



## HELCOM Recommendation 37-38/1-Rev.1

This Recommendation supersedes HELCOM Recommendation 26/2 and HELCOM Recommendation 37-38/1

Adopted 16 June 2016 and  
amended 7 August 2022  
having regard to Article 20, Paragraph 1 b)  
of the Helsinki Convention

### **WATERBORNE POLLUTION INPUT ASSESSMENT (PLC-WATER)**

#### **THE COMMISSION,**

**RECALLING** Paragraph 1 of Article 3 of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, 1992 (Helsinki Convention), in which the Contracting Parties agreed to undertake measures to prevent and eliminate pollution in order to promote the ecological restoration of the Baltic Sea Area, as well as Article 5 to prevent and eliminate pollution of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea caused by harmful substances from all sources,

**RECALLING ALSO** Paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Helsinki Convention, in which the Contracting Parties agreed to undertake, *i.a.*, to co-operate in the development and adoption of specific programmes concerning emissions and inputs to water of harmful substances,

**RECALLING FURTHER** Paragraph 2 of Article 16 of the Convention, in which the Contracting Parties agreed to undertake to provide, emission data or on environmental quality, as far as available which also includes pollution input data,

**RECALLING FURTHERMORE** Paragraph 5 of Article 3 of the Convention, in which the Contracting Parties agreed to undertake to ensure that measurements and calculations of emissions and inputs to water are carried out in a scientifically appropriate manner in order to assess the state of the marine environment and ascertain the implementation of the Convention,

**NOTING** the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive concerning monitoring and reporting of discharges from point sources and losses from diffuse sources of nutrients and hazardous substances,

**NOTING ALSO** the need arising from the requirements of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive to provide information for an assessment of the environmental status and for an estimate of the distance from, and progress towards, good environmental status, which requires to minimize human-induced eutrophication and to lower concentrations of contaminants to levels not giving rise to pollution effects,

**NOTING FURTHER** the requirements of the Water Code of the Russian Federation, Federal Law of Russian Federation on Environment Protection and subordinated legal acts regarding monitoring of water quality,

**ACKNOWLEDGING** in implementation of the regional nutrient input targets established in the Baltic Sea Action

Plan, adopted at the 2021 HELCOM Lübeck Ministerial Meeting,

**RECALLING** the commitment of the Baltic Sea Action Plan to identify priority contaminants, quantify their inputs and regional sources, and develop effective national or regional measures to achieve a Baltic Sea unaffected by hazardous substances,

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** the requirements of the HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy implying a six-year monitoring and assessment cycle,

**NOTING** the continuing concern on harmful effects of pollutants in the environment and that a significant amount of various contaminants is entering the Baltic Sea via rivers and direct discharges, from industrial and municipal sources as well as from non-point sources in the whole Baltic Sea catchment area,

**DESIRING** to obtain a reliable assessment of the waterborne input of pollutants entering the Baltic Sea from the land-based sources for the concerted action to limit the pollution of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area,

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

- a) the pollution input assessment should be carried out and reported in accordance with the PLC-Water Guidelines<sup>1</sup> Input Assessment;
- b) the Guidelines should be regularly evaluated and updated by experts to meet the topical requirements and adopted by the responsible subsidiary body of HELCOM;
- c) the quantified waterborne total inputs (from rivers, unmonitored areas as well as point sources discharging directly to the Baltic Sea) of nutrients and hazardous substances are reported to HELCOM annually. This includes quantification of the transboundary waterborne inputs according to the PLC-Water Guidelines;
- d) the quantified total waterborne input specified in c) and other relevant information as specified in the PLC-Water Guidelines should be submitted by all Contracting Parties in accordance with the format and deadline given in the PLC-Water Guidelines;
- e) the following data and information are reported to HELCOM every sixth year unless decided otherwise in HELCOM: quantified waterborne discharges from point sources and losses from diffuse pollution sources as well as the quantified natural background losses into inland surface waters within the catchment area of the Baltic Sea. The reporting includes quantification of the transboundary waterborne inputs together with other relevant information related to these inputs as specified in the PLC-Water Guidelines;
- f) the information specified in e) should be reported by all Contracting Parties in accordance with the format and deadline given in the PLC-Water Guidelines.

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<sup>1</sup> HELCOM Guidelines for the annual and periodical compilation and reporting of waterborne pollution inputs to the Baltic Sea (PLC-water).