



Document title	Draft text on management of internal nutrient reserves for the Ministerial Declaration 2018
Code	2-10
Category	DEC
Agenda Item	2- Preparations for HELCOM 39-2018 and HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2018
Submission date	11.12.2017
Submitted by	Finland and Sweden
Reference	

Background

Huge resources of phosphorus have been accumulated in the bottom sediments of the Baltic Sea during the past decades. Internal load, caused by release of phosphorus from sediments in anoxic conditions, is a factor contributing to its elevated concentration in the Baltic Sea. There are, however, still uncertainties regarding the fluxes and dynamics of phosphorus in the Baltic Sea and their contribution to eutrophication. In addition, climate change enhances the risk of further exacerbating eutrophication.

The HELCOM-EUSBSR Workshop was organized to highlight the knowledge base across the Baltic Sea region countries, to promote open discussion, and to identify concrete ways towards sustainable and environmentally-safe management of internal nutrient reserves in the Baltic Sea area, taking into account its political and legal aspects as well as potential environmental risks posed by implementation of new methods.

The Workshop took place 28-29 November 2017 in Gothenburg, Sweden. The Workshop was attended by 56 participants representing mainly Finland and Sweden but also two representatives of Germany and one from Latvia and Lithuania. HELCOM observers, scientific and public organization were also widely represented at the Workshop. The [programme](#) and [memo](#) of the major themes discussed at the Workshop are available at HELCOM web site. The memo, made by the organizers, is a brief compilation reflecting the major themes which were discussed at the workshop. Presentations from the Workshop are also available at the [HELCOM website](#).

The workshop provided background for the draft text for the Ministerial declaration, prepared jointly by Finland and Sweden. This document contains the draft.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to consider and agree on the draft text on management of internal nutrient reserves for the Ministerial Declaration 2018.

A draft text on management of internal nutrient reserves for the Ministerial Declaration 2018

[BEING AWARE that eutrophication still remains the major environmental problem of the Baltic Sea;]

[ACKNOWLEDGING the progress achieved by the countries towards HELCOM nutrient reduction targets through implementation of measures on land and maintaining focus on further implementation of such measures to minimize land based input of nutrients;]

[RECOGNIZING that large amounts of phosphorus have accumulated in the Baltic Sea during the past decades, causing an enhanced internal flux of nutrients between sediments and sea water thereby worsening eutrophication;]

WE COMMIT to examine the potential of measures to manage the internal nutrient reserves. WE COMMIT to further improve the knowledge base regarding the nature and dynamics of the internal nutrient reserves. WE ENCOURAGE Contracting Parties to develop solutions for management of the internal nutrient reserves and to perform pilot tests in coastal waters and lakes where appropriate. The long-term sustainability and risks to ecosystem and human health of such measures need to be taken into account and be thoroughly evaluated. We also COMMIT to develop regional principles serving as a guidance for potential application of the measures in the open sea.