

CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE
ENVIRONMENT OF THE BALTIC SEA AREA

HELSINKI COMMISSION - Baltic Marine
Environment Protection Commission

HELCOM 20/99
14/1
Annex 7

20th Meeting
Helsinki, 22-24 March 1999

HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 20/4 *)

Adopted 23 March 1999
having regard to Article 13, Paragraph b)
of the Helsinki Convention 1974

ANTIFOULING PAINTS CONTAINING ORGANOTIN COMPOUNDS

THE COMMISSION,

RECALLING Article 5 of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, 1992 (Helsinki Convention), in which the Contracting Parties undertake to prevent and eliminate pollution of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area caused by harmful substances from all sources, according to the provisions of the Convention and, to this end, implement the procedures and measures of Annex I of the 1992 Helsinki Convention,

RECALLING ALSO Annex I of the Helsinki Convention, according to which pesticides, such as fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, slimicides and chemicals used for the preservation of wood, timber, wood pulp, cellulose, paper, hides and textiles belong to the priority groups of harmful substances for the purposes of Article 5 of the Convention,

RECALLING ALSO Part 1, Section 2.3 of Annex I of the 1992 Helsinki Convention banning the use of organotin compounds for antifouling paints for pleasure craft under 25 m and for fish net cages,

RECALLING FURTHER Article 8 of the 1992 Helsinki Convention, according to which the Contracting Parties shall take measures as set out in Annex IV to protect the Baltic Sea Area from pollution from ships,

RECALLING FINALLY Article 9 of the 1992 Helsinki Convention, according to which the Contracting Parties shall take special measures in order to abate harmful effects on the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area caused by pleasure craft activities,

HAVING REGARD to the Ministerial Declaration 1988 and to the Baltic Sea Declaration of 1990, calling, i.a. for a substantive reduction of load of pollutants most harmful to the ecosystem of the Baltic Sea,

*) This Recommendation supersedes HELCOM Recommendation 9/10

HAVING REGARD to the Ministerial Communiqué 1998, calling to implement the HELCOM Recommendation 19/5 on HELCOM Objective with Regard to Hazardous Substances,

NOTING that the use of organotin compounds, and in particular tributyl tin compounds, as an anti-foulant in paints for use on boats, ships, underwater structures and fish net cages is causing pollution in the Baltic Sea Area,

NOTING FURTHER the scientific evidence of harmful effects on marine life and fisheries caused by organotin compounds,

DESIRING to reduce the amounts of organotin compounds entering the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area,

RECOMMENDS that the Governments of the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention:

- a) take effective measures to eliminate such pollution;*)
- b) include in the measures taken, as a first step, a ban on the retail sale or use of organotin paints for pleasure boats or fish net cages,
- c) consider the need for restrictions on other uses of organotin compounds in antifouling paints, for example on sea-going vessels and underwater structures,

RECOMMENDS FURTHER that the Contracting Parties report on measures taken in accordance with this Recommendation, and on organic tin concentrations in the marine environment in areas where organic tin compounds may still be entering the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area in the year 2000 and thereafter every three years,

RECOMMENDS FURTHER that this Recommendation should be reconsidered as soon as possible taking into account the development in other international fora (like IMO, EU).

*) In HELCOM Recommendation 9/10 the time-frame for taking effective measures was given as "as soon as possible but not later than 1991"

**REPORTING FORM FOR HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 20/4
CONCERNING ANTIFOULING PAINTS CONTAINING ORGANOTIN COMPOUNDS**

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Lead Country: Germany

Country:

1	Are organotin antifouling paints used? If yes, in which type of uses (e.g. pleasure boats, boats operating only in coastal waters [e.g. ferries, fishing boats etc.], other boats and ships, underwater structures, other types of use [e.g. sluice gates, marine sensors, buoys and other static objects, aqua culture equipment, inlet pipes of cooling water systems etc.; please name them])?
2	Which total amounts of <i>organotin antifouling paints</i> (as Sn in t/a) are used? If possible, separated according to types of organotin compound, types of use and coating. Types of coating may be a) a soluble matrix (conventional), b) an insoluble matrix (conventional, contact leaching), c) ablative with a polishing co-polymer or d) self-polishing co-polymer coatings. If available, information should be given on the probable leaching rate of tin included in the different organotin antifouling paints and on possible other biocides included in the paint formulation.
3	Which total amounts of <i>other antifouling paints</i> are used? If possible, separated according to types of active substance(s), types of use and coating. Types of coating may be a) a soluble or insoluble matrix (conventional), b) ablative with a polishing co-polymer or c) self-polishing co-polymer coatings. If available, information should be given on the probable leaching rate of the different biocides included in the paint formulation.
4	Which <i>other chemical and non-chemical antifouling protection methods</i> are used? If possible, separated according to types of method, types of use, extent of usage of these methods.
5	What kind of projects have been or are planned to be implemented to develop chemical and/or non-chemical alternatives to organotin antifouling paints? What is the timetable for planned projects?
6	What measures have been taken and are planned to eliminate pollution from antifouling paints? a) technical measures (e.g. paints with lower leaching rate, measures during painting, paint removal, cleaning, waste disposal, run-off, avoiding of dumping of dredged material highly contaminated with Sn or pre-treatment of dredged material, etc.) b) legal/administrative measures c) information/education What is the timetable for planned measures?
7	What technical and/or legal measures <u>have been taken</u> towards a ban on the retail sale or use of organotin paints for a) pleasure boats b) fish net cages and c) other uses e.g. sea-going vessels and underwater structures?
8	What technical and/or legal measures <u>are planned</u> towards a ban on the retail sale or use of organotin paints for a) pleasure boats b) fish net cages and

	c) other uses e.g. seagoing vessels and underwater structures?
	What is the timetable?
9	Concentrations of organotin compounds measured in
	a) sediments
	b) biota If available, data of organisms living in the free water phase should be listed separately from sediment dwelling (benthic) organisms.
	c) water
	d) dredged material
	If available, please, indicate
	* sampling locations
	* sampling years
	* quality evaluation of the analytical methods and of the measurement programmes (e.g. limit of detection, limit of determination, number of samples, minimum/maximum/mean/90 percentile values)

*) Reporting to the Helsinki Commission in 2000 on HELCOM Recommendation 9/10 superseded by HELCOM Recommendation 20/4 should be done by using the reporting format for HELCOM Recommendation 20/4