

# 16th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans

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Life gets  
better  
after 40



## HELCOM 1974–2014

The seven nations around the Baltic Sea signed a historical agreement on Friday 22 March 1974, to protect the Baltic marine environment – Helsinki Convention.



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# HELCOM wants to be a modern organization

- **FOCUS**
- **ENSURING COUNTRY OWNERSHIP**
- **MORE EMPHAZIS ON REACHING OUT TO OTHER SECTORS AND PROCESSES**
- **COORDINATION WITH OTHER PROCESSES**

HELCOM modernization outcome:

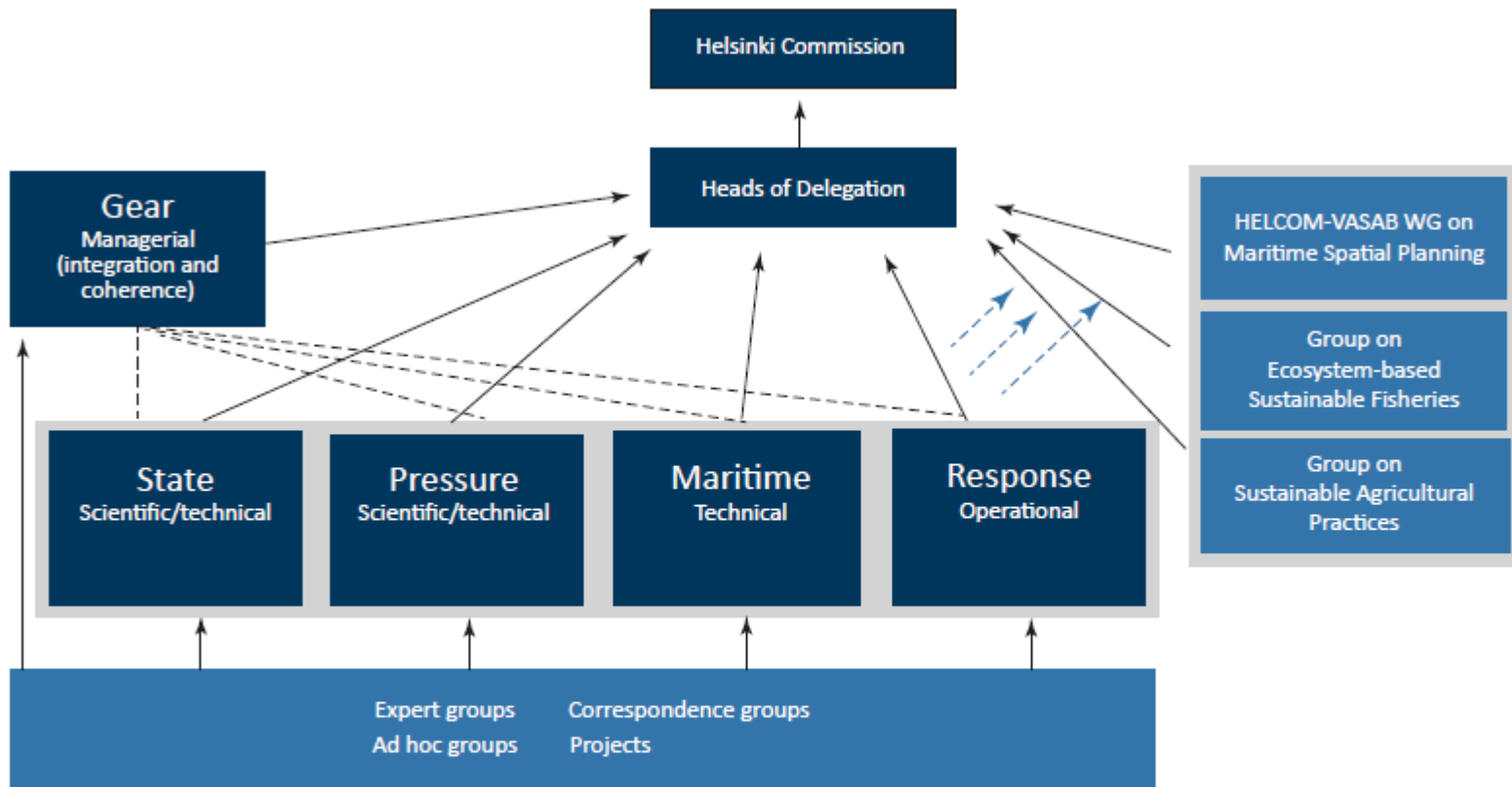
- Identification of strengths and challenges
- Agreement on directions and solutions for streamlined HELCOM activities
- New organizational structure



