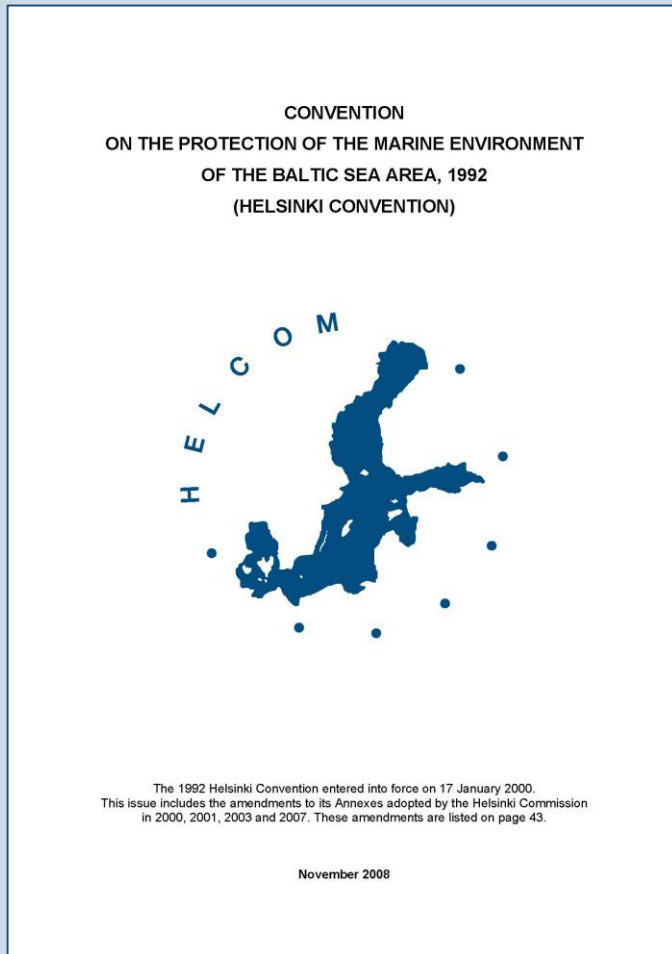




Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

HELCOM



How we do it in practice

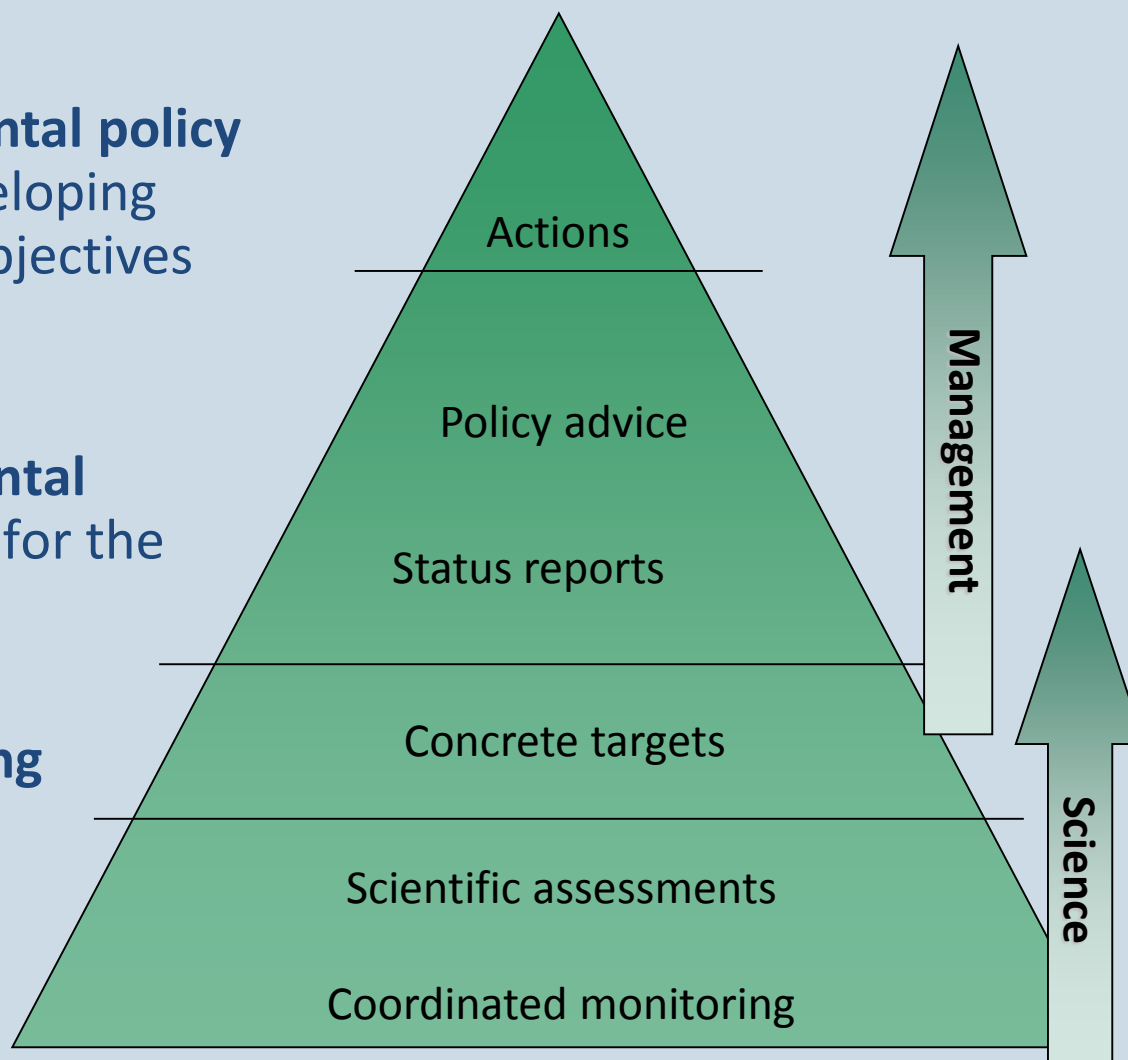
- Joint initiatives of the Contracting Parties within international organisations (IMO, EU)
- Harmonised, where needed strictest, implementation of international environmental regulations
- Baltic regional actions:
 - measures (Convention, Recommendations, Ministerial Declarations)
 - joint initiatives and projects

