



ONGOING WORK TO REDUCE THE DISCHARGES OF TANK WASHING WATERS IN THE BALTIC SEA

2nd HELCOM workshop

Juulia Suikula

16.5.2025

PROGRAM



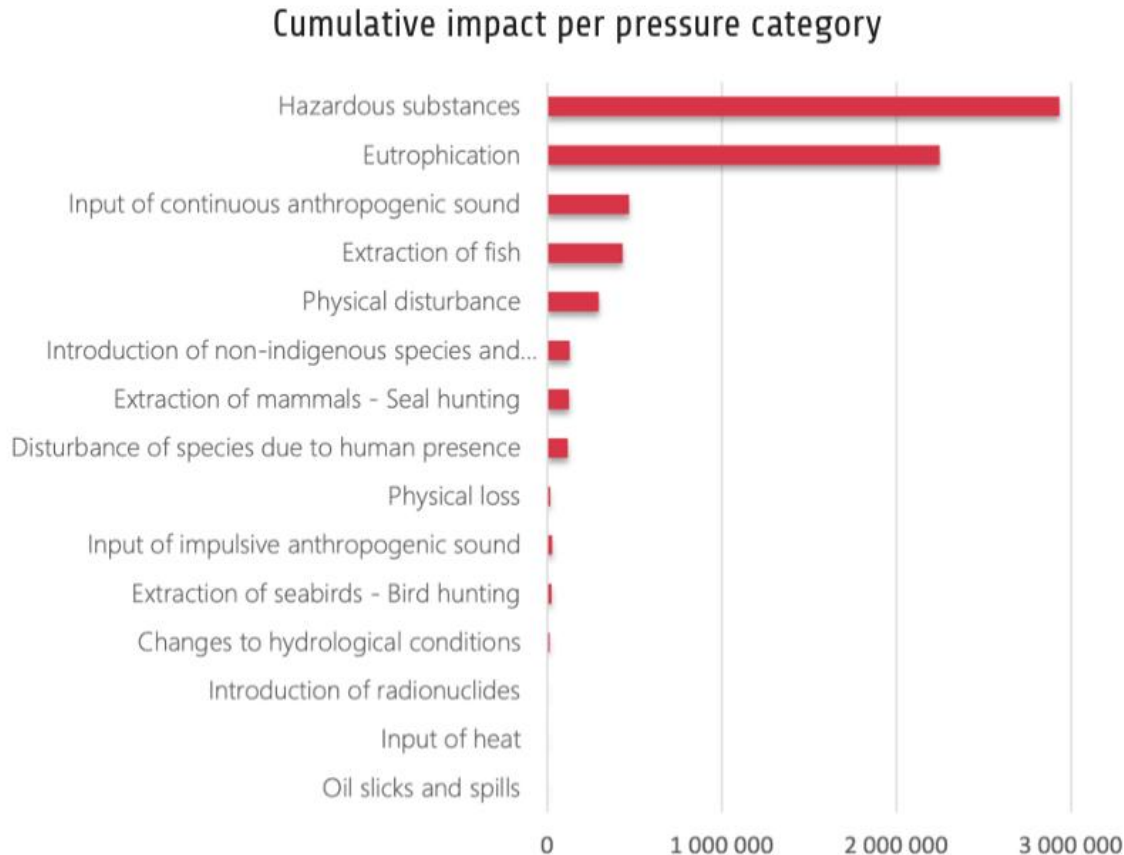
- 13:00–13:10 Welcome words –Susanne Heitmüller, chair of HELCOM Maritime working group 10 min
- 13:10–13:20 Ongoing work to reduce the discharges of tank washing waters in the Baltic Sea – Juulia Suikula, John Nurminen Foundation 10 min
- 13:20–13:40 Observations of discharges of tank washing waters containing biobased oils in the Baltic Sea, Erik Stålnacke, Swedish Coastguard – 20 min
- 13:40–14:00 Legal analysis of Sweden's rights and responsibilities to prevent or reduce pollution of protected areas –David Langlet, Uppsala University 20 min
- 14:00–14:10 Evaluation of the volumes and impact of discharges of noxious liquid substances in tank washing waters – Jyrki Vähätalo, Finnish Transport and Communication Agency – 10 min
- 14:10–14:20 Inspection practices of tank washing in Finland, Tapio Kivilehto, MARPOL inspector 10 min
- 14:20–14:40 Discussion
- 14:40–14:50 Fika
- 14:50–15:00 Tank washing and Clean Shipping Index – Elin Malmgren, Swedish Environmental Research Institute – 10 min
- Port reception facilities for tank washing waters
 - 15:00–15:10 HELCOM work on port reception facilities – general overview – Marta Ruiz, HELCOM secretariat –10 min
 - 15:10–15:50 How to improve PRFs in the future – brainstorming of new project ideas – Sami Vesterinen, EUSBSR PA Ship – 40 min
- 15:50–16:00 Conclusion - Mikhail Durkin, Coalition Clean Baltic 10 min

WE SAVE THE BALTIC SEA AND ITS HERITAGE FOR THE FUTURE GENERATIONS



We protect the Baltic Sea
through effective projects,
strengthen the relationship
between sea and people and
speak for the ocean literacy

WHY IS THE BALTIC SEA UNWELL?



