

# Baltic Sea cooperation: pros & cons



*10th Pan-European  
Green Belt Conference  
in Eisenach, Germany  
15 – 19 October 2018  
Mikhail Durkin*

# Networking among citizens and sectors

- **CCB:** established in **1990**
- **CCB:** a network of **grass-root** env. NGOs
- **CCB:** **22 NGOs** and **almost 1 000 000** environmental concerned **citizens**
- **CCB:** **11 countries** of the Baltic Sea basin
- **CCB:** works through
  - **lobby** at EU and HELCOM level,
  - **coordinated actions and field work,**
  - **awareness raising and capacity building**
- **CCB's** working areas
  - **Agriculture, Rivers, Fisheries**
  - Biodiversity, Hazardous Substances, Coastal Areas, Harmful Installations



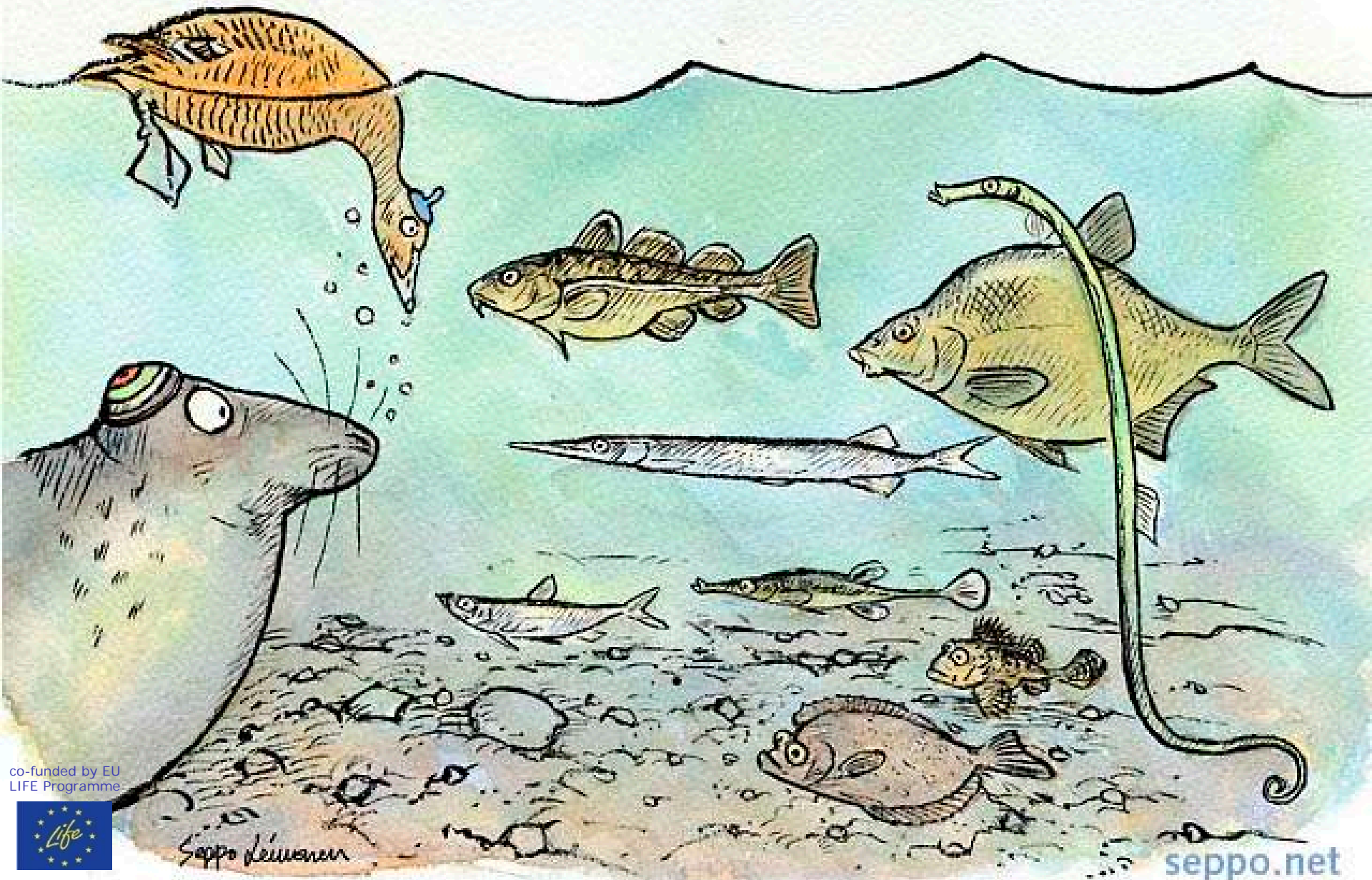
# Lessons learnt from the Baltic "model"

