulting in a good ecological status and supporting a wide range of sustainable economic and social activities.

Visit: www.helcom.fi



Wednesday, 12 December 2012

Presentation of working group results and adopting the HYF2012 Resolution

In the morning the students met again in their working groups to compile the major results from the group discussions and to formulate their recommendations. These recommendations are the basis for the resolution and were presented to all participants by two persons from the respective groups.

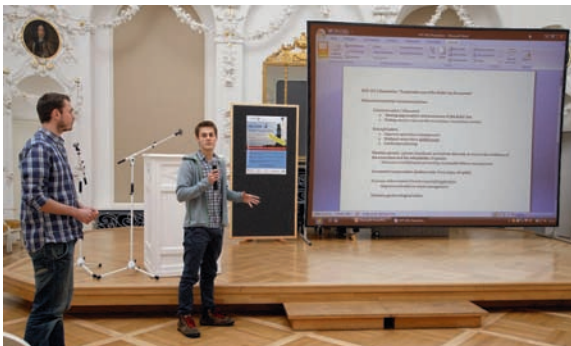
Having jointly discussed all recommendations the resolution was drafted with assistance of Prof. Peter Ehlers, Heike Imhoff and Dr. Nico Nolte. In their resolution the participants recommended e.g., to further improve the ecological status of the Baltic Sea by developing new energy and space-saving technologies, to reduce eutrophication by developing a sustainable agricultural management, to determine the monetary value of ecosystems, to improve the enforcement in case environmental regulations are violated and to establish a common maritime spatial plan. The HYF2012 Resolution was adopted by all participants. It is planned to present the resolution at the next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark.



Working Group 2: Maritime Technologies and Innovation
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Working Group 3: Governance and Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region
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Open floor: Presentation of working group results.
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Lively debates during the plenary session.
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HELCOM Youth Forum Certificate

The HELCOM Youth Forum 2012 certificate was distributed to all participants after the event to acknowledge their active work and commitment.



The HELCOM Youth Forum 2012 Certificate

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Agenda

Monday, 10. December 2012 – Café Europa

- 14:00 - 15:00 **Registration**
- 15:00 - 15:30 **Opening of HYF 2012**
Kurt Bodewig (Federal Minister ret., Chairman Baltic Sea Forum e.V.)
Prof. Gerhard Graf (Head of Department Maritime Systems, University of Rostock)
- 15:30 - 17:30 **World Café: Challenges, opportunities, recommendations and coffee...**
Introduction into 'Baltic Sea Affairs'
Moderation: Uwe Weissflog (Pathways & Guidance)
- 18:00 **Welcome in the Town Hall of Rostock**
Roland Methling (Lord Mayor of Rostock)
- City Tour with Night Watchman & Visit of The Medieval Rostock Christmas Market**

Tuesday, 11. December 2012 – Barocksaal Rostock

- Moderation: *Prof. Peter Ehlers (President, Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency, ret.)*
- 9:00 – 9:30 **Welcome and Introduction to the HELCOM Youth Forum**
Monika Stankiewicz (HELCOM Executive Secretary)
Heike Imhoff (Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety)
- 9:30 – 10:00 **Key note speech „Sustainable use of the Baltic Sea Ecosystem“**
Prof. Heide Schulz-Vogt (Head of Dept. of Biological Oceanography, Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research)
- 10:00 - 10:30 **Key note speech „Maritime Technologies and Innovation“**
Prof. Mathias Paschen (Chair of Ocean Engineering, University of Rostock)
- 10:30- 11:00 **Key note speech „Governance and Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region“**
Jan Lundin (Director General, Council of the Baltic Sea States)
- 11:00 – 11:30 **Leg stretcher & Presentation Platform (Posters from students, departments, sponsors)**
- 11:30 - 11:45 **Introduction into Workshops – Announcement of Working Groups**
- 11:45 - 13:00 Lunch
- 13:00 – 17:00 **Workshops**
- | | | | |
|--------|---|---|--|
| Themes | WS I „Sustainable use of the Baltic Sea Ecosystem“ | WS II - „Maritime Technologies and Innovation“ | WS III „ Maritime Governance and Cooperation“ |
| | <i>Prof. Bodo von Bodungen
(Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde)</i> | <i>Dr.-Ing. Sebastian Schreier
(Ocean Engineering, University of Rostock)</i> | <i>Dr. Nico Nolte
(Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency)</i> |
- Evening Joint Dinner

