

HELCOM



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

# HELCOM practices linked to G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter

Marta Ruiz  
HELCOM Secretariat

G7 Workshop on Marine Litter  
Rome, Italy, 20-21 April 2017



HELCOM

NEW

# Overarching perspective

**“HELCOM’s Implementation Outlook of the Ocean-related SDGs in the BS – A Roadmap to Agenda 2030 (HELCOM-A2030)”** (adopted at HELCOM 38/2017)

CPs met in a high-level session (28.2.2027) and **pointed out** the following issues to implement SDGs in the BS region:

- “...HELCOM can concretely contribute to achieving SDG14....”
- “...HELCOM will **speed up the implementation of the marine litter regional action plan**, continue its battle against eutrophication, especially to cut inputs of phosphorus, and start the elaboration of a regional action plan on underwater noise, to fulfil **SDG 14.1**. It will ensure cooperation on any maritime spatial planning in the BS area and management plans for all MPAs, to fulfil **SDG 14.2** and **14.5**.”

NEW

## Overarching perspective

- “HELCOM will continue supporting...ecosystem-related fishery measures towards **SDG 14.4** and **14.6**”
- “HELCOM will continue **leading the coordination of regional efforts to deliver on the relevant SDGs** through improved monitoring and stronger implementation of agreed measures towards healthy oceans. CPs will coordinate the use of **HELCOM indicators** to measure and compare progress towards reaching ocean-related SDGs. **HELCOM’s Baltic reports** will serve as input to the World Ocean Assessment and the High-level Political Forum. CPs, in close collaboration with relevant international organisations, may also make use of **HELCOM** as a **platform** to coordinate regional, synchronized **voluntary reviews on SDG 14 implementation** as national input to the High-level Political Forum to reach “the Future We Want”.

# HELCOM and marine litter **preventive actions**

- **1992 Helsinki Convention:**
  - the Contracting Parties undertake to prevent and eliminate pollution of the Baltic Sea Area from land-based sources (Art. 6)
  - specific requirements of “Prevention of pollution from land-based sources” (Annex III)
- **HELCOM Rec.:**
  - on **proper handling of waste/landfilling** (Rec. 31E/4, 2010)
  - on **sewage sludge handling** (Rec. 38/1, 2017)
  - on the **Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter** (Rec. 36/1, 2015)
- **HELCOM PRESSURE Group:** main HELCOM Working Group based on Annex III. “will also lead the work on ML in HELCOM, including addressing sources on land and coordination of **implementation of the upcoming RAP on ML** with other subsidiary bodies according to their respective expertise” (ToR 2014).

# Waste prevention & management

## *Actions*

- 'HELCOM guidelines on inclusion of ML references in national and local waste prevention and waste management plans';
- 'HELCOM guidelines on best practice routines with regard to cleaning and collection systems'
- 'Sharing of best practice on waste management';
- 'Improvement of stormwater management';
- 'dialogue and solutions with business and industry on design improvements and wise packaging'

# Waste prevention & management

## *On -going work*

- **Blastic project – plastic pathways from land to sea (2016-2018):** mapping sources and pathways, and monitor plastic litter in the BS, with a focus on urban areas (more people= more waste= more litter principle). 2 reports under development: sources + methods to monitor marine plastic litter. Questionnaire for pilot municipalities to identify ML sources (to be tested next year)-> draft measures for municipalities;
- **Baltic Flows project – Monitoring and management of flowing rain water in Baltic Sea catchment areas:** 2 directories and 3 thematic reports in stormwater management, citizen participation and diffuse load monitoring;
- **Iwater project – Improvement of stormwater management;**
- Guidance to reduce micro-particles pollution from stormwater in urban areas (CCB) + 2 draft reports (to be presented at PRESSURE 6-2017)
- Planned national measures (SE) to include ML references in national and local waste prevention and waste management plans;

# Waste prevention & management

## *On -going work*

- National cooperation with the International Waste Working Group (IWWG), which agreed to support the further implementation of the waste management actions within both, the HELCOM and the OSPAR RAP MLs (DE)
- A questionnaire is to be sent out addressing loopholes that make waste turn into waste for land-based macro- and microplastics and best practise of primary actions in waste management (E) + joined workshop with the experts from the waste management sector (at Sardinia 2017) to discuss next steps
- Report assessing the biological and socioeconomic harm caused by ML (DE Co-chair EU MSFD TG ML);
- National Round Table on ML addressing overpackaging: how existing regulations and praxis can be modified/adapted-> considerations on how transfer it at regional level (DE).



