



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Seventh Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area

PRESSURE 7-2017

Vilnius, Lithuania, 24-26 October 2017

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Background

This document contains the updates to the status of implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter as endorsed by PRESSURE 7-2017.

Follow up of implementation of the regional actions of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (approved by PRESSURE 7-2017)

SOURCE OF LITTER ADDRESSED	SUB-CATEGORY	ACTION BY	ACTION CODE	REGIONAL ACTION	FURTHER SPECIFICATION	LEAD STATUS	ONGOING ACTIVITIES INCLUDING NATIONAL ONES	POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION FROM HELCOM SUBSIDIARY BODIES	NEXT STEPS PROPOSALS
Land-based	General improved waste prevention and management	2017	RL1	Prepare and agree on HELCOM guidelines on marine litter references to be included in national and local waste prevention and waste management plans, i.a. an element highlighting the impacts of marine litter.	Guidelines by 2017	Sweden will not be able to lead this action, but to contribute to it (PRESSURE 4-2016).	Sweden informed on two measures that are planned nationally related to RL1 on the inclusion of marine litter references in national and local waste prevention and waste management plans (PRESSURE 3-2015) Potential contribution from 'Blastic project – plastic pathways from land to sea', funded by the Central Baltic Programme, which will run 2016-2018 (PRESSURE 3-2015, doc. 5-12) Sweden proposed to change the deadline to 2019 in order to be able to benefit from the guidelines produced by the BLASTIC project in 2018 (PRESSURE 4-2016). There are two background reports under progress, one on marine litter sources and one on available methods to monitor marine plastic litter, as well as an identification list of marine litter sources. There will be a questionnaire for pilot municipalities to be filled in with the list of marine litter sources, which will be tested next year. Subsequently, draft measures for municipalities will be drafted. The website is currently under construction, and at the moment there is material under the introductory part, FAQs, and impacts. Experts are invited to provide feedback on the website (https://www.blastic.eu/)	PRESSURE	DE to provide updated information on their national PoMs. Propose to change deadline to 2019 in order to benefit from the guidelines produced by the Blastic project. CPs are invited to consider leadership.
Land-based	General improved waste prevention and management	2017	RL2	Provide HELCOM guidelines on best practice routines with regard to cleaning and collection systems to prevent litter from land entering the aquatic environment.	Guidelines by 2017	–	Potential contribution from Blastic project (see RL1).	PRESSURE	Propose to change deadline to 2019 in order to benefit from the guidelines produced by the Blastic project and also in the view of the HOLAS II assessment. To consider ongoing work on Nordic Council of Ministries, Clean Europe Network (DE to provide contact details), and the Baltic Sea Accelerator. CPs are invited to consider leadership.

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Land-based	General improved waste prevention and management	2016	RL3	Share best practice on waste management in order to identify and address loopholes that makes waste turn into marine litter, including the issue of landfills, regulations and enforcement.	–	Germany to lead (e-mail notification)	<p>Potential contribution from Blastic project (see RL1) Germany informed (e-mail 18.4.2017 and WS RAP ML-2017) that:</p> <p>* Germany has established a close cooperation with the International Waste Working Group (IWWG), which agreed to support the further implementation of the waste management actions within both, the HELCOM and the OSPAR RAP MLs.</p> <p>* As a next step Germany plans to send out a questionnaire addressing loopholes that make waste turn into waste for land-based macro- and microplastics and best practise of primary actions in waste management by early 2018.</p> <p>* A joined workshop with the experts from the waste management sector is foreseen taking place at the conference Sardinia 2017 to have an in-depth discussion on which next steps need to be taken.</p>	PRESSURE	
Land-based	General improved waste prevention and management	2018	RL4	Improvement of stormwater management in order to prevent litter, including microlitter, to enter the marine environment from heavy weather events.	By 2018 at the latest HELCOM has compiled information to give guidance on improvements of stormwater management on a local level to prevent and reduce stormwater related waste (including micro litter) entering the marine environment, taking into consideration similar action within OSPAR. If appropriate according to findings of the activity and other relevant information, amend HELCOM Recommendation 28E/5 on municipal wastewater treatment.	Sweden is willing to contribute to if a lead country for this action could be identified (PRESSURE 3-2015).CCB is willing to contribute (WS RAP ML 1-2016)	<p>Potential contribution from Blastic project (see RL1).Potential contribution from the FP7 'Baltic Flows' (finished project, http://www.balticflows.eu/) and 'iWater' (http://www.integratedstormwater.eu/), a project which has just started and is run by Union of Baltic Cities.CCB made a proposal on concrete ways to reduce microplastics in stormwater and sewage which would contribute to Actions RL4, RL7 and RL8 (WS RAP ML 1-2016). Finland informed (e-mail 17.10.2017) that: Potential contribution from a Finnish research project (MIF) on sampling methodology (water flow volume based) and preliminary data on microlitter in stormwaters, but not before end 2018. Ongoing technological development is known to take place (FI) for reducing microlitter from stormwaters.</p> <p>CCB informed (WS RAP ML 2-2017, document 6) of the "Guidance on concrete ways to reduce microplastic inputs from municipal stormwater and waste water discharges", including (1) stormwater management implications in climate change conditions and (2) draft methodology for microplastic detection, has been finalized and published on CCB's website. It was presented at various occasions and disseminated EU-wide.</p> <p>Overview of HELCOM Recommendations on waste water management proposed for amendment to address microlitter presented to WS RAP ML 2-2017 (document 7), and considered it to be premature and that further building knowledge is needed.</p>	PRESSURE	To be included in the Work Plan of PRESSURE WG. PRESSURE to provide feedback on this action. DE to contribute with information. CPs are invited to consider leadership.

