



Activity 3:
A3 – Support for and harmonisation of regional work on Descriptor 10 (marine litter)



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HELCOM BLUES – Activity 3

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Universität Hamburg
DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

CENTRUM
FÜR ERDSYSTEMFORSCHUNG
UND NACHHALTIGKEIT (CEN)

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Overview of Task A3.1 - beach litter

Task	Expected results and deliverable
Task 3.1 Beach litter Subtask 3.1.1	Translation of historical litter data
Task 3.1 Beach litter Subtask 3.1.2	Execute assessment of beach litter





Results A3.1.1

Aim: Translation of historical litter data

- Harmonisation of data for assessment in HOLAS3
A “Common list of beach litter” was developed

	A	B	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M		
1	Materials	Common name	Reporting id HELCOM	J-Code	G-Code	OSPAR	Denmark	Germany MV	Germany SH	MARLIN	SUP/Fishing gear	Name (according to the J-list)	Definition (according to the J-list)	
2	Plastic	Plastic six-pack rings	R1	J1	G1	1	1	1	1	PL05	SUP	plastic 4/6-pack yokes & six-pack rings	Four or six-pack rings or yokes a particularly of drinks cans, to ho	
3		Plastic bags	R2	J3	G2/G3	2	2	2	2	PL07	SUP	plastic shopping/carrier/grocery bags	Shopping bags are medium-sized versions exist, especially for non purchases. Shopping bags can be small plastic bags refer to small-	
4			R2	J4	G4	3	3	3	3	PL07	SUP	small plastic bags		
5			R2	J5	G5	112	112	112	112			SUP	the part that remains from tear-off plastic bags	Plastic packing bags are common the part that remains after tearing
6			R2	J101	G101	121	121	121	121	PL07			plastic dog/pet faeces bag	A plastic bag used for picking up
7			Plastic bottles	R3	J7	G6/G7	4	4	4	4	PL02	SUP	plastic drink bottles ≤ 0.5 l	Plastic bottles and containers with for consumption.
8		R3		J8	G8	4	4	4	4	PL02	SUP	plastic drink bottles >0.5 l	Plastic bottles and containers with for consumption.	
9		R3		J9	G9	5	5	5	5	PL02			plastic bottles and containers of cleaning products plastic beach use related body care and cosmetic	Bottles and containers of cleaning Bottles and containers of body c





Results A3.1.2

Aim: Execute assessment of beach litter (2016-2021)

- Assessment of total count of litter, plastic, single use plastic and fishing related litter items
- Median values for total count of litter were compared with the HELCOM threshold value of 20 litter items per 100 m coastline
- Trend analyses for the assessment period
- A top-ten list of litter items for the entire Baltic Sea








Beach litter

GES

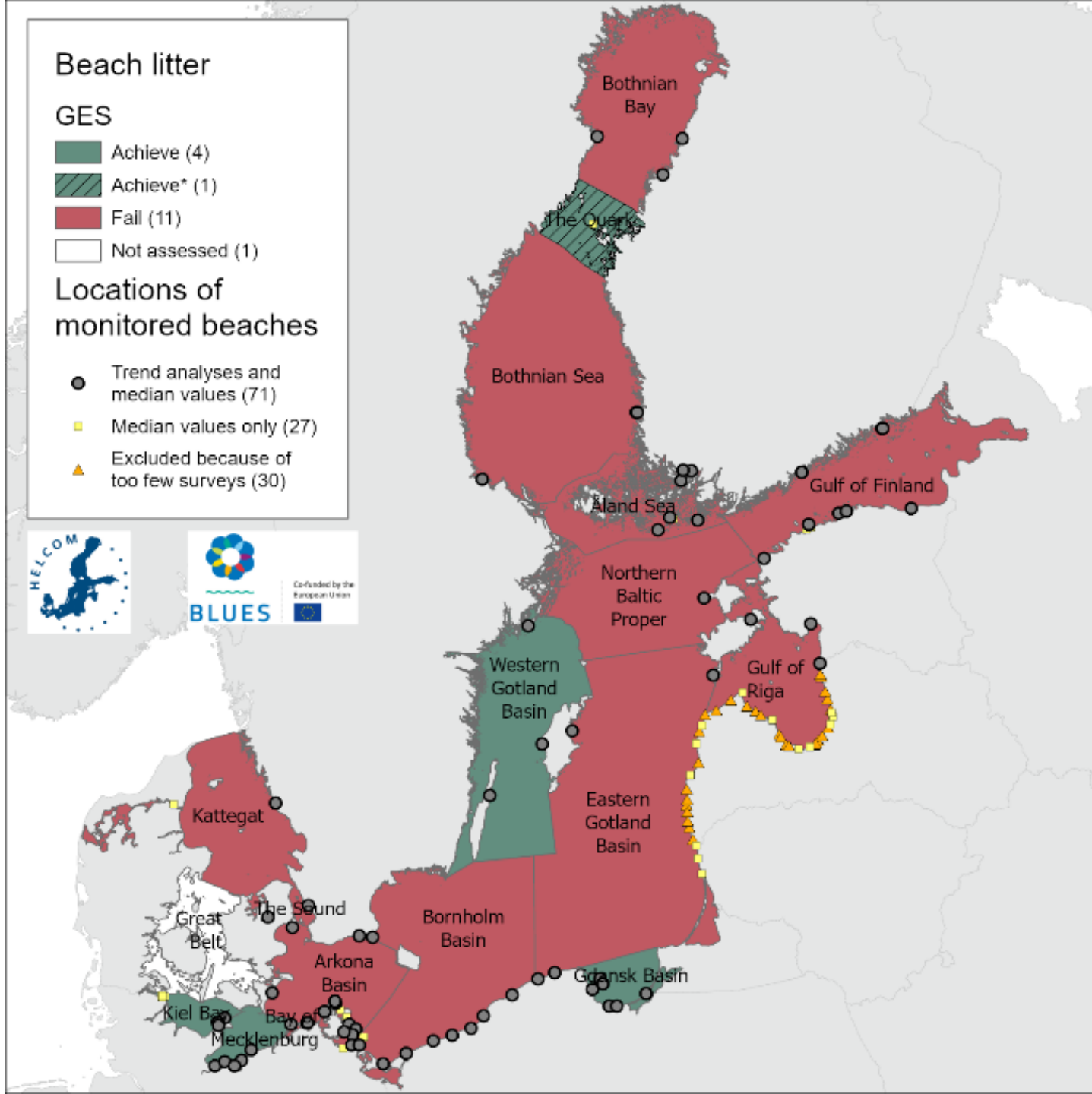
-  Achieve (4)
-  Achieve* (1)
-  Fall (11)
-  Not assessed (1)

Locations of monitored beaches

-  Trend analyses and median values (71)
-  Median values only (27)
-  Excluded because of too few surveys (30)



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Results for single-use plastics (SUP) and fisheries related litter (FRL)

- Medians of SUP litter items varies between 0-26 per 100 m beach and subbasin
- SUP litter items appears to be a driving force in the time trends
- For the significant trend results, only Gdansk basin shows an upward trend

- Medians of FRL items varies between 0-20 per 100 m beach and subbasin
- The significant trends for FRL items are going:
 - downwards (the Arkona Basin, and the Eastern Gotland Basin),
 - upwards (the Gdansk Basin and the Bothnian Sea),
 - the Bornholm Basin has a stable level





Top-ten beach litter categories 2016-2021

Rank	Litter categories
1	Various plastic items and fragments >2,5 cm
2	Plastic packaging for food and beverage
3	Plastic bags
4	Plastic caps and lids
5	Other glass and ceramics
6	Plastic six-pack rings
7	Ropes, strings, and cords
8	Paper excluding newspaper and magazines
9	Plastic syringes
10	Plastic bottles





Key messages

- Key messages for **science** and **policy makers**
 - 1) Further work on harmonisation of beach litter protocols is key
 - 2) Better geographical coverage with improving monitoring efforts to evaluate the effect of actions against marine litter is important
 - 3) More attention is needed to how the subbasins assessments are influenced by types of included monitoring beaches, e.g. remote vs urban/semi-urban beaches
 - 4) More research on identifying sources of litter is needed
 - 5) Resources are needed for expanded monitoring programmes and research on sources and impacts
 - 6) Further work on actions against marine litter is required to reach good environmental status in the Baltic Sea





Use of results so far and in future

- HELCOM → core indicator and dedicate section of the HOLAS3 assessment as part of the pollution theme
- BSAP → contribution to the implementation of action HL32 on the further development of core indicators on marine litter
- MSFD → reporting on D10; art. 8; for those HELCOM countries being EU MS
- EU processes → cooperation and communication with EU TG Litter during the BLUES project lifetime





Data for beach litter A3.1

This work was possible due to support from

- HELCOM Secretariat: HELCOM Blues, Activity 5.3 (Joni Kaitaranta)
- EMODnet database and additional national data providers

- Jakob Strand, co-lead for beach litter in HELCOM EG ML

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Outputs

- Indicator report on macrolitter on beaches, March 2023
- A Common litter item list for beach litter, included in the Indicator report
- Thematic assessment input for HOLAS3, 2023





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Thank you!!



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