



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Priorities of the Estonian chairmanship of HELCOM

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3 pillars:

1. Pollution management;
2. Planning, management and marine protected areas;
3. Assessment of environmental status and information.

Pollution management

- Reduction of pollution load – increase the implementation of water management plans and environmental measures under the rural development plans in order to decrease the load of nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus) to the Baltic Sea.

Special attention to

* construction of water collection systems for small and medium– sized settlements

* applied research to assess natural possibilities for N and P removal (algae, shells etc., possibilities to reuse N ja P)

* stimulate circulation of P originating from sewage treatment facilities and big farms etc.

- Reduction of impact of hazardous substances (reduce/stop hazardous substances, liquidating of past pollution, develop pollution reduction capacity in the region.

- Regional marine litter action programme (draw up joint regional action plan. Objective to reach considerable reduction of marine litter by 2025.

Planning, management and marine protected areas

- Use, conservation and protection of the Baltic Sea regional coastal and maritime areas – Elaborate starting points and principles for integrated coastal management and maritime spatial planning of the region.
- Well arranged network of maritime protected areas – assess the current status of marine protection areas, draw up and implement the Baltic Sea marine protection areas' conservation and management plans by 2015. Agree if necessary on widening of the network of protected areas.
- Fish stock and other environmental resources – draw up and further develop ecosystem based management principles for fish stock and other marine environment benefits and resources. By 2020 develop and implement measures for the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine biodiversity. Decrease influence of activities harmful to the coastal and marine biodiversity.

Assessment of environmental status and information

- HELCOM's up to date monitoring programme – implement the HELCOM monitoring and assessment strategy in 2013, update monitoring program in 2014 and handbooks and guidelines in 2015. Consolidate data management so that monitoring data from Parties can be used for different purposes (HELCOM, EU, others);
- Assessment based on indicators and environmental objectives – develop operational measures for assessment of the status of the Baltic Sea based on the core indicators assessment system. Draw up the 2nd HELCOM holistic assessment by 2016;
- Access to environmental information and visibility of HELCOM activities – further develop HELCOM website and map applications. Implement the HELCOM communication strategy to turn HELCOM more visible and understandable for the public.



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Thank you!