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Land-based	General improved waste prevention and management	No deadline specified	RL5	Establish a dialogue and negotiate on solutions with business and industry to (i) develop design improvements that reduce the negative impacts of products entering the marine environment, and (ii) reduce over- packaging and promote wise packaging	Initiatives taken by the private sector.	Germany to lead (e-mail notification)	<p>Germany informed (e-mail 18.4.2017) that:</p> <p>* The UBA is co-chairing the EU MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter and was in this context also driving the process of producing a report assessing the biological and socioeconomic harm caused by marine litter which is now publically available. Therefore a good overview is now out provided on which products need to be targeted and what impacts need to be taken into account.</p> <p>Germany has also set up a national Round Table on Marine Litter which is addressing the issue of overpackaging/wide packaging by looking into how existing regulations and praxis can be modified/adapted. In this context a lot of stakeholder from business and industry are already involved. Some of these stakeholders are also involved in the national Round Table "Eco-Design for Plastic Packaging" which aims to develop a Guideline on the eco-design of packaging among the entire supply chain. First results will be expected in 2018, these will be shared within HELCOM (WS RAP ML 2-2017)</p> <p>* Germany currently considers how to transfer this national process to a regional level aiming to set up a dialogue together with other HELCOM CPs and head organizations of relevant industrial sectors such as the packaging industry.</p> <p>Finland informed (e-mail 17.10.2017) that: Finland is launching a national challenge contest for collecting best ideas reducing marine litter as part of a national marine litter project supporting POM. The challenge is open for all citizens, but will also be specially directed towards stakeholders in packaging industry and product design.</p>	PRESSURE	

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Land-based	Measures to tackle top items - Micro particles	2017	RL6	Establish an overview of the importance of the different sources of primary and secondary microplastics. Evaluate products and processes that include both primary and secondary microplastics, such as fibres from clothing, assess if they are covered or not by legislation, and act, if appropriate, to influence the legal framework, or identify other necessary measures.	By 2017 an overview on what products and processes contribute to the input of microplastics to the Baltic Sea, taking into account similar action within OSPAR. By 2018 existing legislation is assessed and necessary measures identified together with relevant stakeholders.	Germany willing to contribute (e-mail notification)	<p>Potential contribution from Blastic project (see RL1).The SE EPA has a commission to identify significant sources to micro plastics in Sweden and to act to reduce the origination and release of microplastics from these sources to the marine environment. The commission shall be reported on or before the 15 June 2017. As part of this commission a national investigation on sources to micro plastics has been carried out and reported, (http://www.naturvardsverket.se/upload/miljoarbete-i-sverige/regeringsuppdrag/2016/mikroplaster/swedish-sources-and-pathways-for-microplastics-to-marine%20environment-ivl-c183.pdf)Norway has released a report on measures to reduce microplastics that maybe can feed in to this action, see link below http://www.miljodirektoratet.no/no/Publikasjoner/2016/April-2016/Primary-microplastic-pollution-Measures-and-reduction-potentials-in-NorwayThe SE Chemicals Agency have had an assignment from the Government to propose national measures for restricting the occurrence of microplastics in cosmetic products, and they presented it 15.1.2016 (http://www.kemi.se/nyheter-fran-kemikalieinspektionen/2016/kemikalieinspektionen-foreslar-begransningar-for-plastkorn-i-kosmetika/). The summary is available in English.The EU has finalised a study on microplastics in cosmetics http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/good-environmental-status/descriptor-10/pdf/MSFD%20Measures%20to%20Combat%20Marine%20Litter.pdf and is considering follow-up activities on microplastics (e-mail communication after PRESSURE 4-2016).Finland informed on a Bachelor's Thesis on microplastics and harmful substances in urban runoffs and landfill leachates - Possible Emission Sources to Marine Environment (2016) (https://www.theseus.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/114539/Kilponen_Juho.pdf?sequence=1) (WS RAP ML 1-2016). Finland aims launch a case/pilot study on microplastics in storm waters in years 2018-2019, as a part of a national research project (MIF) (e-mail 18.4.2017).Germany informed (e-mail 18.4.2017) that Germany is just contributing to this action. Since there is so far no lead for this action there is nothing to contribute yet. However, Germany has produced a national overview on relevant sources for Microplastics, is involved in the implementation of the respective measures of the OSPAR RAP ML including ongoing dialogues with the cosmetic and other relevant industries and has also targeted this action via a national roundtable on Marine Litter. This can be brought into the process once it gets started.Denmark has carried out two national investigations on microplastics, "Microplastics, Occurrence, effects and sources of releases to the environment in Denmark" (Environmental project No. 1793, 2015) (http://www2.mst.dk/Udgiv/publications/2015/10/978-87-93352-80-3.pdf) and "Microplastic in Danish wastewater. Sources, occurrences and fate (Environmental Project No. 1906. Marts 2017) (http://www2.mst.dk/Udgiv/publications/2017/03/978-87-93529-44-1.pdf) (PRESSURE 6-2017). Germany informed (WS RAP ML 2-2017) that within the implementation of the OSPAR RAP ML, an Assessment Document of land-based inputs of</p>	PRESSURE	To set up a working group to compile information on national activities. An open call will be made for all countries to provide summaries of these activities, aiming at the elaboration of an assessment report. Secretariat to investigate opportunities to conduct the work.