Wednesday, 12. December 2012 – Barocksaal Rostock

- 9:00 – 10:00 **Resume and Summary of the Group Work**
- 10:00 – 12:00 **Presentation and Discussion of Group Theses**
Moderation: Prof. Peter Ehlers (President, Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency, ret.)
- 12:00 – 13:00 Lunch
- 13:00 – 14:00 **Adapting the HYF 2012 Resolution**
Moderation: Prof. Peter Ehlers (President, Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency, ret.)
- 14:30 **End of HELCOM Youth Forum**

HELCOM Youth Forum 2012 Resolution

„The Baltic Sea between Blue Growth and Green Limits“

adopted 12 December 2012

Rostock, Germany

* * * * *

33 young academics representing the Baltic Sea area took part in the HELCOM Youth Forum 2012, held 10-12 December 2012 in Rostock, Germany. In plenary sessions and interdisciplinary workshops the participants discussed the present status and the future development of the Baltic Sea Region as valuable ecosystem and promising economic space.

The HELCOM Youth Forum resolution “The Baltic Sea between Blue Growth and Green Limits” adopted 12 December 2012 summarizes the participants’ visions and concrete demands concerning the Baltic Sea. The resolution addresses decision-makers in the Baltic Sea Region and shall be presented at the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2013 in Copenhagen.

* * * * *

Preamble

We the participants of the HELCOM Youth Forum 2012

Being aware of the unique value of the Baltic Sea on the one hand and its increasing economic development and use on the other;

Recalling the adoption of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan on 15 November 2007 in Krakow to restore the good ecological status of the Baltic marine environment by 2021 as well as the Moscow HELCOM Ministerial Declaration adopted on 20 May 2010;

Acknowledging the already notable achievements with regard to good ecological and environmental status of the Baltic Sea and thus contributing to achieving the goals of international and European obligations including those of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive;

Stressing that nonetheless none of the open basins of the Baltic Sea has an acceptable environmental status at present;

Being concerned about social challenges such as youth unemployment as a consequence of the ongoing global financial crisis and **stressing** the need for new business opportunities including all maritime sectors to stabilize the Baltic Sea Region economies;

Looking forward to the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in Copenhagen in October 2013 and **welcome** the opportunity to address with this resolution high level policy decision makers as well as stakeholders from green and economic sectors;

Do hereby adopt this HELCOM Youth Forum Resolution 2012:

Being convinced that only a **sustainable use of the Baltic Sea ecosystem** will enable future generations to make use of the Baltic Sea and to enjoy a healthy marine environment,

We **recommend** to

Assess and communicate the monetary value of ecosystem goods and services provided by the Baltic Sea;

Reduce eutrophication by improving agricultural management, creating buffer zones, restoring wetlands and include them into landscape planning;

Promote fisheries management focusing on the maintenance of broad diversity (genetic, species, functional and habitat) to ensure the resilience of the ecosystem, the adaptability of species and reduce overfishing;

Promote the development of innovative solutions to ballast water treatment (e.g., ballast-free shipping) in order to prevent spreading of invasive species;

Improve the enforcement of environmental regulations by establishing an integrated coast guard system, higher sanctions for environmental violations and intensified controls;

Introduce a follow-up instrument for the Baltic Sea Action Plan for the period after 2021 in order to ensure continuous improvement and maintenance of good ecological status.

Aiming at making the Baltic Sea Region a model region for new maritime technologies and innovation,

We recommend to

Investigate the potential of closed-loop maritime systems in response to the increasing sectoral specialization of maritime industries;

Promote the use of multi-purpose carriers (e.g., tanker-bulk) in order to increase the efficiency of fleet utilization, prevent empty voyages and reduce the total number of vessels;

Move energy intensive industries to production sites of offshore energy, if appropriate and in line with environmental demands, in order to avoid energy loss and reduce the dependence of grid connections;

Establish integrated offshore sites comprising wind energy production, fish farms and aquaculture products processing facilities in order to increase the efficiency of maritime space use;

Develop fossil fuel-free shipping powered by sails, solar panels, bio LNG (e.g., algae-based) and standardized renewable energy batteries in order to reduce shipping emissions and discharges;

Develop corresponding infrastructure including shore-side electricity facilities generated from renewable sources and recharging stations for the ship batteries.

