

**The HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan
and Marine Spatial Planning**

Anne Christine Brusendorff
Executive Secretary
HELCOM

*The Baltic Sea – Our common responsibility.
Workshop on Integrated Sea Use management
Stockholm 22 September 2008*

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- Introduction
- HELCOM Ecosystem-based approach to integrated management
- Marine Spatial Planning as a specific issue



A healthy marine environment

- Not only a resource base
- Intrinsic value as a global common good, indispensable to life itself
- Safeguards long term ecosystem functions
- Provides the full economic potential of marine areas



HELCOM Ecosystem Approach

- Ecosystem as the point of departure
- Overall vision, with clear environmental objectives and targets → basis for environmental requirements
- Best (not perfect) scientific knowledge
- Integrated management of human activities needed for implementation
- Ecosystem characteristics – regional Baltic approach



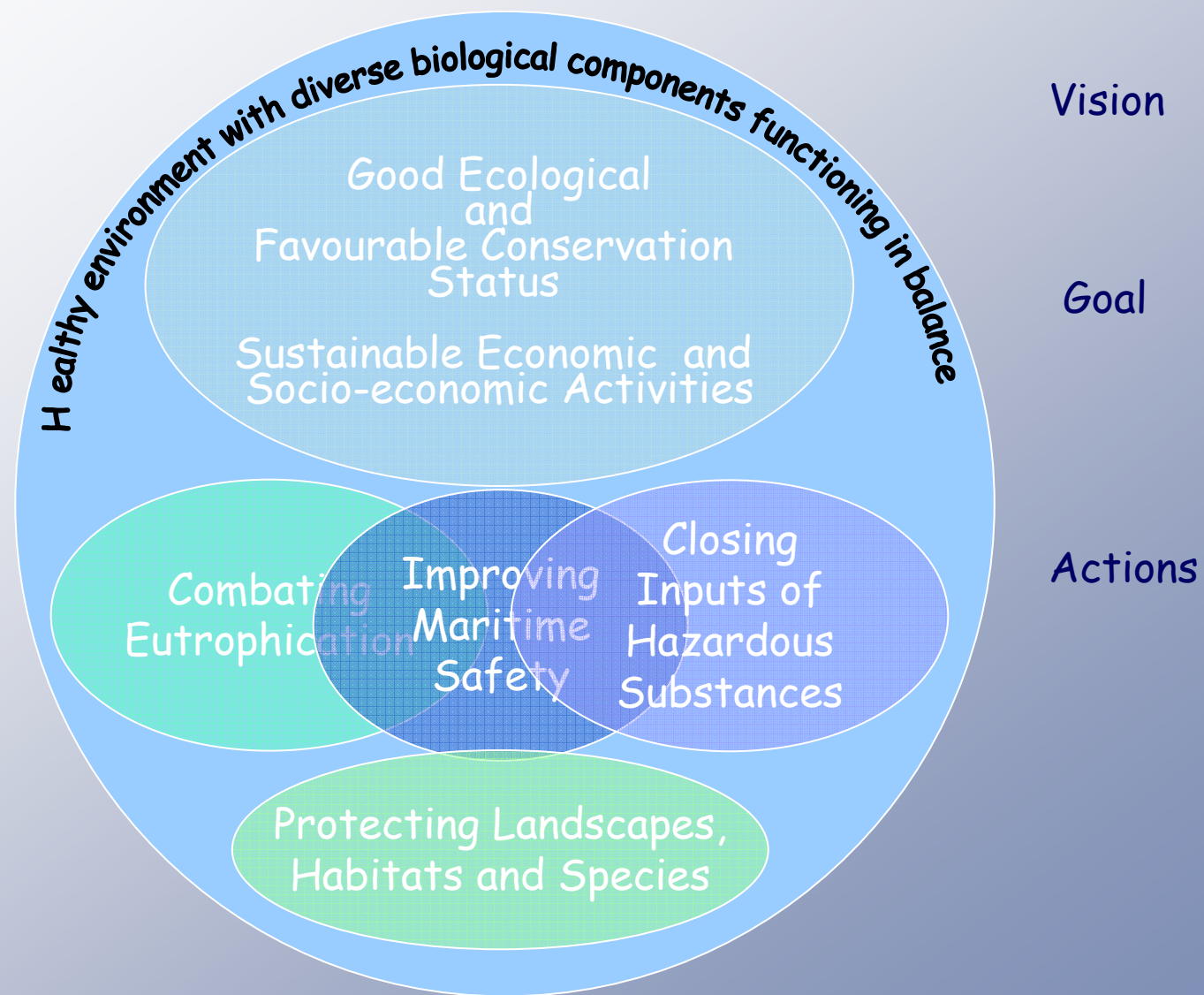
HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan

15 November 2007

- Builds upon the ecosystem approach
 - Shared vision,
 - Goals, ecological objectives and targets for four priority areas
 - Specifies concrete actions
 - For nutrient pollution includes quantitative national emission targets



HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan

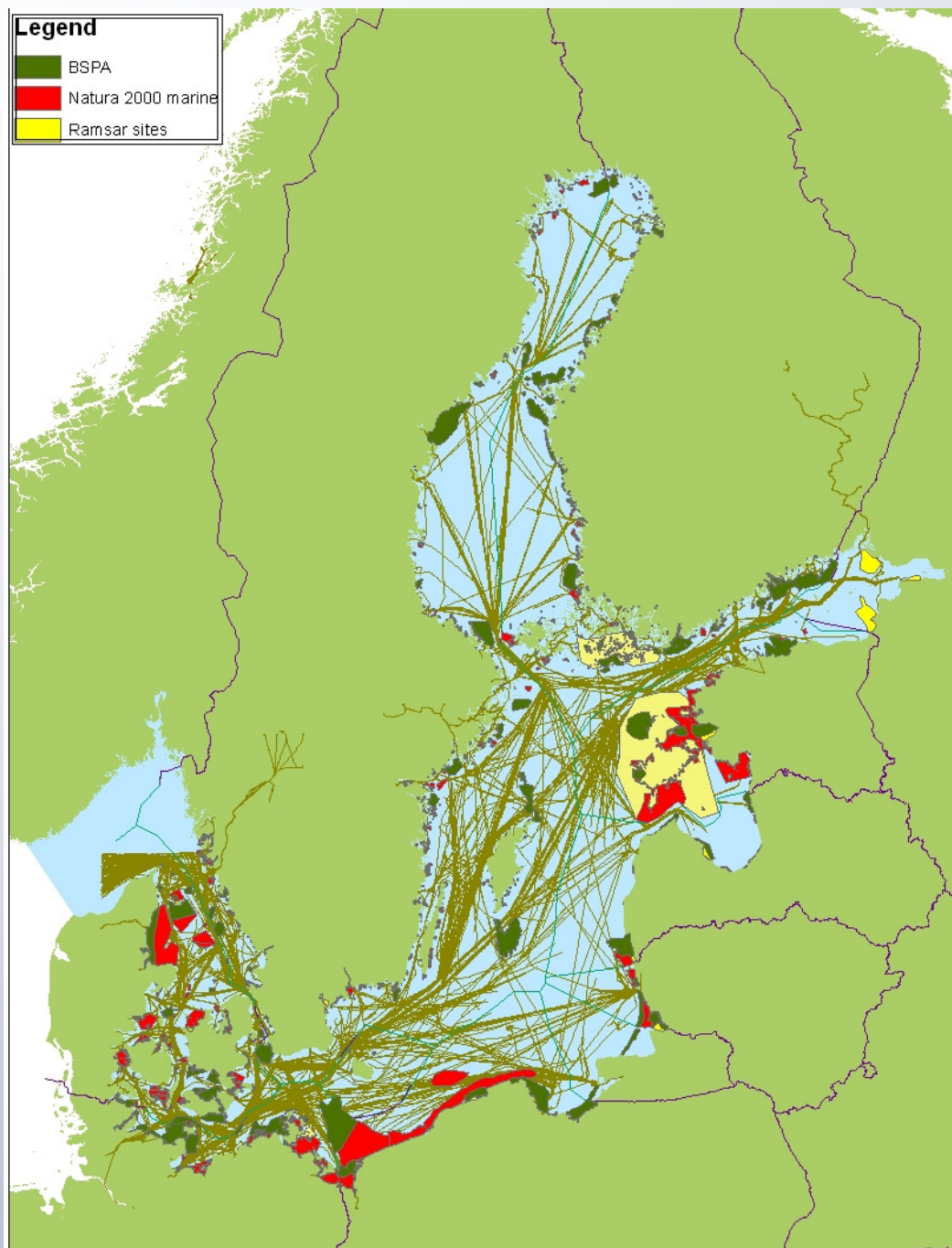


