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**MINUTES OF THE 39TH MEETING OF  
HEADS OF DELEGATION  
(HELCOM HOD)**

**INTRODUCTION**

0.1 The 39th Meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation was convened at the premises of the HELCOM Secretariat in Helsinki, Finland, on 3-4 December 2012, in accordance with the decision of HELCOM HOD 37/2012 (LD 180).

0.2 The Meeting was attended by participants from all Contracting Parties as well by Observers from BSPC, CCB, CPMR, Oceana and WWF. Mr. Terrance Long, International Dialogues on Underwater Munitions (IDUM) and Ms. Matilda Valman, Baltic Nest Institute, Stockholm University participated as invited guests. The List of Participants is contained in **Annex 1**.

0.3 The Meeting was chaired by the Chair of the Helsinki Commission, Ms. Helle Pilsgaard.

**Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda**

Documents: 1/1, 1/2

1.1 (LD 1) The Meeting adopted the Agenda as contained in document 1/1.

**Agenda Item 2 Preparations for HELCOM 34/2013 and the 2013 HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Meeting**

Documents: 2/1, 2/2, 2/3, 2/4, 2/4/Add.1, 2/5, 2/6, 2/7, 2/7/Rev.1, 2/8

2.1 (LD 2) The Meeting considered the provisional agenda for HELCOM 34/2013 (document 2/2), as well as took note of the tentative time schedule for the meeting and agreed on the agenda, including a reflection of the outcome of the Stakeholder Conferences, cf. LD 3.

2.2 (LD 3) The Meeting welcomed the preliminary programme of the joint HELCOM-BONUS Stakeholder Conference on future research needs in the Baltic Sea to be arranged on 4 March 2013 (document 2/5) and took note of the support to the HELCOM-BONUS cooperation in general. The Meeting agreed to hold both the HELCOM-BONUS Conference and HELCOM Stakeholder Conference on NECA on 4 March 2013, pending the availability of the facilities.

2.3 (LD 4) The Meeting took note of the updated timetable for the 2013 Ministerial Meeting preparations (document 2/1).

2.4 (LD 5) The Meeting considered and welcomed the preliminary draft Ministerial outcome (Declaration) (document 2/8).

2.5 (LD 6) The Meeting took note of further feedback by the Contracting Parties on the preliminary draft outcome, such as the welcoming of the inclusion of marine litter and underwater noise, the proposal to consolidate the text on ecosystem approach in preamble text, further address climate change and also include acidification, to address underwater dumped chemicals and the implementation of the zero discharge principle of the HELCOM BSAP Off-shore Action Plan, and the note that naming of HELCOM groups should be avoided in the declaration.

2.6 (LD 7) The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to provide proposals and more detailed input for the preliminary draft Ministerial outcome to the Secretariat **by 31 January 2013** with the view that the first draft of the Declaration will be developed by the Secretariat taking into account the input received and will be presented to HELCOM HOD 40/2013 and HELCOM 34/2013 in March 2013.

2.7 (LD 8) The Meeting welcomed the consolidated draft overview document on the progress in implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (document 2/4) to be further developed for HELCOM 34/2013 based on the input and proposals from the Contracting Parties.

2.8 (LD 9) Following the comment by Russia, the Meeting invited the Secretariat to update both the draft overview document and its background table (BSAP Index) with information that the AFS Convention has been adopted by all the Contracting Parties.

2.9 (LD 10) The Meeting took note of the background information, BSAP Index Table, to the draft overview document (document 2/4/Add.1) and agreed on the following time schedule for updating the Index:

- **by 28 February 2013**, missing or further information to be provided by the Contracting Parties to the Secretariat ([mikhail.durkin@helcom.fi](mailto:mikhail.durkin@helcom.fi)), according to the instructions presented in document 2/4/Add.1;
- **by 29 March 2013**, the Secretariat to compile the information into the Index tables as well as undertake contacts where information from the Contracting Parties is still missing;
- **April/May 2013**, “light(er)” version of the updated BSAP Index tables to be distributed and considered within the meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies;
- **HOD 41/2013 in June**, presentation of the BSAP Index Table to the Contracting Parties.

