

HELCOM – VIEWS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL STATE OF THE BALTIC SEA

**Taking action
to combat eutrophication
in the Baltic**



Arturas Daubaras
Chairman of the Helsinki Commission

at CCB Annual Conference 2005
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Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)

- International co-operation for the protection of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea area since 1974
- Governing body of the Helsinki Convention
- 1992: new Convention on the Protection of the Baltic Marine Environment



HELCOM - Mouthpiece of the Baltic

- Need for regional specific measures
- HELCOM has experience in channelling regional needs in various international organisations, *i.e.* IMO
- In the future, facilitate communication from non-EU states within the catchment area to the EU
- Contribution to the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive



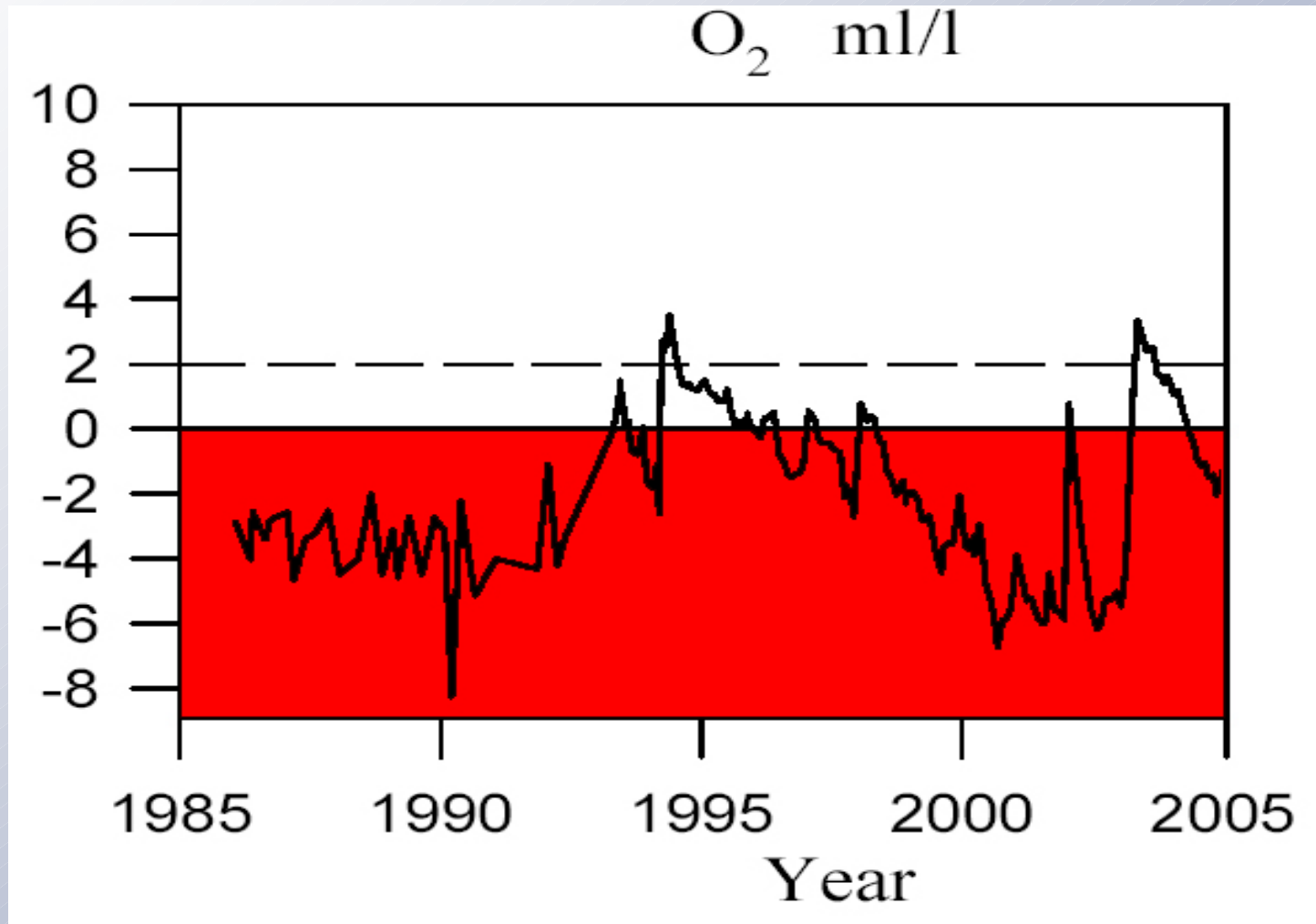
HELCOM's priority areas of work

Based on the eco-system approach:

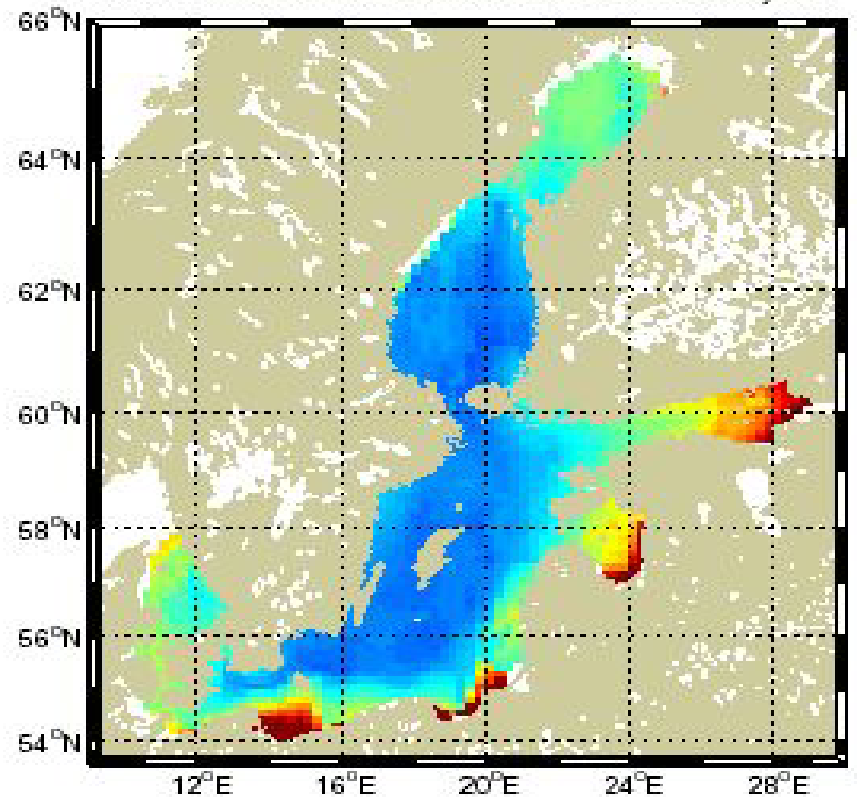
- Joint monitoring and assessment
- Nature conservation and biodiversity
- Eutrophication
- Hazardous substances relevant for the Baltic Sea
- Maritime safety and shipping, including response activities



