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<b>Document title</b>	HELCOM database for the coastal and marine Baltic Sea protected areas (HELCOM MPAs).
<b>Code</b>	5-2
<b>Category</b>	INF
<b>Agenda Item</b>	5 – Assessment and data for MSP
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<b>Submitted by</b>	HELCOM Secretariat
<b>Reference</b>	

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## Background

The aim of the coastal and marine Baltic Sea protected areas (HELCOM MPAs, former BSPAs) is to protect valuable marine and coastal habitats in the Baltic Sea. This is done by designating sites with particular nature values as protected areas, and by managing human activities within those areas. Each site has its unique management plan. The first 62 HELCOM MPAs were established in 1994, and today there are 174 HELCOM MPAs.

The information on HELCOM MPAs is stored and made openly available online with the HELCOM MPA database (former BSPA database) web application. HELCOM MPA database has been modernized and updated during 2015 and is now open for the general public via the [HELCOM website](#) and directly at <http://mpas.helcom.fi>. In the web application users can view and search spatial and descriptive information about all HELCOM MPAs as reported by Contracting Parties in HELCOM.

The latest reporting round, completed in September 2015, provided much additional information related to each MPA which serves as background for the regional analysis of ecological coherence of MPAs. This additional information includes updated information on management plans, species, biotopes, biotope complexes, pressures and activities within each MPA and is openly available online. The report on analysis of ecological coherence of MPAs is currently being finalized and will be submitted for adoption in HELCOM 37-2016 meeting held in 10-11 March.

## Action requested

The meeting is requested to take note of the newly modernized and updated database of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and on the ongoing update of the regional analysis of ecological coherence of MPAs.

The delegates may wish to provide feedback on possible development suggestions related to HELCOM MPA database web application, by informing HELCOM Secretariat ([UllaLi.Zweifel@helcom.fi](mailto:UllaLi.Zweifel@helcom.fi)), by 11 March 2016.

## HELCOM database for the coastal and marine Baltic Sea protected areas (HELCOM MPAs).

### Update of HELCOM database on marine protected areas (HELCOM MPAs)

The HELCOM Baltic Sea Protected Areas (BSPA) database was established in 2007 and made available as a web application. The web application contained basic information on protected areas and was considered as useful information tool regarding MPAs in the Baltic Sea. However, certain limitations in the data model flexibility in terms of further development and lack of spatial component in the web application was considered as disadvantages which initiated a project to update and modernize the information content and also the database and web application during the year 2015, co-funded by Sweden.

For the 2015 update, the former BSPA database model was completely redesigned to take into account recent policy developments which set requirements regarding data compatibility. For example, the lists of pressures and activities were updated to be as much as possible in line with the MSFD Annex III listings. In the planning phase the predefined code lists were designed to take into account existing ones developed for Natura2000 and OSPAR database on marine protected areas to harmonize MPA databases of the neighbouring marine regions to fullest possible extent. Large emphasis was also given to user friendliness of reporting and accessing the data using the web application tool.

The updated version of the [HELCOM MPAs database web application](#) was publicly released in 30 October 2015. Currently the HELCOM Secretariat is collecting feedback on the web application from HELCOM Contracting parties by 11 March 2016 to be taken on board for the designated second updated of the database, to be completed in April 2016.

