



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

# HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter

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Marine Litter - Europe's answer to a global  
challenge

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Cigarette butts

Unidentified pieces of  
plastics

Glass fragments

Cotton bud sticks

Bottles

Food and snack packaging  
(food containers, candy  
wrappers, plastic bottle  
caps and lids)

Fishing nets

Plastic bags

Foamed plastic

Micro-particles & micro-  
fibers



**Copenhagen  
Ministerial  
Declaration:  
to develop a  
Regional  
Action Plan  
(RAP) on  
Marine Litter  
(ML) by 2015  
at the latest**



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# **Recommendation RAP ML**

HELCOM 36-2015  
(March)

## **Agreed Annex 1 RAP ML**

HOD 48-2015  
(June)



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# Structure of the RAP ML

- HELCOM Recommendation 36/1: Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter
- Annex to the Action Plan containing the list of actions:
  - 30 Regional actions – HELCOM Collective Actions
  - 27 Voluntary national actions
- Both Regional and National actions are grouped in:
  - Land-based sources of marine litter
  - Sea-based sources of marine litter
  - Education and outreach on marine litter
- Appendices: reporting format in implementation of actions, on the effectiveness of the implemented actions, and definitions of terms

# Main topics of the regional actions

- General improved waste prevention and management on land
- Microparticles
- Sewage related litter including sanitary waste
- Expanded polystyrene
- Plastic bags
- Bottles and containers
- Remediation and removal on land

- General improved waste prevention and management at sea
- Waste delivery in ports and marinas
- Waste related to fishing and aquaculture
- Remediation and removal at sea
- Education and outreach



# Implementing the RAP ML



- **Translating global commitment to actions and bridging scientific community and policy**
- **Cooperation with other European RSCs (OSPAR and MEDPOL):**
  - Informal meetings
  - Collaboration Plan
  - Communication platform

# Implementing the RAP ML



- **Lead Country** approach on the regional actions within the RAP
- Facilitated by the HELCOM **Experts Network** on Marine Litter (EN-Marine Litter): ToR for the period 2015-2018 agreed in November 2015
- **HELCOM marine litter workspace** on the HELCOM website to serve as a working tool for sharing information and progress of work

# Summing up

## *We are starting*

Number of actions	Deadline	State of play
1	By 2015	On-going ('2015 initial information uploaded - simplified BSAP follow up system')
7	By 2016	2 leads, 1 co-lead, 5 no lead
10	By 2017	5 leads, 2 co-lead, 3 no lead
5	By 2018	2 leads, 1 co-lead, 2 no lead
6	No deadline specified	2 leads, 4 no lead
1	Action by 2020	1 lead

# *But are eager to continue working*



- Held on 9 March 2016 in Helsinki
- Aiming at stimulating wider ownership for implementing the regional actions of the HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP ML)
- Attended by over 90 people
- HELCOM succeeded in getting together representatives of governments, industry, municipalities, researchers, financing instruments, non-governmental organizations and consumers, for summarizing their views with regards to the Baltic situation, for finding better solutions through common discussions and ensuring leadership for combating litter



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THANK YOU

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