

# Focus on the Baltic Sea



News from the Baltic Master project for partners, observers and other interested parties.

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The Baltic Master partnership

## Accidents highlight safety in the Baltic

*Dear partners and friends,*

A recent study from Helcom shows that the number of ship accidents in the Baltic Sea has doubled since 2002 (see notice in this newsletter). This is clear evidence that the increase in maritime traffic has not been properly matched with sufficient safety measures in order to minimize the risks.

In this case, Baltic Master and similar initiatives play important roles when it comes to, on the one hand, demanding joint preventive measures and increased standards in the Baltic Sea, and on the other hand to implement changes in the planning processes and management of local and regional coastal zones and marine areas.

In order to minimize the risk of ship accidents we need to increase co-operation between as well as within our countries and form joint strategies and action plans.

**Daniel Sköld**  
project manager

*BALTIC MASTER is an international project. It aims to improve maritime safety by integrating local and regional perspectives. The focus is on the Baltic Sea Region and issues concerning preparedness, prevention and marine spatial planning. The project runs from July 2005 to December 2007.*

## Baltic Master main attraction at high-level conference

*Maritime safety will be the major theme of the BSSSC Annual Conference this year.*

The conference will be arranged in co-operation with Joe Borg, EU commissioner of Maritime Affairs, and highlight the ongoing work on the EU maritime policy. The first findings of Baltic Master will be presented during the conference.

The BSSSC Conference will this year take place in Kiel, Germany, on 20-22 September.

Target groups are maritime experts and politicians.

BSSSC (Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation) is a political network in the Baltic Sea Region.

Further details will be published on [www.balticmaster.org](http://www.balticmaster.org) and [www.bsssc.com](http://www.bsssc.com) during the spring and summer.

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Maritime safety and Baltic Master will be on the programme when EU commissioner Joe Borg and the political network BSSSC arrange a conference in September.



photo: European Community, 2006

## Latest project updates

The activities of Baltic Master are arranged in four work packages (WP's). A summary of the status in February 2006:

### **WP 1 Preparedness and Division of Responsibility:**

A worst case scenario of a major ship accident in the Baltic Sea will be completed in March. Four workshops on division of responsibility directed towards rescue staffs will be held this spring (see interview with Matthias Baier on page 3). The environmental consequences after the Baltic Carrier ship accident are being analyzed within a case study.

**WP 2 Safe Transportation at Sea:** Task descriptions about to be finalized. Work tasks providing the PSSA vision for 2020 with input will start during spring.

**WP 3 Sustainable Spatial and Regional Development:** A draft manual on a marine spatial planning tool will be presented at the next

work package meeting in June. An inventory and a questionnaire on spatial planning will be completed during spring.

### **WP 4 Communication and Dissemination:**

A final draft of a communications plan for Baltic Master will be presented at the steering group meeting in March. The first think tank retreat was arranged by the World Maritime University on 20 February.

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## Conference documentation

The documentation from the Baltic Master kick-off in Gdansk can be downloaded from the Baltic Master web site [www.balticmaster.org](http://www.balticmaster.org) (Choose "Documents" in the menu.)

## Boost in ship accidents

*The number of ship accidents has almost doubled in the Baltic Sea marine area since 2003. This according to a new study by one of the Baltic Master partners, the Helsinki Commission, Helcom.*

There were 121 accidents in 2004. This should be compared with an average about 60-70 accidents annually during 2000-2003. The Helcom study shows that grounding (41%) and collision (27%) were the most common types of accidents observed in 2004.

"The dramatic increase in the number of accidents is obviously a result of a steadily

growing maritime traffic, especially oil transportation", said Helcom Executive Secretary, Ms Anne Christine Brusendorff, recently in a press release from Helcom.

According to Helcom figures, there are about 1,800 ships in the Baltic marine area at any given moment.

The Helsinki Commission, or Helcom, works to protect the marine environment of the Baltic Sea from all sources of pollution through intergovernmental co-operation between the Baltic Sea countries. For more information about Helcom and the study mentioned above, please visit [www.helcom.fi](http://www.helcom.fi)

### FACTS

Helcom data on accidents in the Baltic Sea:

2004	121	2003	71	2002	63	2001	57	2000	62
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## A tanker tailored for the Baltic

On 27 January a new oil tanker especially designed for the shallow and icy waters of the Baltic Sea was named in the Port of Gothenburg, Sweden. The ship, Stena Arctica, is the latest contribution to the fleet of the Swedish tanker shipping company Stena Bulk.

The hull is reinforced and the machinery more powerful compared with normal tankers, in order to safely manoeuvre in the waters of the Baltic Sea. Stena Arctica will mainly transport Russian crude oil from the Gulf of Finland to the Continent.

The volumes of Russian oil transported through the Baltic have rocketed since the new terminal in Primorsk, Russia, was built 2001. The first year, 0.3 million tons were exported and in 2005, 57 million tons of oil were transported out from the Gulf of Finland.

Source: Press release, Stena Bulk

*The new Stena tanker will transport oil from the Gulf of Finland.*



photo: Stena

### Baltic Master at InterBaltic kick-off

Baltic Master will arrange a workshop at the conference of the new EU-funded project InterBaltic. Interbaltic gathers 43 partners from 10 countries in the Baltic Sea area (some of them are also partners of Baltic Master). CPMR (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions) is lead partner.

The project focus is on transport and infrastructure and it is part of the EU's Interreg IIIB-programme for the Baltic Sea Region. The project runs until the end of 2007.

The conference will be held on 1-2 June in Karlskrona, Sweden. Further details will be published on [www.balticmaster.org](http://www.balticmaster.org) during the spring.

### AGENDA

- **24 March**, Baltic Master steering group meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania
- **25 April**, Baltic Master work package 1 meeting in Karlskrona, Sweden
- **16-17 May**, Setting regions in motion – Interregional projects funded by the EU will be presented during an international conference in Malmö, Sweden

See project calendar on [www.balticmaster.org](http://www.balticmaster.org) for further information.

Do not hesitate sending us suggestions for coming issues.

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**BalticMaster**  
maritime safety across borders