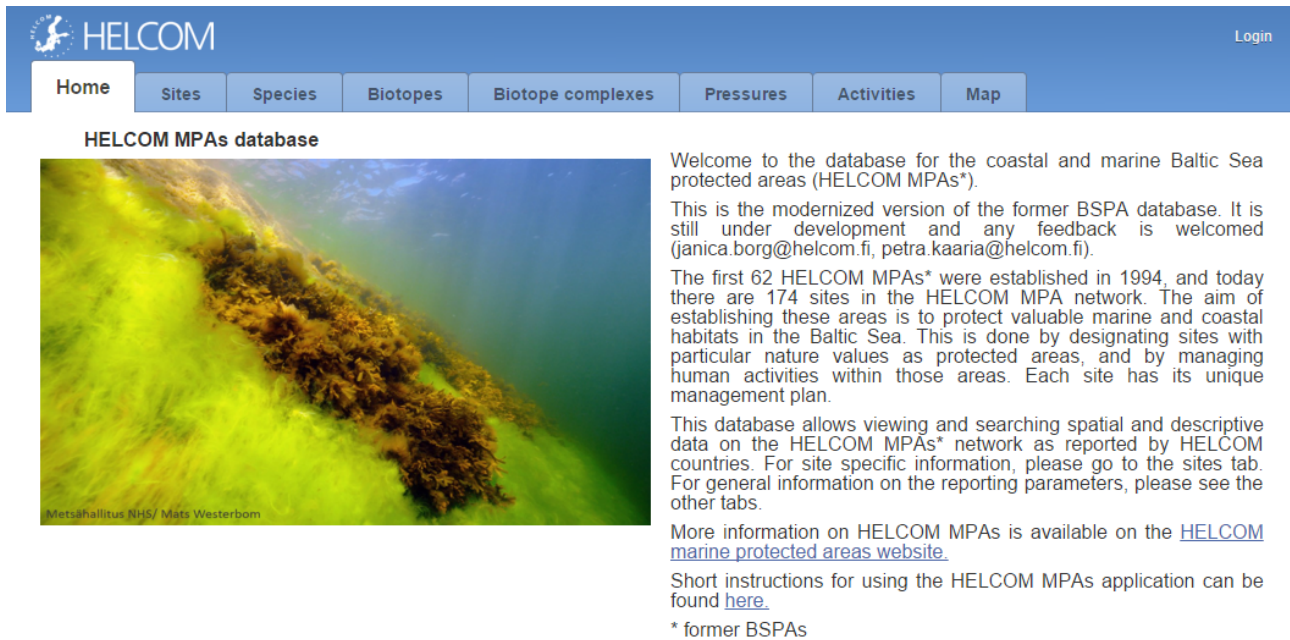
### General description of MPA database web application

The HELCOM MPA database (former BSPA database) can be accessed at <http://mpas.helcom.fi>, which contains interactive web application that is connected to the database. In the web application users can view and search spatial and descriptive information on all HELCOM MPAs as reported by HELCOM Contracting Parties.

The front page contains 8 different tabs, where different information on MPAs can be viewed (Figure 1).

1. **Home:** Landing page containing description of the database
2. **Sites:** List of all HELCOM MPAs containing links to more detailed site-specific info sheets and map.
3. **Species:** List of relevant species (HELCOM Red listed species (2013), HELCOM (2006) and OSPAR (2008) list of threatened/declining species, HELCOM Checklist for Macro-species (2012), HD Annex II, IV, V and BD Annex I species) which are reported to database, containing links to HELCOM Species information sheets, WoRMS (World Register of Marine Species) taxonomy description and list of sites where species have been reported.
4. **Biotores:** List of relevant biotores which are reported to database, containing links HELCOM Biotope information sheets and list of sites where biotores have been reported.
5. **Biotope complexes:** List of relevant biotope complexes which are reported to database, containing links HELCOM Biotope complex information sheets and list of sites where biotope complexes have been reported.

6. **Pressures:** List of relevant pressures (based on MSFD Annex III revision document (May 2015)) including number and list of sites where each pressure has been reported.
7. **Activities:** List of relevant activities and list of sites where each activity is regulated.
8. **Map:** Interactive map viewer of all HELCOM MPAs and Natura2000 areas



**HELCOM MPAs database**

Welcome to the database for the coastal and marine Baltic Sea protected areas (HELCOM MPAs\*).

This is the modernized version of the former BSPA database. It is still under development and any feedback is welcomed (janica.borg@helcom.fi, petra.kaaria@helcom.fi).

The first 62 HELCOM MPAs\* were established in 1994, and today there are 174 sites in the HELCOM MPA network. The aim of establishing these areas is to protect valuable marine and coastal habitats in the Baltic Sea. This is done by designating sites with particular nature values as protected areas, and by managing human activities within those areas. Each site has its unique management plan.

This database allows viewing and searching spatial and descriptive data on the HELCOM MPAs\* network as reported by HELCOM countries. For site specific information, please go to the sites tab. For general information on the reporting parameters, please see the other tabs.

