

BALTIC SEA ENVIRONMENT PROCEEDINGS

No. 55

ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION 1993

Report on the activities of the Baltic Marine
Environment Protection Commission during 1993
including the 15th Meeting of the Commission held
in Helsinki, 8 - 11 March 1994

HELSINKI COMMISSION
Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission
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REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE HELSINKI COMMISSION DURING 1993

1. ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION DURING 1993

The High Level Diplomatic Conference on Resource Mobilization was one of the major activities of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission - Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) - during 1993. The Conference was convened in Gdansk, Poland, 24-25 March on the invitation by the Polish Government. It was held at ministerial level in order to ascertain a concerted effort by states in the catchment area and by various financial and other international institutions, to provide necessary financial resources for the implementation of the Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme (JCP). The outcome of the Conference has been published in the Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings No. 47.

In the further implementation of activities, the coordination between the work of the HELCOM Committees and the HELCOM Programme Implementation Task Force (HELCOM PITF) has been emphasized as well as the coordination of activities of the different participants in the HELCOM PITF or external organizations.

Due to constrained economic conditions the Commission held an extraordinary Commission Meeting on 23 March 1993 in Gdansk, Poland, in order to decide on how to share the costs of the Commission between the Contracting Parties during the transition period.

1.1 Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)

The outcome of the 14th meeting of the Commission, held in Helsinki 2-5 February 1993, has been published in the Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings No. 52.

Detailed information on the progress made since the 14th meeting of the Commission in the different substantive activities within the framework of the Helsinki Commission is given in the subsequent paragraphs.

Ad hoc Working Group on Dumped Chemical Munition (HELCOM CHEMU)

HELCOM CHEMU held three meetings, i.e.

- 19-21 April 1993 in St. Petersburg, Russia
- 28-30 September 1993 in Vilnius, Lithuania
- 19-21 January 1994 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The meetings of HELCOM CHEMU were chaired by Mr. Kjeld Hansen from Denmark and Mr. Fleming Otzen from Denmark, Chairman of the Helsinki Commission.

Delegations from all the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention (Denmark, Finland, Estonia, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden) as well as observers from Latvia, Norway, United Kingdom, the United States, Coalition Clean Baltic and Greenpeace International attended the meetings of the Group.

HELCOM CHEMU was established to compile, from the national reports, all information on locations of dumping sites, time of dumping, type and quantity of dumped chemical munitions, characteristics of the dumped material and dumping techniques. The Working Group was also requested to make an assessment of possible relocation of the dumped material and of the effects/hazards to the marine environment, living resources and human activities as well as to identify the gaps of knowledge and to propose action with a view of filling such gaps. Furthermore, the Working Group was requested to elaborate a proposal for a HELCOM strategy for actions regarding dumped chemical munitions.

Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Poland, Russia and Sweden as well as the UK and US submitted reports and information for consideration of the Group, as was requested by the Commission.

Based on the information available it was concluded that the amounts of chemical munitions and warfare agents found, destroyed or recycled in the German territory between the end of World War II and 1948 were 296 103 tons. On the basis of the information given it is possible to estimate that about 12 000 tons of warfare agents (about 40 000 tons chemical munition) has been dumped in the Baltic Sea.

The known dumping areas are the following: Southeast of Gotland (southwest of Liepāja), east of Bornholm, Little Belt, and Måseskär. The latter dumping site is situated in the Skagerrak just outside the Convention Area but it has, however, been included in considerations by HELCOM CHEMU. Possibly some dumping has also been done on the route between the German harbour Wolgast and the dumping places (Bornholm and Gotland).

According to the present knowledge, the dumped chemical munitions contain compounds like mustard gas, nose and throat irritating arsenic compounds, tear gas, lung injuring phosgene, nerve gas Tabun, and detonators as well as other explosives. Almost all warfare agents in sea water are broken down at varying rates into less toxic, water soluble substances. In the long term they pose no great threat to the marine environment as no higher concentrations are expected in the sea water. The only exceptions are viscous mustard gas, which still can be found in quite large, elastic lumps a long time after being released from shells, as well as compounds containing arsenic such as nose and throat irritants. These warfare agents can, because of their stability, stay in the marine environment in the longer term and occur in locally elevated concentrations in the sediments.

Contents of mustard gas or other chemical warfare agents have never been found in edible fish or other foods in the Baltic Sea. With the present level of fishing and current precautions, the chemical warfare agents do not constitute a problem in terms of food hygiene.

On the basis of national reports Denmark will elaborate the Final Report of the HELCOM CHEMU and submit it to HELCOM 15 for consideration and decision on future actions on these issues within the HELCOM context.

HELCOM Seminar for Experts from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia on the implementation of HELCOM arrangements, other international instruments and related matters

The HELCOM Seminar for Experts from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia on the implementation of HELCOM arrangements, other international instruments and related matters was held in Riga, Latvia, from 30 August to 2 September 1993. The aims of the Seminar were to:

- provide the experts from the “Seminar States” with detailed information on the Helsinki Commission;
- exchange views on how these arrangements could be implemented in the “Seminar States”;
- present national problems related to the implementation of these arrangements.

The Seminar consisted of two parts:

- general part concerning the achievements of the Helsinki Commission and the activities of the HELCOM Programme Implementation task Force (HELCOM PITF) and
- detailed part concerning the activities of the HELCOM Committees (EC, TC, MC and CC).

About seventy experts participated in the Seminar. The Seminar provided general background information on the HELCOM activities and was assessed by the participants and HELCOM Committees as an important event for introducing the Baltic Sea States’ achievements in the protection of the marine environment,

1.2 Environment Committee (EC)

The Environment Committee (EC) held its Fourth Meeting in Hamburg, Germany, 11-15 October 1993. The Meeting was attended by Delegations from all the Contracting Parties as well as observers from Latvia and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), as well as representatives of the Baltic Marine Biologists (BMB), the Conferences of Baltic Oceanographers (CBO), the EMEP Meteorological Synthesizing Centre - East (MSC-E) and the Environment Data Centre (EDC) of the National Board of Waters and the Environment in Finland. In accordance with the procedure decided by the Commission representatives from the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) also attended the Meeting. The Executive Secretary, the Technological Secretary and the Programme Implementation Co-ordinator also attended the Meeting.

Mr. Niels-Peter Rühl of Germany acted as Chairman of the Meeting and Mr. Eugeniusz Andrulowicz of Poland and Mr. Yuri Panteleev of Russia acted as Vice-Chairmen of the Meeting. The Environment Secretary of the Commission, Ms. Eeva-Liisa Poutanen, acted as Secretary of the Meeting.

The Contracting Parties reported to the Meeting on their national and bilateral activities pertinent to the goals of EC. The Observer of ICES provided information on the work related to the Advisory Committee on Marine Environment and on the tasks requested by the Helsinki Commission. The representatives of BMB and CBO reported on the recent activities in their organizations looking forward to cooperation, especially on issues related to revision of the Baltic Monitoring Programme and assessment activities. The cooperation of WWF and BMB with the Working Group on Nature Conservation (EC Nature) was very much appreciated by the Meeting.

With regard to the work of other Committees and ad hoc working groups EC considered, e.g., cooperation with the HELCOM Programme Implementation Task Force and specific questions from the Technological Committee (TC).

Airborne pollution

The Committee considered the report of the tenth meeting of the Group of Experts on Airborne Pollution of the Baltic Sea Area (EC EGAP). The Committee was informed on the status of data submissions and matters related to intercomparison and intercalibration exercises, **i.a.**, **an** urgent need for international field intercalibration of heavy metals in precipitation. The Meeting considered the proposal by EC EGAP concerning the division of responsibilities and work between EC EGAP and TC related to air emission inventories and agreed to forward the detailed proposal for consideration of TC. The Committee also endorsed the work programme for EC EGAP (1993-1997).

Monitoring of radioactive substances

The Committee considered the report of the eighth meeting of the Group of Experts on Monitoring of Radioactive Substances in the Baltic Sea (EC MORS). The Committee took note of the implementation of HELCOM Recommendation 10/3 and the status of data submissions to the relevant data bases. The Committee was informed about the ongoing intercalibration programmes and the preparations of the first evaluation report of the state of the radionuclides in the Baltic Sea.

Baltic Monitoring Programme (BMP) and related activities

The Committee was informed about the outcome of the ICES/HELCOM Workshop on Quality Assurance of Chemical Analytical Procedures for the Baltic Monitoring Programme and, noting the great value of the presentations given at the Workshop, EC decided to propose to the Commission that the manuscripts would be published in the Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings. The Committee also considered the proposals related to biological quality assurance and endorsed, inter alia, that two ICES/HELCOM Workshops, one for pelagic parameters and one for zoobenthos, should be arranged in 1994. The Workshops should aim to provide a forum for exchange of information, views and experience of the potential and limitations of the current methodology and also to outline and decide on parameters and methods to be included in an **intercomparison/calibration** which ought to be arranged in 1995. Following the **intercomparisons/calibrations**, the Working Group on Biological Quality Assurance was requested to draft a chapter on QA for each biological parameter in BMP before the end of 1995.

With regard to the revision of the BMP, EC endorsed the proposal to arrange a workshop, to be **organized** by Sweden and co-sponsored by Denmark and ICES in spring 1994, to outline a revised BMP and Guidelines including also coastal monitoring. The Meeting noted that the aims of the BMP have previously been agreed upon, and that now there is a need to formulate the strategy and tactics to reach the goals. It was also considered of vital importance for the Workshop to raise the issue of demands from the decision-makers regarding time frames of assessment of different parameters and the size of the trends that the Monitoring Programme should be able to detect.

The Committee also considered matters related to data submissions and data deliveries as well as the development of the Geographic Information System of the Baltic Drainage Area.

With regard to other activities related to the Baltic Monitoring Programme, EC considered the progress report on the Baltic Sea Sediment Baseline Study as well as proposals from the ad hoc Working Group on Microbiology and the Phytoplankton Expert Group.

Assessments of the state of the sea

The Environment Committee accepted the draft First Assessment of the State of the Coastal Waters of the Baltic Sea in general and agreed that when the final editing and possible corrections have been made the report can be printed in the Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings series as previously agreed.

With regard to the preparations of the Third Periodic Assessment the Committee endorsed the strategy proposed by the Steering Group as well as the outline of the chapters, the establishment of necessary expert groups and the general timetable for the work. EC welcomed the nomination of Mr. Lars Rahm, Sweden, as a Chairman of the Steering Group. The final report is expected to be printed in 1995/96.

The Committee also considered the progress in the work of the seal assessment.

Nature conservation

EC considered the proposals by the Working Group on Nature Conservation (EC-Nature) and accepted the Terms of Reference for the Group, endorsed the draft Guidelines for the Identification of Coastal Ecosystems Influenced by the Baltic Sea and their Inland Limits as an implementation of Article 15 of the 1992 Helsinki Convention as well as the list of types of coastal and **marine** biotopes and nature types of the Baltic Sea Area with particular ecological value. The Committee also agreed to propose to HELCOM 15 two draft HELCOM Recommendations, one concerning protection of the coastal strip and the other concerning a system of coastal and marine Baltic Sea Protected Areas (BSPA). Poland made reservations on both draft Recommendations.

Other activities in the field of EC

The Committee considered matters related to dredged spoils and decided, inter alia, that the Guidelines for the Disposal of Dredged Spoils (1992) should be amended concerning the prohibition to dump dredged spoils containing Annex I substances. For the further elaboration of the Technical Annex to the HELCOM Guidelines for the Disposal of Dredged Spoils, all the Contracting Parties were requested to submit their missing contributions (questionnaire on **normalization** procedures and information about background data and/or evaluation criteria) as soon as possible.

The Committee also considered the reporting of the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration (1988), proposals for possible submission to HELCOM 15, as well as the future working strategy of EC.

