

HELCOM framework to prevent marine litter, including microplastics, in the Baltic Sea

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FanpLESStic-SEA Final Conference
30 November 2021





Monitoring and assessment



Actions on sources



2021: Target year



Monitoring and assessment

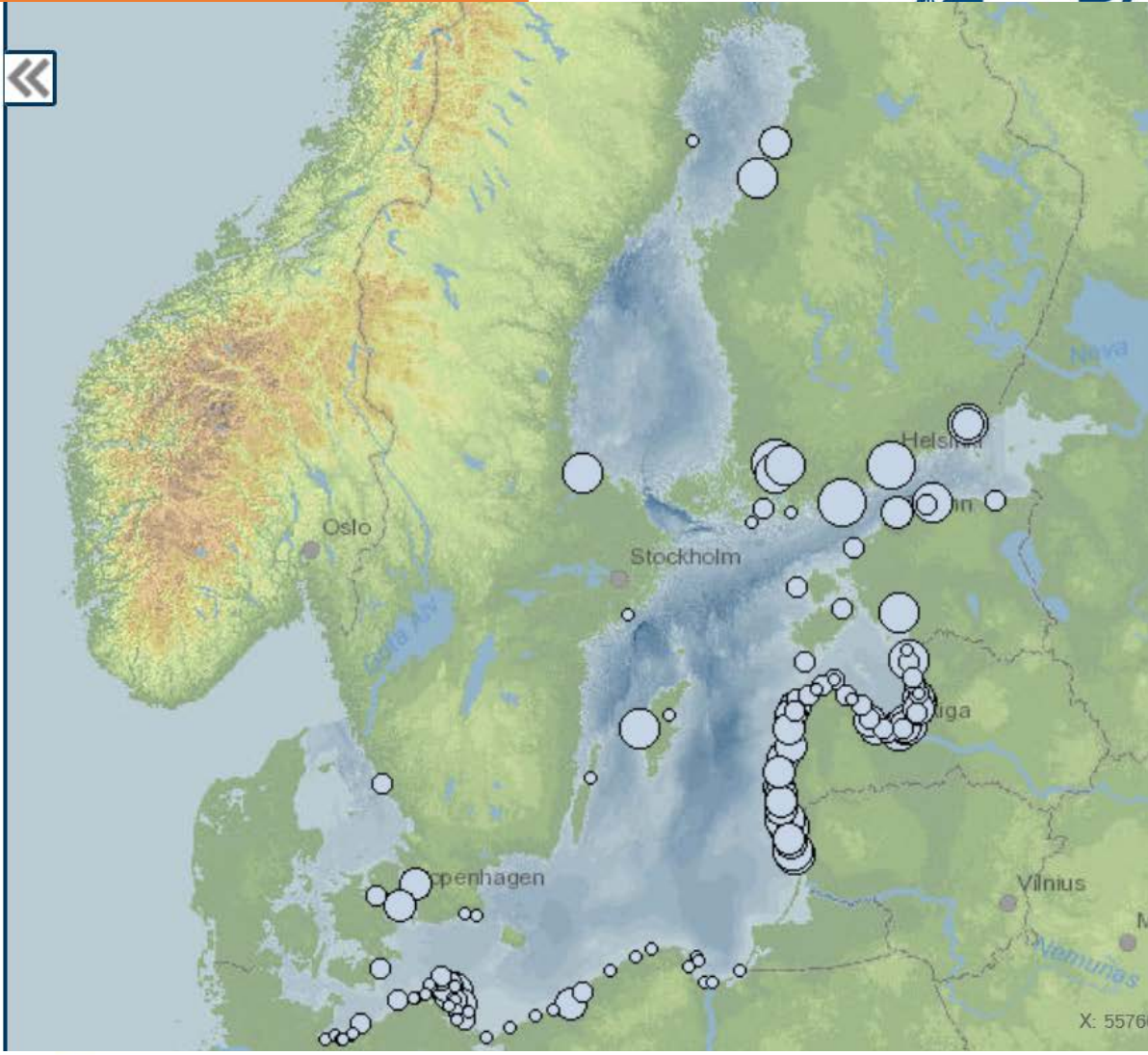


STATE OF THE BALTIC SEA PLASTIC ASSESSMENT -

Search...