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# Renewed HELCOM working structure

(September 2014)



## Full names of the main working groups

Gear = Group on the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach

State = Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation

Pressure = Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area

Maritime Working Group

Response Working Group

Permanent  
 Time-limited / ad hoc



# HELCOM

# HELCOM

MINISTERIAL  
MEETING

COPENHAGEN  
3 OCTOBER 2013

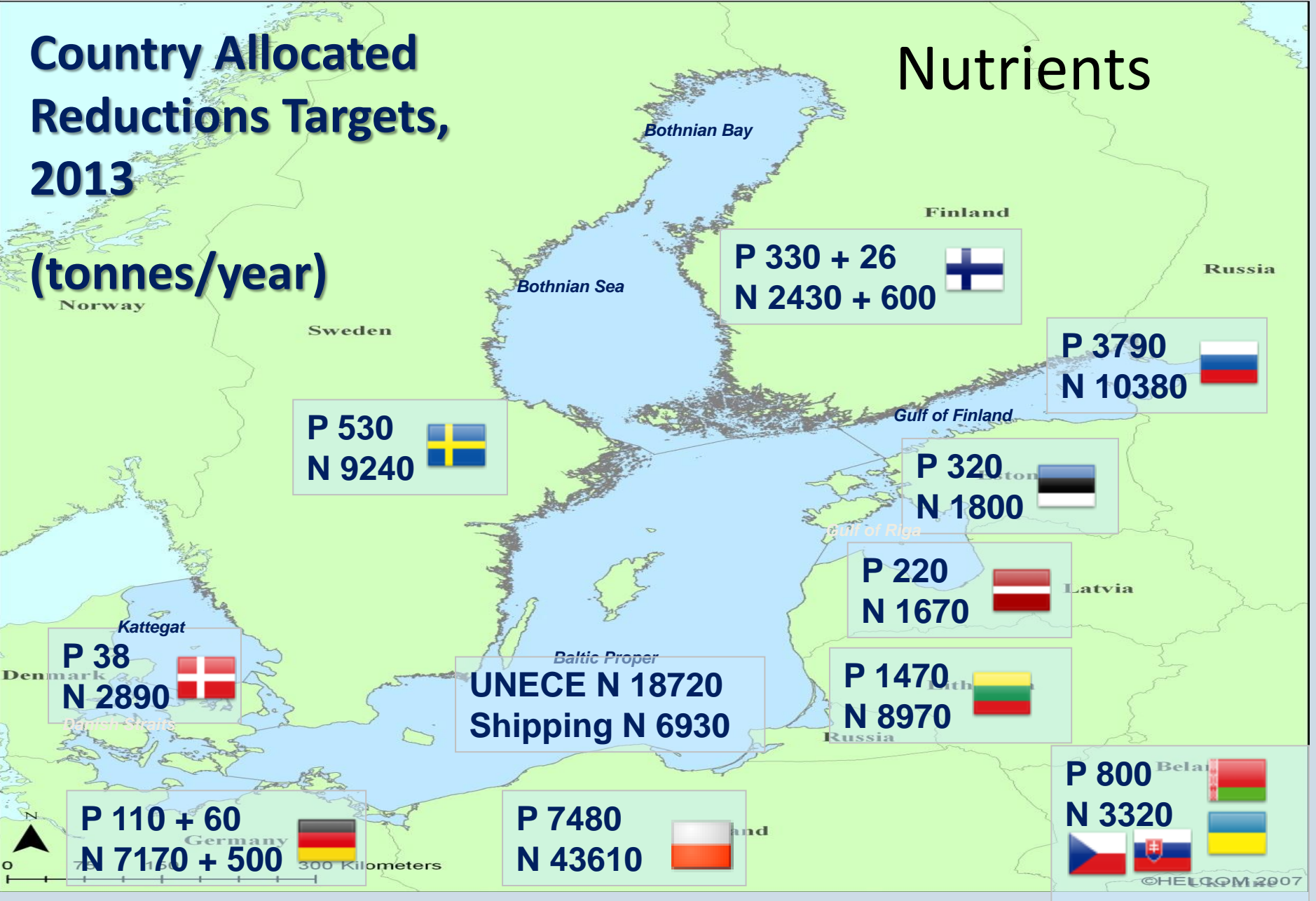
## Six years of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