EC considered the progress in developing the HELCOM Bibliography and made further proposals to make it more effective.

In accordance with the HELCOM Rules of Procedure, the Committee elected Mr. Niels-Peter Rühl from Germany, Mr. Eugeniusz Andrulowicz from Poland and Mr. Yuri Panteleev from Russia as Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of EC, respectively, for the next two year period.

1.3 Technological Committee (TC)

The Technological Committee (TC) held its Fourth Meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia 8-12 November 1993. The Meeting was attended by Delegations from all the Contracting Parties. The Executive Secretary, the Programme Implementation Coordinator and the Environment Secretary also participated in the meeting.

Mr. Tapani Kohonen from Finland acted as Chairman, Ms. Ulla-Britta Fallenius from Sweden as Vice-Chairman and the Technological Secretary of the Commission, Mr. Vassili Rodionov, as Secretary of the meeting.

The Contracting Parties reported on their national activities pertinent to the mandate of the TC.

Cooperation with other Committees

With regard to the work of other Committees the TC thoroughly considered the cooperation with the HELCOM Programme Implementation Task Force (HELCOM PITF) and agreed on action to contribute to implementation of Programme elements related to point source pollution, non-point source pollution and applied research.

Specific topics of common interest with the Environment Committee (EC) were discussed, i.a., those related to the Third Pollution Load Compilation, preparation of air emission inventories and further measures to reduce pollution caused by priority heavy metals and halogenated organic compounds.

Pollution Load Compilation

Having considered the outcome of the first meeting of the Expert Group on Pollution Load of the Baltic Sea (TC POLO) the Committee adopted the Guidelines for the Third Pollution Load Compilation (PLC-3) and endorsed the timetable for PLC-3 and associated programme of interlaboratory comparison tests. The Committee decided to propose to HELCOM 15 a Draft Recommendation on pollution load compilation.

The Committee requested HELCOM 15 to allocate necessary funds for PLC-3 preparatory work in the budget for 1994/95.

The Committee endorsed a Draft Contract between HELCOM and the Environmental Data Center (EDC) as a data consultant for PLC purposes.

Having regard to the decision by the Commission (HELCOM 14/18, Paragraph 6.42), the Committee agreed upon the procedure on how the reporting on national implementation of the 50% reduction part of the Ministerial Declaration (1988) should be implemented in 1996 within the PLC-3.

Reduction of pollution from point sources

The Committee considered the outcome of the third meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Discharges and Emissions from Point Sources (TC POINT) and decided to propose to HELCOM 15 two Draft HELCOM Recommendations, one on basic principles in waste water management in leather industry and the other on measures aimed at the reduction of discharges from marine fish farming.

Having regard to the decision by the Commission (HELCOM 11/14, Paragraph 4.39), the Committee examined the proposals by TC POINT 3 concerning re-consideration plant-by-plant of the limit values in HELCOM Recommendations 1 1/3 (kraft pulp production), 1 1/4 (sulphite pulp production) and 11/5 (iron and steel industry) and decided to request HELCOM 15 to authorize the prolongation of the work on these Recommendations for one more year bearing in mind that technical development since 1990 would implicate stricter limit values.

The Committee further considered revised proposals by the Lead Countries for Draft Recommendations on reduction of air emissions from pulp and paper industry, on restriction of emissions and discharges from hard coal cokeries, on requirements for discharges from chemical industry, on restriction of discharges from metal surface treatment and on reduction of discharges and emissions from textile industry, but could not agree on the mature proposals and addressed further consideration to TC POINT 4 in 1994.

Having regard to the decision by the Commission (HELCOM 14/18, Paragraphs 6.26, 6.29 and 6.30), the Committee re-examined the draft Recommendations on nitrogen removal at municipal sewage treatment plants, on restriction of discharges from production of wood-containing and wood-free paper and paperboard as well as on restriction of emissions and discharges from incineration of household waste. The Committee was not able to propose any changes and **recognized** that further technical discussions within TC on these controversial drafts would hardly facilitate any progress since the disagreement is of principal nature and the matters in question require a political resolution on decision-making level. The Committee decided to seek appropriate advice from the Working Group to Prepare the 1994 Ministerial Meeting (1994 PREP).

The Committee considered future activities in priority sectors and complemented the priority list handled by TC POINT with the food industry, Lithuania acting as Lead Country.

Reduction of pollution from diffuse sources

The Committee considered the outcome of the third meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Inputs from Diffuse Sources (TC DIFF) and endorsed the proposal that the tasks of the Project on matters related to agriculture established by STC 12 in 1985 should be regarded as fulfilled and the Project terminated while the agricultural matters will be handled by TC DIFF with Poland acting as Lead Country.

Having regard to the decision by the Commission (HELCOM 13/16, Paragraph 5.51 and Annex 19), the Committee considered the preparation of basic criteria for approval of pesticides for use in the Baltic Sea catchment area, envisaged in HELCOM Recommendation 13/ 13, and decided to request HELCOM 15 to authorize the prolongation of this work for one more year taking into account that similar preparations are still going on within the European Community.

The Committee considered the status of preparation of Draft Recommendations for priority sources and products, i.a., traffic, stoves/fireplaces, electric equipment and thermometers, and agreed on necessary actions to be taken by TC DIFF 4 in 1994.

The Committee endorsed the proposal that the ad hoc Expert Group on Harmful Substances (TC CHEM) will convene its first meeting in 1994 for evaluation of potential candidates for the HELCOM list of priority harmful substances and requested TC CHEM to pay special attention to halogenated organic compounds.

Implementation reporting in 1993/94

Due to serious delays in national reporting on implementation of the Ministerial Declaration 1988 and HELCOM Recommendations in TC field, the Committee was not in the position to consider the Implementation Status Report for submission to HELCOM 15, as decided by the Commission (HELCOM 10/14, Paragraph 3.4), and decided to convene a separate meeting of the representatives of the Contracting Parties for examining the results of the 1993/194 implementation reporting round and compiling the Report for HELCOM 15.

Proposals for submission to HELCOM 15

Based on the results of deliberations during TC 4, the Committee formulated draft decisions to be taken by the Ministers at HELCOM 15 and agreed to forward the proposals to 1994 PREP.

Future activities within the TC

The Committee approved the two-year work programmes for its subsidiary bodies (TC POINT, TC DIFF and TC POLO).

With reference to the foreseen membership of the Commission of the European Communities in HELCOM, the Committee discussed the possibilities of application of the EEC-Directives in HELCOM framework and noted that the EEC-Directives include minimum requirements and are expected to make a good input to the work of TC.

Other activities in the field of TC

The Committee considered the results of the seminar on the implementation of HELCOM arrangements, other instruments and related matters for experts from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia held in Riga, Latvia, 30 August - 2 September 1993 and, stressing the practical usefulness of the Seminar, endorsed the proposal that such forums should be continued in specific TC matters, particularly with regard to collection and reporting of national information on implementation of HELCOM decisions.

In accordance with the HELCOM Rules of Procedure, the Committee elected Mr. Tapani Kohonen from Finland, Ms. Ulla-Britta Fallenius from Sweden and Mr. Axel Friedrich from Germany as Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of TC, respectively, for the next two year period.

1.4 Maritime Committee (MC)

The Maritime Committee (MC) held its 19th meeting in Mariehamn (Åland), Finland, from 21 to 24 September 1993. Delegations from all the Baltic Sea States participated in the Meeting.

Mr. Peter Ehlers from Germany and Mr. John Ostergaard from Denmark acted as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, and Mr. Adam Kowalewski, Maritime Secretary of the Commission, acted as Secretary of the Meeting.

Reception facilities

The Committee reconvened the ad hoc Working Group on Reception Facilities in Ports (MC REFAC) with the main task to elaborate a draft joint Baltic strategy for ship-generated wastes as well as adopted the Terms of Reference for the Group. The Group is expected to finalize its work by the end of 1995.

The Committee elected Mr. Julius Lassig from Finland as Chairman of the Group.

Matters related to discharges from ships

The Committee decided to conduct a study concerning discharges of sewage and grey water from passenger ships in the Convention Area and approved a list of elements to be included in the study. The aim of the study is to provide MC 20 with background information for discussion on possible amendments to Annex IV of the Helsinki Convention.

The Committee elaborated a proposal for a draft HELCOM Recommendation on the prohibition of discharges of garbage (fish remnants) from fish-processing units. The Committee requested the Contracting Parties to consult legal experts whether the discharge of fish remnants from fish-processing units is covered by the dumping provisions of the Helsinki Convention or whether it is to be considered as an operational discharge from ships. After receiving of a legal opinion from the Contracting Parties the Committee will take a final decision on this proposal at MC 20.

Air pollution from ships

The Committee decided to convene the ad hoc Working Group on Air Pollution from Ships (MC AIR) for its fifth meeting (Helsinki, 11-13 January 1993) to discuss issues relating to a concept of "special area" under the new annex of MARPOL 73/78 on prevention of air pollution from ships, and to provide IMO with a joint Baltic Sea States submission concerning the definition and delineation of "special areas", as well as measures to be applied in such areas. The Committee requested MC AIR 5 to consider a request by EC EGAP to provide data on air pollution from ships to the next evaluation report on airborne pollution.

The Committee elected Ms. Alicja Gwadera from Sweden as Chairman of MC AIR.

Maritime safety

The Committee approved a draft HELCOM Recommendation on additional maritime safety and pollution prevention measures in the Baltic Sea Area and decided to submit it to HELCOM 15 for adoption.

Control measures and investigation of violations

The Committee decided to convene an informal expert meeting to deal with matters related to strengthening of cooperation in investigation of violations of anti-pollution regulations and bringing evidence to court.

Germany offered to organize the meeting of the Group in spring 1994 after having received proposals and ideas from all the Contracting Parties for topics to be considered by the Group.

Cooperation within IMO

The Committee confirmed the need to continue the coordination of certain subjects in environmental matters within the Helsinki Commission and IMO and to further discuss such coordination at the Baltic Maritime Co-ordinating Meeting (BMCM) held in conjunction with MEPC meetings.

Other activities in the field of MC

The Committee decided to include in its working programme matters related to harmful marine organisms transported in ballast waters and requested EC 4 to comment on that with regard to potential hazards of such organisms to the marine environment.

The Committee was informed on the work of EC NATURE and the Meeting was of the opinion that MC should consider possible actions at IMO if the Coastal and Marine Baltic Sea Protected Areas (BSPA) are established in the Convention Area.

Mr. John Ostergaard from Denmark, Vice-Chairman of MC, informed the Committee that he has to resign from his Vice-Chairmanship of MC, since after a couple of weeks he will join the Secretariat of IMO.

The Maritime Committee elected Mr. Peter Ehlers from Germany as Chairman and Ms. Alicja Gwadera from Sweden as Vice-Chairman of MC for the next two-year period.

1.5 Combatting Committee (CC)

The 17th meeting of the Combatting Committee was held in Klaipeda, Lithuania, from 26 to 29 October 1993. Delegations from all the Baltic Sea States participated in the meeting.

Mr. Olli Pahkala from Finland and Mr. Anders Bergwall from Sweden acted as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, and Mr. Adam Kowalewski, Maritime Secretary of the Commission, acted as Secretary of the Meeting.

Combatting spillages of oil and other harmful substances

The Committee considered the summary of national oil spill reports from the annual reporting periods 1988-1992. A comparison of maps from 1988-1992 does not show significant deviations in the number and the regional distribution of the oil spills. Due to the dense traffic, strong concentrations of pollutions are reported along the Swedish coastline and in the western Baltic between Denmark, Germany and Sweden.