- **Transparency and trust**
  - Joint monitoring
  - Credible and open data
  - Sharing and exchange
  - **Mistrust to citizen-science**
- **Commitment**
  - Good will by governments
  - Regional ownership
  - Voluntary actions
  - **Lack of enforcement & new actions**
- **Cooperation**
  - Across the region
  - Across river basins
  - Across stakeholders
  - **Lack of EBM coherence**



Valentina Bukeeva Durkina, 2011

# Typical Baltic Sea ecosystem inhabitants



# Baltic Sea = busy region

- 14 basin states (9 at the coast)
- 85 million people
- One of the **busiest shipping**
- **Intensified agriculture** to cope with climate
- One of leading in **renewables**
- **Regional GDP** worth €1,350 billion
- **Highest welfare** level in EU
- One of **best sewage treatment** in EU

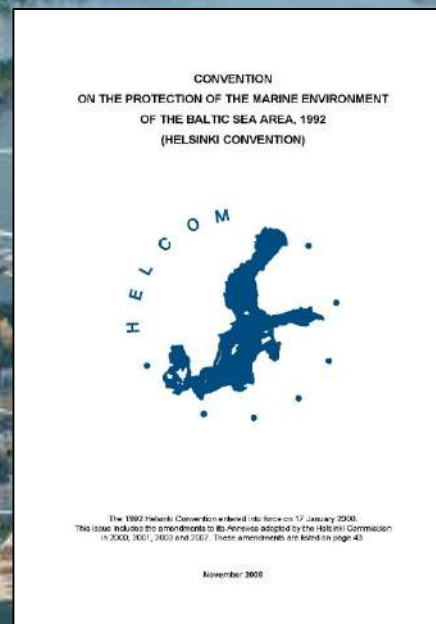


# HELCOM

- **Intergovernmental body**
  - governs Helsinki Convention
- **Watershed approach**
  - 9 coastal states + EU
- **Regional env policymaker**
  - pollution prevention,
  - nature conservation,
  - safety of navigation
- **Commitment & obligation**
  - EU exclusive competence in fisheries and agriculture
  - GES work coordination
- **Partnership**
  - Observers (2 Govts, 17 IGOs, 8 eNGOs, 18 industry, 2 foundations, 3 research, 3 municipal)
  - Sector-stakeholders

# Helsinki Commission

## Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission



- *Prevention and Control*
- *Precaution*
- *BAT & BEP*
- *Polluter Pays*
- *Monitoring and assessment*
- *Transboundary cooperation*

# How does it work?



co-funded by EU  
LIFE Programme

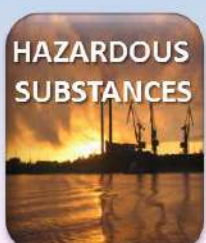
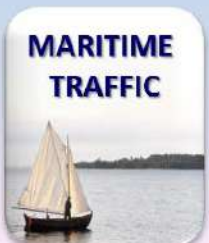
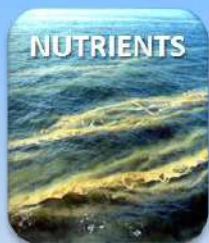