2.10 (LD 11) The Meeting requested the Secretariat to remove the “old” tables related to the national implementation activities of the BSAP from the HELCOM website. The Meeting agreed that information on country-wise and sector-wise progress should be only updated on the HELCOM website when the new and streamlined BSAP Index becomes available. The Meeting took note of the information by the Secretariat that with elaboration of the overview of the implementation of the BSAP the intention is not to start the revision of the National Implementation Programs.

2.11 (LD 12) The Meeting took note of the comments by CCB on the need to reflect in the BSAP Index various good examples contributing to implementation of the HELCOM BSAP, e.g. compulsory nutrient accounting/bookkeeping in Germany and Denmark, as well as areas with lacking progress, e.g. establishment of new agricultural hot spots, and further needs for actions, e.g. to improve distribution and size/age-range of commercial fish species.

2.12 (LD 13) The Meeting took note of the outcome of the Seventh Intersessional Workshop of HELCOM MONAS on the Development of HELCOM Core Eutrophication Indicators (HELCOM CORE EUTRO 7/2012), held on 21-23 November 2012 in Sopot, Poland.

2.13 (LD 14) The Meeting welcomed that the HEAT 3.0 tool will be used for an updated HELCOM thematic assessment on eutrophication.

2.14 (LD 15) The Meeting welcomed the good cooperation of HELCOM with the BNI related to eutrophication status assessment issues and invited BNI to further cooperate with HELCOM on eutrophication assessment.

2.15 (LD 16) The Meeting expressed concern related to the short time left to develop the eutrophication assessment, pointed out that the most favourable assessment outcome would be the inclusion of both the open sea and coastal waters in a coherent way but acknowledged that WFD and HEAT 3.0 approaches may result in different results and for

this reason it is important to continue considering both areas and seek for coherence of the assessment results for the coastal areas.

2.16 (LD 17) The Meeting gave advice that as the first step, only the open water areas should be considered within the CORE EUTRO process and the aim should be to produce a concise assessment report for the 2013 Ministerial Meeting mainly updating the eutrophication status maps and delivering main messages related to eutrophication status and development since the last eutrophication assessment in 2009.

2.17 (LD 18) The Meeting took note that the HELCOM CORE EUTRO 7/2012 workshop scrutinised, evaluated, analysed and, when necessary, amended the eutrophication status targets proposed by the TARGREV project and made a proposal for targets as contained in document 2/7.

2.18 (LD 19) The Meeting noted that the proposed targets are based on best available science and also best available expertise has been used in evaluating them and justifications have been provided for each open sea target.

2.19 (LD 20) The Meeting took note of a correction by Germany to the Mecklenburg Bight DIP target that it should be 0.49 µM as contained in document 2/7/Rev.1 instead of 0.5 µM as in document 2/7. The Meeting also took note that Germany pointed out that their national targets for oxygen concentration are more ambitious than the ones reflected in the document for Denmark.

2.20 (LD 21) The Meeting agreed that the eutrophication status targets included in document 2/7, Rev.1 will be applied for the modelling carried out for the review of the BSAP nutrient reduction scheme, development of CORE eutrophication indicators and also for the open sea assessment purposes.

2.21 (LD 22) The Meeting endorsed the eutrophication status targets (document 2/7, Rev.1) pending the study reservation by Estonia, Denmark and Poland and invited them to clarify their study reservations **by 11 December 2012**.

2.22 (LD 23) The Meeting agreed to arrange the HELCOM CORE EUTRO 8/2013 workshop on 18-21 March 2013 and thanked Finland for its willingness to hold the meeting in Helsinki, Finland.

2.23 (LD 24) The Meeting took note of and discussed the proposal by the Russian Federation concerning the HELCOM Stakeholder Conference on establishment of NECA in the Baltic Sea region (document 2/3), and agreed to come back to the issue under the discussion of HELCOM MARITIME activities (cf. 3.1).

