The Finnish Environment 570

Finland's Programme for the Protection of the Baltic Sea

The Finnish Government's decision-in-principle

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Preface

On 26.4.2002, the Finnish Council of State made a decision-in-principle on actions to protect the Baltic, Finland's programme for protection of the Baltic Sea. The main aim is to influence the state of the waters and the marine environment in the Gulf of Finland, the Archipelago Sea, the Åland Sea, the north Baltic proper, and the Gulf of Bothnia. The aim is for this influence to come both from Finland and from countries in adjacent regions.

In order to achieve a good ecological state of the Baltic Sea, action will be taken in six main sectors. These are combating eutrophication, reducing risks caused by dangerous substances, curbing damages resulting from the use of the Baltic Sea, preserving and increasing biological diversity, increasing environmental awareness, and research and follow-up.

The most urgent actions refer to the eutrophication of the Baltic due to the nutrients load, the risks caused by increased transports of oil and chemicals, and the threats for man and nature caused by dangerous, accumulating and persistent substances. The goals for decreasing discharges from domestic sources to combat eutrophication are based on the Water Protetion Programme 2005, which sets the goal of a 50% decrease in nutrients emissions as compared with the level in the early 1990s.

It is estimated that the implementation of Finland's programme for protection of the Baltic Sea will halve the eutrophying emissions from Finland. Indications of such decrease will first come in coastal waters and near pollution sources. The state of the open sea will also be considerably improved, but more slowly. The open sea is largely influenced by decreased discharges from the St. Petersburg area.

Ministry of the Environment

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Finland's Programme for the Protection of the Baltic Sea The Finnish Government's decision-in-principle

Resolution

The Government has on this date, April 26, 2002, after preparatory work by the ministerial working group, the Cabinet Neighbouring Areas Committee, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee and the Cabinet Finance Committee, and on a proposal from the Ministry of the Environment, decided on the preparation and implementation of the following national and international action to protect the Baltic Sea.

Background

The Baltic Sea is by its very nature vulnerable. It is an almost closed, shallow and cold basin of brackish water. It sustains a heavy load of pollutants from countries bordering on it, and it is subjected to a high degree of human activity.

The most serious problem in the Baltic Sea is eutrophication, which manifests itself as algal bloom that appears nearly every summer and as slime buildup on shores and in fishing nets. There are also high levels of hazardous substances such as heavy metals in the Baltic Sea. The high dioxin content in Baltic herring is an example of the threat caused by hazardous substances. The volume of oil and chemical transports in the Gulf of Finland, which has increased greatly in recent years and will continue to do so, heightens the risk of spills.

The programme of Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen's second Government (April 15, 1999) stated that a programme would be drawn up with the aim of restoring the ecological balance of the Baltic Sea and curbing eutrophication in the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Finland in particular and in inland waters, and preventing accumulation of toxic substances in the food chain; the implementation of the national water protection programme and the programme for the sustainable development of the Baltic Sea area was named as the starting point for this.

The Baltic Sea Protection Working Group appointed by the Ministry of the Environment submitted its unanimous proposal to the Ministry of the Environment on June 19, 2001. This proposal has been circulated for comment; a total of 92 statements were received. The majority of these

supported the proposal as an appropriate step towards improving the state of the Baltic Sea. Action was considered urgent. This Resolution is based on the working group proposal and the comment statements.

Baltic Sea Protection Objectives

The main objective of the Programme is to influence the state of waters and maritime flora and fauna in the Gulf of Finland, the Archipelago Sea, the Åland Sea, the northern Baltic Sea proper and the Gulf of Bothnia. This action is expected to have an impact in Finland and in neighbouring countries.

The aim is to reduce eutrophication in the Baltic Sea and to improve the condition of the waters and maritime flora and fauna of the Baltic Sea. Discharges of hazardous substances should not cause harm to the ecosystem of the Baltic Sea or to human health. The use of natural resources in the Baltic Sea area shall be based on sustainable development. Oil and chemical transports and the operation of large oil ports shall be pursued with the aim of minimizing risks and the impact of possible spills to the marine environment. Illegal deliberate discharges of oil into the sea shall be stopped. The reduction goals set for Finland in combating eutrophication are based on the Water Protection Targets for the Year 2005, which includes a goal for reducing nutrient discharges by about 50% from the level of the early 1990s.

