

**Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment  
of the Baltic Sea Area, 1992  
(Helsinki Convention)**



**HELSINKI COMMISSION  
Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission**

**Minutes of the 25th Meeting  
Helsinki, Finland  
2-3 March 2004**

**HELCOM 25/2004**

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2.2 LD 3 Furthermore, the Meeting requested the Secretariat to update the document based on comments by the Contracting Parties and the outcome of HELCOM 25/2004 and decided to have it published in an overview form as well as to place it on the HELCOM home page.

2.3 The Executive Secretary gave a statement on her views on the future work of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM 25/2004, 2/2). The Meeting took note of the statement.

### **Agenda Item 3 Matters arising from the subsidiary bodies**

Documents: 3/1, 3/2, 3/3, 3/4, 3/5, 3/6, 3/7, 3/8, 3/9, 3/10, 3/11, 3/12, 3/13, 3/13/Add.1, 3/14, 3/15, 3/16, 3/17

#### *HELCOM MARITIME*

3.1 The Chair of HELCOM MARITIME, Ms. Ingelore Hering presented the outcome of the Second Meeting of the HELCOM Maritime Group, held in Stockholm, Sweden, from 20 to 22 January 2004. In her presentation she pointed out that the main outcome of the meeting are four new or revised HELCOM Recommendations and the Guidelines submitted for adoption to this Meeting.

3.2 LD 4 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the Second Meeting of the Maritime Group (HELCOM 25/2004, 3/2), and urged the Contracting Parties to implement HELCOM Recommendation 23/3 "Enhancing the use of pilots in Route T and the Sound by notification to departing ships and establishment of an early warning system".

3.3 LD 5 The Meeting encouraged the Contracting Parties to ratify Annex VI "Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships" of MARPOL 73/78 as soon as possible.

#### *HELCOM RESPONSE*

3.4 The Chairman of HELCOM RESPONSE, Mr. Thomas Fagö informed the Meeting about the activities relevant to the work of HELCOM RESPONSE since the 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Helsinki Commission, held on 25 June 2003 in Bremen.

3.5 LD 6 The Meeting took note of document "Activities of the Response Group" (HELCOM 25/2004, 3/3). The Meeting thanked Finland for arranging the BALEX DELTA 2003 exercise and emphasized the importance of the international operational cooperation such as BALEX DELTA exercises and CEPCO flights.

3.6 The Meeting welcomed the building of new and reconstruction of existing multipurpose response vessels by the Contracting Parties in order to strengthen the response preparedness.

3.7 The Meeting also welcomed the development of the Maritime Accident Response Information System (MARIS) and thanked the Nordic Council of Ministers for allocating resources for development of the system.

3.8 LD 7 The Meeting encouraged the HELCOM RESPONSE to continue its work towards implementation of the three tier approach.

#### *HELCOM MONAS*

3.9 The Chair of HELCOM MONAS, Ms. Heike Herata informed the Meeting on the activities of the Group during its Sixth Meeting on 20-24 October 2003 in Gdynia, Poland as well as the subsequent intersessional activities (HELCOM 25/2004, 3/5).

3.10 LD 8 The Meeting took note of the activities of HELCOM MONAS (HELCOM 25/2004, 3/5) and urged HELCOM MONAS to further develop environmental indicators and other assessment products in order to provide advice for the decision making.

3.11 LD 9 The Meeting adopted the draft data and information strategy of HELCOM (HELCOM 25/2004, 3/1).

3.12 LD 10 The Meeting adopted the Project Report "Validation of algorithms for chlorophyll *a* retrieval from satellite data of the Baltic Sea Area" to be published in the Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings series (HELCOM 25/2004, 3/6). The Meeting further encouraged the Contracting Parties to continue the development of joint remote sensing activities in the monitoring of the Baltic Sea environment.

3.13 LD 11 The Meeting adopted the "Checklist of Baltic Sea phytoplankton species" for publishing in the Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings series after finalizing the layout of the publication (HELCOM 25/2004, 3/12).

3.14 The Project Manager Ms. Heike Herata presented the main results of the Fourth Pollution Compilation Project including recommendations for the future work. She specifically pointed out difficulties in data collection during the project.

3.15 LD 12 The Meeting adopted the "Fourth Pollution Load Compilation" to be published in the Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings series (HELCOM 25/2004, 3/13) and requested the Secretariat to extract and publish a short overview summary of the PLC-4 including also the airborne load.

3.16 The Meeting congratulated the PLC-4 Project Group Members and the Project Manager Ms. Heike Herata for their extensive work.

3.17 The Meeting took note of the methodological problems, uncertainties in the submitted data and serious problems with data submissions during the project.

3.18 The Meeting took note of the big share of pollution originating from diffuse sources.

3.19 LD 13 In order to develop concrete actions for the future work of HELCOM the Meeting requested HELCOM MONAS and HELCOM LAND to compile joint proposals for consideration of the HELCOM HOD 15/2004 meeting:

- Improvement of data collection and assessment procedures,
- How to address the nutrient input from especially diffuse sources, mainly agriculture.

3.20 LD 14 The Meeting took note of the present status of submission of environmental monitoring data in the HELCOM COMBINE database at ICES Data Centre (HELCOM 25/2004, 3/14), expressed concern on missing data especially for biological parameters and requested the Contracting Parties to submit the missing data without delay.

3.21 LD 15 The Meeting took note of the progress of the Project "Development of ecological quality objectives within HELCOM for the Baltic Sea in the process of regional implementation of the ecosystem approach and the European Marine Strategy" as contained in document HELCOM 25/2004, 3/7 and emphasized the important role of EcoQOs and of integrating the ecosystem approach in the future work of HELCOM.

3.22 LD 16 The Meeting requested the HELCOM EcoQO Project to continue the close cooperation with the Baltic Sea Regional Project as well as with ICES and OSPAR and the appropriate working groups under the European Marine Strategy to further develop concrete EcoQOs for HELCOM.

3.23 LD 17 The Meeting welcomed the new public awareness approach, the video exposé "Lord of the Things" and emphasized that HELCOM should also involve the young generation.

3.24 The Project Manager Mr. Bertil Håkansson informed the Meeting on the progress of the HELCOM MON-PRO Project in revising the HELCOM monitoring and assessment programmes, planned workshops, and introduced the road map for the future work (HELCOM 25/2004, 3/8).

3.25 LD 18 The Meeting took note of the progress of the HELCOM MON-PRO project as contained in document HELCOM 25/2004, 3/8 and emphasized the importance of modern and reliable assessment products and supporting monitoring programmes in the

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implementation of the ecosystem approach. The Meeting furthermore encouraged the Contracting Parties to contribute to the work of the Project.

#### *HELCOM HABITAT*

3.26 The Chairman of HELCOM HABITAT, Mr. Jan Ekeborn, summarized the main activities of the Group since the last meeting held on 5-9 May 2003 in Vaasa, Finland.

3.27 LD 19 The Meeting considered the activities and intersessional work of HELCOM HABITAT as contained in document HELCOM 25/2004, 3/4 and emphasized the role of HELCOM HABITAT as one of the backbones of the HELCOM work in defining the protection needs and in advising the other HELCOM Groups to develop mitigating actions.

3.28 LD 20 The Meeting reminded HELCOM HABITAT to keep the deadlines agreed by the Ministers in Bremen to evaluate the present network of the Baltic Sea Protected Areas and to establish the joint network of marine protected areas with OSPAR.

3.29 LD 21 The Meeting asked HELCOM HABITAT to work on the protection and long-term management of seal populations taking into account the scientific advice of ICES and to agree on the revision of the HELCOM Recommendation 9/1 on the protection of seals to be submitted for consideration at HELCOM HOD 15/2004.

#### *HELCOM LAND*

3.30 LD 22 The Meeting considered the activities of HELCOM LAND as contained in document HELCOM 25/2004, 3/10 and emphasized the importance of the use of tools to assess the implications of different policy scenarios on nutrient inputs to indicate the most cost-effective measures in the different sub areas.

3.31 LD 23 The Meeting welcomed the new HELCOM project on the development of a strategy to collect data on occurrence of hazardous substances in markets and uses in the Baltic Sea region as one step in the implementation of the HELCOM hazardous substances strategy and emphasized the importance of Contracting Parties contributing to the work.

3.32 LD 24 The Meeting considered the "Report on agricultural pollution from industrial hog raising farms" by CCB (HELCOM 25/2004, 3/16) with the comments given by Poland, and requested HELCOM LAND and HELCOM MONAS when considering the results of the PLC-4 report to take into account the recommendations in this document with regard to animal farms.

#### *Information and public awareness activities*

3.33 The Secretariat presented a draft report on Dioxins in the Baltic Sea. The target group of the report is media, administrators and professional groups and the idea is to present the complicated issue of dioxins pollution being neither too scientific nor too popular. The report had been reviewed by experts and two figures would be updated accordingly.

3.34 LD 25 The Meeting requested the Contracting Parties to submit their written comments on the draft report on Dioxins in the Baltic Sea (HELCOM 25/2004, 3/9) for the Secretariat by **15 March 2004** to be taken into account by the Secretariat before publishing it as an "Environmental Focal Point Information".

3.35 LD 26 The Meeting requested HELCOM LAND and HELCOM MONAS to consider the report and to develop proposals for possible further actions for the HELCOM HOD 15/2004 meeting, taking into account actions in other fora.

#### *Non-indigenous species*

3.36 Mr. Steve Raaymakers from IMO informed the Meeting about the adoption of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments. Mr. Raaymakers also informed the Meeting about the activities of the IMO GloBallast Programme and possible cooperation with HELCOM. The Meeting thanked Mr. Raaymakers for the presentation.

3.37 LD 27 The Meeting stressed the seriousness of the problem of non-indigenous species to the Baltic Sea (HELCOM 25/2004, 3/11) and recommended the HELCOM

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Contracting Parties to ratify, as soon as possible, the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments.

3.38 LD 28 The Meeting welcomed the activities of HELCOM MARITIME with regard to non-indigenous organisms. The Meeting encouraged the work of Finland, Germany and Sweden in cooperation with the Secretariat and the IMO GloBallast Programme to develop an action plan to ensure rapid and harmonized implementation of the Ballast Water Convention in the Baltic, taking into account similar activities within other international fora.

3.39 LD 29 The Meeting asked the Secretariat, taking into account activities within the BSRP Component 1, to further cooperate with the IMO GloBallast Programme by highlighting the regional environmental specifics of the Baltic Sea and compiling necessary information and giving input to the preparation of the GloBallast Partnerships project.

3.40 LD 30 The Meeting asked the Secretariat to report to the HELCOM HOD 15/2004 meeting about the developments of the GloBallast Partnerships project and the possible involvement of HELCOM hereto.

#### *Offshore installations*

3.41 Lithuania presented a letter concerning offshore activities in the Baltic Sea (HELCOM 25/2004, 3/15) and invited the Meeting to discuss the issue in substance.

3.42 LD 31 The Meeting took note of the information on the planned bilateral Lithuanian-Russian meeting to take place on 14 April 2004 in Vilnius and invited Lithuania and Russia to inform on the outcome of the meeting to HELCOM HOD 15/2004.

3.43 LD 32 The Meeting agreed in principle to establish an *ad hoc* Working Group as proposed in document HELCOM 25/2004, 3/17. Finland agreed to consider possibilities to offer a chairman for the working group. The Meeting requested the Contracting Parties to provide the Secretariat with comments on the proposed terms of references as soon as possible but not later than **30 April 2004**. The Meeting further requested the Secretariat to submit the final proposal for the decision of HELCOM HOD 15/2004.

3.44 The Meeting took note of the information by the Russian Federation that she strictly and accurately fulfils her bilateral and international obligations on the treaties, including the Helsinki Convention and that Russia's environmental policy concerning prevention of harmful effects to the environment from high-risk activities is based on mutually accepted international practice and general principles of international law, including the precautionary principle, consultations, negotiations and notification in cases of potential risk of dangerous activities to the environment. The Meeting also took note of the call of Russia upon the other Contracting States to pursue the same way.

#### *HELCOM films*

3.45 Four TV films (10 minutes each) were introduced of which one was shown to the Meeting.

3.46 LD 33 The Meeting took note of the new TV series "The Baltic – Sea of surprises" and requested the Secretariat to distribute these films together with the exposé "Lord of the Things".

#### **Agenda Item 4**

#### **Adoption of Recommendations**

Documents: 4/1, 4/2, 4/3, 4/4, 4/5, 4/6, 4/6/Rev.1

4.1 LD 34 The Meeting adopted HELCOM Recommendation 25/1 "Elimination of PCBs and PCTs" (HELCOM 25/2004, 4/1, Annex 1) as contained in **Annex 5** to these Minutes.

4.2 LD 35 The Meeting adopted HELCOM Recommendation 25/2 "Reduction of emissions and discharges from industry by effective use of BAT" (HELCOM 25/2004, 4/1, Annex 2) as contained in **Annex 6** to these Minutes.



4.3 LD 36 The Meeting adopted HELCOM Recommendation 25/3 "Reduction of nutrients and other pollutants leaching from forestry land" (HELCOM 25/2004, 4/1, Annex 3) as contained in **Annex 7** to these Minutes.

4.4 LD 37 The Meeting adopted HELCOM Recommendation 25/4 "Measures aimed at the reduction of discharges from fresh water and marine fish farming" (HELCOM 25/2004, 4/1, Annex 4) as contained in **Annex 8** to these Minutes.

4.5 LD 38 The Meeting adopted the Guidelines on granting exceptions for pleasure craft according to Paragraph D of Regulation 5 of Annex IV to the Helsinki Convention (HELCOM 25/2004, 4/2) as contained in **Annex 9** to these Minutes.

4.6 LD 39 The Meeting adopted HELCOM Recommendation 25/5 "Assessment of the need for escort towing in tanker transport routes to prevent accidents in the Baltic Sea area" (HELCOM 25/2004, 4/3) as contained in **Annex 10** to these Minutes.

4.7 LD 40 The Meeting adopted HELCOM Recommendation 25/6 "Guidelines for the recommended minimum throughput of oil filtering equipment on board ships" (HELCOM 25/2004, 4/4) as contained in **Annex 11** to these Minutes.

4.8 LD 41 The Meeting adopted HELCOM Recommendation 25/7 "Safety of winter navigation in the Baltic Sea area" (HELCOM 25/2004, 4/5) as contained in **Annex 12** to these Minutes.