More information on HELCOM MPAs is available on the [HELCOM marine protected areas website](#).

Short instructions for using the HELCOM MPAs application can be found [here](#).

\* former BSPAs

Figure 1. Home page of HELCOM MPAs database web application.

### Sites section

Sites section contains list of all 174 HELCOM MPAs, which can be sorted and filtered by country, MPA status, MPA size etc. On the upper bar user can select predefined filter queries, e.g. by showing all MPAs by national protections status. (Figure 2). All tabular information can be downloaded as csv file (Actions -> Download).

ID	HELCOM MPA name	Map view	Country	Subbasin	Status	Coverage	Location	MPA size (km <sup>2</sup> )	MPA marine size (km <sup>2</sup> )	MPA terrestrial size (km <sup>2</sup> )	Territorial Waters (km <sup>2</sup> )	Excl
126	<a href="#">Davids Banke</a>	<a href="#">map</a>	Denmark	Bornholm Basin	Designated and managed	Marine	Both territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zone	8.42	8.42	0	7.85	
128	<a href="#">Skælskør Fjord og havet og kysten mellem Agerø og Glæne</a>	<a href="#">map</a>	Denmark	Great Belt	Designated and managed	Marine and terrestrial	Territorial waters	185.82	136.77	49.05	13.68	
129	<a href="#">Saltholm og omliggende hav</a>	<a href="#">map</a>	Denmark	Arkona Basin, The Sound	Designated and managed	Marine and terrestrial	Territorial waters	72.52	54.55	17.97	54.55	
130	<a href="#">Stavns Fjord, Samsø Østerflak og Nordby Hede</a>	<a href="#">map</a>	Denmark	Great Belt	Designated and managed	Marine and terrestrial	Territorial waters	157.38	150.94	6.44	150.88	
131	<a href="#">Hessø med omliggende stenrev</a>	<a href="#">map</a>	Denmark	Kattegat	Designated and managed	Marine and terrestrial	Territorial waters	42.14	41.50	.64	4.15	
132	<a href="#">Store Middelfjord</a>	<a href="#">map</a>	Denmark	Kattegat	Designated and managed	Marine	Exclusive Economic Zone	21.47	21.47	0	0.00	

Figure 2. Sites list.

HELCOM MPA database contains much detailed information under each MPA. By clicking a name of a specific MPA name in the Sites list, a site specific information page is opened. Site specific information is grouped in to seven expandable sections:

• **General information:** Basic information, selection criteria, national protections status

General information of site [Hailuoto, pohjoisranta/ Hailuoto northshore, Finland](#)

HELCOM MPA name:	Hailuoto, pohjoisranta/ Hailuoto northshore
ID:	147
Country:	Finland
Status:	Designated
Date of MPA establishment:	19.09.2005
Date of last information update:	07.10.2015
Management authority name:	Metsähallitus, Pohjanmaan luontopalvelut
Management authority website:	<a href="http://www.metsa.fi">www.metsa.fi</a>
Subbasin(s):	Bothnian Bay
Location:	Territorial waters
Coverage:	Marine and terrestrial
MPA size (km <sup>2</sup> ):	36.69
MPA marine size (km <sup>2</sup> ):	22.50
Terrestrial Area (km <sup>2</sup> ):	14.19
Territorial Waters (km <sup>2</sup> ):	22.50
Exclusive Economic Zone (km <sup>2</sup> ):	0.00
Map view:	<a href="#">Map of the MPA</a>
Selection criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Important migration route and resting area for species</li> <li>Important reproduction area for species</li> <li>Rarity of species or habitats</li> <li>Sensitivity of species or habitats</li> <li>Area with high natural biodiversity</li> <li>Ecologically significant habitats</li> <li>Representative area</li> <li>Because of geological values</li> <li>Because of biological values</li> <li>Because of terrestrial values</li> <li>To protect natural habitat types listed in Habitats Directive Annex I</li> <li>To protect habitats of the species listed in Habitats Directive Annex II</li> <li>To protect special protection areas classified by Member States under the Birds Directive</li> </ul>
National protection status:	Other reserves (Other state-owned protected nature reserves) (legal protection)
IUCN category:	IV
Natura 2000 sites:	<a href="#">F11100201</a> (Natura 2000 status:Both SPA and SCI/SAC)

Figure 3. General information of an MPA site.

