HELCOM Regional Action Plan: the Baltic Sea experience

International High-level Conference
Inter-basin Cooperation on Marine Litter:
a focus on the Danube River and the Black Sea
4 April 2019, Sofia, Republic of Bulgaria
Structure of the RAP ML

• HELCOM Recommendation 36/1: Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter

• Annex to the Action Plan containing the list of actions:
  – 30 Regional actions – HELCOM Collective Actions
  – 27 Voluntary national actions

• Both Regional and National actions are grouped in:
  – Land-based sources of marine litter
  – Sea-based sources of marine litter
  – Education and outreach on marine litter

• Appendixes: reporting format in implementation of actions, on the effectiveness of the implemented actions and definition of terms
How is the RAP ML implemented?

- **Lead Country** approach on the regional actions within the RAP
How is the RAP ML implemented?

- **Lead Country** approach on the regional actions within the RAP
- Facilitated by the HELCOM **Experts Network** on Marine Litter (EN-Marine Litter): ToR for the period 2019-2021 agreed in December 2018
- Followed up by HELCOM **Working Group PRESSURE**
### Follow up  

**CODE OF ACTION** | **Additional information**
--- | ---
RL1  
*Lithuanian:  
a) National waste management plan for 2014-2020 can be found here: https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.9945210D6571/7fTaVZPcai  
b) National waste prevention programme can be found here: https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.09C26B84F785/ejimYyEmdIl  
c) The Law on Packaging and Packaging Waste can be found here: https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/7a598dd03c5811e6bccc5c96b48152012.  
*Swedish revised National Waste Plan and a Waste Prevention Program for the years 2018-2023 under development can be found here: http://www.naturvardsverket.se/Miljoarbetet-i-samhallet/Miljoarbetet-i-Sverige/Regeringsuppdrag/Reviderad-nationell-avfallsplan/  
*Additional information on the Waste Council ("Avfallsrådet"); the Swedish EPA’s expert support for waste issues and issues related to sustainable management of materials in society can be found here: http://www.naturvardsverket.se/Miljoarbetet-i-samhallet/Miljoarbetet-i-Sverige/Uppdelat-efter-omrade/Avfall/Vem-gor-vad/Avfallsradet/  
*There are two background reports under progress within Blastic project, one on marine litter sources and one on available methods to monitor marine plastic litter, as well as an identification list of marine litter sources. There will be a questionnaire for pilot municipalities to be filled in with the list of marine litter sources. Subsequently, draft measures for municipalities will be drafted.  
*DE is to provide updated information on their national PoMs. Propose to change deadline to 2019 in order to benefit from the guidelines produced by the Blastic project. CPs are invited to consider leadership.  
RL2  
*Lithuanian wastewater management regulation can be found here: https://e-selmas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.276576  
*Propose to change deadline to 2019 in order to benefit from the guidelines produced by the Blastic project and also in the view of the HOLAS II assessment. To consider ongoing work on Nordic Council of Ministries, Clean Europe Network (DE to provide contact details), and the Baltic Sea Accelerator. CPs are invited to consider leadership.  
*Additional information on the Swedish EPA commission ("regeringsuppdrag") to administer calls for support for cutting-edge technologies and advanced system solutions for sustainable urban development for the years 2015-2019 can be found here: http://www.naturvardsverket.se/Miljoarbetet-i-samhallet/Miljoarbetet-i-Sverige/Rapporter/2016/Mannommiljoninvesteringar-pa-teknik-for-hallbarh.
How is the RAP ML implemented?

- **Lead Country** approach on the regional actions within the RAP
- Facilitated by the HELCOM **Experts Network** on Marine Litter (EN-Marine Litter): ToR for the period 2019-2021 agreed in December 2018
- Followed up by HELCOM Working Group **PRESSURE**

**Work approaches:**
- a. Questionnaires
- b. National activities
- c. Specific events
Marine litter action plan

- Improve waste prevention & management
- Microparticles
- Sewage related litter including sanitary waste
- EPS
- Plastic bags
- Bottles & containers
- Addressing third parties
- Remediation & removal on land
- Shipping related waste
- Waste delivery in ports & marinas
- Waste related to fishing & aquaculture
- Remediation & removal at sea
- Education & outreach
Questionnaires

• To compile background information for drafting HELCOM guidelines on **best practice on waste management** to prevent waste turn in to marine litter (action RL3) alongside with addressing **cleaning and collection systems** to prevent litter from land entering the aquatic environment (action RL2) and **marine litter references in waste management plans** (action RL1)  