4.9 LD 42 The Meeting adopted the proposal for updating HELCOM Recommendation 23/3 "Enhancing the use of pilots in Route T and the Sound by notification to departing ships and establishment of an early warning system" (HELCOM 25/2004, 4/6/Rev.1) as contained in **Annex 13** to these Minutes.

#### **Agenda Item 5 Institutional and organizational matters**

Documents: 5/1, 5/2

5.1 LD 43 The Meeting considered the applications for observer status from the Baltic Operational Oceanographic System (BOOS) and the Nordic Hunters' Cooperation (NHC) (HELCOM 25/2004, 5/1). The Meeting decided to grant observer status for the BOOS but was not in the position to grant such a status for the NHC.

5.2 LD 44 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to inform the applicants accordingly and to encourage the BOOS to participate, in particular, in the HELCOM MONAS work.

5.3 LD 45 Finland informed the Meeting of the status of ratification of the Agreement between the Governments of the Contracting States on the Privileges and Immunities of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM 25/2004, 5/2). Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland as well as Russia informed the Meeting that the ratification process is ongoing in their Capitals. The Meeting urged these Contracting Parties to speed up the procedure.

5.4 LD 46 The Executive Secretary informed the Meeting that there was a tacit acceptance by the Heads of Delegation to her decision and the recommendation of the Recruitment Panel to nominate Mr. Nikolay Vlasov from Russia as the new Information Secretary. The Meeting took note of the information and welcomed Mr. Vlasov to the Secretariat.

#### **Agenda Item 6 Contributions to the work of the Helsinki Commission**

Documents: 6/1, 6/2, 6/3, 6/4

6.1 The Meeting took note of the statements of Finland and Germany as well as IBSFC, ICES, BSPC (HELCOM 25/2004, 6/1, 6/4, 6/2), IMO and CCB.

6.2 Mr. Peter Ehlers who chaired the Youth Forum at the University of Helsinki presented the event and in particular the Resolution "Youth for the Baltic" (cf. Paragraph 0.5 and 0.6). Mr. Ehlers pointed out that the Forum had been too short to allow any discussion in detail but that it had been considered a success which should be repeated at regular intervals.

6.3 LD 47 The Meeting considered the outcome of the Youth Forum and decided to take it into account in the future activities under HELCOM. Furthermore, the Meeting decided to publish the Resolution on the HELCOM home page and to distribute it together with the press release of the Meeting as well as with the five films recently launched by HELCOM.

6.4 LD 48 The Meeting decided to continue arranging a Youth Forum under the HELCOM roof every second year with well defined issues and clear aims. Particular emphasis should be given to broad interdisciplinary participation. Germany will prepare a document for HELCOM HOD 15/2004 with detailed information on further procedures including the possibility of obtaining funding for participants. The Meeting also took note of the interest of ICES to be involved.

6.5 The Meeting took note of the information by the European Commission on the progress in the development of the European Marine Strategy in the period June – December 2003 (HELCOM 25/2004, 9/2/INF).

### **Agenda Item 7 Future role of HELCOM, its future priorities and organizational structure**

Documents: 7/1, 7/1/Rev.1, 7/2, 7/3, 7/4, 7/5

7.1 LD 49 The Meeting adopted the document on the Future role of HELCOM and its organizational structure with minor amendments (HELCOM 25/2004, 7/2, 7/3, 7/4, 7/5) as contained in **Annex 14** to these Minutes.

7.2 LD 50 In order to avoid misunderstandings on the role of the Nature Protection and Biodiversity Group, the Meeting requested that when specifying the work programme of the group, it should be emphasized that the Nature Protection and Biodiversity Group identifies and assesses current and potential impacts of human activities on the Baltic marine biodiversity (ecosystems/habitats, species and genetic diversity) and specifies to the other Working Groups/ad hoc groups/projects, within fields of their responsibility, the identified problems as well as those marine areas which require nature conservation measures.

7.3 LD 51 The Meeting decided that the activities of the Baltic Sea Regional Project should be closely linked to the work programmes of the HELCOM subsidiary bodies.

7.4 LD 52 The Meeting approved the basic principles for developing HELCOM measures for hazardous substances (HELCOM 25/2004, 7/1/Rev1.). However, Russia put a study reservation on the document and was requested to clarify their position by 31 March 2004 (*tacit acceptance*). The Secretariat was requested to submit the document including the possible comments from Russia for *tacit acceptance* by the other Contracting Parties. The final approved document should be submitted as an input to the Hazardous Substances Working Group under the EU Marine Strategy.

### **Agenda Item 8 Accounts and budget**

Documents: 8/1

8.1 LD 53 The Meeting adopted the specifications of additional expenditures as contained in document 8/1. The Meeting further agreed that for the EcoQOs project the gap between the funding by Germany and the EU should be bridged by a transfer from the Special Fund.

8.2 LD 54 The Meeting authorized the Executive Secretary to transfer from the Special Fund up to a total of Euro **59 500** to the income part of the budget of the current financial year (2003/2004).

**8.1 Accounts of the Commission 1 July 2002 - 30 June 2003**

Documents: 8.1/1, 8.1/1/Add.1

8.3 LD 55 The Meeting took note of the explanatory memorandum on the accounts of the Helsinki Commission for the financial period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 as contained in document HELCOM 25/2004, 8.1/1/Add.1.

8.4 LD 56 The Meeting adopted the Audit Report by the State Audit Office of Finland concerning the financial period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 together with the Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet (document HELCOM 25/2004, 8.1/1) as contained in **Annex 15** to these Minutes and discharged the accountables from responsibility in respect of the implementation of the budget 2002-2003.

**8.2 Budget for the fiscal year 2004/2005**

Documents: 8.2/1

8.5 LD 57 The Meeting considered and adopted the budget for 2004-2005 as in **Annex 16** to these Minutes as well as endorsed the draft budget estimate for 2005-2006 (document HELCOM 25/2004, 8.2/1).

8.6 LD 58 The Secretariat informed the Meeting of a notification concerning an increase in the rent of the office premises. With the consent of Finland, the Meeting authorized the Executive Secretary to transfer the needed funds from Chapter 5 "Communications" to Chapter 6 "Rent and maintenance of the Office" (both being covered by the Finnish HQ contribution).

**Agenda Item 9 Any other business**

Documents: 9/1, 9/2/INF

9.1 LD 59 The Meeting took note and welcomed the information by Lithuania on the nominations of Mr. Arturas Daubaras as the next Chairman of HELCOM and Mr. Liutauras Stoskus as the Vice-Chairman (HELCOM 25/2004, 9/1).

9.2 Noting that the term of office of the Information Secretary, Ms. Ulrike Wolpers (nee Hassink) expired on 8 January 2004 and of the Professional Secretary for PITF, Mr. Claus Hagebro will expire in July 2004, the Meeting expressed its sincere thanks and appreciation for their valuable work at the Secretariat and wished them all the best for their future.

**Agenda Item 10 Next meeting(s) of the Commission**

Documents: None

10.1 LD 60 The Meeting decided to hold HELCOM 26/2005 on 1 and 2 March 2005 in Helsinki, Finland at the Marina Congress Centre. The Meeting further decided to hold HELCOM 27/2006 during the week 6-10 March 2006.

10.2 LD 61 The Meeting decided to hold HELCOM HOD 15/2004 on 14 and 15 June 2004 starting at 3 pm. in Helsinki unless an invitation for another venue was received by the Secretariat within two months.

**Agenda Item 11 Outcome of the Meeting**

Documents: 11/1, 11/2

11.1 LD 62 The Commission adopted the List of Decisions as contained in document HELCOM 25/2004, 11/1.

# **A N N E X E S**

## Annex 1

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## **The opening Statement by the President of the Republic of Finland, Ms. Tarja Halonen**

Helsinki, January 21, 2004

Dear Friends of the Baltic Sea,

I belong to the privileged group of people who can say that they have almost a daily contact to the Baltic Sea. Through the windows of my home and office I have the opportunity to follow the seasonal changes of the magnificent marine landscape. The aesthetic and environmental values of the Baltic Sea are vast but this area has also turned into the one of the most dynamic economic regions in Europe and even worldwide. It is crucial that the present generations, and the generations to come, take proper care of this sea.

The Helsinki Commission has served during the last 30 years as the main environmental actor in the Baltic region. The signing of the Convention in 1974 by the seven Baltic coastal states was a historical milestone because for the first time ever, all the sources of pollution around an entire sea were made subject to a single convention. Due to the political changes in the area, and developments in international environmental and maritime law, the need for new updated convention was obvious and in 1992 a new convention was signed by all the states bordering on the Baltic Sea, and the European Community.

During the years the Helsinki Commission has been able to provide timely information about the trend and state of this fragile marine ecosystem. It has also acted as the overall environmental policy maker establishing common environmental objectives and actions for the protection of the Baltic Sea.

Now in the eve of the EU's enlargement the role and priorities of the Helsinki Commission has been discussed actively again. Even though significant progress has been made, much is still to be done. The Baltic Sea is one of the world's most polluted seas and in our efforts in pulling our acts together, the Helsinki Commission will also in the years to come have a crucial role.

The main problems at the moment are the eutrophication caused by excessive nutrient load and the risk of serious accidents in the increasing oil transport. We urgently need actions to reduce industrial, agricultural and municipal emissions. Also the technical and safety level of the ships used for transports on the Baltic should be improved. These two goals are also included in the Finland's National Programme for the Protection of the Baltic Sea which implementation is among the government's top environmental priorities. The state of the Baltic Sea will, however, only come about by continued and active work in all the coastal states and by joint international actions.

In the framework of the Helsinki Commission implementation of the decisions of Bremen Ministerial Meeting 2003 provides us concrete steps further. In the efforts to improve nature conservation and the protection of biodiversity, the fully enforcement of the network of Baltic

Sea Protected Areas is essential. The Helsinki Commission have an important role also in the development of the EU Marine Strategy as well in the preparation of the regulations for winter navigation.

Citizens commitment to sustainable development should be reflected in the political decision-making. Environmental questions have been the factor that triggered the new global civic responsibility. The Helsinki Commission can work not only towards the well being of the Baltic Sea but can from its part contribute also to global responsibility by transferring experience and knowledge to less developed regional programmes established to protect the marine environment around the world.



Tarja Halonen  
President of the Republic of Finland

**Annex 3**

**”Youth for the Baltic”**

**Resolution**

**1 March 2004**

**„Youth for the Baltic“  
Resolution**

**We**, young people from several States bordering the Baltic Sea, but also from other parts of the world,

**having assembled** in Helsinki at the HELCOM Youth Forum at the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the 1974 Helsinki Convention,

**conscious** of the indispensable values of the marine environment, in particular of the Baltic Sea, and of the ongoing need to protect and preserve the environment for future generations,

**aware** of the present ecological situation of the Baltic Sea,

**welcoming** the work already done by the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) and the Baltic Sea States,

**noting with concern** the still existing threats to the Baltic Sea environment which require a large variety of additional protection measures,

**emphasising** the co-operation in the Baltic Sea Area as an example for the protection of the marine environment in other parts of the world,

**strongly encourage** the Contracting Parties of the Helsinki Convention to undertake additional measures by considering among others the following issues:

1. The principle of **sustainable development** should be explicitly incorporated in the Helsinki Convention and thus also contribute to an integrated coastal zone management;
2. Additional measures to avoid **eutrophication**, caused by nutrient inputs from agriculture and sewage have to be taken.

The reform of the Common Agricultural Policy of the EC aiming at environmentally friendly agricultural practices should be actively supported. This should include the introduction of organic farming, the reduction in the use of manure and of mineral fertilisers, new sustainable technologies, respective education of farmers as well as economic incentives such as taxation of fertilisers and subsidies for environmentally sound practices.



Adequate treatment should be obligatory for all sewage entering the Baltic Sea, including sewage from summer cottages.

3. HELCOM should contribute to the revision of the EU Chemical Policy with the aim to reduce the input of new unknown **hazardous substances** which may adversely effect the Baltic Sea environment, thus applying the precautionary principle.
4. Environmental **impacts of fishery** activities should be covered by the Helsinki Convention aiming at a balance with economic interests; this includes capacity reduction and the establishment of protected zones.
5. Environmental sound standards for **aquaculture** have to be developed.
6. To protect and restore **biodiversity** the establishment of Baltic Sea Protected Areas should be further promoted, especially in those areas where BSPAs have not yet been designated; legal instruments must be introduced to control, reduce or ban adverse activities in BSPAs.
7. To prevent **pollution from ships** additional measures to improve maritime safety are needed. They must include the designation of particularly sensitive sea areas, vessel traffic management systems with the support of AIS, shipping routes for tankers and other vessels carrying dangerous cargo, the establishment of places of refuge, adequate response capacities and the ratification of the bunker oil convention. As international standards are needed the Baltic Sea States should further intensify their cooperation in IMO.  
HELCOM should also give particular attention to harbour construction and related dredging activities.
8. With regard to **offshore activities** the Helsinki Convention should be broadened to cover all respective activities such as extraction of sand and gravel, cables and pipelines and wind energy

9. HELCOM should intensify the efforts to monitor and supervise the **implementation** of the Convention and the Recommendations. HELCOM should evaluate national reporting with regard to gaps and deficiencies and should get the competence to request improved information. The Baltic Sea States should nominate inspection teams that should be authorized to control the implementation in third States.
- To support the mobilisation of financial resources HELCOM should establish an international Baltic Sea Environment Fund, based on a system that potential polluters and users have to contribute to the fund by fees and taxes.
10. The relationship between **HELCOM and EU** should be strengthened, e. g. by mobilising EU funding for HELCOM purposes.
11. With regard to the EU enlargement the continuation of **good partnership** between all Baltic Sea States is of outstanding importance.
12. The efforts to make HELCOM visible to the general public must be further intensified; regular publications such as the periodic assessments are helpful tools to disseminate relevant **information**. To increase the involvement of the private sector industry has to be made aware of the advantages of contributing to marine protection. A HELCOM eco-label could be of benefit for products and services.
13. The contacts with other **environmental bodies** should be strengthened to exchange information and experience and to serve as an example for environment protection in other marine areas.

**request** HELCOM to continue with the Youth Forum regularly with the understanding that

- the forum will be open for interested students representing different disciplines,
- the agenda will be focussed on a limited number of specific topics,
- the topics will be prepared by introductory papers and statements,
- enough time will be available for a substantial discussion.