Oxygen concentrations in bottom waters in 2002

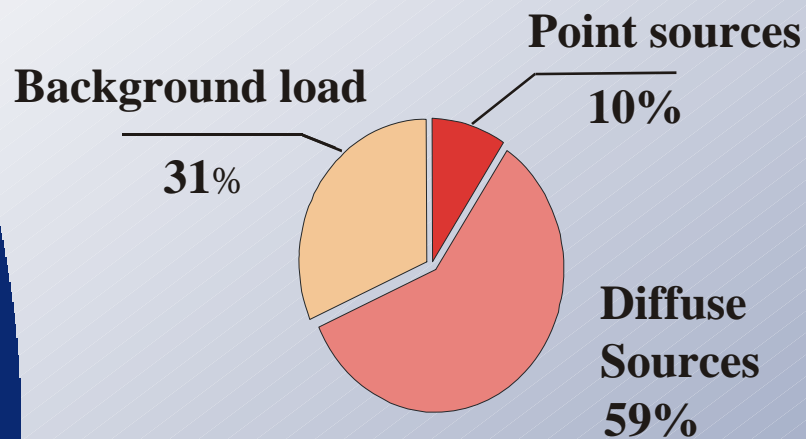


Nutrient concentrations in spring

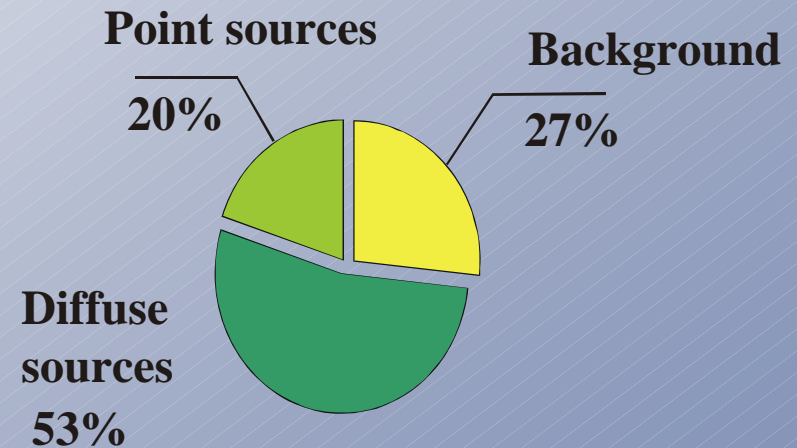


Overall results from the Fourth Pollution Load Compilation

Nitrogen






Phosphorus

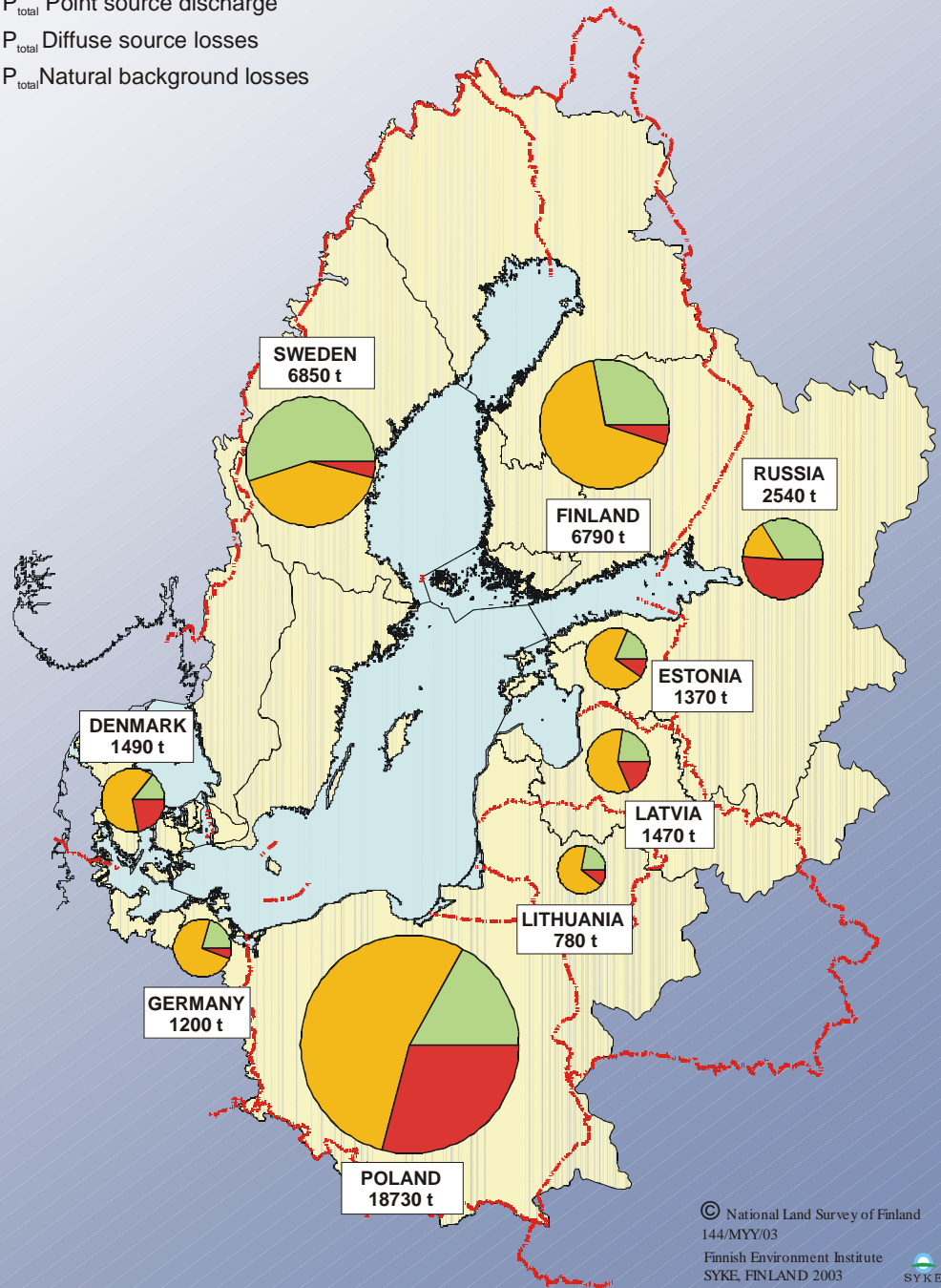


Discharges from different sectors



Phosphorus

-  P_{total} Point source discharge
-  P_{total} Diffuse source losses
-  P_{total} Natural background losses

