



Transport pollutes, but shipping is its most environmentally friendly form and can be made even more so.

BALTIC RESCUE EFFORT

Decades of pollution and exploitation have left the Baltic Sea and its vulnerable ecosystems in a desperate mess. The Baltic Sea Action Group (BSAG) is committed to restoring the sea to health. Wärtsilä is a major corporation leading the way.

Shallow and almost enclosed, the Baltic Sea is dying. Some 85 million people live within its catchment area, in nine different countries. Many of the rivers that feed it are polluted. It suffers low salinity and heavy shipping. After decades of neglect, it is in serious need of rescue.

The BSAG was set up in 2007 to target the most important and efficient ways to save the sea. The Baltic Sea Action Summit was held in February 2010 in Helsinki and attended by numerous heads of state, organisations and major corporations, including Wärtsilä. 150 concrete commitments were achieved.

THREE PROMISES

“The Baltic Sea is on the brink right now,” states **Atte Palomäki**, Wärtsilä Group Vice President, Communications

& Branding. “Every day 2000 ships operate in the Baltic. Wärtsilä provides products or services to 50% of them. This brings responsibility and we take it very seriously. There’s a lot to be done, and as an energy efficient technology leader, we are there to help facilitate change.”

LEAKS ELIMINATED

In support of the BSAG, Wärtsilä is making three promises to help optimize the environmental footprint in sea transport. The first commitment states that for every five vessels operating in the Baltic Sea on a continual basis, Wärtsilä will freely provide a Pollution Free Shaft Seal for the main propeller shafts when they install a Wärtsilä Scrubber.

Explains Palomäki: “While shipping is a major global emitter of greenhouse

gases and pollution, it still remains the most efficient and environmentally sound means of global transportation. While an average ship leaks up to two litres of lubricant oil each day, our EnviroSeal results in no leakage whatsoever. We are a leading company in this and we want to apply our expertise to provide strong environmental benefits for our customers.”

Secondly, a Consultancy Service Concept is being established for charters, ship owners and authorities, to increase environmental understanding and reduce pollution from Baltic shipping operations. Thirdly, extensive Environmental Training in Wärtsilä’s Land and Sea Academy aims to increase knowledge of ship operators, shipping companies and crew members.

SEIZING THE INITIATIVE

“The provision of our environmental services and training represents a long term commitment to the Baltic Sea,” says Palomäki. “The BSAG is an ideal way for us to underline our obligation and to position ourselves as a leader. This type of voluntary initiative is needed, because by putting together parties like cruise lines, port cities and maritime industries, we have potential partners aligned. We can share our knowledge and assets in the clear interest of creating greater innovation, efficiency and environmental responsibility.

“Wärtsilä is extremely proud to be part of this BSAG initiative. Although the Baltic Sea is still in danger, strong initiatives and concrete accountability give some grounds for optimism.”



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