



# Central Baltic Annual Event

## Water session

### Topical in regional water protection policy

Lotta Ruokanen  
Professional Secretary  
Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission  
– HELCOM



# The Baltic Sea



Unique but fragile ecosystem



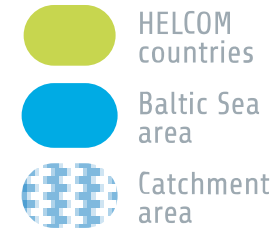
Catchment area:  
4x area of the sea



Population (catchment):  
85 million

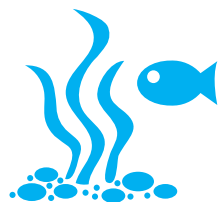


Multitude of pressures



# The HELCOM vision

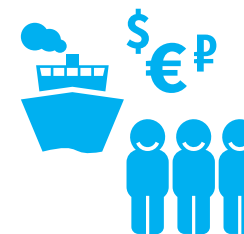
***For a healthy Baltic Sea environment...***



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



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

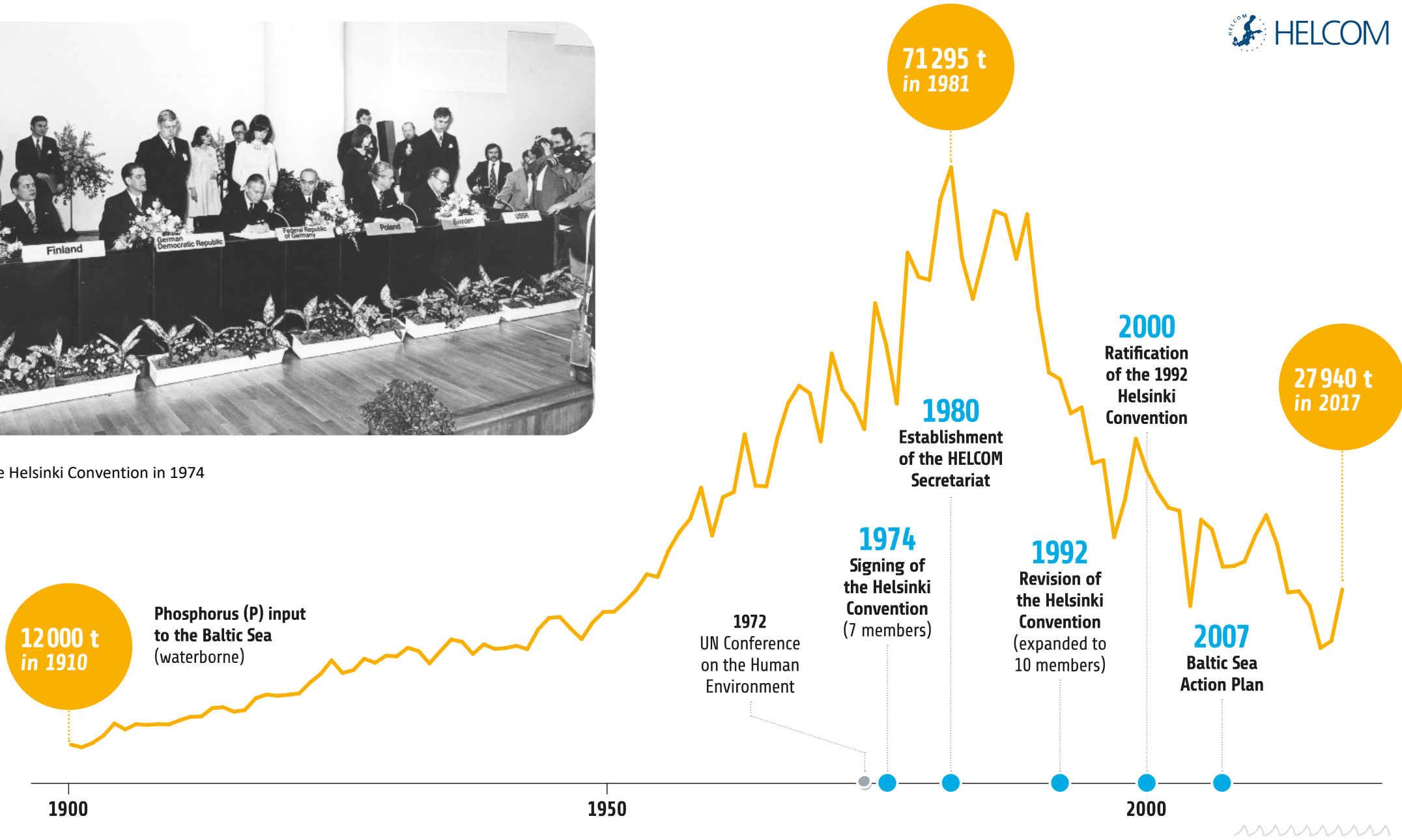


*...and supporting a wide range of sustainable economic and social activities.*





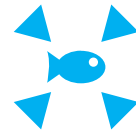
▲ Signing of the Helsinki Convention in 1974