- How is the Baltic Sea ecosystem doing?
- Are we on the right track to reach good environmental status?
- What do we need to do next for a healthy Sea?
- How to best join efforts and pool resources for the Baltic common vision?



# Country Allocated Reductions Targets, 2013 (tonnes/year)

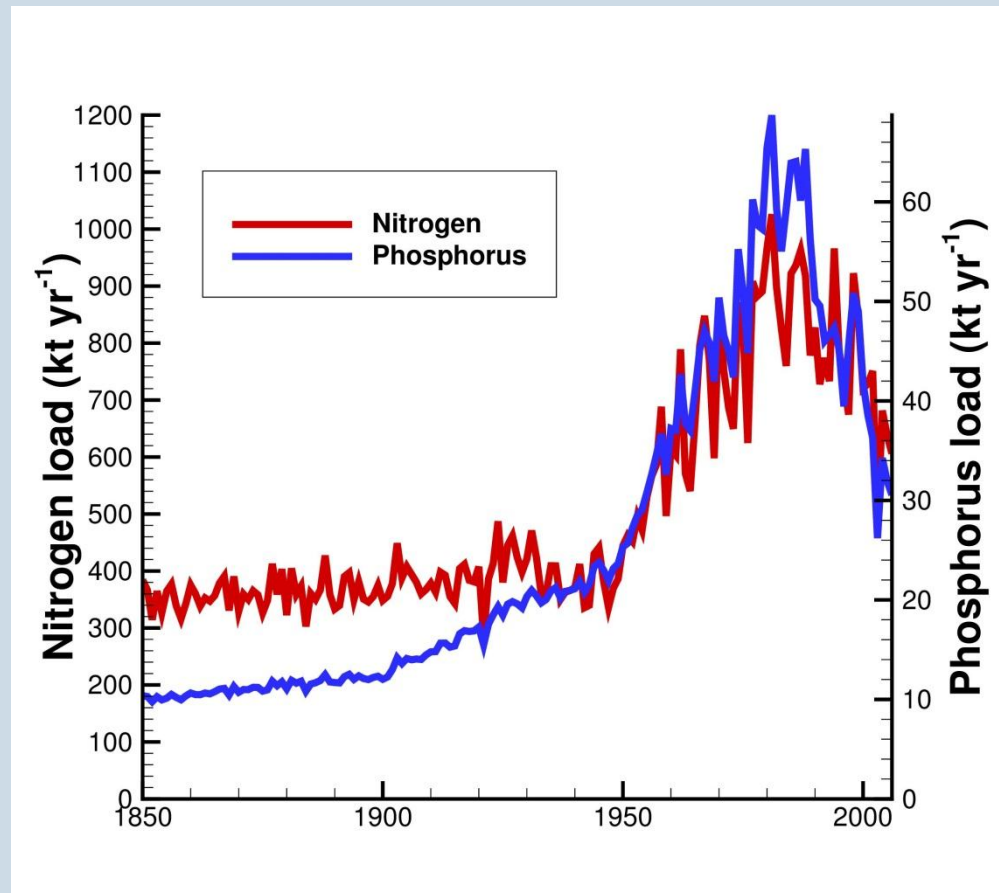
# Nutrients



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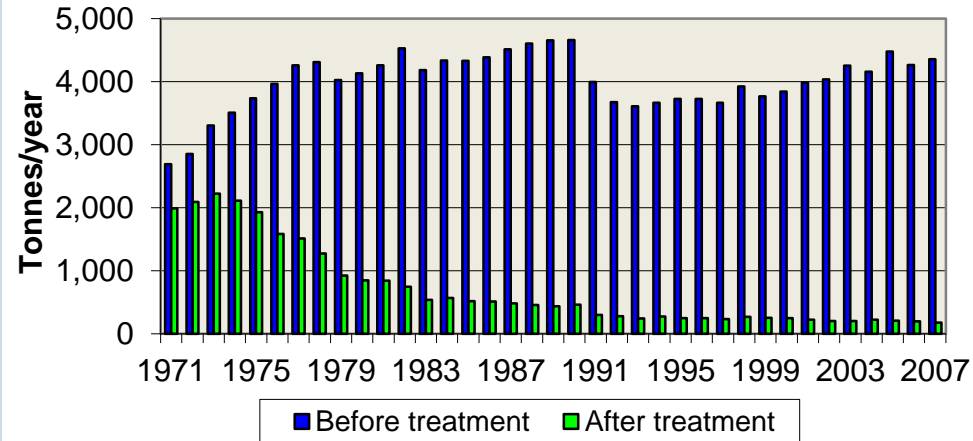
