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Please find attached **Annex 2**, Comments by Russia on Proposal for revision of HELCOM Recommendation 24/10, which was missing from the original document 3-1.

## Comments by Russia on Proposal for revision of HELCOM Recommendation 24/10

**HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 24/10**

Adopted 25 June 2003 and amended xx yy,  
having regard to Article 20, Paragraph 1 b)  
of the 1992 Helsinki Convention

**IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED MARINE AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES and Maritime Spatial Planning IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA****THE COMMISSION**

**RECALLING** Article 3 of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, 1992 (Helsinki Convention), in which the Contracting Parties declare to apply the precautionary principle, and Article 15 in which the Contracting Parties agree to individually and jointly take all appropriate measures, with respect to the Baltic Sea Area and its coastal ecosystems influenced by the Baltic Sea, to conserve natural habitats and biological diversity and to protect ecological processes,

**RECALLING IN CONSIDERATION OF** the Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning, in particular Article 6 considering land-sea interactions as one of the minimum requirements for maritime spatial planning,

**RECALLING FURTHER** other HELCOM Recommendations of relevance to Integrated Marine and Coastal Management of human activities or related issues as listed in **Attachment 1**,

**BEARING IN MIND** that:

- a) the marine and coastal areas<sup>1</sup> are of great environmental, economic, social, cultural and recreational importance for the Baltic Sea area and its inhabitants;
- b) the Baltic Sea marine and coastal areas as defined in the Helsinki Convention Article 1 possess a unique biodiversity and resources the use and protection of which require special planning and approaches of management<sup>2</sup> of human activities;
- c) the improper use of the marine and coastal areas may result in irreversible changes or damages that can only slowly recover, thus affecting the lives of future generations and their relations to the Baltic Sea and its coastal areas,

<sup>1</sup> *Coastal area(s)* (same as *coastal zone*) is defined as a zone following the Baltic Sea coastline, extending 3 km landwards (as this zone is described in HELCOM Recommendation 15/1) from the mainland coast to the adjacent marine offshore areas. The *offshore areas* extend from the outer border of the coastal areas as far offshore as it in each case is relevant for the sustainability of marine and coastal biodiversity and geodiversity (diversity of the geomorphology and geology), in particular if these areas are used or intended to be used in a way that conflict or may conflict with the aims of Article 3 of the Helsinki Convention. These zones thus cover Baltic Sea waters, the underlying seabed and coastal terrestrial areas including the biota as well as abiotic resources.

<sup>2</sup> *Management* is defined as an acknowledged, thoughtful and planned way to manage human activities with regard to the use of land, seabed, water and living resources considering the effects of these activities on adjacent and other ecosystems.

**BEING DEEPLY CONCERNED** about the increasing pressure on the marine and coastal environment arising from plans and projects arising from growing human activities and the use of marine resources in the Baltic Sea region,

**BEING AWARE** that ~~the~~ integrated<sup>3</sup> marine and coastal management of human activities<sup>4</sup> and maritime spatial planning, as one of the management tools, can ~~be a useful tool to~~ ensure environmentally acceptable results and sustainable use of ~~marine and coastal land and water natural~~ resources in the coastal zone ~~on land and at sea,~~

**BEING AWARE** that Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention have a common goal to establish maritime spatial plans that are coherent across borders and based on ecosystem approach.

**RECOGNIZING** that the lack of free access to spatial information on cover, use and biodiversity ~~currently~~ reduces the possibilities of Integrated Marine and Coastal Management to be fully applied in the process of sustainable use of marine and coastal resources of the seabed, land and water areas,

**NOTING**

a) that this recommendation acknowledges all the previous HELCOM recommendations of relevance for Integrated Marine and Coastal Management of human activities, maritime spatial planning or related issues (*Attachment 1*) and the status of previous recommendations is not affected by this recommendation,

b) that the nine riparian countries of the Baltic Sea have ~~(or develop)~~ a national legislation and policies regarding Integrated Marine and Coastal Management of human activities and maritime spatial planning which are different from each other. It is also recognized that national agencies, private parties and NGOs have roles, interests, concerns and obligations regarding the marine and coastal areas that differ from one another as well as between countries,

**BEING CONVINCED** that the marine and coastal management must be carried out in a way that safeguards the marine and terrestrial biodiversity of the marine and coastal areas, uses resources in an environmentally sustainable way and considering social, economic and cultural aspects of the inhabitants, users or visitors of the marine and coastal areas, in particular the traditional activities and customs,

**APPRECIATING** that the European Union has adopted its recommendation concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in Europe<sup>5</sup> and [link to Russian legislation, if exists] considering the movement of Russia towards setting of a national legislative base of state administration of marine activities and marine spatial planning,

**WELCOMING** furthermore the activities currently carried out in the Baltic Sea region through cooperation between HELCOM and VASAB<sup>6</sup>, resulted in regional MSP guidelines, joint visions and principles for BSR MSP,

**ENCOURAGES** the Contracting Parties, being EU member states, in accordance with the EU ICZM recommendation, EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)<sup>7</sup>, EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive<sup>8</sup> and EU Floods Directive<sup>9</sup>, to develop a national strategy or, where appropriate, several strategies or other measures ensuring the implementation of the principles for integrated management of human activities of the in coastal areas, that will be coherent with maritime spatial plans developed in accordance with Principles for maritime spatial planning<sup>10</sup>, and extend these principles to include marine offshore areas and also follow as well as the guidelines on ecosystem-based approach and transboundary consultations<sup>11</sup>,

<sup>3</sup> *Integrated* is defined as a joint effort of several parties and/or the incorporation of different data sources as well as plans and information about several aspects of uses and protection of resources.

<sup>4</sup> Integrated Marine and Coastal Management of human activities should be applied to the coastal and offshore areas defined in a footnote 1.

<sup>5</sup> Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe, 2002/413/EC

<sup>6</sup> VASAB = Visions and Strategies around the Baltic 2010.

<sup>7</sup> Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy

**Commented [A1]:** Russian colleagues are invited to introduce reference to a related national legal act, if there is any.

<sup>8</sup> Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning.

<sup>9</sup> Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of flood risks.

<sup>10</sup> [HELCOM-VASAB Baltic Sea Broad-scale Maritime Spatial Planning Principles](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Guideline for the implementation of ecosystem-based approach in MSP in the Baltic Sea area, Guidelines on transboundary consultations, public participation and co-operation](#)