- Status assessments
- Monitoring
- Pressures and human activities
 - Baltic Sea Pressure and Impact Index
 - Dredging and deposits
 - Dumped chemical munitions
 - Fisheries
 - Land-based pollution
 - Marine litter
 - Beach litter on monitored sites (plastic pieces/100m)
 - 2 - 36
 - 37 - 80
 - 81 - 137
 - 138 - 346
 - 347 - 1142
 - Biodiversity

[Collapse layer list](#) [Hide all layers](#)



wood





Monitoring and assessment



Rank	Urban beach	Peri-urban	Rural beach
1	Drinking related items such as cups, caps, lids (plastic)	Plastic and polystyrene pieces	Plastic and polystyrene pieces
2	Plastic and polystyrene pieces	Food related items such as wrappers, packets (plastic)	Food related items such as wrappers, packets (plastic)
3	Cigarette butts and remains.	Cigarette butts	Drinking related items such as cups, caps, lids (plastic)
4	Food related items such as wrappers, packets (plastic)	Drinking related items such as cups, caps, lids (plastic)	Plastic bags
5	Paper and cardboard items	Plastic bags	Bottles and containers (plastic)
6	Drinking related items such as bottle caps, pull tabs (metal)	Single-use cutlery and straws	String and ropes (plastic)
7	Plastic bags	Drinking related items such as bottle caps, pull tabs (metal)	Cigarette butts
8	Single-use cutlery and straws	Glass and ceramic fragments	Glass and ceramic fragments
9	Bottles and containers (plastic)	Foil wrappers and pieces of metal	Industrial packaging
10	Drinking related cans (metal)	String and ropes (plastic)	Processed wood and pieces of processed wood