# Micro particles

## *Actions*

- 'Overview of the importance of the different sources of primary and secondary microplastics';
- 'Compilation of available techniques, research and develop additional techniques in WWTPs to prevent micro particles entering the marine environment'



HELCOM

# Micro particles

## *On -going work*

- National investigations on microplastics (DK), sources (DE and SE) and propose measures to reduce the input of microplastics from the sources (SE);
- National report on measures for restricting the occurrence of microplastics in cosmetic products (SE); + study on microplastics in cosmetics (EU);
- Ongoing dialogue with the cosmetic and other relevant industries + targeted at national roundtable on ML (DE);
- National report on technical solutions for advanced treatment of WW to reduce pharmaceutical residues and micro plastics (June 2017, SE));
- Bachelor's Thesis (FI) on s on microplastics and harmful substances in urban runoffs and landfill leachates - Possible Emission Sources to Marine Environment (2016);
- Pilot study on microplastics in storm waters to be launched (2018-2019) (FI);
- Proposal on ways to reduce microplastics in sewage (CCB).



HELCOM

# Sewage related litter including sanitary waste

## *Action*

- 'Assess the contribution of upstream waste flows to the marine environment'

## *On -going work*

- Questionnaire on national activities developed by PL.

# Plastic bags

## *Action*

- “Define and implement appropriate instruments and incentives to reduce the use of plastic bags”

## *On -going work*

- National framework agreement to reduce the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags (Plastic Carrier Bag Agreement) (FI)
- National PoM proposes that, as means to reduce littering the focus of the measures should include the use of plastic containers and bags (FI)
- Green Deal agreement of the Ministry of the Environment and Federation of Finnish Commerce on the measures to reduce the consumption of plastic carrier bags. Signed in 2016 to implement the measures MS are to take to reduce the consumption of plastic carrier bags under the EU Packaging Waste Directive (94/62/EC), as amended by Directive (EU) 2015/720 (FI)



# Bottles and containers

## *Action*

- ‘Cooperate on the establishment and/or further development of deposit refund systems’

## *On -going work*

- Questionnaire on national activities developed by EE: Currently functioning deposit refund systems for bottles, containers and cans (e.g. glass, plastics and aluminum) are in place in DE, DK, SE, FI, EE and LT. In PL, LV and **RU the system is not in place at the moment.**



# Landfills

## *Action*

- 'Address landfills or dumpsites including historic ones which may eventually pose a risk to the marine environment';

## *On -going work*

- A survey to the HELCOM members conducted by Estonia. **Feedback provided by all HELCOM members except Russia.** Feedback indicates that all landfills in the region are under control and cannot be considered as sources of ML.

[www.cowi.com](http://www.cowi.com)



HELCOM

# HELCOM and fisheries related actions

- **Baltic Strategy for Port Reception Facilities** for Ship-generated Wastes and Associated Issues (1996)-> “address special pollution problems related to fishing vessels (para 3.2)
- **Application of the NSF system** to ship-generated wastes and **marine litter caught in fishing nets** in the Baltic Sea area (HELCOM Rec 28E-10) (2007) (supersedes previous Rec. from 1998)
- **Mandatory discharge of wastes to PRF**, Regulation 6, Annex IV of Helsinki Convention (since 2000)
- **HELCOM Action Plan on Marine Litter** (Rec. 36/1)
- **HELCOM MARITIME Group**: main HELCOM Working Group based on Annex IV of the 1992 **Helsinki Convention**: “Prevention of pollution from ships”
- **FISH Group**: Group on ecosystem-based sustainable Fisheries -> “Create a common knowledge base on ghost nets distribution and abundance as well as an estimation of their impacts on the ecosystem” (Work Plan 2017-2018)