- **Unanimity rule**
  - *Any decision to be agreed by all Contracting Parties*
- **Mixed jurisdiction (8 out of 9 CPs = EU Member States)**
  - *EU exclusive competence in fisheries and agriculture*
  - *Prevailance of EU law for CPs in many fields (e.g. UWWTP Dir.)*
  - *Likewise, non-applicability of EU law to Russia*
- **Soft law approach**
  - *Recommendations, declarations and political commitments*
  - *No enforcement or proper follow-up mechanism*
- **Focus on national environmental and maritime administrations**
  - *Lack of involvement of sectorial ministries (agri, fish, industry)*



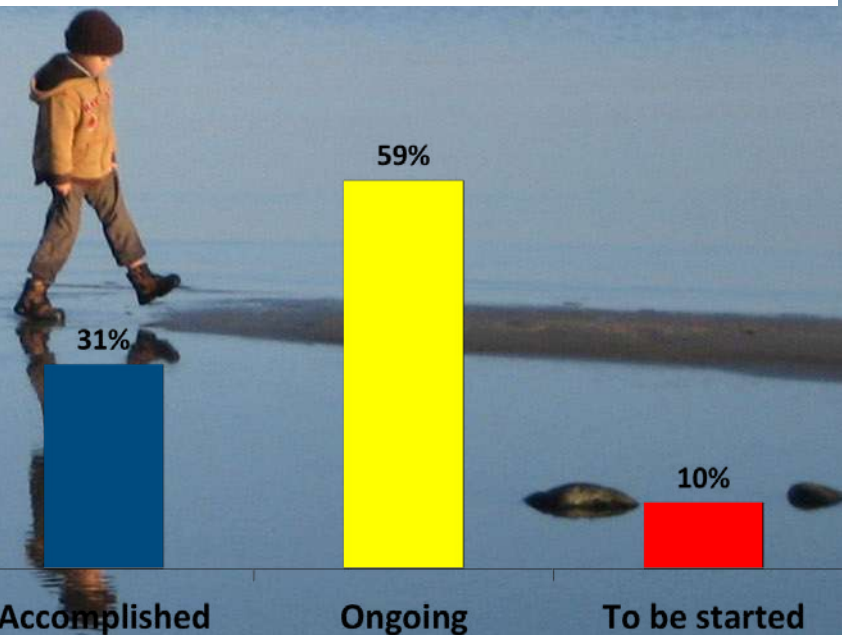
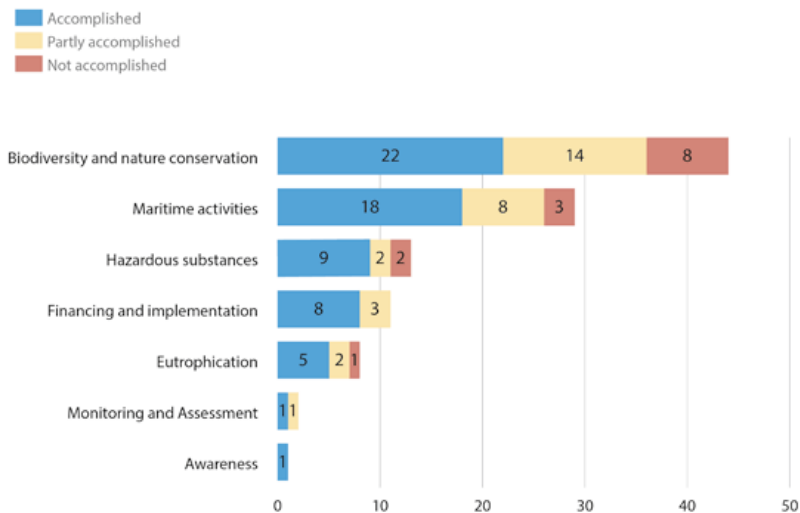
# Baltic Sea Action Plan (2007): Where are we?