2.24 (LD 25) The Meeting took note of further information by Denmark on the ongoing considerations regarding possible back-to-back arrangement of the Ministerial Meeting with the Baltic Development Forum and that additional information is expected in 2013.

### **Agenda Item 3**

### **Matters arising from the HELCOM Groups**

Documents: 2/3/WP1, 3/1, 3/2, 3/3, 3/4, 3/5, 3/6, 3/7, 3/8, 3/9, 3/10, 3/11, 3/12, 3/13, 3/14, 3/14/Add.1, 3/15, 3/16, 3/17, 3/18, 3/19, 3/20, 3/21, 3/22, 3/23, 3/24, 3/25, 3/26, 3/27, 3/27/Rev.1, 3/28

#### *HELCOM MARITIME*

3.1 (LD 26) The Meeting recalled the proposal by the Russian Federation concerning the HELCOM Stakeholder Conference on establishment of NECA in the Baltic Sea Region (document 2/3) prior to HELCOM 34/2013.

3.2 (LD 27) The Meeting recalled the 2010 Ministerial commitment on NECA and recalled the HELCOM 33/2012 decision to make the final decision regarding the NECA submissions at the next meeting of the Heads of Delegation in June 2012, taking into

account the need to report on fulfilling this BSAP commitment before the Ministerial Meeting in 2013.

3.3 (LD 28) The Meeting took note of the comment by the Russian Federation that SCR technology could not be considered as available technology for compliance to Tier III NOx emission standard due to excessive GHG emissions, that the HELCOM Stakeholder Conference could be helpful for assessment of the possibility and consequences of implementation of the above standards. The Meeting also took note that the Russian view is to hold the above Conference prior HELCOM 34/2013 for receiving the base from industry for making a decision about the timing of submission to IMO of the document concerning the Baltic NECA.

3.4 (LD 29) The Meeting took note of the information by Denmark and Finland and the Chair of the NECA Correspondence Group that Tier III technology is available, that the parallel introduction of EEDI (Energy Efficiency Design Index) by IMO will compensate the increased greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions due to the use of SCR technology, and that designation of the Baltic Sea as a NECA will not lead to an increase of GHG emissions in this region.

3.5 (LD 30) The Meeting noted that according to MARPOL Annex VI the IMO should review the status of the technology development not later than 2013 and shall, if proven necessary, adjust the implementation date of 2016.

3.6 (LD 31) The Meeting noted that, since HELCOM 33/2012 already decided that there will be two submissions by the Baltic Sea countries to IMO (on the NECA and on technology) while the timing is the only remaining question, it would be beneficial for the industry to get a clear indication of the timing of the entry into force of the NECA status. This is due to the fact that ordering new ships and their delivery require around three years.

3.7 (LD 32) The Meeting recalled that several shipping industry stakeholders have been involved directly and extensively in the development of the Baltic Sea NECA application and through the work of the HELCOM Maritime Group.

3.8 (LD 33) The Meeting supported in principle the Russian proposal of a stakeholder conference (before HELCOM 34/2013), in order to further inform and get input from stakeholders, to facilitate smooth implementation of the Baltic Sea NECA and with the view that the timing of the NECA, for the remaining countries who have had a study reservation on the timing, needs to be decided (cf. document 2/3/WP1).

3.9 (LD 34) The Meeting agreed to send a clear signal to the stakeholders that the NECA application is finalised and that the final date of submission of the application to IMO is to be taken prior to the 2013 Ministerial Meeting and agreed to report to the Ministers accordingly.

3.10 (LD 35) The Meeting took note of the study reservation by Russia on the two paragraphs above to be clarified **as soon as possible and by 18 December 2012 latest**.<sup>1</sup>

3.11 (LD 36) The Meeting took note of the information by Denmark that North Sea countries agreed to develop an application for NECA to IMO without setting up specific deadlines.

3.12 (LD 37) The Meeting recalled the Latvian information in HELCOM HOD 37/2012 that Latvia prefers that the Baltic Sea and the North Sea NECA applications should preferably be submitted to IMO at the same time.