It should also be underlined that Denmark, Germany and Sweden operate aircraft with remote sensing devices which enable to achieve a reliable picture of oil spillages in the response regions of these countries. Poland equipped one aircraft with remote sensing equipment at the end of 1993 and Finland will start the operation of two aircraft with such equipment by the end of 1994.

On the basis of information by Poland concerning the removal of bunker fuel oil from the sunken ferry "Jan Heveliusz", the Committee concluded that in case a sunken ship or her hazardous cargo poses an eminent threat to the marine environment, the competent national authorities should assess such a threat and undertake an adequate salvage and/or response operation. An appropriate draft HELCOM Recommendation on these issues could be elaborated and submitted for adoption by the Commission.

The Committee decided that the study on transportation patterns and risk estimation of oils, carried in the Convention Area, should cover September-November of the year 1994 and approved a format to be filled in by the Contracting Parties for the purpose of the study.

Other harmful substances

The Committee approved the Guidelines for applying HELCOM Recommendation 1/13 on development of national ability to combat spillages of oil and other harmful substances. The ad hoc Working Group on Combatting Spillages of Harmful Substances Other than Oil (CC CHEM) held its ninth meeting on 25 October 1993 preceding the 17th meeting of CC and provided CC with proposals for decisions on certain topics. The Committee decided not to convene CC CHEM in 1994.

Surveillance activities

The Committee was informed that two joint surveillance flights and one CEPCO (Coordinated Extended Pollution Control Operation) flight were conducted in 1993. During the CEPCO flight four pollutions were observed and two polluters were identified.

The Committee requested the Informal Working Group on Aerial Surveillance to:

- evaluate results from joint flights and CEPCO flights with emphasis on how to utilize the results of such flights for an extrapolation of a whole year oil pollution estimation and on matters related to identification and prosecution of suspected offenders;
- develop **standardized** guidelines for regional coverages of main traffic routes, regions with sporadic traffic and regions with fishery and offshore activities;
- define extended coverage regions for joint flights. The joint flights could also cover the response regions of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia, if so requested by these states.

Denmark will act as Lead Country for aerial surveillance in 1995-1996.

Other activities in the field of CC

Germany will submit for consideration of the next meeting of CC a draft proposal on guidelines for application of HELCOM Recommendation 12/6 on development and use of oil drift forecasting.

The Committee established an informal working group to elaborate proposals concerning the revision of the HELCOM Combatting Manual and elaborated Terms of Reference for the Group. Sweden undertook to organize a meeting of the Group in June 1994.

The Committee approved the NORDTEST Guidelines for Oil Spill Identification tests for use within the HELCOM context.

The Committee approved a format for reporting on available equipment for combatting, searching, salvaging and underwater operations and requested the Contracting Parties to provide **Germany** with filled-in formats at the beginning of 1994.

The Committee was informed that the Helsinki Commission has been granted observer status with the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPC Fund).

The Committee was informed that Latvia established its Exclusive Economic Zone and the delimitation of the zone is still under negotiations with the neighbouring states.

The Committee re-elected Mr. Olli Pakkala from Finland and Mr. Anders Bergwall from Sweden as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the CC, respectively, for a two-year period.

1.6 HELCOM Programme Implementation Task Force (HELCOM PITF)

HELCOM PITF met twice since HELCOM 14, for its second Meeting on 25-27 May 1993 in Hamburg, Germany, hosted by Germany and for its third Meeting on 22-24 November 1993 in Brussels, Belgium, hosted by the Commission of the European Communities (CEC). Reports of the two Meetings were distributed to the members and observers of HELCOM PITF. Both meetings were attended by the members of HELCOM PITF, except for Belarus, Slovak Republic and the Ukraine in PITF 2 and Slovak Republic and the Ukraine in PITF 3. The Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Union of Baltic Cities (UBC) and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) participated in the meetings as observers. In HELCOM PITF 3 the Standing Conference of Rectors, Presidents and Vice-Chancellors of the European Universities (CRE) which has applied for observership of HELCOM also participated.

HELCOM PITF 3 decided that PITF member countries shall regularly update the status of implementation on a programme element-by-programme element basis. PITF members and observers shall further regularly update their financial or other assistance on the same basis as well as on a country-by-country basis while detailed reporting on programme element 3 "Investment Activities" should be delivered on the basis of the questionnaires for "hot spots".

For investment activities related to the "hot spots" specified by the Action Programme, a Second Activity Inventory was prepared and distributed to the HELCOM PITF Contact Persons and to the Participants of HELCOM PITF 3.

A first Annual Report of HELCOM PITF for the year 1993 was submitted to HELCOM 15 as HELCOM 15/11/1.

Resource Mobilization Conference in Gdansk. 1993

It became clear already in the drafting process of the JCP that one of the major constraints to implement the Programme would be the mobilization of financial resources needed. For this reason a special conference for mobilizing local, national, bilateral and international financial resources to implement the Programme was held in Gdansk, Poland in March 1993.

The Conference highlighted that a multiplicity of funding sources would be needed, particularly in order to assist the Eastern European Countries in implementing the Programme as part of their tedious process of social and economic transition. This process of dramatic economic restructuring has limited, at least in the short run, the credit-worthiness of these countries and reduced the capacity to produce goods and services. An additional impediment is that the potential donor countries are suffering a protracted recession. Financing from foreign sources will, for several years, be necessary for Programme implementation. A significant share will take the form of loans from the multilateral financial institutions. It is hoped that the emerging market economies will be able over time to assume an increasing share of Programme financing.

The Gdansk Declaration, 1993, called, therefore, for all efforts to be made to mobilize local, national, bilateral or multilateral financial and other resources for the implementation of the Programme, including grant financing.

Lead Parties

HELCOM PITF 2 decided to invite members and observers of HELCOM PITF to take a lead party role for the sub-coordination of individual Programme elements. The lead party role can be understood as one which encompasses the responsibility to coordinate activities within individual Programme elements, including any means appropriate to help the implementation of a Programme element such as the organisation of working group meetings, seminars etc. The last two meetings of HELCOM PITF were instrumental to establish lead party roles to coordinate all individual elements of the Programme. It is worthwhile to note that also observing “non-governmental organizations” are willing to take an active approach in order to assist the implementation of the Programme. The following table shows the division of lead party roles between members and observers of HELCOM PITF.

	PROGRAMME ELEMENTS	Lead Party
1	Policies, Laws and Regulations	Germany/ ICLEI
2	Institutional Strengthening and Human Resource Development	Germany/ ICLEI/UBC
3	Investment Activities	
A	Point Source Pollution	
	- Combined Municipal and Industrial Uastewater Treatment	Sweden
	- Industrial Pollution Control	Finland
B	Non-Point Source Pollution	Germany/ Poland
4	Management Programnes for Coastal Lagoons and Wetlands	WWF
5	Applied Research	EC and TC*)
6	Public Awareness and Environmental Education	CCB

*) EC = Environment Committee of the Helsinki Commission
TC = Technological Committee of the Helsinki Commission

The use of economic instruments is being considered in an ad hoc HELCOM PITF Working Group with Sweden as Lead Party and a report is planned to be submitted to HELCOM in March 1994. WWF organized a first working group meeting for Programme element 4 with a second meeting to be held in April 1994. Its work is closely coordinated with the EC Working Group on Nature Conservation. Under the auspices of CCB a first informal working group meeting was held in October 1993 to collect ideas and to draft Terms of Reference and a Work Plan for a working group regarding Programme element 6. HELCOM PITF 3 decided to establish such a working group under the lead of CCB; the first working group meeting will take place in April 1994.

Cooperation with other HELCOM Committees

The Programme Coordinator informed EC 4 and TC 4 about the activities of HELCOM PITF since EC 3 and TC 3. He stressed the wish of HELCOM PITF to cooperate closely with these two Committees. In particular, he referred to the cooperation between HELCOM PITF and the other Committees of the Helsinki Commission which was adopted by HELCOM 14 as well as to the decision of HELCOM PITF 2 to seek assistance of TC, in particular regarding the implementation of Programme element "Non-point Source Pollution", and of EC, particularly regarding Programme element "Applied Research". HELCOM PITF 3 accepted the offers made by EC 4 and TC 4 respectively.

TC and its working group on point sources (TC POINT) are prepared to take responsibility for the follow-up of the implementation of HELCOM recommendations, particularly those which relate to point source "hot spots" specified in the Programme, and for the reporting on point source pollution as it related to the Programme.

Regarding non-point source pollution TC and its working group TC DIFF offer to coordinate their expertise on this subject with the HELCOM PITF lead parties for this element, Germany and Poland.

Regarding applied research TC and EC will assist HELCOM PITF within the scope of their respective fields of expertise.

Cooperation with international financial institutions and international organizations

Cooperation of HELCOM PITF, particularly with the multilateral financial institutions is assured. These institutions do not only take part actively in the meetings of HELCOM PITF, yet also provide financial assistance to a whole variety of items related to the implementation of the Action Programme. Reports to this effect were submitted to HELCOM PITF 3.

HELCOM PITF 2 accepted the application of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) to become an observer of HELCOM PITF. It is worth noting that ICLEI, as generally requested by HELCOM PITF from observer organizations participating in the work of HELCOM PITF, has become already active in offering to act as a co-lead party in the implementation of Programme elements "Policies, Laws and Regulations" and "Institutional Strengthening and Human Resources" as has been also done by the HELCOM PITF observer Union of Baltic Cities (UBC) regarding the latter element.

HELCOM PITF 2 received information about the establishment of Environmental Centres for Administration and Technology (ECAT) in Riga and St. Petersburg on the basis of twinning arrangements with the German cities of Bremen and Hamburg respectively as well as of financial aid from the Commission of European Communities. HELCOM PITF 3 received a progress report from ECAT-St. Petersburg. The progress reports suggests that ECAT can provide valuable assistance for implementing the Programme in the St. Petersburg region. HELCOM PITF 3 endorsed cooperation with ECAT and invited further information. Meanwhile, ECAT-Riga submitted a progress report to the Secretariat, too. It was distributed to the Contact Persons of HELCOM PITF and the Participants of HELCOM PITF 3 for immediate information early January 1994.

HELCOM PITF 3 invited as guest the Standing Conference of Rectors, Presidents and Vice-Chancellors of the European Universities (CRE) which has applied for observership of HELCOM. HELCOM PITF invited CRE to provide, beyond the information given at HELCOM PITF 3, further information on CRE activities as they relate to the work of HELCOM PITF.

Other activities in the field of the HELCOM PITF

HELCOM PITF 3 requested, on the basis of a report of the delegation of Finland about the ongoing process of the European Environmental Action Programme for Eastern and Central European Countries (EAP) and the many linkages between the EAP and the JCP, PITF members to assure that the JCP be fully taken into account in the implementation of the EAP and that the appropriate domestic coordination to this end is assured,

2. ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMMISSION 1993

Mr. Fleming Otzen and Mr. Tonny Niilonen were respectively the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission. Mr. Ulf Ehlin acted as Executive Secretary. Ms. Terttu Melvasalo acted as Programme Coordinator, a.i., until 31 July 1993 and Mr. Niels-J. Seeberg-Elverfeldt took up his post as Programme Coordinator on 1 August 1993. Ms. Eeva-

Liisa Poutanen acted as Environment Secretary, Mr. Adam Kowalewski as Maritime Secretary and Mr. Vassili Rodionov as Technological Secretary of the Commission. The other members of the staff of the Commission were Ms. Ritva Kostakow-Kampe, Administrative Officer, Ms. Teija-Liisa Lehtinen, Environment Assistant, Ms. Leena Heikkilä, Maritime Assistant, Ms. Satu Tofferi, Technological Assistant, Ms. Riitta Harjunkoski, Programme Coordination Assistant, Mr. Håkan Blomberg and Mr. Stefan Sacklén, Office Assistants. As from 15 October 1993 Ms. Salme Mikkeli has been employed as a part-time Assistant in the office of the Secretariat working four hours a day.