The spatial challenge

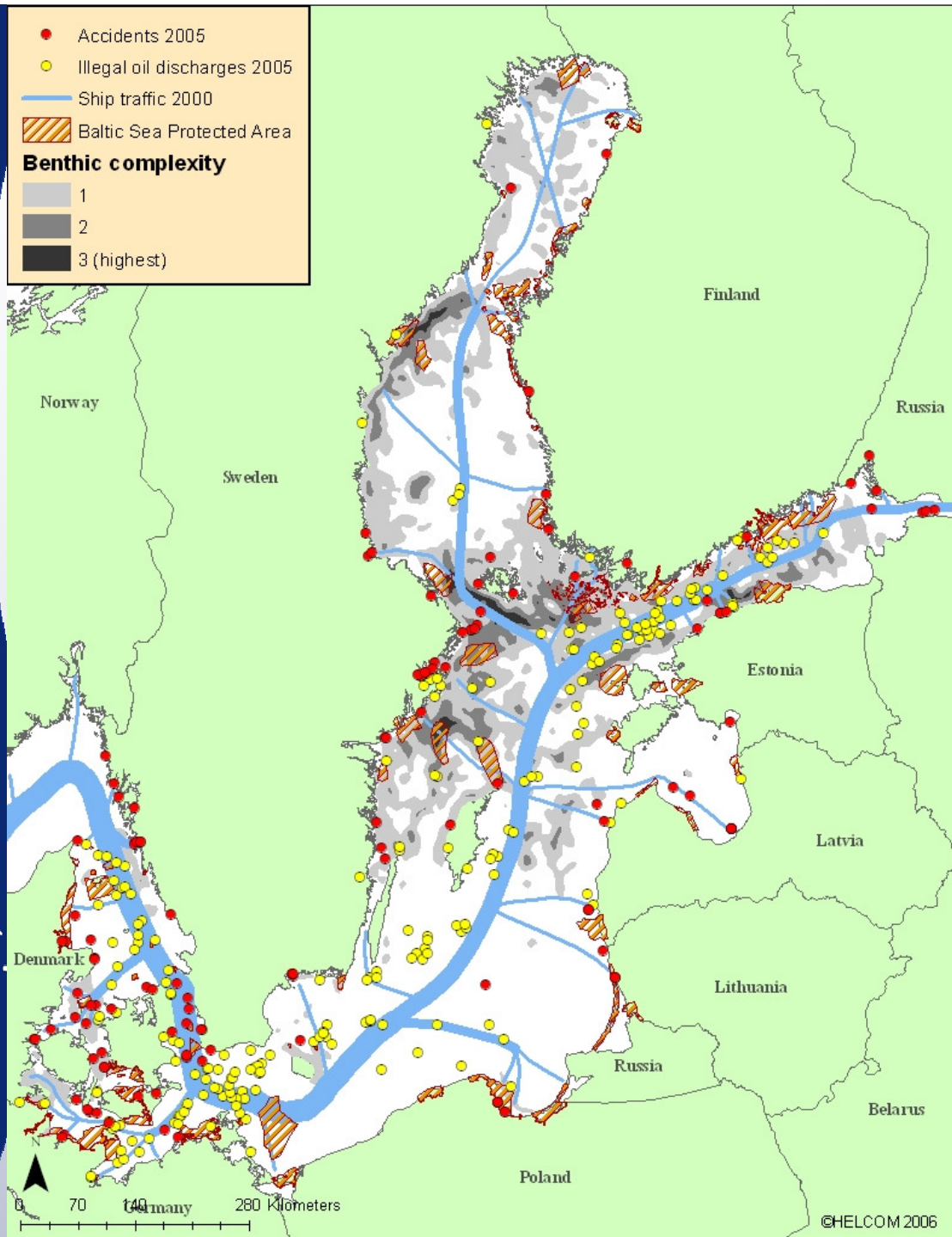
- Multiple uses of the marine environment
 - Limited space & competing uses
 - Increased interest in underwater resources and space
- How to safeguard environmental objectives and targets in all this?
- Which issues are of regional relevance?