3.13 (LD 38) The Meeting took note of the comments by Poland that: 1) NECA for the sake of competitiveness should be introduced at the same time, at least, on the North Sea and the Baltic Sea, 2) the Stakeholder Conference should result in the full impact assessment, including competitiveness of this legislative proposal, and 3) more time is needed for Polish stakeholders to adapt for NECA requirements after the already introduced

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<sup>1</sup> Russia lifted the study reservation on 13 December 2012.

SECA on the Baltic Sea, and 4) request the pivotal countries, e.g. Denmark, Germany, to speed up the work on an application for NECA for the North Sea countries.

3.14 (LD 39) The Meeting took note of the outcome of the Eleventh Meeting of the Maritime Group (HELCOM MARITIME 11/2012) (document 3/13) in general, and more specifically:

- invited HELCOM MARITIME to further develop input on maritime topics to the Ministerial Meeting;
- welcomed the progress in implementation of the 2007 HELCOM Ballast Water Roadmap in general, as well as the establishment of the cooperation with OSPAR on a common approach to the exemption regime under the Ballast Water Management Convention, BWMC (a joint OSPAR-HELCOM task group), and noted the intention to provide specific deliverables on harmonized implementation of BWMC to the Ministerial Meeting;
- noted the ongoing work on Interim Guidance for port reception facilities for sewage, being developed in the context of the recent designation of the Baltic Sea as Special Area under Annex IV of MARPOL, as a deliverable for the Ministerial Meeting;
- decided on the establishment of the HELCOM Group of Experts on Safety of Navigation and adopted its Terms of Reference, as contained in **Annex 2**;
- took note of the re-election of Ms Lolan Eriksson, Finland, as Chair, and Mr Jorma Kämäräinen, Finland and Ms Natalia Kutaeva, Russia, as Vice-Chairs of HELCOM MARITIME for the next two-year period (2013-2014) and thanked them for their work so far and congratulated them for the re-election;
- approved organizing a one-day Maritime Group meeting (MARITIME 12/2013) on 4 June 2013 to agree on Ministerial Meeting deliverables and invited the Maritime Group to reconsider the suggested date for the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of HELCOM MARITIME with the view to enable the preparations of documents for the HELCOM HOD after the Ministerial Meeting and welcomed the offer by Poland to host HELCOM MARITIME 13/2013;
- noted the discussion on hosting the HELCOM Automatic Identification System, AIS (by Danish Maritime Authority) and the issue of the costs of HELCOM AIS maintenance, which will be further discussed at the 23rd Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Working Group for Mutual Exchange and Deliveries of AIS Data on 9-10 April 2013 in Norrköping, Sweden;
- approved the HELCOM MARITIME Working Program 2013-2014 to be re-visited and updated as needed after the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting.

3.15 (LD 40) The Meeting noted comments by CCB regarding the mandatory pilotage in the Gulf of Finland during winter time and invited HELCOM MARITIME to consider this in the future work, taking into account the earlier considerations of pilotage matters in the HELCOM work.

3.16 (LD 41) The Meeting approved the final report of the HELCOM ALIENS 2 Project - Study on Biological Survey Protocols and Target Species Selection, including the general framework on joint survey methods, joint risk assessments and decision support tools proposed in the report (document 3/5) and approved the publishing of the report on the HELCOM website.

3.17 (LD 42) The Meeting agreed to use the final results of the HELCOM ALIENS 2 Project and the anticipated developments under the HELCOM-OSPAR Ballast Water Task Group for the Ministerial outcome.

3.18 (LD 43) The Meeting supported further work on harmonised implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention and further cooperation with OSPAR with this regard.