Action to Protect the Baltic Sea

Action is needed both in Finland and in neighbouring countries. These countries will be influenced through economic support and bilateral cooperation, and through international organizations and agreements.

Action to achieve a good ecological state in the Baltic Sea will be undertaken in six main objective areas: combating eutrophication; reducing the risks from hazardous substances; reducing the adverse effects of using the Baltic Sea; preserving and increasing biodiversity; improving environmental awareness; and research and monitoring.

Eutrophication of the Baltic Sea caused by nutrient overload, the risks of the increasing volume of oil and chemical transports and the threat to humans and the environment caused by the accumulation of hazardous substances require more rapid action.

The protection of the Baltic Sea is covered by several international agreements, national action plans and other decisions. This Resolution incorporates measures from a variety of sources that have a direct impact on the Baltic Sea, including the Water Protection Targets for the Year 2005. These measures have been specified in more detail and supplemented to

create a comprehensive Baltic Sea protection programme based on the objectives set for the state of the Baltic Sea.

Combating Eutrophication

The most significant measures addressing the reduction of the nutrient load on the Baltic Sea are: ensuring the construction of the southwestern wastewater treatment plant in St Petersburg; enhancing the Agri-Environmental Programme in Finland by stepping up the most efficient nutrient reduction measures; and reducing the nutrient load from communities and dispersed settlements. The nutrient load from industry should also be further reduced. The reduction of discharges from Russia, particularly St Petersburg, will mainly affect the open-sea areas of the Gulf of Finland. The state of coastal waters and the Archipelago Sea will be improved by reducing discharges from Finland.

Discharges from Neighbouring Areas

Enhancing wastewater treatment in St Petersburg and, as a support measure, improving the sewer network in the city, constitute the most important cluster of measures in combating eutrophication in the Gulf of Finland. This is the main area of focus in environmental protection in Finland's neighbouring area cooperation.

> Investment in neighbouring area cooperation shall be increased with the aim of bringing all community wastewater in the St Petersburg area into an efficient treatment process by stages. The most urgent task is to complete the construction of the southwestern wastewater treatment plant in St Petersburg. For this purpose, in addition to the EUR 3.364 million allocated for the year 2002, an appropriation totalling EUR 6.7 million is proposed by the Council of State to be set aside in the government budget for 2003-2004. The aim is to bring the wastewater of the northern areas of the city into the system, too, and to enhance nutrient removal from wastewater in the St Petersburg area.
>
> Reduction of discharges in the Leningrad and Karelia regions and the Baltic States will continue to be supported in neighbouring area cooperation.

Agriculture

The Agri-Environmental Programme (1995-1999) and the Horizontal Rural Development Programme (2000-2006) incorporate environmental aid

divided between basic measures and further measures. It seems that the objectives of the Water Protection Targets for the Year 2005 with regard to agriculture will not be attained with current measures within the time specified, although the use of phosphorus fertilizers, for example, has decreased by over 60% from the 1990 level. However, achieving the objectives of the target programme is possible in the longer term by increasing nutrient reduction measures and allocating these to the appropriate geographical areas. There are plans to make new wetland agreements covering about 20,000 hectares, new agreements for buffer zones covering about 34,000 hectares, and new agreements concerning regulated subsurface drainage, enhanced use of manure and biodynamic production.

The implementation of the agri-environmental aid system 2000-2006 and the sufficiency of EU funding and national funding shall be ensured. New supplementary agri-environmental aid agreements shall be created and targeted specifically at reducing the nutrient load on the Baltic Sea by increasing the area of buffer zones and wetlands particularly in the southern and southwestern coastal areas, and by enhancing the use of manure and improving drying systems particularly in Ostrobothnia. For this purpose, it is proposed that the government budget shall provide an increase of EUR 30.3 million to the environmental aid partly funded by the EU. This increase shall be implemented evenly over four years so that the extra appropriation will be EUR 7.6 million in 2003, EUR 15.1 million in 2004, EUR 22.7 million in 2005 and EUR 30.3 million in 2006. The negotiations with the European Commission on the increase of the environmental aid partly funded by the EU shall be started.

The continuation of agricultural water protection measures after 2006 shall be safeguarded, and measures shall be cost-efficiently targeted towards the further reduction of the nutrient load on the Baltic Sea.

In the long term, conditions for diversification of agricultural production in coastal areas shall be created, with the aim of reducing the nutrient load.

