



## Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Expert Group on environmental risks of hazardous  
submerged objects  
Gothenburg, Sweden, 14-15 October 2015

SUBMERGED 3-2015

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### Background

The attached document includes the draft chapter on dumped waste and lost cargo of the SUBMERGED Assessment.

### Action required

The Meeting is invited to take note of the draft and use it as basis of work.

Draft 0

## Chapter on dumped waste and lost cargo in the Baltic Sea of HELCOM SUBMERGED Assessment

*General structure of contents – wording of individual section headings subject to future refinement*

### **Introduction**

This chapter focuses mainly on hazardous waste other than munitions and wrecks in a form which allows location and identification on the seabed by acoustic or visual means –e.g. free lying objects, containers barrels.

### **1. Waste dumping in the Baltic Sea**

#### **Historic waste dumping in the Baltic Sea**

Modern environmental legislation developed during the 1950s-60s and before this period the sea was a legal disposal site for waste, both solid and liquid. As a large part of this historic dumping was done by individual industrial facilities, municipalities and private persons much of this dumping is very poorly documented.

Some dumping sites or hazardous waste have been identified accidentally during hydrographic soundings or when searching for mines or wrecks. In some cases, particularly regarding dumping of radioactive waste, dumping was carried out by national authorities and thus more readily available.

#### *Radioactive waste – historic dumping*

According to an overview on disposal of radioactive wastes at sea done by IAEA ([IAEA 1999](#)) on the request by IMO London Convention CPs, Sweden and Russia have carried out dumping of radioactive waste in the Baltic Sea mainly during the 1950-60s.

#### *Industrial waste –historic dumping*

The 20.000 Barrels with 10 ton Mercury dumped outside Sundsvall (Bothnian Sea) is an example of a historic waste dumping case which was observed during geological investigations.

#### **Current illicit trafficking of waste**

Illegal trafficking of waste has been rising recently particularly between countries in North West and North East Europe (EUROPOL 2011). Criminals are exploiting the high costs associated with legal waste management and are in this way making substantial profits from illegal trafficking and disposal activities, circumventing environmental legislation. According to EUROPOL criminals make use of a wide variety of improvised illegal dumping sites such as gravel and sand pits, abandoned industrial facilities, open-cast mines.

Illegal dumping at sea has been documented in other parts of the world. [It is also possible that the Baltic Sea is used in such illicit dumping activities.]

### **2. Lost hazardous cargo**

[general text on, and identified cases of, accidentally lost hazardous cargo].

### 3. Former reports and initiatives

- **National activities**
  - Grouped according to MS
  - Databases
- **International activities**
  - managerial activities and investigations, i.a.:
    - London Convention
    - INTERPOL
    - EUROPOL

### 4. Geographic distribution of waste dumping

- **Limits and quality of information**
  - Description of how the presented data was collated
  - especially: 'Disclaimer' regarding incomplete data basis and uncertainties associated with currently available historic information
- **Introduction to dumped waste locations into the Baltic Sea**
  - Short general description of known sites
- **Areas of concern**
  - Maps & profiles for special areas of interest (including historic context), i.a.:
    - thematic map on dumped waste
    - but also maps and descriptions showing overlap of other
  - List of main cases of waste dumping/ lost haz cargo will likely be suitable for placing in the annex

### 5. Environmental issues

- (applicable hazards should be described in this chapter => description of likelihood and resulting risk will be addressed under 'risk assessment')

### 6. Risk assessment

### 7. Remediation/salvage measures

### (Conclusions and recommendations)

- (Likely to be placed at the end of the complete SUBMERGED report)

**Annex: Material & Links***Historic -Radioactive waste*

1999 Report on radioactive waste dumping in the Sea by IAEA (documented cases in the Baltic Sea by SWE and RU)

[http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/te\\_1105\\_prn.pdf](http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/te_1105_prn.pdf)

Radioactive waste in Swedish waters 1950-60s (Swedish)

[http://www.riksdagen.se/sv/Dokument-Lagar/Fragor-och-anmalningar/Fragor-for-skriftliga-svar/dumpningen-av-radioaktivt-avfa\\_GL11381/](http://www.riksdagen.se/sv/Dokument-Lagar/Fragor-och-anmalningar/Fragor-for-skriftliga-svar/dumpningen-av-radioaktivt-avfa_GL11381/)

Possible illegal Soviet Union dumping in Swedish EEZ outside Gotland (1989 – 1992)

Uppdrag Granskning TV documentary online article (in Swedish)

<http://www.svt.se/ug/har-dumpade-ryssland-radioaktivt-avfall>

*Historic -Other waste*

20.000 Barrels with 10ton Mercury dumped outside Sundsvall (Bothnian Sea)

Spiegel article <http://www.spiegel.de/international/tons-of-mercury-found-in-the-baltic-sea-europe-s-underwater-chemical-dump-a-434329.html>

PP Anna Stjärne County Administrative Board Västernorrland (Swedish)

<http://www.vattenmyndigheterna.se/SiteCollectionDocuments/sv/bottenhavet/moten-och-seminarier/2013/samrad/presentationersundsvall/130314annastjarne-kvicksilvertunnorna.pdf>

*Current -illegal trafficking and dumping*

2011 EUROPOL press release on environmental crime including waste trafficking and dumping

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/content/simplenews/europol-warns-increase-illegal-waste-dumping-1057>

2011 EUROPOL Policy brief

[https://www.europol.europa.eu/sites/default/files/008-2011\\_oc-scan\\_policy\\_brief\\_open\\_version.pdf](https://www.europol.europa.eu/sites/default/files/008-2011_oc-scan_policy_brief_open_version.pdf)

[2013 EUROPOL threats assessment environmental crime](#)

[2013 EUROPOL threats assessment environmental crime](#)

INTERPOL activities including illegal “Eden” project on waste trafficking

<http://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Environmental-crime/Projects/Project-Eden>