# Decreasing trend in nutrient inputs



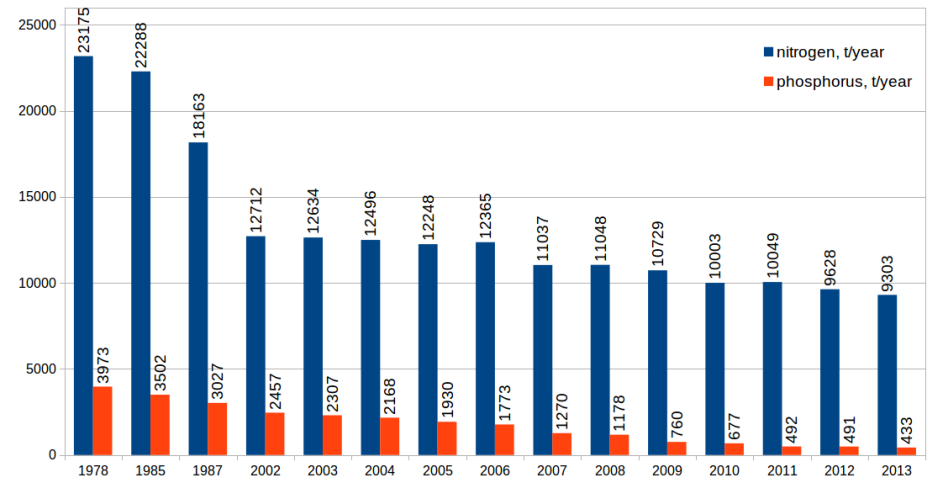
# Treatment of municipal waste water

- HELCOM works intensively on municipal sector since 1986
- Today: min. 90% reduction of P and 70-80% reduction of N for plants > 10,000 person equivalents
- Requirements also for small plants and scattered settlements
- 20% P and 12% N of total waterborne inputs to the sea

