



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION
5-2016

Tallinn, Estonia, 7-11 November, 2016

Document title	Amended HELCOM Recommendation 15/1 'Protection of the coastal strip'
Code	6J-2
Category	DEC (LATE)
Agenda Item	6J – Follow-up of HELCOM agreements and activities
Submission date	18.10.2016
Submitted by	Finland
Reference	STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016, Parag. 3J.1-3J.4

Note that the document was submitted after the established deadline. It will be decided by the Meeting if the document can be discussed or postponed to the next meeting.

Background

STATE & CONSERVATION 3-2015 noted the view by Finland that as regards the Recommendation 15/1, a comprehensive revision is needed and that it is, furthermore, necessary to scrutinize the links between Recommendations 15/1, 24/10 and 16/3. A drafting group including participants from Finland, Estonia, Germany and Denmark jointly reviewed these Recommendations with the following conclusions:

- Denmark the Lead Country for recommendation 16/3, informed that revisions to the Recommendation are not needed at this time.
- For Recommendation 24/10 the Lead Country Estonia informed that proposed changes discussed during the exchange of views in the drafting group will be presented at STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016.
- Regarding Recommendation 15/1, Germany informed that due to an ongoing national evaluation process no amendments to the Recommendation can be supported at this stage

STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016 welcomed the report on the follow-up on HELCOM Recommendation 15-1 and took note of the view by Finland that the Recommendation is still valid but that updates are proposed to the pre-amble part of the Recommendation and that the reporting interval is proposed to be changed from 3 to 6 years.

The meeting took note that in Germany consultations on the proposed updates to the Recommendation are still ongoing, and Germany will present their view by STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016. The meeting also noted that Estonia, Poland and Sweden could agree to the proposed changes and further noted the following specific comments:

- the support by Sweden to delete reference “in particular in countries with no protective legislation”
- the proposal by Poland to clarify that the Recommendation is related to the protection of the coastal environment and not to technical measures to protect the coast e.g. by revising the Recommends paragraph a) to make the protection purpose more explicit.

The meeting also agreed to come back to the proposed revisions of Recommendation 15/1 at STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016 with the view of endorsement by the meeting.

This document contains further amended proposal to the HELCOM Recommendation 15/1 'Protection of the coastal strip' based on the outcome of STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016, submitted by Lead Country Finland.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- consider the proposed amendments,

- endorse the Recommendation to be updated.

[Proposed amendments by Finland to](#)

HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 15/1

[Guidelines](#)

Adopted 8 March 1994, having regard to Article 13, Paragraph b) of the Helsinki Convention

PROTECTION OF THE COASTAL STRIP

THE COMMISSION,

RECALLING Article 13 g of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea, 1974 Helsinki Convention,

NOTING Article 15 of the 1992 Helsinki Convention,

BEARING IN MIND the development of the comprehensive programme in Nature Conservation, inter alia, through the establishment of HELCOM MPAs [protecting areas representing the various Baltic ecosystems and their flora and fauna] and by achieving the CBD Aichi 11, 10 % spatial coverage for HELCOM MPAs.

RECALLING the Convention on Biological Diversity of the United Nations and its Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, including relevant tools and guidelines developed in this context, such as the voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessment in marine and coastal areas.

RECALLING ALSO HELCOM Recommendation 24/10 on implementation of integrated marine and coastal management of human activities in the Baltic Sea Area and to promote integrated management of human activities having impacts on the marine environment and HELCOM Recommendation 28E/9 on Development of Broad-Scale Marine Spatial Planning Principles in the Baltic sea Area and HELCOM Recommendation 35/1 on System of costal and marine Baltic Sea protected areas (HELCOM MPAs).

RECALLING FURTHER legislation of the European Union in the field of environment and coastal protection, including Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC), Recommendation on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (2002/413/EC), Floods Directive (2007/60/EC), Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (2014/89/EU) as well as INSPIRE Directive (2007/2/EC),

RECALLING ALSO the Maritime Doctrine of the Russian Federation to the year 2020 and the Green Paper on a Future Maritime Policy for the European Union (Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union: A European vision for the oceans and seas),

BEING AWARE that natural coastal areas where land and sea meet are in a constant dynamic relation to each other and

- are systems of great biological richness, variety and productivity;
- form the habitats of highly specialized and often endangered species of wild fauna and flora as well as large populations of breeding and migratory birds;
- are landscapes of great natural beauty;
- are highly important for public recreation;
- are a natural resource which is becoming more and more scarce,

~~TAKING ALSO INTO ACCOUNT that in some Baltic countries a great part of the coast has remained practically untouched during the last 50 years and thus represents enormous ecological and aesthetic values,~~

Commented [u1]: Deleted and replaced by German proposal below

TAKING ALSO INTO ACCOUNT that in some Baltic countries a great part of the coast has remained practically untouched before 1990 and thus represents enormous ecological and aesthetic values,

Commented [PB2]: Proposal from Germany to delete "during the last 50 years" with "before 1990"

BEING DEEPLY CONCERNED about the increasing pressure for commercial exploitation of the remaining natural coast [countries with no legislation for the protection of the coast,] and about the consequences this might have for the coastal environment and the biological diversity of the whole Baltic area,

Commented [b3]: Unclear should this be kept or also deleted as in para starting with BEING CONSCIOUS

APPRECIATING the measures already been taken by several Baltic Sea States in order to protect the coastal strip,

BEING CONSCIOUS that urgent measures are required to stop further degradation of the natural coasts ~~particularly in countries with no protective legislation,~~

Commented [u4]: Sweden proposed to delete this part

RECOMMENDS to the Governments of the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention:

- that the Contracting Parties take all appropriate measures to ensure the protection biodiversity and nature (biological and geological) values of the coastal strip;
- that a generally protected coastal strip therefore be established outside urban areas and existing settlements, the width of which shall be determined by the nature and landscape values of the coast, extending at least 100 to 300 meters from the mean water line landwards and seawards;
- that in this protected coastal strip
 - activities which would permanently change the nature and landscape such as extraction of soil and minerals, construction of buildings (except for buildings necessary for existing farming or fishing and saunas in connection with existing buildings), marinas, roads, camping grounds etc. not be allowed except when proved overwhelmingly in the public interest and when it is proved that no less sensitive site can be found;
 - intensive forestry and intensive farming including drainage be restricted;
- that exceptions can be made from the provisions in points b)-c) by a land use plan approved and sanctioned by an appropriate authority;

Commented [PB5]: Added as proposed by Poland

e) that a zone of at least 3 kilometres landwards from the mean water line be established as a coastal planning zone where major building development and other major permanent changes in nature and landscape be preceded by an appropriate land use plan, including environmental impact assessment, approved at least on regional level,

RECOMMENDS ALSO that actions be taken by the Contracting Parties as soon as possible and be reported to the Commission ~~in 1996 and thereafter~~ every ~~63~~ years,

RECOMMENDS FURTHER that the working group ~~EC NATURE HELCOM HABITAT~~ stays in contact with the Contracting Parties for information and cooperation in this matter.

RECOMMENDS ALSO that actions be taken by the Contracting Parties as soon as possible and be reported to the Commission every 6 years and that the working stays in contact with the Contracting Parties for information and cooperation in this matter.

Commented [b6]: The meeting agreed to update and agreed to report every 6 year

Commented [PB7]: Agreed to delete the names of these WG (not valid anymore). The meeting may wish to discuss should we replace it with State & Conservation WG, or avoid naming any WG and could we merge these two paragraphs.-> the outcome of the meeting was not clear so there is two proposal: one with two paras and one where two paras have been merged.

Commented [PB8]: Merged para