Communities and Dispersed Settlements

The implementation of the Water Protection Targets for the Year 2005 requires high-quality phosphorus removal facilities from all wastewater treatment plants and nitrogen removal in areas where nitrogen is the algal growth limiting nutrient. The goal set for phosphorus discharges will be achieved when the average phosphorus removal rate for wastewater

treatment plants is over 96% for those serving over 10,000 inhabitants and over 92% for those serving under 10,000 inhabitants. The requirements to be placed on nitrogen removal are being specified.

> Enhanced nitrogen removal for community wastewater shall be implemented in plants whose discharges have an impact on nitrogen-sensitive sea areas, mainly to the south of the Quark and the eastern end of the Gulf of Finland. The aim is for wastewater treatment plants serving over 10,000 inhabitants to discharge into the sea no more than 30% of the nitrogen they receive. Wastewater treatment plants shall be made more efficient through repair and maintenance and by replacing sewer systems. The requirements of the state of inland watercourses shall also be taken into account in goal-setting.
>
> Wastewater treatment for individual properties in dispersed settlements shall be enhanced by issuing a decree on appropriate regulations on maximum loads, the use of the best available technology and the use of best environmental practices. The connecting of dispersed settlements to sewer networks shall be promoted through land use and water supply design.

Industry

The industrial load on the Baltic Sea comes mainly from the wood processing industry and the metal industry. The major discharge areas are the coast of the Bothnian Bay and the coast around Kotka and Kymijoki river. The Water Protection Targets for the Year 2005 requires a reduction of about 50% in phosphorus and nitrogen discharges from industry. This goal is attainable as regards phosphorus, but industry will fall short of the goal for nitrogen if efficient measures are not taken in the near future.

> The requirement for nutrient reduction in various sea areas shall be taken into account in reviewing industrial environmental permits. Nitrogen load shall be reduced particularly in plants whose discharges affect the nitrogen-sensitive coasts of the Gulf of Finland and the Bothnian Sea. Combined treatment of industrial and community wastewater shall be increased in locations where it is feasible.

Fish Farming

Fish farming has a regional and local impact on eutrophication in the Baltic Sea. Its adverse effects should be reduced particularly in the Archipelago Sea and the Åland Sea. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to implement external and internal measures together with guidance on the location of

fish farms. By developing and introducing feeds, feeding, fish breeding, new types of fish farm and cleaning technology, the load generated by fish farming can be considerably reduced. The limitations placed by the state of the waters in the fish farming area shall be taken into account in scaling these measures.

The adverse effects of fish farming shall be combated by developing and introducing the best available technology, by developing feed, feed use and feeding methods. In areas with heavy loads, guidance on the location of fish farms shall be provided, and the volume of production shall be regulated in accordance with the state of the waters.

Airborne Load

About 17% of the nitrogen load on the Gulf of Finland is airborne. These discharges come mainly from traffic, energy production, industry and shipping in the Baltic Sea. The airborne load can be efficiently reduced only through international cooperation, because a major portion of the airborne nitrogen is transboundary pollution.

The setting and implementation of efficient emission reduction goals shall be promoted in the EU and in other international cooperation.

In order to implement the EU directive on national emission limits, the Government shall in late 2002 be invited to approve a plan for reducing discharges of ammonia and nitrogen oxides, among others. Preparations shall be made for ratifying the Gothenburg Protocol, which also limits discharges of ammonia and nitrogen oxides.

Ratification of Annex VI (Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships) of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78) shall be initiated. Possibilities for using financial incentives for guiding the reduction of emissions from shipping shall be examined.

Other Loads

Eutrophication-inducing loads on the Baltic Sea are also generated by forestry, peat production, fur farming, wastewater from maritime traffic and discharges from eutrophic inland watercourses. A wide range of measures will be used to reduce these discharges.

Discharges into waters from forestry, fur farming and peat production shall be reduced through measures presented in the Forestry environment programme approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and

Forestry on July 13, 1994, and the Water Protection Programme approved by the Ministry of the Environment on March 30, 2000.

Wastewater discharges from maritime traffic shall be reduced through international cooperation, by developing legislation and promoting reception facilities for wastewater in ports.

Discharges from eutrophic inland watercourses shall be reduced by restoring watercourses.

Oil and Chemical Transports

Oil and chemical transports, and the operations of large oil ports, shall be organized so as to minimize risks and the impact of eventual spills to the marine environment. Illegal deliberate discharges of oil at sea shall be stopped.