- **Map viewer:** Interactive map viewer zoomed in to the selected MPA

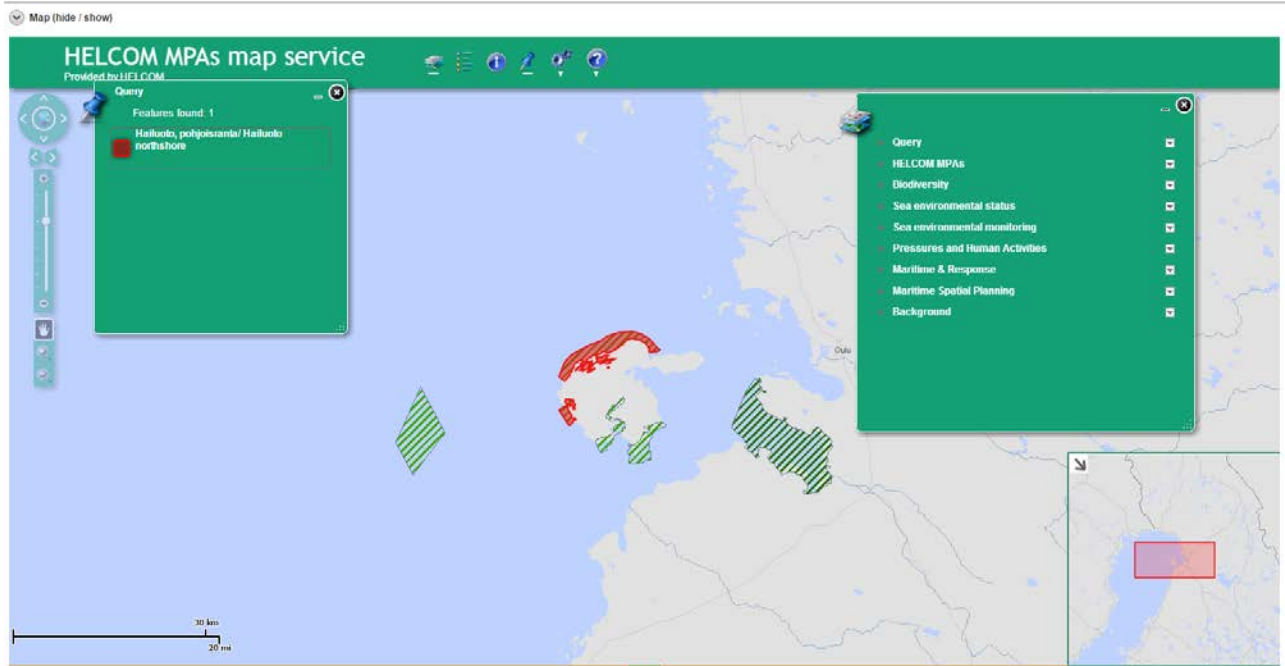


Figure 4. Map viewer window zoomed in to selected MPA site (highlighted in red). Other HELCOM map layers can be overlaid on top by activating those from the Table of Contents (on right).

- **Species:** Species reported on site, including information on monitoring, status and designation

Species on site [Hailuoto, pohjoisranta/ Hailuoto northshore, Finland](#) (hide / show)