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							<p>microplastics in the marine environment is currently considered. The report describes source emissions and potential impacts of microplastics in the OSPAR area in order to facilitate prioritization of further actions to mitigate microplastic emissions to the environment. Upon finalization, it will be shared within HELCOM. The FONA-call of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research also addresses the issue of microplastic. Moving forward, microplastics will be a priority on the agenda of the Round Table of Marine Litter.</p> <p>Finland informed (e-mail 17.10.2017) that: To support national POM, Finland is carrying out a national survey on the sources of both macro- and microlitter (plastics). The survey report will be ready by autumn 2018. As a part of this study a report of the amount of microplastics included in the Personal Care products on Finnish markets and entering municipal waste waters was done in 2017.</p> <p>CCB informed (WS RAP ML 2-2017, document 6, presentation 3) of a technical report of microplastic pollution originating from textiles and paints/coatings, addressing both environmental implications and available solutions which has been published on CCB's website and will be used in public awareness and information work, as well as potentially – to address the industry.</p> <p>Russia informed (WS RAP ML 2-2017, document 8) that in the frame of the project MicroplAstics Research in the Baltic marine Environment (MARBLE) (funded by the Russian Science Foundation) the research team from Laboratory for Marine Physics of the Atlantic Branch of P.P.Shirshov Institute of Oceanology of RAS collected samples of microplastic from the waters of the Baltic Sea and found that near the water surface and bottom, there are a lot of microfibrers. Studies were carried out to measure the rate descent of microplastic to the bottom at the Laboratory. It is assumed that the results of the project will be used to attract public attention to the problem of microplastic pollution of the World Ocean in general and the Baltic Sea in particular. It is envisaged that results of this project are presented at the upcoming HELCOM SPICE workshop on microlitter to be held on 7-8 November in Helsinki (Finland).</p>		

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Land-based	Measures to tackle top items - Micro particles	2018	RL7	Compilation of available techniques as well as research and develop additional techniques in waste water treatment plants to prevent micro particles entering the marine environment.	By 2018 HELCOM has compiled information, and prepared a report on micro particles removal in waste water treatment plants taking into account similar action within OSPAR. If appropriate according to findings of the search and other relevant information, amend HELCOM Recommendation 28E/5 on municipal wastewater treatment.	Sweden offered to lead (HOD 48-2015).Finland offered to co- lead (PRESSURE 4- 2016).	Swedish and an OSPAR report on best available techniques to reduce and prevent sewage and storm-water related waste entering the marine environment, including micro particles to be ready during 2016 which could then be considered regarding the applicability in the Baltic Sea (PRESSURE 3-2015). The report is ready although it is not yet official (WS RAP ML 1-2016). Swedish national report on technical solutions for advanced treatment of waste water in order to reduce pharmaceutical residues and micro plastics is envisaged for June 2017. Envisaged working process for this action: 2017 compilation of what has been done so far, including a review of the status in HELCOM area in order to build a basis for discussion with relevant stakeholders on how to proceed (WS RAP ML 1-2016). Finland informed (e-mail 18.4.2017, and 17.10.2017) that the removal of microlitter from wastewater during different treatment steps of mechanical, chemical and biological treatment (activated sludge) and biologically active filter (BAF) in a large (population equivalent 800000) advanced WWTP has been examined The effectiveness of different tertiary treatments in the purification process has also been evaluated. Information from this study will feed into RL7 giving information on the methods that have been tested and evaluated. Sweden reported that work on RL7 is ongoing: The Environment and Energy Ministry has requested the SEPA to identify important sources of microplastic loads to the sea, to reduce the occurrence and release of microplastics from these sources and where appropriate to propose regulatory changes to reduce these emissions. The work includes a review of Best Available Techniques. This work will be reported to the ministry before midsummer (PRESSURE 6-2017) Sweden informed (WS RAP ML 2-2017) that according to the Swedish Environment Protection Agency, with responsibility for water treatment issues, standardised analysis methods for microplastics remain under development. This hinders implementation of standards for microplastic removal at water treatment works. On the basis of studies into the spread of microplastics in the environment however, water treatment plants appear to be a relatively minor source of microplastics, as 90 - 97% of particles appear to be separated in the treatment plant. An important issue remains concerning stormwater discharges, as this can result in large quantities of microplastics being released from the sewage system. The Swedish government has recently started a special investigation into the environmental consequences of plastics, including microplastics which end up in lake and marine environments. SwAM senior analyst and marine litter expert, Johanna Eriksson, has been appointed as secretary to the investigation, which will report to the Environment- and Energy Ministry by the 1st October 2018.	PRESSURE	

