HELCOM
BOATING, SHIPPING AND THE BALTIC SEA

Regional intergovernmental cooperation within HELCOM

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Helsinki Convention

- 1992: new Convention signed in response to new environmental principles and changes in geo-political environment
- Governing body of the Convention, the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)
Regional Sea Conventions
HELCOM

- Intergovernmental organisation
- 9 coastal countries & EU
- Marine area:
  - 415,000 km²
- Catchment area:
  - 1.72 million km² (4 x size of the sea area)
  - 14 countries
  - 85 million people
Structure of HELCOM

Helsinki Commission
(Denmark, Estonia, the European Union, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Sweden)

Heads of Delegation

- The Fisheries and Environment Forum
- The Monitoring and Assessment Group (HELCOM MONAS)
- The Land-based Pollution Group (HELCOM LAND)
- The Response to Maritime Pollution Group (HELCOM RESPONSE)
- The Maritime Group (HELCOM MARITIME)
- The Agricultural and Environment Forum
- The Nature Protection and Biodiversity Group (HELCOM HABITAT)
- Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group with VASAB

Secretariat
HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan

• Adopted in the 2007 Krakow Ministerial Meeting
• Ecosystem-based approach to management of human activities
• Ecological objectives
• Measures and actions for:
  – Eutrophication
  – Hazardous substances
  – Maritime activities
  – Biodiversity and nature conservation
• National Implementation Programmes in 2010
“WE ALSO AGREE to promote environmentally friendly pleasure boating and the development of marinas and the use of the best ecological practice by every marina/guest harbour, including education and raising awareness of the personnel and boat owners of key marinas/guest harbours,”
HELCOM Convention, Art. 9
Pleasure craft

• “The Contracting Parties shall, in addition to implementing those provisions of this Convention which can appropriately be applied to pleasure craft, take special measures in order to abate harmful effects on the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area caused by pleasure craft activities. The measures shall, inter alia, deal with air pollution, noise and hydrodynamic effects as well as with adequate reception facilities for wastes from pleasure craft.”
HELCOM Recommendations

- HELCOM Recommendation 22/1 (2001): Guidelines for Toilet systems on board existing fishing, working and pleasure craft. All ships built before 1 January 2000, including pleasure craft, shall comply by 1 January 2005.
Leisure boating at 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting?

- HELCOM has served as a platform for regional implementation of global shipping regulations and also for agreeing on joint contributions by the Baltic Sea countries to IMO.
- But leisure boating is also an important component.
- If any new ideas for action – please discuss and provide input.
- HELCOM MARITIME 11/2012 submission deadline is 19 October 2012 – observer (EBA) can submit proposals.
More cooperation potential: Information on Boating?

- How many boats in the region?
- Geographical spread of registered boats along the coasts (clubwise)?
- Leisure boat marina capacity and visits?
- Estimation of cruising intensity of sea areas?
- Assessment on leisure boating?