Q  Go 1. Primary Report

Scientific name ↑	English name	Species group	Species status	Does the species justify the site's designation as an MPA?	Performed monitoring	Authorities responsible for monitoring	Link to Species Information Sheet (SIS)	Link to WORMS	HELCOM Red List category
<i>Alisma wahlenbergii</i>	-	Macrophytes	not reported	No	occasional monitoring program	not reported	<a href="#">SIS</a>	<a href="#">WORMS</a>	VU
<i>Anas strepera</i>	Gadwall	Birds	breeding	No	no monitoring program	not reported	<a href="#">SIS</a>	<a href="#">WORMS</a>	-
<i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i>	Taiga bean goose	Birds	migratory	No	no monitoring program	not reported	<a href="#">SIS</a>	<a href="#">WORMS</a>	EN
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Ruddy turnstone	Birds	breeding	No	no monitoring program	not reported	<a href="#">SIS</a>	<a href="#">WORMS</a>	VU
<i>Aythya marila</i>	Greater scaup	Birds	not reported	No	no monitoring program	not reported	<a href="#">SIS</a>	<a href="#">WORMS</a>	VU
<i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i>	Southern dunlin	Birds	breeding	No	no monitoring program	not reported	<a href="#">SIS</a>	<a href="#">WORMS</a>	EN
<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	Temminck's stint	Birds	breeding	No	no monitoring program	not reported	<a href="#">SIS</a>	<a href="#">WORMS</a>	NT
<i>Chara sp.</i>	-	Macrophytes	not reported	No	no monitoring program	not reported	<a href="#">SIS</a>	<a href="#">WORMS</a>	-
<i>Charadrius hiaticula hiaticula</i>	Ringed plover	Birds	not reported	No	no monitoring program	not reported	<a href="#">SIS</a>	<a href="#">WORMS</a>	NT
<i>Coregonus albula</i>	Vendace	Fish and lamprey species	not reported	No	no monitoring program	not reported	<a href="#">SIS</a>	<a href="#">WORMS</a>	LC
<i>Coregonus maraena</i>	Maraena	Fish and lamprey species	not reported	No	no monitoring program	not reported	<a href="#">SIS</a>	<a href="#">WORMS</a>	EN
<i>Cottus gobio</i>	Bullhead	Fish and lamprey species	occasional	No	no monitoring program	not reported	<a href="#">SIS</a>	<a href="#">WORMS</a>	LC
<i>Gavia arctica</i>	Black-throated diver	Birds	not reported	No	no monitoring program	not reported	<a href="#">SIS</a>	<a href="#">WORMS</a>	CR
<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Red-throated diver	Birds	not reported	No	no monitoring program	not reported	<a href="#">SIS</a>	<a href="#">WORMS</a>	CR
<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	White-tailed sea-eagle	Birds	not reported	No	no monitoring program	not reported	<a href="#">SIS</a>	<a href="#">WORMS</a>	-
<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	Grey seal	Mammals	occasional	No	no monitoring program	not reported	<a href="#">SIS</a>	<a href="#">WORMS</a>	LC
<i>Hippuris tetraphylla</i>	Fourleaf mare's tail	Macrophytes	not reported	No	no monitoring program	not reported	<a href="#">SIS</a>	<a href="#">WORMS</a>	EN
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian tern	Birds	not reported	No	no monitoring program	not reported	<a href="#">SIS</a>	<a href="#">WORMS</a>	VU
<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>	River lamprey	Fish and lamprey species	migratory	No	no monitoring program	not reported	<a href="#">SIS</a>	<a href="#">WORMS</a>	NT
<i>Larus canus</i>	Mew gull	Birds	breeding	No	no monitoring program	not reported	<a href="#">SIS</a>	<a href="#">WORMS</a>	-

Figure 5. Species reported on selected MPA site.

- **Biotoxes:** Biotoxes reported on site, including information on monitoring, status and designation

Biotoxes on site [Hailuoto, pohjoisranta/ Hailuoto northshore, Finland](#)