Being convinced that maritime governance and cooperation are prerequisites for a sound maritime economy that respects the need for protecting the marine environment and preserving natural resources,

We recommend to

Make the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) binding in order to reach the goals set for 2021, reinforcing the efforts to apply the ecosystem approach;

Establish a common maritime spatial plan based on the common interests such as nature conservation, fishery, shipping, renewables and exploration of natural resources for the whole Baltic Sea area;

Ensure the fair distribution of benefits and burdens and equal representation and participation for all Baltic Sea States when implementing the common maritime spatial plan;

Develop a more sustainable EU fishery policy in cooperation with the Russian Federation while promoting job opportunities for fishermen in new emerging industries.

We further suggest to

Develop educational programs to raise awareness and appreciation of the Baltic Sea ecosystem (e.g., movies distributed to schools, scientists communicating to local stakeholders);

Continue the HELCOM Youth Forum series in all Baltic Sea States.

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PREVIEW: HELCOM MINISTERIAL MEETING 2013



Next stop: The HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in Copenhagen 2013

On October 3rd 2013 the Ministers of the Environment of all the nine Baltic coastal states and the EU Commissioner will again gather to discuss the status and the future of the Baltic Sea.

The outcome of the Ministerial Meeting in 2013 is expected to revolve around the still unsatisfactory status of the Baltic Sea; the ecosystem approach

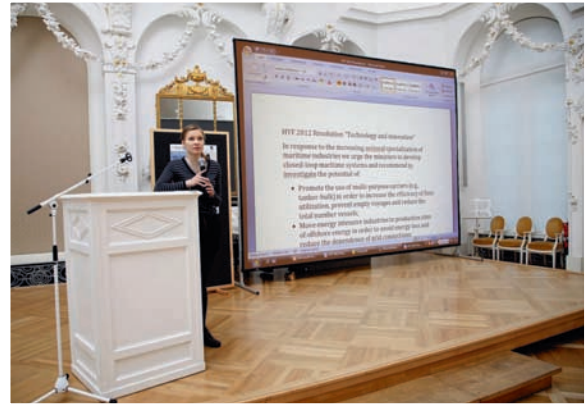
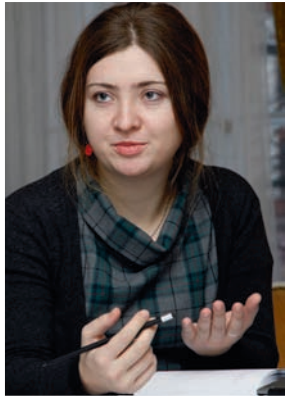
underpinning blue economy and green growth, the opportunities for more coherent policies and implementation, as well as generally committing to do more for a healthier Baltic Sea.

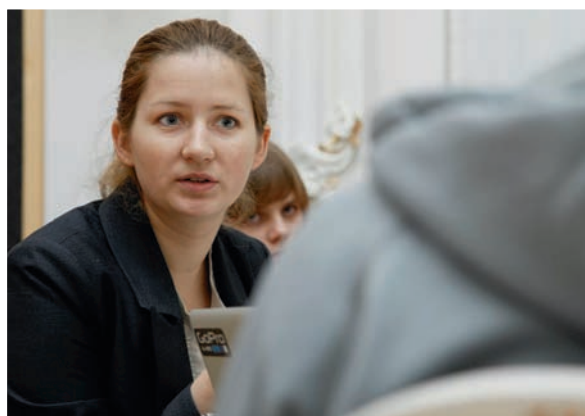
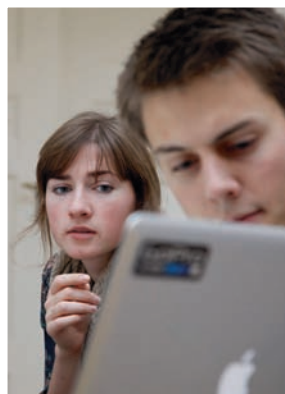
As adopted in the HYF2012 Resolution the participants of the HELCOM Youth Forum 2012 are looking forward to present the resolution at this conference.

>> We the participants of the HELCOM Youth Forum 2012 looking forward to the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in Copenhagen in October 2013 and welcome the opportunity to address with this resolution high level policy decision makers as well as stakeholders from green and economic sectors. <<

HELCOM Youth Forum 2012 Resolution







Promoting the HYF2012

One of the main tasks of the HELCOM Youth Forum Coordination Office was promoting and advertising the the HYF2012 to potential participants and target groups from science, politics and administration. Various communication tools and channels have been used - from individual and personal contacts, direct mailings to social networking, electronic newsletters and public relations on regional and international level.