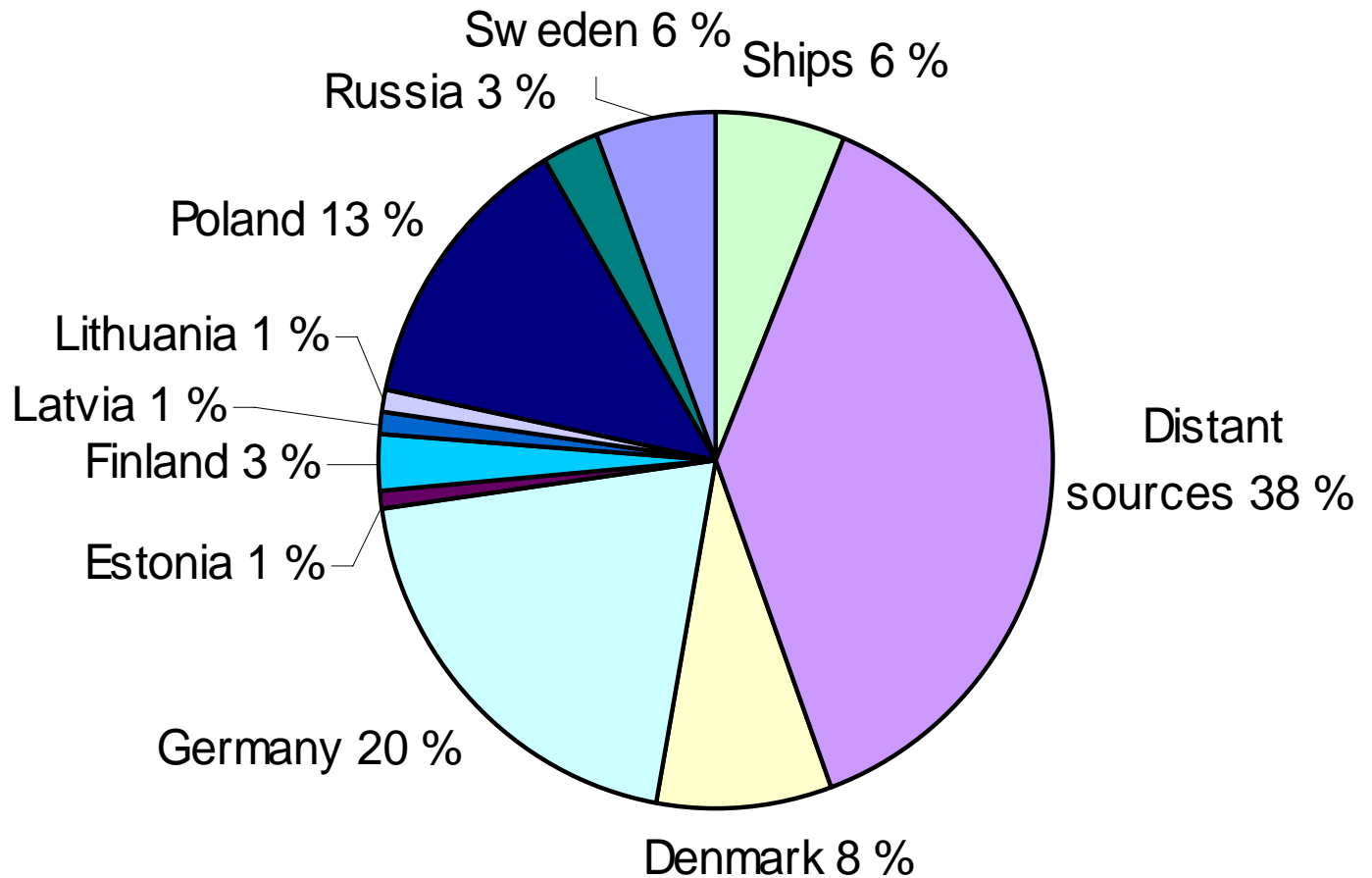


Progress in cutting nutrient loads

- Good progress in industries and municipalities will continue
- Less progress in agriculture
- Long time lag before reduction measures can be seen in losses
- Losses expected to increase after EU enlargement



Airborne nitrogen loads



Transboundary loads

- Transboundary pollution significant
- 7-8 % of total nutrient load comes from non-Contracting Parties
- Heavy metal load even more significant (5-15%)
- Airborne deposition also significant



Models and scenarios

Aim of the Project:

- To link catchment load and airborne deposition models with effect models
- To show effects of implemented agricultural policies
- To indicate the most cost-effective measures of most important pollution sources
- To give input to EU CAP review



Baltic Sea Regional Project

- HELCOM managing USD 5.5 million GEF project
- Reduce pollution from farms
- Local Implementation Units established
- Training and education
- Grants and favourable financing



Baltic Sea Action Plan

- Action plans to be elaborated for each eco-region (Stakeholder Conference on the development of the European Marine Strategy)
- HELCOM process to develop Ecological Objectives for the Baltic - cornerstones in developing the Baltic Sea Action Plan
- Involvement of all stakeholders important



For more information

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