### Phosphorus load from MWTTPs in Finland



### Discharges from MWTTPs in St. Petersburg





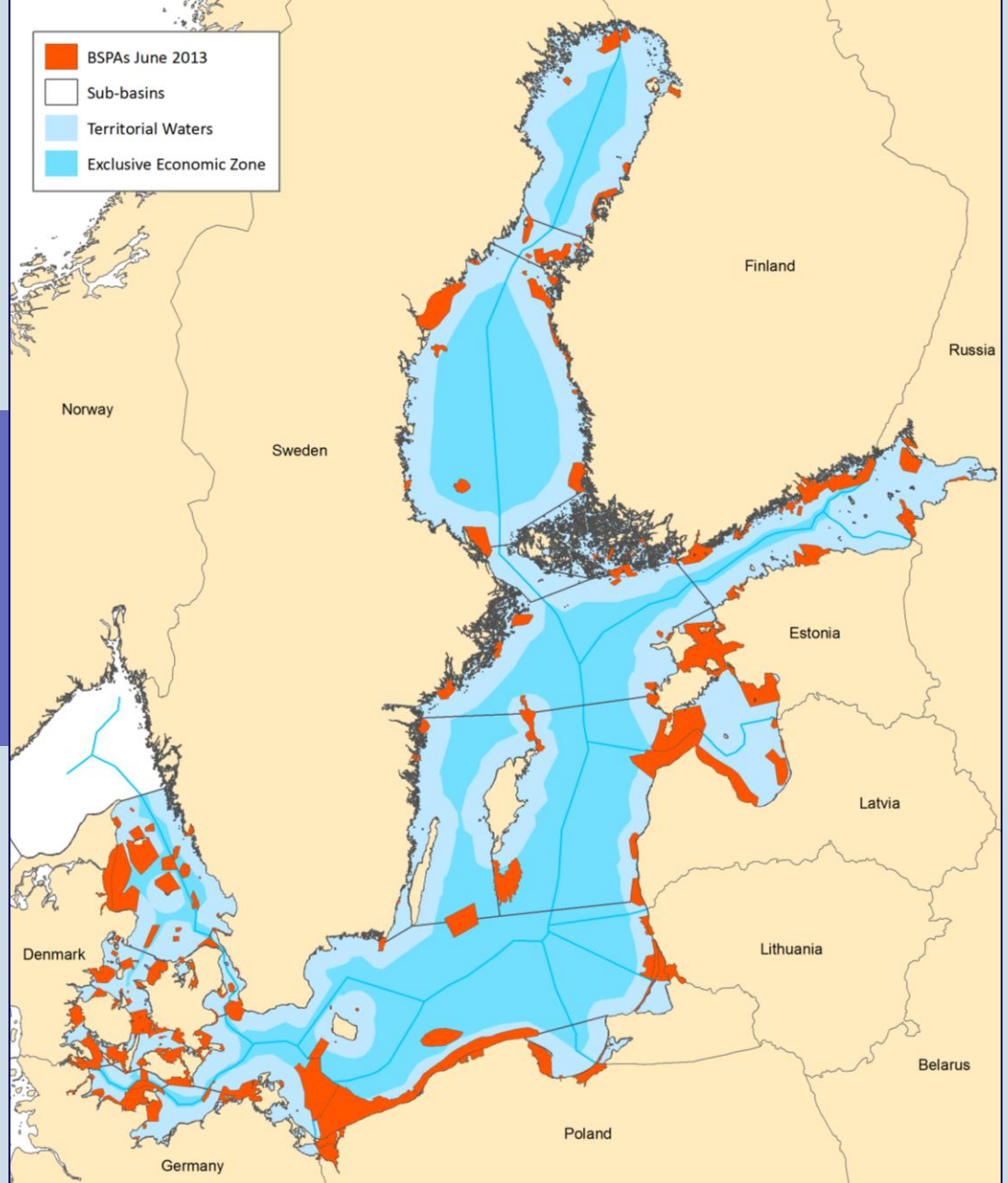
# Marine litter

- HELCOM 2013 Ministerial Declaration: to develop a **Regional Action Plan (RAP) on Marine Litter (ML)** by **2015** at the latest,
- ... with the aim of **achieving a significant quantitative reduction of marine litter by 2025, compared to 2015,**
- ...to allow to: carry out **concrete measures** for **prevention and reduction** of marine litter **from its main sources,**
- ...to **develop common indicators and associated targets** related to quantities, composition, sources and pathway of marine litter.



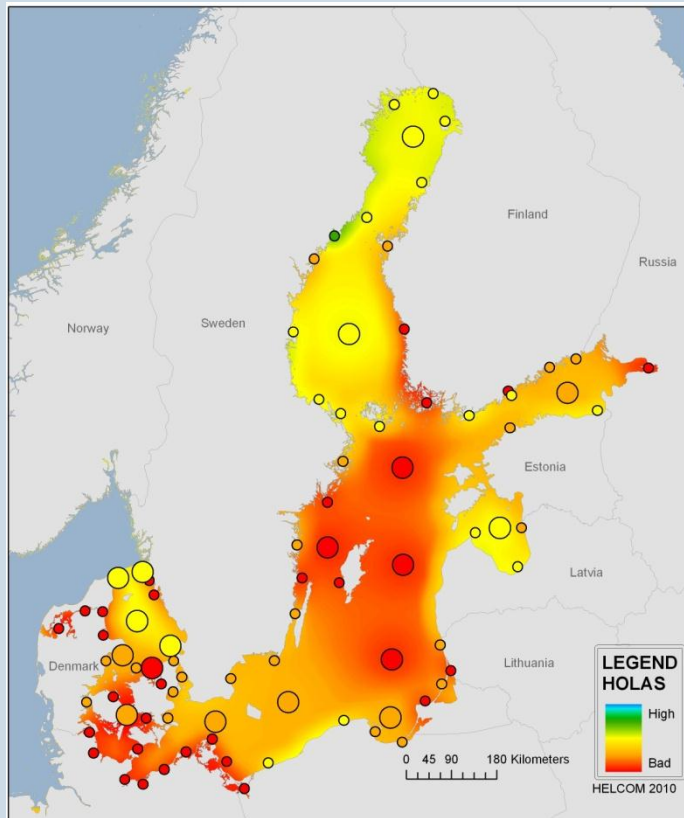
163 HELCOM MPs which cover 11.7% of the Baltic Sea marine area.

- 17% of the TW
- 4.6% of the EEZ

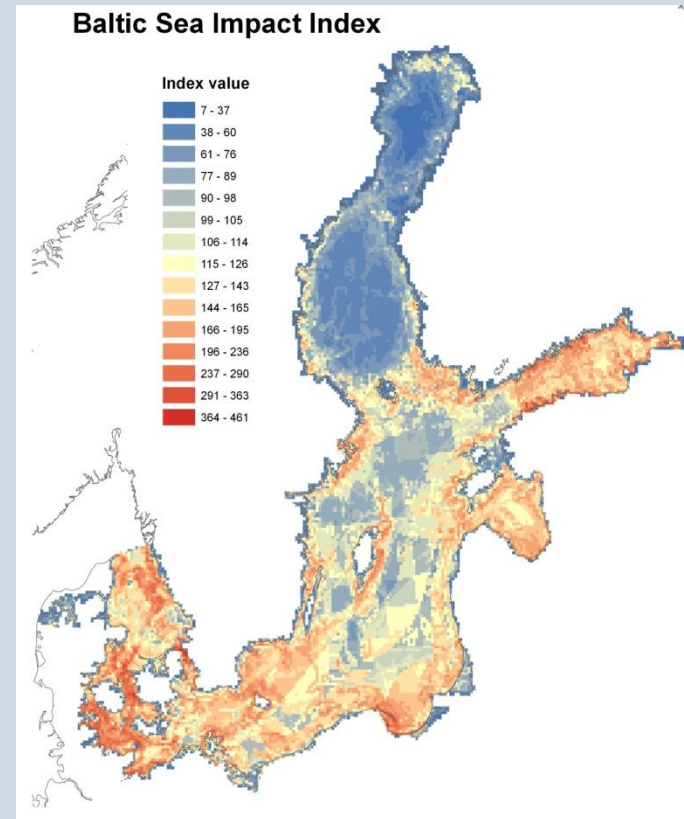


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# Initial Holistic Assessment of the Ecosystem Health of the Baltic Sea - HOLAS I



**Ecosystem health status of the entire sea was impaired in 2003-2007**



**Baltic Sea Impact Index**



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# New Integrated Assessment of the Baltic Sea HOLAS II 2014-2016/2017

- Indicator-based (monitoring and data in place)
- Common assessment tools
- Covering status, pressures and impacts
- Semi-automated and on-line
- Serving also other obligations of the Contracting Parties



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# Benefits of protecting the Baltic exceed the costs by 1-2,2 billion €/year



**Benefits**

3,8-5 billion €/year

**Costs**

2,8 billion €/year



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