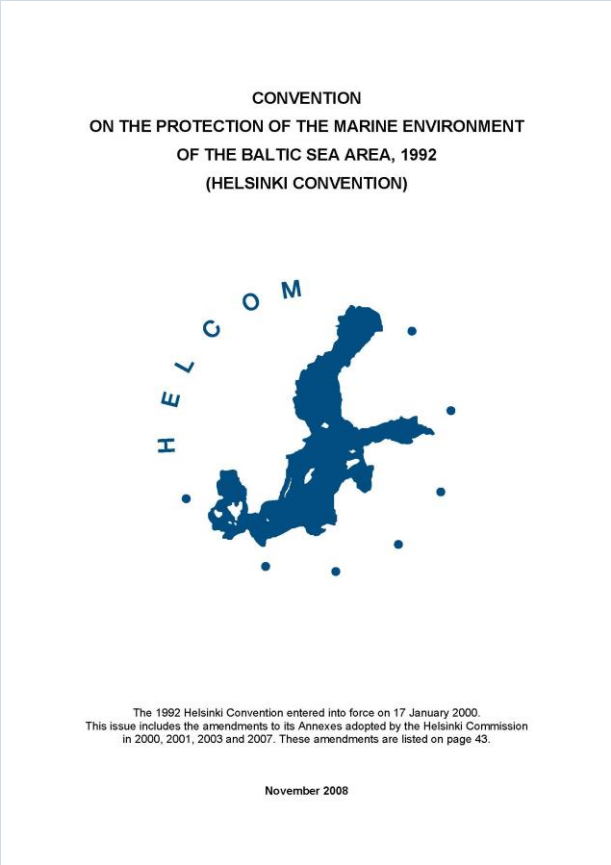
HELCOM and Baltic Sea Port Reception Facilities

Monika Stankiewicz, Executive Secretary HELCOM

HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan – Maritime Activities

Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area



CONVENTION
ON THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT
OF THE BALTIC SEA AREA, 1992
(HELSINKI CONVENTION)

HELCOM

The 1992 Helsinki Convention entered into force on 17 January 2000.
This issue includes the amendments to its Annexes adopted by the Helsinki Commission in 2000, 2001, 2003 and 2007. These amendments are listed on page 43.

November 2008

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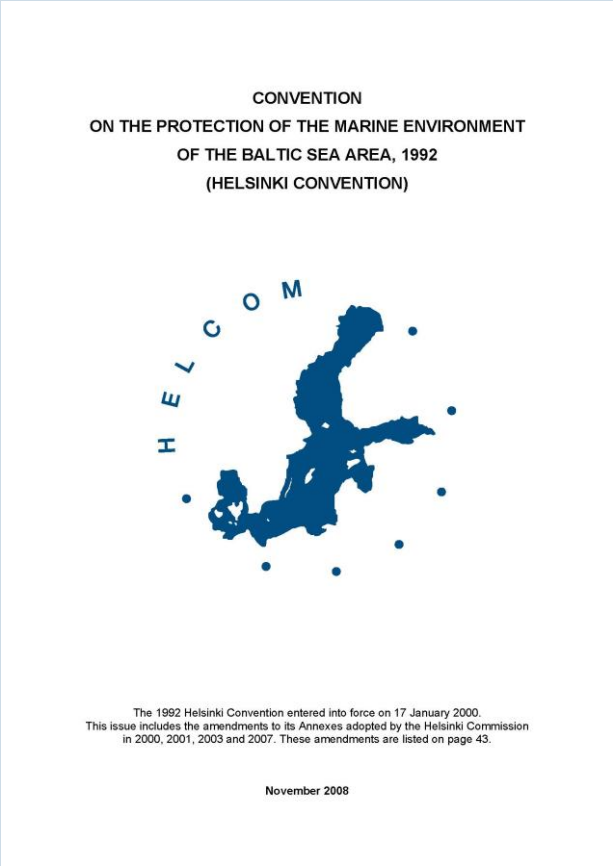
- **International treaty law**
- **Signed originally 1974 (in force 1980), Revised 1992 (in force 2000)**
- **Ratified by all Baltic Sea coastal states and the EU (i.e. part of EU aquis)**
- **Established HELCOM in 1980 (which i.a. issues "Recommendations")**

Annex IV
Prevention of pollution from ships



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Example: Regulation 6
Mandatory discharge
of all wastes to a port reception facility

Before leaving port ships shall discharge all ship-generated wastes, which are not allowed to be discharged into the sea in the Baltic Sea Area in accordance with MARPOL 73/78 and this Convention, to a port reception facility. Before leaving port all cargo residues shall be discharged to a port reception facility in accordance with the requirements of MARPOL 73/78.

