



Document title	Overview list and maps of bi- and multilateral agreements on joint response operations and response plans in response regions in the Baltic Sea
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Reference	

Background

The list and maps of bi- and multilateral agreements on joint response operations and response plans in response regions in the Baltic Sea are included in Chapter 2 of the [HELCOM Response Manual Volume 1](#). The latest official updates are from November 2016.

In revising the Response Manual, some updates to the bi- and multinational agreements have also been requested by the Contracting Parties. The most recent version, which is expected to become Annex 4 of the revised Manual, is set out in the attachment to this document. Questions on matters in need of clarification are included in the margin.

Action requested

The Contracting Parties are invited to provide updates, if needed, to the overview list and maps of bi- and multilateral agreements on joint response operations and response plans in response regions in the Baltic Sea. Contracting Parties are also invited to provide input on the questions set out in the Annex. Responses should preferably be provided prior the meeting as information documents, submitted to the Secretariat (markus.helavuori@helcom.fi) at the latest **by 19 February 2020**.

Annex 4 Bi- and Trilateral Agreements

The Contracting Parties are obliged, inter alia, to agree bilaterally or multilaterally on those regions of the Baltic Sea in which they will conduct aerial surveillance activities and take action for response and salvage activities¹. As a principle the response regions should coincide with the boundaries of the Exclusive Economic Zones, where applicable.

In addition to response at sea, also shoreline response should be included in sub-regional agreements between neighbouring Contracting Parties. Such agreements are aimed at ensuring fast and sharp reaction when a second and/or third tier or transboundary pollution accident has occurred.

1 VALID AGREEMENTS

The present situation of sub-regional agreements² agreed is shown in the maps and table in this annex.

It should be noted that in some sub-regions of the Baltic Sea also other agreements than the Helsinki Convention and the sub-regional agreements listed in this chapter are applied. An example is the Copenhagen Agreement³ which in the Baltic is applied within the exclusive economic zones of Denmark, Sweden and Finland. Another example is [the Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic \(MOSPA\)](#)⁴ applied in the Bothnian Bay north of 63°30'00"N. EU regulations are applied in those Baltic States which are also EU Member States.

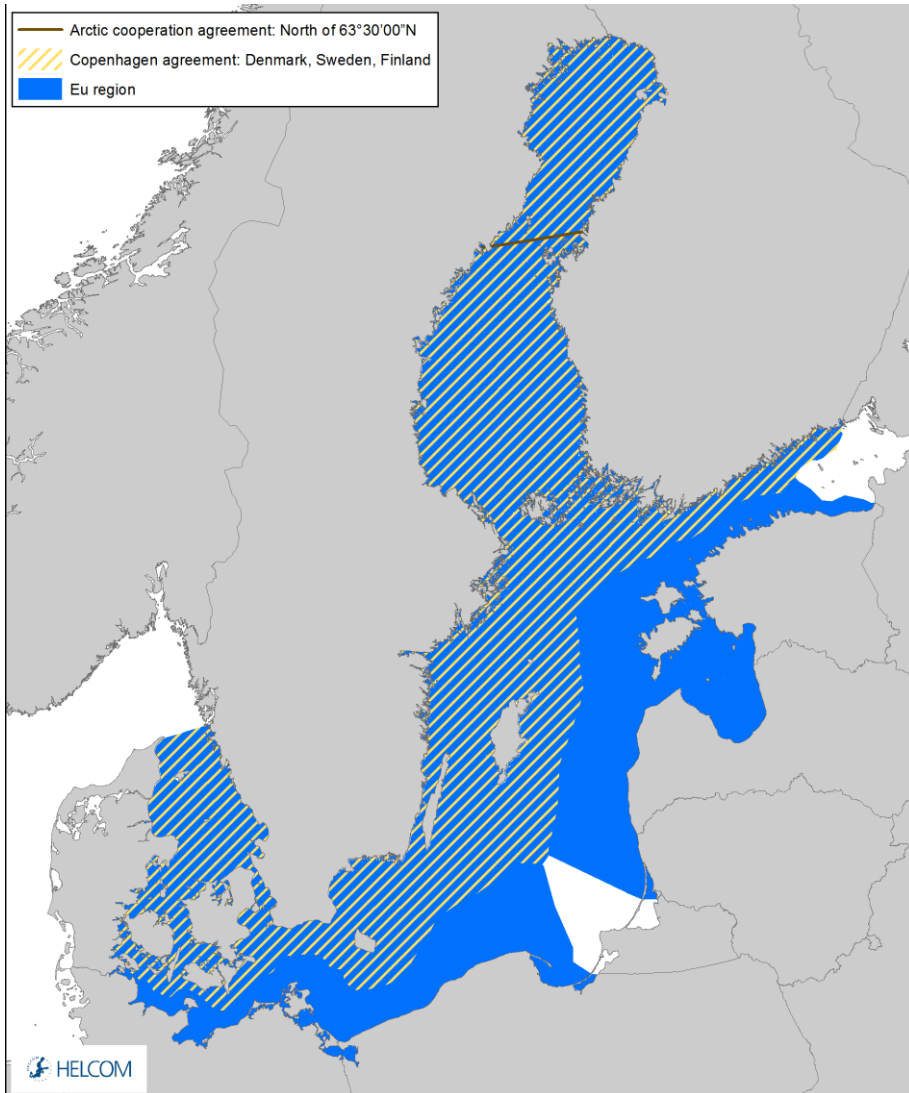
¹ According to [Regulation 4, Annex VII of the Helsinki Convention](#)