Over **100 personalised announcements and invitations** were sent to professors, lecturers and researchers to circulate HYF2012 information in their courses and universities.

The University of Rostock launched an individual **website for the HYF2012** for registration and information.

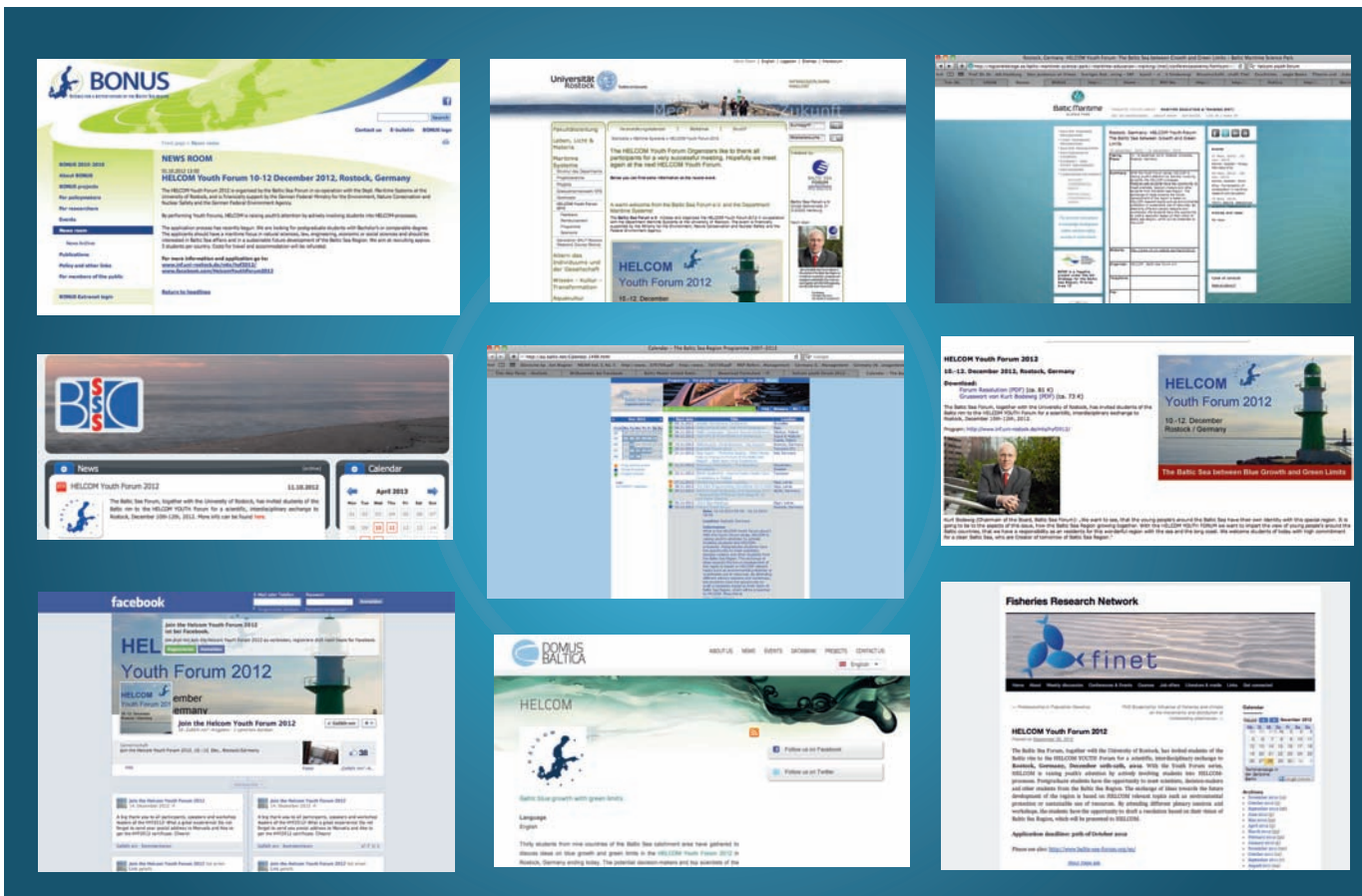
Potential participants could communicate with each other and with the Coordination Office via an own **[HYF2012 facebook site](#)**.