Today two regional frameworks

- **HELCOM**

  Early HELCOM Recommendations (1/1 from 1980++)

  Baltic Sea Strategy on PRF 1996

  “No-Special-Fee” (NSF) Recommendation 1998

  Mandatory discharge of wastes to PRF, Regulation 6, Annex IV of Helsinki Convention, 2000

- **EU Directive on PRF 2000/59**

…both of these go beyond MARPOL

Implementation synergies

- After 40 years PRFs are better - even if continue to be implemented in various ways in Baltic Ports (including NSF)
- EU PRF Directive 2000/59 + funding has provided incentive to further develop PRFs in Baltic EU ports
- Environmental differentiated fees - reduced fees for vessels with less, segregated and/or treated waste - an important evolution

Example: Baltic Sea as a MARPOL ANNEX IV (sewage) ”special area”

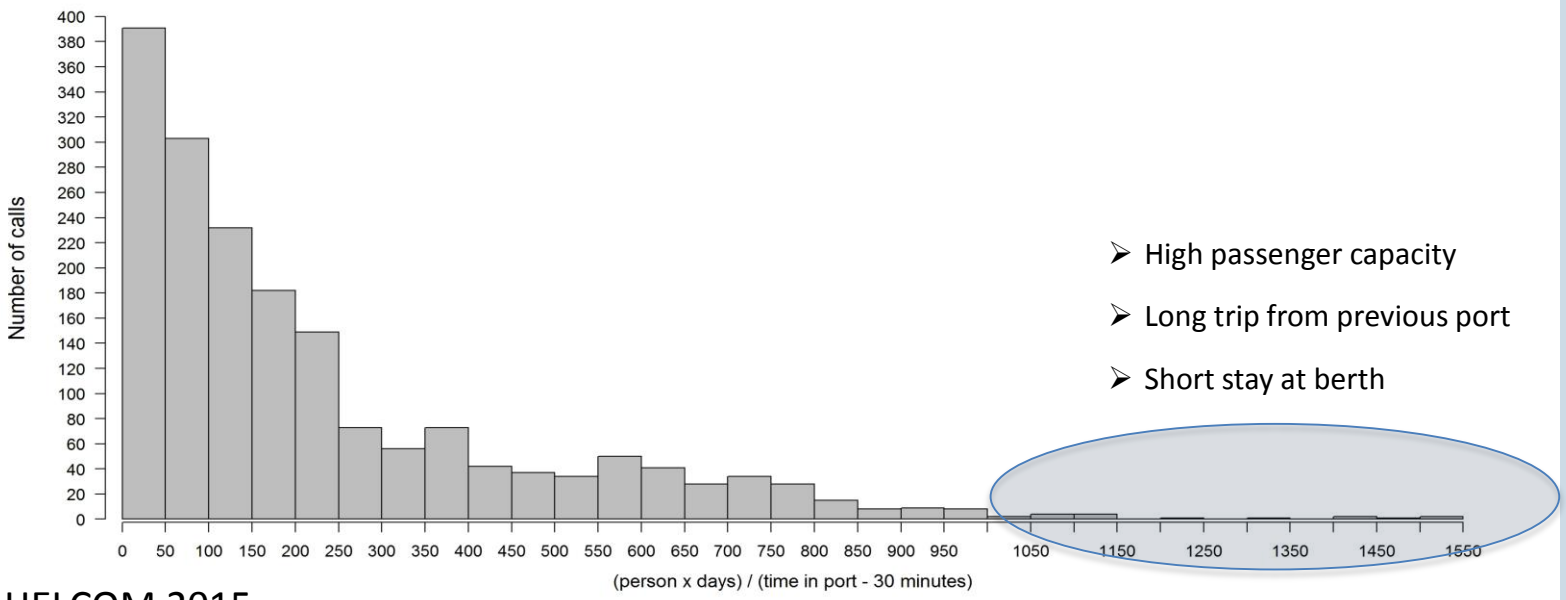
- 2007 Decision as part of HELCOM Ministerial Meeting (”Baltic Sea Action Plan”)
- 2007- Documents prepared within HELCOM MARITIME
- 2010 Submitted to IMO
- 2011 Baltic designated as a Special Area
- Next step - Notification to IMO on sewage PRFs

Sewage PRF implementation

- Delivery possible in all Baltic Cruise Ports – some NSF, some not
- Good facilities in most popular destinations
- Further investments needed to provide more fixed links (Incentives? Who should pay?)
- Mobile units will likely remain an alternative in some ports –a business opportunity?
- Some MWWTPs have had questions regarding quality of ship sewage - clarified

Challenges

- What to do with ”fringe visits”?



- High passenger capacity
- Long trip from previous port
- Short stay at berth

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