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Land-based	Measures to tackle top items -Sewage related litter including sanitary waste	2017	RL8	Assess the importance of the contribution of upstream waste flows to the marine environment and, if needed, identify suitable actions.	By 2017 an assessment of the importance of sewage related waste coming from the upstream waste flow is produced. By 2018 share assessment with River and River Basin Commissions and identify measures including the implementation of related regulations; missing elements are identified and guidelines for improvement are presented.	Poland offered to lead (HOD 48-2015)	Questionnaire developed by Poland. The feedback provided by countries is being currently analysed (WS RAP ML 1-2016). CCB made a proposal on concrete ways to reduce microplastics in stormwater and sewage which would contribute to Actions RL4, RL7 and RL8 (WS RAP ML 1-2016). CCB informed (WS RAP ML 2-2017, document 6 , presentation 3) of a simple methodology for detection of microplastic in rivers, streams and other freshwater bodies has been adapted from the original Swedish version and tested by CCB's member organizations and partners in several locations in Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Russia (both St.Petersburg and Kaliningrad regions). After testing the methodology will be included into CCB's River Watch public monitoring manual (also in national languages) and continued on a regular basis. The screening round is still ongoing and the results will be published in early 2018. Poland provides a summary report on the Analysis of the degree of the marine environment pollution by wastes flowing down the rivers to the sea, including sanitary waste (WS RAP ML 2-2017, document 4 , presentation 1).	PRESSURE	The assessment of the importance of sewage related waste coming from the upstream waste flow is considered accomplished, once Poland can include conclusions on the summary report. The Secretariat will contact the River and River Basin Commissions with this assessment.
Land-based	Measures to tackle top items - Expanded Polystyrene (Polystyrene Foam)	2017	RL9	Compile information on the prevalence and sources of expanded polystyrene (EPS) in the marine environment, and engage with industry to make proposals for alternative solutions (e.g. use of other materials, establishment of deposits, return and restoration systems, overpackaging reduction).	By 2017 an overview of the most significant sources of EPS ending up in the marine environment is produced, in cooperation with OSPAR. Make recommendations to the Contracting Parties on voluntary agreements with the industry on changes in product design and applying best practices when handling EPS by 2019.	Denmark offered to lead (HOD 52-2017)	Finland informed (e-mail 17.10.2017) that there is on-going development in Finland for using wood-based materials to replace EPS. Has been done already now to replace EPS with cardboard in boxes used in storing and transporting fish. Also waterproof cardboard has been developed to replace EPS e.g. in coffee cups and related. Denmark informed (WS RAP ML 2-2017) that a project is to be initiated at the end of the year, where information on sources of EPS will be compiled. Also on proposals on solutions from the industry (project to run until the end of 2018).	PRESSURE	Denmark to coordinate with similar action in OSPAR