## HELCOM is...



an **environmental policy maker**  
*e.g. Baltic Sea Action Plan, BSAP*



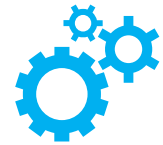
an **environmental focal point**  
*e.g. Holistic Assessments, HOLAS*



a **body for developing recommendations**  
*e.g. HELCOM Recommendations*



a **supervisory body**  
*e.g. nutrient reduction targets*



a **coordinating body**  
*e.g. BALEX DELTA marine accident response exercises*

# HELCOM structure

The Contracting Parties have signed the first Helsinki Convention in 1974 and updated it in 1992. The current Convention was ratified in 2000.

### The 10 Contracting Parties (CPs)



DK EE EU FI DE  
LV LT PL RU SE

Each Contracting Party designates its own Head of Delegation as well as members of the Working Groups and of the Expert Groups and Networks



### Helsinki Convention

The set of guiding principles and obligations signed by the Contracting Parties on the protection of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea



### HELCOM Secretariat


Coordinates the work and meetings of the Helsinki Commission and ensures CPs meet their obligations under the Helsinki Convention






### Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)

HELCOM chairmanship rotates every two years between the Contracting Parties (CPs)

-  **Heads of Delegation**  
Permanently represent the CPs and are decision-makers
-  **HELCOM Working Groups**  
Develop recommendations, policies & strategies
-  **Expert Groups & Networks**  
Provide scientific and technical underpinnings

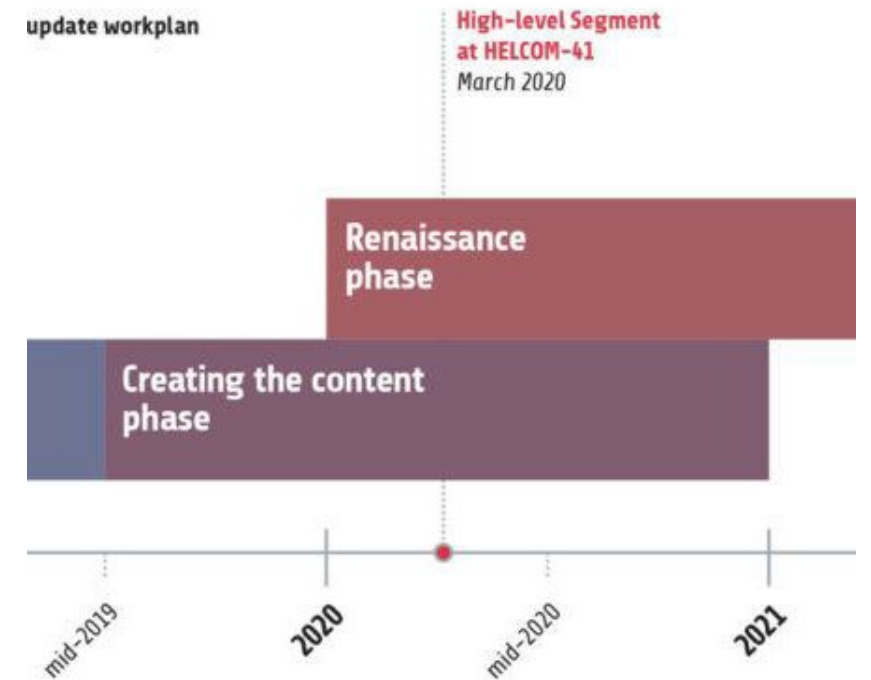


### Decision making in HELCOM

-  The highest decision-making body in HELCOM is the Ministerial Meeting (the meeting of the HELCOM line ministers of each CP) that takes place every three years.
-  The Helsinki Commission meets annually (except when a Ministerial Meeting takes place) and is also entitled to make decisions. Its participants are designated by the CPs.
-  The Heads of Delegation meet twice per year and are also authorised to make decisions on behalf of the CPs.

