



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Convention On The Protection Of The Marine Environment Of The Baltic Sea Area, 1992 (Helsinki Convention)

- Contracting Parties are the states around the Baltic Sea (DE, DK, EE, FI, LT, LV, PL, RU and SE) and EU represented by European Commission
- Convention covers both land-based pollution and pollution at sea, particularly from shipping



Co-operation in combatting marine pollution under the Helsinki Convention

“The Contracting Parties shall **individually and jointly** take, as set out in Annex VII, all appropriate measures to **maintain adequate ability and to respond to pollution incidents** in order to **eliminate or minimize the consequences** of these incidents **to the marine environment** of the Baltic Sea Area”



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HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan

Baltic Sea in Good Environmental Status by 2021

The Response group got the following tasks at the BSAP

- Strengthening of sub-regional cooperation in response field
- To develop and agree upon common methodology for the assessment of risk
- To identify the gaps in emergency and response resources
- To develop best practices for shoreline response
- To integrate the oiled wildlife response into contingency plans
- To develop and implement a mutual plan for places of refuge
- Finding solutions on how to respond to accidents at night and in bad visibility, in bad weather, oil on ice, accidents involving heavy oil, chemical accidents

Recommendations on Response

CO-OPERATION IN RESPONSE

**COOPERATION IN CASE OF A CHEMICAL
TANKER ACCIDENT**

REPORTING AND REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

AIRBORNE SURVEILLANCE

**RESTRICTED USE OF CHEMICAL AGENTS AND
OTHER NON-MECHANICAL MEANS**

COMBAT POLLUTION FROM OFFSHORE UNITS

**MINIMUM ABILITY TO RESPOND TO
OIL SPILLAGES IN OIL TERMINALS**

OILED WILDLIFE RESPONSE

**DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL ABILITY TO
RESPOND TO SPILLAGES**

ENSURING ADEQUATE EMERGENCY CAPACITY

SUB-REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

DRIFT FORECASTING

**ASSESSMENT OF THE NEED FOR
ESCORT TOWING**

**FOLLOW-UP STUDIES IN CONNECTION WITH
MAJOR OIL SPILLS**

PLACES OF REFUGE



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HELCOM Response Group

- The Response group meets once or twice per year
- The Chair is elected for two years
- Heads of Delegation nominate representatives to the Response group's meetings
- The Response group has sub-groups on aerial surveillance, on shore response, oiled wildlife response and on submerged objects. The Sub-groups report to Response group



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HELCOM Response Group's main topics 2017-2018

- Integration of on shore response and oiled wildlife response to the at sea response
- Renewing the Response manual and a major revision of Volume II (chemicals)
- Developing the HELCOM Response Exercise Plan
- A risk assessment on oil and chemical pollution for improved preparedness and response “OPENRISK”
- Setting targets for the response preparedness
- <http://www.helcom.fi/Documents/HELCOM%20at%20work/Groups/RESPONSE/Work%20Plan%20for%20HELCOM%20Response%20Working%20Group%202017-2018.pdf>



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For further information:

<http://www.helcom.fi/helcom-at-work/groups/response>

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HELCOM RESPONSE

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HELCOM BALEX DELTA 2011/Bornholm, Denmark
(photo by Juris Skrube, Latvia)