

Sustainable agriculture for a healthy Baltic Sea: The view from HELCOM

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HELCOM Secretariat

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Helsinki Convention

Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment Of The Baltic Sea Area

1974, 1992

Signatories: all Baltic Sea coastal countries and the EU

International treaty law



Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)

Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

1981

Governing body of the Helsinki Convention

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Contracting Parties

- Denmark
- Estonia
- European Union
- Finland
- Germany

- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Poland
- Russia
- Sweden





Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP)

HELCOM's programme of actions for Baltic Sea in good environmental state by 2021:

The four BSAP segments and objectives



Baltic Sea unaffected by **eutrophication**



Baltic Sea undisturbed by hazardous substances



Favourable status of Baltic Sea **biodiversity**



Environmentally friendly **maritime activities**



State of the Baltic Sea Second HELCOM holistic assessment 2011-2016

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Key findings



The Baltic Sea is not in a good state: BSAP goals unlikely to be reached by 2021



Eutrophication: Still the major pressure - Littering & plastics despite trends of nutrient reduction

Current challenges:

- Underwater sound
- Pharmaceuticals
- Seabed disturbance
- Climate change



Biodiversity: Not in a good state overall





Eutrophication

• Eutrophication remains the



of the Baltic Sea is affected by eutrophication

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Eutrophication

- Eutrophication remains the biggest pressure on the sea
- 97% of the Baltic Sea is affected by eutrophication
- Ecosystem lag: Inputs of nutrients from land have decreased, but past and current inputs still impact the overall status





Integrated Eutrophication Status Assessment



Susanna Kaasinen





HELCOM

Waterborne and total nutrient inputs

Nitrogen





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Reduction of nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea

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Total load in 2014 to the Baltic Sea





Riverine load in 2014 to the Baltic Sea





Implementation of the BSAP





Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP): update *Update by 2021*

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Based on a strong political mandate: Decision to update taken at Ministerial Meeting 2018



Evolution, not revolution: Update based on current plan



Sufficiency of measures: Update based on the analysis of what did work and what didn't



Ecosystembased approach: Economic and social benefits of a healthy sea will be included



Global targets and committments: SDGs, Aichi targets, MSFD (EU) will be considered in the update





Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy by 2020

- Aims for reduced nutrient inputs to and eutrophication of the Baltic Sea
- Focuses on measures at source rather than end-ofpipe solutions
- Nutrients especially from manure and sewage
- Possible nutrient recycling measures to be included in the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan



Vision

Nutrients are managed sustainably in all HELCOM countries, securing the productivity of agriculture and minimizing nutrient loss to the Baltic Sea environment through efficient use of nutrients and cost-effective nutrient recycling.

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Objectives

Baltic Sea region as a model area for nutrient recycling

Reducing environmental impacts

Safe nutrient recycling

Knowledge exchange and awareness raising

Creating business opportunities

Improving policy coherence





HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF MANURE?

Handbook on good manure management practices



https://www.luke.fi/manurestandards/en/results/

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