The constant increase in tanker shipping has considerably raised the risk of environmental disasters and accidents at sea in the Gulf of Finland. The Gulf of Finland is the main focus in oil pollution prevention and combating of oil spills. In particular, more capacity for combating oil and chemical spills, for lightening chemical loads, for emergency towing, for firefighting and for combating oil spills when the sea is iced over should be provided in the eastern part of the Gulf of Finland. Readiness must be improved in Finland, Russia and Estonia, and joint combating exercises must continue to be organized. In HELCOM cooperation, the need and potential for setting up Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA) as specified by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) shall be investigated. The proposal by Finland, Estonia and Russia concerning a joint Vessel Traffic Management and Information Service (VTMIS) in the Gulf of Finland was submitted to the IMO on March 21, 2002.

A high standard of safety shall be ensured for oil and chemical transports in the Gulf of Finland and in the Baltic Sea proper. The implementation of a land-based Vessel Tracking System (VTS) and related Automatic Identification System (AIS) shall be promoted together with Russia and Estonia. The implementation by Finland, Russia and Estonia of a joint Vessel Traffic Management and Information Service (VTMIS) shall be promoted.

A multipurpose oil and chemical combating vessel shall be provided to improve pollution prevention capacity in the eastern part of the Gulf of Finland. For this purpose, it is proposed to provide a one-off extra appropriation totalling EUR 6.3 million in the state budget for 2003. The

Act on the Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (379/1974) shall be amended so as to raise the oil prevention charge for a period of two years. In the long term, oil pollution prevention and combating readiness shall be further improved by acquiring vessels suitable for winter and open-sea conditions, to be stationed in the Gulf of Finland.

Readiness for preventing chemical and oil pollution in Russia and Estonia shall be improved in neighbouring area cooperation, so as to bring the readiness up to the level required by the increased risks.

In order to reduce illegal deliberate dumping of oil at sea, preparatory work for the introduction of administrative sanctions or other penalties shall begin. Provision for reception facilities for oil waste from ships in ports shall be promoted in international cooperation.

Hazardous Substances

The aim is to gain knowledge of inputs of hazardous substances into the Baltic Sea and to gain sufficient information on their concentrations and effects in order to set reduction priorities. The long-term goal is to prevent hazardous substance discharges from harming the ecosystem of the Baltic Sea or human health. Another aim is to reduce the levels of permanent, bio-accumulating and toxic substances already present in the Baltic Sea marine environment to near background values for naturally occurring substances and close to zero for synthetic substances.

Hazardous substances enter the Baltic Sea from community and industrial wastewater, drainage water or as airborne depositions. Efficient reduction of discharges and loads is not possible without international cooperation. Finland has committed itself in several international contexts to reducing loads of hazardous substances. The EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60) and the directive on discharge of dangerous substances into the aquatic environment (76/464) also set emission limits.

There are about 5,000 hazardous chemicals in use in Finland. Monitoring inputs of these substances and assessing their impact is for the most part inadequate. Further information is urgently needed to begin reducing the use and loading of hazardous substances in the order of priority as soon as possible. Promoting this task in neighbouring areas is a new focus in neighbouring area cooperation.

Legislative and other effective measures to restrict the use and loading of the priority hazardous substances shall be prepared. The environmental permit procedure shall be developed so that the terms and monitoring of the permits pay closer attention to hazardous

substances. Releases from contaminated sediments in inland watercourses shall be reduced.

The setting and achieving of effective reduction goals shall be promoted in the EU and in other international cooperation, and measures to reduce hazardous substance discharges shall be supported in neighbouring area cooperation.

Further information shall be acquired on the hazardous chemicals used in Finland and on hazardous substance discharges. In addition to the EU priority list, another priority list shall be drawn up for those substances requiring urgent attention at the national level.

The monitoring of inputs of hazardous substances and their environmental levels shall be made more effective. Environmental permits shall include requirements to gather monitoring data as per the environmental protection legislation.

The new information shall be used to reduce inputs of hazardous substances originating in Finland, in an organized way and in order of priority.

Sustainable Use of the Baltic Sea

The goal of sustainable use of the Baltic Sea is that maritime traffic, any work on shipping lanes required thereby, mechanical erosion, construction in the sea or exploitation of materials from the sea do not cause significant adverse effects. Leisure and tourism in and along the sea shall be organized so as to avoid significant adverse effects on the marine environment. Improving the ecological state of the Baltic Sea will help to preserve and increase fish stocks and ensure that the fish are safe for human consumption. However, measures pertaining to fishing have been excluded from this programme.