² According to Regulation 4 of the Helsinki Convention

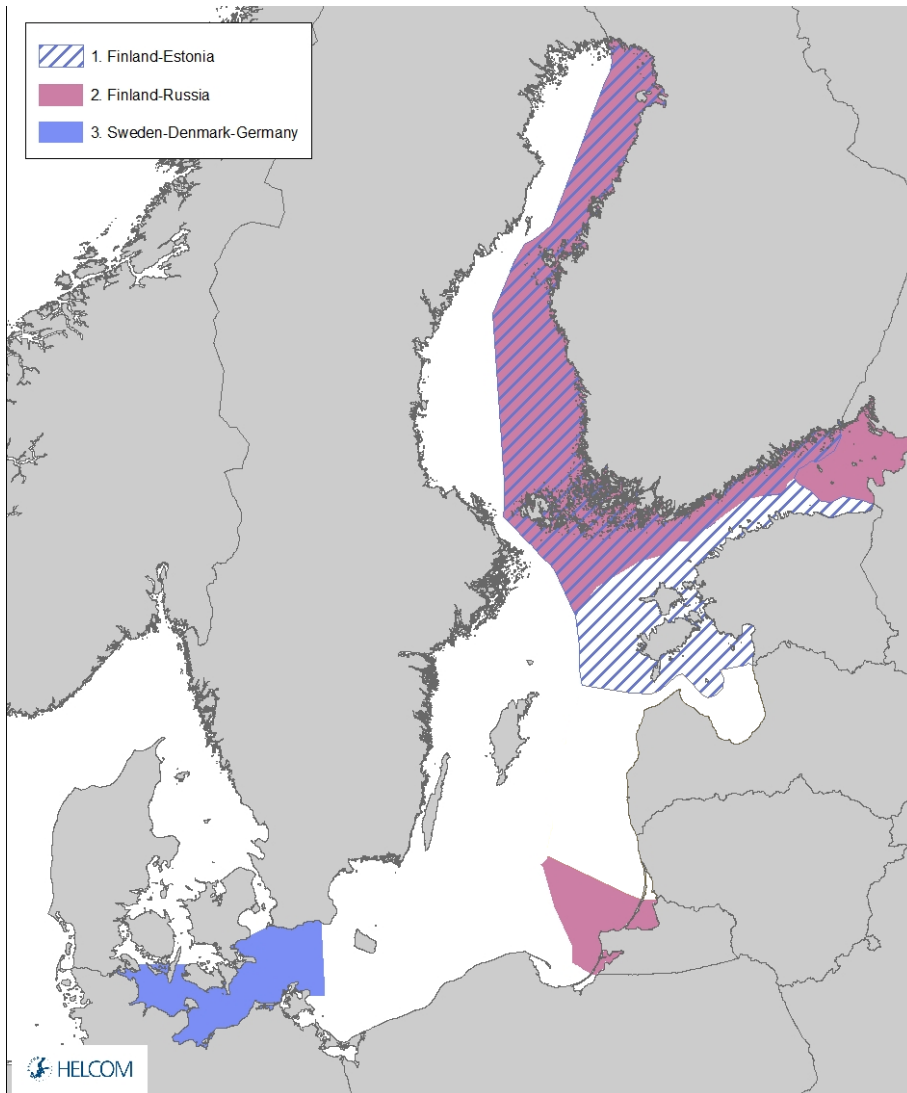
³ Copenhagen Agreement between Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden about Cooperation concerning Pollution Control of the Sea after Contamination by Oil or Other Harmful Substances. Link in Scandinavian languages <https://www.ust.is/kobenhavnsavtalet>.