**VISION OF**  
A healthy Baltic Sea  
with biological components  
sustaining human activities



## How many accomplished per segment

Number of joint actions accomplished by segment. May 2016



HELCOM



European  
Green Belt

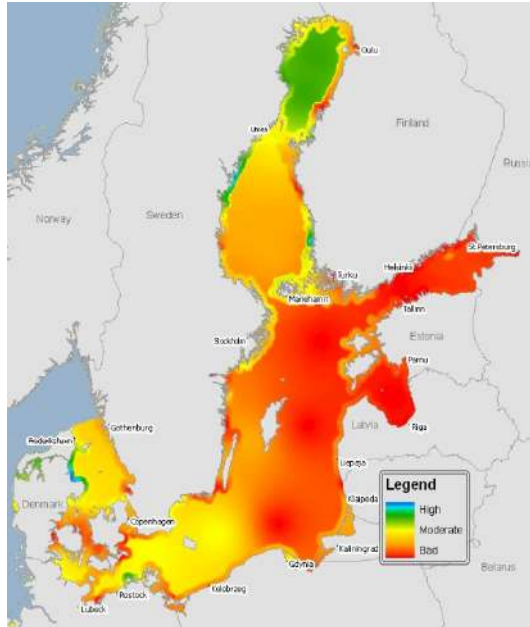


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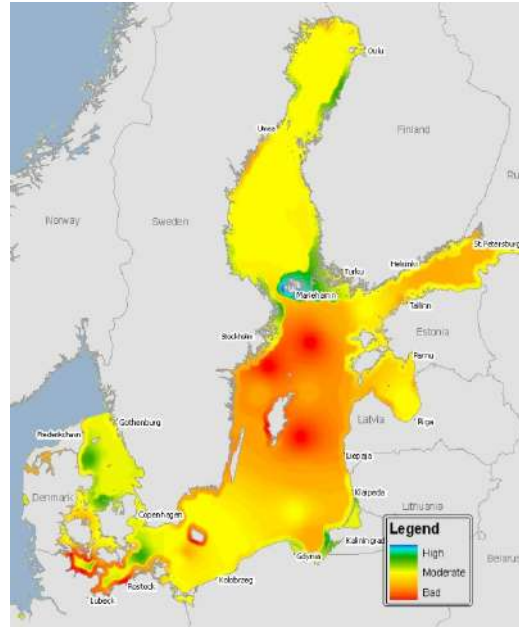


# Are we on the right track?

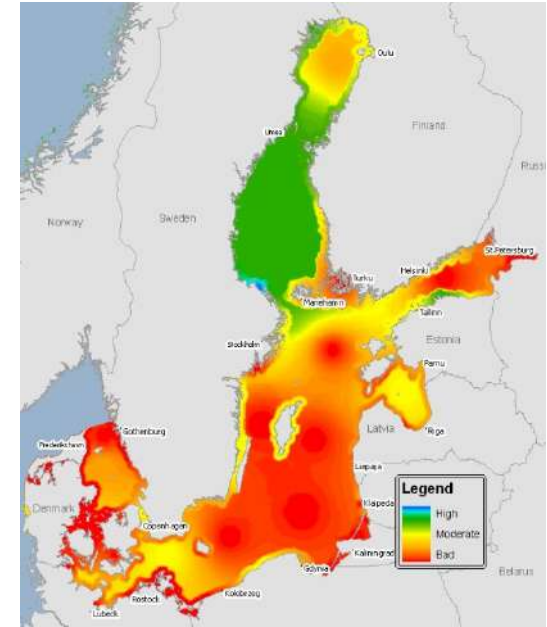
## Eutrophication



## Hazardous substances



## Biodiversity



- **> 40%** reduction in loads of nitrogen and phosphorus
- **50%** reduction in discharges of 46 hazardous substances
- **117** of the designated 162 major pollution Hot Spots have been recovered (2016)
- **Populations** of grey seal, white-tailed eagle have been **recovered**, as well as wild salmon populations restored in some rivers.
- Improved safety of navigation and accident response capacity – **less accidental** and **less illegal oil spills**, better preparedness, also on shore

