HELCOM MINISTERIAL MEETING COPENHAGEN 3 OCTOBER 2013

Declaration Highlights

Reaching Good Environmental Status for a healthy Baltic Sea

Copenhagen Declaration

HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration was agreed on by the Ministers and High-level representatives of the Baltic coastal countries and the EU on 3 October 2013.

The 2013 Declaration is an extensive package of further actions to implement the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, first adopted in 2007. Careful assessments on all fronts preceded the 2013 Ministerial Meeting, to ensure that the decisions are based on accurate and relevant information.

Out of all the measures and actions agreed in the Baltic Sea Action Plan about one third have been accomplished.

HELCOM is an intergovernmental organisation that works for the protection of the Baltic marine environment, and its members are the nine Baltic coastal nations as well as the EU. HELCOM's activities base on a regional treaty originally from 1974 – the Helsinki Convention.

The 2013 Ministerial declaration covers:

- biodiversity and ecosystem services
- nutrient pollution and hazardous substances both from air and waterborne sources on land
- marine knowledge, monitoring and assessment
- shipping and activities at sea
- preparedness and response to pollution at sea and on the shore
- maritime spatial planning applying the ecosystem approach.

The full Ministerial Declaration text and all related documents are available at: **www.helcom.fi/Ministerial2013**.

HOW FAR ARE WE IN FULFILLING THE BALTIC SEA ACTION PLAN?

BALTIC SEA ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION – MILESTONES

New targets for reducing nutrient pollution

More information at www.helcom.fi | Baltic Sea Action Plan | Nutrient reduction scheme

Nutrient reduction scheme

When in excess, nutrients pollute the Baltic Sea and cause the biggest environmental problem of today – that's why significant HELCOM work focuses on reducing nutrient inputs, namely of phosphorus and nitrogen.

The first HELCOM nutrient input reduction scheme was introduced and agreed on in 2007, as one of the core elements of HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan. After an extensive review, the updated, jointly agreed figures on maximum allowable inputs to the sea and reduction targets for HELCOM countries have now been adopted.

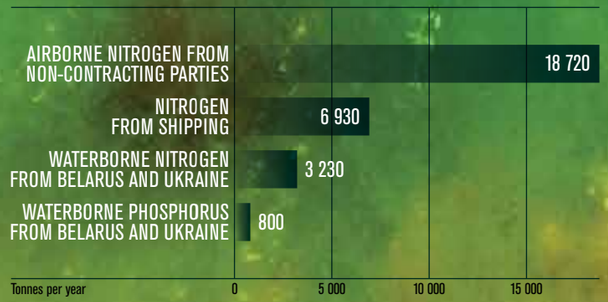
Around 118,000 tonnes of nitrogen and 15,000 tonnes of phosphorus in the four identified sub-basins of the Baltic Sea have to be cut annually to leave the sea unaffected by eutrophication, by 13% and 41%, respectively, compared to the reference levels from 1997–2003.

NEW ANNUAL COUNTRY-WISE NUTRIENT REDUCTION TARGETS

Tonnes per year	PHOSPHORUS	NITROGEN
DENMARK	38	2 890
ESTONIA	320	1 800
FINLAND	330 + 26	2 430 + 600
GERMANY	110 + 60	7 170 + 500
LATVIA	220	1 670
LITHUANIA	1 470	8 970
POLAND	7 480	43 610
RUSSIA	3 790	10 380
SWEDEN	530	9 240

Figures after + refer to loads originating from the country but being discharged to the Sea via another country; additional specific footnotes to the table can be found in the Ministerial Declaration text.

SOURCES OUTSIDE THE BALTIC ARE EXPECTED TO REDUCE THEIR SHARE



Certain shares of the needed pollution reduction have been allocated to other countries in and outside the catchment area of the Baltic Sea, as well as shipping.

Other highlights to reduce eutrophication

In agriculture, **less nutrient surplus in fertilization practices**, with nutrient accounting and nutrient balanced fertilization as the core measures agreed upon.

Improving **recycling of phosphorus**, especially in agriculture and waste water treatment.

Hazardous Substances

Less discharges, emissions and losses

A Palette of **available and cost-efficient management options for hazardous substances** from various sources, as guidance for national authorities and industries.

Agreement to **assess environmental risks of submerged objects** such as contaminated wrecks, and lost or dumped dangerous goods.

Developing preventative measures for **minimizing impacts of pharmaceuticals**.

Biodiversity

Favourable conservation status

Speeding up the work to achieve an ecologically coherent network of **well-managed marine protected areas**.

Regional action plan for **marine litter** to be developed by 2015, including actions against microplastic pollution.

Agreement to **lower the level of underwater noise**.

Actions to **reduce the negative impacts of fishing activities** on the marine ecosystem.

Regional Baltic **Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap** 2013-2020 as the basis for joint work by HELCOM and VASAB.

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Maritime Activities

Safer navigation and less spills

A new platform for alternative fuels and green technology in shipping, a cooperative effort with other organizations, industry and research community.

Progress in **preventing alien species through ships' ballast water**, through unifying approaches and establishing HELCOM/OSPAR Guidelines on exemptions.

Safer navigation through **more re-surveys of major shipping routes and ports**.

Less discharges from passenger ships by **upgrading port reception facilities for sewage**.

Developing concrete solutions for testing and validating **e-navigation services**.

New legal basis for response to pollution on shoreline, to boost cooperation and ensure good preparedness and emergency capabilities.

Improving surveillance from aircraft of pollution from shipping by smoother border crossing permits.

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Improving access to knowledge

To meet the constant demand for information, **developing regional assessments based on indicators and status targets**.

To improve coordinated joint monitoring for the **set of core indicators of environmental status and pressures**.

Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

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