



## Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature  
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION  
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<b>Document title</b>	Review of Recommendation 29/2 'Marine litter within the Baltic Sea region'
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<b>Agenda Item</b>	Agenda Item 3J – Follow-up of HELCOM agreements and activities
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### Background

STATE&CONSERVATION 2-2015 noted that the [Recommendation 29/2 'Marine litter within the Baltic Sea region'](#) mainly concerns monitoring of litter on beaches and that development of monitoring guidelines for marine litter is part of the ongoing review and revision of HELCOM monitoring and proposed that this aspect of Recommendation 29/2 could be reflected in the planned revision of [Recommendation 19/3 'The Manual for the Marine Monitoring in the COMBINE Programme of HELCOM'](#). The Secretariat offered to review Recommendation 29/2 to ensure that other content than monitoring guidelines is reflected in the newly adopted [Recommendation 36/1 'Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter'](#).

This document contains a review and comparison of Recommendation 29/2 'Marine litter within the Baltic Sea region' and Recommendation 36/1 'Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter', prepared by the Secretariat.

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- take note of the review
- discuss and agree that Recommendation 29/2 will be superseded by Recommendation 36/1 once HELCOM monitoring guidelines for marine litter on beaches has been developed and included in the HELCOM Monitoring Manual and Recommendation 19/3 has been revised.

## Review of Recommendation 29/2 ‘Marine litter within the Baltic Sea region’

The following table provides a comparison of the text of the recommendations included in the Recommendation 29/2 versus those contained in Recommendation 36/1. Comparable and otherwise relevant sentences have been underlined. The comparison demonstrates that Recommendation 36/1 fully covers Recommendation 29/2 with the exception of the ‘Guidelines on sampling and reporting of marine litter found on beaches’ (Attachment 1) and associated reporting format (Annex 1).

Paragraphs of Recommendation 29/2	Comparable paragraph of Recommendation 36/1
<p>‘<b>RECOMMENDS</b> to the Governments of the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention to recognize <u>one unified method of sampling and reporting of marine litter found on beach</u> as provided in the attached guide lines (Attachment 1) and to call upon different marine litter survey initiatives to use it in order to achieve comparable results,’ (page 2, para. 3)</p>	<p>‘<b>RECOMMENDS ALSO</b> to .... b) identify, by 2016 the way forward to <u>establish coordinated monitoring programmes for the common marine litter indicators including data collection for regular assessment</u> of the state of marine litter in the Baltic Sea area;’ (page 3, para. 11)</p> <p><i>Note that development of a coordinated monitoring and associated monitoring guideline is taken forward in the development of marine litter indicators by representatives of Lead and Co-Lead Countries and support by the Expert network on marine litter.</i></p>
<p>‘<b>RECOMMENDS ALSO</b> that all the Baltic Sea States should <u>support beach litter monitoring activities and beach clean - up campaigns and should cooperate with local authorities and NGOs in this matter,</u>’ (page 2, para. 4)</p>	<p>‘<b>RECOMMENDS FURTHERMORE</b> that the Governments of the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention <u>foster cross-sectorial cooperation and seek close cooperation with other relevant regional and global organizations and initiatives to combat marine litter,</u> including UNEP and other Regional Seas Conventions (i.a. OSPAR Commission, Barcelona Convention, Black Sea Commission), the International Maritime Organization, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Baltic Sea Advisory Council, and River Basin Commissions including via partnerships with the private sector and with non-governmental organizations.’ (page 4)</p> <p>‘Establish an <u>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.</u> Develop best practice on environmental friendly technologies and methods for cleaning.’ (page 8, Action RL15).</p>

<p><b>'RECOMMENDS FURTHER</b> that all the Baltic Sea States, <u>in cooperation with local authorities, raise public awareness on negative effects of marine litter on coastal and sea ecosystems,</u>' (page 2, para. 5)</p>	<p><b>'DECIDES</b> to base further work on fundamental principles, as contained in Articles 3, 6, 8, 9 and 15 of the Helsinki Convention, as well as the following approaches:</p> <p>a) "Public participation and stakeholder involvement": <u>Procedures and methods to create awareness for the problems of marine litter and ensuring a sense of public ownership for broad-based support to preventive and removal measures;</u>' (page 3, para. 4)</p> <p><u>'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.'</u> (page 9, action RE1).</p> <p><u>'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.'</u> (page 9, action RE3).</p>
<p><b>'WHILE RECALLING</b> the revised HELCOM Recommendation 28E/10 on application of the <u>"no-special-fee" system to ship-generated wastes and marine litter caught in fishing nets</u> in the Baltic Sea Area <b>RECOMMENDS FURTHER</b> the Governments of the Contracting Parties to take into account <u>possible incentives to encourage fisherman to transport litter caught in their fishing nets to port reception facilities,</u>' (page 2, para. 6)</p>	<p><b>'RECALLING ALSO</b> the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (2007) on encouragement of projects to remove litter from the coastal and marine environment, and related HELCOM Recommendations, among others <u>Recommendation 28E/10 on application of the No-special-fee system to ship-generated wastes and marine litter caught in fishing nets</u> in the Baltic Sea Area and <u>agreement to raise public awareness on the negative environmental and socio-economic effects of marine litter in the marine environment;</u>' page 2, first para.)</p> <p><u>'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.'</u> (page 9, action RS12).</p>

<p><b>'AGREES</b> to keep the issue of marine litter under regular review and take, when appropriate, <u>additional measures</u> to make sure that the quantities and properties of <u>marine litter do not cause harm to the coastal and marine environment,</u>' (page 2, para. 7)</p>	<p><b>'RECOMMENDS</b> to the Governments of the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention to jointly develop, assisted by the relevant HELCOM subsidiary bodies including <i>via</i> a lead country approach, <u>appropriate regional actions (collective HELCOM actions) as well as voluntary national actions</u> based on the list of possible actions to be finalized and agreed by mid-2015 into concrete measures <u>aiming at:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The achievement of a significant quantitative reduction of marine litter by 2025, compared to 2015, and prevention of harm to the coastal and marine environment in the Baltic Sea area as stated in HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration 2013;</li> <li>b) Prevention of further introduction from land-based and sea-based sources in the Baltic Sea and reduction of marine litter already present in the marine environment and of its potential impact on marine biota, habitats, public health and safety and of its socioeconomic costs;' (page 2, last para.)</li> </ul>
<p><b>'RECOMMENDS FURTHER</b> to update this Recommendation according to international <u>developments on this issue</u> to ensure harmonized approach on a global scale.'</p>	<p><b>'RECOMMENDS FURTHER</b> that <u>the Contracting Parties review and, if necessary, update this Recommendation and its action plan in 2021;</u>' (page 3, last para.)</p>