According to the Convention the contributions by the Contracting Parties to the budget of the Commission are based on equal shares of the Contracting Parties. In addition, the Government of Finland has paid an extra contribution to cover the rent of the office, communication and equipment expenses and a part of the salaries of the office staff. The extraordinary HELCOM meeting held in Gdansk, Poland on 23 March 1993 decided, however, on a special arrangement on sharing the costs for a transition period of three years. The agreement concerning the financial years starting from 1 July 1993 states that Denmark, Finland, Germany, Poland and Sweden pay 16.7%, Russia 12% and Estonia and Lithuania together the remaining 4% of the costs after deduction of the extra contribution by Finland and possible contribution from the European Economic Commission if acceding to the Convention.

The distribution of expenses of the Commission during the fiscal year from 1 July 1992 to 30 June 1993 was approximately as follows:

Meetings		1 020 000
Salaries		2 945 000
Travels		238 000
Consultant services		1 015 000
Publications		250 000
Support for countries in transition		155 000
Other administration		<u>1 623 000</u>
Total	FIM	7 246 000
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The Executive Secretary was Secretary General of the 14th meeting of the Commission as well as of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Commission held in Gdansk, Poland, 23-24 March 1993 and conducted the work of the Secretariat.

The Executive Secretary paid a visit to the Swedish Ministry of the Environment and the Stockholm Water Symposium Secretariat on 24-25 February 1993.

The Executive Secretary and the Programme Coordinator, a.i., participated in the Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", Luzern, Switzerland, 26-30 April 1993 and informed about the High Level Resource Mobilization Conference, the JCP, etc.

On 21 June 1993 the Finnish Minister of the Environment, Ms. Sirpa Pietikainen, visited the Secretariat to discuss matters related to the 15th meeting of the Commission to be held at ministerial level.

On 19 September the Executive Secretary met the Estonian Minister of the Environment, Mr. Andres Tarand, in Tallinn, Estonia, for discussion of various items within the framework of HELCOM.

On 17 December 1993 the Executive Secretary together with the Programme Coordinator met with Swedish environmental authorities in Solna, Sweden to discuss matters related to the work of the HELCOM PITF as well as other, more general, HELCOM matters.

The Environment Secretary made the necessary preparations and acted as Secretary General of the following meetings:

- the Eighth Meeting of the Group of Experts on Monitoring of Radioactive Substances in the Baltic Sea (EC MORS), Risø, Denmark, 29 March - 2 April 1993;
- the meeting of the Chairmen of EC, Hamburg, Germany, 5 April 1993;
- the First Meeting of the Steering Group for the Coordination of the Third Periodic Assessment (EC BETA), Helsinki, Finland, 27-29 April 1993;
- the Tenth Meeting of the Group of Experts on Airborne Pollution of the Baltic Sea Area (EC EGAP), Warnemünde, Germany, 11-14 May 1993;
- the Fourth Meeting of the Environment Committee (EC), Hamburg, Germany, 11-15 October 1993.

Furthermore, the Environment Secretary participated in the following meetings under the auspices of the Helsinki Commission:

- the meeting of the ad hoc Working Group on Microbiology, Tvärminne, Finland, 11-13 January 1993;
- the Second Meeting on the Pollution Load Compilation (PLC-2), Gdansk, Poland, 14-16 April 1993;
- the First Meeting of the ad hoc Working Group on Dumped Chemical Munition (HELCOM CHEMU), St. Petersburg, Russia, 19-21 April 1993;
- the First Meeting of the Working Group to Prepare the 1994 Ministerial Meeting (1994 PREP 1), Hamburg, Germany, 24 May 1993;
- the Second Meeting of the HELCOM Programme Implementation Task Force (HELCOM PITF), Hamburg, Germany, 25-27 May 1993;
- two meetings of the ad hoc Working Group on Coastal Assessment, Uppsala, 4-5 March 1993 and Tallinn, Estonia, 29-30 June 1993;
- the Second Meeting of the Working Group on Nature Conservation (EC-Nature), Nyköping, Sweden, 11-12 June 1993;
- HELCOM Seminar for Experts from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia on the Implementation of HELCOM arrangements, other international instruments and related matters, Riga, Latvia, 30 August - 3 September 1993;
- the Second Meeting of the ad hoc Working Group on Dumped Chemical Munition (HELCOM CHEMU), Vilnius, Lithuania, 28-30 September 1993;
- HELCOM/ICES Workshop on Quality Assurance of Analytical Procedures for the Baltic Monitoring Programme, Hamburg, Germany, 5 October 1993;
- the Fourth Meeting of the Technological Committee (TC), St. Petersburg, Russia, 8-12 November 1993;
- the Third Meeting of the HELCOM Programme Implementation Task Force (HELCOM PITF), Brussels, Belgium, 22-24 November 1993;
- the Second Meeting of the Working Group to Prepare the 1994 Ministerial Meeting (1994 PREP 2), Brussels, Belgium, 25 November 1993;

- the meeting of the Working Group on the Baltic Geographic Information System (BGIS), Tallinn, Estonia, 30 November 1993.

The Environment Secretary has also carried out tasks related to the implementation and follow-up of decisions concerning matters in the environmental field.

The Technological Secretary made necessary preparations and acted as Secretary of the following meetings:

- the meeting of the Chairmen of the Technological Committee (TC CHAIR), Hamburg, Germany, 5-6 April 1993;
- Seminar on Monitoring of Pollution Load, Gdansk, Poland, 14-16 April 1993;
- the Third Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Discharges and Emissions from Point Sources (TC POINT), Helsingor, Denmark, 19-23 April 1993;
- the Third Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Inputs from Diffuse Sources (TC DIFF), Gdansk, Poland, 4-7 May 1993;
- the informal expert meeting to prepare the Guidelines for PLC-3, Tallinn, Estonia, 14-16 June 1993;
- the meeting of the Chairmen of the Technological Committee (TC CHAIR), Riga, Latvia, 1 September 1993;
- the First Meeting of the Expert Group on Pollution Load of the Baltic Sea (TC POLO), Tallinn, Estonia, 14-17 September 1993;
- the meeting of the Lead Countries on PLC-3, Berlin, Germany, 28-29 October 1993;
- the Fourth Meeting of the Technological Committee (TC), St. Petersburg, Russia, 8-12 November 1993;
- the meeting for the preparation of the Interim Implementation Status Report on the Ministerial Declaration and HELCOM Recommendations, Helsinki, Finland, 14-16 December 1993.

The Technological Secretary has also carried out tasks related to the implementation and follow-up of decisions concerning matters in the technological field.

The Maritime Secretary made the necessary preparations and acted as Secretary General in the following meetings:

- the Eighth Meeting of the Baltic Maritime Co-ordinating Meeting (BMCM), held in conjunction with MEPC 33 in London, England, on 4 July 1993;
- meetings of the HELCOM ad hoc Working Group on Dumped Chemical Munition (HELCOM CHEMU) held in St. Petersburg, Russia, 19-21 April 1993, in Vilnius, Lithuania, 28-30 September 1993 and in Copenhagen, Denmark, 19-21 January 1994;
- the 19th Meeting of the Maritime Committee (MC), held in Mariehamn, Finland, 21-24 September 1993;
- the Ninth Meeting of the ad hoc Working Group on Combatting Spillages of Harmful Substances other than Oil (CC CHEM), held in Klaipeda, Lithuania, on 25 October 1993;
- the 17th Meeting of the Combatting Committee, held in Klaipeda, Lithuania, 26-29 October 1993;
- the Fifth Meeting of the ad hoc Working Group on Air Pollution from Ships (MC AIR), held in Helsinki, Finland, 11-13 January 1994.

The Maritime Secretary has also carried out the tasks related to the implementation and follow-up of the decisions concerning the maritime and combatting fields.

The Programme Implementation Coordinator, a.i. (1 January 1993 - 30 July 1993) made the necessary preparations and acted as Secretary General of the following meetings:

- the First Conference Preparatory Meeting, Stockholm, Sweden, 28-29 January 1993;
- the Second Conference Preparatory Meeting, Helsinki, Finland, 4-5 March 1993;
- the Third Conference Preparatory Meeting, Gdansk, Poland, 23 March 1993;
- the High Level Conference on Resource Mobilization, Gdansk, Poland, 24-25 March 1993;
- the Second Meeting of HELCOM Programme Implementation Task Force, Hamburg, Germany, 25-27 May 1993.

The Programme Implementation Coordinator, since 1st August 1993, made the necessary preparations and acted as Secretary General of the following meeting:

- the Third Meeting of the HELCOM PITF, Brussels, Belgium, 22-24 November 1993.

He also helped to prepare and **organize** the following meetings:

- HELCOM PITF ad hoc Working Group on the Use of Economic Instruments, Stockholm, Sweden, 4-5 October 1993;
- HELCOM PITF First Informal Meeting on Programme Element "Public Awareness and Environmental Education", Helsinki, Finland, 5-6 October 1993;
- HELCOM PITF Working Group Meeting on Management Plans for Coastal Lagoons and Wetlands, Karlskrona, Sweden, 20-22 October 1993.

The Programme Coordinator gave a variety of presentations:

- "Resource Mobilization", at the Environmental Northern Seas Conference (ENS) in Stavanger, Norway, 25 August 1993;
- "HELCOM activities/the Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme (JCP)" for the Environment Committee of the Baden-Württemberg Parliament on 26 August 1993;
- "The JCP" addressing high level executives from Austrian, German and Swiss banks, commerce and industries in Linz, Austria, on 18 September 1993;
- "The JCP" at a Conference on "Investment in Ecology and Health care" in St. Petersburg, Russia, 12 November 1993.

Furthermore, the Programme Coordinator carried out tasks related to the implementation of the Action Programme and follow-up of the decisions of HELCOM PITF.

Publications and data

In accordance with the decision by the Commission, the following volumes of the Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings have been published:

- No. 44 Nitrogen and Agriculture, International Workshop, 9-12 April 1991, Schleswig, Germany
- No. 45 Second Baltic Sea Pollution Load Compilation
- No. 46 Summaries of the Pre-feasibility Studies; Prepared for the Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme
- No. 47 High Level Conference on Resource Mobilization, Gdansk, Poland, 24-25 March 1993; Compilation of Presentations and Statements
- No. 48 The Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme

- No. 49 The Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme; Opportunities and Constraints in Programme Implementation
- No. 50 Seminar on Reception Facilities in Ports, Turku, Finland, 16-19 November 1992
- No. 51 Study of the Transportation of Packaged Dangerous Goods by Sea in the Baltic Sea Area and Related Environmental Hazards
- No. 52 Activities of the Commission 1992; Including the 14th Meeting of the Commission held in Helsinki, 2-5 February 1993
- No. 53 Baltic Marine Environment Bibliography 1991-1992
- No. 54 First Assessment of the State of the Coastal Waters of the Baltic Sea.

A newsletter "HELCOM NEWS" containing information on HELCOM activities has been produced five times and submitted to the Contracting Parties, institutions and persons involved in the HELCOM work as well as to cooperating organizations.

The existing Baltic Monitoring Programme data for 1989-1991 have been compiled by the consultant (Environment Data Centre of the National Board of Waters and the Environment in Finland, EDC) and was submitted to the Contracting Parties in July 1993. The graphical presentations of the 1991 BMP data from selected stations, according to the agreement between the Commission and the consultant, were submitted to the fourth meeting of EC by EDC. The BMP data input programme has been **finalized** and distributed to the Contracting Parties. The quality control of the "historical" BMP hydro-chemistry data sets has been started in cooperation with ICES. The data for 1992 and 1993 is under preparation and will be distributed as agreed.

Several data sets have been delivered to various scientists and institutes following the rules of publicity of the BMP data.