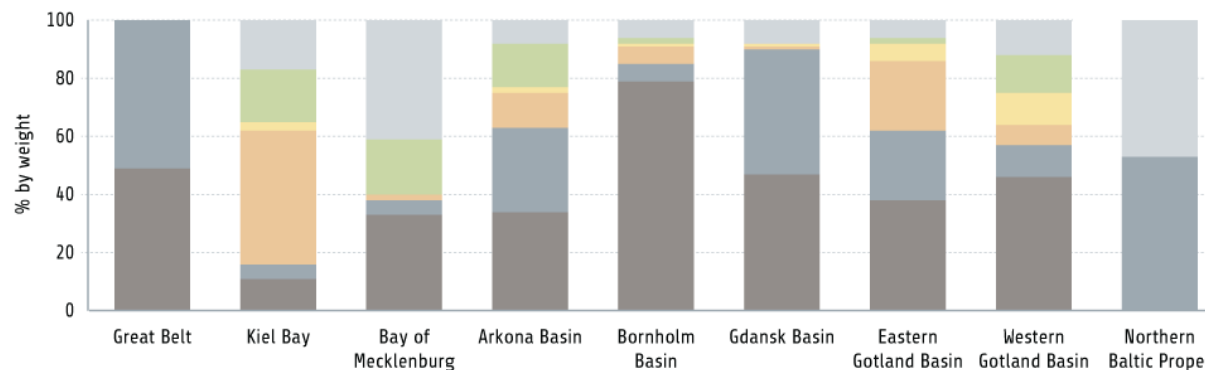
Monitoring and assessment



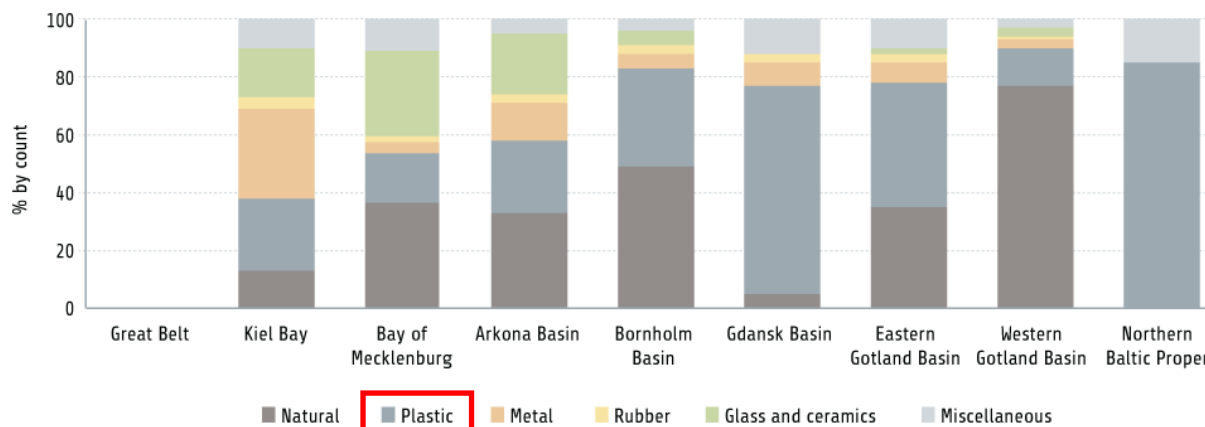
**STATE OF THE
BALTIC SEA**
- HOLISTIC ASSESSMENT -



**Seafloor litter items per category in different sub-basins -
proportion by weight**



**Seafloor litter items per category in different sub-basins -
proportion by number of items**



Co-funded by
the European Union





Monitoring and assessment

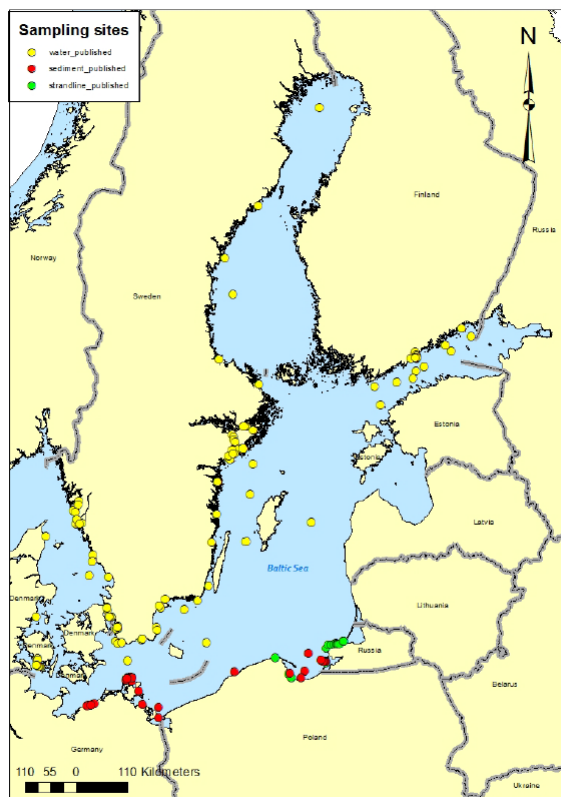


Figure 1. Microlitter sampling sites in the Baltic Sea based on published data (scientific journals and national reports).

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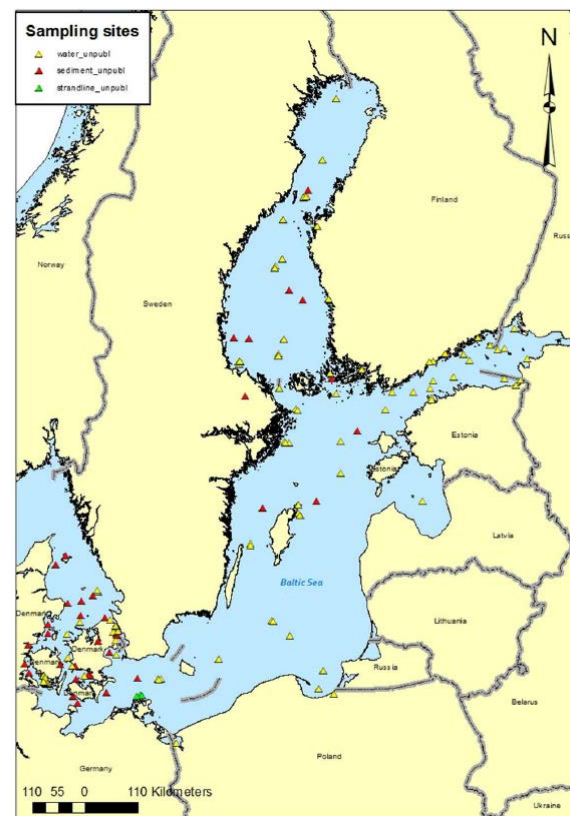