Biggest environmental threats of the Baltic Sea

1. Hazardous substances
2. Eutrophication
3. Climate change

Figure 5.3. Ranking of pressures based on their potential cumulative impact measured by the Baltic Sea Impact Index. The values in the figure represent the sum of the impact index values for the whole assessment area. For details, see HELCOM (2023e).

DISCHARGES OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES TO THE BALTIC SEA NEED TO BE REDUCED



- There are many harmful substances, and there are numerous sources of emissions – a challenging issue to solve. It is advisable to **reduce emissions** wherever it can be easily done, for example, from **point sources such as ports and ships**.

International regulation on the emissions of tank washing waters is getting stricter and the subject is gaining more attention internationally (IMO, HELCOM). It is very likely that discharging harmful washing waters will be prohibited in the near future → **proactive actions!!**

Chemical Tanker Project

GOAL: To reduce discharges of harmful substances into the Baltic Sea from tank washing on chemical tankers.

*Coalition
Clean Baltic*



1.

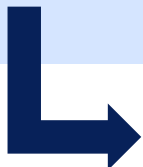
TRAFICOM
Finnish Transport and Communications Agency

 **TRANSPORT
STYRELSEN**

Risk assessment

Identifying the chemicals handled in Finnish ports that could potentially have the biggest harmful impact on the marine environment and human health.

- Harmfulness and handled volumes in Finnish ports
- Focus on chemicals in MARPOL class Y (harmful chemicals which can be discharged to the sea)



Identified risk substances in Finland: crude tall oil, styrene, benzene

2.

Solutions to reduce the most harmful discharges

Cooperation with chemical industry to find and implement best practices to handle washing waters onshore

More publicity to the discharges, shared best practices

Regulatory discussions

JANUARY 2025: 25,000 KG OF WHITE CLUMPS APPEARED ON HANKO'S SHORES



Gränsbevakningen om fettgrynen i Hangö: Det är något som inte stämmer men det blir ingen brottsundersökning

Det är oklart hur stora mängder fetter det handlade om. Det går heller inte att bekräfta varifrån fettet härstammade, säger undersökningsledaren på Gränsbevakningsväsendet.



Mängder av fettgryn flöt i land i Hangö i slutet av januari. Några dagar senare kom också död fisk. Eftersom det handlar om händelser till sjöss, var det gränsbevakningen och inte polisen som utredde om det finns skäl att inleda en förundersökning. Bild: Christoffer Westerlund / Yle

PIA SANTONEN

26.2.14:36



Lyssna (du hör en artificiell röst) 1:41

Frågan om fettgrynen på Hangöstränderna kommer inte att leda till en förundersökning. Något brott kan inte misstänkas, uppger Gränsbevakningen som har utrett händelserna.

– Vi vet inte hur stora mängder fett det handlade om och kan heller inte bekräfta varifrån fettet härstammade, säger undersökningsledaren Tommi Lehtonen på Gränsbevakningsväsendet.

Hanko shore cleanup effort continues

Volunteers are set to continue cleaning the town's shoreline on Tuesday and Wednesday.



Volunteers continued cleaning up Hanko beaches and shoreline on Sunday. Image: Helena von Alifthan / Yle

