

Cooperation Agreement

**on the implementation of reinforcement of the environmental integrity within cross-border
South Baltic transitional waters**

**between the stakeholders in Sweden and Denmark sharing concern for the ecological integrity
of Öresund as a cross-border transitional water body**

The following Cooperation Agreement shall be made between:

**World Maritime University (WMU),
Citadelssvägen 29, 201 24 Sweden
represented by: Henrik Nilsson**

and

**SEA-U Marine Science Center,
Ribersborgsstigen 6, 216 13 Malmö, Sweden
represented by: Michael Palmgren**

hereinafter referred to as the "Stakeholders",

for the reinforcing of the environmental integrity of the Öresund as one of the cross-border South Baltic transitional waters (further in the text referred to as SBTWs) by creating a competent and dedicated transitional water stakeholder body (further in the text referred to as TWSB).

§ 1

Subject of the Cooperation Agreement

Subject of this agreement is organising the stakeholders' cooperation in order to reinforce the environmental integrity of the Öresund as one of the cross-border SBTWs.

§ 2

Duration of the Cooperation Agreement

This agreement will enter into force retrospectively from the date of signing. It shall terminate if one stakeholder wish to withdraw from this Agreement.

§ 3

Commitments

1. Each stakeholder commits itself in effectively striving to reinforce the environmental integrity of the Öresund as one of the cross-border SBTWs.
2. Every stakeholder shall accept the following commitments:
 - 2.1. regularly and operatively inform other stakeholders about the anticipated development plans and projects having a cross-border impact and pertinent to the environmental integrity of Öresund;
 - 2.2. share data and knowledge on the priority issues pertinent to the environmental integrity and threats derived from current management of Öresund, adjacent river basins and the sea;
 - 2.3. invite other stakeholders into public hearings, seminars and discussions organized by a stakeholder on the priority issues pertinent to the environmental integrity of Öresund;
 - 2.4. take all efforts to deliver high-quality and durable activity results and outputs meeting the common regional needs for the reinforcement of the SBTW environmental integrity. These results shall come out of the Programme of Measures (further in the text referred to as PoM) to develop and test the comprehensive cross-border cooperation approaches aimed to reinforce the environmental integrity of Öresund.

§ 4

Common Benefits

1. Each stakeholder has the right to receive any available information related to the reinforcement of the SBTW environmental integrity from the SBTW Information System developed within the ARTWEI project of the South Baltic Cross-Border Cooperation Programme.
2. Each stakeholder has the right to refer to the membership in the TWSB as a common cross-border knowledge network in its lobbying activity and public relations on the issues related to the reinforcement of the SBTW environmental integrity.
3. Each stakeholder has the right to get institutional support from other stakeholders and propose a resolution regarding the issues of common concern.
4. Each stakeholder has the right to request for knowledge and advice from the academic stakeholders within the TWSB on the issues related to the reinforcement of the SBTW environmental integrity.

§ 5

Organization

1. The TWSB shall elect a chairing institution on a permanent base.
2. Every stakeholder institution shall appoint a contact person for regular and operative exchange of information within the TWSB.
3. The TWSB shall have general meetings at least once in a year.
4. The Annual Meeting of the stakeholders shall adopt the PoM to develop and test the comprehensive cross-border cooperation approaches aimed to reinforce the environmental integrity of Öresund.
5. The Annual Meeting of the stakeholders shall evaluate the progress in implementing the PoM for reinforcing the environmental integrity of Öresund.
6. Evaluation reports shall be disseminated via the mass-media and specialized networks – Coastal and Marine Union (EUCC) and BALLOON (Baltic Lagoon Network).
7. If necessary, the Annual Meeting of the stakeholders can take a resolution expressing the consensus opinion of the TWSB on issues of common concern.
8. The resolutions expressing the consensus opinion of the TWSB on urgent issues of common concern could be also taken by telecommunication means.

§ 6

Modification of the PoM and of the Cooperation Agreement

1. The modification of the PoM and of the Cooperation Agreement shall be subject of the Annual Meeting of the stakeholders.
2. The modification of the PoM and of the Cooperation Agreement shall be done on a consensus basis and signed by the representatives of all stakeholders.

§ 7

Disputes between Stakeholders

1. Should a dispute arise between the stakeholders of the TWSB, every stakeholder shall be obliged to submit the dispute to the TWSB Annual Meeting of the stakeholders in order to reach a settlement.
2. Should a compromise through mediation of the TWSB Annual Meeting of the stakeholders not be possible, every stakeholder shall be obliged to request and accept arbitration carried out by an arbitration committee formed by the high-level SBTW Advisory Group established within the ARTWEI project of the South Baltic Cross-Border Cooperation Programme.
3. Every stakeholder shall be committed to accept and apply the decisions of the arbitration committee.

§ 8

Working Languages

The working languages of the partnership shall be the national languages of the agreeing countries with the supplementary use of English where appropriate.

§ 9

Amendment of the Cooperation Agreement

This Cooperation Agreement shall only be amended in writing by means of an amendment to that effect stamped and signed by all parties involved.

§ 10

Right of Termination

1. If one of the stakeholders decides to withdraw from the Cooperation Agreement, the remaining stakeholders shall take all the efforts to take over the commitments or to find the new stakeholder who would take over all the commitments of the missing stakeholder.
2. If the new stakeholder is found it shall become the party of the Cooperation Agreement.
3. If the new stakeholder can not be found and the remaining stakeholders are not willing / able to take over the commitments of the missing stakeholder, the Annual Meeting of the stakeholders will take the decision of amending the PoM appropriately.

§ 11

Concluding provisions

1. The Cooperation Agreement is made in **2** copies in English one for each agreement party.
2. Each copy has the equal legal force.



University - WMU
 2011-03-23

SEA – U Marine Science Center

Stamp and signature

Date _____

23/3-2011