

## Summary notes for the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Declaration

### Reduction targets

Changes in the country-wise nutrient reduction targets for nitrogen and phosphorus per country:

	Phosphorus (tonnes)		Nitrogen (tonnes)	
	2007	2013	2007	2013
Denmark	16	38	17,210	2,890
Estonia	220	320	900	1,800
Finland	150	330+26*	1,200	2,430+600*
Germany	240	110+60*	5,620	7,170+500*
Latvia	300	220	2,560	1,670
Lithuania	880	1,470	11,750	8,970
Poland	8,760	7,480	62,400	4,3610
Russia	2,500	3,790	6,970	10,380
Sweden	290	530	20,780	9,240

2007 – as in HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan

2013 – as adopted by the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting on 3 October 2013

\* = figures after '+' refer to loads originating from the country but being discharged to the Sea via another country

### Highlights from 2013 Ministerial Declaration

#### **Agreement to review the agreed set of HELCOM eutrophication indicators and status targets at regular intervals**

- **The vast majority of the Baltic Sea is still affected by eutrophication**, except for the Bothnian Bay and some coastal areas mainly in the north, indicates the updated Eutrophication assessment for 2007–2011.
- **Overall inputs of nutrients have decreased** since the inception of the Action Plan, by 9% for nitrogen (N) and 10% for phosphorus (P) comparing to the BSAP baseline years (1997–2003). In the longer time perspective, since 1994, the reductions have been even larger –inputs of N and P to the Baltic Sea have been cut by 18% and 16%, respectively.

**Decision to re-enforce action to achieve, by 2020, an ecologically coherent network of well-managed marine protected areas for the Baltic Sea** - The network of Baltic Sea protected areas has increased fourfold and now cover about twelve per cent of the marine area. Five new areas have been established as Baltic Sea Protected Areas (BSPAs) since 2010, and there is a promising trend in establishing management plans for protected areas. Despite the good progress, the network of protected areas was not yet ecologically coherent according to the assessment carried out in 2010. Moreover, no progress

had been made since 2010 regarding the HELCOM 2010 target to include more off-shore areas under the protection regime.

**Decision to develop conservation plans for threatened species and biotopes** - About four per cent of Baltic Sea species and about a quarter of biotopes are under the risk of extinction. More specifically, there are 69 species out of the 1753 evaluated species and 59 biotopes out of 209 assessed biotopes that are under such risk. Overall, the target of favourable conservation status of biodiversity has not been reached. All the knowledge gained during a five-year long process to assess the extinction threat by HELCOM expert network will enable more effective protection of the Baltic Sea biodiversity. We now better know what the challenges are on biodiversity.

**Decision to develop a regional action plan for marine litter**- The action plan has measures targeted to reduce marine litter from its main sources, along with working with the industry to reduce or phase out microbeads in certain products. Micro-size litter is a particular problem in the Baltic Sea and also a potential carrier of hazardous substances to the organisms.

**Adoption of solutions for safer navigation** - The new HELCOM Recommendation commits the Governments of the Baltic Sea countries to develop concrete solutions necessary for testing and validating e-navigation services in the Baltic Sea region by 2017. More specifically, the concept of proactive route planning is expected to be tested in the Baltic Sea region by 2015. The updated joint BS HC-HELCOM re-survey scheme will improve the depth information needed for in i.a. seahart.

**Agreement that the level of underwater noise should not have negative impact on marine life**, and now there is a common understanding on the measures to be taken to increase the knowledge on this issue and to take respective action.

**Adoption of Guidelines related to managing of ships' ballast water and risks of alien species entering into the Baltic** – The joint HELCOM/OSPAR guidelines put in place a joint regional system of granting exemptions from the requirements of International Maritime Organisation's (IMO) 2004 International Convention for Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments. So far, four HELCOM countries have ratified the Ballast Water Management Convention, as agreed in 2007. The remaining countries in the region are also close to meeting the HELCOM deadline for ratification which is this year.

**Agreement on a new platform for alternative fuels** - To promote better green technologies and alternative fuels, in order to reduce harmful exhaust gas emissions from ships, the joint "Green Technology and Alternative Fuels Platform for Shipping" will be created together with other regional actors in the Baltic Sea, such as other regional governmental and non-governmental organizations, industry and research community