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Land-based	Measures to tackle top items -Plastic bags	2018	RL10	Define and implement appropriate instruments and incentives to reduce the use of plastic bags, including the illustration of the associated costs and environmental impacts (e.g. establishment of levies, deposit fees, taxes or bans on plastic bags). [].Support regional coordination in the Baltic Sea of the implementation of the future revised Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste to reduce the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags, for HELCOM Contracting Parties being EU members.	By 2018 HELCOM Contracting Parties start to coordinate and inform each other about consumption of plastic bags, taking into account the measures which are implemented nationally.	CCB is willing to contribute (WS RAP ML 1-2016)	Finland informed (e-mail 18.4.2017) of a framework agreement to reduce the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags (Plastic Carrier Bag Agreement).The programme of measures of the Finnish Marine Strategy 2016–2021 adopted by the Government proposes that, with the aim to reduce the littering of the Baltic Sea, proposals for measures are to be prepared to reduce the amount of plastic litter, in particular. As means to reduce littering the focus of the measures should include the use of plastic containers and bags.Green Deal agreement of the Ministry of the Environment and Federation of Finnish Commerce on the measures to reduce the consumption of plastic carrier bags was signed in 2016. The agreement implements the measures the Member States are required to take to reduce the consumption of plastic carrier bags under the EU Packaging Waste Directive (94/62/EC), as amended by Directive (EU) 2015/720.The purpose of the agreement is to agree on voluntary measures of the retail sector to ensure that the minimum objectives concerning the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags in the Packaging Waste Directive are reached in Finland. As a rule all companies in the retail sector with one or several branches in Finland may join the plastic bag agreement for the trade sector via the Society's Commitment.The Ministry of the Environment undertakes to evaluate after three years from the date when the agreement was concluded (31 October 2016) the effectiveness of the agreed measures in terms of reducing the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags and preventing littering. Should the evaluation show that the measures	PRESSURE	To gather information on national proposals/instruments to implement the EU Directive, as well as develop guidance for those countries who have not initiated the process.
Land-based	Measures to tackle top items -Bottles and containers	2017	RL11	Cooperate on the establishment and/or further development of deposit refund systems for bottles, containers and cans (e.g. glass, plastics and aluminium) in the HELCOM Contracting Parties in accordance with national law as appropriate. Investigate and strive for bilateral and multilateral solutions between the countries for establishment of such systems in relation to passenger ships.	CPs informing in 2017 on the status/plans regarding the deposit refund systems, including on possible solutions regarding passenger ships.	Estonia offered to lead (PRESSURE 3-2015).	A first possible step to start up these actions could be a survey to the Contracting Parties to be initiated by Estonia in cooperation with the HELCOM Secretariat. Survey circulated 26.02.2016. No updated information provided at PRESSURE 4-2016. Currently functioning deposit refund systems for bottles, containers and cans (e.g. glass, plastics and aluminium) are in place in DE, DK, SE, FI, EE and LT. In PL, LV and RU the system is not in place at the moment. There is no action regarding bilateral and multilateral solutions between the countries for establishment of such systems in relation to passenger ships (WS RAP ML 1-2016). Possible input: http://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:721027/FULLTEXT01.pdf Estonia informed that (WS RAP ML 2-1017) nothing has changed since April 2017.	PRESSURE & MARITIME	Estonia will provide a report on this action (WS RAP ML 2-1017)
Land-based	Actions addressing third parties	2016	RL12	Encourage, based on existing labels such as the EU Ecolabel and the Nordic Ecolabel, exchange with international environmental certification schemes for information and inclusion of the management and prevention of marine litter in their lists of criteria.	By 2016 initiate an activity on what certification schemes could be addressed, which existing criteria could be promoted for potential inclusion in international certification systems together with ways and	–	Germany informed (WS RAP ML 2-2017) on the German Ecolabel "Blue Angel" that addresses shipping (packaging) or refuse bags or carrier bags from recycled plastics, among others (https://www.blauer-engel.de/en.)	PRESSURE	Germany to share national experiences.

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					means how to help approving those.				
Land-based	Actions addressing third parties	No deadline specified	RL13	HELCOM Contracting Parties to seek cooperation with the River and River Basin Commissions, as appropriate, in order to include impacts of litter on the marine environment from riverine inputs, taking into account activities in the context of the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Bathing Water Directive, and beyond, when applicable. This cooperation should include the exchange of experience on best practice to prevent litter entering into water systems, in line with action RL8.	HELCOM Contracting Parties will continue cooperation with River and River basin Commissions, as appropriate, in order to integrate measures addressing the reduction of littering in river basins followed up by appropriate information exchange on the implementation of measures.	Poland offered to lead (PRESSURE 5-2016).	Finland informed (e-mail 18.4.2017 and 17.10.2017) that BLASTIC –project will explore different methods for monitoring macrolitter in rivers. The work will be carried out in collaboration with local municipalities. The project will carry out pilot monitoring on riverine litter in one case study area in Sweden, Finland, Estonia and Latvia in 2017. The aim is to produce a guidance document based on the project’s experiences in 2018.	PRESSURE	The Secretariat to investigate how to contact River and River Basin Commissions. Poland to consider how to contribute. CCB to contribute. To consider the ongoing project Riverine and Marine floating macro litter Monitoring and Modelling of Environmental Loading (RIMMEL) (http://mcc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dev.py?N=simple&O=380&titre_page=RIMMEL)
Land-based	Remediation and removal measures	2020	RL14	Address landfills or dumpsites including historic ones which may eventually pose a risk to the marine environment due to factors such as coastal erosion and vicinity to rivers.	By 2020 a regional-wide map on landfills and dumpsites including historic ones which may eventually pose a risk to the marine environment is produced.	Estonia offered to lead (PRESSURE 3-2015)	A first possible step to start up these actions could be a survey to the Contracting Parties to be initiated by Estonia in cooperation with the HELCOM Secretariat. Questionnaire sent; deadline 4 March 2016. Feedback provided by all HELCOM members except Germany, Lithuania and Russia. The received feedback indicated that all the landfills are under control in the region and cannot be considered as sources of marine litter (Outcome of PRESSURE 4- 2016, para. 3.9).	PRESSURE	Estonia will provide a report on this action (WS RAP ML 2-1017)