3.19 (LD 44) The Meeting supported the follow-up of the HELCOM ALIENS 2 Project and, pending clarification of the study reservation by Estonia **by 18 December 2012**<sup>2</sup>, the Meeting adopted the proposal for HELCOM ALIENS 3 “Test, further development and operationalization of the HELCOM biological survey protocols and A-4 risk assessments in the Baltic Sea” (document 3/24), as contained in **Annex 3**. The Meeting noted that resources are needed for the implementation of the project and invited the Contracting Parties to consider supporting the project with funding and to inform the Secretariat accordingly **by 18 December 2012**.

#### HELCOM GEAR

3.20 (LD 45) The Meeting took note of the outcome of the Second Meeting of the HELCOM Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (HELCOM GEAR 2/2012) as presented by Ms Heike Imhoff, the Chair of HELCOM GEAR (document 3/1).

3.21 (LD 46) The Meeting welcomed that the Group has finalized the Baltic Sea roof report demonstrating the coordination and common approach among the HELCOM countries being EU members on the MSFD implementation and noted that it could be used by these countries for reporting on Articles 8, 9, and 10 of the MSFD. The Meeting took note of the information that Germany will send the roof report to the EU Commission as part of the background material for reporting on the MSFD.

3.22 (LD 47) The Meeting took note that the next meeting of HELCOM GEAR, 26-27 February 2013, Berlin, will focus on developing input to the Ministerial Meeting on HELCOM’s regional coordination work and that Finland, Germany and Estonia have been invited to intersessionally develop an outline for the input.

3.23 (LD 48) The Meeting noted the wish of GEAR for having the PLC-6 data available earlier than planned (by the end of 2016), however, also noted that the HELCOM LOAD Core Group discussed the above timing and was of the opinion that this is strongly not recommended as the data/results will be at such a draft stage then and they will very likely require updating/correcting during 2017.

3.24 (LD 49) The Meeting invited the LOAD group to make the essential data available in time for the reporting for the MSFD, i.e. in 2016 and noted that airborne data will not be available yet at that time point. The Meeting pointed out that the important role of the GEAR group is to foresee and coordinate the timing of the deliverables by the different groups and projects and invited the GEAR group together with the LOAD group to look at the possibility to amend the PLC-6 timetable.

3.25 (LD 50) The Meeting took note of the intention by Russia to inform the Secretariat of their contact person to HELCOM GEAR as soon as possible after the HOD 39/2012 meeting.

3.26 (LD 51) The Meeting welcomed the roadmap for GEAR and HELCOM work overall (document 3/10), pointed out that the roadmap in a good way presents the coordination which the group can do and approved the roadmap with the understanding that it is a living document. The Meeting took note of the intention by the GEAR Chair to look into the further clarification of the tasks of GEAR in relation to other groups.

3.27 (LD 52) The Meeting took note of the document on marine litter in the Baltic Sea - overview of present status and potential for further HELCOM actions (document 3/19) and agreed that the further developed document will provide input from the Baltic Sea region to the International Conference on Prevention and Management of Marine Litter in European Seas to be held on 10 - 12 April 2013 in Berlin, Germany and invited the Contracting Parties to deliver input for the document **by 31 January 2013** to [hermanni.backer@helcom.fi](mailto:hermanni.backer@helcom.fi). The Meeting welcomed that the Conference is expected to contribute to the regional measures and agreed to utilize its outcomes for the Ministerial Meeting.

3.28 (LD 53) The Meeting considered the need to establish a marine litter project or expert group at the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting to serve as a Baltic focal point on

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<sup>2</sup> Estonia lifted the study reservation on 20 December 2012.

marine litter issues and took note of the recent decision by the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) on a two-year project on marine litter supporting creation of regional strategies for marine litter in the North and Baltic Sea regions. The Meeting agreed that there is no need for a HELCOM expert group or project for the time being.

3.29 (LD 54) The Meeting took note of the comment by CCB that HELCOM should have a goal for marine litter such as the reduction of marine litter by 50% by 2020.

#### HELCOM MONAS

3.30 (LD 55) The Meeting took note of the outcome of the 17th Meeting of the Monitoring and Assessment Group (HELCOM MONAS 17/2012) held on 25-28 October 2012 in Gothenburg, Sweden (document 3/6).