New shipping lanes shall be so placed, and work on them so timed and implemented, that a minimum of disruption to the environment will be caused.

Regional land-use planning and detailed shore plans shall be used to promote the improvement and protection of the Baltic Sea and its marine environment.

Adverse effects from shipping shall be reduced through traffic planning and guidance through information and economic incentives.

A comprehensive plan covering sand and gravel extraction shall be drawn up for the entire coastline of Finland, in order to manage the adverse effects of this activity. Planning and permit procedures to control these adverse effects shall be developed on the basis of this work.

Efforts shall be made in international cooperation to influence the planning of the land use and management of the coast of the Baltic Sea so that the state of its marine environment will be maintained and improved.

Biodiversity

The goal is to attain a level of protection for the marine and coastal environment that is geographically and biologically comprehensive. As the adverse effects of changes, such as construction and dredging, and of eutrophication are reduced, the natural state of biotopes will be sustained even outside actual protected areas.

In assessing the network of protected areas, the coverage of protection for the marine and coastal environment shall be assessed too. The biotopes and species of the marine and coastal environments shall be protected and conserved so as to ensure biological and geographical coverage. An inventory programme for the marine and coastal environments, including the underwater environment, shall be drawn up.

Research, Monitoring and Environmental Awareness

The results of research and monitoring are an important component in the protection of the Baltic Sea. Research shall focus primarily on extensive projects that take an integrated approach to the interaction of the Baltic Sea catchment area, the marine ecosystem and the atmosphere. Extensive cooperation between the Academy of Finland, other finance providers, universities and research institutions is essential. Monitoring of discharge and emission levels, their impact and the state of the Baltic Sea shall be improved.

Volunteer work by citizens' groups to improve the state of the Baltic Sea requires sufficient information on the Baltic Sea and how individual actions affect it. Non-governmental organizations shall be encouraged to provide environmental education and disseminate information.

The priority topics in research shall be combating eutrophication, load of hazardous substances and their impact, the use of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea, and biodiversity.

Current knowledge on the protection of the Baltic Sea shall be increased, and access by NGOs and interest groups to up-to-date information shall be ensured. A summary of the Baltic Sea protection programme shall be drawn up for the general public.

The Baltic Sea Protection Programme

Impact on the State of the Baltic Sea

The effects of measures in the Baltic Sea Programme implemented to reduce nutrient loads will first become apparent close to the sources of the loads. For example, the depth of the growth zone of bladder wrack in the archipelago will increase, and the biomass of filamentous algae will decrease. Reducing nutrient loads will in time cause marine species to recover. The state of open-sea areas will improve considerably in the long term. In particular, the amount of nitrogen-fixing blue-green algae, the total mass of phytoplankton and water turbidity will decrease. The threat from hazardous substances will also decrease, and the risk of accidental oil spills and the impact of eventual spills will also decrease.

Economic Impact

The estimated total investment required by measures in the Baltic Sea Programme consists of investments in community nitrogen removal (EUR 134.5 million), increasing water protection in dispersed settlements (EUR 117.7 to 168.2 million), improving oil pollution prevention and combating and maritime safety (EUR 33.6 to 50.5 million) and reducing nutrient discharges from fish farming and forestry, and discharges from maritime traffic (EUR 11.8 million). The total investment would thus be about EUR 300 to 370 million. These measures are to be implemented over ten to fifteen years. Investment costs caused by reducing nutrient discharges from industry have to be estimated separately for each installation in determining their permit conditions.

The investment costs of reducing airborne discharges of nitrogen are around EUR 320 million, divided between improving air quality in urban areas and reducing nitrogen deposition on land and sea. It is difficult to estimate what portion of the total costs will be designated for the Baltic Sea in particular.

The appropriations proposed in this Resolution for inclusion in the State budget are included in the Government decision of March 14, 2002, on the State appropriations framework for 2003 to 2006. These appropriations are: EUR 6.728 million for the southwestern wastewater treatment plant in St Petersburg; extra funding for special aid for

agriculture totalling EUR 7.6 million in 2003, EUR 15.1 million in 2004, EUR 22.7 million in 2005 and EUR 30.3 million in 2006; and EUR 6.3 million for equipping an oil combating vessel for the eastern part of the Gulf of Finland. The government can recoup an estimated 90% to 95% of the last-mentioned appropriation from the Oil Pollution Compensation Fund, thus decreasing the net investment required.

