







Our aims




Envisioned project products and deliverables

-  Consolidation and development of indicators (biodiversity, litter and noise)
-  Expertise gap filling (e.g. pelagic habitats, foodwebs)
-  Support for assessments
-  Further development of economic and social analyses
-  Further development of assessment tools and methods
-  Establishing and improving data flows

Key outcomes

- 
New and improved methodology for assessments and indicators
- 
Improved assessments of the Baltic Sea
- 
Improved and new indicators

Links to other processes

-  **HOLAS III**
Third Holistic Assessment of the State of the Baltic Sea (HOLAS III)
-  **BSAP**
Support for implementing and follow up of the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP)
-  **MSFD**
Support for national work related to reporting under Articles 8 and 13 of the MSFD

Project partners

Abbreviation	Full Name
AAPC	Center for Environmental Policy
HELCOM	Helsinki Commission
IfW	Kiel Institute for the World Economy
LIAE/LHEI	Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology
LUKE	Natural Resources Institute Finland
SLU	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
SMHI	Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute
SU	Stockholm University
SwAM/HaV	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management
SYKE	Finnish Environment Institute
TalTech	Tallinn University of Technology
TiHo	University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover
UHAM-CEN	Center for Earth System Research and Sustainability, University of Hamburg
UT	University of Tartu

Sub-contractors

AKTiVS	AKTiVS Ltd
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
GAR	Gavia EcoResearch
QO	Quiet-Oceans
MZ	Meereszoologie
KST/HSR	Keep Sweden Tidy
NRM	Swedish Natural History Museum

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 **#HELCOMBLUES**

HELCOM BLUES

HELCOM biodiversity, litter, underwater noise and effective regional measures for the Baltic Sea



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HELCOM BLUES main activities: what we are doing for a healthy Baltic Sea



Effectiveness and measures Analyses to support effective regional measures

- Description of the improved assessment framework for sufficiency, effectiveness and economic impacts of measures
- Data for assessing the effectiveness and costs of regionally coordinated actions
- Literature review on marine valuation studies
- Improved approach for assessing regional benefits
- Regional benefit estimates of achieving good environmental status
- Results of regional analyses of the use of marine waters and cost of degradation
- Results for the improved sufficiency and effectiveness of measures analysis
- Approach for and results of a regional cost-benefit analysis of achieving good environmental status for 1-2 environmental topics
- Description of incentives and regulations around the Baltic Sea countries to mitigate nutrient loading



Biodiversity Improved regional assessment of biodiversity

- Regional bycatch risk maps and corresponding confidence evaluation for key species
- Test cases evaluations for bycatch
- Improved state indicator assessment for bycatch
- Application of an improved methodology for state assessment for non-commercial fish
- Application of size-based assessment for key fish species and interim threshold values
- Operational indicators for zooplankton and phytoplankton, including threshold values and Pan-Baltic coverage
- Approach for a more informative and integrated assessment of pelagic habitats
- Improved harmonisation between HELCOM and OSPAR, assessment of trends in abundance of the Belt Sea harbour porpoise population
- Belt Sea harbour porpoise population trend in abundance evaluation
- Expert-based qualitative assessments of abundance and distribution of the harbour porpoise Baltic Proper population
- Adaptation of BEAT assessment flow to include new approved indicators
- Review of food web assessment approaches and summary of knowledge on the Baltic Sea
- Test application of adapted BEAT assessment flows to address food webs



Marine litter Support for, and harmonisation of, regional work on MSFD Descriptor 10 (marine litter)

- HELCOM beach litter data compatible with EU coding
- An overview of the effectiveness of EU regulations and actions within the HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter
- Beach litter assessment
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for monitoring microlitter in seabed and seabed sediment and water samples
- Survey and dataset for consideration to calculate baseline and threshold values for microlitter



Underwater noise Support for, and harmonisation of, regional work on MSFD Descriptor 11 (underwater noise)

- New soundscape maps
- Quantitative continuous noise assessment for HOLAS III
- Improve calibration standards for monitoring of continuous noise
- Quantitative impulsive noise assessment for HOLAS III