The Baltic Geographic Information System (BGIS) has been under development within the **organizations/institutes** active in the field, and the work has been coordinated by the Secretariat. A pre-project/feasibility study with the goal to provide a comprehensive and **firm** basis for the realization of the aims of the BGIS-project has been started. Additional financial support for the work has been received from the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Furthermore, all 1991 data and most of the 1992 data on airborne pollution have been submitted by the Contracting Parties to the consultant of the Commission, ECE/EMEP Centre NILU in Norway. Data concerning radioactive substances, both environmental and release data, have been compiled by the consultants, EDC and the Finnish Centre for Radiation and Nuclear Safety, STUK, and were submitted together with graphical presentations (1984-1991) to the eighth meeting of EC MORS.

Cooperation with other international organizations

The following organizations were observers of the Commission during 1993:

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
- International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe (WHO/EURO)
- Oslo and Paris Commission (OSCOM/PARCOM)
- International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC)
- International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)
- Commission of the European Communities (CEC)
- Stichting Greenpeace Council, Greenpeace International
- World Wide Fund for Nature, WWF International
- Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB).

The Commission was represented at different international meetings by

- Mr. Ulrich Horstmann from Germany at the International Workshop on Optimization of Pelagic Monitoring Strategies for the Baltic, Bremerhaven, Germany, 25-29 January 1993;
- Ms. Liisa Tuominen-Roto from the Environment Data Centre (EDC) of the National Board of Waters and the Environment in Finland at the meeting of statistical offices from the Baltic region, Tallinn, Estonia, 17-19 March 1993;
- Mr. Peter Heininger from Germany at the Twentieth Meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee for Scientific Advice (SACSA) of the Oslo and Paris Commissions, Oslo, Norway, 15-17 March 1993;
- Mr. Hartmut Nies from Germany at the First Meeting of the Working Group on Radioactive Discharges (RADD) of the Paris Commission, Namur-Wepion, Belgium, 5-7 May 1993;
- Mr. Jürgen Pankrath from Germany at the Third Meeting of the ECE-LRTAP Task Force on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Berlin, Germany, 17-19 May 1993;
- Ms. Pirjo Sutela from the Technical Research Centre of Finland at the Infoterra Central European Regional Management Meeting, Vienna, Austria, 18-22 October 1993;
- Mr. Göte Svenson, Chairman of the HELCOM PITF, at the UNEP Preliminary Meeting of Experts to Assess the Effectiveness of Regional Seas Agreements, Nairobi, Kenya, 6-10 December 1993;
- Mr. Jürgen Pankrath from Germany at the Eleventh Meeting of the Working Group on the Atmospheric Input of Pollutants to Convention Waters of the Oslo and Paris Commissions, London, England, 7-10 December 1993;
- Ms. Anneli Aartelo from Finland at the Second Conference of Ministers for Spatial Planning and Development, Gdansk, Poland, 14-15 December 1993.

The Executive Secretary represented the Commission at the following meetings:

- meeting of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), Helsinki, Finland, 16-17 March 1993;
- meetings of the working groups under the Baltic Sea Conference of Ministers of Transport on Ways and Means to Develop a Common Vision of the Transport System and Infrastructure in the Baltic Sea Region and on Transport and Environment in the Baltic Sea Area, Warsaw, Poland, 4-5 May 1993;
- Seminar on the Conference Environment for the Northern Seas (ENS), Oslo, Norway, 12 May 1993;
- Baltic Sea Region Seminar organized by the World Conservation Union's Commission for National Parks and Protected Areas, Nyköping, Sweden, 7-11 June 1993;
- meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, Pärnu, Estonia, 16-17 June 1993;
- Stockholm Water Symposium, Workshop on "How to overcome barriers to environmental efforts in the Baltic Sea", Stockholm, Sweden, 10-15 August 1993;
- a special session on International Environment Conventions associated with the Conference "Environment for Northern Seas", Stavanger, Norway, 24-27 August 1993;

- The Baltic Sea Conference 1993 of Local Governments and Environment, Helsinki, Finland, 1-3 September 1993;
- 13th Internationaler **Küstentag** 1993, Stralsund, Germany, 13-16 September 1993;
- First International Conference on the Environment Protection Strategy Standardization and Control of Pollution Load on the Marine Environment, Tallinn, Estonia, 19-22 September 1993;
- a workshop “Managing the Mediterranean” organized by the European Science Foundation, Venice, Italy, 17-20 November 1993;
- a meeting within Oslo and Paris Commissions to discuss the Commissions’ role as a central reference point for regional and inter-regional exchange of information on activities regarding the protection of the Marine Environment, London, England, 16 December 1993.

The Environment Secretary represented the Commission at the following meetings:

- the 18th Meeting of the Joint Monitoring Group (JMG) of the Oslo and Paris Commissions, the Hague, the Netherlands, 25-27 January 1993;
- the meeting of the ICES Steering Group on Quality Assurance of Chemical Measurements in the Baltic Sea, Gdynia, Poland, 16-19 March 1993;
- Baltic Sea Region Seminar organized by the World Conservation Union’s Commission for National Parks and Protected Areas, Nyköping, Sweden, 7-11 June 1993;
- the 81th Statutory Meeting of the International Council of the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), Dublin, Ireland, 23-27 September 1993.

The Technological Secretary represented the Commission at

- the Second General Conference of the Union of Baltic Cities (UBC), Kaliningrad, Russia, 24-25 September 1993.

The Maritime Secretary represented the Commission at the meetings of

- the OPRC Working Group, London, England, March 1993;
- the 33rd Session of IMO’s Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) in London, England, 5-9 July 1993.

The Programme Coordinator represented the Commission in

- the 19th session of the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission, Warsaw, Poland, 13 September 1993;
- the First Task Force Meeting for the Environmental Action Programme for Central and Eastern Europe (EAP), Paris, France, 27-28 September 1993.

3. 15th MEETING OF THE COMMISSION, 8-11 MARCH 1994

The Helsinki Commission held its 15th Meeting in Helsinki from 8 to 11 March 1994. On 8 March the Meeting was held at ministerial level with delegations headed by Ministers of the Environment or their deputies. The Meeting was attended by representatives of the Governments of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden, as well as Latvia as observer state. Even the Governments of Norway, Slovak Republic and Ukraine were represented at the Meeting as invited HELCOM PITF members. The Meeting was, furthermore, attended by observers from the following intergovernmental organizations: Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSF), International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), Oslo

and Paris Commissions (**OSCOM/PARCOM**) and Commission of the European Communities (CEC), as well as from the non-governmental international organizations Greenpeace International, Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The Meeting was also attended by representatives of the international non-governmental organizations EURO CHLOR, European Union for Coastal Conservation (EUCC), Standing Conference of Rectors, Presidents and Vice-Chancellors of the European Universities (CRE) and Union of the Baltic Cities (**UBC**) as applicants for observership to HELCOM.

The Meeting was chaired by the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Fleming **Otzen**. Mr. Ulf Ehlin, Executive Secretary of the Commission acted as Secretary General of the meeting.

The Commission considered and decided upon matters within the environment, technological, maritime and legal fields related to the protection of the Baltic Sea as well as upon matters related to cooperation in combatting pollution on the sea and matters related to the work of the HELCOM Programme Implementation Task Force. The Commission especially reviewed the status of implementation of ministerial decisions taken in 1988, including a 50 % reduction of the emissions of heavy metals, toxic or persistent organic substances and nutrients. The Meeting on the level of Environment Ministers made a number of decisions aimed at emphasizing, speeding up and improving important activities of HELCOM. These decisions are attached to this report. The Commission also commemorated the 20 years since the signing of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area 1974, the Helsinki Convention.

The preparatory work had been done during the intersessional period by an ad hoc Working Group to Prepare the 1994 Ministerial Meeting (1994 PREP) and by the five subsidiary bodies (EC, TC, MC, CC and HELCOM PITF) and several working groups as well as ad hoc working groups.

HELCOM Recommendations adopted by the 15th meeting of the Commission

The Commission adopted two HELCOM Recommendations related to the field of the Environment Committee (EC), concerning:

- protection of the coastal strip (HELCOM Recommendation 15/1)
- system of coastal and marine Baltic Sea protected areas (BSPA) (HELCOM Recommendation 15/5)

two recommendations related to the field of the Technological Committee (TC), concerning:

- pollution load compilation (HELCOM Recommendation 15/2)
- measures aimed at the reduction of discharges from marine fish farming (HELCOM Recommendation 15/3)

and one recommendation related to the field of the Maritime Committee (MC), concerning:

- additional maritime safety and pollution prevention measures in the Baltic Sea Area (HELCOM Recommendation 15/4)

All recommendations adopted by the 15th meeting of the Commission are attached to this report.

Matters related to the Environment Committee (EC)

The substantive items from the report of the fourth meeting of the EC are described in detail under Chapter 1.2 of this report.

The Commission considered the work of EC EGAP and decided that a new field intercalibration of heavy metals in precipitation will be carried out in cooperation with ECE/EMEP, OSPARCOM and AMAP. Furthermore, the Commission decided on temporal arrangements concerning the division of responsibilities and work between EC EGAP and TC related to air emission inventories.

With regard to radioactive substances, the Commission took note of the progress in the work of EC MORS concerning, e.g., data collection, intercalibration exercises and the preparation of the joint evaluation report of the state of the radionuclides in the Baltic Sea, 1984-1991.

The Commission was informed about the **finalization** of the First Assessment of the State of the Coastal Waters of the Baltic Sea and considered the proposals and recommendations for future work. The Commission, at the level of Environment Ministers, decided, e.g., that an integrated monitoring programme for coastal areas of the Baltic Sea shall be elaborated and adopted.

With regard to the preparation of the Third Periodic Assessment, the Commission urged the Contracting Parties to provide the BMP data for the period 1989-1993 as soon as possible and to allocate additional funds for the work.

The Commission decided on several proposals aimed to improve the quality of the BMP data, inter alia, two ICES/HELCOM Workshops, one for pelagic parameters and one for zoobenthos, a joint microbiological cruise, a third training course on phytoplankton identification and a workshop on the revision of the Baltic Monitoring Programme.

With regard to nature conservation and biodiversity, the Commission endorsed the Guidelines for the Identification of Coastal Ecosystems Influenced by the Baltic Sea and their Inland Limits as an implementation of Article 15 of the 1992 Helsinki Convention and adopted two HELCOM Recommendations concerning protection of the coastal strip (HELCOM Recommendation 15/1) and concerning system of coastal and marine Baltic Sea Protected Areas (BSPA) (HELCOM Recommendation 15/5).

Matters related to to the Technological Committee (TC)

The Commission considered the report of the fourth meeting of the Technological Committee (TC), the substantive items of which are described in detail under chapter 1.3 of this report.

The Commission adopted HELCOM Recommendation 15/2 on Pollution Load Compilation (PLC-3) and endorsed the programmes associated with the Project, i.a., those related to quality assurance, data handling and preparation of emission inventories.

With regard to reduction of pollution from land-based sources, the Commission adopted HELCOM Recommendation 15/3 on measures aimed at reduction of discharges from marine fish farming.

The Commission **recognized** that several **pending** draft Recommendations, i.a., related to the paper mills, waste incinerators and municipal sewage treatment plants, require a resolution at the decision-making level. With reference to the Decisions taken by the Ministers at HELCOM 15, the Commission encouraged the Contracting Parties concerned to reconsider the controversial drafts in a constructive way with a view to reaching an agreement within the TC in 1994.

The Commission acknowledged that the delays in national considerations slow down the preparation of several technical Recommendations for priority branches (i.a., chemical industry, leather industry, **cokeries**, metal surface treatment and textile industry), and called for urgent improvement of national work within the TC and its subsidiary bodies.