HELCOM's role in the Baltic

Environmental policy maker developing common objectives and actions

Environmental focal point for the Baltic Sea

Coordinating body



IN BRIEF
findings and basics

HUMANS
& the ecosystem

PRESSURES
& their status

BIODIVERSITY
& its status

CUMULATIVE
IMPACTS

HELCOM ACTIONS
for improvement

ABOUT HELCOM
& the assessment

First version of the State of the Baltic sea report – June 2017 – to be updated in 2018

KEY FINDINGS



Nutrient inputs from land have decreased clearly, but effects are not yet reflected in the status of all sub-basins.

[Eutrophication status >](#)



The contamination status is elevated in all of the Baltic Sea, but some improving trends are seen.

[Hazardous substances >](#)



Biodiversity status is inadequate for most assessed species, and continued efforts to support biodiversity are of key importance.

[Biodiversity status >](#)

[Summary of findings >](#)



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WHAT'S GOING ON?

Humans benefit from using the sea



Human activities contribute to society, to our well-being and economies, but they are also the



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Baltic Sea Action Plan (2007)

”...achieve a Baltic Sea in **good environmental status** by 2021”

Eutrophication



Baltic Sea unaffected by eutrophication

Hazardous Substances



Baltic Sea life undisturbed by hazardous substances

Biodiversity



Favourable status of Baltic Sea biodiversity

Maritime activities



Maritime activities in the Baltic Sea carried out in an environmentally friendly way

Regional Red Lists

1753 species and
210 biotopes assessed

4%
of species and
27%
of biotopes
are threatened and in
danger of becoming
extinct

Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings No. 140

HELCOM Red List of Baltic Sea
species in danger of becoming
extinct

RE CR EN **VU** NT DD LC



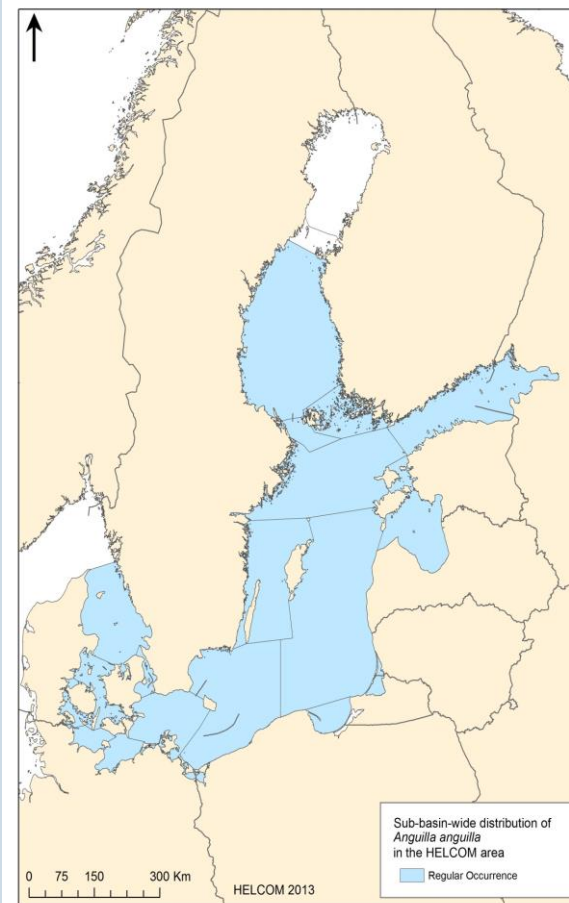
Helsinki Commission

Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

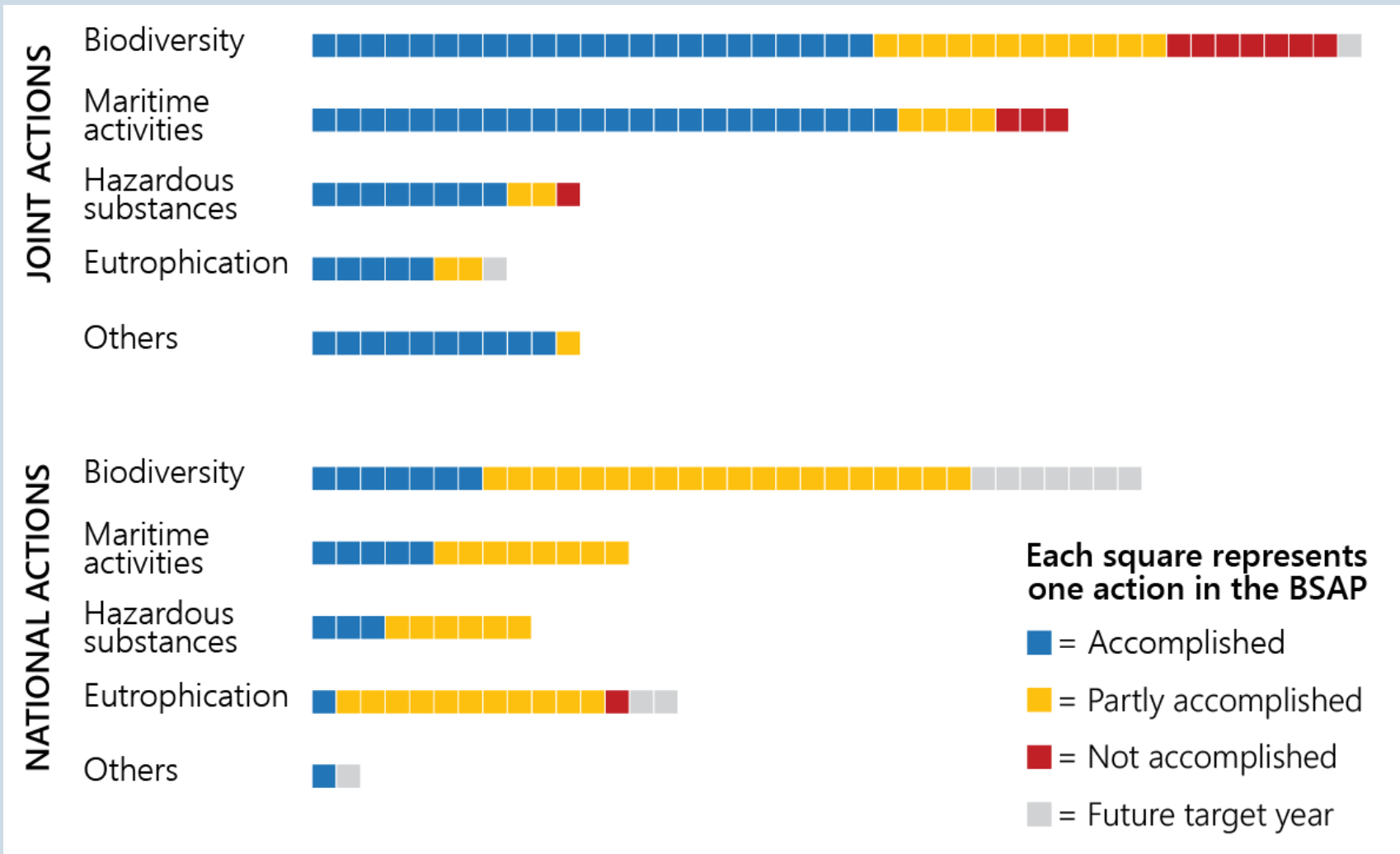
HELCOM Red List of Species: Eel



English name: European eel	Scientific name: <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Actinopterygii Order: Anguilliformes Family: Anguillidae	Species authority: Linnaeus, 1758	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: –	Generation length: 5–50 years or more, within the Baltic area about 15 on average	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Fishing (F02), Migration barriers (J03.02.01), Alien species (I01)	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Fishing (F02), Migration barriers (J03.02.01), Alien species (I01)	
IUCN Criteria: A3bde+4bde	HELCOM Red List Category:	CR Critically Endangered
Global / European IUCN Red List Category: CR/CR	Habitats Directive: –	
Previous HELCOM Red List Category (2007): CR		
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries (2013): Denmark: <i>national management plan in place</i> / CR, Estonia: <i>national management plan</i> / DD, Finland: <i>glass eel stocking, national management plan</i> / EN, Germany: <i>national management plan</i> / 2 (Endangered, Baltic Sea), Latvia: <i>national management plan</i> / –, Lithuania: <i>national management plan</i> / –, Poland: <i>national management plan</i> / –, Russia: <i>none (not considered rare in Russian part of the Baltic)</i> / –, Sweden: <i>national management plan</i> / CR		
For more information: HELCOM Species Information Sheet for Eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>), HELCOM Red List of Species		



Implementation of the **Baltic Sea Action Plan (2017)**



HELCOM Ministerial Declaration 2013

- **BEING CONCERNED** with the critical status of European eel and that fisheries management and other measures undertaken by individual countries have not yet shown any significant improvement in the status of eel,
- **WE AGREE** to continue the efforts underway and enhance co-ordination of measures within the Baltic Sea as well as with other European countries, for the conservation of eel stocks, in line with national eel management plans and to consider additional measures if necessary, such as reducing fishing mortality in accordance with the ICES Advice, removing migration barriers, and re-stocking in eel-safe river systems, e.g. utilising the outcomes of co-operation between ICES, HELCOM and other stakeholders on this issue.