Q v Go 1. Primary Report Actions v

Biotope code	Biotope sublevel 6 code	Biotope name (HUB or HELCOM 1998)	Does the biotope justify the site's designation as an MPA?	Performed monitoring	Authorities responsible for monitoring	HELCOM Red List category	Link to Biotope Information Sheet (BIS)
AA.A1C		Baltic photic rock and boulders characterized by perennial algae	No	no monitoring program	not reported	NE	
AA.A1I		Baltic photic rock and boulders characterized by epibenthic crustacea	No	no monitoring program	not reported	NE	
AA.A1J		Baltic photic rock and boulders characterized by epibenthic sponges (Porifera)	No	no monitoring program	not reported	LC	
AA.A1S		Baltic photic rock and boulders characterized by annual algae	No	no monitoring program	not reported	LC	
AA.A1V		Baltic photic rock and boulders characterized by mixed epibenthic macrocommunity	No	no monitoring program	not reported	LC	
AA.A2T		Baltic photic rock and boulders characterized by sparse epibenthic macrocommunity	No	no monitoring program	not reported	LC	
AA.A2W		Baltic photic rock and boulders characterized by microphytobenthic organisms and grazing snails	No	no monitoring program	not reported	LC	
AA.A4U		Baltic photic rock and boulders characterized by no macrocommunity	No	no monitoring program	not reported	LC	
AA.H1A		Baltic photic muddy sediment characterized by emergent vegetation	No	no monitoring program	not reported	NE	
AA.H1B		Baltic photic muddy sediment characterized by submerged rooted plants	No	no monitoring program	not reported	NE	
AA.H1S		Baltic photic muddy sediment characterized by annual algae	No	no monitoring program	not reported	NE	
AA.H1V		Baltic photic muddy sediment characterized by mixed epibenthic macrocommunity	No	no monitoring program	not reported	NE	
AA.H4U		Baltic photic muddy sediment characterized by no macrocommunity	No	no monitoring program	not reported	NE	
AA.I1A		Baltic photic coarse sediment characterized by emergent vegetation	No	no monitoring program	not reported	NE	

Figure 6. Biotoxes reported on selected MPA site.

- **Management and regulated activities:** Management plan(s) of the MPA, including list of regulated activities, regulation types and whether regulation is effectively enforced

Management and regulated activities of site [Hailuoto, pohjoisranta/ Hailuoto northshore, Finland](#)

Q v Go 1. Primary Report Actions v

Edit	Management plan name	Management plan status	Link to the management plan	Regulated activities	Implemented monitoring programs	Coverage of management plan
	Hailuodon Natura 2000 -alueiden hoito- ja käyttösuunnitelma 2013–2027	In development	<a href="#">the plan</a>	<a href="#">activities</a>	not reported	Marine and terrestrial

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Regulated activities for management plan/ site:

[Hailuodon Natura 2000 -alueiden hoito- ja käyttösuunnitelma 2013–2027 / Hailuoto\\_](#)

Q v Go Actions v Back

Regulated activity	Regulation type	Regulation frequency	Regulation effectively enforced
Navigation channels	spatially regulated	-	yes
Semi-permanent restructuring of seabed morphology	partially regulated	-	yes
Transport infrastructure	partially regulated	-	yes
Tourism/leisure infrastructure	spatially regulated	-	yes
Offshore marine infrastructure (including associated with mineral and energy extraction)	regulated	-	yes
Extraction of sand and gravel	spatially regulated	-	yes
Extraction of rock & minerals	partially regulated	-	yes
Renewable energy generation (wind, wave & tidal power)	partially regulated	-	yes
Fish & shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational)	partially regulated	-	yes
Hunting and collecting (for non-food purposes)	spatially regulated	periodic	yes
Agriculture	regulated	-	yes
Forestry	prohibited	-	yes
Tourism, recreation and sports	spatially regulated	periodic	yes
Research and survey	partially regulated	-	yes
Waste and material disposal	partially regulated	-	yes
Waste water discharge	regulated	-	yes

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Figure 7. Management plan information (upper screenshot) and information on regulated activities within the selected Management plan.



- **Pressures:** Pressures reported to the MPA, including information on location, intensity temporal extent.

▼ Pressures on site

Go Actions ▼

Pressure (list according to MSFD Annex III revision document, May 2015)	Inside or outside the MPA	Intensity (low, medium, high)	Past, current or potential future pressure
Disturbance or damage to seabed	inside	low	past,current,potential future
Disturbance or damage to seabed	outside	low	past,current,potential future
Extraction of seabed or subsoil (e.g. sand, gravel, rock, oil, gas)	inside	low	past,current,potential future
Extraction of seabed or subsoil (e.g. sand, gravel, rock, oil, gas)	outside	low	past,current,potential future
Input of sound	inside	high	past,current,potential future
Input of nutrients and organic matter	inside	medium	past,current,potential future
Input of nutrients and organic matter	outside	medium	past,current,potential future
Input of contaminants (synthetic substances, non-synthetic substances, radionuclides) - diffuse sources, point sources, acute events	outside	low	past,current,potential future
Input of CO2 [and other greenhouse gases]	inside	medium	past,current,potential future
Input of litter (solid waste matter, including micro-size litter)	inside	medium	past,current,potential future
Extraction or, mortality/injury to, species (targeted, non-targeted)	inside	medium	past,current,potential future
Extraction or, mortality/injury to, species (targeted, non-targeted)	outside	medium	past,current,potential future
Disturbance of species	inside	high	past,current,potential future
Introduction or spread of non-indigenous species	inside	medium	current,potential future