# Shipping related waste

HELCOM AIS data

Date: 3 October 2012. Time: 02:17 hrs

*Actions*

*On -going work*

- National project (SE) on recycling of pleasure boats
- Draft report on analysis of penalties and fines issued by OSPAR and HELCOM members for waste disposal offences at sea -> Experts workshop (second half 2017) (DE)



# Fishing & aquaculture related waste

## *Actions*

- 'Best practice of waste management within the fishing sector'
- 'Best practice in relation to ALDFG and DFG and their removal'
- 'Compile information and elaborate guidelines on best practices to reduce the input of ALDFG from commercial and recreational fishing'
- 'Identify the options to address key waste items from the fishing and aquaculture industry, which could contribute to ML, including deposit schemes and EPR'
- 'Investigate the use and prevalence of dolly ropes'
- 'Mapping of snagging sites or historic dumping grounds and a RA for identifying where accumulation of ghost nets pose a threat to the environment and should be removed'
- 'Initiate removal of ghost nets and their safe management on land'
- 'To encourage implementation of passive FFL schemes'

# Fishing & aquaculture related waste

## *On -going work*

- National (SE) report on management on board;
- OSPAR report on best practices for waste management within the fishing sector to be ready during 2017. Applicable to the Baltic Sea?
- Application of Green Deals with the fishing sector-> to be followed up on national round table on ML (DE)
- **MARELITT Baltic 2016-2018:**
  - done: methodology on retrieval of FG + 40 ports visited and surveyed for waste management and processing of FG
  - on-going: methodology for designating DFG hot spot areas + pilot action on sampling and preparation of DFG for processing
  - to be produced: map on the potential locations of underwater objects, shipwrecks and hooks + EIAs for retrieving operations of ALDFG (DE) + capacity building group

# Fishing & aquaculture related waste

## *On -going work*

- National compilation of information on benthic hotspots of ghost gear in national Baltic waters & ecological soundness of manual retrieval (DE)
- National PoM (SE) includes a measure to reduce the input of ALDFG from commercial and recreational fishing in national waters
- National widely application of the FFL-scheme. The litter generated is assessed (weight/amounts & composition) (DE)
- OSPAR guidelines for FFL which could be used and/or developed/modified in HELCOM (DE)

# HELCOM and marine litter data

- **Compiled in the indicator reports:** latest versions available in the HELCOM website (5th Meeting of the Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation: <https://portal.helcom.fi/meetings/STATE%20-%20CONSERVATION%205-2016-363/default.aspx>)
  - Beach litter pre-core indicator report;
  - Litter on the seafloor pre-core indicator report; and
  - Microlitter in the water column candidate indicator report.
- **Lead-country approach** through the **HELCOM EN-Marine Litter:**
  - Beach litter: PL leads + DK and SE co-leads;
  - Litter on the seafloor: DK and SE co-leads; and
  - Microlitter in the water column: FI lead + DE and SE co-leads
- **Additionally:** methods for **monitoring macrolitter in rivers** to be explored + pilot monitoring on riverine litter in one case study area in EE, FI, LV and SE in 2017 (Blastic project)

# HELCOM and marine litter data

Country	Beach litter	Litter on the seafloor
Denmark	2015-2016	2015-2016
Estonia	2012-2016	2015-2016
Finland	2012-2016	
Germany	2011-2016	2012-2015
Latvia	2012-2014	2015-2016
Lithuania	2012-2015	2015-2016
Poland	2015-2016	2015-2016
Russia		
Sweden	2012-2016	2012-2016

- Give insight on **key human activities** in the BS and on **individual and cumulative pressures** that impact the marine environment;
- Assess whether the environmental status of **biodiversity, eutrophication, hazardous substances** etc. in the Baltic Sea is good;
- Introduce regional analyses of the **costs** of a deteriorating marine environment;
- Consider **measures** for improving the status of the sea.



**COMING IN JUNE 2017**



**HELCOM**

HELCOM



[www.helcom.fi](http://www.helcom.fi)