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Land-based	Remediation and removal measures	No deadline specified	RL15	Establish an exchange platform for spreading experiences on good cleaning practices in beaches, including cleaning beaches actions by local communities, riverbanks, pelagic and surface sea areas, ports, marinas and inland waterways, in cooperation with relevant fora. Develop best practice on environmental friendly technologies and methods for cleaning.	Coordinate with other RSCs in order to set up an exchange platform for spreading experiences on good cleaning practices in the different marine compartments and rivers.		Russia: an exhibition "Ecology of big city" which annually takes place in St Petersburg can serve as the platform to exchange good practices and techniques for cleaning beaches, riverbanks, ports, marinas and inland waterway (PRESSURE 6-2017). Russia informed (WS RAP ML 2-2017, document 8) the International Environmental Forum "Baltic Sea Day" and exhibition "Ecology in the Big City" will be held in St. Petersburg, Russia 21-23 March 2018. The event might become a permanent platform for local communities to exchange the best practices and solutions. Russia invited representatives of the municipalities in the Baltic Sea region to attend the event where special session dedicated to the role of municipalities in implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action will be arranged. In the frame of the Baltic Sea Day Forum 2018 all Baltic countries will be proposed to participate in the International annual action "Clean coast" in April 2018. For the first time, the international action "Clean Coast" was held in 2014 as part of the International Project "Year of the Gulf of Finland - 2014". Traditionally, the "Clean Coast" campaign is not just litter collection, but also an educational event, one of its main important tasks is to improve the environmental culture of citizens, to educate the young generation and to promote environmental volunteering.	PRESSURE	The Secretariat to communicate with Russia to provide information.
Sea-based	Actions addressing shipping related waste	2018	RS1	Development of best practice on the disposal of old pleasure boats (i.e. intentional disposal of the boats at the ending of their lifetime in the sea and on shore).	Best practice developed by 2018	Finland offered to lead this action (e-mail 17.10.2017)	Swedish national project on recycling of pleasure boats by Sweboat, Båtskroten Sverige AB and Stena Recycling AB (PRESSURE 3-2015, doc. 5-7) Finland informed (e-mail 18.4.2017) that planning of the action is in process and Finland will provide more information later. Finland informed (e-mail 17.10.2017) that Finland (KAT) has agreed to produce an ELB (End-of-Life boats) report that collects a best practice - model on recycling of ELB. Agreement signed by the Environmental Ministry of Finland and KAT 30.5.2017, and the report is to be carried out by the end of 2018.	MARITIME	
Sea-based	Actions addressing shipping related waste	2017	RS2	Develop best practice in relation to inspections for MARPOL Annex V, including harmonized management of data. Support regional coordination of IMO regulations in accordance with EU requirements for those HELCOM countries which are EU members.	Best practice developed in cooperation with Paris MoU by 2017	Germany to lead (e-mail notification)	Germany informed (e-mail 18.4.2017) that: * This action is treated together with the related actions 32, 33 and 38 of the OSPAR RAP ML. The German Federal Environment Agency commissioned a study project on the issue at stake in the second half of 2015. A detailed questionnaire was designed and sent out to both OSPAR and HELCOM via the secretariats as well as the North Sea Network of Investigators and Prosecutors' Heads of Delegation (NSN), covering the topics treated by the study that are difficult to research from abroad or desktop-based: Number of controls, level of fines, structure of prosecuting and control authorities etc. Responses were received from 11 OSPAR and HELCOM members, namely Finland, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Ireland, Norway, The Netherlands, UK, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.* A supporting report 'Analysis of penalties and fines issued by OSPAR and HELCOM Contracting Parties for waste disposal offences at sea' has been delivered to the last HELCOM RAP ML workshop and also to OSPAR EIHA 2017.* MARITIME 17-2017 took note of the draft report (document 6-3). Germany considers to organize an expert workshop in 2018 (WS RAP ML 2-2017).	MARITIME, CG FINES	

