

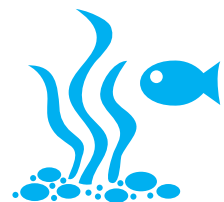
HELCOM work on port reception facilities

IC WS DISCHARGES 2-2025

16 May 2025

The HELCOM vision

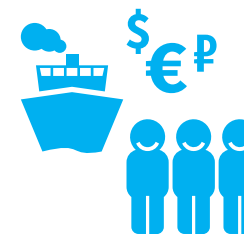
For a healthy Baltic Sea environment...



*... with diverse
biological components
functioning in balance,*



*... resulting in a good
ecological status,*




*...and supporting a
wide range of
sustainable economic
and social activities.*

The Baltic Sea Action Plan






Vision

 a healthy Baltic Sea environment with diverse biological components functioning in balance, resulting in a good ecological status and supporting a wide range of sustainable economic and social activities.

Goal

 Baltic Sea **ecosystem** is healthy and resilient

Goals

-  Baltic Sea unaffected by **hazardous substances and litter**
-  Environmentally sustainable **sea-based activities**
-  Baltic Sea unaffected by **eutrophication**

Horizontal topics

Climate change; monitoring; maritime spatial planning; economic and social analysis; financing; hot spots; knowledge exchange and awareness raising

The Baltic Sea Action Plan



Sea-based
activities goal

*“Environmentally
sustainable sea-based
activities”*



Ecological
objectives

- No or minimal disturbance to biodiversity and the ecosystem
- Activities affecting seabed habitats do not threaten the viability of species' populations and communities
- No or minimal harm to marine life from man-made noise



Management
objectives

- Minimize loss and disturbance to seabed habitats
- Minimize noise to levels that do not adversely affect marine life
- No introductions of non-indigenous species
- Minimize the input of nutrients, hazardous substances and litter from sea-based activities
- Enforce international regulations – no illegal discharges
- Safe maritime traffic without accidental pollution
- Effective emergency and response capabilities
- Minimize harmful air emissions
- Zero discharges from offshore platforms
- Ensure sustainable use of the marine resources