⁴ Arctic Agreement between Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States

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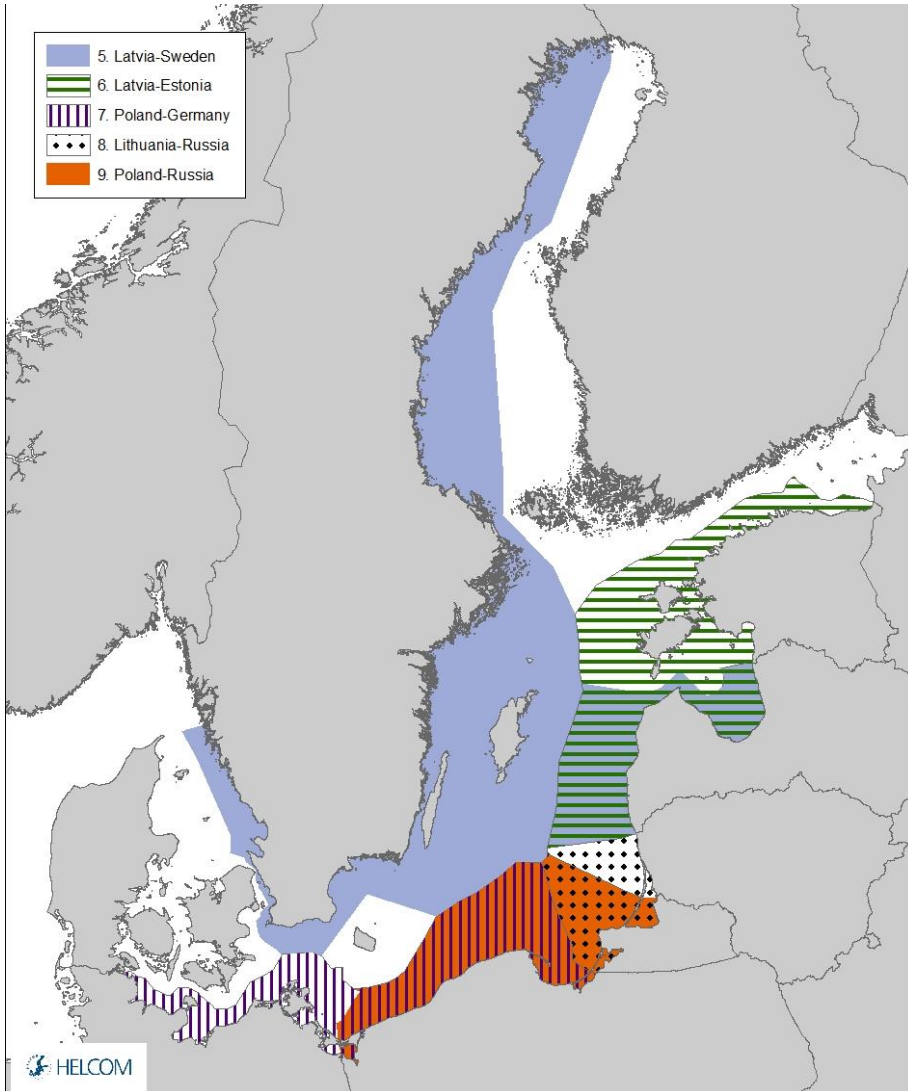


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Map 2. Sub-regional agreements: Finland - Estonia, Finland - Russia and Sweden - Denmark - Germany.

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Map 3. Sub-regional agreements: Latvia - Sweden, Latvia - Estonia, Poland - Germany, Lithuania - Russia and Poland - Russia.

Table 1. Existing bi- and multilateral agreements on joint response operations and response plans in response regions.

Countries	Sea area covered	Agreements and annexes Other related documents	Date	Subjects covered	Remarks
1. Estonia - Finland	The marine area under the jurisdiction of a Party, the boundary line of the economic zone or continental shelf (central line) determined on the basis of the international law	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Estonia and the Government of the Republic of Finland on cooperation in combatting pollution in the marine environment	8.12.1993	Competent authorities, notification of pollution, assistance, management of operations, maintenance of units and equipment for rendering assistance, withdrawal of assistance for combatting pollution, simplification of access formalities, regular co-operation, compensation of costs, compensation of damage, plan of co-operation to combat pollution, settlement of disputes, relations with other international agreements	Operational agreement
		Memorandum with Finland concerning the patrol flights coordinated planning and executing; signed by heads of Finnish and Estonian Border Guard	26.8.2009		Operational
2. Finland - Russia	As defined in Agreement of 6 October 1983 between the Government of the Republic of Finland and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Agreement on the distribution of areas of responsibility according to the Convention on the protection of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea area	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Finland and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on co-operation in combatting pollution of the Baltic Sea in accidents involving oil and other harmful substances	26.10.1989	Notification of an incident, request for assistance, obligation to provide assistance, operational command, maintenance of the assisting units and equipment, termination of combatting assistance, facilitation of access, exchange of information, scientific technological co-operation, joint exercises, reimbursement, harmful substances in packaged form, joint contingency plan, relation to other international agreements	Operational through joint contingency plan
		Finnish Environment Institute and the State Marine Pollution Control and Salvage of the Russian Federation regarding joint Finnish - Russian contingency plan for combatting pollution of the Baltic Sea	2003		

Commented [RW2]: Still valid?