Regional and local media were informed by the Coordination Office and the public relations department at the University of Rostock, international media via HELCOM Information Secretariat.

NGOs like the WWF Baltic Sea Office or EU institutions like the Baltic Sea Region Programme Joint Technical Secretariat or the EUCC-D were invited and took part in the HYF2012 or supported the forum with information material.

The HYF2012 was announced and featured in **newsletters** of the Coastal & Marine Union Germany (5/2012), the Baltic Sea Region Working Group (3/2013) and the University of Rostock.

The HYF2012 is featured in the **policy document** Baltic Sea Region Report of the Federal State Government of Mecklenburg Western-Pomerania.



The HYF2012 was announced by various institutions and organisations such as the Baltic Sea States Subregional Council, Baltic Sea Region Programme, BONUS Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme, Baltic Marine Science Park, Fisheries Research Network and others.

Beyond the HYF2012: Concept, reflections and recommendations

1. Introduction

Raising awareness with regard to the status of the Baltic Sea and building capacities to protect and restore the marine environment is the focal point of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan in particular and the work of the HELCOM in general. Addressing students and young researchers the HELCOM Youth Forum is a successful example for these activities. According to the positive feedback and as stated in the resolution the HYF2012 participants recommend to continue these fora in different countries around the Baltic Sea. The following brief description of the HYF2012 concept and the attached recommendations may be helpful for potential organisers, hosts and sponsors of future HELCOM Youth Fora.

2. The HYF2012 concept

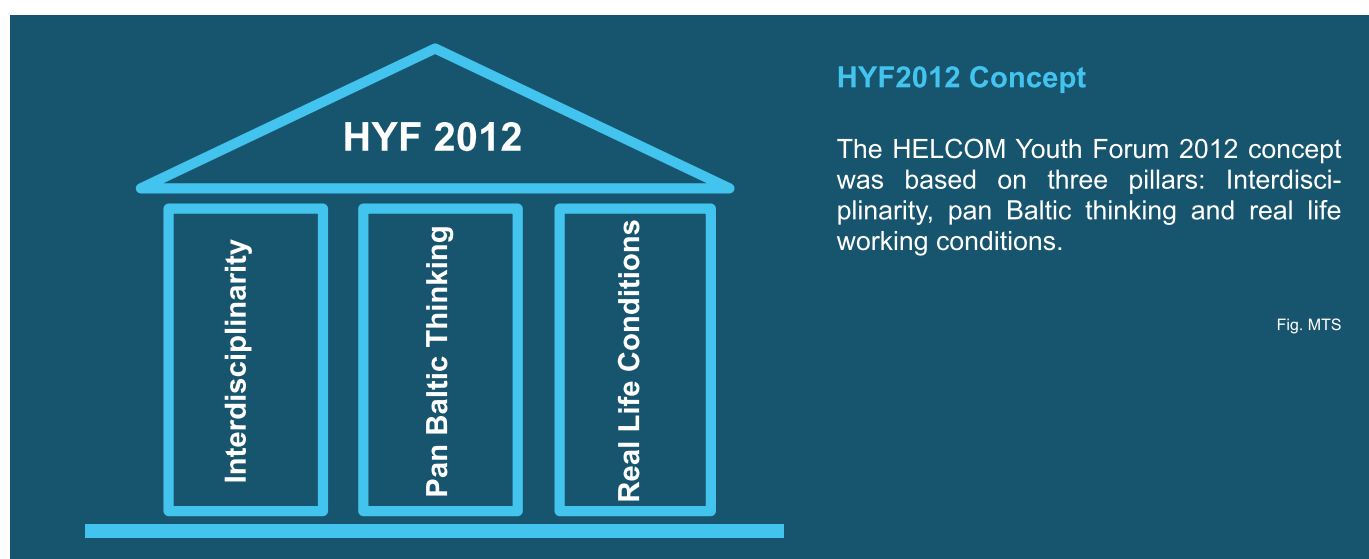
The organisation team developed a programme including a mixture of key note lectures, brain storming session, working groups with experienced mentors from research or public administration, plenary sessions and social events. All these different approaches were built upon three conceptual pillars: Interdisciplinarity, pan-Baltic thinking and an authentic work environment.

a) Interdisciplinarity: Interdisciplinarity was one of the core features of the HELCOM Youth Forum 2012. Within the framework of the HELCOM Youth Forum 2012 representatives from different academic backgrounds

were asked to work together and to finalize a concrete product: the HYF2012 Resolution. Thus, the participants had to find a common wording across the different scientific traditions and to stay open minded for input from different academic backgrounds.