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**Annex 4**

**AGENDA**

- 1 Adoption of the Agenda
- 2 Report on the activities of the Commission 2003
- 3 Matters arising from the subsidiary bodies
- 4 Adoption of Recommendations
- 5 Institutional and organizational matters
- 6 Contributions to the work of the Helsinki Commission
- 7 Future role of HELCOM, its future priorities and organizational structure
- 8 Accounts and budget
  - 8.1 Accounts of the Commission 1 July 2002 - 30 June 2003
  - 8.2 Budget for the fiscal year 2004/2005
- 9 Any other business
- 10 Next meeting(s) of the Commission
- 11 Outcome of the Meeting

## Annex 5

**HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 25/1 \*)**

Adopted 2 March 2004  
having regard to Article 20 (1), b)  
of the Helsinki Convention 1992

**ELIMINATION OF PCBs<sup>1</sup> AND PCTs****THE COMMISSION,**

**RECALLING** Article 5 of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, 1992 (Helsinki Convention), in which the Contracting Parties undertake to prevent and eliminate pollution of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea caused by harmful substances,

**RECALLING ALSO** Article 5 and Annex I of the 1992 Helsinki Convention which prohibit all the uses of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and polychlorinated terphenyls (PCTs), except in existing closed system equipment until the end of service life or for research, development and analytical purposes,

**REGARDING** that PCBs and PCTs as waste are under the Basel Convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal (1989) subject to notification procedure and other measures in all Contracting Parties of the Helsinki Convention,

**REGARDING** that the PCBs and PCTs are included in the list of substances for priority action in the hazardous substances strategy of HELCOM (Recommendation 19/5),

**DESIRING** to attain and implement the target set by the Kalmar Communiqué of the CBSS, 1996 with regard to hazardous substances,

**NOTING** the actions initiated by the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention in accordance with HELCOM Recommendation 6/1 regarding the elimination of the use of PCBs and PCTs,

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\*) Supersedes HELCOM Recommendation 6/1.

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<sup>1</sup>PCBs means  
-polychlorinated biphenyls,  
-polychlorinated terphenyls,  
-monomethyl-tetrachlorodiphenyl methane, Monomethyl-dichloro-diphenyl methane, Monomethyl-dibromo-diphenyl methane,  
-any mixture containing any of the abovementioned substances in a total of more than 0,005% by weight

**NOTING ALSO** that there is no new use or production of PCBs or PCTs in the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention, but that the safe phase out the of the use of old PCB – containing articles has not yet been totally completed,

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

- a) PCBs or PCTs or equipment/articles containing these substances should not be produced or marketed in the Baltic Sea states;
- b) domestic or transfrontier shipment and storage of any equipment or other articles or waste containing PCBs or PCTs should be carried out only for destruction of the PCBs or PCTs in an environmentally sound manner;
- c) the new use of substitutes for PCBs and PCTs considered as being equally or more hazardous should be banned and those already in use should be substituted as soon as possible with less hazardous or non hazardous substances;
- d) for the elimination of any identifiable PCBs and PCTs, Contracting Parties shall make determined efforts designed to lead to
  - i. the elimination **of the use** of identifiable PCBs and PCTs in equipment containing substances in volumes greater than 5 dm<sup>3</sup> and having a concentration of 500 ppm PCBs or PCTs or greater, as soon as possible, but no later than 31 December 2010, or 31 December 2015 for countries in transition economy,
  - ii. the **destruction** in an environmentally sound manner of all PCBs and PCTs referred to in paragraph i) and other PCBs and PCTs in concentration of more than 50 ppm, as soon as possible, but no later than 31 December 2015, or 31 December 2020 for countries in transition economy;
  - iii. the decontamination of PCBs/PCTs containing equipment, the destruction of equipment and the disposal of PCBs/PCTs in an environmentally sound manner,

**RECOMMENDS ALSO** that the established national programmes for identifying, labelling, collection, interim storage, disposal and destruction should be continued taking into account the proposals published by HELCOM (2001)<sup>2</sup>,

**RECOMMENDS ALSO** that exceptions to the paragraphs a), b) and d) above could, however, be granted for research, development and analytical purposes,

**RECOMMENDS FURTHER** that the Contracting Parties undertake all possible measures to avoid fires, accidents and abnormal operation conditions at sites where PCB containing equipment with a weight more than 1 kg is still in use or stored, as well as leakage and spillage from PCB containing equipment still in use or stored,

**RECOMMENDS FURTHER** that repair and decommissioning of PCB-containing equipment should be carried out with appropriate equipment, precautions to avoid accidents and spillage and by specialised personnel,

**RECOMMENDS FURTHER** that the Contracting Parties prohibit the separation of PCBs from other substances for the purpose of reusing the PCBs and the topping-up of already

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<sup>2</sup> HELCOM (2001): Polychlorinated Biphenyls - PCB: A compilation of information, derived from HELCOM Recommendations, EU-Directives, UN-ECE-LRTAP, UNEP and OSPAR, and analysis of appropriate measures aiming at safe handling and reduction of releases of PCB from PCB-containing equipment in use.

contaminated or even non-contaminated transformers with PCB-containing fluids and to avoid the re-introduction of PCBs via recycling of contaminated equipment and material,

**RECOMMENDS FURTHER** that the Contracting Parties take appropriate measures to cease emissions from “uncontrolled applications” e.g. controlled collection, handling and disposal which are for instance, products with a low (less than 0,005%) concentration of PCBs (e.g. mineral oil contaminated with PCB), which have been marketed in large quantities, and products with a small volume of pure PCBs (e.g. capacitors in strip light fittings, small capacitors in household appliances) and thus amount to high total quantities,

**RECOMMENDS FURTHER** that if it is suspected or proved during renovation or demolition of any building that its components<sup>3</sup> contain PCBs or PCTs, they should be treated as if they contain PCBs or PCTs and should be disposed off in an environmentally sound manner,

**RECOMMENDS FURTHER** that the measures taken according to this Recommendation should be reported to the Commission every 3 years starting from 2006.

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<sup>3</sup> like sealants, filling material for joints of concrete structures, flame-retardant coatings on sealing boards or tiles, fluorescent light ballasts, coatings on furnishings, surface treatments for textiles, adhesives for waterproof wall coatings, paints, insulating materials, sealant putties, large and small capacitors in appliances and electrical devices, double glazed window units

**Annex 6****HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 25/2**

Adopted 2 March 2004  
having regard to Article 20, Paragraph 1 b)  
of the Helsinki Convention 1992

**REDUCTION OF EMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES FROM INDUSTRY BY EFFECTIVE USE OF BAT**

**SCOPE:** This Recommendation supplements the provisions on principles for issuing permits for industrial plants contained in Annex III, Regulation 3 of the Convention aiming especially on the reduction of (HELCOM priority) hazardous substances. This Recommendation also supplements several sector specific HELCOM Recommendations. Its specific aim is to guide the identification of effective BAT for the control of emissions and discharges of Hazardous Substances (identified by HELCOM for priority action) as well as nutrients and substances causing oxygen depletion in relevant industrial sectors. The aim is also to provide information on substitution of hazardous substances by less- or non-hazardous substances.

**THE COMMISSION,**

**RECALLING** Paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, 1992 (Helsinki Convention), in which the Contracting Parties undertake to prevent and eliminate pollution of the Baltic Sea Area from land-based sources by using, inter alia, Best Environmental Practice for all sources and Best Available Technology for point sources,

**HAVING REGARD** also to Article 3 of the Helsinki Convention, in which the Contracting Parties shall individually or jointly take all appropriate legislative, administrative or other relevant measures to prevent and abate pollution in order to promote the ecological restoration of the Baltic Sea Area,

**RECALLING** Article 5 of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, 1992 (Helsinki Convention), in which the Contracting Parties undertake to prevent and eliminate pollution of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea caused by harmful substances,

**RECALLING FURTHER** Annex II, Regulation 2, where the Contracting Parties should give particular consideration to the avoidance or substitution by less polluting activities or substances and the potential environmental benefit or penalty of substitute materials or activities,

**RECALLING FURTHER** the Ministerial Communiqué 1998, calling to implement the strategy on the cessation of discharges, emissions and losses of hazardous substances by the year 2020,

**RECALLING FURTHER** that the Ministerial Declaration 1988, of the ninth meeting of the Helsinki Commission calls for a considerable reduction of land-based pollution,

**RECOGNIZING** the importance of the prevention of pollution from industry by

- (i) minimizing the hazards to human health and to the environment from toxic, persistent and bioaccumulative substances by the application of best available techniques;
- (ii) developing industrial processes (in particular, recycling of waters) and preventing incidental effluent discharges;
- (iii) developing waste- and stormwater treatment techniques and reuse or further utilization and/or processing of the sludge in a manner causing as little environmental hazard as possible,
- (iv) developing processes and techniques for the collection and treatment of atmospheric emissions,

**RECOMMENDS** that the Contracting Parties make all efforts to minimize emissions and discharges of hazardous substances and nutrients by effective use of BAT or comparative measures and the substitution principle also taking into account the information identified for the different sectors as presented in the tables of the Annexes of this Recommendation,

**RECOMMENDS** that the Contracting parties take the following measures in environmental permitting of industrial installations to ensure that an integrated approach is applied in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment as a whole,

1. General principles in permitting

When setting general requirements and e.g. emission limit values for relevant pollutants the following issues should be taken into account (in addition to the provisions on principles for issuing permits for industrial plants contained in Annex III, Regulation 3 of the Convention):

1.1 The limit values and equivalent parameters or technical measures for relevant pollutants in the permits should be based on best available techniques, without prescribing the use of any technique or specific technology, but taking into account the technical characteristics of the installation concerned, its geographical location and the local environmental conditions.

1.2 When determining best available techniques, bearing in mind the likely costs and benefits of a measure, the information published by EU (especially under the IPPC Directive) and international organizations should among other information be taken into account as well as the sector specific HELCOM Recommendations, when available. Information on relevant sources for sectors concerning hazardous substances and concerning nutrients and substances causing oxygen depletion is presented in the Table of Annex 1. More specific information of pollution sources is to be elaborated and updated regularly for the sectors by the respective Lead Countries (following the guidance set out in the Annex) and submitted as additions to Annex 1 to this Recommendation.

1.3 If local environmental conditions so require stricter measures than those achievable by the use of best available techniques should be required. In this context the emissions of nutrients and HELCOM priority substances should be paid special attention taking also into account the possible specific targets and quality objectives defined for the affected coastal waters and the open sea.

1.4 Applications for permits should be made available for the public for an appropriate period of time to enable it to comment on the application before the permitting authority reaches its decision.



2. Requirements in hazardous substances in permitting

When issuing permits for industrial plants using and/or producing HELCOM priority and/or other hazardous substances the information provided in the Table of Annex 1 on possible measures should be considered. The table pin-points the hazardous substances, which the industrial activity should substitute by less or non-hazardous substances or which should be a target of specific pollution control measure including a probable change of processes. The table also provides the information on the possible measures to reduce or eliminate the discharges and emissions of these substances.

3. Requirements in nutrients and oxygen consuming substances in permitting

When issuing permits for industrial plants the information on possible measures to reduce nutrients and substances causing oxygen depletion presented in the Table of Annex 1 should be considered,

**RECOMMENDS** that the Contracting Parties report every three years to the Commission, starting from 2006.

**HELCOM Recommendation 25/2**  
**Annex 1**

Information on measures for reducing or avoiding emissions of HELCOM Priority Hazardous Substances<sup>1</sup> or Nutrients from Industry and on emission levels associated with the use of Best Available Techniques (BAT)

This Annex provides in a Table information on specific BAT with regard to the emissions of HELCOM Priority Hazardous Substances and nutrients for relevant industrial sectors; each sector will be presented in a separate spreadsheet.

The information on BAT for each sector is structured in 5 columns as follows:

*SECTOR (existing related HELCOM Recommendations)*

1) Relevant PS/ Nutrient emitted from the sector	2) Source(s) of emission	3) BAT measures	4) BAT associated emission level	BAT for substitution

With:

The substance(s): all HELCOM Priority hazardous substances<sup>1</sup> and all nutrients, which are emitted in relevant quantities from this sector are addressed here one by one.

The relevant source(s) of the emission within the sector (e.g. part of the process/installation) of substance listed in 1), so that different sources with different BAT can be differentiated.

The BAT measure(s) mentioned in the respective BREF for each source listed in 2)

The associated emission level or range of each BAT measure listed in 3)

Any substitute for substance under 1) for a source in 2) being BAT (according to the BREF)

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<sup>1</sup> According to the list of Substances identified as of concern by HELCOM  
(source: HELCOM Rec. 19/5)

**Table** presenting information on specific BAT for sectors, which use or have relevant emissions of HELCOM priority substances (PS) and/or nutrients. (At the moment the table contains information only on selected sectors [depending also on the state of finalisation of respective BREF documents]; it will be continuously updated).

*Cl-Alkali Industry (related HELCOM Recommendation 23/6)*

1) Relevant PS/Nutrient emitted from the sector	2) Source(s) of emission	3) BAT measures	4) BAT associated emission level	BAT for substitution
Mercury (Hg, may be CAS-Nr.)	Hg-Cells	a) For new plants: Hg-free technique = membrane technique. b) For existing plants with Hg-cells: encapsulating, good house keeping	a) No Hg emissions b) Overall emissions into air, product, water: 0,2 – 0,5 g Hg per tonne Cl produced	

*Glass industry (related HELCOM Recommendation 14/3)*

1) Relevant PS/Nutrient emitted from the sector	2) Source(s) of emission	3) BAT measures	4) BAT associated emission level	BAT for substitution
Lead	Melting of special glass <sup>2</sup> Use of contaminated recycled glass	In general in this sector, BAT for dust is considered to be the use of an electrostatic precipitator or bag filter operating, where appropriate in conjunction with a dry or semi-dry acid gas scrubbing system.	dust <sup>3</sup> abatement: bag filter: 5 – 30 mg/Nm <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup>	avoidance of materials rich in lead to be recycled

<sup>2</sup> The sources for heavy metals are “...minor impurities in some raw materials, post consumer cullet, and fuels. Used in fluxes and colouring agents in the frit industry (predominately lead and cadmium). Used in some special glass formulations (e.g. lead crystal, TV funnel-glass and some coloured glasses). Further emissions of heavy metals arise from downstream activities (e.g. coating, drying, cutting, polishing, secondary processing, product forming operations). These emissions can vary greatly between the different sectors.