• To collect knowledge regarding the national regime of control and **inspections of MARPOL Annex V infringements** (actions RS 2 and RS 3) -> Report ready
Questionnaires

• On the management on sanitary waste (action RL8) -> "Analysis of the degree of the marine environment pollution by wastes flowing down the rivers to the sea, including sanitary waste“ -> Further actions at PRESSURE 10-2019

• On the prevalence and sources of EPS and XPS in the Baltic Sea, and suggestion of possible measures to reduce the environmental load of EPS and XPS in the Baltic Sea (action RL 9) -> Report to PRESSURE 10-2019.

• On deposit refund systems for bottles, containers and cans (action RL 11) -> Report ready, and further actions to PRESSURE 10-2019
Questionnaires

• On whether landfills or dumpsites including historic ones may eventually pose a risk to the marine environment due to factors such as coastal erosion and vicinity to rivers (action RL 14) -> 2016, relaunched 2019.

• On the current situation to draft a best practice model on disposal of end-of-life pleasure boats (ELB) (action RS 1) -> Results to PRESSURE 10-2019.

• On national activities on ALDFG -> Report ready + discussion on further steps at PRESSURE 10-2019.
Most of them target **microplastics**:

- Identification of the importance of different sources of primary and secondary microplastics (action RL 6).
- Possible techniques in waste water treatment plants to prevent micro particles entering the marine environment (action RL7).
- EU INTERREG Baltic Sea Region project - FanpLESStic-sea project - Initiatives to remove microplastics before they enter the sea (Jan. 2019-June 2021).
Specific events

HELCOM-Interreg-Workshop

“Principles for design reducing/preventing marine litter”

Report on the workshop on marine litter and ecodesign held in Berlin on 15th of June 2018
### Seminar on prevention of and sanctions on illegal waste disposal from ships at sea

**29.-30. November**  
**Venue:** German Environment Agency  
**Bismarckplatz, room 1042**  
**14193 Berlin**

#### Day 1

- **12:30pm** Registration

- **1:00pm**
  - Welcome notices
  - Uli Claussen and Dr Ewald Brandt, Welcome, introduction and goals of the seminar

- **1:15pm**
  - Setting the scene
    - Stefanie Werner, representing OSPAR /HELCOM, on marine litter - main problems and the relevance of sea-based sources of waste
    - Aleke Stöfen O’Brien, World Maritime University, on possible recommendations for OSPAR and HELCOM

- **2:00pm**
  - Experiences and challenges in preventing and sanctioning of illegal waste disposal from ships at sea - presentations from:  
    - Anna Bobo Remijn, European Commission, Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, Maritime Safety Unit
    - Dr. Ewald Brandt, representing North Sea Network for Prosecutors and Investigators (NSN) and the Network of Prosecutors on Environmental Crime (ENRPO)
    - Kjetil Særensen, Norwegian Maritime Authority (tbc)
    - Dr. Susanne Heitmüller and Laura Jurk, Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH)

- **3:30pm** Coffee break

- **4:00pm**
  - N.N., Perspective from ports
  - Torsten Wrobel, Hamburg Water Police
  - Capt. Wolfgang Hintzsche, German Shipowners Association
Other pathways

- Improve of the stormwater management to prevent litter, including microlitter, to enter the marine environment from heavy weather events (action RL 4) -> Amendment of HELCOM Recommendations on waste water management at PRESSURE 10-2019??

- Exchange platform for spreading experiences on good cleaning practices in beaches (action RL 15) -> "Clean Beach" - 2018
HELCOM’s role outside the region

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

Contribution to **UN reports**:

- “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 Workshop on the relevance of the regional dimension in the implementation of the **G7 Action Plan on ML** (Rome, April 2017)
Regional Seas Conventions

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

- 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
HELCOM and the EU processes

By HELCOM staff
Friday, March 29, 2019

Linkages with:
- HELCOM contribution to on-going work of the TG ML
- HELCOM contribution to UN reports and events
- Informal cooperation between EU RSCs on implementation of the RAP ML
- HELCOM Ministerial Declaration 2018
- Marine litter in the BSAP update 2021

Annex II of the Plastic Strategy: key measures recommended to national authorities and industry, indicating that “National and regional authorities are encouraged to”.

Plastics free oceans
Thank you!