The Commission was informed about cooperation between the TC and the HELCOM PITF in implementation of specific elements of the Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme.

Matters related to the Maritime Committee (MC)

The substantive items from the report of the 19th meeting of the Maritime Committee are described in detail under Chapter 1.4 of this publication.

The Commission was informed on the outcome of the fifth meeting of the ad hoc Working Group on Air Pollution from Ships (MC AIR), in particular that the Group had elaborate joint comments for consideration at IMO on the proposed new annex to MARPOL **73/78** on prevention of air pollution from ships and recognition of the Baltic Sea as a “Special Area” under this annex.

The Commission adopted HELCOM Recommendation **15/4** on additional maritime safety and pollution prevention measures in the Baltic Sea Area.

The Commission endorsed the decision of the Maritime Committee to reconvene the ad hoc Working Group on Reception Facilities in Ports (MC REFAC) with an aim to elaborate a Baltic Strategy on the use of reception facilities for ship-generated wastes.

The Commission endorsed also the decision of the Maritime Committee to convene an informal expert meeting to deal with matters related to strengthening of the cooperation in investigations of violations of anti-pollution regulations and bringing evidence to court.

Matters related to the Combatting Committee (CC)

The substantive items from the report of the 16th meeting of the Combatting Committee are described in detail under Chapter 1.5 of this publication.

The Commission was informed on the summary of national oil spill reports from the reporting period 1988-1992. The Commission was also informed that there have not **been** major oil spills during 1992-1993. Strong concentration of pollution along the Swedish coastline reflect the density of traffic as well as the intensified airborne surveillance with remote sensing equipment, which contributes to better information on observed spills in the western **Baltic** between Denmark, Germany and Sweden and off the eastern coast of Sweden. A comparison

of maps from 1988-1992 does not show significant deviations in the numbers of regional dissemination of oil spills.

The Commission endorsed the Committee's approval of the Guidelines for applying HELCOM Recommendation 1 1/13 on development of national ability to respond to spillages of oil and other harmful substances.

The Commission was informed that two joint aerial surveillance flights and one Coordinated Extended Pollution Control Operation (CEPCO) flight were carried out in the HELCOM context in 1993. During the CEPCO flight four pollution incidents were observed and two polluters were identified.

The Commission endorsed the Committee's decision to establish an Informal Working Group to elaborate a proposal for the revision of the HELCOM Combatting Manual.

Matters related to the HELCOM Programme Implementation Task Force (HELCOM PITF)

The substantive items of matters related to HELCOM PITF are described in detail under Chapter 1.6 of this publication.

The Commission, after having reviewed on Ministerial Level the Annual Report 1993 of HELCOM PITF, decided relating to HELCOM PITF in particular to urge all members and observers of HELCOM PITF to make every effort to further the implementation of the Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme (JCP) and to this end provide resources for environmental expenditures and consider further methods for mobilization of resources to accelerate work in all key elements of the Programme, HELCOM PITF members to make proper use of economic instruments which may serve as incentives to reduce pollution of marine environment as well as the Contracting Parties concerned to establish an appropriate legal and institutional framework for securing investments within the JCP.

Other activities of the Commission

The Commission prolonged the mandate of the ad hoc Working Group on Dumped Chemical Munition (HELCOM CHEMU) for one additional year with a task to follow and implement the substantial recommendations of the "Report on Chemical Munitions Dumped in the Baltic Sea". Denmark undertook to continue as Lead Country for the work of the Group.

The Commission considered the outcome of the "HELCOM Seminar for Experts from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia on the implementation of HELCOM arrangements, other international instruments and related matters" (Riga, Latvia, August/September 1993) and was of the opinion that the Seminar was an important initiative to provide the participants with a complete overview on the HELCOM activities. The Commission stressed that a possible future seminar should cover specific topics of particular interest in the countries in question. Furthermore, the Commission requested the Secretariat to publish the available seminar papers in the Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings.

Observers to the Commission

The Commission decided to apply the same rules for the future cooperation with all observer organizations, whether they are intergovernmental or non-governmental international organizations.

Observer status was granted for a temporary time period of two years to the international non-governmental organizations International Council for Local Environmental Governments (ICLEI), EURO CHLOR, Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC), Standing Conference of Rectors, Presidents and Vice-Chancellors of the European Universities (CRE) and European Union for Coastal Conservation (EUCC).

Administrative matters

The Commission established an ad hoc Working Group to review the activities, working structure and methods of the Commission with the aim at concentrating the joint and national resources on high-priority issues in a concerted and efficient way. The Working Group should report to the Contracting Parties before the end of 1994, in preparation of the 16th meeting of the Commission.

The Commission also approved proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure and the Staff Regulations of the Helsinki Commission.

* * *



HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 15/1

Adopted 8 March 1994
having regard to Article 13, Paragraph b)
of the Helsinki Convention

PROTECTION OF THE COASTAL STRIP

THE COMMISSION,

RECALLING Article 13 g of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea, 1974 Helsinki Convention,

NOTING Article 15 of the 1992 Helsinki Convention,

BEARING IN MIND the Baltic Sea Declaration (paragraph 14) given in Ronneby 1990 in which the Heads of Governments and High Political Representatives of the Baltic Sea States declared their firm determination to develop a comprehensive programme in Nature Conservation, *inter alia*, through the establishment of protected areas representing the various Baltic ecosystems and their flora and fauna and the emphasis given to Nature Conservation by the 14th Meeting of the Helsinki Commission and its request to speed up the work (HELCOM 14, paragraph 5.38),

RECALLING ALSO the Recommendations by the International Seminar on the Protection of Sensitive Areas, **Malmö**, Sweden, 25-28 September 1990, the International Seminar on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity in the Baltic Sea Region, **Runö**, Sweden, May 1991, the decisions taken at the UNCED conference in Rio de Janeiro 1993, particularly the convention concerning the conservation of biological diversity, signed by all Contracting Parties of the Helsinki Convention, and the Recommendations in "Agenda 21" for coastal nations,

BEING AWARE that natural coastal areas where land and sea meet are in a constant dynamic relation to each other and

- * are systems of great biological richness, variety and productivity;
- * form the habitats of highly **specialized** and often endangered species of wild fauna and flora as well as large populations of breeding and migratory birds;
- * are landscapes of great natural beauty;
- * are highly important for public recreation;

* are a natural resource which is becoming more and more scarce,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Recommendations of the Baltic Sea Regional Seminar in Nyköping, Sweden, 7-11 June 1993, concerning special legislation for the general protection of the coastal strip,

TAKING ALSO INTO ACCOUNT that in some Baltic countries a great part of the coast has remained practically untouched during the last 50 years and thus represents enormous ecological and aesthetic values,

BEING DEEPLY CONCERNED about the increasing pressure for commercial exploitation of the remaining natural coast particularly in countries in economic transition and countries with no legislation for the protection of the coast, and about the consequences this might have for the coastal environment and the biological diversity of the whole Baltic area,

APPRECIATING the measures already taken by several Baltic Sea States in order to protect the coastal strip,

BEING CONSCIOUS that urgent measures are required to stop further degradation of the natural coasts particularly in countries with no protective legislation,

RECOMMENDS to the Governments of the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention:

- a) that the Contracting Parties take all appropriate measures to ensure the protection of the coastal strip;
- b) that a generally protected coastal strip therefore be established outside urban areas and existing settlements, the width of which shall be determined by the nature and landscape values of the coast, extending at least 100 to 300 meters from the mean water line landwards and seawards;
- c) that in this protected coastal strip
 - * activities which would permanently change the nature and landscape such as extraction of soil and minerals, construction of buildings (except for buildings necessary for existing farming or fishing and saunas in connection with existing buildings), marinas, roads, camping grounds etc. not be allowed except when proved overwhelmingly in the public interest and when it is proved that no less sensitive site can be found;
 - * intensive forestry and intensive farming including drainage be restricted;
- d) that exceptions can be made from the provisions in points b)-c) by a land use plan approved and sanctioned by an appropriate authority;
- e) that a zone of at least 3 kilometres landwards from the mean water line be established as a coastal planning zone where major building development and other major permanent changes in nature and landscape be preceded by an appropriate land use plan, including environmental impact assessment, approved at least on regional level,

RECOMMENDS ALSO that actions be taken by the Contracting Parties as soon as possible and be reported to the Commission in 1996 and thereafter every 3 years,

RECOMMENDS FURTHER that the working group EC NATURE stays in contact with the Contracting Parties for information and cooperation in this matter.



HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 15/2

Adopted 9 March 1994
having regard to Article 13, Paragraph b)
of the Helsinki Convention

POLLUTION LOAD COMPILATION

THE COMMISSION,

RECALLING Paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, 1974 (Helsinki Convention), in which the Contracting Parties undertake to take all appropriate measures to control and minimize land-based pollution of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area,

NOTING the increasing concern on harmful effects of pollutants in the environment and that an essential amount of various contaminants is entering the Baltic Sea via rivers, from industrial and municipal sources as well as from non-point sources,

DESIRING to limit the pollution of the Baltic Sea from the land-based sources,

BEING MINDFUL of the need of reliable data on the waterborne load of pollutants to the Baltic Sea from land-based sources,

RECOMMENDS to the Governments of the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention that:

- a) the monitoring of the pollution load should be performed from 1 January 1995 to 31 December 1995 in accordance with the Guidelines for the Third Pollution Load Compilation (PLC-3) accepted by TC 4;
- b) data on pollution load collected in the year 1995 should be submitted by all the Contracting Parties to the Secretariat in accordance with the format developed by TC POLO as early as possible but not later than 1 July 1996,

RECOMMENDS FURTHER that the Contracting Parties participate in the Quality Assurance Exercises to be conducted during 1994 for the purposes of PLC-3,

DECIDES that the Report of the Third Pollution Load Compilation should be submitted to the Commission by the Technological Committee in 1998.



HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 15/3

Adopted 9 March 1994
having regard to Article 13, Paragraph b)
of the Helsinki Convention

MEASURES AIMED AT THE REDUCTION OF DISCHARGES FROM MARINE FISH FARMING

THE COMMISSION,

RECALLING Paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, 1974 (Helsinki Convention), in which the Contracting Parties undertake to take all appropriate measures to control and minimize land-based pollution of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area,

RECALLING ALSO Paragraphs 3 and 4 of Annex III to the Helsinki Convention, in which the Contracting Parties agree to minimize the polluting load of industrial wastes in an appropriate way,

HAVING REGARD to the Ministerial Declaration of 1988, to the Baltic Sea Declaration of 1990, and to the Baltic Sea Environmental Declaration of 1992, calling, *inter alia*, for a substantial reduction of the load of pollutants most harmful to the ecosystem of the Baltic Sea,

RECOGNIZING the importance of discharges, nutrients in particular, from marine fish farms as sources of pollution of the marine environment,

DESIRING to limit the pollution from the fish farms located in the Baltic Sea Area or at the coast, when discharging water directly to the Baltic Sea, by best environmental practice,

RECOMMENDS to the Governments of the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention that:

- a) plant operation, feeding methods and fish feed, which cause minimum nutrient discharges, should be used and developed;
- b) methods for sludge removal in fish farms should be developed and introduced, whenever appropriate, so as to decrease the nutrient and organic discharges;
- c) fish farming should be subject to permits or prior regulations by the competent authority or appropriate body in accordance with the following principles:

- (i) limits to phosphorus and/or nitrogen discharges should be given in permits or prior regulations. Limits might also be expressed as maximum amounts of phosphorus and/or nitrogen in feed or maximum allowable feed consumption, if the contents of the feed, nitrogen and phosphorus in particular, are fixed;
 - (ii) environmental impacts shall be evaluated as part of the authorization process for fish farms;
 - (iii) permits and regulations shall be reviewed at appropriate intervals;
- d) nutrient discharges from fish farms should not exceed the annual average of 10 g phosphorus (tot-P) and 80 g nitrogen (tot-N) per 1 kg fish produced;
- e) regional planning should be employed as an instrument for directing fish farming activities to suitable areas and mitigating conflicts between fish farming and other uses of the water area. Fish farms should not be placed in areas reserved for nature protection, if that might conflict with the aims of protection.