<sup>3</sup> Further emission levels associated with the use of BAT are:

Metals* (group 1 {As, Co, Ni, Se, Cr VI} + 2{Sb, Pb, Cr III, Cu, Mn, V, Sn})	< 5 mg/Nm <sup>3</sup>
Metals* (group 1) {As, Co, Ni, Se, Cr VI}	< 1 mg/Nm <sup>3</sup>
Organotin	< 1 mg/Nm <sup>3</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Discharges into water: the emission levels given below are generally considered to be appropriate to protecting the water environment and are indicative of the emission levels that would be achieved with those techniques generally considered to represent BAT...”

Cadmium	< 0,05 mg/l
Chromium (total)	< 0,5 mg/l
Lead	< 0,5 mg/l (1,0 mg/l)

*Leather processing industry (related HELCOM Recommendation 16/7)*

1) Relevant PS / Nutrient emitted from the sector	2) Source(s) of emission	3) BAT measures	4) BAT associated emission level	BAT for substitution
Cr and other heavy metals				25 – 30 % of the fresh Cr input can be substituted by recovered Cr
NPEs	Use as surfactant	a) Substitution b) Biological waste water treatment plant for effluents	b) in WWTP degradable >= 98%	a) NPE can in many cases be substituted by alcohol ethoxylates
Brominated and antimony-containing flame retardant		Substitution	BFR substitution with Phosphate based flame retardants	
Biocides		Substitution  In general reduction of water consumption, good housekeeping, process-integrated measures, effluent treatment	Products with the lowest environmental and toxicological impact, used at the lowest level possible e.g. sodium- or potassium-dimethyl-thiocarbamate	
Halogenated organic compounds		Substitution	They can be substituted completely in almost every case. This includes substitution for soaking, degreasing, fatliquoring, dyeing agents and special post-tanning agents Exception: the cleaning of Merino sheepskins	
Nitrogen	Mostly the liming process	Process integrated measures	N(tot): 5 – 10 mg N/l	

## Annex 7

**HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 25/3 \*)**

Adopted 2 March 2004  
having regard to Article 20, Paragraph 1 b)  
of the Helsinki Convention 1992

**REDUCTION OF NUTRIENTS AND OTHER POLLUTANTS LEACHING FROM FORESTRY LAND****THE COMMISSION,**

**RECALLING** Paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, 1992 (Helsinki Convention), in which the Contracting Parties undertake to take all appropriate measures to control and minimize land-based pollution of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area,

**HAVING REGARD** also to Article 3 of the Helsinki Convention, in which the Contracting Parties shall individually or jointly take all appropriate legislative, administrative or other relevant measures to prevent and abate pollution,

**RECALLING ALSO** HELCOM Recommendations dealing with the possible environmental impacts of intensive forestry and of drainage of wetlands in particular that;

HELCOM Recommendation 18/4 ("Managing wetlands and fresh water ecosystems for retention of nutrients") recommends that increased nutrient retention in wetland and fresh water systems should be considered through e.g. large-scale restoration of natural water regimes in drained fens and bogs;

HELCOM Recommendation 15/1 ("Protection of the coastal strip") recommends that in the protected coastal strip intensive forestry and intensive farming including drainage be restricted;

HELCOM Recommendation 15/5 ("System of coastal and marine Baltic Sea Protected Areas (BSPA)") recommends that management plans be established for each BSPA to ensure nature protection and sustainable use of natural resources and that these management plans shall consider all possible negatively affecting activities, such as e.g. intensive forestry,

**RECALLING FURTHER** the Ministerial Declaration of 1988 and the Baltic Sea Declaration of 1990, calling, inter alia, for a substantive reduction of the inputs caused by diffuse sources,

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\*) Supersedes HELCOM Recommendations 20/3 and 16/11

**RECOGNIZING** the fact that a substantial part of the eutrophication problems observed in the Baltic Sea Area is caused by nutrient inputs from diffuse sources,

**RECOGNIZING ALSO** the general principles of sustainable forestry confirmed by the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (Helsinki 1993) as "stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regenerative capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national, and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems",

**RECOGNIZING FURTHER** that this concept of sustainable forest management should be understood to include maintaining the quality and protection of surface water and groundwater systems,

**KEEPING IN MIND** that a further reduction of deposition of air borne pollutants (especially nitrogen, acidic sulphur compounds and toxic heavy metals) into forest ecosystems and forest soils is a necessary precondition for the long term efficiency of measures in the forestry sector,

**DESIRING** to limit pollution from forest management and other anthropogenic load leaching from forestry land,

**RECOMMENDS** to the Governments of the Contracting Parties that the following practices should be promoted in forest management, taking into account the best environmental practice (BEP) and the best available techniques (BAT):

- a) Sufficient buffer strips (zones), to minimize leaching of nutrients and other pollutants, should be determined according to the latest available scientific knowledge, taking into account the characteristic of the soils, the shape of the landscape, the hydrological conditions, etc. These should be left between the shoreline of sea, lakes, streams and brooks and sites of forestry operations such as clear felling, scarification and prescribed burning (site preparation), fertilizing and spreading of pesticides;
- b) Large clear felling areas should be avoided. The size and the shape of clear felling areas should be planned with great care and consideration to site conditions and local conditions in order to reduce the release of nutrients into water; this includes the obligation of the Contracting Parties to specify the selected size(s) of clear felling areas by reporting on the underlying national regulations and measures;
- c) In maintenance of drainage systems water protection should be taken into account;
- d) The first-time drainage of wetlands in natural state should only take place where the leaching of nutrients is expected to be minimized and if it is supported by an environmental impact assessment, except for drainage projects of limited size, time and impact;
- e) The deep ploughing of restocking sites on mineral soils should be restricted to areas where alternative methods would be excessively expensive and ineffective or environmentally undesirable;
- f) The use of pesticides in forestry - for example the control of woody weeds by foliar application in the afforestation of former farmlands - should according to national legislation be restricted only to exceptional conditions and unavoidable minimum taking into account the following provisions;

- application technology and practice should be designed to prevent unintentional application or run-off of pesticides to bodies of water;
  - application by aircraft should be strictly controlled;
  - handling and storage of pesticides should be carried out so that there is no spillage or leakage to bodies of water or to the ground water. Washing of spraying equipment and disposal of pesticide containers should be strictly controlled;
- g) Readily soluble fertilizers should be applied as little as possible and should be used according to the needs of plants and not during weather conditions favourable to ground water or surface water pollution (e.g. frozen or water saturated soils, snow etc.);
- h) The fertilizing of naturally nutrient rich forest sites as well as nitrogen fertilization in areas saturated with air borne nitrogen (exceedance of critical loads and/or levels) should be stopped. This does not apply to measures for the purpose of soil protection or to safeguard forests endangered by soil acidification where alternative methods would be excessively expensive and ineffective;
- i) The time between harvest and regeneration should be minimized and management of forests should be encouraged to keep the forests vigorous and well growing in order to reduce the release of nutrients,

**RECOMMENDS FURTHER** that the actions taken by the Contracting Parties should be reported to the Commission every 6 years starting in 2006.

**HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 25/4 \*)**

Adopted 2 March 2004  
having regard to Article 20, Paragraph 1 b)  
of the Helsinki Convention 1992

**MEASURES AIMED AT THE REDUCTION OF DISCHARGES FROM FRESH WATER AND MARINE FISH FARMING****THE COMMISSION,**

**RECALLING** Paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, 1992 (Helsinki Convention), in which the Contracting Parties undertake to prevent and eliminate pollution of the Baltic Sea Area from land-based sources by using, inter alia, Best Environmental Practice for all sources and Best Available Technology for point sources,

**RECALLING ALSO** to Article 3 of the Helsinki Convention, in which the Contracting Parties shall individually or jointly take all appropriate legislative, administrative or other relevant measures to prevent and abate pollution in order to promote the ecological restoration of the Baltic Sea Area,

**HAVING REGARD** to the Ministerial Declaration of 1988, to the Baltic Sea Declaration of 1990 and to the Baltic Sea Environment Declaration of 1992, calling, inter alia, for a substantial reduction of the load of pollutants most harmful to the ecosystems of the Baltic Sea,

**RECOGNIZING** the importance of discharges and losses, nutrients and organic material in particular, from marine and fresh water fish farms as sources of pollution of the aquatic environment,

**DESIRING** to limit the pollution from the fish farms located in the catchment area of the Baltic Sea and in the Baltic sea by Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practice (BEP),

**RECALLING** also the requirement in HELCOM Recommendation 20/4 concerning anti-fouling paint containing organotin compounds to ban the retail sale or use of organotin paints for fish net cages,

**RECALLING** also the provisions concerning the use of hazardous substances in the Directive 76/464/EEC concerning dangerous substances,

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\*) Supersedes HELCOM Recommendations 18/3 and 20/1



**RECOMMENDS** to the Governments of the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention that the following measures of BAT and BEP should be used in marine and fresh water fish farming (excluding small land based fish farms with a production not exceeding 1000 kg fish/year and fish ponds using natural fertility):

1. Plant operation, feeding methods and fish feed, predominantly dry, which cause minimum nutrient discharges and improve fish health and fish quality, should be used and developed.
2. New types of fish farms and methods for sludge removal in fish farms should be developed and introduced so as to decrease the discharges of nutrients, organic matters and chemicals.
3. The number of fish in a certain water volume should be set/balanced according to water exchange rate, aeration and feeding method in order to prevent water pollution including eutrophication as well as fish diseases; dead fish should be collected as soon as possible.
4. Fish farming should be subject to permits or prior regulations by the competent authority or appropriate body in accordance with the following principles:
  - a) limits to phosphorus and/or nitrogen discharges should be given in permits or prior regulations. Limits might also be expressed as maximum amounts of phosphorus and/or nitrogen in feed or maximum allowable feed consumption;
  - b) future environmental effects of the proposed installation should be evaluated as part of the authorization process for intensive fish farms;
  - c) permits and regulations should be reviewed at appropriate intervals taking into account existing permit conditions.
5. In all fresh water and marine fish farms nutrient discharges should not exceed the annual average of:

	Phosphorous (tot-P)*	Nitrogen (tot-N)*
Existing fresh water fish farms	7 g	50 g
New and reconstructed fresh water fish farms	6 g	50 g
Existing and new marine fish farms	7 g	50 g

\* Values per 1 kg fish (living weight) produced

The nutrient limit values (N and P) are calculated on the basis that living fish contains 0,4% of phosphorus and 2,75% of nitrogen.

6. Regional planning should be employed as an instrument for directing fish farming activities to suitable areas and mitigating conflicts between fish farming and other uses of the water area. Fish farms should not be placed in areas reserved for nature protection, if that might conflict with the aims of protection.

Sites of fish farms should be selected and discharges from them restricted by means of objective environmental impact evaluation methods in accordance with the holding capacity of the aquatic environment affected.

7. The discharges from and the ecological effects of fish farms should be adequately supervised by competent authority or appropriate body, e.g. by means of fish farm operation records, discharge calculations, monitoring and environmental impact models. The monitoring should focus on measuring reliably and cost-effectively the impacts of fish farming on the eutrophication status, oxygen depletion and the state of the sediments in the affected area.

8. The use of bioactive chemicals and drugs at fish farms should be officially approved and effectively controlled to minimize hazards to the environment. The prophylactic use of chemicals should be avoided. Washing or drying of net cages should be used instead of application of toxic compounds. It is suggested to encourage the use of biological means to reduce the application of chemicals. The use of vaccination should be promoted.

9. The transfer of cultivated fish and introduction of new species should be undertaken according to the Recommendations of EIFAC and ICES thus avoiding the possible negative effects. The interaction between cultured and wild fish should be avoided to protect the locally adapted stock.

10. Waste or waste water resulting from the handling and processing of fish should be treated, disposed of and utilized so as not to cause pollution of the Baltic Sea, surface or ground water.

11. The cooperation between the aquaculture industry and the authorities should be intensified including an elaboration of the following instruments:

- a) keeping under review and the further development of BAT and BEP;
- b) exchange of information;
- c) overview of discharges of potentially hazardous chemicals from aquaculture;
- d) control and regulation of the amounts contaminants in fish flesh and shellfish, e.g. mussels;
- e) making sure that information is available on fish stock, chemicals and feed used;
- f) discussions of the calculation methods used as background for issuing permits taking into account the local environmental impact,

**DECIDES** that the new requirements on nutrient discharges should be implemented by 2005 and the Recommendation reconsidered thereafter especially regarding the nutrient discharges,

**DECIDES ALSO** that the Recommendation should be reported for the first time for the year 2005 and thereafter according to the HELCOM reporting schedule.

**Annex 9****GUIDELINES ON GRANTING EXCEPTIONS FOR PLEASURE CRAFT ACCORDING TO PARAGRAPH D OF REGULATION 5 OF ANNEX IV TO THE HELSINKI CONVENTION**

With reference to HELCOM Recommendation 24/8 (Amendments to Annex IV "Prevention of Pollution from Ships" to the Helsinki Convention, concerning discharge of sewage) HELCOM 25/2004 adopted the following Guidelines referred to in Regulation 5, paragraph D, subparagraph a) i):

A Contracting Party making use of the exceptions stated in paragraph D of Regulation 5 to the Helsinki Convention should consider the following issues, when granting exceptions for pleasure craft:

- The nature of the pleasure craft traffic in their territorial waters, including the length of the sailing season;
- The effect of sewage discharges from pleasure craft on eutrophication in their territorial waters;
- The estimated number of pleasure craft to be exempted;
- The size of pleasure craft to be exempted (length and/or beam for example);
- The age of the pleasure craft to be exempted;
- Possible technical difficulties in certain types of pleasure craft to install toilet retention systems;
- The cost of installation of a toilet retention system compared to the value of the craft.

A Contracting Party making use of the exceptions shall inform the Helsinki Commission of the concrete wording of their exception policy.

**HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 25/5**

Adopted 2 March 2004  
having regard to Article 20, Paragraph 1 b)  
of the Helsinki Convention

**ASSESSMENT OF THE NEED FOR ESCORT TOWING IN TANKER TRANSPORT ROUTES TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA****THE COMMISSION,**

**RECALLING** Article 8 and Annex IV "Prevention of pollution from ships" of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, 1992 (the Helsinki Convention), as amended, on the prevention of pollution from ships and on the safety of navigation,

**RECALLING FURTHER** the "Declaration on the Safety of Navigation and Emergency Capacity in the Baltic Sea Area" (HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration), adopted on 10 September 2001 in Copenhagen by the HELCOM Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting,

**RECALLING ALSO** Paragraph XI of the HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration containing the commitment of the Governments of the Contracting Parties to ensure adequate emergency capacity (fire fighting, emergency lightening and emergency towing capacities),

**BEING AWARE** that in many incidents satisfactory emergency capacity and the readiness hereof has prevented serious oil spills,

**FURTHER BEING AWARE** that failures in the propulsion or steering of a ship will cause an immediate risk for an accident, especially in long and narrow routes through shallow waters and archipelago areas and that even an adequate emergency towing vessel in stand-by may not have enough time to prevent the accident,

**CONSCIOUS** of the sensitivity of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea area and of the importance it represents to the people living around it, for economic, social, recreational and cultural reasons,

**RECOGNIZING** that if harmful substances are introduced to this vulnerable sea they will remain there for a long time,

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the difficulties certain areas in the Baltic Sea present to navigation due to narrow straits, shallow depths, islands, and ice cover during winter period,

**FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING** the different location of the ports in the Baltic Sea area; some accessible via long, narrow and shallow fairways and other accessible via deep-water routes,

**EXPRESSING** concern as to the growing density of maritime traffic in the Baltic Sea area and the accidents which have taken place,

**BEING CONVINCED** of the need to improve the precautionary safety measures to avoid pollution incidents in case of technical failures of ships in the Baltic Sea area,

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** that in many places escort towing has been found to be an efficient tool in preventing severe groundings or collisions by steering and stopping a ship that has suddenly lost its own manoeuvring ability,

**RECOMMENDS** that the Governments of the Contracting Parties carry out for main tanker transport routes, bound to the main ports/terminals and/or off-shore loading places in their territory or in waters under their jurisdiction before 1 July 2006, an evaluation on the need for escort towing services for laden oil and chemical tankers on voyages to and from oil and chemical ports, terminals and off-shore loading places where a failure of propulsion or steering of a tanker is likely to cause a severe pollution incident due to narrow straits, shallow depths, archipelago areas and/or ice conditions during winter period,

**REQUESTS** the Governments of the Contracting Parties to report on the implementation of this Recommendation in accordance with Article 16, Paragraph 1 of the Helsinki Convention.

**Annex 11****HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 25/6 \*)**

Adopted 2 March 2004  
having regard to Article 20, Paragraph 1 b)  
of the Helsinki Convention

**GUIDELINES FOR THE RECOMMENDED MINIMUM THROUGHPUT OF OIL FILTERING EQUIPMENT ON BOARD SHIPS****THE COMMISSION,**

**RECALLING** Regulation 4 of Annex IV of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, 1992, (Helsinki Convention), concerning prevention of pollution by oil,

**RECALLING ALSO** Regulation 10 of Annex I of MARPOL 73/78 Convention concerning methods for prevention of oil pollution from ships while operating in special areas,

**BEARING IN MIND** that the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of IMO adopted at its forty-ninth session Resolution MEPC.107(49) REVISED GUIDELINES AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR POLLUTION PREVENTION EQUIPMENT FOR MACHINERY SPACE BILGES OF SHIPS

**RECOGNIZING** the need for the standardization of the minimum throughput of oil filtering equipment,

**RECOMMENDS**, that the Governments of the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention, apply the attached Guidelines for the oil filtering equipment for ships the keel of which is laid on or after 1 January 2005.

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\*) Supersedes HELCOM Recommendation 14/6

**HELCOM Recommendation 25/6  
Attachment**

These guidelines are applicable to oil filtering equipment in order to meet the requirements of the Helsinki Convention and will supersede HELCOM Recommendation 14/6.

<b>Gross Tonnage *)</b>	<b>Recommended minimum throughput of the system (m<sup>3</sup>/h)</b>
<b>400 and above but less than 1,600</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b>1,600 and above but less than 4,000</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>4,000 and above but less than 15,000</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>15,000 and above</b>	<b>5.0</b>

Having due regard to the route of the vessel, volume of the bilge water holding tanks, separating technology on board as well as the design and complexity of the machinery arrangement a higher or a lower throughput of the system may be chosen, provided that an equivalent standard for the protection of the marine environment can be ensured.

\*) Convention on Tonnage Measurement, 1969

## Annex 12

**HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 25/7**

Adopted 2 March 2004  
having regard to Article 20, Paragraph 1 b)  
of the Helsinki Convention

**SAFETY OF WINTER NAVIGATION IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA****THE COMMISSION,**

**CONSCIOUS** of the sensitivity of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea area and of the importance it represents to the people living around it, for economical, social, recreational and cultural reasons,

**NOTING** the increase of shipping activities, especially the increase of oil transportation, in the Baltic Sea area during the past ten years,

**NOTING ALSO** the special requirements set for maritime transportation by low temperature and ice conditions in winter in the Baltic Sea area,

**NOTING FURTHER** the important work of the Baltic Sea Ice Services to provide information on ice conditions in the Baltic Sea area,

**RECALLING** the decision of the Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting held in Copenhagen, Denmark, 10 September 2000, to consider the possible need for concerted action regarding a unification of rules for winter traffic/ice classification and icebreaker services arrangements during winter time at the joint IMO/HELCOM/EU Workshop held in Warnemünde, Germany, 11-12 March 2003,

**RECALLING ALSO** the outcome of the joint IMO/HELCOM/EU Workshop, where it was agreed that there is a need for unified action within HELCOM to obtain rules for winter traffic, i.e. ice classification and icebreaker services arrangements,

**RECALLING FURTHER** the decision of HELCOM HOD 11/2003 to establish inter alia an *ad hoc* Expert Working Group to look into the need and possibility to establish unified rules for the ice classification of ships and arrangements for icebreaker services during the winter period, with Finland acting as a lead country,

**RECOGNIZING** the need for unified application of winter navigation rules and practises,

**RECOGNIZING ALSO** the special problems related to fire fighting at low temperatures,

**RECOGNIZING FURTHER** the problems related to combating oil spills in ice conditions,

**RECOMMENDS** that the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention should take measures to ensure that compilation of data on accidents and incidents due to ice conditions will be continued, and that a Formal Safety Assessment on the safety of winter navigation in the Baltic Sea area is made in accordance with the Guidelines for Formal Safety Assessment (FSA) for use in the IMO Rule-making Process (MSC/Circ.1023, MEPC/Circ.392 of 5 April 2002),



**URGES** the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention to apply the attached Guidelines for the Safety of Winter Navigation in the Baltic Sea Area,

**REQUESTS** the Governments of the Contracting Parties to report on the implementation of this Recommendation in accordance with Article 16, Paragraph 1 of the Helsinki Convention.

**HELCOM Recommendation 25/7  
Attachment****Guidelines for the Safety of Winter Navigation in the Baltic Sea Area**

These guidelines are intended to give instructions for the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention for establishing adequate ice surveillance systems, establishing equivalence of ice classification rules, establishing safety requirements for ships sailing in ice conditions, and to give guidelines for operational matters related to winter navigation in the Baltic Sea area.

**1. Ice surveillance systems**

Information about ice conditions in the Baltic Sea area should be obtained from national ice services. Contact information of the national ice services and basic information about ice conditions in the Baltic Sea area can be obtained from the common website of the national ice services of the Baltic Sea States established by the Baltic Sea Ice Services, [www.bsis-ice.de](http://www.bsis-ice.de).

Information about ice conditions should be published in the form of ice charts, ice reports or bulletins, or in accordance with the Baltic Sea Ice Code. Information about ice conditions should contain information on the location of the boundary of the ice field and open water, the edge of the ice field with thickness exceeding 10 cm, the thickness of level ice, ice concentration, and ice ridge fields along the routes to the ports used during the winter period. The terms and symbols of WMO should be used when describing ice and ice conditions in the Baltic Sea. Ice reporting should also contain information about traffic restrictions, information about traffic control, and the location of the assisting icebreakers and their operational area.

Icebreakers should send information about ice conditions in their operational area to their national ice service.

The national ice services should send their information about ice conditions to the other national ice services preferably daily, but at least twice a week.

**2. Equivalence of ice classification rules**

The equivalence of the ice classes of different Classification Societies with the Finnish-Swedish Ice Class Rules is based on the comparison of hull structural requirements. Equivalence is estimated on the condition that the hull structural strength given by the rules of a classification society is on a similar level as the hull structural strength obtained by applying the Finnish-Swedish Ice Class Rules.

At the same time, the requirements of the Finnish-Swedish Ice Class Rules regarding the power of the main engines should be fulfilled. Alternatively, the ship should have sufficient power for possible independent movement at a minimum steady speed of 1-2 knots through level ice of a thickness indicated in paragraph 3.1 below, depending on the ice class of the ship.

An equivalence table indicating the equivalence of the ice class rules of the Classification Societies with the Finnish-Swedish Ice Class Rules is attached to these Guidelines.

### 3. Safety requirements

The Administrations of the Contracting Parties should set traffic restrictions based on safety aspects for ships sailing in ice conditions. Adequate ice strengthening should be required for ships sailing in ice in accordance with paragraph 3.1. More stringent traffic restrictions than those given in accordance with paragraph 3.1 may also be set based on operational reasons.

#### 3.1 Traffic restrictions based on safety aspects

The traffic restrictions may be based on the measured level ice thickness, or the calculated level ice thickness in the coastal area. Level ice thickness can be calculated e.g. in accordance with the formula of Zubov:

$$h_{ice}^2 + 50h_{ice} = 8R ,$$

where  $h_{ice}$  is the level ice thickness in cm and  $R$  is cumulative freezing degree days (FDD) based on 0°C. The temperature measurements should be obtained from official meteorological stations located along the coastline. The calculation of freezing degree days has to be started only from the freeze-up date for each location. A freeze-up date is established when the mean ice concentration reaches 80 to 100%.

The traffic restrictions should be set as follows:

When the thickness of level ice is in the range of 10-15 cm, and the weather forecast predicts continuing low temperature, a minimum ice class LU1 or equivalent should be required for ships entering the ports of a Contracting Party.

When the thickness of level ice is in the range of 15-30 cm, and the weather forecast predicts continuing low temperature, a minimum ice class IC or LU2 or equivalent should be required for ships entering the ports of a Contracting Party.

When the thickness of level ice is in the range of 30-50 cm, a minimum ice class IB or LU3 or equivalent should be required for ships entering the ports of a Contracting Party.

When the thickness of level ice exceeds 50 cm, a minimum ice class IA or LU4 or equivalent should be required for ships entering the ports of a Contracting Party.

The traffic restrictions can be lightened and finally removed after the melting period of ice has started in spring and the strength of the level ice fields has started to decrease.

#### 3.2 Exemptions on traffic restrictions

In the beginning and in the middle of the winter season, the icebreaking service should not cancel a traffic restriction as long as the water temperature is close to zero degrees. However, exemptions on the given traffic restrictions may be granted by the Administration for individual ships due to favourable weather conditions, or based on detailed analysis of the strength of the vessel. No exemptions should be granted for ships which are more than 20 years old.

##### 3.2.1 Exemptions on traffic restrictions due to favourable weather conditions

If favourable wind conditions open up the ice along the coast of the state, the Administration may grant exemptions from the traffic restrictions that are in force. A time-limited exemption can under these circumstances be issued for a specific vessel

to a specific port. Before this exemption is permitted, the icebreaking service should consult the weather or ice service about how long this weather situation is estimated to last.

### **3.2.2 Exemptions on traffic restrictions based on detailed analysis of the strength of the vessel**

The Administration may grant an exemption from the traffic restrictions on an individual ship, which does not have the required ice class, if a detailed analysis of the strength of the vessel in the prevailing ice conditions is made. In the analysis the level ice thickness, ice strength, ice pressure, ice coverage and other relevant information on ice conditions should be taken into account. The ship-owner should submit to the Port Authority or to the Administration a written document, developed by a competent organization, similar to the Ice Passport used in the Russian Federation, specifying admissible speeds of ship under various ice conditions, the number of required assisting icebreakers, and other relevant operational information. This information should also be submitted to the icebreakers responsible for icebreaker assistance in the area.

### **3.3 Winterisation of ships**

The above exemptions from the traffic restrictions apply mainly to the assessment of sufficiency of the hull strength against ice loads. However, in any case, a ship should be adapted for the safe operation at a low outdoor air temperature down to minus 30°C. This concerns the operability of material of hull structures, deck equipment (anchor-handling and mooring, towing and cargo handling), main engine cooling system, material of propeller and its sufficient immersion to reduce interaction with ice.

The stability of ships at a low outdoor air temperature under open water conditions should be sufficient taking into account the probability of icing.

## **4. Operational matters related to winter navigation**

### **4.1 Vessel Traffic Management and Information System in winter**

In winter conditions the most important task of the Ship Reporting System (SRS) is to provide information on way points for ships sailing in the area. The organization responsible for defining and giving information on way points should be agreed on in each country. Only one organization should be authorized for this purpose. The national SRS Centres should create clear procedures for the distribution of information on way points to ships, to national Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) Centres and to other SRS Centres.

Information on way points should be distributed to ships as follows:

1. The Administration or the icebreaker responsible for co-ordination of icebreaker services notifies the way points to the national SRS centre.
2. The national SRS Centre notifies the way points to the other SRS Centres in the Gulf of Finland.
3. The SRS Centres give information on way points to ships upon request or when ships report.

#### **4.2 Operational instructions for ships**

The Administrations of the Contracting Parties should set operational instructions for ships sailing in ice covered waters. Such instructions should contain the following:

1. Instructions for sailing alone in ice.
2. Instructions for sailing in ice under icebreaker supervision.
3. Instructions for sailing assisted by an icebreaker: escorting, in towing, and sailing in a convoy headed by an icebreaker.