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Sea-based	Actions addressing shipping related waste	2016	RS3	Further work on implementation and harmonization of the no-special-fee system in ports of the Baltic Sea countries, addressing: * gaps in existing regulations, * enforcement and practices concerning shipping, * port reception facilities auditing to assess adequacy of garbage collection, * fair waste burden sharing between ports.	Evaluate the implementation of HELCOM Recommendation (28E-10), starting 2016	Germany willing to contribute (e-mail notification)	The EU has finalised a study on microplastics in cosmetics, being its first part relevant for this action http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/good-environmental-status/descriptor-10/pdf/MSFD%20Measures%20to%20Combat%20Marine%20Litter.pdf (e-mail communication after PRESSURE 4-2016). Germany informed (WS RAP ML 2-2017) on Recommendations on the Revision of the Port Reception Facility Directive (2000/59/EC) emanating from the Round Table on Marine Litter that will be fed into the on-going discussion of the European Sustainable Shipping Forum of the European Commission. The document endorsed the "no-special-fee" of HELCOM with the participation of representatives from harbours, ship-owners, NGOs and authority representatives. Finland informed (e-mail 17.10.2017) that to support national POM, Finland is carrying out a national survey on the sources of both macro- and microlitter (plastics). The survey report will be ready by autumn 2018. As a part of this study a detailed analysis on the loopholes and obstacles for handling shipping related waste and port reception of waste has been carried out (interviews and on-site observations). Results of this report will feed on the action RS3 and RS4.	MARITIME, CG FINES	
Sea-based	Actions addressing waste delivery in ports/marinas	2017	RS4	Implementation of the ISO standard (ISO 201070:2013) in relation to port reception facilities. Differentiate according to the size of the port. Promote the development of regional statistics on waste collected in ports based on existing information as far as possible.	Assess how many ports are operating according to ISO standards and to propose action as appropriate by 2017.	–	–	MARITIME	To be addressed by MARITIME
Sea-based	Actions addressing waste related to fishing and aquaculture	2018	RS5	Promote and disseminate best practice in relation to all relevant aspects of waste management within the fishing sector (including e.g. waste management on board, waste management at harbors and operational losses/net cuttings).	By 2018, based on the OSPAR outcome, select best practices to be disseminated in the Baltic Sea.	Sweden offered to lead (HOD 48-2015). Germany willing to contribute (e-mail notification)	One Swedish and one OSPAR reports on best practices for waste management within the fishing sector to be ready during 2017 which could then be considered regarding the applicability in the Baltic Sea (PRESSURE 3-2015). The OSPAR report is to come by the end of the year, providing an overview and assessment of existing forms of measures/best practices. There has not been contact with the stakeholders involved yet. Envisaged working process for this action: Swedish report on management onboard and in harbours (any day now); make use of the OSPAR work and drawn experiences and feed it into a HELCOM setting (WS RAP ML 1-2016). Germany informed (e-mail 18.4.2017) that Germany is just contributing to this action and aware of ongoing related activities within the implementation process of the OSPAR RAP ML. Germany informed (WS RAP ML 2-2017) that it is having a national roundtable where the green deal to reduce the waste from the fishing and aquaculture sector is being discussed. Whereas a recommendation on Green Deals was not passed, within OSPAR, it was agreed to continue working on this topic. Finland informed (e-mail 17.10.2017) that to support national POM, Finland is carrying out a national survey on the sources of both macro- and microlitter (plastics). The survey report will be ready by autumn 2018. As a	FISH & MARITIME	

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							part of this study a detailed analysis on litter sources in fishing and aquaculture in Finland. Information from this survey will be available in 2018 and will feed on RS5 and RS8.		
Sea-based	Actions addressing waste related to fishing and aquaculture	2017	RS6	Through a multinational project, such as the MARELITT Baltic project, together with the fishing industry and other stakeholders, develop and promote best practice in relation to ALDFG and derelict fishing gear and their removal.	Best Practice developed by 2017, the issues is promoted within HELCOM- EUSBSR cooperation	Poland and WWF Poland offered to lead the action on retrieval of the ghost nets from the Baltic Sea (HOD 48- 2015).Germany to contribute (e-mail notification)	'Removal of derelict fishing gear, lost or discarded by fishermen in the Baltic Sea' project presented by WWF Poland at PRESSURE 3- 2015 (doc. 5- 11).Sweden proposed to change the deadline to 2019 in view of the expected outcomes in the frame of the MARELITT Baltic project to be available in 2018 (PRESSURE 4-2016).WWF Poland informed at the WS RAP ML 1-2016: Methodology for designating DFG hot spot areas under development. A map on the potential locations of underwater objects, shipwrecks and hooks to be produced. Surveys to be conducted among fishermen on the designation of the DGF. Methodology on retrieval of fishing gear has been developed. Forty ports have been visited and surveyed for waste management and processing on fishing gear. A pilot action on sampling and preparation of DFG for processing is ongoing. A proposal to create the capacity building group and invite HELCOM experts to participate.Germany informed (e-mail 18.4.2017) that Germany is just contributing to this action and to action RS7. Germany is part of the EU project MARELITT and especially involved in carrying out environmental impact assessments for retrieving operations of ALDFG. Furthermore in the framework of scientific diving operations Germany is compiling information on benthic hotspots of ghost gear in German Baltic waters and the ecological soundness of manual retrieval operations. WWF Poland informed (WS RAP ML 2-2017, document 10 , presentation 2) of the preliminary conclusions of Marelitt Baltic project. An initial draft of HELCOM Recommendation on abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) is presented to WS RAP ML 2-2017 (document 5). Recommendations from the Workshop were submitted to PRESSURE 7-2017 for consideration.	FISH	

