



ROUND TABLE RESOLUTION

Marine Environment Protection and MPAs

Within the framework of the VII International Environmental Forum “Baltic Sea Day”

Moderators: Lasse Gustavsson (*WWF Baltic Ecoregion Action Programme*)
Rustam Sagitov (*St. Petersburg society of the naturalists*)

Participants: 35

Having discussed the reports, the round table participants represented a state, scientific-research and nongovernmental organizations from Germany, Russia, USA, Finland, Sweden, Estonia and also WWF Baltic Program **note that:**

- The Baltic Sea is unique saltish water basin on a global scale;
- The problem of marine environment protection and development of the network between coastal and sea areas that are partly removed from the economic use or that are completely protected areas should be one of the key priorities for the Baltic Sea region development;
- Effective protection of natural complex diversity (including diversity of species, communities and landscapes), their components and as a whole the Baltic Sea environment demands the coordinated activity on development and implementation in practice the common approach and standards on interregional and international levels.

The round table participants **address** to the Baltic Sea region states to organize implementation of works, to the Helsinki Commission to ensure the coordination of these works, and to all stakeholders to take part in the works listed below:

- development on the HELCOM base a system for coordination information about large-scale transnational and national projects on research and protection of the biodiversity and first of all on creation and development of the sea and coastal specially protected areas of the Baltic Sea;
- development of the common Baltic program on research and mapping of the Baltic Sea rare biotopes and habitats in risk on basis of available scientific and practical experience including the experience on preparation of “Environmental Atlas of the Gulf of Finland”;
- development of the uniform system for data collection and monitoring of the sea environment components in all states of the Baltic Sea region;
- supporting and development of the complex fundamental scientific researches in the Baltic Sea region and using of scientific conclusions for planning of the sea specially protected areas network and also on selection of the biological indicators for monitoring of the condition of the Baltic Sea ecosystems;

- arrangement of the scientific-research cooperation under the aegis of HELCOM, including cooperation by means of preparation and implementation of the pilot projects, like the project suggested by Hamburg university on utilizing of Ostracoda as a objects for indication of historical dynamics and modern condition of the sea environment;
- arrangement of periodical scientific and practical conferences and seminars with the participation of both the academic researches and the experts on sea specially protected areas of the Baltic Sea region;
- ensuring of the more closed practical cooperation between the EU members and Russia for preparation and implementation of the projects on biodiversity protection and development the sea and coastal specially protected areas in the Baltic Sea region and control under these areas;

The round table participants **recommend** to the Baltic Sea region states to make more active works listed below:

- to carry out the commitments in framework of the Convention on Biodiversity (Rio de Janeiro) and Declaration on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg) and develop the functional and efficiently controlled network of the specially protected areas by 2010;
- to develop the Baltic Sea Protected Areas as a network directed towards the protection of the biodiversity and environment of the unique Baltic Sea.

The round table participants also **recommend** to the Russian Federation Government to implement the works listed below:

- to form and implement more active and transparent environmental policy of the Russian Federation, ensure more transparent of environmental activity and make more active activity related to informing of the foreign partners and first of all create International Centre on Data Exchange for Protection of the Baltic Sea Region Environment;
- to continue the work on legislation development for protection of the environmentally valuable water bodies and first of all on development of the Statute about specially protected water bodies of the Russian Federation;
- to widen the representation of the sea and coastal specially protected areas of the Russian part of the Baltic Sea in proper international networks aimed at protection of the biodiversity and the environment of the whole Baltic Sea region;
- to complete the works on creation of the state natural reserve “Ingermanlandsky” on the islands and area of the Gulf of Finland water;
- to ensure information cooperation and relative consultation between economical and environmental institutions and establishments during preparation of the environmental-economic decisions for state bodies.