Figure 2. Microlitter sampling sites in the Baltic Sea based on HELCOM data call (unpublished).





Monitoring and assessment

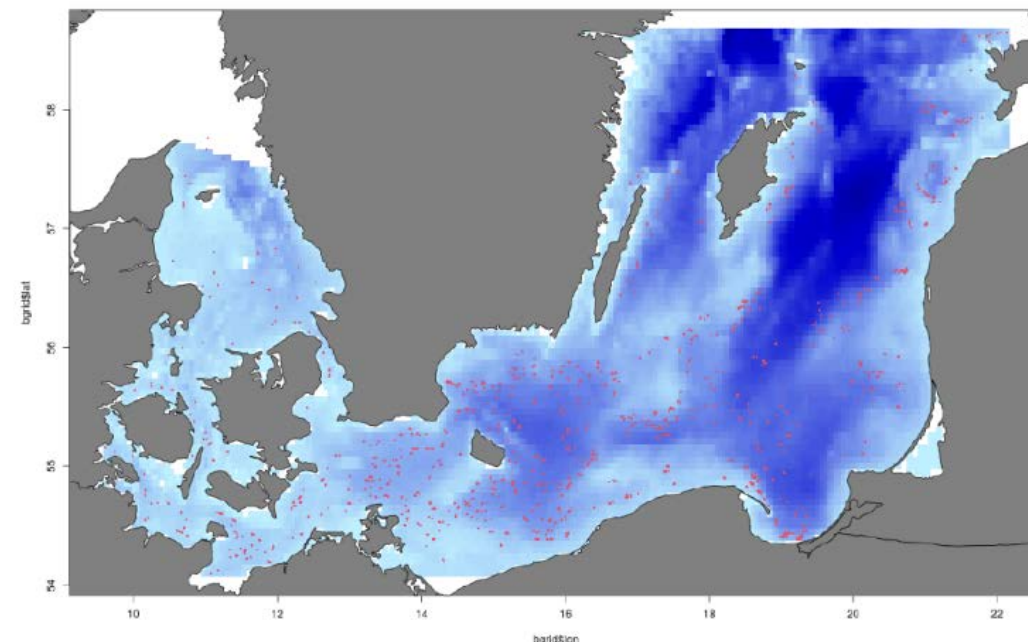
Seafloor litter:

- based on ICES coordinated trawl surveys, thus there is no sampling in coastal areas, on rough grounds, grounds with dumped munition and north of the Gotland basins;
- “single use plastic” and “fishing gear” items categories will be included as a separate output of the assessment;
- interim threshold value: ‘trend not significantly >0’, to be updated once a threshold value is established at EU level



THIRD HELCOM
HOLISTIC ASSESSMENT
OF THE BALTIC SEA
2016–2021

HOLAS3



Sampling locations (red) and depth (shades of blue). Note that deep areas are not sampled. Source: document 3J-72 to STATE & CONSERVATION 15-2021



Monitoring and assessment



THIRD HELCOM
HOLISTIC ASSESSMENT
OF THE BALTIC SEA
2016-2021

HOLAS3



BLUES



Activity 3:

A3 – Support for and harmonisation of regional work on Descriptor 10 (marine litter)



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Beach litter:

- threshold value: 20 litter items per 100 metres of coastline (median without fragments < 2.5 cm and chemicals like paraffin, wax, oil and other pollutants);
- to provide, if data allows, supplementary information in relation to the more problematic top litter items for the region;
- to provide, if data allows, supplementary information in relation to reduction targets for specific litter items in connection with the reduction targets for marine litter in the 2021 BSAP.