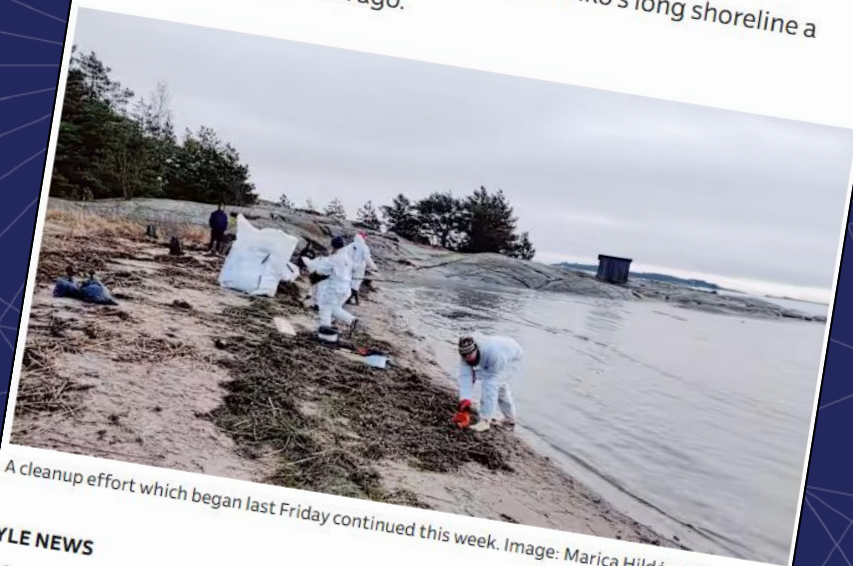
YLE NEWS

3.2. 17:01 · Updated 3.2. 17:19

Around 140 volunteers in Hanko spent Friday, Saturday and Sunday along the town's long shoreline, cleaning away the white clumps of a yet-to-be confirmed substance that washed up from the sea last week.

Ship working for Neste likely behind white clumps on Hanko's shore, company confirms

The white clumps began appearing on Hanko's long shoreline a little more than a week ago.



A cleanup effort which began last Friday continued this week. Image: Marica Hildén / Yle

YLE NEWS

5.2. 15:42

ALL DISCHARGES FROM TANK WASHING IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Kemikaaleja dumpataan surutta mereen Suomen edustalla – Kartta näyttää lailliset paikat

Itämeri | Tankinpesun yhteydessä mereen voi päätyä yhdellä kertaa satoja, jopa tuhansia litroja haitallisia ja vaarallisia kemikaaleja – täysin laillisesti.

Tilaa juttu



Kilpilahden satama Porvoossa on Suomen suurin kemikaalisatama. Kuvassa Nesteen öljynjalostamo vuonna 2021. Kuva: Kalle Koponen / HS

MAINOS

Kuuntele juttu

Heli Saavalainen HS
25.2. 13:28 | Päivitetty 25.2. 14:26

Lue tiivistelmä

- Kemikaalialukset saavat pumpata tankinpesuvesiään mereen jopa matalalla Suomenlahdella.

Näytä lisää

HELSINGIN SANOMAT



Kemikaaliyhtiö myönsi HS:lle: Huuhtoo syöpävaarallista ainetta sisältäviä vesiä Itämereen

Myrkyt | Kemikaalialusten tankinpesuvesien mukana Itämereen saa laskea jopa syöpävaarallisia aineita.

Tilaa juttu



Kilpilahden satama Porvoossa on Suomen suurin kemikaalisatama. Nesteen öljynjalostamon yhteydessä oleva satama toimii myös muiden Kilpilahden teollisuusalueen yritysten meriväylänä. Laivakäyntejä on vuosittain yli tuhat. Kuva: Lassi Rinne

Kuuntele juttu

Heli Saavalainen HS
3.3. 20:03 | Päivitetty 9:04

Lue tiivistelmä

- Kemikaaliyhtiö Borealis Polymers myöntää laskevansa Itämereen tankinpesuvesiä, jotka sisältävät syöpävaarallista bentseeniä.

Näytä lisää

Luetuimmat

- Euroopan puolustus** | "Eurooppa kohtaa vaaran, jollaista kukaan meistä ei ole kokenut" – Von der Leyen esitteli uuden ratkaisun
- Oikeudenkäynnit** | Ekskansasedustajalle vaaditaan mahdollista vankeutta törkeästä kunnianloukkauksesta

VEGETABLE OIL AND GREASE SPILL - CASE HANKO

- On 27.1. afternoon white material started piling up on Hanko's shores → soon after local rescue services and the Finnish Environment Institute (Syke) started investigating the matter.
- The mixture contained used frying fat, animal fat and vegetable oils.
- Volunteers cleaned up 20 kilometres of the beach covered in fat mixture.
- The final collected amount was around 25,000 kg → If the vessel had 12 tanks, the maximum allowable amount is $12 \cdot 75$, or 900 liters 25,000 kilograms exceeds the permitted amount by a large margin.
 - Still no further investigation.



ACHIEVEMENTS IN FINLAND

- Tall oil
 - Styrene
- } All tall oil and 2/3 styrene companies using these chemicals in Finland have already committed to voluntary based actions to handle the washing waters onshore.
- Benzene and pyrolysis gasoline



ACHIEVEMENTS & SOLUTIONS



- The frame for risk assessments was created and presented at HELCOM Maritime
 - Risk chemicals unloaded at Finnish ports were identified and their washing water emission were estimated
- More publicity to the discharges, shared best practices
- A HELCOM workshop accelerated the risk assessment process in other HELCOM countries and promoted the inclusion of chemicals under mandatory prewash requirements (e.g. tall oil at the IMO level under MARPOL Annex II).