The participants stated that this approach helped to broaden their own horizon how to deal with certain Baltic Sea issues (i.e. eutrophication, balance between ecology and economy). It was also experienced that being educated in different scientific cultures, using different methods and scrutinizing different scientific issues is advantageous for working jointly on recommendations.

b) Pan-Baltic thinking: In marine systems ecological and administrative borders usually do not match. Thus the suggestion was to consider the whole Baltic Sea as one ecosystem and one planning space during the process of drafting the HYF2012 resolution. Already during the registration process a fair geographical representation of participants was a key aspect for the organisational team.



Taking the longer travelling time and the visa procedures into account the HYF2012 organisation team was especially happy with participation of Russian students.

c) Taking action under real life conditions: The idea to focus on the resolution as one concrete outcome of the HYF2012 and the chance to present this joint product to the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2013 proved to be a main driver for all participants throughout the forum. The HYF2012 was not planned to be a talk shop but a work shop under real life conditions including time limitations to formulate a comprehensive and presentable document. Some participants stated that with the need to meet different opinions and demands while formulating the text of the resolution they felt this time pressure and recommended to have at least one more day for debate and discussion. However, the very experienced negotiators Heike Imhoff and Jan Lundin pointed out that time for international negotiations is always a rare gift. In the end this sense of time pressure helped the participants to focus on their work which resulted in a concise and well thought out resolution.

3. Conclusion

The manifold positive feedback from the participants, partners and supporting organisations indicates that the HYF2012 in Rostock may be rated a success. So far all HELCOM Youth Fora took place in Germany. Thus, one of the remaining tasks is to organise the next Youth Forum in another Baltic Sea Region State as stated in the resolution. There is also leeway for a Youth Forum jointly hosted by two or more Baltic Sea Region organisations. Although the conditions may vary dependent in which country the next forum will take place it is a very attractive and inspiring event, which may easily attract supporting organizations, sponsors and organisers.

4. Recommendations

Future hosts may benefit from the HYF2012 experiences and are kindly invited to consider following recommendations in a nutshell:

> Funding: Look for a national authority or administrative body (i.e. Federal Ministry of Environment) as financial supporter and additional sponsors

to cover all costs.

> Consortium: Find a functional and cooperative consortium of partners i.e. universities, sub-national or local bodies (i.e. county, federal state, cities) and NGOs and agree on a joint working plan.

> Participants: First, it is good to know your participants. How are they used to communicate (email, whatsapp, facebook etc.)? Are they experienced in international exchange? What do they expect from an event like the HELCOM Youth Forum? Finally, try to find a good balance between the participants with regard to nationality and scientific background.

> Type of conference: The HELCOM Youth Fora are about ideas and visions. Thus, it is better to organise these events not as closed circle meeting but as a platform open to different forms of inspiring presentations, knowledge exchange and networking. Find slots for open key note lectures, poster presentations and invite NGOs and policy makers to contribute to the forum.

> Promotion and Communication: Use all available communication tools: Online based social networking as well as direct personal contacts. Viral Campaigning is a good way to spread the word about a HELCOM Youth Forum.

> Outcome: Be as time efficient as possible by focussing on one joint outcome or product (i.e. recommendation) and know when and where it will be presented to whom. This way the event will be most productive and supports all participants to focus time and content wise.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The HYF2012 Coordination Office thanks the following sponsors:



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Source: www.scandlines.com



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Source: www.darboven.com



Since it was founded eight centuries ago, the **Hanseatic City of Rostock** is characterized by its waterfront location. With over 200,000 inhabitants Rostock is the biggest city of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and a famous tourist center in northeastern Germany. Its maritime cluster with shipping, shipbuilding and port industry determines the distinct pulse and makes the city a hub in the Southern Baltic coast area, as major junction between East and West with great development opportunities towards Scandinavia and Eastern Europe.

Source: Mayors Office, Hanseatic City of Rostock

The HYF2012 Coordination Team thanks for assistance and excellent cooperation:

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