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Figure 8. Pressure information reported to the MPA.

### Other sections

Other sections contains full lists and information on species, biotopes, biotope complexes, pressures and activities and in which MPAs these have been reported. Map section contains dynamic map viewer of all HELCOM MPA areas, Natura 2000 areas and also access to all HELCOM data which can be overlaid on top of the MPA areas.

HELCOM

Home
Sites
Species
Biotopes
Biotope complexes
Pressures
Activities
Map

ACTIVITY	Sites where the activity is regulated
land claim (permanent changes)	<a href="#">show sites</a>
Navigation channels	<a href="#">show sites</a>
Coastal defence and flood protection	<a href="#">show sites</a>
Semi-permanent restructuring of seabed morphology	<a href="#">show sites</a>
Urban developments	<a href="#">show sites</a>
Industrial developments	<a href="#">show sites</a>
Transport infrastructure	<a href="#">show sites</a>
Tourism/leisure infrastructure	<a href="#">show sites</a>
Ports and other coastal constructions	<a href="#">show sites</a>
Offshore marine infrastructure (including associated with mineral and energy extraction)	<a href="#">show sites</a>
Cables & pipelines	<a href="#">show sites</a>
Extraction of oil and gas	<a href="#">show sites</a>
Extraction of sand and gravel	<a href="#">show sites</a>
Extraction of rock & minerals	<a href="#">show sites</a>
Extraction of salt	<a href="#">show sites</a>
Extraction of water/desalination	<a href="#">show sites</a>

Figure 9. Full list of activities in the database and a link to list of sites where each activity is regulated according to the management plan.