# HELCOM Observers & their role

- **Eligibility**

- IGOs and international NGOs, as well as countries
- Contribute to matters dealt with by HELCOM
- Membership in a wide number of the Baltic Coastal States
- organised internal structure

- **Role & opportunities**

- Participate in any HELCOM meeting of relevance, including meetings of the ministers and Stakeholder conferences
- Contribute with research, position papers, proposals
- Provide inputs to current policy discussions
- Address target audience directly



# Examples of Observers' contribution

**Coalition Clean Baltic**  
FOR PROTECTION OF THE BALTIC SEA ENVIRONMENT

**Potential sources of nutrient inputs:  
Baltic Sea ports handling fertilizers**

May 2017

**Key Contact:**  
Anna Rasmussen  
Tel: +45 44 67 19 30  
Fax: +45 44 67 19 32  
anna.rasmussen@ccbaltic.org

**Coalition Clean Baltic**  
FOR PROTECTION OF THE BALTIC SEA ENVIRONMENT

**Guidance on concrete ways to reduce  
microplastic inputs from municipal  
stormwater and waste water discharges**

September 2017

**Key Contact:**  
Jana Paavola  
Tel: +358 9 2511 11 20

**WWF REPORT 2018**

**Baltic Sea Action Plan Scorecard 2018**  
WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme

**GOOD PRACTICE  
SLUDGE MANA...**

**Key Contact:**  
Jana Paavola  
Tel: +358 9 2511 11 20

**WWF BALTIC SEA FARMER OF THE YEAR AWARD - Criteria and Nomination Form 2018**

WWF, in cooperation with farmer organizations from around the Baltic Sea, is launching its 2018 competition to highlight best practices in "Baltic-friendly" farming and to recognize farmers who are advancing innovative measures to reduce nutrient runoff from their farms.

The competition will select a national winner of the Baltic Sea Farmer of the Year Award from each country around the Baltic Sea. The winners of each national competition will all receive a certificate and a monetary award of 1,000 Euros.

The also national winners will serve as the nominees from which the international jury will select one main regional winner - to be the 2018 Regional Baltic Sea Farmer of the Year.

The Regional winner will receive a certificate and a monetary award of 5,000 Euros.

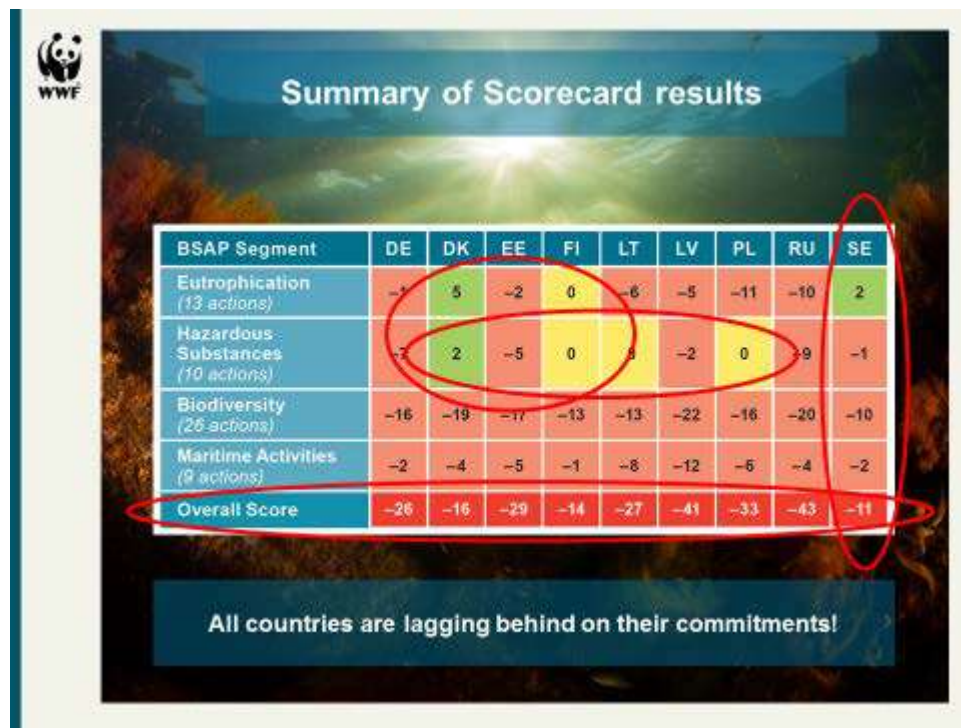
The competition will also select a producer or farmer of the year, who will demonstrate a range of best practices that will be showcased for the entire region, as well as highlight to their national media a conference will be held at the end of the competition inviting the main winning farmers, plus public and private sector representatives, to discuss ways in which to advance the application of environmentally friendly farming more widely.

