Interreg Baltic Sea Region

EUROPEAN UNION EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION FLAGSHIP

COMPLETE

Completing management options in the Baltic Sea Region to reduce risk of invasive species introduction by shipping

EUSBSR PA Ship Steering Committee meeting on 10/11/2020

Miina Karjalainen, Kotka Maritime Research Association

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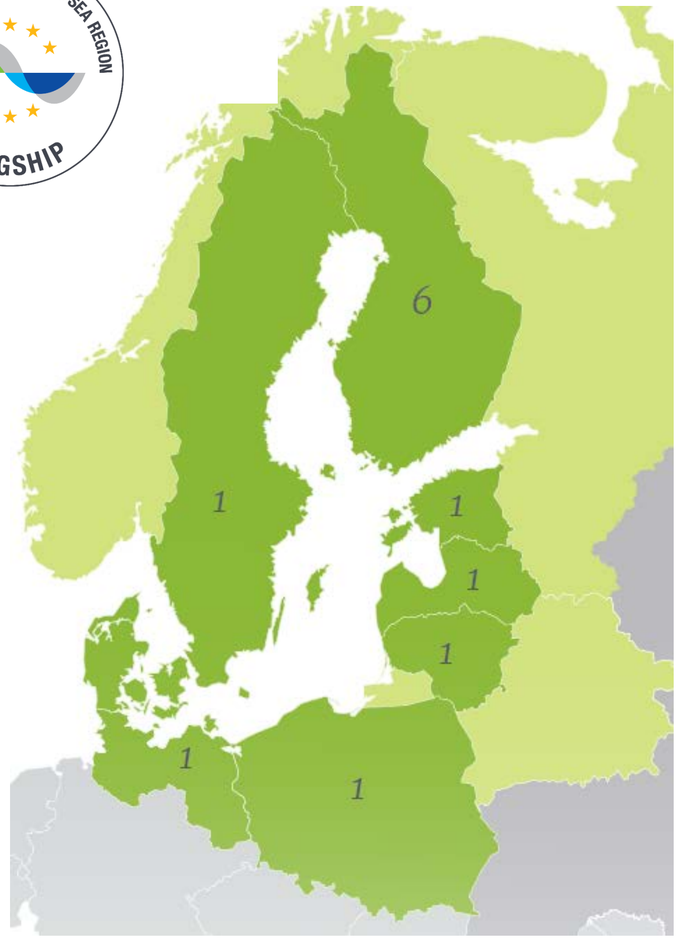
COMPLETE project in a nutshell

- *12 partners*
- *23 associated organizations*
- *10/2017 – 03/2021 → prolongation of 6 months due to COVID-19*

- *Homepage: www.balticcomplete.com*
- *Twitter: @BalticComplete, #BalticComplete*



"Developing consistent and adaptive management tools and recommendations for the Baltic Sea Region
BY
addressing both major vectors of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens: ballast water and biofouling."

COMPLETE activities

Harmonized monitoring of non-indigenous species

- Mapping areas of risk to alien species introductions
- Developing molecular methods for non-indigenous species detection
- Recommendations for integrated monitoring system
- Information system of non-indigenous species (AquaNIS)
- Operational Early Warning System

Harmonized implementation of Ballast Water Management Convention

- Improving target species (TS) selection criteria
- Improved online risk-assessment tool (HELCOM-OSPAR JHP)
- Decision support system for ballast water management
- Training for BWMC compliance monitoring

Proposal for a regional biofouling management strategy

ROADMAP

- Estimation of biofouling potential (shipping, leisure crafts)
- Collecting baseline information of biofouling management
- Tools to optimize anti-fouling systems and cleaning methods
- Interactive map of hull cleaning services
- Guidance for leisure crafts

Publications: https://www.balticcomplete.com/publications
Project reports: https://www.balticcomplete.com/publications/project-reports

