

Gulf of Finland Declaration
ANNEX 1

Co-operation Programme of the Gulf of Finland trilateral co-operation between Estonia, Finland and Russia to protect the marine environment

Background

It is of vital importance that the becoming Gulf of Finland trilateral co-operation programme is supporting the work within the HELCOM and other international bodies and organizations, the EU Marine Policy and implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

The goal of the trilateral co-operation is to help reaching the good ecological status of the Gulf of Finland, promote actions to achieve it and to have sustainable development as a guideline in marine protection.

Scientific co-operation to support the abovementioned goals is strongly based on the common, novel results of research and joint monitoring during the trilateral programme Gulf of Finland Year 2014.

1. Co-ordination Committee

A permanent Trilateral Co-ordination Committee chaired by Secretaries General or Vice-Ministers for the environment of each country will be established. The Chairs invite and appoint members of the Committee from ministries, regional and local authorities and research organizations. The Committee will meet 1-2 times per year on the invitation of the Chairs.

2. Scientific work

Scientific work will be co-ordinated by a Trilateral Expert Group nominated by the Co-ordination Committee. In scientific research, one overarching research theme will be chosen annually and the results will be discussed among scientists and reported to the Co-ordination Committee.

- a) Scientific activities are organized by the scientific Expert Group on annual basis in co-operation with NGOs and coastal, regional and local authorities.
- b) Specific outside funding is applied by scientists and the scientific Expert Group from various sources.

3. Monitoring programme

Estonia, Finland and Russia will co-operate and join forces when carrying out national monitoring programmes as agreed in the common monitoring programme (Annex3).

4. Network with international bodies including the submission of information with regard to activities carried out in the framework of the trilateral co-operation of the Gulf of Finland:

- a) Develop dialogue between decision-makers, citizens and scientific organisations at federal/national, regional and local levels;
- b) Enhance and develop co-operation with HELCOM and other international bodies;
- c) Distribute information to citizens and various NGOs about the present state of the Gulf of Finland;
- d) Environmental education results from 2014 should be utilized and scientific results disseminated to the public in a more popular manner. Co-operation involving various Environment NGOs should be broadened and enhanced.

5. Road Map

The Trilateral Co-ordination Committee follows on regular basis the implementation of the recommendations given in the Road Map (**Annex 1**).

6. Next Gulf of Finland Year

The Trilateral Co-ordination Committee will, at a later stage, draw up a plan and arrange to organize the third Gulf of Finland Year.