3.31 (LD 56) The Meeting took note of the publication of the updated and new Baltic Sea Environment Fact Sheets (previously called Indicator Fact Sheets) on the HELCOM website.

3.32 (LD 57) The Meeting considered the proposal to make the CORESET hazardous substances expert group a permanent expert group and recognised the need for continuation of this important expert work, however was in favour of having a limited time frame for the work and asked the experts to create Terms of Reference for a temporary group and deliver the ToR for consideration by HELCOM MONAS 18/2013 and subsequently to HELCOM HOD 41/2013.

3.33 (LD 58) The Meeting took note of the progress of the work under HELCOM LOAD and agreed to arrange the next meeting of HELCOM LOAD (HELCOM LOAD 5/2013) on 12-14 March 2013 in Tallinn, Estonia. The Meeting recalled the decision of HOD 38/2012 on support to the principles of country-wise allocation of nutrient reduction targets. The Meeting took note of the request by Poland at HELCOM LOAD 4/2012 on the need to reflect *per area* and *per capita* considerations in the MAI and CART revision process and invited HELCOM LOAD to come back to this issue at the MAI/CART workshop on 14-15 January 2013 in Helsinki, Finland.

3.34 (LD 59) The Meeting welcomed:

- the publication of the report by EMEP "Atmospheric supply of nitrogen, lead, cadmium, mercury and dioxins/furans to the Baltic Sea in 2010" on the EMEP and HELCOM websites,
- the PLC intercalibration activity as concerns samples and parameters to be analyzed and the number of participating laboratories and appreciated the kind offer of Sweden to sponsor the carrying out of this task,
- the on-going work by HELCOM MORS EG to finalize a thematic assessment of long-term changes in radioactivity in the Baltic Sea for 2007-2010 for the 2013 Ministerial Meeting and approved the organizing of the meeting of HELCOM MORS EG 3/2013 on 7-9 May 2013 in Monaco,
- the activities by the HELCOM phytoplankton expert group (PEG), including the intended intercalibration activity,
- the activities of the "Environmental monitoring of the Black Sea with focus on nutrient pollution" (Baltic2Black) cooperation project between the two regional seas.

3.35 (LD 60) The Meeting urged Latvia to nominate a national expert to participate in the PLC-5.5 project and encouraged also other Contracting Parties to actively participate in the elaboration of the PLC-5.5 report.

3.36 (LD 61) The Meeting noted that the focus of the work of the monitoring revision project (MORE) will be the strategic level rather than going into details of monitoring and quality assurance.



3.37 (LD 62) The Meeting agreed to hold the HELCOM workshop on Baltic Sea region's climate change and its implications on 5-6 February 2013 in Warnemünde, Germany (document 2/25).

3.38 (LD 63) The Meeting endorsed the updated HELCOM MONAS work programme for 2012-2014 (as contained in Annex 2 of document 3/6).

3.39 (LD 64) The Meeting thanked Ms Barbara Frank, Germany, for acting as Vice-Chair of HELCOM MONAS for 2010-2012 and took note of the election of Ms Wera Leujak, Germany, and congratulated her for the election as the second Vice-Chair of HELCOM MONAS for the period 2012-2014.

3.40 (LD 65) The Meeting agreed on holding the HELCOM MONAS 18/2013 meeting on 22-25 April 2013 and thanked Denmark for confirming the offer to host the meeting.

3.41 (LD 66) The Meeting also agreed on holding of a MONAS meeting in autumn but asked HELCOM MONAS 18/2013 to consider a later/another date of the HELCOM MONAS 19/2013 meeting instead of 19-22 November 2013 to enable better preparation of a HOD meeting to be held after Ministerial Meeting.

3.42 (LD 67) The Meeting decided to maintain the twice per year annual meeting cycle of HELCOM MONAS due to the great workload of the Group.

3.43 (LD 68) The Meeting agreed to hold the HELCOM MORE 4/2013 workshop on 22-23 January 2013 and thanked Finland for its willingness to host the workshop in Finland.