Dissemination of the main results, conveying the results to the policy level

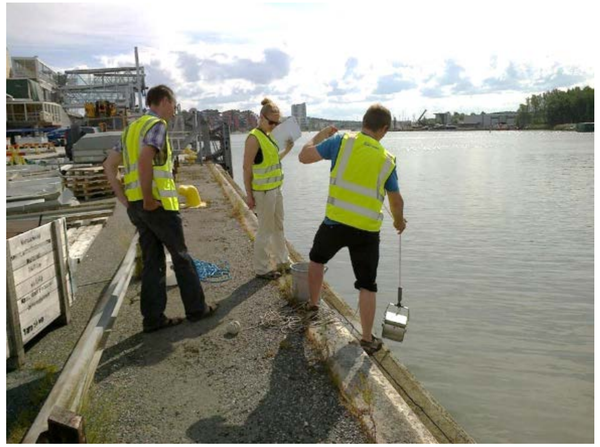


Photo: Maiju Lehtiniemi / SYKE

Photo: Aurelija Samuiloviene / KU

Recommendations for HELCOM manual on non-indigenous species monitoring

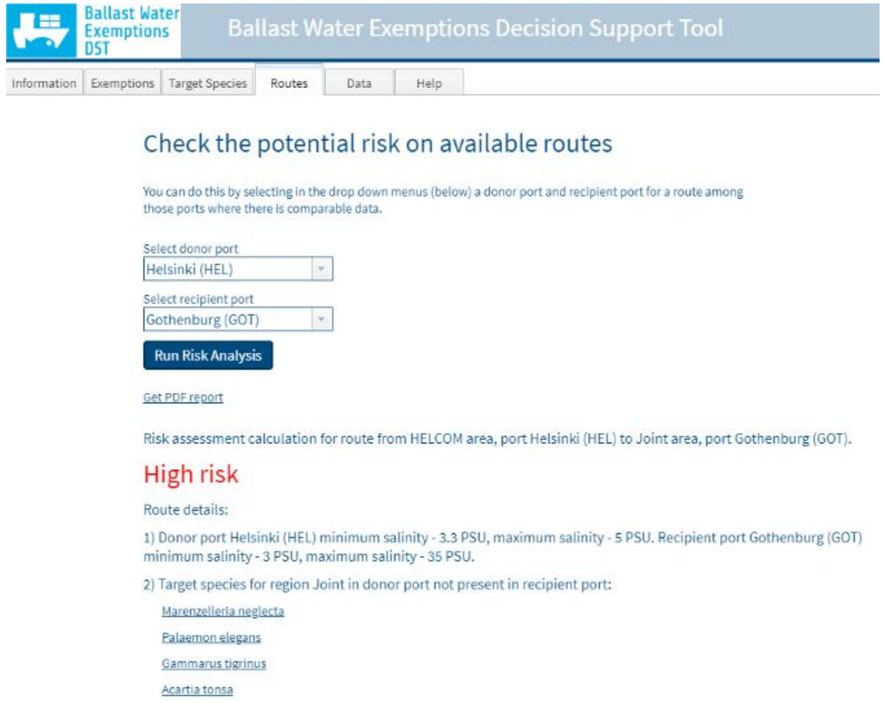
- Includes tools and guidelines for the integration of all types of existing and developing surveys and approaches, which may provide information on NIS arrival, such as eDNA, citizen science observations, baited traps.

- Draft non-indigenous species (NIS) monitoring programme was presented for the HELCOM State and Conservation meeting in May 2020.
  - Link: https://portal.helcom.fi/meetings/STATE%20-%20CONSERVATION%2012-2020-740/MeetingDocuments/3MA-13-Rev.1%20Draft%20HELCOM%20monitoring%20programme%20on%20NIS.pdf

- *The finalized NIS monitoring manual will be submitted for acceptance to the next HELCOM State and Conservation meeting in 2021 (May 2021).*

Dissemination of the main results, conveying the results to the policy level

https://maps.helcom.fi/website/RA_tool/



HELCOM/OSPAR Ballast Water Exemption Decision Support Tool

- Updated during COMPLETE: criteria for the Target Species, the risk assessment scheme and the DS tool
- The tool allows administrations and ship owners to quickly identify routes that may qualify for exemptions in the HELCOM and OSPAR marine areas
- Linked to the most updated knowledge on harmful aquatic organisms and pathogen introduction by shipping in the Baltic Sea (AquaNIS database).
- HELCOM MARITIME 20-2020: *The Meeting approved the revised JHP and instructed the Secretariat to carry out an editorial and factual review and make necessary corrections before submission to HOD 59-2020 for adoption.*

- Link: https://portal.helcom.fi/meetings/MARITIME%2020-2020-787/MeetingDocuments/Outcome%20of%20MARITIME%2020-2020.pdf

Dissemination of the main results, conveying the results to the policy level

Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

MARITIME 20-2020

Maritime Working Group

Online, 5-8 October 2020

Document title	Proposal for a Regional Baltic Biofouling Management Roadmap
Code	4-1
Category	DEC
Agenda Item	4- Ballast water, biofouling and anti-fouling systems
Submission date	11.9.2020
Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	

Background

The COMPLETE Project (Completing management options in the Baltic Sea Region to reduce risk of invasive species introduction by shipping, 2017-2021), funded by the EU Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme, includes partner institutions from Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Sweden, as well as HELCOM.

