



# Minister of Climate and Environment Republic of Poland

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Paulina Hennig-Kloska

## Participants of the Baltic Sea Science Congress 2025

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, conference participants, all those interested in the Baltic Sea,

The Baltic Sea is crucial for Poland in completely new dimensions than before. It is important and will become increasingly important, due to our energy and environmental security.

The Ministry of Climate and Environment is aware that the Baltic Sea is a complex ecosystem greatly affected by anthropogenic pressure. In the era of climate change, geopolitical uncertainty and intensification of the use of natural resources, Our joint responsibility for this area is growing.

Ecological safety, i.e. protection of biodiversity and stability of the Baltic ecosystem, should be the foundation of all other actions. Acidification, microplastics, alien species or oxygen deficiency threaten the Baltic and therefore all of us.

Although several decades have passed since the end of World War II, we are still struggling with its remnants. Among others, in the form of sunken ammunition, including chemical weapons and wrecks containing fuel, which are also a potential source of pollution. That is why we attach great importance to the work of the Inter-ministerial Team for Hazardous Materials Found in the Maritime Areas of the Republic of Poland, where our representative is the Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection.

Fishermen are important users of the sea. The European and international community has adopted the goal of protecting fishing, especially traditional and small-scale fishing, while at the same time taking actions to minimize the negative impact of fishing on the environment. Since 1996, the Ministry of Culture and Environment has represented Poland in the ASCOBANS agreement.

The Baltic Sea is also a source of raw materials, primarily sand and gravel aggregate deposits. In order to extract them in a sustainable manner and in accordance with environmental protection regulations, entrepreneurs must be equipped with appropriate tools and guidelines for their documentation. Therefore, in the case of Poland, the state geological service is working on preparing guidelines for the documentation of sand and gravel aggregate deposits in the maritime areas of the Republic of Poland. Additionally, cartographic work is being carried out on a large scale in the Baltic Sea as part of the 4D Cartography in the coastal zone of the southern Baltic Sea task, the aim of which is to identify the geological structure of the Polish coast and develop a set of forecasting models illustrating the changes



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taking place in it, taking into account various conditions and processes occurring within it, together with an analysis of the effects of these changes on areas that are important socially, naturally and economically.

Offshore wind farms are not the future – they are the present. The construction of offshore wind farms in Poland is a step towards modern and sovereign energy. It is also an important impulse for the economic development of Poland and the Baltic region, as some of you have proven. The Baltic is one of the best waters for the development of this technology – it is characterized by strong, stable winds, which means high efficiency of energy production. It must be emphasized that it can be done with respect for the environment.

Energy infrastructure, especially its transmission part, is subject to appropriate protection due to the long-term effects of potential destruction, the cost incurred and the long time of reconstruction. Offshore farms join the critical infrastructure that may be exposed to sabotage. Innovation forces innovation. We need to develop a defense arsenal, such as surveillance and cybersecurity technologies. Crisis management, sea rescue and information flow must keep up with economic development and in these areas international cooperation is most important.

Only through the joint efforts of the Baltic countries, with the involvement of state institutions, international organizations, science and business, can we ensure a sustainable future for the Baltic Sea. Water knows no borders, but it knows the consequences of our decisions.

That is why I thank you for taking up this important and key topic. I wish you the courage to take responsibility for future generations and to jointly build a vision of the Baltic Sea as a sea that is safe, clean and fair for people, nature and the climate.

Thank you for your attention