3.44 (LD 69) The Meeting considered the final report of the HELCOM TARGREV project (documents 3/14 and 3/14/Add.1) and recalled that HELCOM HOD 38/2012 in principle approved the report for publishing and that the report, with data updates and sub-regionalisation of the target proposals, had been recommended for printing by HELCOM MONAS 17/2012 and HELCOM GEAR 2/2012.

3.45 (LD 70) The Meeting welcomed the finalization of the checking of the inclusion of German data to the final report of the TARGREV project (see also document 3/9/Rev.1 of HELCOM CORE EUTRO 7/2012) and took note of the expression of gratitude by Germany towards BNI for ensuring that all German data were included in the analyses.

3.46 (LD 71) The Meeting considered the proposal of Poland on the disclaimer to be added to the cover page of the TARGREV report as contained in document 3/18 and took note of the explanation by Poland that the report could have benefited from further modeling and checking of the data used for target setting overall, as well as that in the future there is the need to consider regional differentiation of eutrophication status targets.

3.47 (LD 72) The Meeting agreed to include the disclaimer as follows:

*“The Helsinki Commission from time to time publishes environmental studies prepared by experts that have been financed or partly financed by the Commission. It should be noted that such a publication does not necessarily reflect the views of the Helsinki Commission, but could be regarded as an important input to the management of the state of the Baltic Sea. The TARGREV-project provides a scientific proposal on targets for eutrophication parameters for the open-sea areas of the Baltic Sea to fulfill the requirements of the Baltic Sea Action Plan.”*

with the understanding that the TARGREV report is a scientific report and a separate process has already been set up for the HELCOM eutrophication status targets (cf. document 2/7/Rev.1).

3.48 (LD 73) The Meeting endorsed the publishing of the TARGREV final report in the Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings.

3.49 (LD 74) The Meeting agreed that overall there is a need to come back to the HELCOM eutrophication status targets at regular intervals and to review them in the light of new scientific findings and further development of ecological models, and that this process should also aim for further regional differentiation of the targets especially in the coastal zone. The Meeting stressed the importance to continue seeking coherence between the

HELCOM, WFD and MSFD state targets. The Meeting invited HELCOM GEAR to consider the timing of the review process.

3.50 (LD 75) The Meeting considered the set of core indicators for biodiversity and hazardous substances for finalisation (document 3/8) and recalled that the proposed core indicators have been reviewed from the scientific-technical point of view by HELCOM MONAS 17/2012 and from the coordination and managerial perspective by HELCOM GEAR 2/2012 and approved for finalization by both groups.

3.51 (LD 76) The Meeting appreciated the work done by the CORESET project and welcomed that the finalisation of the set of core indicators will enable fulfilling one of the tasks included in the HELCOM Moscow Ministerial Declaration and that the CORESET project work has helped the EU member states in their MSFD implementation and is foreseen to do so also in the future.

3.52 (LD 77) The Meeting took note of the Polish document indicating which indicators Poland is at this stage ready to include in their monitoring programme (document 3/17).

3.53 (LD 78) The Meeting took note of the request by HELCOM MONAS 17/2012 to the CORESET expert groups to further assess the coherence of the indicators at a sub-regional level and categorize the relevance and possibility of monitoring of the indicators in the different sub-regions of the Baltic Sea and the request to the expert groups to propose such exceptions to Baltic wide applicability of the indicator reports and include this information to the indicator reports.

3.54 (LD 79) The Meeting took note of the specific comments by the Contracting Parties on the state of readiness and possible applicability of the core indicators under preparation.

3.55 (LD 80) The Meeting took note of the study reservation by Germany on the biomarker core indicators.

3.56 (LD 81) The Meeting took note of the clarification by Sweden of lifting its study reservation on indicator number 14 "Population growth rates, abundance and distribution of marine mammals", however, with the view that special attention to this indicator will be needed in the stage of finalisation and operationalization, in order to assure measurability and relevance in assessing the good environmental status.

