



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION
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Submitted by	Coalition Clean Baltic

Background

The Coalition Clean Baltic would like to raise the attention of HELCOM State & Conservation Group experts and call for urgent HELCOM's action regarding the situation around Bronka multifunctional marine cargo complex and neighbor nature reserve "Kronshtadskaya Kolonia", located in St.Petersburg, Russian Federation.

The nature values of of Kronshtadskaya Kolonia wetlands were justified with scientific data in 1990-th, updated in 2000-th, and documents for establishing nature reserve with the coastal length about 4 km were prepared by the City of St.Petersburg Department of Nature Protected areas. However, in 2009 because of appearance of investor for Bronka port, the project documents of this nature-protected area were revised with cutting coastal line up to 2 km. Finally, in 2013 the nature protected area "Kronshtadskaya Kolonia" was established as a cluster of the St.Petersburg regional complex nature protected area "South shore of the Neva Bay". The official goal for establishing this nature protected area was "Conservation of the nesting and mass recreation sites of waterfowl birds on the White Sea-Baltic migration route". Kronshtadskaya Kolonia nature reserve area is sandwiched between Bronka Port on the west and Lomonosov town port area on the east, and sufficiently impacted by Bronka port activities. Nonetheless, environmental monitoring shows that wetlands play their important role for migration birds, and several Red Book species are registered there every season.

The new stress situation for this area emerged in 2015: the Ministry of Defence, owner of the neighbour area 16 ha on the North-West corner of nature reserve, initiated exclusion of the 4 ha coastal part of the nature reserve, adjacent to the Bronka port. The very likely scenario is that this 4 ha together with 16 ha of military area to be transferred to the Bronka port. This port expansion will create new risks for the Gulf of Finland, destruction of extracted wetlands and degradation of remaining area of the nature reserve.

The Comprehensive Environmental Survey of changing borders of Kronshtadskaya Kolonia nature reserve (where South-Western part of the reserve with Klyuchinskaya Spit is proposed to be cut) was performed by the City of St.Petersburg Committee for Nature Use – to be presented for the State Environmental Expertize. This investigation was done with many shortcomings, without authentic methods, didn't cover all migration periods, and can't adequately show the nature value of the area, which is planned to be excluded from nature reserve.

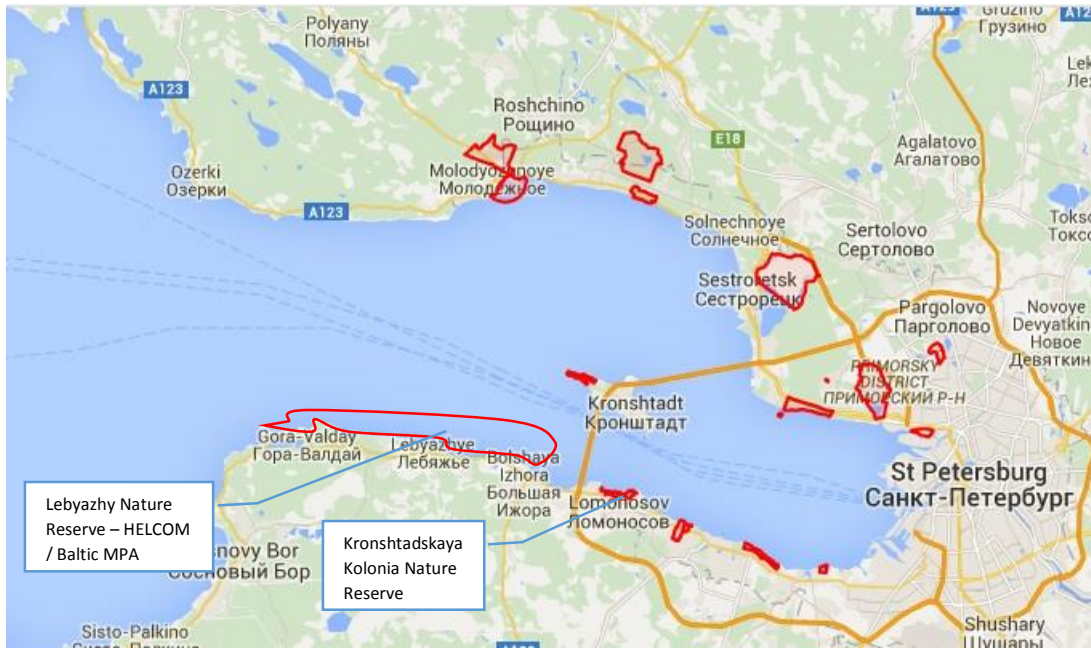
The CCB network is concerned that Kronshtadskaya Kolonia nature protected area with its Klyuchinskaya Spit and wetlands is one of the very few such unique areas in the Neva Bay. Its removal from the reserve area will cause sufficient worsening conditions for important breeding area for many species of marine birds and stopover for migrating birds, including those listed in the HELCOM's Red List of Baltic Breeding Birds. The extracting the Western coastal part of the nature reserve will create conditions for further expansion of Bronka multifunctional marine cargo port area (exceeding its officially approved area). It will sufficiently increase its negative impact to the Gulf of Finland environment, through increasing water turbidity, destruction of fish and birds food supply, reaching critical levels of animal disturbance. In addition, dredging, noise and other activities performed during construction of the port pose a threat to another HELCOM/Baltic MPA – Lebyazhy Nature Reserve that is located southwest from Bronka development site: satellite/aerial images confirm that plumes of suspended sediments from dredging operations can be spreading both along the southern coast and other parts of the Gulf of Finland.

CCB hopes for the opportunity to consider and resolve potential threats to Kronshtadskaya Kolonia nature protected area at both Russian federal and the international levels (HELCOM). This can be *i.a.* achieved through an open stakeholder dialogue (involving local and regional authorities, port administration, public, etc.) with a view to develop an integrated approach towards management and planning of marine, coastal and land areas of the Kronshtadskaya Kolonia nature protected area, based on ecosystem approach.

Action required

The Meeting is invited to consider the presented information, also in relation to implementation of Article 15 (Nature conservation and biodiversity) of the Helsinki Convention (1992) and relevant HELCOM Recommendations.

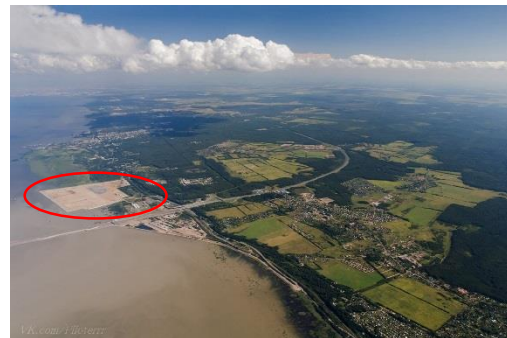
Map of locations of Nature Protected Areas within the City of St. Petersburg



Satellite image of Kronshtadskaya Kolonia Nature Reserve area and its vicinities



Nature reserve in front of the construction site



Bird-eye view of the construction site