**Annex** Approximate correspondence between Ice Classes of the Finnish-Swedish Ice Class Rules (Baltic Ice Classes) and the Ice Classes of other Classification Societies

Classification Society	Ice Class				
<b>Finnish-Swedish Ice Class Rules</b>	<b>IA Super</b>	<b>IA</b>	<b>IB</b>	<b>IC</b>	<b>Category II</b>
<b>Russian Maritime Register of Shipping (Rules 1995)</b>	UL	L1	L2	L3	L4
<b>Russian Maritime Register of Shipping (Rules 1999)</b>	LU5	LU4	LU3	LU2	LU1
<b>American Bureau of Shipping</b>	IAA	IA	IB	IC	D0
<b>Bureau Veritas</b>	IA SUPER	IA	IB	IC	ID
<b>CASPPR, 1972</b>	A	B	C	D	E
<b>China Classification Society</b>	Ice Class B1*	Ice Class B1	Ice Class B2	Ice Class B3	Ice Class B
<b>Det Norske Veritas</b>	ICE-1A*	ICE-1A	ICE-1B	ICE-1C	ICE-C
<b>Germanischer Lloyd</b>	E4	E3	E2	E1	E
<b>Korean Register of Shipping</b>	ISS	IS1	IS2	IS3	IS4
<b>Lloyd's Register of Shipping</b>	1AS	1A	1B	1C	1D
<b>Nippon Kaiji Kyokai</b>	<i>IA Super</i>	IA	IB	IC	ID
<b>Registro Italiano Navale</b>	IAS	IA	IB	IC	ID

**Annex 13****HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 23/3**

Adopted 6 March 2002,  
having regard to Article 20, Paragraph 1b)  
of the Helsinki Convention

Revised 2 March 2004 at the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Helsinki Commission,  
taking into account IMO resolution MSC. 138(76) superseding IMO resolutions A.579(14)  
and A.620(15)

**ENHANCING THE USE OF PILOTS IN ROUTE T AND THE SOUND BY NOTIFICATION TO DEPARTING SHIPS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM****THE COMMISSION,**

**RECALLING** the adoption by the HELCOM Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting on 10 September 2001 of the "Declaration on the safety of navigation and emergency capacity in the Baltic Sea Area" (HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration), in particular Paragraph II "To enhance the use of pilotage in Route T and the Sound",

**MINDFUL** that the Baltic Sea Area has been designated as a special area under Annexes I (oil), II (noxious liquid substances carried in bulk) and V (garbage) and as a SO<sub>x</sub> emission control area under Annex VI (air pollution) of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating hereto,

**CONSCIOUS** of the sensitivity of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area and of the importance it represents to the people living around it, for economic, social, recreational and cultural reasons,

**AWARE** of the need to protect this shared resource for the benefit of present and future generations through the implementation of an integrated approach as envisaged in the concept of sustainability,

**RECOGNIZING** that if harmful substances are introduced to this vulnerable sea they will remain there for a long time,

**NOTING** with satisfaction the joint endeavours of the Baltic Sea States already undertaken as well as the work carried out within the International Maritime Organisation and the European Community,

**EXPRESSING** concern as to the growing density of maritime traffic in the Baltic Sea area and the accidents which have taken place,

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the difficulties the Baltic Sea area presents to navigation due to narrow straits, shallow depths, archipelago areas and ice cover during the winter period,

**WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO** international agreements and legislation of the European Community,

**BEING CONVINCED** of the need for additional measures in order to ensure the safety of navigation in the Baltic Sea Area,

**RECOMMENDS** that the Governments of the Contracting Parties establish a system whereby ships covered by IMO resolution MSC.138(76), upon departure from a port in the Baltic region are reminded that they are recommended to use a pilot, by use of the form attached as [Annex 1](#),

**RECOMMENDS ALSO** that the corresponding Baltic port state in question informs the Danish Ministry of Defence/Admiral Danish Fleet of such ships leaving a port in the Baltic region and bound for Route T or the Sound, by using the form attached as [Annex 2](#),

**RECOMMENDS FURTHER** that the Governments of the Contracting Parties implements the above mentioned measures as soon as possible, but no later than 1 January 2003 and report on the implementation of this Recommendation in accordance with Article 16, Paragraph 1 of the Helsinki Convention.



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**HELCOM Recommendation 23/3  
Annex 1****NOTIFICATION TO SHIPS LEAVING PORTS IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA  
IN ORDER TO CALL AT PORTS OUTSIDE THE AREA**

About

**The IMO Resolutions recommending certain ships to use pilots while navigating  
through the entrances to the Baltic Sea**

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) has acknowledged that the entrances to the Baltic Sea are difficult to navigate, and that large ships and ships carrying dangerous goods constitute a potential danger of pollution of the entrances and the entire Baltic Sea Area. Consequently, the IMO has in December 2003 approved resolution<sup>4</sup> MSC.138(76) calling upon masters of certain ships to make use of the pilot services provided when navigating through the entrances to the Baltic Sea.

In September 2001, the Ministers responsible for maritime shipping and the environment in the Baltic Sea States' and a representative of the European Community agreed during a HELCOM Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting that the masters of ships covered by the above-mentioned IMO resolutions should be informed of these recommendations.

In this respect:

Resolution MSC.138(76), Annex 2, recommends that while navigating through the Sound,

- loaded oil tankers with a draft of 7 metres or more,
- loaded chemical tankers and gas carriers irrespective of size, and
- ships carrying a shipment of irradiated nuclear fuel, plutonium and high-level radio active wastes (INFcargoes)

make use of the pilot services provided.

Resolution MSC.138(76), Annex 1, recommends that ships navigating through route T,

- with a draft of 11 m and more, and
- ships carrying a shipment of irradiated nuclear fuel, plutonium and high-level radio active wastes (INFcargoes)

make use of the pilot services provided.

Simultaneously, a corresponding EARLY WARNING SCHEME of such ships bound for Route T or the Sound will be forwarded by the Baltic port state in question to an appropriate body in Denmark, in order that ships not complying with these IMO Resolutions will be requested to do so.

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<sup>4</sup> This resolution supersedes former IMO resolutions A.579(14) and A.620(15)

**HELCOM Recommendation 23/3**  
**Annex 2**

**INFORMATION TO AN APPROPRIATE BODY IN DENMARK ABOUT SHIPS BOUND FOR ROUTE T OR THE SOUND AND COVERED BY IMO RESOLUTION MSC.138(76) (EARLY WARNING SCHEME)**

In September 2001 the Ministers responsible for maritime shipping and the environment in the Baltic Sea States' and a representative of the European Community agreed during a HELCOM Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting that the masters of ships covered by IMO Resolution MSC.138(76) should, on departure, be informed of the recommendations for certain ships to use pilots while navigating through the entrances to the Baltic Sea.

Simultaneously a corresponding EARLY WARNING SCHEME of such ships bound for Route T or the Sound should be filled in by the master and forwarded by the Baltic port state in question, to an appropriate body in Denmark, in order that ships not complying with these IMO recommendations will be requested to do so.

<b>EARLY WARNING SCHEME</b>	
<b>Submitted by the competent Authority of:</b>	
<b>Ships Name</b>	
Departing from	
Date and time (UTC)	
Port of destination	
Draft	
Loaded tanker (Yes/No)	
Loaded chemical tanker (Yes/No)	
Gas carrier (Yes/No)	
INF Cargo (Yes/No)	
Expected route (Route T/the Sound)	
ETA Reporting line Moen SE/Drogden lighthouse (SHIPPOS – reporting system)	
Planning to use pilot (Yes/No)	
Is the ship planning to use pilot if/when re-entering the Baltic Sea (Yes/no)	
ANNEX 1 handed over to master (Yes/No)	
Name and signature of master	
Comments	

This early warning scheme should, on departure of the corresponding ship be forwarded to the Danish Ministry of Defence/Admiral Danish Fleet by:

E-mail: [eu-celle@sok.dk](mailto:eu-celle@sok.dk) or

Fax: +45 89 43 32 83

**Annex 14****FUTURE ROLE OF HELCOM AND ITS ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE****HELCOM'S FUTURE ROLE**

1. The overall objective of HELCOM, as described in the Convention, is to restore and protect the ecosystems of the Baltic Sea thereby obtaining a sustainable balance between human activities in river basins and in the open sea and the requirements of healthy aquatic ecosystems.
2. The 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 human economic and social activities.
3. HELCOM will focus its work to areas where added value can be obtained and avoid duplication of work done in other fora. This means that HELCOM will function as a guardian of the Baltic Sea by co-ordinating actions and initiatives on the basis of information on the status of the Baltic marine environment.
4. In accordance with Article 20 of the Helsinki Convention, the overall role of HELCOM can be seen as:
  - an environmental policy maker for the Baltic Sea area for developing common environmental objectives and actions;
  - an environmental focal point providing information about (i) the state of/trends in the marine environment; (ii) the efficiency of measures to protect it and (iii) common initiatives and positions which can form the basis for decision-making in other international fora;
  - a body, for developing, for the specific needs of the Baltic Sea, Recommendations of its own and Recommendations supplementary to measures imposed by other international organisations;
  - a supervisory body dedicated to ensure that HELCOM environmental standards are fully implemented by all parties throughout the Baltic Sea and its catchment area; and
  - a co-ordinating body ascertaining multilateral response in case of major maritime incidents.
5. In accordance with the Bremen Declaration of 2003 the more specific tasks of HELCOM within this overall role could be described as follows:
  - to act as a catalyst identifying actions of priority within the region;
  - to act as partner in the development and implementation of the European Marine Strategy to ensure that this strategy will complement and work to achieve the HELCOM objectives;
  - to co-ordinate its work and co-operate with other international organisations at global, and regional (Baltic) level to ensure synergism and complementarity's with working programmes of the different organizations as well as to through these organizations promote common HELCOM initiatives and proposals.

**HELCOM'S FUTURE PRIORITY ACTIVITIES**

6. In order to reach and maintain the good ecological status and to protect the marine environment an ecosystem approach to the management of human activities acknowledging the full integration of all aspects and interests is required. The present sector and species focused approach should be embedded in an ecosystem approach for which Ecological Quality Objectives should be developed, including milestones and final compliance dates.

7. The measures of HELCOM will be based on the fundamental principles and obligations described in the Convention such as the Precautionary Principle, Best Environmental Practice and Best Available Technology and the Polluter-pays Principle. When identifying environmental measures a sub-regional approach will be applied taking into account the aspects of cost-effectiveness.
8. The management approach of HELCOM should take advantage of the DPSIR conceptual framework i.e. Driving forces (activities), Pressures (input), States (quality), Impacts (effects) and Responses (actions and measures).
9. Objectives and actions within the priority areas decided upon during the Bremen Ministerial Meetings are listed in **Annex 1** to this document.

#### **OVERALL ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

10. The overall organizational structure will address:
  - a. The development of policies and strategies;
  - b. The implementation of these policies and strategies.
11. In terms of working arrangements, special attention is given to interlinkages of the work carried out by the permanent working groups and to the need to carry out work intersessionally.

#### **POLICY AND STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT**

12. The policy and strategy of HELCOM shall be decided during the regular annual meeting of HELCOM based on proposals from the Heads of Delegation.
13. Compared to the annual Commission meetings, the Heads of Delegation meet more often and have a more limited number of participants making it possible during these meetings to discuss in more detail proposals for the policy and strategy as well as to supervise the implementation of the existing policy.
14. For this reason the meetings of the Heads of Delegation shall be made more efficient by:
  - a. Continuing to arrange meetings as need be and for the time periods needed;
  - b. Arranging, as need be, for ad hoc groups to give expertise guidance. Members of an ad hoc group should be appointed by HOD on the basis of their professional competence;
  - c. Arranging, as need be, for additional specific meetings with Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Working Groups to discuss issues of mutual concern between the Groups and in this way ensure the necessary coordination and integration needed to implement a holistic ecosystem approach;
  - d. Increasing the role of the Secretariat as facilitator of discussions during the meetings, by preparation of draft policy papers, papers linking issues of interest for several of the working groups and papers on emerging issues.
15. As a consequence, the existing Strategy Group shall be closed down.
16. The HELCOM Project on Ecological Quality Objectives will refer directly to the Heads of Delegation, in this way ensuring the political guidance in the establishment of Quality Objectives for the Baltic Sea Area.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES AND STRATEGIES**

17. There is no need to revise the existing functioning working group structure. For this reason the following working groups are maintained:
  - I. The Monitoring and Assessment Group;
  - II. The Land-based Pollution Group;
  - III. The Nature Protection and Biodiversity Group;

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IV. The Maritime Group; and

V. The Response Group.

18. The Working Groups shall implement the decided policies and strategies and put forward proposals for decision and discussion at the meetings of the Heads of Delegations.
19. It is important to interlink the work of the different working groups and in this way to ensure the implementation of an ecosystem approach to human activities impinging on the marine environment. While the Secretariat should facilitate the horizontal co-ordination of the work between the groups it is proposed that more emphasis is placed on inter-sessional work carried out in order to advance dedicated tasks between the meetings of the groups (see further below).

**INTERLINKAGES OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY PERMANENT WORKING GROUPS**

20. The Monitoring and Assessment Group will constitute the backbone in the work of HELCOM by assessing the trends in pressures, their impacts and the resulting state of the marine environment, the effectiveness of adopted measures and forming the basis for discussions in other groups on the need for additional/different measures/actions.
21. In order to ensure the most efficient use of the HELCOM monitoring programmes and the horizontal co-ordination between the works of the groups it is important:
- a. That the Monitoring and Assessment Group specifies to the other Working Groups/ad hoc groups/projects within fields of their responsibility the most important problems as well as most affected areas;
  - b. That each Working Group/ ad hoc group/project report to the Monitoring and Assessment Group on their requirements for environmental and pollution load monitoring as well as on their requirements and inputs to the assessment products;
  - c. That the Monitoring and Assessment Group co-ordinates the work related to the HELCOM Project on Ecological Quality Objectives, associated indicators and monitoring programmes ensuring the involvement and input of the other Working Groups/ad hoc groups/projects; *inter alia* by concrete specification of what should be delivered; and
  - d. That each Working Group/the Secretariat, assesses the need for any additional or different measures/actions on the basis of the outcomes of Pollution Load Compilations (PLC's), Assessment Products and reports on the status of implementation of HELCOM Recommendations/requirements in the Helsinki Convention/other international agreements and EU directives.
22. The Nature Protection and Biodiversity Group holds fundamental information on ecosystems and habitats providing vital breeding grounds, nurseries, shelters and food sources for Baltic Sea species as well as for species using the Baltic Sea as a migration route or wintering area. All that needs to be taken into account when conducting human activities in the Baltic Sea and its catchment area.
23. In order to ensure that information on habitats, species and the conservation of biodiversity are made to an integral part of the work of all Working Groups, thereby facilitating the implementation of the ecosystem-based management approach and the extension of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) principles to cover the whole Baltic Sea it is important:
- a. That the Nature Protection and Biodiversity Group identifies and assesses current and potential impacts of human activities on the Baltic marine biodiversity (ecosystems/habitats, species and genetic diversity) and specifies to the other Working Groups/ad hoc groups/projects, within fields of their responsibility, the identified problems as well as those marine areas requiring conservation measures;

- b. That the Nature Protection and Biodiversity Group makes proposals for consideration by the responsible Working Group/ad hoc group/projects for possible measures/actions needed to reduce or eliminate the impact of planned/conducted human activities adversely affecting marine biodiversity, habitats or species; and
- c. That the Working Groups/ad hoc groups/projects take into account assessments on the ecosystems, the habitats and biodiversity when considering the efficiency of existing protection measures and the need for additional/different measures/actions.

