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P-004775/2025

Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(10.2.2026)

As set out in the Annex, the Commission's Joint Research Centre has developed model-based estimates and interactive visualisation tools to support a comprehensive assessment of nutrient pollution. These tools make it possible to analyse nutrient inputs from river basins, nutrient loads reaching the sea, and the resulting impacts on the European marine environment¹, thereby strengthening the evidence base for policy action.

Riverine pollution remains a major driver of nutrient pressure in the Baltic Sea. Total nitrogen loads from rivers are estimated at 433 800 tonnes per year (2010–2019 average), of which 67 800 tonnes per year originate from rivers along the Russian coast. These riverine inputs are compounded by significant atmospheric nitrogen deposition, estimated at 239 000 tonnes per year² over the same period. Estimates of other emissions under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution are also available.

Authoritative regional data³ are held by the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), which includes Russia among its contracting parties. This shared knowledge base informed HELCOM's 2023 holistic assessment, providing a common scientific foundation for collective responsibility and coordinated action to protect the Baltic marine environment.

¹ Knowledge Hub for Water: https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/water/topic/nutrients-european-waters_en/nutrient-pollution-past-future_en.

² Values based on the EMEP model: https://www.emep.int/mscw/mscw_moddata.html.

³ <https://helcom.fi/baltic-sea-trends/data>.