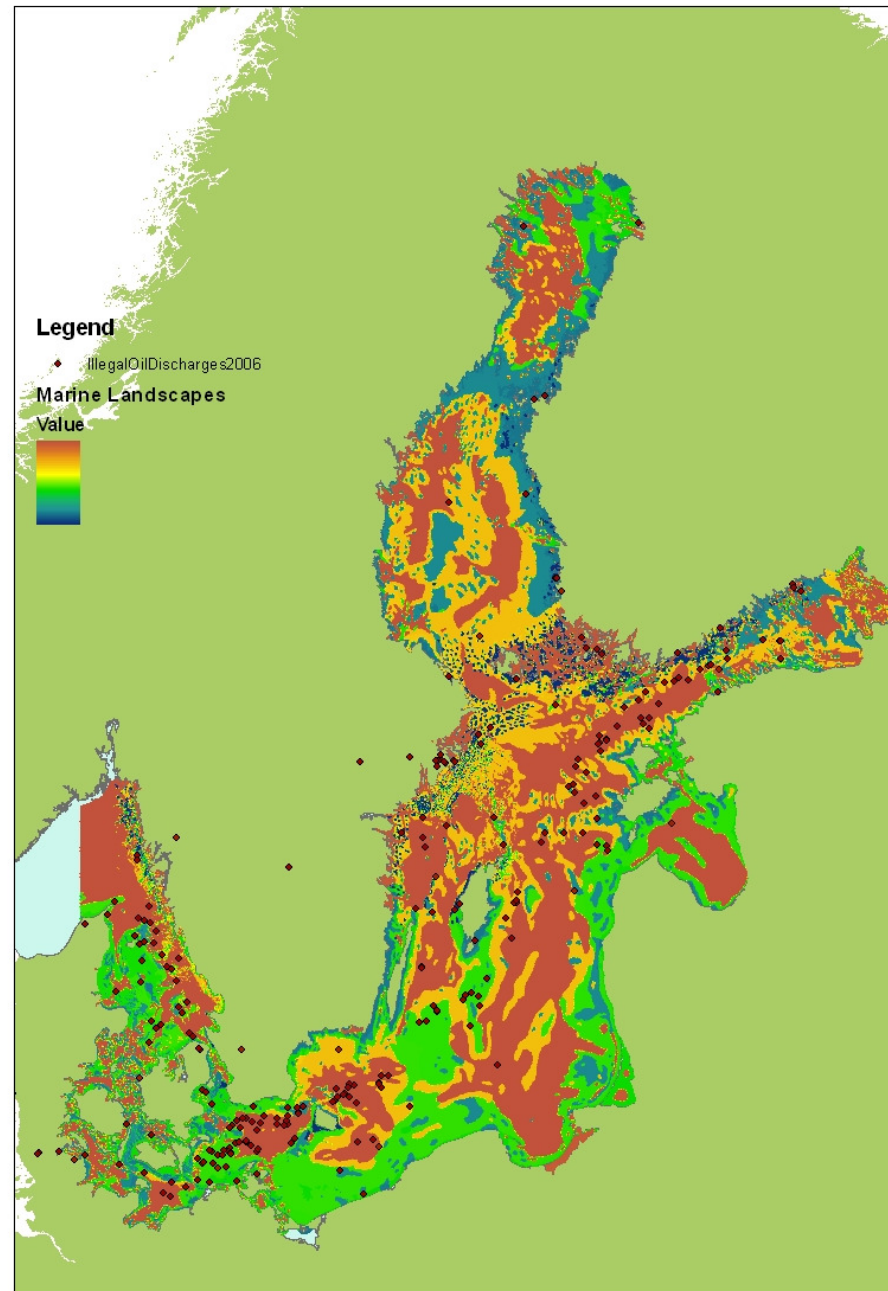
Maritime activities and areas important to the ecosystem



Maritime activities and areas important to the ecosystem



Maritime activities and areas important to the ecosystem



Regional Marine Spatial Planning?

- Joint long term spatial management of offshore/transboundary activities requiring:
 - Concrete spatial problems
 - Clarification of diverse regimes (UNCLOS, IMO regulations, EU directives and HELCOM measures)
 - Regional (opposed to national) collection of spatial information (GIS)
 - An end-user (HELCOM?)



Existing policy framework

- MPAs- HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 15/5 (1994)
- Maritime Traffic –HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration (2001)
- ICZM -HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 24/10 (2003)
- HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan:
 - Develop by 2010, as well as test, apply and evaluate by 2012, in co-operation with other relevant international bodies, broad-scale, cross-sectoral, marine spatial planning principles based on the Ecosystem Approach
 - Recommendation 28E/9 on development of broad-scale marine spatial planning principles
- EU Maritime Policy (Blue Book)
 - National implementation of integrated marine spatial planning
 - 2008: proposed guidelines for national policies and development of a road map for marine spatial planning



Needs: Regional spatial data

- More focus on regional statistics with a spatial dimension is needed
- E.g. European database initiatives (SEIS including WISE etc) are ways to correct this, but nevertheless focused on status *environment*?
- Indicators of socio-economic development and environmental status should be shown in the same information system!



Future perspectives

- Possible integrated regional scale system of spatial allocation ("zoning") providing:
 - Joint framework for planning diverse issues e.g. Marine Protected Areas and IMO Routing Measures
- Based on a future set of joint regional principles (HELCOM BSAP, VASAB, EU Maritime Strategy)
- Transparent participatory process



Conclusions

- Marine Spatial Planning implements the ecosystem approach
- Implies coherent spatial management beyond present-day focus on single issues (MPAs, IMO routing measures)
- Needs regional spatially relevant information (HELCOM AIS)
- Needs an identified user
- One policy tool among others



Thank you

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