

HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter: the Baltic Sea experience

16th Inter-Secretariat meeting between Regional
Agreement Secretariats, DG ECHO and EMSA
5 February 2020, Brussels, Belgium

By HELCOM staff
Thursday, February 6, 2020

Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

1

What is HELCOM doing?



By HELCOM staff
Thursday, February 6, 2020

Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

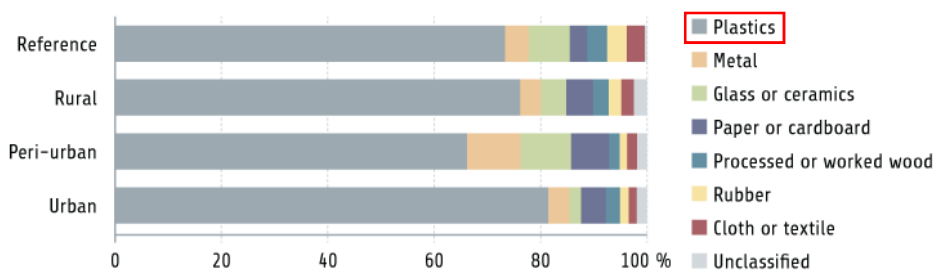
2



Monitoring and assessment



Litter material categories on different beach types



By HELCOM staff
Thursday, February 6, 2020



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

3



Monitoring and assessment



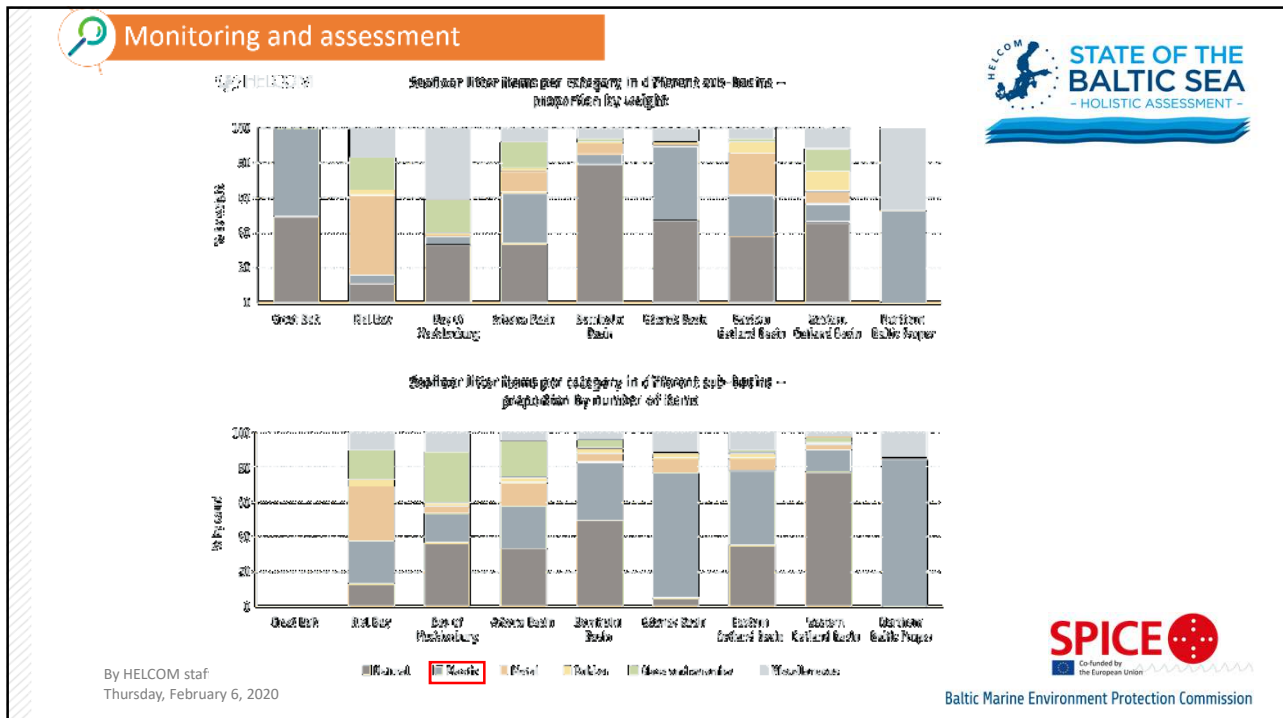
Rank	Urban beach	Peri-urban	Rural beach
1	Drinking related items such as cups, caps, lids (plastic)	Plastic and polystyrene pieces	Plastic and polystyrene pieces
2	Plastic and polystyrene pieces	Food related items such as wrappers, packets (plastic)	Food related items such as wrappers, packets (plastic)
3	Cigarette butts and remains.	Cigarette butts	Drinking related items such as cups, caps, lids (plastic)
4	Food related items such as wrappers, packets (plastic)	Drinking related items such as cups, caps, lids (plastic)	Plastic bags
5	Paper and cardboard items	Plastic bags	Bottles and containers (plastic)
6	Drinking related items such as bottle caps, pull tabs (metal)	Single-use cutlery and straws	String and ropes (plastic)
7	Plastic bags	Drinking related items such as bottle caps, pull tabs (metal)	Cigarette butts
8	Single-use cutlery and straws	Glass and ceramic fragments	Glass and ceramic fragments
9	Bottles and containers (plastic)	Foil wrappers and pieces of metal	Industrial packaging
10	Drinking related cans (metal)	String and ropes (plastic)	Processed wood and pieces of processed wood