Implementing the programme also involves measures — related to hazardous substances, the restoration of contaminated watercourses, land use and biodiversity, and environmental awareness and research — the costs of which cannot be estimated. These measures can be partly funded with existing appropriations. Any extra funding required must be decided upon separately in connection with preparing the state budget.

Action Plan

The measures and objectives contained in this Resolution shall be taken into account with regard to purview and mainstreaming in each sector of the administration. In order to implement this Resolution, the Ministry of the Environment shall draw up and approve an Action Plan in cooperation with the various other sectors. The Action Plan shall be prepared on the basis of this Resolution, the submissions of the Baltic Sea Working Group and the comment statements returned. The measures included in this Resolution shall be implemented in accordance with state appropriations and the budgets approved by Parlament.

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Abstract	On 26.4.2002, the Finnish Government made a decision-in-principle on steps to be taken to protect the Baltic, i.e., Finland's programme for the protection of the Baltic Sea. In order to achieve a good ecological state in the Baltic Sea, steps will be taken in six main areas, viz.: combating eutrophication, decreasing the risks of hazardous substances, curbing the risks caused by various uses of the Baltic Sea, preserving and increasing biodiversity, increasing environmental awareness, and research and follow-up. Discharges will be cut both in Finland and, with the aid of international cooperation, in countries in adjacent regions. In combating eutrophication, the most important actions refer to agriculture, municipal wastewater treatment plants, dispersed settlements and the wastewater treatment plant of St. Petersburg. Discharges from industry, fish breeding and other activities are also to be cut. In order to improve oil combating capacity on the eastern Gulf of Finland, new capacity will be procured. The use and discharge of hazardous substances will be reduced in priority order and in international cooperation. Steps will also be taken to combat adverse effects of sea traffic and boating, channel works, extraction of soil substances and the use of coastal areas, and natural diversity is to be increased. The total costs of the protection programme are estimated at 300 – 370 million euro during a 10 – 15 years' period. Additional state finance is proposed for extra actions in agriculture, for the south-western sewage works in St. Petersburg, and for the oil combating vessel in the eastern Gulf of Finland.
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Tiivistelmä	Valtioneuvosto teki 26.4.2002 periaatepäätöksen toimista Itämeren suojelemiseksi, Suomen Itämeren suojeluohjelman. Itämeren hyvän ekologisen tilan saavuttamiseksi toimitaan kuudella päätavoitealueella. Nämä ovat rehevöitymisen torjunta, vaarallisten aineiden aiheuttamien riskien vähentäminen, Itämeren käytön aiheuttamien haittojen vähentäminen, luonnon monimuotoisuuden säilyttäminen ja lisääminen, ympäristötietoisuuden lisääminen sekä tutkimus ja seuranta. Päästöjä vähennetään sekä Suomessa että kansainvälisen yhteistyön avulla lähialueen maissa. Rehevöitymisen torjunnassa merkittävimmät päästövähennystoimet kohdistetaan maatalouteen, yhdyskuntien jätevedenpuhdistamoihin, haja-asutukseen sekä Pietarin kaupungin jätevedenpuhdistamoon. Myös teollisuuden, kalankasvatuksen ja muun toiminnan päästöjä vähennetään. Öljyntorjuntavalmiuden parantamiseksi itäiselle Suomenlahdelle hankitaan uutta öljyntorjuntakapasiteettia. Vaarallisten aineiden käyttöä ja päästöjä vähennetään tärkeysjärjestyksessä ja kansainvälisessä yhteistyössä. Toimia suunnataan myös merenkulun ja veneilyn, väylätöiden, maa-ainesten oton sekä rannikkoalueiden käytön aiheuttamien haittojen torjuntaan ja luonnon monimuotoisuuden lisäämiseen. Suojeluohjelman kokonaiskustannuksiksi seuraavien 10 - 15 vuoden aikana on arvioitu 300 - 370 miljoonaa euroa. Valtion lisärahoitusta esitetään maatalouden lisätoimille, Pietarin lounaiselle puhdistamolle ja itäisen Suomenlahden öljyntorjunta-alukselle.
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