199 actions in the BSAP

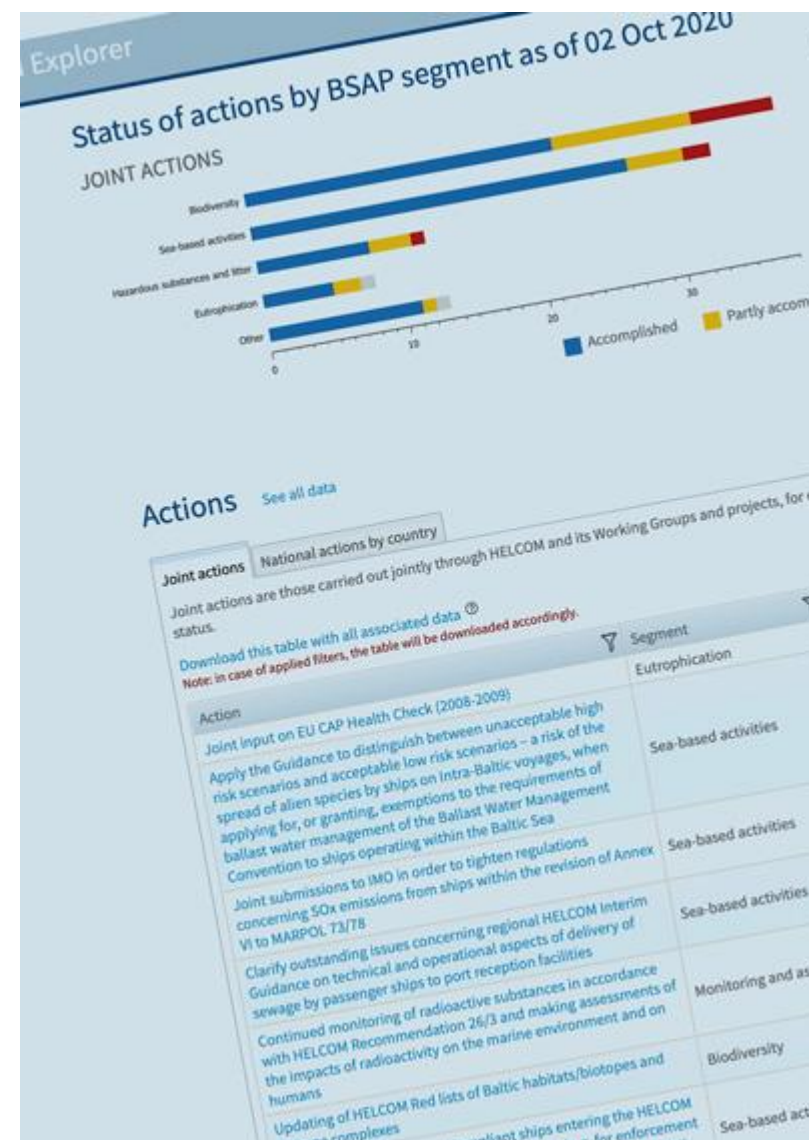
68 actions on sea-based activities

5 actions addressing PRFs



Implementing the BSAP

- **Lead country** approach
- Working Groups would consider the **progress** of implementing their workplans including relevant BSAP actions in **autumn 2024 -> updated workplans for WGs for 2025-2026**
- **HELCOM Explorer** serves to follow-up on the implementation of the actions



Political level



Policy coordination level



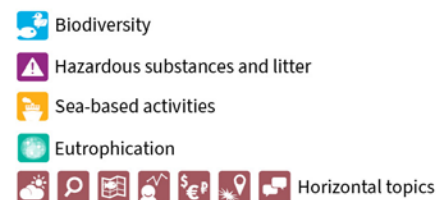
Working groups: management / policy level



Expert groups and networks: scientific / technical level



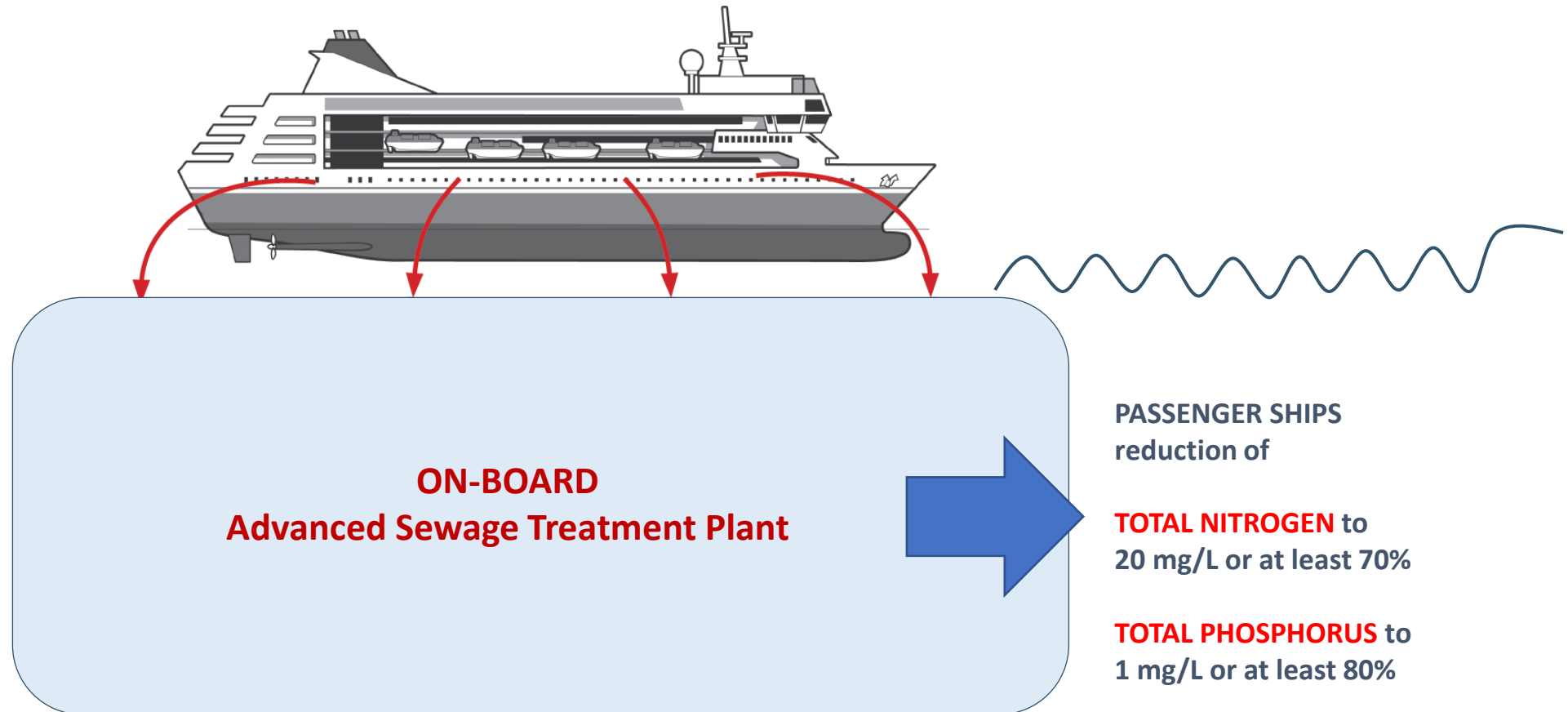
BSAP focus:



