



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature
Conservation

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| Document title | Management of habitats and species in MPAs – Coalition Clean Baltic’s management briefs for five species and eight habitats in the Baltic Sea |
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| Submitted by | Coalition Clean Baltic - CCB |

Background

Marine protected areas (MPAs) are an important tool for conservation management of habitats and species in the marine environment and for keeping a resilient marine ecosystem in our seas. However, as shown for example in the WWF/Sky Ocean Rescue 2019 report Protecting our ocean – Europe’s challenges to meet the 2020 deadlines¹, very few MPAs today have management measures in place, and the practical measures to take in an MPA to protect a certain species or habitat may not always be obvious. For our MPAs to be the absolutely necessary safe-havens of truly protected marine environment, we need to make sure that we have effective measures in place to reach the conservation objectives of our sites. Therefore, Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB) decided to produce concrete, relatively short and ready-to-use management briefs for species and habitats found in the Baltic Sea. The work begun in 2019 and the final briefs were published in spring of 2020.

With this series of briefs, CCB aims to contribute an easily accessible source of information on some of the most important habitats and species in the Baltic Sea Region, and on the measures that can be taken in MPAs designated to protect them. The briefs also support several of the synopsis submitted for the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan concerning MPAs, actions outlined in the CCB/WWF ‘Shadow Plan’² and could help fill the identified gaps in effective management of Baltic Sea MPAs.

Our hope is that this resource will be useful for MPA managers and other stakeholders, and that it will help us take one more step towards well-managed marine protected areas.

The briefs are all structured in a similar way: they all include a general description of the species or habitat, its distribution in the Baltic Sea Region and its conservation status. After a discussion on pressures and threats follows some ideas about conservation and management objectives for the specific species or habitat. The practical measures section lists hands-on measures that can be taken “on the ground” to mitigate threats and improve the conservation status of the species or habitat in MPAs.

The management briefs can be found in their entirety [here](#).

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to welcome the management briefs provided by Coalition Clean Baltic, comment on them and to help disseminate them to national authorities, MPA managers and/or to other relevant institutions and stakeholders.

¹ https://wwfeu.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/protecting_our_ocean.pdf

² [The Baltic Shadow Plan](#): For the future of the Baltic Sea - NGO’s key asks for the revised Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP)