Case: HELCOM and Baltic Sea partnerships on clean shipping

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Regional Contribution to SDGs

• SDG 14.1: By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

• but also e.g. 3.9 (Human health), 9.4 (Clean and environmentally sound technologies) & 13.2 (Climate change).
“Green shipping” as spatial regulation
Concrete environmental effects

• 90% reduction in operational oil spills (numbers and volumes) over the last 30 years
• 90% cuts in SOx emissions over last 10 years
• Ban on untreated sewage releases offshore by 2021
• 80% reduction in Nox emissions from new ships from 2021.
Seasonal variation of ship emissions of NOx and SOx in the Baltic Sea during the period 2006–2015.

Johansson & Jalkanen 2016
The Dimensions of Partnerships

– Cross scales: Regional implementation and development of global IMO regulations
– Cross sectors: transport and environment ministries in close cooperation
– Cross public and private: Recent initiatives have increasingly engaged private sector interest groups and civil society
RSCs as cross sectoral platforms

• From 2010s HELCOM focuses even more on cross sectoral cooperation groups:
  – Fisheries and Marine Environment
  – Agriculture and Marine Environment
  – Maritime Spatial Planning

• Such cooperation absolutely necessary to turn plans to practice
HELCOM Public Private Partnership for shipping

• PP partnerships commonplace on the national level - less so in intergovernmental contexts

• Industry interest groups and civil society hold key expertise and raise cooperation to another level
Recommendations (page 41, doc. 2)

- Ensure the participation and direct involvement of the competent national authority or authorities of the subject matter at hand.
- Ensure the participation of the key industry and civil society actors with clear indication of their expected role and contribution.
- Ensure ownership of participants by agenda setting and products which corresponds to their needs.
- Focus on solutions which require a high degree of technical specificity, and competence, as opposed to general or principle discussions which typically are challenging to resolve.
- Invest in competence of staff, e.g. of an organization secretariat, who is to facilitate the cooperation process and represent it towards external stakeholders, for credibility and trust building early in the process.
- Work persistently, with long and short term aims as decisions commonly take long time, for instance over a decade from regional conception to IMO decision.
- Build in constant renewal, by renewal of work programs and priorities, rotating chairmanship, rotating secretariat staff and openness to new initiatives from participating states and industry/NGOs/academia.
- Work for high level political agreement on commitments (ministerial etc.) to create overall support for concrete technical work.