Commented [RW1]: Is this still the name of the agreement (...the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)?

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Countries	Sea area covered	Agreements and annexes Other related documents	Date	Subjects covered	Remarks
3. Sweden - Denmark - Germany	Western Baltic Sea area: 1. Trilateral area (SWE-DE-GE) south from Sweden and west from Denmark (Arkona Basin) 2. Bilateral area (DE-GE) north from Germany (Kiel Bight, Mecklenburgh Bight) Map and coordinates in the agreement, Annex I	Joint Swedish-Danish-German Response Plan to maritime incidents involving Oil and other Harmful Substances and Co-operation in Aerial Surveillance (SWEDENGER) Annexes: - I Map of Response Regions in the Baltic Sea - II National Contact Points and Responsible Authorities - III Scheme of Communication - IV Special regulations "Aerial Surveillance" + Appendix I "Communication plan for aircraft during surveillance operation" - V Exercises - VI Ships and aircraft with diplomatic clearance in advance	2002	Information, activation, reporting, coordination, responsibility, diplomatic clearance, principles for response to pollution, aerial surveillance, financial matters, exercises	Operational
4. Latvia - Sweden	Territorial waters or economic zones of both Parties	Agreement Between The Government Of The Republic Of Latvia And The Government Of The Kingdom Of Sweden On Collaboration Within The Field Of Emergency Prevention, Preparedness And Response	2002	Mutual assistance, operational responsibility, border crossing, permission to entry, reimbursement of costs, liability, procedures and plans, competent authorities	Not operational
5. Latvia - Estonia	Territorial waters of economic zones of both Parties	Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Estonia on Co-operation in the Combating of the Effects of Marine Pollution Incidents	16.1.2014	Competent authorities, notification of an incident, assistance, termination of assistance, reimbursement of costs of assistance, command of combating operations, facilitation of access, maintenance of assisting units and equipment	Operational
6. Poland - Germany	Pomeranian Bay	Operational Agreement (working level) on Co-operation and Response Activities between the Public Services of the Republic of Poland and of the Federal Republic of Germany responsible for those activities concerning marine accidents and combating marine pollution by oil and other harmful substances	20.11.2001	Competent authorities, Reference to HELCOM Manual and procedures, list of available vessels and strike teams, crossing borders, right to begin response action, rules for costs reimbursement	Operational

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Countries	Sea area covered	Agreements and annexes Other related documents	Date	Subjects covered	Remarks
		"Bilateral agreement on ministry level, the "Joint Polish-German Response Plan to Pollution Incidents on the Baltic Sea Area Involving Oil and Other Harmful Substances, POLGER Plan" has not been ratified yet. This agreement will replace the operational agreement.		Competent authorities, Reference to HELCOM Manual and procedures, list of available vessels and strike teams, crossing borders, right to begin response action, rules for costs reimbursement	Operational
7. Lithuania - Russia	Territorial waters or economic zones of both Parties	Bilateral agreement between Lithuania and Russia on joint actions to prevent pollution of the Baltic Sea by oil and hazardous substances	8.10.2009	Under the agreement a joint contingency plan developed	Operational through joint contingency plan
	Territorial waters or economic zones of both Parties	Contingency plan between Lithuania and Russia on cooperation in combating marine pollution of the Baltic Sea by oil and hazardous substances	25.04.2012	Competent authorities, responsibility, main principles and procedures, notification of an incident, request for assistance, operational command structure, exchange of information, termination of assistance, facilitation of access, post incident report, reimbursement of cost of assistance, joint exercises and meetings	Operational
8. Poland - Russia	Baltic Sea and the Vistula Lagoon, Territorial waters or economic zones of both Parties	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of Russian Federation on cooperation in combating marine pollution of the Baltic Sea and the Vistula Lagoon by oil or other harmful substances The operational plan based in this agreement is developed. The Plan has already been agreed at the expert level, and the arrangements for its signature are consulted within the countries.	6.12.2010	Competent authorities, reference to HELCOM Manual and procedures, list of available vessels and strike teams, crossing borders, right to begin response action, rules for costs reimbursement	Operational
9. Estonia - Russia		Estonian-Russian co-operation agreement on accident response is under development and will be discussed during the meeting at the end of February 2014.			

Commented [RW3]: Is this still valid or has some progress been made?