Full names of the working groups:

WG GEAR = HELCOM Working Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach
 WG BioDiv = HELCOM Working Group on Biodiversity, Protection and Restoration
 WG Source to Sea = HELCOM Working Group on the Source to Sea Management of Nutrients and Hazardous Substances and Sustainable Agricultural Practices
 WG Fish = HELCOM Working Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries
 WG Sea-based pressures = HELCOM Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from Sea-based Sources
 WG Maritime = HELCOM Maritime Working Group
 WG Response = HELCOM Response Working Group
 WG HELCOM-VASAB MSP = Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group

Baltic Sea – Special area for sewage (IMO MARPOL Annex IV)



Adopted 2011, Entered into force 2019 new ships / 2021 existing ships (2023 direct St. Petersburg – North Sea)

Actions addressing PRFs

S14

“Carry out a study and **impact assessment** by **2025**, assessing the possible ways for **cargo ships** to deliver **sewage** to port reception facilities (PRF) or take treatment measures, using onboard treatment plants, before discharging it into the sea. Based on the results, take relevant action in making a decision by **2027** on whether to widen the scope of the **Baltic Sea Special Area** regulations under the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Annex IV **to cover also sewage discharges from cargo ships.**”

Progress made but not on track to reach the target year

Finland leading.

National studies have been conducted. Baltic Sea wide modelling data published annually as [BSEFS](#). Funding not secured for further studies. The first part of the action is therefore expected to be **delayed by one year**.



Actions addressing PRFs

S15

“Carry out a study and **impact assessment by 2027**, assessing the volume and potential harmful effects of **grey water** and the possibilities for ships to deliver it to port reception facilities or take treatment measures using onboard treatment plants, before discharging it into the sea. Based on the results, take relevant action in making a **decision by 2029** on whether and how to manage grey water discharges from ships.”

On track (if target year later than 2024 or pending final approval)

Finland leading.

National studies have been conducted. Baltic Sea wide modelling data published annually as [BSEFS](#). Work is needed in particular on assessing the possibilities of delivering grey water to PRF.

Actions addressing PRFs

S17

“Study the **adequacy and use of port reception facilities (PRF)** for the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Convention **Annex V cargo residues by 2024** and, based on this information, **ensure adequate PRFs** in Baltic Sea ports for cargo residues classified as non-HME substances under MARPOL Annex V **and** further ensure **incentives for ships to use them by 2027.**”

Progress made but not on track to reach the target year

Lead needed.