**INTER-SESSIONAL WORK**

- 24. While for reasons of continuity it seems important to establish a foundation from where to carry out the work, i.e. permanent working groups, more focus seems to be needed on the necessity for work to be carried out inter-sessionally, in a more adaptive and flexible system. Likewise there seems to be a need to deal with specific issues from a more thematic and overarching perspective, and in this way linking the work carried out within the different working groups and/or concentrating on a special issue within a limited time within a project/ad hoc group.
  - 25. It is therefore seen as a very important task to ensure that work is furthered in the periods between the meetings of HELCOM, Heads of Delegation and of the working groups. Both in relation to work carried out within each working group but also for work interlinked to two or more groups aiming for integration of measures and actions.
  - 26. While this should be ensured by the more traditional means, such as work carried out by the Contracting Parties, Lead Countries, the Secretariat and Projects there seems to be a greater need to arrange topical workshops/seminars, across sectors and with the aim to come up with proposals for how to deal with the issues at hand.
  - 27. Possible means for facilitating and conducting intersessional work are:
    - a. Work carried out by Contracting States. Contracting Parties should allocate necessary resources to fulfil agreed commitments to carry out intersessional work related to projects and meetings.
    - b. Work carried out by Lead Countries. More emphasis should be put on the possibility of using Lead Countries to bring forward the preparation of background information or proposals for protection measures/actions. National ministerial resources or local funding of consultants could be considered for this purpose.
    - c. Work to be carried out by the Secretariat. The Secretariat should outline a common way forward in pursuing the implementation of the Helsinki Convention. This should be done by assisting and supporting the work of HELCOM and its subsidiary bodies by outlining the state of the art, work carried out in other relevant organizations and proposals for actions. The Secretariat should also support the work by preparing project proposals and soliciting external funds for these.
    - d. Dedicated tasks to be carried out in one-off specialised workshops/seminars/projects. These should be time-limited and receive clear result-oriented Terms of Reference to carry out specific intersessional tasks, which cannot be carried out by the permanent working group at their annual meetings as it requires a more in-depth discussion.
    - e. Work to be carried out by the use of consultants for specific projects. This is an effective option but limited by the HELCOM budget. External funding by the Contracting Parties or other sources could therefore be considered for this purpose.
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**ROLE OF THE SECRETARIAT**Professional competence

28. The Secretariat shall act as a "think tank" and in this capacity assist and support the work of HELCOM and its subsidiary bodies, inter alia by documents outlining the factual situation including a description of work carried out in other relevant organizations and proposals for possible action.
29. The work of the Secretariat shall be proactive and, based on the priorities of the Contracting Parties, try to outline a common way forward in pursuing the implementation of the Helsinki Convention.
30. The Secretariat shall assist in pursuing the implementation of the Helsinki Convention by:
  - a. Supporting Contracting States/take own initiatives elaborating project proposals; and
  - b. Soliciting funding for possible projects.

GEF Baltic Sea Regional Project (GEF BSRP)

31. The Secretariat holds the Project Implementation Team (PIT) for the GEF BSRP. The main responsibility of the PIT is to ensure that project activities are carried out in accordance with the Grant Agreement, the Project Implementation Plan and the Project Procurement Plan.
32. The Secretariat has a co-ordination role and must ensure that project activities carried out are founded on/complementary to the HELCOM objectives.

Information and public awareness

33. To ensure the public interest in and the political commitment to protect the Baltic Sea area the Secretariat shall:
  - a. Ensure and develop the role of HELCOM as the environmental focal point for the Baltic Sea region;
  - b. Maintain and further improve the information dissemination via targeted publications, newsletters, web-based information and press releases/conferences.

**ALLOCATION OF PRIORITY AREAS TO THE PROPOSED WORKING STRUCTURE**

34. Allocation of priority areas of work to the proposed Working Groups based on the outline of objectives and actions within the priority areas (**Annex 1**) is contained in **Annex 2**.

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**Future role of HELCOM and its organizational structure**  
**Annex 1**

**Objectives and actions within the priority areas decided upon during the Bremen Ministerial Meetings**

**1. Ecosystem approach to the management of human activities**

*Objective:*

To implement the ecosystem approach to manage human activities affecting the marine ecosystem and its living resources.

*Actions:*

- a. Implement the Ecosystem Approach by:
  - setting Ecological Quality Objectives (EcoQOs) within key issues, such as eutrophication, hazardous substances and biodiversity (species and habitats);
  - developing indicators to assess the extent to which EcoQOs have been met.

**2. Monitor and assess the Baltic marine environment**

*Objective:*

To produce targeted and timely assessments and to coordinate supporting monitoring programmes based on the specific features of the Baltic Sea. The assessment products should contain information especially about the present state of the marine environment, long-term trends in the pollution load, other human activities and their impacts on the Baltic ecosystems and should contain recommendations for future actions.

*Actions:*

- a. Review by 2006 the HELCOM monitoring programmes taking into account the requirements of the EU WFD and other relevant directives;
- b. Adopt a HELCOM data handling strategy to avoid duplication of data reporting and datasets, and with a view to have a common fully functional marine database to serve regional, European and global level assessments;
- c. Produce indicator reports and thematic reports on specific topics as well as periodic assessments;
- d. Use tools to assess the implications of different policy scenarios on nutrient inputs into and the resulting eutrophication status of the Baltic Sea Area and sub-regions thereof.

**3. Conserve nature and biodiversity**

*Objective:*

To co-ordinate regional activities to conserve and protect biodiversity, species and habitats and promote sustainable use of living marine resources.

*Actions:*

- a. Develop, by 2005, a common proposal, taking into account the work already done by HELCOM and OSPAR as well as work by the European Community, for a programme aimed at enhancing the protection of species and habitats in European marine waters, in order to produce suggestions for consideration by the European Commission for amendments to the annexes to the Habitats and Birds Directives;



- b. Evaluate by 2006 whether the Baltic Sea Protected Areas (BSPAs) that have been already identified are sufficient to constitute the joint HELCOM/OSPAR network of marine protected areas, and take steps to identify and fill any gaps that are identified by 2010;
- c. Develop a management plan for seals;
- d. Promote actions to mitigate environmental impacts of fisheries within the Regional Advisory Councils under the Common Fisheries Policy;
- e. Develop and adopt a new Annex to the 1992 Helsinki Convention dealing with "Sustainable use of marine natural resources, nature conservation and biodiversity".

#### **4. Integrated Coastal Zone Management**

*Objective:*

To ensure the integration of environment protection aspects into the different sector activities affecting the marine environment by using tools such as spatial planning and environment assessments.

*Actions:*

- a. Ensure cooperation with the European Commission, the different regional organizations (such as VASAB 2010) and local management authorities and prepare an outline for the different management measures to promote ICZM principles in the Baltic Sea area;
- b. Facilitate the establishment of management plans for the BSPAs using the principles of ICZM.

#### **5. Maritime and offshore activities including response to incidents**

*Objective:*

Based on statistics on ships movements in the Baltic as well as risk assessments to ensure that the increasing maritime traffic and offshore activities are carried out in a safe and environmentally sound way and that in case of incidents a swift national and trans-national response is in place.

*Actions:*

Maritime field:

- a. Enhance safety of navigation by identifying the need and possibility for additional measures, such as pilotage in high-risk areas, a deep sea route for ships carrying hazardous material and common requirements for ice classification and ice breaker services;
- b. Identify ways to regionally implement the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, set for adoption in 2004;
- c. Consider ways to further reduce emissions, harmful to the environment, from ships.

Response field:

- a. Maintain and further develop the standing operational network for trans-national co-operation in case of incidents;
- b. Develop a three tier system to ensure adequate response to incidents in the Baltic Sea Area; consisting of national capacity, sub-regional capacity and capacity for the Baltic as a whole;
- c. Co-ordinate operational exercises and aerial surveillance flights, including the possible use of satellites.

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Joint field:

- a. Pursue the full and harmonized implementation of the Baltic Strategy to eliminate deliberate illegal discharges, as well as the HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration, to ensure maritime safety and adequate emergency capacity;
- b. Co-operate with the network of prosecutors general in the Baltic Sea to ensure successful convictions of offenders of anti-pollution regulations;
- c. Ensure information exchange about and investigate the need for additional measures for offshore activities.

**6. Eutrophication and hazardous substances**

*Objective:*

To reduce inputs of nutrients, especially from diffuse sources such as agriculture and transport and to pursue the cessation target for discharges, emissions and losses of hazardous substance by 2020.

*Actions:*

Eutrophication

- a. Indicate the most cost-effective measures in the different sub areas of the Baltic Sea based on assessment of most important pollution sources;
- b. Facilitate the establishment and implementation of national programmes to reduce nutrients;
- c. *Assess the possible impacts of agricultural policies of Contracting Parties, including the implementation of the reform of the EU Common Agricultural Policy, considering the specific needs in the Baltic Sea region;*
- d. Identify sources of airborne nitrogen pollution and propose solutions for reduction mainly by addressing decision-making in other fora

Hazardous substances

- a. Identify and develop measures for hazardous substances not covered by other fora;
- b. Initiate relevant projects in Russia raising awareness and improving capacity building and data collection as well as to address the problem of obsolete pesticides and PCBs;
- c. Assess the progress and facilitate the establishment of national programmes in implementation of the HELCOM objective with regard to hazardous substances.

Eutrophication and hazardous substances

- a. Address transboundary pollution originating from sources in, inter alia, Belarus and Ukraine in order to have a stronger engagement in transboundary River Basin Management;
- b. Elaborate HELCOM measures for the effective use of BAT for industrial sectors.

**7. Implementation of The Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme (JCP)**

*Objective:*

To facilitate the implementation of pollution reduction measures at the most polluted sites in the Baltic Sea catchment area maintaining the high external profile of the JCP concept and the "Hot Spot" label and complete the JCP by 2012 at the latest.

*Actions:*

- a. Assess the development and support the Contracting Parties when addressing the problems of the Hot Spots;
- b. Review the List of Hot Spots according to the latest development and pollution alleviation priorities leading to deletion of existing Hot Spots;
- c. Ensure a stronger coordination and cooperation with similar programmes and activities.

**8. Monitor compliance**

*Objective:*

To observe the status of implementation of HELCOM Recommendations, identify gaps in implementation and possible needs for additional measures.

*Action:*

Consider ways to strengthen the implementation of the Helsinki Convention and HELCOM Recommendations.

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**Future role of HELCOM and its organizational structure**  
**Annex 2**

**Allocation of priority areas of work to the Working Groups**

**1. *Monitoring and Assessment Group***

*Objective:*

To implement the ecosystem approach to manage human activities affecting the marine ecosystem and its living resources<sup>5</sup>.

*Actions:*

- a. Set Ecological Quality Objectives (EcoQOs) within key issues, such as eutrophication, hazardous substances and biodiversity (species and habitats);
- b. Develop indicators to assess the extent to which EcoQOs have been met.

*Objective:*

To produce targeted and timely assessments and to coordinate supporting monitoring programmes based on the specific features of the Baltic Sea. The assessment products should contain information especially about the present state of the marine environment, long-term trends in the pollution load, other human activities and their impacts on the Baltic ecosystems and also recommendations for future actions.

*Actions:*

- c. Review, by 2006, the HELCOM monitoring programmes taking into account the requirements of the EU WFD and other relevant directives;
- d. Adopt a HELCOM data handling strategy to avoid duplication of data reporting and datasets, and with a view to have a common fully functional marine database to serve regional, European and global level assessments;
- e. Produce indicator reports and thematic reports on specific topics as well as periodic assessments.

**2. *Nature Protection and Biodiversity Group***

*Objective:*

To co-ordinate regional activities to conserve and protect biodiversity, species and habitats and promote sustainable use of living marine resources.

*Actions:*

- a. Develop, by 2005, a common proposal taking into account the work already done by HELCOM and OSPAR as well as work by the European Community, for a programme aimed at enhancing the protection of species and habitats in European marine waters, in order to produce suggestions for consideration by the European Commission for amendments to the annexes to the Habitats and Birds Directives;
- b. Evaluate, by 2006, whether the Baltic Sea Protected Areas (BSPAs) which have been already identified are sufficient to constitute the joint HELCOM/OSPAR network of marine protected areas, and take steps to identify and fill any gaps identified by 2010;
- c. Facilitate the establishment of management plans for the BSPAs using the principles of ICZM;

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<sup>5</sup> The Monitoring and Assessment Group should coordinate the implementation of the ecosystem approach and ensure the horizontal input from the other working groups.

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- d. Develop a management plan for seals;
  - e. Promote actions to mitigate environmental impacts of fisheries within the Regional Advisory Councils under the Common Fisheries Policy;
  - f. Develop and adopt a new Annex to the 1992 Helsinki Convention dealing with "Sustainable use of marine natural resources, nature conservation and biodiversity";
  - g. Monitor the status of implementation and effectiveness of regulations for the protection of the Baltic Sea marine environment, identify gaps in implementation and possible needs for additional measures.

### 3. **The Maritime Group**

#### *Objective:*

To ensure, based on statistics on ships' movements in the Baltic as well as risk assessments, that the increasing maritime traffic is carried out in a safe and environmentally sound way.

#### *Actions:*

##### Maritime field:

- a. Enhance safety of navigation by identifying the need and possibility for additional measures, such as pilotage in high-risk areas, a deep sea route for ships carrying hazardous material and common requirements for ice classification and ice breaker services;
- b. Identify ways to regionally implement the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, set for adoption in 2004;
- c. Consider ways to further reduce emissions, harmful to the environment, from ships;
- d. Monitor the status of implementation and effectiveness of regulations for the protection of the Baltic Sea marine environment, identify gaps in implementation and possible needs for additional measures;
- e. Ensure information exchange about offshore activities.

##### Joint field with the Response Group:

- f. Pursue the full and harmonized implementation of the Baltic Strategy to eliminate deliberate illegal discharges, as well as the HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration, to ensure maritime safety;
- g. Co-operate with the network of prosecutors general in the Baltic Region to ensure successful convictions of offenders of anti-pollution regulations.

### 4. **The Response Group**

#### *Objective:*

To ensure, based on statistics on ships' movements in the Baltic as well as risk assessments, that a swift national and trans-national response is in place for the increasing maritime traffic and offshore activities.

