



Document title	Subdivision of Danish Straits to two sub-basins
Code	3-10
Category	INF
Agenda Item	3 - Nutrient loads to the Baltic Sea ecosystem
Submission date	14.4.2020
Submitted by	FEAP
Reference	

Background

On the initiative of FEAP subdivision of Danish Straits has been on the agenda for several HELCOM meetings. Latest at HELCOM 41-2020 early March 2020.

[Document 8-1 from HELCOM 41-2020](#) describes the subdivision proposed by FEAP. In short: There is 7 HELCOM sub-seas of the Baltic Sea, where MAI, extra reduction etc. is calculated. When GES etc. is described/calculated there is 17 sub-seas. Danish Straits is divided into four: The Belt, The Sound, Kieler Bay, Bay of Mecklenburg. FEAP proposed that these four sub-seas were “promoted” to HELCOM Sub-seas making the number of HELCOM sub-seas 10. The reason is that GES in the Sound is much longer from reaching a satisfactorily level than GES in the three other seas in “Danish Straits” and that the water exchange between the Sound and the three others is very limited. Any decline in the input of nutrients in the Belt, Kieler Bay and Bay of Mecklenburg has very limited effect on the Sound.

Following was the result of the discussions.

Draft outcome HELCOM 41:

“The Meeting took note of the proposal on subdivision of Danish Straits presented by FEAP (document 8-1). The Meeting recalled that the issue had been discussed at PRESSURE and HODs and reiterated that the need of this subdivision requires thorough analysis including resource demand of the work.”

The draft was rejected by some Contracting Parties instead the outcome was extreme neutral:

Actual outcome HELCOM 41:

“The meeting took note of the proposal of subdivision of Danish Straits presented by FEAP (document 8-1)”

Proposal

Another division of HELCOM seas:

When atmospheric deposition of nitrogen is discussed Danish Straits is already divided in two, cfr.

<https://helcom.fi/baltic-sea-trends/environment-fact-sheets/eutrophication/atmospheric-nitrogen-depositions-to-the-sea/>

We have here a split of Danish Straits in WEB (Western Baltic) and SOU (The Sound). In the Northern part of the Baltic Sea there is two new sub-seas: ARC (Archipelago) and BOB (Baltic Bay).

A simple map of the 9 sub-seas is in the **attachment**.

Also FEAP finds that non-atmospheric input of nitrogen and phosphorous could be split in the same way. From a “layman’s” point of view it should be easier as we here deal with land and sea-based nutrients.

FEAP therefore proposes to use this division in 9 subseas for future calculations of MAI etc. Alternatively, only to divide into 8 HELCOM sub-seas not using ARC and BOB.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to comment on the idea of a possible split of Danish Straits in WEB and SOU for calculating MAI, needed reductions etc.

Attachment.

THE NINE SEAS OF THE BALTIC SEA