A national study has been completed in Germany, but funding is needed for additional studies.

Actions addressing PRFs

S18

“Develop a **Roadmap** to minimize the **discharges of food waste** into the Baltic Sea and subsequently develop by **2025** a HELCOM Recommendation to encourage **voluntary agreements on delivering all food waste from ships to port reception facilities.**”

On track (if target year later than 2024 or pending final approval)

Finland leading.

National studies already conducted, and in addition Finland has applied for EU LIFE funding (400.000€) to support actions S14, S15, S18 and S21, focusing however on the situation in Finland. Similar funding may therefore be needed in other Contracting Parties or on the regional level.

Finland is planning to submit a draft Roadmap and draft Recommendation to WG Maritime in 2025.

Actions addressing PRFs

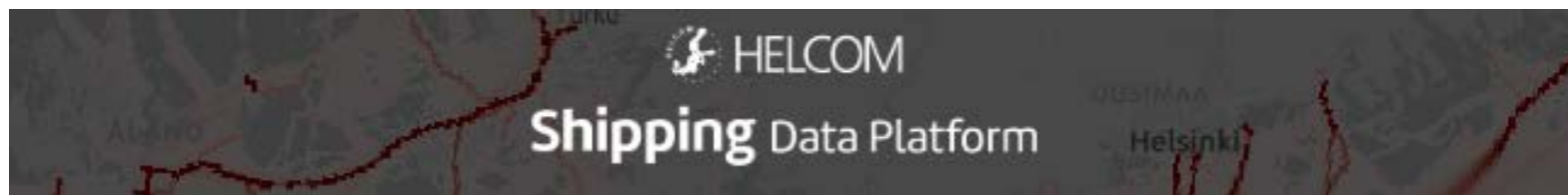
S19

“Enforce the requirements of the Baltic Sea Special Area under the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Convention Annex IV and continuously ensure the availability of adequate port reception facilities in passenger ports in the Baltic Sea Area taking into account the “Technical Guidance for the handling of wastewater in Ports of the Baltic Sea Special Area under MARPOL Annex IV.”

On track (if target year later than 2024 or pending final approval)

No lead needed.

Information on PRF for sewage available through **PRF Overview dashboard** (updated annually). Adequacy of sewage PRF for passenger ships in ports improving.



MAPS

These maps provide dynamic visualisations to enhance the understanding of shipping spatial data.



Traffic Intensity



Accidents



Oil spills



Emissions



Continuous
underwater
noise

DASHBOARDS

Dashboards offer interactive visualizations that provide deeper insights into complex data hosted by HELCOM.



Oil spills



Shipping accidents



Port reception facilities

STORIES

Explore these stories based on real project results, showcasing various aspects of shipping in the Baltic Sea.



EMERGE project



CSHIPP - The Clean Shipping
Platform



OpenRisk Project



Baltic Sea Port Reception Facilities 2006–2023

The HELCOM port reception facilities (PRF) dashboard shows sewage PRF availability and international cruise ship needs in the Baltic Sea. It uses data provided by Contracting Parties to HELCOM and AIS data, and was approved by the HELCOM Cooperation Platform on PRF.