Recent cooperation on fish/fisheries

- HELCOM Sustainable Fisheries group – a Baltic example of closer cooperation between management of fisheries and marine environment
- HELCOM Task Force on migratory fish species under the Fish group
- “Regional workshop on Eel and the Baltic Sea”, Stockholm, Sweden, on 29 November – 1 December 2017



Swedish Agency
for Marine and
Water Management

The status of national work – summary by the workshop

- **Stock monitoring** is carried out by most coastal countries even if these are not always complete.
- **Commercial Fisheries** is generally monitored but mortality is not calculated in several coastal countries.
- **Recreational fisheries** is less comprehensively monitored and mortality is not calculated in several coastal countries.
- **IUU fisheries** is poorly documented in the region with some exceptions.
- **Inland habitats** have been mapped but no monitoring of the habitat developments are being carried out. Importance of habitats for recruitment is not quantified.
- **Hydropower and other migration barriers** have been mapped, have an impact on eel but this is not well quantified.
- **Predators** are known to have an impact, but mortality rates are not always quantified.
- **Restocking** is well known and well monitored even if its effects on stock –level recruitment is not known.
- **Cross-border interaction** between management measures, in particular the effect of the fisheries near the Baltic outlet on the silver eel run derived from the whole Baltic Sea area, is unknown.

Workshop conclusions on international cooperation

- Tight and regular international cooperation on monitoring and assessment of eel in the Baltic Sea region is needed to enable better data use to ICES stock assessments, as well as better and more cost effective management in the countries.
- Concerted monitoring and quantifying migration of silver eel would enable following the region-wide effectiveness of management measures. Moreover, the interaction between measures taken in one country in the Baltic Sea area affecting the results of protective actions in another, need to be addressed on the regional level.
- Eel assessment and management has several dimensions, both from the fisheries and nature conservation perspective, and would benefit from a joint process, fully acknowledging the different mandates of, and utilizing cooperation between, different organizations in the Baltic Sea but also beyond.



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THANK YOU



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission