

HELCOM Stakeholder Conference
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Sub-regional risk of spill of oil and hazardous substances in the Baltic Sea



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Baltic Sea Region
Programme 2007-2013

HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan

The 2007 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting adopted new HELCOM Recommendation 28E/12
Strengthening of sub-regional co-operation in response field

According to it, HELCOM Contracting Parties are to assess the risk of oil and chemical pollution and review emergency and response resources on sub-regional basis in order **to ensure sufficient resources to effectively respond to "medium size" pollution or to control a large scale pollution of the sea**



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Existing emergency and response capacity

- Around 30 emergency tugs with bollard pull of 50 or more tonnes
- More than 45 sea-going response vessels
- New vessels to be built in coming years
- Satellite and aerial surveillance
- Oil drift forecasting tools (HELCOM Seatrack Web)



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- Strategic Project

BRISK - Sub-regional risk of spill of oil and hazardous substances in the Baltic Sea

- Initiated to implement the HELCOM BSAP and HELCOM Recommendation 28E/12 on strengthening of sub-regional co-operation in response field
- Aims at developing an appropriate level of preparedness in the whole Baltic Sea area to tackle major accidental spills
- Launched in January 2009 under the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013
- BRISK is a response of governments around the Baltic to increasing risk of accidental pollution from shipping



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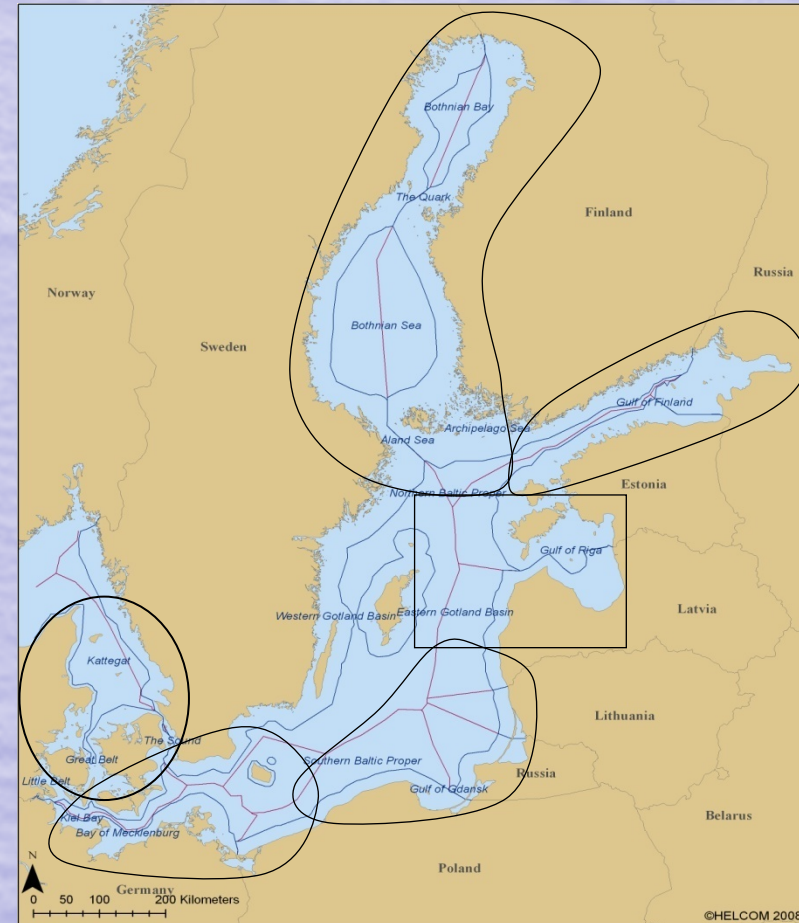


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BRISK - implementation area

6 response sub-regions:

- Gulf of Bothnia – FI, SE
- Gulf of Finland – FI, RU, EST
- Northern part of the Baltic Proper – EST, SE, LV
- South-eastern part of the Baltic Proper – LT, LV, RU, PL
- South western Baltic Proper and the Pomeranian Gulf – DK, DE, PL, SE
- Sound and Kattegat – DK, SE



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BRISK – main activities

Risk assessment

Based on a common methodology a **comprehensive Baltic-wide analysis** will be done:

- to assess likelihood of shipping accidents in six sub-regions, covering all transboundary maritime areas in the Baltic
- to check whether the existing emergency and response capacities in each sub-region of the Baltic are sufficient to tackle medium-size and large spills
- Risk assessment will cover spills of oil and hazardous substances
- No such an overall risk assessment for the Baltic has been done so far



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BRISK – main activities

Identification of needed resources

- Missing resources will be identified in order to prepare for investment plans on how the Baltic Sea countries should jointly fill in the identified gaps
- Actions will be taken to facilitate and speed up the process of developing and concluding sub-regional agreements between neighbouring countries for joint response operations



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BRISK – Project arrangements

Lead Country: Denmark (Admiral Danish Fleet HQ)

Other project partners:

- HELCOM, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden

Budget:

- 3.310 mil. EUR (EUR 2.5 million to be allocated from the European Regional Development Fund)

Timeframe:

- 3 years – until mid-2011



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What can we expect from **BRISK**?

- ✓ Risk assessments to enable informing societies around the Baltic in a reliable, professional and factual way about the pollution risks their regions are facing from shipping
- ✓ Information for decision-makers about the resources needed to be able to tackle major pollution in the Baltic
- ✓ Cost-efficiency – countries will “share” their resources to build a common pool of response vessels and equipment sufficient for a given sub-region
- ✓ Balance between heavy investments in response resources and further measures to improve safety of navigation



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Thank you!

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Adopted HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan is available from
www.helcom.fi



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