By HELCOM staff
Thursday, February 6, 2020



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

4



5

Actions on sources

HELCOM

- HELCOM Recommendation 36/1: **Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter: 30 Regional actions** – HELCOM Collective Actions + 27 Voluntary national actions (agreed by 2013 Ministerial Meeting)
- **Contracting Parties** as lead of the implementation of regional actions
- Facilitated by the HELCOM Experts Network on Marine Litter (**EN-Marine Litter**): ToR for the period 2019-2021 agreed in December 2018
- Work approaches:
 - Questionnaires to CPs-> reports **on overall status and proposals for further actions** (i.a. ALDFG)
 - **National activities** (i.a. clean beach campaigns)
 - Other pathways (i.a. dedicated workshop on marine litter and codesign)

By HELCOM staff
Thursday, February 6, 2020

Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

6

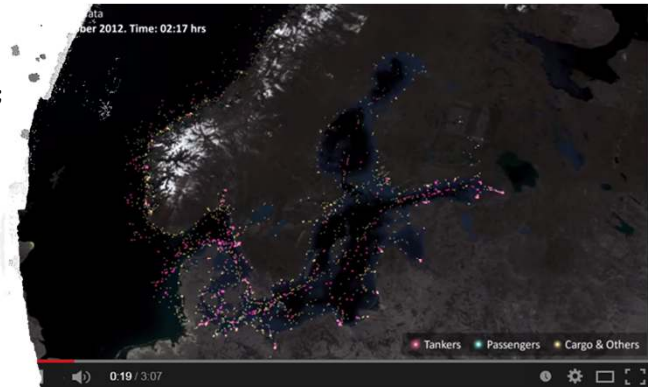
Shipping related waste

Actions

- 'Best practice on the disposal of old pleasure boats';
- 'Best practice in relation to inspections for MARPOL Annex V';
- 'Further work on implementation and harmonization of the NSF system'.
- 'Implementation of the ISO standard (ISO 21070:2013) in relation to PRFs'

On-going work

- Regional report on the development of best practice on the disposal of old pleasure boats & economic incentives -> regional policy message under preparation (FI & SE);
- Report on analysis of penalties and fines issued by OSPAR and HELCOM members for waste disposal offences at sea (DE).