HELCOM MPAs where the activity Renewable energy generation (wind) is regulated

Site ID	HELCOM MPA name	Country	Name of management plan	Type of regulation	Frequency of regulation	Map view	Site information
300	Kväddöjården med Tomö	Sweden	Tomö naturreservat	prohibited	permanent	<a href="#">map</a>	<a href="#">Go to site</a>
300	Kväddöjården med Tomö	Sweden	Kväddöjårdens naturreservat	prohibited	permanent	<a href="#">map</a>	<a href="#">Go to site</a>
101	Haparanda Archipelago	Sweden	Bevarandeplan Natura 2000 Haparanda skärgård (SE0820108)	spatially regulated	permanent	<a href="#">map</a>	<a href="#">Go to site</a>
106	Stora Nassa-Sv. Högsåsa	Sweden	Stora Nassa naturreservat	prohibited	permanent	<a href="#">map</a>	<a href="#">Go to site</a>
113	Kungsbackafjorden	Sweden	Skotteplan för naturreservatet Kungsbackafjorden i Kungsbacka	prohibited	permanent	<a href="#">map</a>	<a href="#">Go to site</a>
126	David's Bankie	Denmark	Natura 2000-plan 2009-2015: David's Bankie - Natura 2000-område nr. 209 - Habitatområde H209	regulated	-	<a href="#">map</a>	<a href="#">Go to site</a>
128	Skælskoter Fjord og havet og kysten mellem Agerse og Gløne	Denmark	Natura 2000 område nr. 162 Skælskoter Fjord og havet og kysten mellem Agerse og Gløne	regulated	-	<a href="#">map</a>	<a href="#">Go to site</a>
129	Saltholm og omliggende hav	Denmark	Natura 2000 område nr. 142 Saltholm og omliggende hav	regulated	-	<a href="#">map</a>	<a href="#">Go to site</a>
130	Stavns Fjord, Samsoe Østerfak og Nordby Hede	Denmark	Natura 2000 område nr. 55 Stavns Fjord, Samsoe Østerfak og Nordby Hede	regulated	-	<a href="#">map</a>	<a href="#">Go to site</a>
131	Hesselø med omliggende stenrev	Denmark	Natura 2000 område nr. 126 Hesselø med omliggende stenrev	regulated	-	<a href="#">map</a>	<a href="#">Go to site</a>
132	Storø Middelfjord	Denmark	Natura 2000 område nr. 193 Storø Middelfjord	regulated	-	<a href="#">map</a>	<a href="#">Go to site</a>
133	Ålborg Bugt, Randers Fjord and Manager Fjord, Birdprotection sites	Denmark	Natura 2000-område nr. 14 Ålborg Bugt, Randers Fjord og Manager Fjord	regulated	-	<a href="#">map</a>	<a href="#">Go to site</a>
134	Strandenge på Læsø og havet syd herfor	Denmark	Natura 2000-område nr. 9 Strandenge på Læsø og havet syd herfor	regulated	-	<a href="#">map</a>	<a href="#">Go to site</a>
135	Hirsholmene, havet vest herfor og Ellinge Å's udløb	Denmark	Natura 2000-område nr. 4 Hirsholmene, havet vest herfor og Ellinge Å's udløb	regulated	-	<a href="#">map</a>	<a href="#">Go to site</a>
136	Læsø Tøndel og Tenneberg Bankie	Denmark	Natura 2000-plan 2009-2015	regulated	-	<a href="#">map</a>	<a href="#">Go to site</a>
137	Herttas Flak	Denmark	Natura 2000 område nr. 191 Herttas Flak	regulated	-	<a href="#">map</a>	<a href="#">Go to site</a>

Figure 10. List of HELCOM MPAs where the selected activity (“Renewable energy creation (wind)”) is regulated.

### Analysis of ecological coherence of MPAs

The purpose of assessing ecological coherence of marine protected areas (MPAs) is to follow up on the development of the MPA network in the Baltic Sea, to identify where further development of the network is needed, and to follow commitments made in HELCOM with regard to MPAs. The overarching target is to achieve a coherent and effectively managed network of MPAs in the Baltic Sea, including not only the network of HELCOM MPAs but also other protection programmes such as Natura 2000 sites.

Additional specific targets include, as agreed through Recommendation 35-1 on the system of coastal and marine Baltic Sea protected areas (HELCOM MPAs1), e.g. to;

- protect at least 10% of the marine area of each Baltic Sea subbasin, when scientifically justified,
- designate new sites as HELCOM MPAs where ecologically meaningful, especially in offshore areas beyond territorial waters,
- ensure that HELCOM MPAs provide specific protection to those species, habitats, biotopes and biotope complexes included in the HELCOM Red Lists,
- develop and apply by 2015 management plans or measures for all existing HELCOM MPAs, and establish management plan or measures for every new MPA within five years after its designation,
- assess the effectiveness of the management plans or measures of HELCOM MPAs by conducting monitoring, and where feasible scientific research programmes, which are directly connected to the conservation interests of HELCOM MPAs, including the placement of monitoring stations inside the MPAs,
- modernize the HELCOM MPAs database, taking into account and harmonizing with other similar databases.

The report will include an assessment of the ecological coherence of the HELCOM MPA network as well as a follow-up of the commitments of HELCOM Recommendation 35-1. The basis of the assessment are data, information and shapefiles reported to the updated HELCOM MPA database. The assessment methodology is based on the previous HELCOM assessment of ecological coherence (HELCOM 2010) and discussions within the HELCOM MPA Task Group and State and Conservation Working Group. The report on analysis of ecological coherence of MPAs is currently being finalized and will be submitted for adoption in HELCOM 37-2016 meeting held in 10-11 March.

Table of contents of report on analysis of ecological coherence of MPAs:

Executive summary	
1. Introduction	
1.1. Purpose of assessing marine protected areas in the Baltic Sea	
1.2. The concept of coastal and marine Baltic Sea protected areas (HELCOM MPAs)	
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