

Baltic marine life still left out in the cold

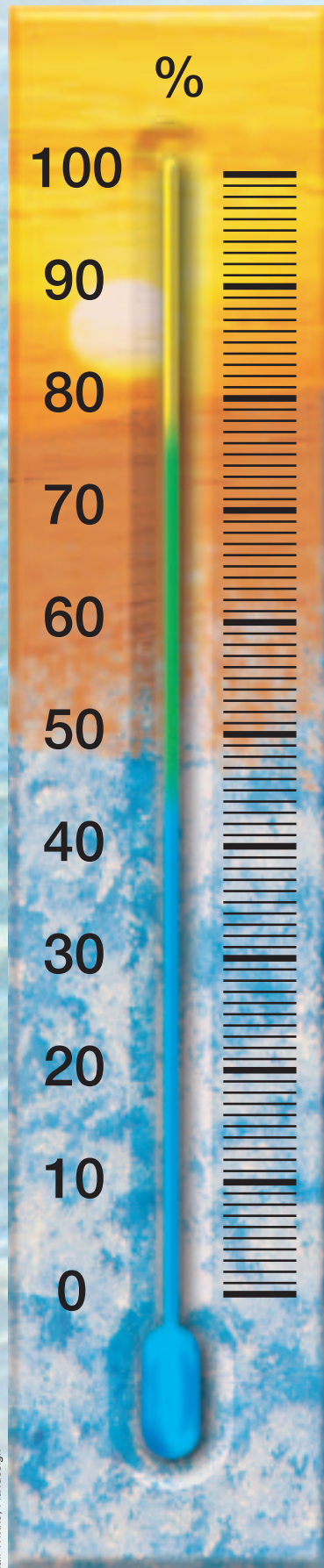
HELCOM signatory parties agreed in 1994 to “take all appropriate measures to establish a system of coastal and marine Baltic Sea Protected Areas (BSPAs)”, in order to protect and restore the fragile biodiversity of the Baltic Sea. Nine years later, WWF takes the temperature on the process to implement this network.

The result: No country has yet fully implemented any protected area offshore, and only five of the 62 BSPAs proposed in 1994 were implemented and reported to HELCOM. In addition, most proposed areas lack effective management of potentially damaging human activities.

WWF calls upon Ministers attending the Bremen Joint Ministerial Meeting to urgently take a crucial step towards comprehensive protection for the threatened life in the Baltic Sea, by implementing the agreed BSPA network.

- >90% *Very good performance*
- 71–90% *Good performance*
- 50–70% *Not so good performance*
- <50% *Bad performance*

Ralf Wittke, Fluxdesign



The results of WWF’s scoring of HELCOM countries’ performance in marine conservation.

The full report *Do Governments Protect the Treasures of Our Seas?* can be downloaded at www.wwfneap.org

Lithuania
Denmark

Finland / Sweden

Estonia / Germany
Russia

Latvia

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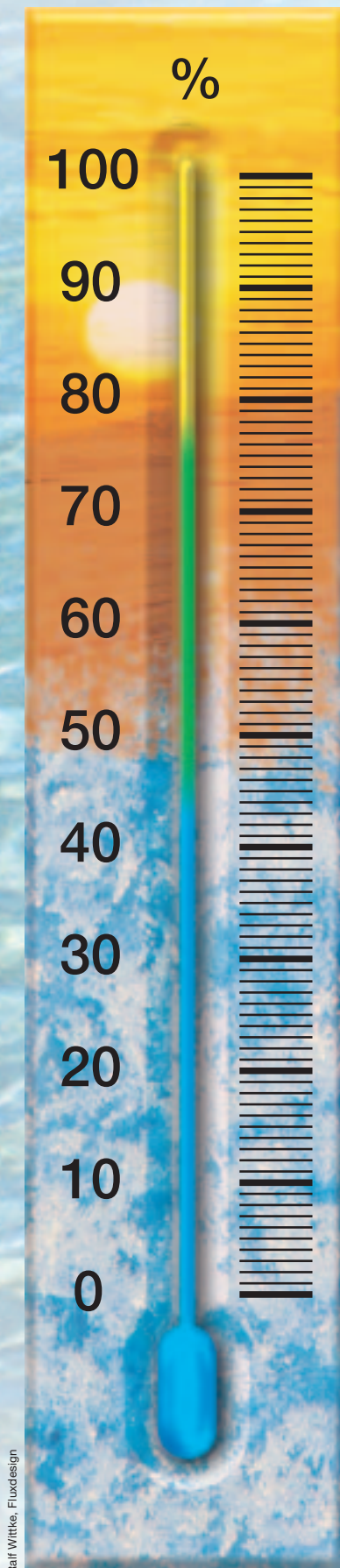
Effective protection for North-East Atlantic treasures still on ice

OSPAR contracting parties agreed in 1998 to “*protect and conserve the biological diversity of the maritime area and its ecosystems...*” by promoting the establishment of a network of marine protected areas (MPAs). Five years later, WWF takes the temperature on the process to implement such a network, and finds that marine protection still is on ice.

None of the countries have succeeded in establishing satisfactory protection for habitats and species in coastal areas, and no offshore MPA has yet been fully implemented.

In order to secure the highly threatened biodiversity of the North-East Atlantic Ocean, WWF calls upon Ministers attending the Bremen Joint Ministerial Meeting to urgently take action to implement the “*ecologically coherent network of well-managed marine protected areas*” and to realise effective protection and management measures, through the ecosystem-based approach.

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