#### *Actions:*

##### Response field:

- a. Maintain and further develop the standing operational network for trans-national co-operation in case of incidents;

- 
- b. Develop a three tier system to ensure adequate response to incidents in the Baltic Sea Area; consisting of national capacity, sub-regional capacity and capacity for the Baltic as a whole;
  - c. Co-ordinate operational exercises and aerial surveillance flights, including the possible use of satellites;
  - d. Ensure information exchange about and investigate the need for additional response measures for offshore activities;
  - e. Monitor the status of implementation and effectiveness of regulations for the protection of the Baltic Sea marine environment, identify gaps in implementation and possible needs for additional measures.

Joint field with the Maritime Group:

- f) Pursue the full and harmonized implementation of the Baltic Strategy to eliminate deliberate illegal discharges, as well as the HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration, to ensure adequate emergency capacity;
- g) Co-operate with the network of prosecutors general in the Baltic Region to ensure successful convictions of offenders of anti-pollution regulations.

**5. The Land-based Pollution Group**

*Objective:*

To reduce inputs of nutrients, especially from diffuse sources such as agriculture and transport and to pursue the cessation target for discharges, emissions and losses of hazardous substance by 2020. To facilitate the implementation of pollution reduction measures at the most polluted sites in the Baltic Sea catchment area maintaining the high external profile of the JCP concept and the "Hot Spot" label and complete the JCP by 2012 at the latest.

*Actions:*

Eutrophication

- a. Use tools to assess the implications of different policy scenarios on nutrient inputs into and the resulting eutrophication status of the Baltic Sea Area and sub-regions thereof;
- b. Indicate the most cost-effective measures in the different sub areas of the Baltic Sea based on assessment of most important pollution sources;
- c. Facilitate the establishment and implementation of national programmes to reduce nutrients;
- d. Assess the possible impacts of agricultural policies of Contracting Parties, including the implementation of the reform of the EU Common Agricultural Policy, considering the specific needs in the Baltic Sea region;
- e. Identify sources of airborne nitrogen pollution and propose solutions for reduction mainly by addressing decision-making in other fora.

Hazardous substances

- f. Identify and develop measures regarding hazardous substances (relevant for the Baltic Sea) not covered by other fora;
- g. Initiate relevant projects in Russia raising awareness and improving capacity building and data collection as well as to address the problem of obsolete pesticides and PCBs;
- h. Assess the progress and facilitate the establishment of national programmes in implementation of the HELCOM objective with regard to hazardous substances;
- i. Investigate the need for additional measures for offshore activities.

Eutrophication and hazardous substances

- j. Address transboundary pollution originating from sources in, *inter alia*, Belarus and Ukraine in order to have a stronger engagement in transboundary River Basin Management;
- k. Elaborate HELCOM measures for the effective use of BAT for industrial sectors;
- l. Monitor the status of implementation and effectiveness of regulations for the protection of the Baltic Sea marine environment, identify gaps in implementation and possible needs for additional measures.

Implementation of The Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme (JCP)

- m. Assess the development and support the Contracting Parties when addressing the problems of the Hot Spots;
- n. Review the List of Hot Spots according to the latest development and pollution alleviation priorities leading to deletion of existing Hot Spots;
- o. Ensure a stronger coordination and cooperation with similar programmes and activities.



STATE AUDIT OFFICE  
AUDIT REPORT 467/57/03

AUDITING OF THE ACCOUNTS OF THE BALTIC MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMISSION ON FINANCIAL PERIOD FROM 1 JULY 2002 TO 30 JUNE 2003

In accordance with the Financial Rules of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission - Helsinki Commission the external auditing of the accounts of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission has been entrusted to the State Audit Office of Finland. The State Audit Office has assigned Senior Auditor Matti Ojala to carry out the task for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003.

According to the Rule 3.3 of the Financial Rules the maximum and minimum deposits in the Special Fund shall, as a general rule, amount to 15 % of the total budget and one contribution by a Contracting Party, correspondingly. 30 June 2003 the deposit of the special Fund amounted to 42,5 % of the total budget.

On the basis of the audit, it is certified that during the financial period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

- a) the financial statement is in accordance with the books and records of the Commission;
- b) the financial transactions reflected in the statement have been carried out in accordance with the rules and regulations, the budgetary provisions and other applicable directives;
- c) the monies on deposit and on hand have been verified;
- d) the assets and liabilities of the Commission are in accordance with the books of the Commission.

Helsinki 5 November 2003

  
Matti Ojala  
Certified Public Finance Auditor



**Helsinki Commission****1 July 2002 - 30 June 2003**

## STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

## INCOME

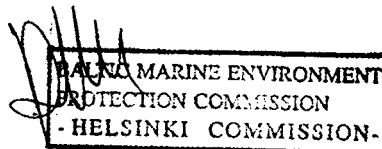
Contributions by Cont. Parties	2 030 541.66	
Interest	16 859.56	
Transfer from Special Fund	45 650.00	2 093 051.22

## EXPENDITURES

Meetings	- 112 734.87	
Salaries	- 909 694.43	
Data and Consultant services	- 251 950.00	
Travel expenses	- 41 818.05	
Communications	- 63 537.38	
Rent and maintenance	- 146 713.70	
Publications	- 183 057.55	
Material and Equipment	- 61 292.10	
Miscellaneous	- 16 801.11	
Meeting support	- 20 176.69	
Projects	- 100 694.23	
		-1 908 470.11
Surplus/Deficit		<u>184 581.11</u>

*Anne Christine Brusendorff*

Anne Christine Brusendorff  
Executive Secretary



**Helsinki Commission**

**30.06.2003**

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Petty Cash	865.30	
Bank Account	1 135 736.83	
Receivables from CPs	53 177.68	
Other Receivables	35 173.40	1 224 953.21
		<u>1 224 953.21</u>

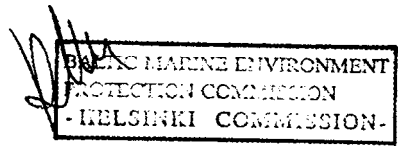
LIABILITIES

Liabilities to CPs	13 163.00	
Accounts Payable	85 365.96	
Transitory items	314 691.21	413 220.17

OWN FUNDS

Special Fund	627 151.93	
Surplus/deficit from period	184 581.11	811 733.04
		<u>1 224 953.21</u>

*Anne Christine Brusendorf*  
 Anne Christine Brusendorf  
 Executive Secretary



## Annex 16

**HELSINKI COMMISSION**  
**Budget for the financial period 1 July 2004 - 30 June 2005****(in EURO)****A. INCOME**

1. HQ Contribution by Finland	282 000,00
2. Contributions by CPs	
2.1 Denmark	206 000,00
2.2 Estonia	83 000,00
2.3 European Community	45 600,00
2.4 Finland	206 000,00
2.5 Germany	206 000,00
2.6 Latvia	83 000,00
2.7 Lithuania	76 000,00
2.8 Poland	206 000,00
2.9 Russia	159 000,00
2.10 Sweden	206 000,00
3. Interest and other income	6 000,00
4. Transfer from Special Fund	59 400,00
5. Special contributions	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1 824 000,00</b>

**B. EXPENDITURE**  
(in EURO)

1. Meeting Expenses		110 000,00
2. Salaries		936 500,00
2.1 Full-time personnel	693 000,00	
2.2 Part time personnel	3 500,00	
2.3 Remunerations	240 000,00	
3. Data handling and consultant services		250 100,00
3.1/1 COMBINE database	50 000,00	
3.1/2 Environmental radioactivity database	18 000,00	
3.1/3 Discharge radioactivity database	5 000,00	
3.1/5 Evaluation of PLC WATER	60 000,00	
3.1/6 Bibliography	17 000,00	
3.1/7 Port Reception Facilities info system	5 000,00	
3.2/1 Cooperation with ICES	30 000,00	
3.2/2 EMEP Centers (PLC AIR)	45 100,00	
3.3 Other expertise	20 000,00	
4. Travels		45 000,00
5. Communications		65 000,00
6. Rent and maintenance of the Office		152 000,00
7. BSEP Publications and other information material		65 000,00
8. Material and equipment		65 000,00
9. Miscellaneous		25 000,00
10. Meeting support		5 400,00
11. Projects		105 000,00
11.6 QA of phytoplankton	4 700,00	
11.14 SGQAB and SGQAC	1 500,00	
11.15 Integrated information system	10 000,00	
11.17 Other Projects	50 000,00	
11.19 MORS-II & Quality Assurance	6 800,00	
11,22 MON PRO	16 000,00	
11,23 LAND/Haz.subst.data coll.strategy	16 000,00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>1 824 000,00</b>

## LIST OF DOCUMENTS

HELCOM 25/2004	Date dd.mm.yy	Title	Submitted by
1/1	18.12.03	Provisional Agenda	Executive Secretary
1/1/INF	02.03.04	Statement by the President of the Republic of Finland	President of the Republic of Finland, Ms. Tarja Halonen
1/2	22.01.04	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda	Executive Secretary
2/1	16.02.04	HELCOM Activities 2003-2004	Executive Secretary
2/2	02.03.04	Statement by the Executive Secretary of the Helsinki Commission	Executive Secretary
3/1	13.01.04	Draft Data and Information Strategy of the Helsinki Commission	Executive Secretary
3/2	17.02.04	Outcome of the Second Meeting of the Maritime Group (HELCOM MARITIME 2/2004)	Executive Secretary
3/3	17.02.04	Activities of the Response Group (HELCOM RESPONSE)	Executive Secretary
3/4	19.02.04	Activities of the Nature Conservation and Coastal Zone Management Group (HELCOM HABITAT)	Executive Secretary
3/5	19.02.04	Activities of the Monitoring and Assessment Group (HELCOM MONAS)	Executive Secretary
3/6	19.02.04	Project Report "Validation of algorithms for chlorophyll a retrieval from satellite data of the Baltic Sea Area" in the Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings Series	Executive Secretary
3/7	19.02.04	Status of the HELCOM Project "Development of ecological quality objectives within HELCOM for the Baltic Sea in the process of regional implementation of the ecosystem approach and the European Marine Strategy"	Executive Secretary
3/8	19.02.04	Status of the HELCOM MON-PRO, revising the HELCOM assessment and monitoring programmes	Bertil Håkansson, the Project Manager
3/9	19.02.04	Draft report on Dioxins in the Baltic Sea	Executive Secretary
3/10	23.02.04	Activities of the Land-based Pollution Group	Executive Secretary
3/11	24.02.04	HELCOM activities with regard to alien species	Executive Secretary

3/12	26.02.04	"Checklist of Baltic Sea Phytoplankton Species" in the Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings Series	Executive Secretary
3/13	27.02.04	The draft Fourth Baltic Sea Pollution Load Compilation (PLC-4)	Executive Secretary
3/13/Add.1	02.03.04	The draft Fourth Baltic Sea Pollution Load Compilation (PLC-4)	Executive Secretary
3/14	27.02.04	HELCOM COMBINE data submissions in ICES Data Centre	Executive Secretary
3/15	01.03.04	Offshore activities in the Baltic Sea	Lithuania
3/16	01.03.04	Report on agricultural pollution from industrial hog rising farms in Poland	CCB
3/17	03.03.04	Proposal concerning establishment of an ad hoc Working Group	Germany
4/1	22.01.04	HELCOM Recommendations in the field of land-based pollution to be adopted at HELCOM 25/2004	Executive Secretary
4/2	13.02.04	Guidelines on granting exceptions for pleasure craft	Executive Secretary
4/3	13.02.04	Draft HELCOM Recommendation concerning assessment of the need for escort towing in tanker transport routes to prevent accidents in the Baltic Sea area	Executive Secretary
4/4	13.02.04	Draft HELCOM Recommendation concerning guidelines for the recommended minimum throughput of oil filtering equipment on board ships	Executive Secretary
4/5	13.02.04	Draft HELCOM Recommendation concerning safety of winter navigation in the Baltic Sea area	Executive Secretary
4/6	17.02.04	Proposal for revision of HELCOM Recommendation 23/3 "Enhancing the use of pilots in Route T and the Sound by notification to departing ships and establishment of an early warning system"	Denmark
4/6/Rev.1	02.03.04	Proposal for revision of HELCOM Recommendation 23/3 "Enhancing the use of pilots in Route T and the Sound by notification to departing ships and establishment of an early warning system"	Secretariat
5/1	19.01.04	Applications for observer status	Executive Secretary
5/2	09.02.04	Agreement on privileges and immunities of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission	Finland
6/1	02.03.04	The IBSFC Statement	IBSFC by Mr. Markku Aro
6/2	02.03.04	Statement by BSFC	BSFC by Ms. Arja Alho

6/3	02.03.04	"Youth for the Baltic" Resolution	Chairman of the Youth Forum Mr. Peter Ehlers
6/4	02.03.04	Statement by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea	ICES
7/1	17.02.04	Development of measures for Hazardous Substances	Executive Secretary
7/1/Rev.1	03.03.04	Development of Measures for Hazardous Substances	Executive Secretary
7/2	24.02.04	Future role of HELCOM and its organizational structure	Executive Secretary
7/3	02.03.04	Future role of HELCOM and its organizational structure	Executive Secretary
7/4	02.03.04	Future role of HELCOM and its organizational structure	European Commission
7/5	03.03.04	Future role of HELCOM and its organizational structure	Executive Secretary
8/1	13.02.04	Request for an authorization to transfer funds from the Special Fund to the income part of the current financial year's budget (2003/2004)	Executive Secretary
8.1/1	22.01.04	Accounts of the Commission 1 July 2002 - 30 June 2003	Executive Secretary
8.1/1/Add.1	19.02.04	Explanatory memorandum on the accounts of the Helsinki Commission for the financial period 1 July 2002 - 30 June 2003	Executive Secretary
8.2/1	21.01.04	Draft budget for financial period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 and budget estimate for 2005-2006	Executive Secretary
9/1	14.01.04	Nomination of a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman for the Helsinki Commission (as from 1 July 2004)	Lithuania
9/2/INF	18.02.04	Marine Strategy - Progress in the period June 2003 - December 2003	European Commission
	27.02.04	Draft Provisional List of Participants	Secretariat
	01.03.04	Provisional List of Participants	Secretariat
	01.03.04	Provisional List of Documents	Secretariat
	03.03.04	List of Documents	Secretariat
11/1	02.03.04	Draft List of Decisions	Secretariat
11/2	16.03.04	Minutes of the Meeting	Secretariat