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Sea-based	Actions addressing waste related to fishing and aquaculture	2017	RS7	Compile information and elaborate guidelines on best practices to reduce the input of ALDFG from commercial and recreational fishing to the Baltic Sea taking into account geographical particularities; utilize UNEP RSC report and FAO on ALDFG as a starting point and focus on regional specifics	Guidelines developed by 2017 taking into account geographical particularities.	Poland and WWF Poland offered to lead the action on retrieval of the ghost nets from the Baltic Sea (HOD 48- 2015). Germany to contribute (e-mail notification)	SE programme of measures (EU-PoM) includes a measure to reduce the input of ALDFG from commercial and recreational fishing in Swedish waters. MARELITT Baltic 2016-2018 can feed knowledge into this action; see action RS6. Sweden proposed to change the deadline to 2019 in view of the expected outcomes in the frame of the MARELITT Baltic project to be available in 2018 (PRESSURE 4-2016). See action RS6 for information from Germany.	FISH	
Sea-based	Actions addressing waste related to fishing and aquaculture	2016	RS8	Identify the options to address key waste items from the fishing and aquaculture industry, which could contribute to marine litter, including deposit schemes and extended producer responsibility.	Late 2016 assess the use of OSPAR document and in consultation with the Baltic Sea Advisory Council consider and agree on the way forward to address key waste items from the fishing and aquaculture industries.	–	The EU has finalised a study to support the development of measures to combat a range of marine litter sources, being its chapter 4 on marine litter reduction actions for the fisheries and aquaculture sector relevant for this action http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/good-environmental-status/descriptor-10/pdf/MSFD%20Measures%20to%20Combat%20Marine%20Litter.pdf (e-mail communication after PRESSURE 4-2016).	FISH	
Sea-based	Actions addressing waste related to fishing and aquaculture	No deadline specified	RS9	Investigate the use and prevalence of dolly ropes (bunches of polyethylene threads used to protect the cod end of demersal trawl nets from abrasions; synthetic fibre) in the areas of the Baltic Sea where they are used and consider the need to act.	Consider the outcome of the study on the impact of dolly ropes currently under development by the Netherlands. Baltic Sea Advisory Council is to be invited to be involved in this activity.	–	–	FISH	To approach the Baltic Sea Advisory Council
Sea-based	Remediation and removal measures	2016	RS10	Mapping of snagging sites or historic dumping grounds and a risk assessment for identifying where accumulation of ghost nets pose a threat to the environment and should be removed.	As part of the assessment to be developed by HELCOM SUBMERGED by 2016. Mapping by 2017. Risk assessment by 2018.	–	There is a Swedish project conducted by one municipality, Trelleborgs kommun, working with this measure on a local scale. Marelitt Baltic 2016-2018 can feed knowledge into this action; see action RS6. Denmark has conducted a small pilot project based on knowledge gathering for the extent of ghost nets in Danish waters, which can contribute to this action (PRESSURE 6-2017 and WS RAP ML 2-2017). The report is finished and will be available by the end of October.	FISH & MARITIME	Denmark and WWF Poland to contribute on the identification of the hot spots.
Sea-based	Remediation and removal measures	No deadline specified	RS11	Based on the risk assessment conducted in RS10 and identification of accumulation areas, initiate removal of ghost nets and their safe management on land.	The aim is to increase the removal and disposal of the nets, and that statistics are available to confirm the increasing trend.	–	Marelitt Baltic 2016-2018 can feed knowledge into this action; see action RS6.	FISH & MARITIME	

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Sea-based	Remediation and removal measures	No deadline specified	RS12	Enter into the partnership with international and regional organizations (e.g. KIMO, NABU, OSPAR Commission) as well as port authorities, to encourage implementation of passive Fishing for Litter schemes, to collect litter caught in fishing nets during normal fishing activities.	Increasing trends in the number of vessels from the fishing sector involved in the schemes.	Poland and WWF Poland offered to lead the action on retrieval of the ghost nets from the Baltic Sea (HOD 48- 2015).Germany to contribute (e-mail notification)	MARELITT Baltic 2016-2018 can feed knowledge into this action; see action RS6.Germany informed (e-mail 18.4.2017) that:* Germany is widely applying the FFL-scheme coordinated by Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and the NABU. The litter generated here is assessed not only in terms of weight/amounts but also composition. Germany delivers this data to both RSCs of relevance to our marine waters (HELCOM and OSPAR).* Together with the other leads we will aim for ongoing cooperation to encourage other parties to establish the FFL scheme as well. In OSPAR we have developed guidelines and use a joined logo (developed by KIMO), which could be used and/or developed/modified in HELCOM as well.	FISH & MARITIME	
Education and outreach	Education and outreach	2016	RE1	To prepare information sheets to assist Contracting Parties in developing material for education programs, especially for professional seafarers including fishermen, highlighting the marine litter problem and including codes of practice in cooperation with relevant organisations including IMO.	Information sheets to be prepared by 2016	–	CCB informed (WS RAP ML 2-2017, document 6, presentation 3) of an open online training course on marine litter and microplastic pollution has been launched in September 2017 and will last till 15 November. CCB contributed to the Out-to-Sea Travelling Exhibition in the Technical Museum (Tekniska Museet) of Stockholm. Further information on the outcomes of the project are available here .	FISH & MARITIME	To be addressed by FISH & MARITIME
Education and outreach	Education and outreach	2015	RE2	HELCOM website to be updated periodically based on the input from Contracting Parties on marine litter management activities.	2015 initial information uploaded (simplified BSAP follow up system)	–	–	The Secretariat	The Secretariat to investigate the implementation of this action
Education and outreach	Education and outreach	2016	RE3	Develop a communication strategy for this Regional Action Plan linked in a coherent way with national initiatives/actions. This will include linking the HELCOM website to relevant projects and initiatives.	2016	–	-	The Secretariat	The Secretariat to investigate the implementation of this action