Cruise passengers

58M

Ferry passengers

1bn

Cruise ship calls

2M

Sewage discharge m³

3M

Country

All

Port

All

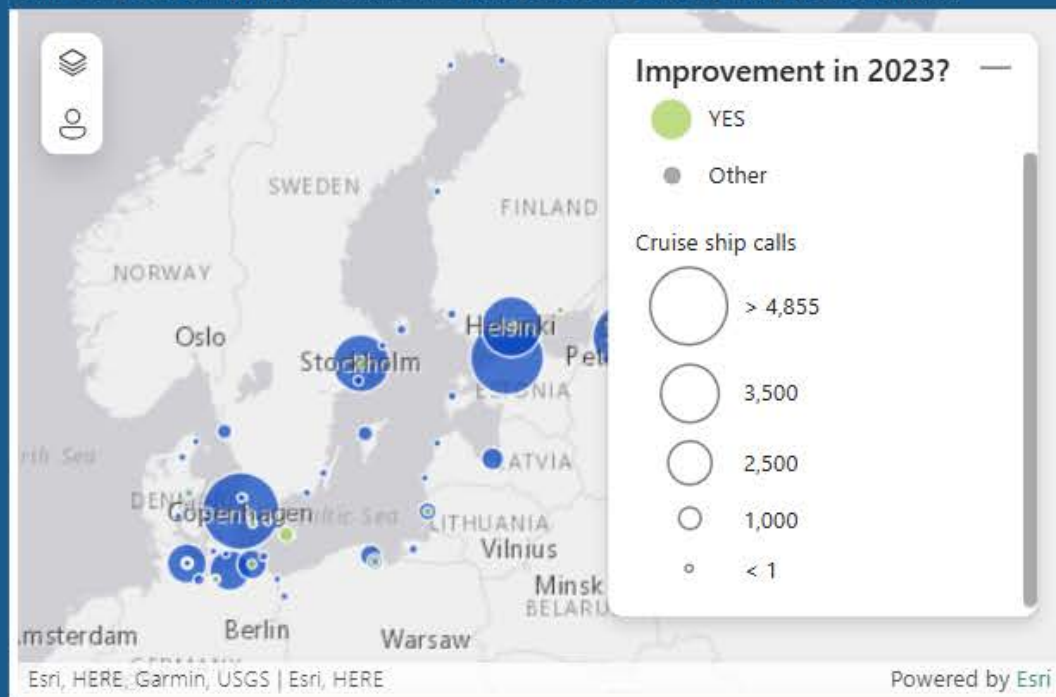
Year

2006

2023

Reset

Cruise ship calls and planned improvement 2023 (Note: 2022 data for Visby is not displayed)



Cruise passengers by year



Ferry passengers by year

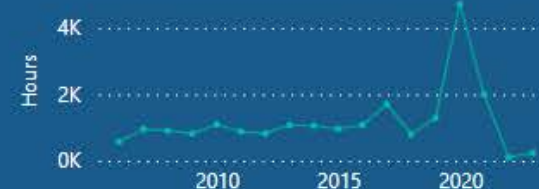


Average time spent at port per call

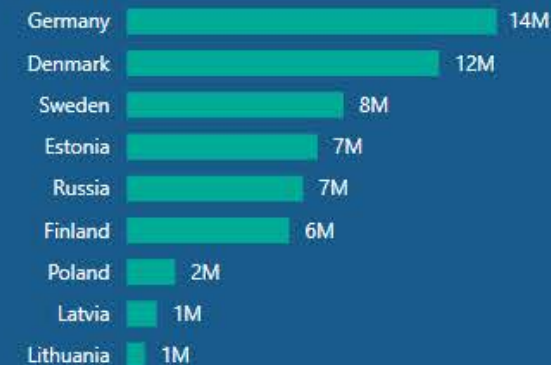
This graph is intended to be viewed at port level only



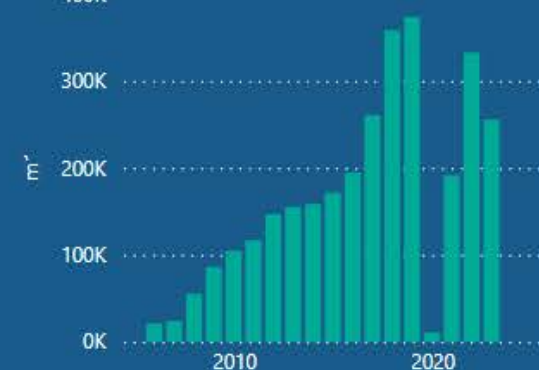
Average time at sea from previous call



Cruise passengers by country



Sewage discharge from cruise ships



Further information and planned improvements per port in 2023

Port

Sewage discharges

Planned improvements?

Additional information



Thank
you!