Sites of the fish farms should be selected and discharges from them restricted by means of objective environmental impact evaluation methods in accordance with the holding capacity of the water environment affected;

- f) the discharges from and the ecological effects of fish farms should be adequately supervised by competent authority or appropriate body e.g. by means of fish farm operation records, discharge calculations, monitoring and environmental impact models. The monitoring should focus on measuring reliably and cost-effectively the impacts of fish farming on the eutrophic status, oxygen depletion and the state of the sediments in the affected area;
- g) the use of bioactive chemicals at fish farms should be effectively controlled to minimize hazards to the environment. The transfer of fish and introduction of new species should be undertaken according to the recommendations of EIFAC and ICES thus avoiding the possible negative effects. If a species with an effective breeding size well over 1 000 individuals and reproducing naturally and residing in a stable, undisturbed habitat is cultured, the interaction between cultured and wild fish must be avoided to protect the locally adapted stock;
- h) wastes or waste waters resulting from the handling and processing of fish should be treated, disposed of and, when possible, utilized so as not to cause pollution of surface or ground waters,

RECOMMENDS ALSO that the objectives should be implemented before 1 January 1995,

RECOMMENDS FURTHER that the Contracting Parties should report to the Commission in 1997 and every three years thereafter.

Reporting Format for HELCOM Recommendation 15/3 concerning measures aimed at the reduction of discharges from marine fish farming

Country _____ Year _____

Sub-area ¹⁾ _____

1. Cultivated species and total annual production of each species, t/a
2. Number of fish farms, classified as
 - net cages or pens
 - floating basins or vessels
 - basins on shore discharging directly to the Baltic Sea
3. Total feed consumption, t/a, classified as
 - dry feed (dry matter more than 80%)
 - semimoist feed (dry matter 35-80%)
 - moist (fresh) feed (dry matter less than 35%)
4. Total and specific phosphorus discharges; tot-P t/a and tot-P g/kg fish produced
5. Total and specific nitrogen discharges; tot-N t/a and tot-N g/kg fish produced
6. Measures taken to assess the impacts of fish farms on the water environment and to set limits to maximum allowable discharges from fish farms as part of the authorization process (e.g. site selection surveys, water quality models, objectives and investigations, permit conditions and limit values)
7. Measures taken to supervise the discharges and environmental effects of fish farms (e.g. monitoring programmes and obligations, fish farm operation records, control visits, use of models).

Footnote:

¹⁾ Bothnian Bay, Bothnian Sea, Archipelago and Åland Sea, Gulf of Finland, Northern Baltic Proper, Western Gotland Basin, Gulf of Riga, Eastern Gotland Basin, Gdansk Basin, Bornholm Basin, Arkona Basin, Belt Sea, The Sound, Kattegat.



HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 15/4

Adopted 9 March 1994
having regard to Article 13, Paragraph b)
of the Helsinki Convention

ADDITIONAL MARITIME SAFETY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION MEASURES IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA

THE COMMISSION,

RECALLING Articles 3 and 7 and Annex IV of the Helsinki Convention,

RECALLING ALSO Paragraph 16 of the Baltic Sea Declaration adopted by the Baltic Sea Conference held in Ronneby, Sweden, 2-3 September 1990,

BEARING IN MIND the 1982 Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control,

NOTING IMO's Assembly Resolution A.720(17) on Guidelines for the Designation of Special Areas and the Identification of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas,

WELCOMING the initiative of IMO to establish a Sub-Committee on Flag State Implementation as a means of strengthening the enforcement of international regulations,

RECOGNIZING the need for additional measures on maritime safety and the prevention of pollution in the light of recent tanker casualties,

RECOMMENDS that the Governments of those Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention which have not yet done so, accede to the Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control either as full members or as cooperating parties to ensure a tight port state control network in the Baltic Sea Area in order to improve the protection of the marine environment and the safety of all ships travelling in it, irrespective of flag,

RECOMMENDS ALSO that the Governments of the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention which have identified particularly sensitive sea areas with a need of special protection, which can be achieved through routing schemes, areas to be avoided, or other requirements for shipping, communicate their findings to the Maritime Committee for further development of appropriate proposals to the IMO,

RECOMMENDS FURTHER that the Governments of the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention, actively participate in the work of **IMO's** Sub-Committee on Flag State Implementation, in order to promote effective and uniform implementation and enforcement of IMO regulations worldwide,

URGES the Governments of the Contracting Parties to ratify, as soon as possible, the Protocols of 1992 to the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage and Fund Convention.



HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 15/5

Adopted 10 March 1994
having regard to Article 13, Paragraph b)
of the Helsinki Convention

SYSTEM OF COASTAL AND MARINE BALTIC SEA PROTECTED AREAS (BSPA)

THE COMMISSION,

RECALLING Article 13 g of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea, 1974 Helsinki Convention,

NOTING Article 15 of the 1992 Helsinki Convention,

BEARING IN MIND the Baltic Sea Declaration (paragraph 14) given in Ronneby 1990 in which the Heads of Governments and High Political Representatives of the Baltic Sea States declared their firm determination to develop a comprehensive programme in Nature Conservation, *inter alia*, through the establishment of protected areas representing the various Baltic ecosystems and their flora and fauna and the emphasis given to Nature Conservation by the 14th Meeting of the Helsinki Commission and its request to speed up the work (HELCOM 14, paragraph 5.38),

RECALLING ALSO the Recommendations by the International Seminar on the Protection of Sensitive Areas, Malmö, Sweden, 25-28 September 1990, the International Seminar on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity in the Baltic Sea Region, Runö, Sweden, May 1991, the decisions taken at the UNCED conference in Rio de Janeiro 1993, particularly the convention concerning the conservation of biological diversity, signed by all Contracting Parties of the Helsinki Convention, and the Recommendations in "Agenda 21" for coastal nations,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the conclusions and Recommendations from the Baltic Sea Regional Seminar, Nyköping, Sweden, 7-11 June 1993 concerning the protection and effective management of coastal and marine protected areas,

BEING AWARE of the fact that the Baltic Sea contains a large number of unique ecosystems, biotopes and species of great natural value,

BEING DEEPLY CONCERNED about the deterioration of the coastal and marine areas and the very poor water quality in some areas brought about by different kinds of human activities which in several respects are increasing due to the political changes in Eastern Europe,

APPRECIATING the measures already been taken by several Baltic Sea countries in order to protect coastal and marine areas,

RECOGNIZING that the establishment of protected marine and coastal areas is seriously lagging behind similar efforts in the terrestrial environment, that existing protected areas are generally few and small, and that their degree of protection is mostly not very high according to the IUCN categories,

ALSO RECOGNIZING the need of a system of selected reference areas throughout the Baltic Sea region where integrated biological monitoring can be carried out,

DESIRING to protect representative ecosystems of the Baltic as well as to guarantee sustainable use of natural resources as an important contribution to ensure ample provident protection of environment and of biodiversity,

RECOMMENDS to the Governments of the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention:

- a) that the Contracting Parties take all appropriate measures to establish a system of Coastal and Marine Baltic Sea Protected Areas (BSPA). The areas listed in the **Attachment**, and preliminarily described in Annex 17 to the report of EC 4, are recommended as a first step in establishing such a system. The definite borderlines of the areas will be defined by the countries concerned as soon as possible. The size of such areas shall preferably be more than 1 000 hectares,
- b) that this system of BSPA's be gradually developed as new knowledge and information becomes available. Special attention shall be paid to including additional coastal terrestrial areas and to including marine areas outside the territorial waters. To reach this aim the Contracting Parties shall jointly and individually take all necessary steps. Appropriate guidelines for the selection of further areas shall be elaborated by the expert working group EC NATURE incorporating IMO's guidelines for the designation of "Particularly Sensitive Areas";
- c) that before any decisions are made which could lead to major reductions in size, management quality or protection status of a BSPA that is already notified to HELCOM, the Commission shall be notified and be invited within 6 months to express its opinion on the proposed changes;
- d) that management plans be established for each BSPA to ensure nature protection and sustainable use of natural resources. These management plans shall consider all possible negatively affecting activities, such as extraction of sand, stone and gravel; oil and gas exploration and exploitation; dumping of solid waste and dredged spoils; constructions; waste water from industry, municipalities and households; intensive agriculture and intensive forestry; aquaculture; harmful fishing practices; tourism; transport of hazardous substances by ship through these areas; military activities. In some areas a zoning system will be an appropriate means to facilitate the achievement of satisfactory protection. Appropriate guidelines for making such management plans shall be elaborated by the working group EC NATURE incorporating corresponding guidelines of IUCN;

e) that a monitoring programme be incorporated into the management plans in an appropriate number of these areas including at least monitoring of biological, physical and chemical parameters. The monitoring programme shall be integrated within the Baltic Monitoring Programme of HELCOM,

RECOMMENDS ALSO that the Contracting Parties report to the Commission on the state of establishment and management of the **BSPA's** in 1996 and thereafter every 3 years,

FURTHER RECOMMENDS that the working group EC NATURE stays in contact with the Contracting Parties for information and cooperation in this matter.

HELCOM Recommendation 15/5
Attachment

**COASTAL AND MARINE AREAS (totally 62 areas)
proposed for the system of Baltic Sea Protected Areas (BSPA)**

Denmark

- * Bomholm
 - Davids Banke / **Hammeren** to the north
 - Ertholmene to the north-east
 - Dueodde / Salthammer Rev to the south
- * Adler Grund
- * Smalandsfarvandet
 - North-western Smalandsfarvandet
 - North-eastern Smalandsfarvandet
 - Southern Smalandsfarvandet
- * Waters around Saltholm
- * Stavns Fjord and adjacent waters
- * Waters around **Hesselø**
- * Store Middelgrund
- * Randers Fjord and neighbouring waters
- * Waters around **Laesø**
- * Waters around Hirsholmene
- * **Laesø** Trindel / **Tønneberg** Banke / Kummel Banke
- * Hertha's Flak

Estonia

- * Lahemaa National Park
- * Matsalu Nature Reserve
- * Kopu Peninsula on Hiiumaa
- * Vilsandi Nature Reserve
- * Hiiumaa Islets
- * Harilaid

Finland / Åland

- * Bothnian Bay National Park
- * Outer Bothnian Threshold Archipelago (The Quark)
- * **Oura** Archipelago
- * Uusikaupunki Archipelago
- * Southern Archipelago Sea
- * Tammisaari Archipelago - Hankoniemi - Pojo Bay
- * Eastern Gulf of Finland National Park
- * **Åland** Area: **Signilskär** / Market

Germany

- * Strelasund Sound / Greifswald Lagoon / Isle Greifswalder Oie / Odra Mouth Area
- * Jasmund National Park
- * Vorpommern Lagoon Area / waters around Westrügen
- * Wismar Bight / Salzhaff Area
- * Graswarder-Westcoast of Fehmarn incl. Flügger Sand
- * Part of Hohwacht Bay with Lagoons
- * Oehe Schleimünde with shallow waters
- * Geltinger Birk and Noor incl. Kalkgrund

Latvia

- * Northern Vidzeme Region Nature Protection Complex: Coastal section Dzeni-Ainazi
- * Kaltene / Engure Area
- * Lielirbe / Kolka Area
- * Pape / Perkone Area

Lithuania

- * Kursiu nerija (Curonian Spit)
- * Pajuris Regional Park
- * Nemunas Delta Regional Park

Poland

- * Vistula Spit Landscape Park (Park Krajobrazowy Mierzeja Wislana) including surrounding water areas
- * Redlowo Reserve (Kępa Redłowska) including surrounding water areas
- * Nadmorski Landscape Park (Nadmorski Park Krajobrazowy) including surrounding water areas
- * Slowinsky National Park (Slowinski Park Narodowy) including surrounding water areas
- * Wolinski National Park (Wolinski Park Narodowy) including surrounding water areas

Russia

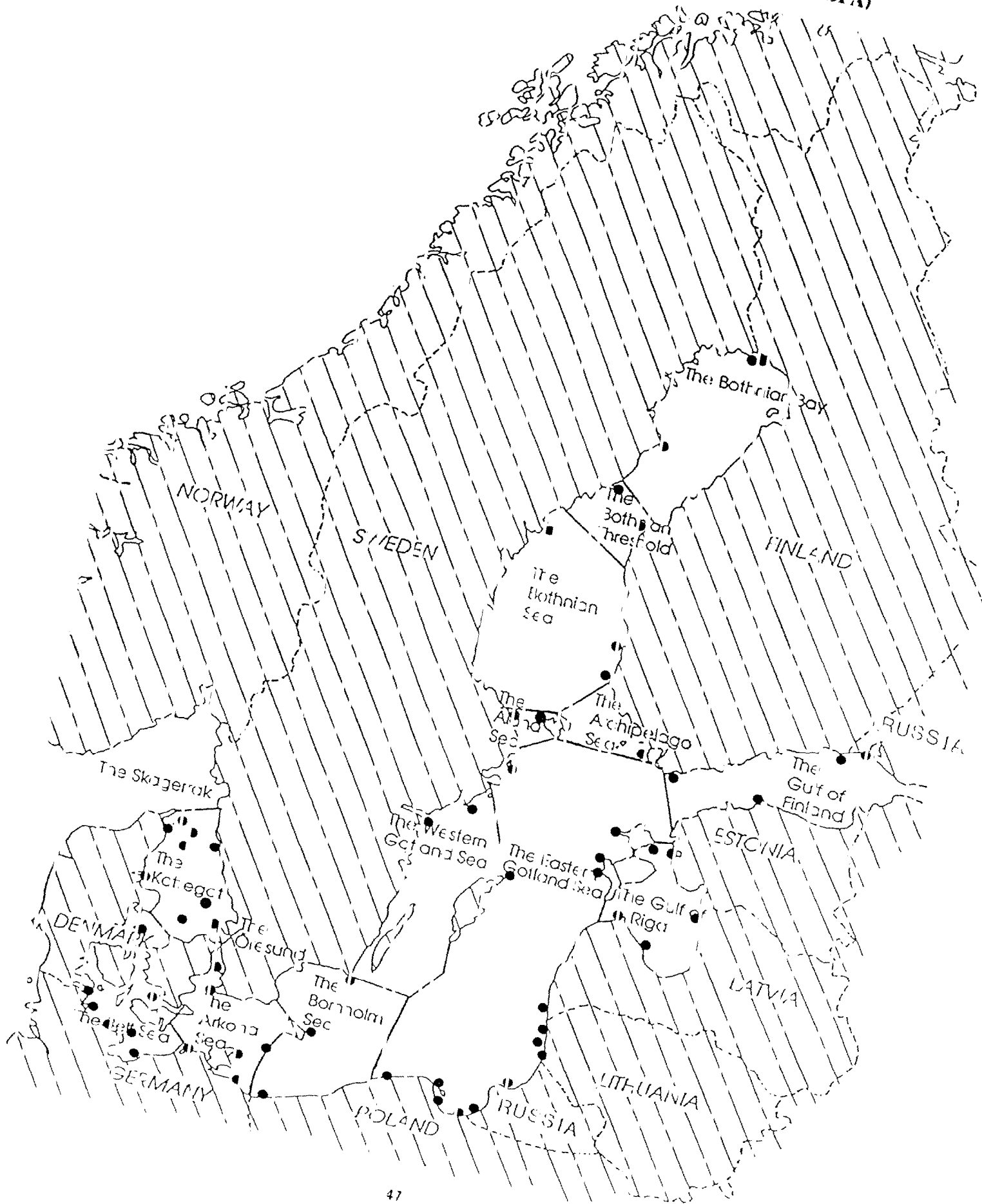
- * Gulf of Finland National Park (Russian Part)
- * Curonian Spit State National Park
- * Vistula Spit Landscape Park

Sweden

- * Haparanda Archipelago
- * **Bjuröklubbs** Area
- * **Holmö** Islands
- * **Trysunda / Ullånger / Ulvöarna / Ulvö** Depth
- * **Gräsö / Singö** - Archipelago
- * **Storö/Bockö / St. Nassa / Sv. Högarna / Sv. Björn**
- * **Landsort / Hartsö / Askö / Landsort** Deep
- * **St. Anna / Missjö** Archipelago
- * **Kopparstenarna / Gotska Sandön / Salvorev** Area
- * Torhamns Archipelago
- * Falsterbo Peninsula with **Måkläppen**
- * Kullaberg
- * Nidingen / **Sönnerbergen / Mönster**



COASTAL AND MARINE AREAS
of the system of Baltic Sea Protected Areas (BSPA)



LIST OF MEETINGS, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
THE HELSINKI COMMISSION
AS AGREED BY THE 15th MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

15-17 March 1994 Helsinki, Finland	First Meeting of the Benthic Biology expert group of the Third Periodic Assessment
16-17 March 1994 Oulu, Finland	Operational combatting exercise under ice conditions
21-25 March 1994 Hamburg, Germany	Workshop for the Preparation of the Joint Evaluation Report on the Radioactivity in the Baltic Sea 1984-1991
23-25 March 1994 Kiel, Germany	HELCOM/ICES Workshop on Quality Assurance of Biological Measurements - Benthic Parameters
6-7 April 1994 Tallinn, Estonia	First meeting of the <u>ad hoc</u> Expert Group on Matters Related to Harmful Substances (TC CHEM 1)
8 April 1994 Turku, Finland	Meeting of the HELCOM PITF drafting group on new models of financial assistance
11-14 April 1994 Helsinki, Finland	Second Meeting of the Steering Group for the Coordination of the Third Periodic Assessment (EC BETA 2)
12-13 April 1994 Gdansk, Poland	First Meeting of the HELCOM PITF Working Group on Public Awareness and Environmental Education (HELCOM PITF PA & EE 1)
12-14 April 1994 Warnemiinde, Germany	HELCOM/ICES Workshop on Quality Assurance of Biological Measurements - Pelagic Parameters
14 April 1994 Warnemiinde, Germany	Meeting of the <u>ad hoc</u> Working Group on Biological Quality Assurance / ICES Steering Group on Quality Assurance of Biological Measurements in the Baltic Sea
18-20 April 1994 Wilhelmshafen, Germany	Second Meeting of the HELCOM PITF Working Group on Management Programmes for Coastal Lagoons and Wetlands (HELCOM PITF MLW 2)
18-22 April 1994 Rostock-Warnemünde, Germany	Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Inputs from Diffuse Sources (TC DIFF 4)

25-26 April 1994 Charlottenlund, Denmark	Meeting of the <u>ad hoc</u> Working Group on Chemical Quality Assurance / ICES Steering Group on Quality Assurance of Chemical Measurements in the Baltic Sea
26 April 1994 Charlottenlund, Denmark	Meeting of the <u>ad hoc</u> Working Group on Baltic Sea Sediment Baseline Study / ICES Steering Group for the Coordination of the Baseline Study on Contaminants in Baltic Sediments
26-27 April 1994 Hamburg, Germany	Meeting of EC- and TC-Chairmen and Chairmen/Conveners of the working groups of EC and TC
2-6 May 1994 Copenhagen, Denmark	Workshop to outline a revised BMP and Guidelines, including coastal monitoring
9-13 May 1994 Sopot, Poland	Fourth Meeting of the Working Group of Discharges and Emissions from Point Sources (TC POINT 4)
13-15 May 1994 Hamburg, Germany	Informal Expert Meeting on Strengthening the Cooperation in Investigation of Violations of Anti-pollution Regulations and on Bringing Evidence to Court
17-19 May 1994 Helsinki, Finland	Meeting of the <u>ad hoc</u> Working Group on Reception Facilities in Ports (MC REFAC)
17-19 May 1994 Nyköping, Sweden	Fourth Meeting of the Programme Implementation Task Force (HELCOM PITF 4)
18-19 May 1994 Riga, Latvia	Meeting of the <u>ad hoc</u> Working Group on Coastal Monitoring
30 May - 3 June 1994 Helsinki, Finland	Ninth Meeting of the Group of Experts on Monitoring of Radioactive Substances in the Baltic Sea (EC MORS 9), the first day being a seminar day on "Internal and External quality assurance, and preliminary review of MOSSIE data"
7-8 June 1994 Helsinki, Finland	Meeting of the <u>ad hoc</u> Working Group to review the activities, working structure and methods of the Commission
13 June 1994 Helsinki, Finland	Meeting of technical experts of the Basic Geographic Information of the Baltic Drainage Basin (BGIS) Project
19-22 June 1994 Tvärminne, Finland	Fourth Meeting of the Working Group EC-Nature (EC NAT 4)
3-4 August 1994 Karlskrona, Sweden	Meeting of the Informal Working Group on Revision of the HELCOM Combatting Manual (CC MANUREV)
15-26 August 1994 Kiel, Germany	Joint multinational microbiological cruise

17-19 August 1994 Helsinki, Finland	Meeting of the <u>ad hoc</u> Working Group to review the activities, working structure and methods of the Commission
29 August - 2 September 1994 Hel, Poland	Third Phytoplankton Identification Course
August 1994 Kiel , Germany	Meeting of the <u>ad hoc</u> Working Group on Microbiology and Microbiological intercomparison exercise
Early autumn 1994 Helsinki, Finland	Seminar on the presentation and consideration of financial questions of the Basic Geographic Information of the Baltic Drainage Basin (BGIS) Project
Autumn 1994 Helsinki, Finland	Training Workshop on Data Entry System for Pollution Load Compilation
Beginning of September 1994 Poland	Third Meeting of the HELCOM PITF Working Group on Management Programmes for Coastal Lagoons and Wetlands (HELCOM PITF MLW 3)
12-16 September 1994 Berlin, Germany	Eleventh Meeting of the Group of Experts on Airborne Pollution of the Baltic Sea Area (EC EGAP 11)
12-16 September 1994 Berlin, Germany	Second meeting of the Expert Group on Pollution Load (TC POLO 2)
13 September 1994 Berlin, Germany	Joint meeting of EC EGAP / TC POLO on air emission inventories
27-30 September 1994 Tallinn, Estonia	20th Meeting of the Maritime Committee (MC 20)
Second half of September 1994 Helsinki, Finland	Workshop on the results of Interlaboratory Comparison Tests
10-14 October 1994 Sweden	Fifth Meeting of the Environment Committee (EC 5)
30 October 1994 London, UK	BMCM in conjunction with MEPC 36
31 October - 4 November 1994 Copen hagen, Denmark	Fifth Meeting of the Technological Committee (TC 5)
7- 11 November 1994 Helsinki, Finland	18th Meeting of the Combatting Committee (CC 18)

16-18 November 1994 Helsinki, Finland	Meeting of the <u>ad hoc</u> Working Group to review the activities, working structure and methods of the Commission
23-25 November 1994	Fifth Meeting of the Programme Implementation Task Force (HELCOM PITF 5)
14-17 March 1995 Helsinki, Finland	16th meeting of the Helsinki Commission
12-15 March 1996 Helsinki, Finland	17th meeting of the Helsinki Commission