7

Waste related to fishing & aquaculture and remediation & removal measures

Actions

- 'Best practice of waste management within the fishing sector'
- 'Best practice in relation to ALDFG and DFG and their removal'
- 'Best practices to reduce the input of ALDFG from commercial and recreational fishing to the Baltic Sea'
- 'Options to address key waste items from the fishing & aquaculture industry'
- 'Mapping and RA ghost nets hotspots'
- 'Removal and safe management of ghost nets'
- 'To encourage implementation of passive Fishing for Litter schemes'



By HELCOM staff
Thursday, February 6, 2020

Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

8


Waste related to fishing & aquaculture and remediation & removal measures

On-going work


- Outputs from the Marelitt Baltic project 2016-2018 available: **"Baltic Sea Blueprint"**: containing policy recommendations on mapping of hot spots on DFG, their retrieval, the management of the retrieved FG as well as preventive measures.
- Regional report on national activities regarding ALDFG available
- **Preliminary actions to address ALDFG in the Baltic Sea** discussed in October 2019 -> **Further consideration in April 2020**




9






Actions on sources





HELCOM contributes to global UN meeting in Seoul, sharing insight on cross-sectoral cooperation to reach Sustainable Development Goals in the Baltic Sea

By HELCOM staff
Thursday, February 6, 2020

Attendance to **UN event** and echoing of **campaigns**.

Contributions to **UNEP/AHEG/2018/1/INF/4** and **UNEP/AHEG/2018/1/INF/3**

Combating marine plastic litter and microplastics: An assessment of the effectiveness of relevant international, regional and subregional governance strategies and approaches, UNEP/AHEG/2018/1/INF/3

G7 Action Plan on ML -> G7 Workshops:

- on the relevance of the regional dimension in the implementation of the G7 Action Plan on ML (Rome, April 2017)
- to Combat Marine Litter in Synergy with the Regional Seas Conventions (Metz, May 2019)

UNEP/EA.3/Res. 7 Marine litter and microplastics

Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

10



Actions on sources



Informal cooperation between **OSPAR, UNEP-MEDPOL, HELCOM and countries belonging to both Conventions** (since 2014). **Black Sea** joined the 2018 meeting, and **EU** in 2017 and 2018. Priority actions:

- Waste prevention and management (general perspective, single-use plastic bags, primary microplastics and other key waste items)
- Passive FFL activities
- Hotspots of marine litter
- Clean-up campaigns
- Public awareness and education activities

By HELCOM staff
Thursday, February 6, 2020



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

11



Actions on sources



<https://helcom.fi/action-areas/marine-litter-and-noise/marine-litter/marine-litter-action-plan/>

The Commission developed the regional action plan for marine litter and noise in the [Baltic Sea Region](#) in 2014. The plan is a voluntary initiative for the HELCOM member states, adopted in 2014, and is intended to guide the coastal and marine environment.

Following the development of the action plan in 2014, the [Baltic Sea Region](#) has regional expert working groups and networks of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to develop and coordinate implementation of the action plan.

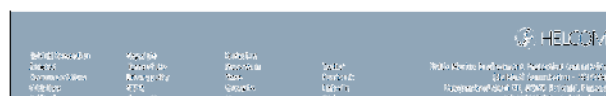
The overall objective for marine litter is to reduce the amount of litter entering the marine environment from its main sources: development, production and consumption to reduce the quantity of litter, sources and disposal of litter. The main task for the action plan is to implement the action plan.

Objectives

[Implementing the Baltic Sea Region Marine Litter Action Plan](#) - overview

[Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter](#) - overview

[Baltic Sea Region Action Plan for the Baltic Sea Litter](#) - overview



By HELCOM staff
Thursday, February 6, 2020

Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

12



2021: Target year



- **Update of the RAP on Marine Litter in 2021**, if needed
- HELCOM 2018 Ministerial Declaration:
 - **dedicated section on marine litter and circular economy**
 - as a first priority, **achieve already agreed actions** with renewed efforts to make progress towards the goals of the current BSAP by 2021,
 - in addition, **address new issues**, on the basis of the commitments made in this Declaration and further deliberations during the BSAP updating process,
 - the updated BSAP should include **actions necessary for managing human activities** in such a way that the current HELCOM strategic goals can be achieved,
 - the updated BSAP will at least **maintain the ambition level of agreed actions and objectives**.
- **New ecological objectives e.g. for marine litter**



By HELCOM staff
Thursday, February 6, 2020

Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

13

Thank you!

By HELCOM staff
Thursday, February 6, 2020



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

14