Microlitter:

- towards the development of an indicator for microlitter in seabed sediments and in the water column as well as producing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for monitoring microlitter.



HELCOM RAP ML 2015

- [HELCOM Recommendation 36/1](#): **30 Regional actions** – HELCOM Collective Actions + 27 Voluntary national actions
- **Lead country** approach for the implementation of regional actions
- Facilitated by the HELCOM Experts Network on Marine Litter
- “...the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter will be reviewed and, if necessary, **updated in 2021.**”





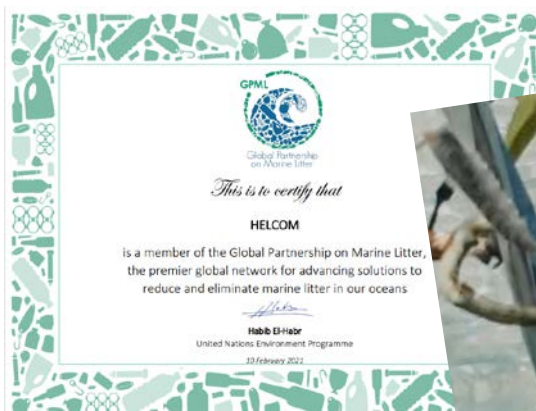
Actions on sources



Attendance to **UN events** and echoing of **campaigns**.

Contribution to **UN reports**:

- “Marine Plastic Debris and Microplastics: Global Trends and Research to Inspire Action”



...dimension in the ... of the G7 Action Plan on ML (Rome, April 2017)

- to Combat Marine Litter in Synergy with the Regional Seas Conventions (Metz, May 2019)



G7 Workshop on Marine Litter
“Mainstreaming the work of the Regional Sea Programmes towards the better implementation of the G7 Action Plan and the achievement of the global commitments on marine litter”
(Rome, Italy – 20-21 April 2017)

The Way Forward

The relevance of the regional dimension in the implementation of the G7 Action Plan on Marine Litter





2021: Target year



Hazardous substances
and litter goal

*“Baltic Sea unaffected
by hazardous substances”*

Theme: Marine litter

HL31

Improve the evidence base on the impact of marine litter on the Baltic Sea region in order to develop and agree on new measures by 2025.

HL32

Agree on core indicators and harmonised monitoring methods to evaluate quantities, composition, distribution and sources (including riverine input), of marine litter, including microlitter, by 2022, where applicable and for the rest no later than 2026. Work should be done in close coordination with work undertaken by Contracting Parties in other relevant fora, such as the Technical Group on marine litter under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Please note: The HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter is the main regional tool for achieving the marine litter ecological and management objectives.

— No harm to marine life from litter.



2021: Target year

ML reduction targets in the 2021 BSAP:

*“By **2025 HELCOM** will reduce marine litter on the **beaches** by at least **30% and by 2030 by 50%** from the baseline total abundance of **40 litter items per hundred meters of beach** for the whole Baltic Sea except for Kattegat in 2015-2016, starting with the reduction of the most commonly found single-use plastic items and items related to fishing gear.*

*By **2023 HELCOM** will further develop regionally coordinated quantitative **reduction targets for marine litter** to guide progress towards relevant regional and EU threshold values.”*

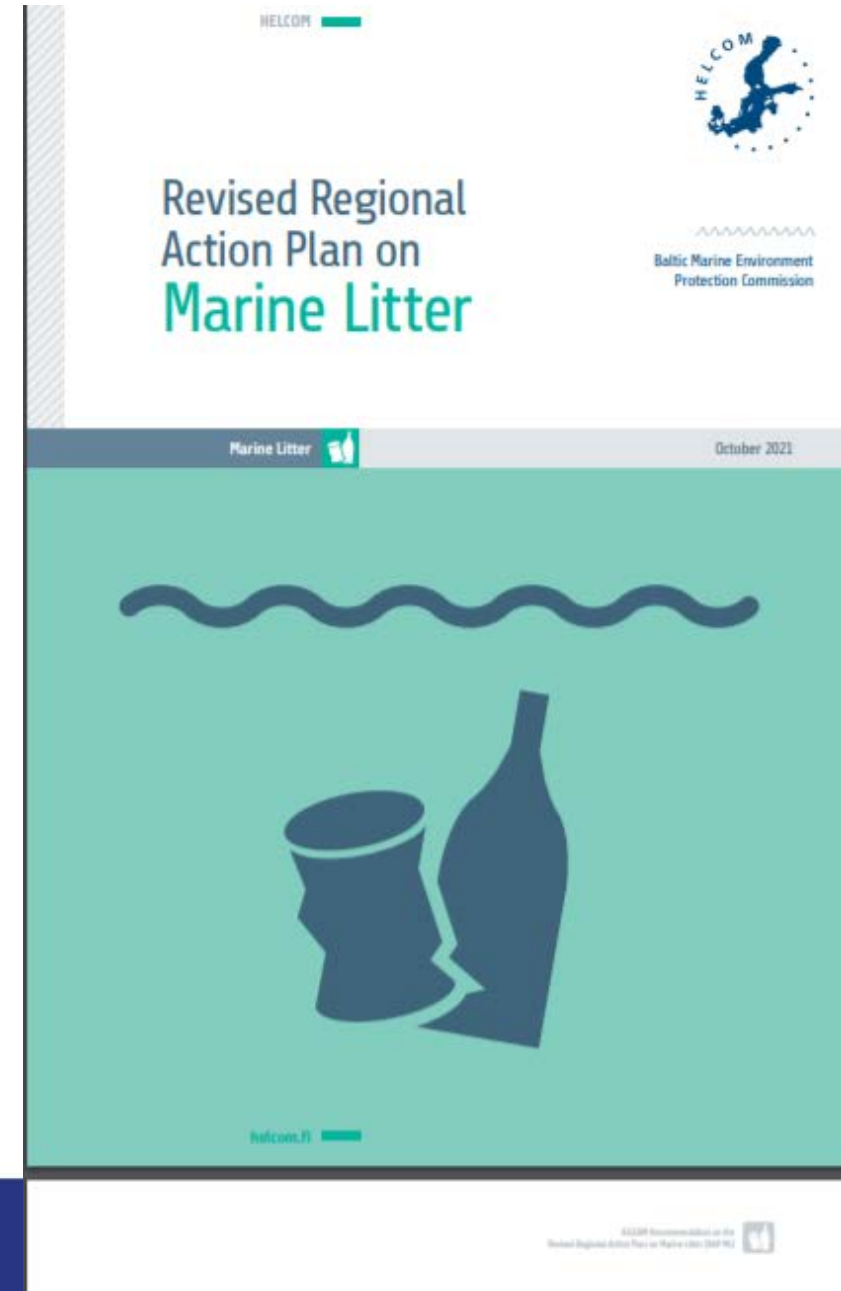
More information: <https://helcom.fi/baltic-sea-action-plan/>



2021: Target year

How does the revised RAP ML look like?

- Adopted by the 2021 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting
- **No voluntary national actions** -> only regional ones
- Structure within the actions:
 - Land-based sources (14)
 - Sea-based sources (15)