This document provides the COMPLETE project outputs and deliverables related to biofouling management in the Baltic Sea Region, contributing to the implementation of the IMO Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species (resolution MEPC.207(62)) which are currently under review (MEPC.1/Circ.811), and the Guidance for minimizing the transfer of invasive aquatic species as biofouling (hull fouling) for recreational craft (MEPC.1/Circ.792) in the Baltic Sea Region. The concept of the Regional Baltic Biofouling Management Roadmap was already submitted to HELCOM MARITIME 19-2019, being welcomed and supported, indicating the way forward for the further development of the concept into the attached proposal for a Biofouling Roadmap

Proposal for a Regional Baltic Biofouling Management Roadmap

- Takes into account the COMPLETE project outputs, deliverables and recommendations related to biofouling management in the Baltic Sea Region.
- Was shared by HELCOM as a proposal from the COMPLETE project with the HELCOM community at HELCOM MARITIME 20-2020.
- *The Meeting mandated TG BALLAST 11-2020 to finalize and agree to it, followed by direct submission by TG BALLAST 11-2020 to HOD 59-2020 for approval and subsequent adoption by HELCOM 42-2021.*

- Link: https://portal.helcom.fi/meetings/MARITIME%2020-2020-787/MeetingDocuments/4-1%20Proposal%20for%20a%20Regional%20Baltic%20Biofouling%20Management%20Roadmap.pdf

Dissemination of the results, conveying the results to the policy level

HELCOM MARITIME Meeting 20-2020 invited interested Contracting Parties to submit the draft Roadmap for consideration to the IMO Correspondence Group on the Review of the Biofouling Guidelines as an input from the COMPLETE Project as it provides useful input for this IMO process.

Participation in the process of the HELCOM BSAP update, which is expected to take into account emerging issues such as biofouling as a potential source of NIS and the need for biofouling management.

Updates of project progress regularly given at

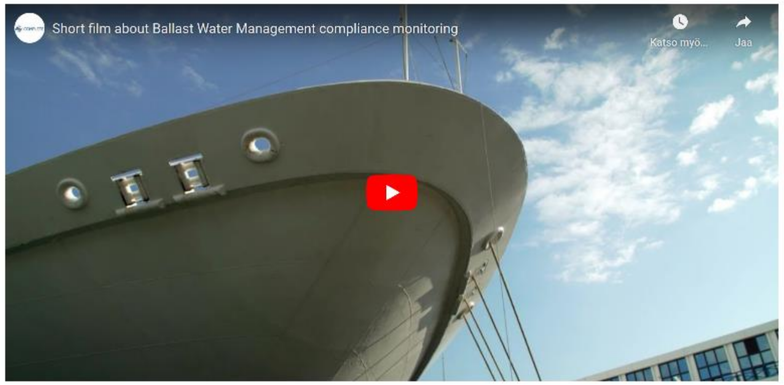
- ICES Working Group on Ballast and Other Ship Vectors (WGBOSV)
- ICES/IOC/IMO Working Group on Introduction and Transfers of Marine Organisms (WGITMO)

Photo: R. Brzana

Dissemination of the main results

Final conference

- 9-10 February 2021 as an online event: SAVE THE DATE



Examples of other outputs

- Database of legal aspects and best practices in the BSR
- 2 short movies available in YouTube:
  -Short film about Ballast Water Management compliance monitoring
  -Documentary film Baltic hitchhikers
- 12 peer-reviewed publications, several papers in preparation
- 4 technical reports, several reports in preparation

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Continuation of the Flagship: COMPLETE PLUS

- *Extension stage project from the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme (04-12/2020).*

- *COMPLETE PLUS (Practical implementation of the COMPLETE project outcomes), to ensure the sustainability of the main results. (www.balticcomplete.com)*

1. Assuring sustainable use of the COMPLETE products for the ballast water management

1.1 Operationality-testing of Early Warning System (EWS)
1.2 Updating the Target Species list based on the new criteria, ensuring future updates
1.3 NIS monitoring data available in one site

2. From biofouling roadmap to practical implementation in the BSR

2.1 Training and campaign together with end-users to effectively share the best biofouling mitigation practises
2.2 Implementation of biofouling management toolkit in cooperation with stakeholders
2.3 Developing a Risk Assessment procedure for in-water cleaning
2.4 Implementation plan proposal for the biofouling management roadmap (concrete steps, related timetable)

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THANK YOU!