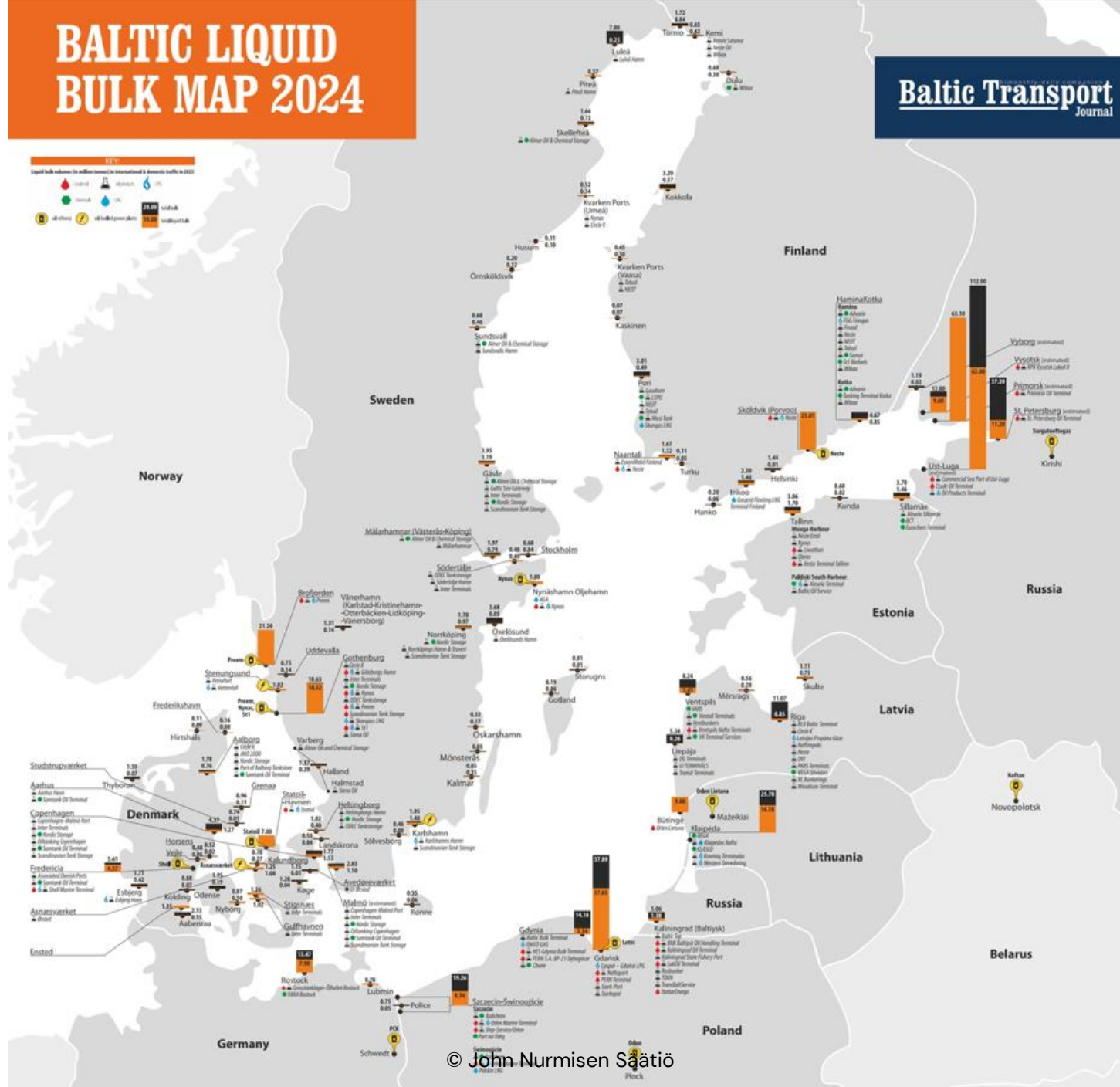
Still much remains to be done:

Scaling up the chemical tanker project to all HELCOM states → **The Baltic Chemical Tanker Project**

BALTIC LIQUID BULK MAP 2024

Baltic Transport Journal

Liquid bulk volumes by seaport (tonnes) in International & Domestic traffic in 2023



BALTIC CHEMICAL TANKER PROJECT



Objective:

- To eliminate the discharges of tank washing from the most hazardous/noxious chemicals in the Baltic Sea
- To implement the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan action S16

Measures:

- Country-specific risk assessments to identify the most hazardous risk chemicals
- Influencing legislation through HELCOM and IMO
- Compilation of best practices into an official document
- HELCOM workshops and communication
- Voluntary corporate collaboration to prevent discharges: Engaging companies using risk substances, sharing best practices, and organizing workshops

On board:

- CCB,
HELCOM,
WWF,
Finland,
Sweden,
Estonia,
Latvia,
Germany,
Denmark

THANK YOU!

SAVE THE
PIECE OF
THE BALTIC
SEA



RA/2021/1341

Photo: Pekka Tuuri

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