HELSINKI COMMISSION
Baltic Marine Environment
Protection Commission

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(BSAP). The new targets are used as a basis of enhanced ecological modelling of revised nutrient loads the sea can tolerate and still be in the target eutrophication status. The revised maximum allowable nutrient loads set the ground for allocation of new nutrient load reduction targets per each country.

Climate change
The Baltic region has in recent decades warmed up faster than the global average, and the work continues to increase scientific understanding on the effects of these changes on the Baltic Sea ecosystem and to engage decision-makers for reducing of other human-induced pressures. HELCOM has followed closely the scientific community's path towards the second BALTEX Assessment of Climate Change for the Baltic Sea Basin (BACC II), due to release in late 2013.

A regional workshop helped to gather the latest findings on Baltic climate change and its implications on the ecosystem, with the aim to feed into more targeted environmental policies in the Baltic Sea. The Conclusions of the workshop[3] along with the BACC II will be used for HELCOM thematic assessment to provide the most relevant up-to-date information targeting the Baltic decision-makers and to be ready for the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting.

Assessing the knowledge on climate change and its effects on the Baltic Sea is planned to be done at regular intervals within HELCOM. This activity should aim at making proposals for measures to strengthen the Baltic Sea ecosystem and to make it more resilient against the projected changes.

Sustainable fisheries
To assist the HELCOM Contracting States in complying with their obligations to fulfill conservation objectives of marine protected areas, BALTFIMPA Project[4] works to produce a generic tool to assist in fisheries management decisions. Key measures will include studying the impact of fisheries and finding new solutions to mitigate it. Solutions can range from improved management of fisheries regulations to development of new types of fishing gear that are more sustainable for the environment.

Sources and flows of hazardous substances
The Final Report of a major project (COHIBA)[5] by applying novel methods such as the Whole Effluent Assessment, delivered valuable information on the identification of sources and flows of hazardous substances; and about the development of cost-efficient measures to minimise pollution by them, among others. The outcomes are ready for application at national level.

Improved wastewater treatment
The publishing of the *Book of Good Practices in Sludge Management*, first of its kind in the Baltic Sea Region and issued under PURE Project, supports the efforts towards better phosphorus removal, which has a key role in reducing the potentially harmful environmental impacts within urban wastewater treatment. The goal is to have all water utilities meeting HELCOM standards in outgoing wastewaters.

Addressing significant polluters – "Hot Spots"
Over two-thirds of the 162 serious pollution areas - so called hot spots - identified around the Baltic Sea since 1992 have been cleaned up, as a result of the Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme (JCP), the current form of which has officially completed. The JCP was established as an international environmental management framework for the long-term restoration of the Baltic's ecological balance. In latest year (2012), six agricultural areas, eight municipal/industrial waste water treatment plants and one coastal management programme, were removed from the list. Overall, the hot spots concern municipal and industrial

[3] http://www.helcom.fi/stc/fillJCP c/JCPdesirl0.0579853( )-0helcwwci d rl0.05798531(i)1.86961()-12.7596().8(i23 Td [(J)1.8131(

waste water treatment areas, along with industrial and agricultural areas, the latter ones often being the most challenging to mitigate. 53 hot spots remain to be remedied.

Partnership with the Black Sea Commission
HELCOM partners with the Black Sea Commission in an EU-project by transferring know-how on monitoring and assessment methods related to eutrophication[6], including on a nutrient reductions scheme.

Risks of oil and chemical substances
Sub-regional risks of spills of oil and hazardous substances from ships in the Baltic Sea were assessed in BRISK/BRISK-RU Projects[7] along with high-definition maps that define high risk accident areas in the region.

The official HELCOM oil drift forecasting system (SeaTrackWeb) has been upgraded to meet the rapid progresses in internet technologies. The effective service forecasts and backtracks drift and spreading of oil, chemicals, algae and substances in water, and it uses the latest