2021: Target year

Actions addressing land-based sources of ML

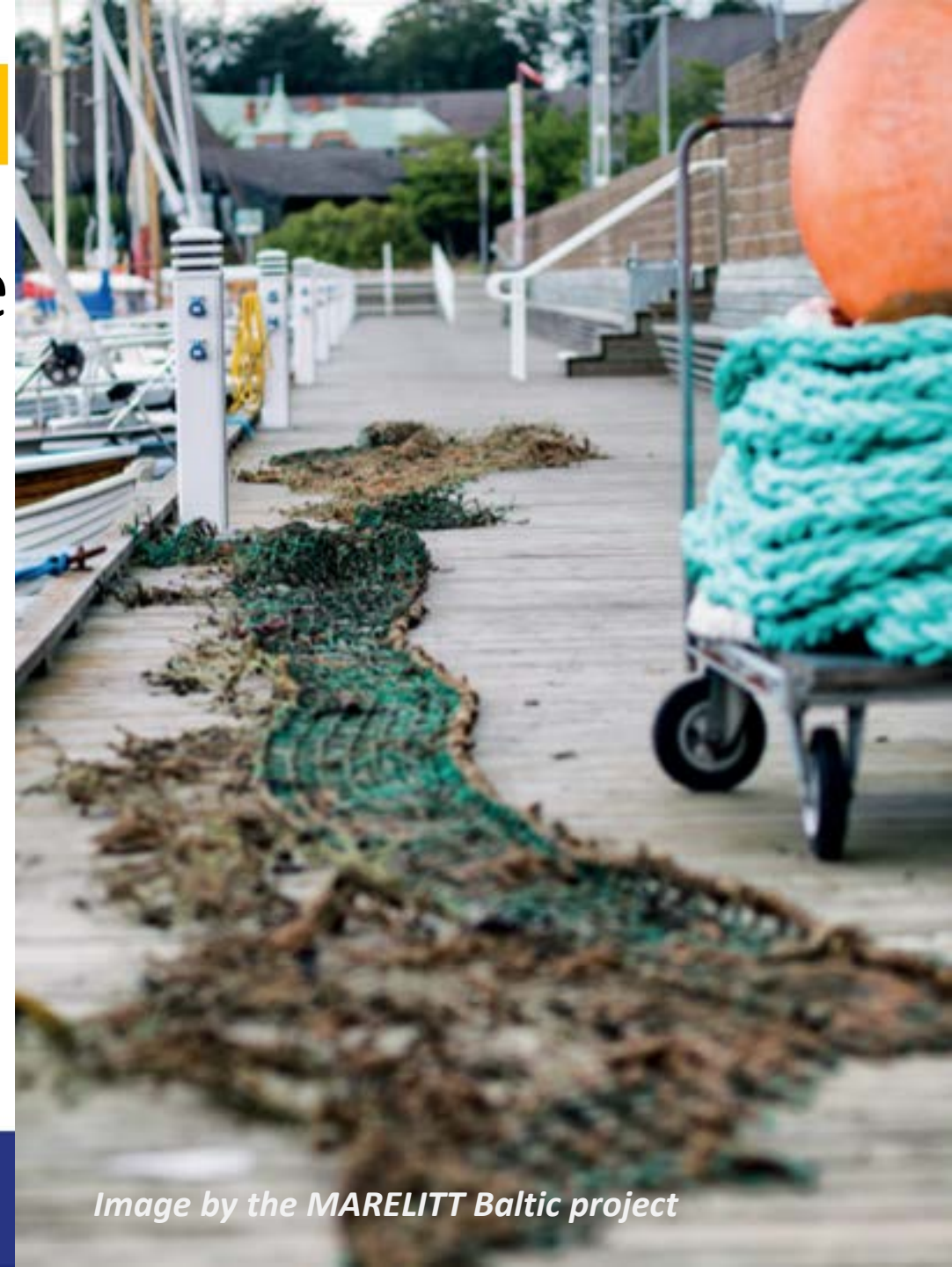




2021: Target year

Actions addressing sea-base sources of ML

- Shipping related activities
- ALDFG and other fisheries related litter





2021: Target year

Actions on microplastics

- Based evaluations of the most significant products and processes that release primary and secondary microplastics, assess if they are covered or not by legislation, and act, if appropriate, to influence or adjust the legal framework, or identify other necessary measures to reduce emissions to the aquatic environment.
- Evaluate the possibility to introduce regional recommendations to reduce release of microplastics from WWTP
- Development of a HELCOM guideline on establishment and operation of artificial turfs, to prevent plastic losses



Thank you!