# Baltic Sea Action Plan and its update process


- The overall objective of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP, 2007) is to reach good environmental status of the Baltic Sea by 2021
- This will most likely not be reached, but promising results towards improving the state of the sea
- The mandate for an update by the HELCOM Brussels Ministerial Declaration (March 2018)
- The BSAP update seeks to become a fit-for-purpose and effective tool, addressing the shortcomings of the current plan and taking into account emerging issues
- **Finalising phase – to be adopted at the Ministerial Meeting in Lübeck, Germany on 20 October 2021**




# Vision and goals for the updated BSAP – by 2030






## 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**



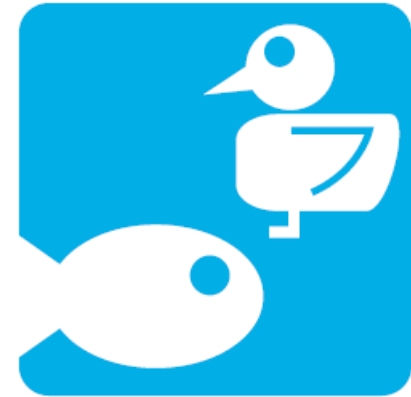
# Draft updated Baltic Sea Action Plan - relevant themes for Central Baltic programme and projects supporting regional policy work

- **CB: 2. Sustainable use of common resources**

2.1

- BSAP biodiversity segment

- Spatial conservation measures
- Spatial conservation management
- Coherence of the marine protected area (MPA) network
- Conservation of species
- Conservation of seabirds
- Conservation of fish
- Conservation of seals
- Red listed species
- Conservation of habitats and biotopes
- Red listed habitats and biotopes
- Enabling ecosystem-based management
- Indicators



# Draft updated Baltic Sea Action Plan - relevant themes for Central Baltic programme and projects supporting regional policy work

- **CB: 2. Sustainable use of common resources**
- BSAP Eutrophication segment: themes
  - Implementation of nutrient input targets
  - Agriculture
  - Atmospheric nitrogen emissions
  - Wastewater sector
  - Nutrient recycling
- BSAP Hazardous substances and litter segment
  - Management of hazardous substances
  - Contaminants of emerging concern
  - Marine litter

2.4

2.4

2.4

2.4

2.4



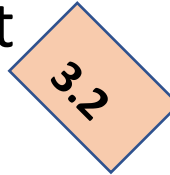
# Draft updated Baltic Sea Action Plan - relevant themes for Central Baltic programme and projects supporting regional policy work

- **CB: 2. Sustainable use of common resources, 3. Well-connected region**

- BSAP Sea-based activities segment

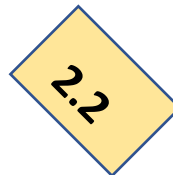
- [Maritime activities](#)

- Response
- Fisheries management
- Underwater noise



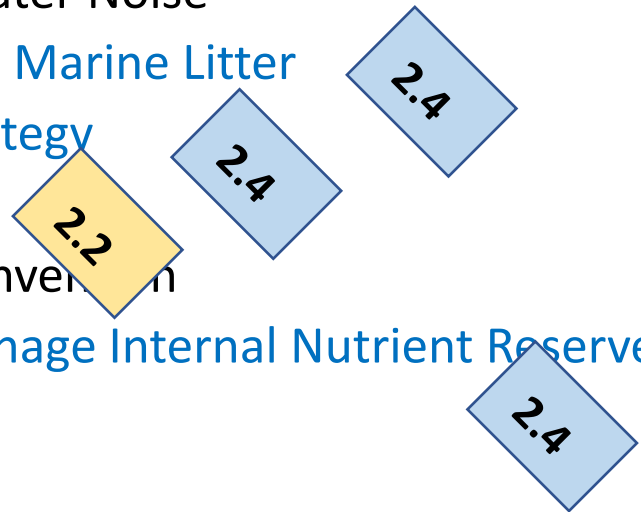
- BSAP Horizontal topics

- Climate change
- Monitoring
- [Maritime spatial planning \(MSP\)](#)
- Economic and social analysis
- Hot spots
- Knowledge exchange and awareness raising
- Financing



# Baltic Sea Action Plan update - relevant themes for Central Baltic programme and projects supporting regional policy work

- CB: 2. Sustainable use of common resources
- **Draft BSAP Associated action documents**
  - HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Underwater Noise
  - Updated HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter
  - Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy
  - The Regional MSP Roadmap 2021-2030
  - Revised Annex III part II of the Helsinki Convention
  - Guidelines for Sea-Based Measures to Manage Internal Nutrient Reserves in the Baltic Sea Region
- **Draft BSAP Supporting documents**
  - Climate change fact sheet
  - HELCOM Science Agenda
  - Additional information on the BSAP actions
- **HELCOM Recommendations: Revision - Management of stormwaters**



# Central Baltic projects supporting regional policy work – programme 2021-2027



## 7 PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

### INNOVATIVE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

1. More exports by SMEs
2. More new scaled-up growth companies

### IMPROVED ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE USE

3. Joint circular economy solutions
4. Improved coastal and marine environment
5. Decreased CO2 emissions

### MORE ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE LABOUR MARKET

6. Improved employment opportunities

### INTERREG SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

7. Improved public services



HELCOM  
mm2021



HELCOM Ministerial Meeting  
**Lübeck, Germany • 20 October 2021**  
Updating the Baltic Sea Action Plan

Thank you!

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