All national winners will be recognized and the regional winner announced.

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Tel: +358 9 2511 11 20

co-funded by EU LIFE Programme



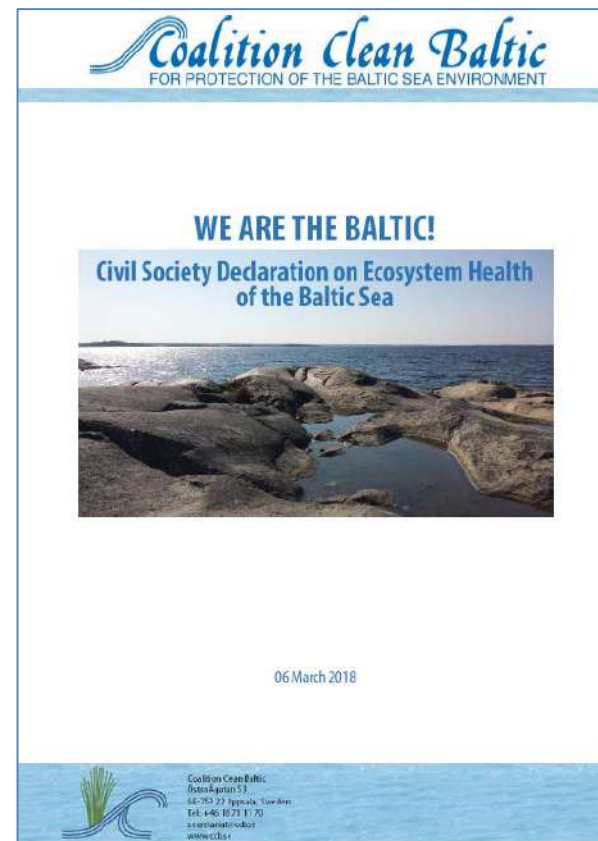


- Lacking real reporting on progress (= no progress?)
- Lacking implementation and commitment
- Lacking concrete actions and targets

THE ONLY OUTCOME: AGREEMENT ON BSAP REVIEW BY 2021

# WE ARE READY TO ACT AND ASK YOU TO DO SO!

- **WE** have a plan, we **NEED** committed **LEADERSHIP!**
- **WE ASK** the Contracting Parties **TO FOLLOW THE AGREED ACTIONS!**
- **WE CALL** on each BSR country **TO HEAR** their **CITIZENS' DEMANDS!**
- **We need to keep the strength and ambition of the BSAP after 2021!**



# #IamTheBaltic

## I NEED YOUR VOICE

Join us:



<http://www.ccb.se/iamthebaltic>



<http://y2u.be/iMwxZpPwIDs>



[@coalitioncleanbaltic/](https://www.facebook.com/coalitioncleanbaltic/)



[@CCBnetwork](https://twitter.com/CCBnetwork)

Östra Ågatan 53,

SE-753 22 Uppsala, Sweden

+46-18-71 11 70;

[secretariat@ccb.se](mailto:secretariat@ccb.se)