3.57 (LD 82) The Meeting took note of the view of the EU that from the point of view of the MSFD the development and finalisation of core indicators is important and the set of indicators will be valuable and that the EU is not in favour of flexibility in the implementation of the core indicators and the ambition level should be high.

3.58 (LD 83) The Meeting further pointed out that the set is to become representative and that at this stage the set of indicators should not be made a pick list.

3.59 (LD 84) The Meeting approved for finalization the proposed core indicators on hazardous substances and biodiversity as contained in Table 1 of document 3/8 with the understanding that the proposed set of core indicators is not final and that some indicators are not applicable in all Baltic Sea sub-regions because some expert work still needs to be done especially in the field of their applicability and possibility of monitoring in the different sub-regions and agreed that HELCOM HOD 41/2013 should finally agree on the set of core indicators.

3.60 (LD 85) The Meeting endorsed the holding of the Fifth Workshop of hazardous substances experts of the HELCOM CORESET project in January 2013 and the Sixth Workshop of CORESET biodiversity experts in January 2013.

3.61 (LD 86) The Meeting considered the project proposal on operationalization of HELCOM core indicators (CORESET II) (document 3/26) and supported in general the work on operationalization of indicators which represents the core of the activities of HELCOM work and is according to the tasks given by the 2010 Ministerial Meeting. Some Contracting Parties mentioned that therefore it should be considered as a priority activity in budget discussions.

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3.62 (LD 87) The Meeting agreed to adopt the project proposal, as contained in **Annex 4**, by a tacit approval process **by 18 December 2012**<sup>3</sup>.

3.63 (LD 88) The Meeting welcomed the preparations for the HELCOM Workshop on climate change and its implications and the preliminary agenda of the workshop (document 3/25).

3.64 (LD 89) The Meeting emphasized for the workshop to consider the implication of climate change on the implementation of the HELCOM BSAP and appreciated that the BSAP review has been proposed in the preliminary agenda.

3.65 (LD 90) The Meeting took note of the information by Sweden on the arranging of the 2nd [BALTADAPT Policy Forum](#) "Time to Baltadapt" to be held on 10-11 December 2012 in Stockholm, Sweden, and agreed on the proposal that the outcome of the workshop could be reported to the HELCOM workshop.

#### *HELCOM HABITAT*

3.66 (LD 91) The Meeting considered the revised HELCOM Recommendation 15/1 "Protection of the coastal strip" (document 3/3).

3.67 (LD 92) The Meeting agreed to include a reference to the UN CBD in the preamble text of the draft revised Recommendation and proposed to maintain the text "particularly in countries in economic transition", noting that Finland did not support that proposal, and took note of the proposal to include in point d) on page 3 a change to the text so that it reads: "c) on the basis of a land use plan which has been subjected to environmental assessment...".

3.68 (LD 93) The Meeting took note that Russia does not support the proposed additions that mainly concern EU legislation. The Meeting suggested changing the text referring to EU legislation from "Acknowledging" to "Referring to the relevant EU legislation".

3.69 (LD 94) The Meeting agreed that the draft Recommendation should be revised on the basis of the comments received during the Meeting and sent out for commenting **by 18 December 2012** with replies to be sent to the Secretariat ([maria.laamanen@helcom.fi](mailto:maria.laamanen@helcom.fi)) with the view that the revised Recommendation could be agreed and adopted by HELCOM 34/2013.

3.70 (LD 95) The Meeting considered the technical changes proposed by HELCOM HABITAT to HELCOM Recommendation 17/3 "Information and consultation with regard to construction of new installations affecting the Baltic Sea" (document 3/4) and noted that the amendments made were of technical nature and were only aimed at updating the Recommendation with the view of changes in legislation. The Meeting took note of the Russian study reservation on the proposed changes.

3.71 (LD 96) The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to provide further comments primarily to the proposed amendments **by 18 December 2012** to the Secretariat ([maria.laamanen@helcom.fi](mailto:maria.laamanen@helcom.fi)) and asked the Lead Party Poland with the Secretariat to submit the revised draft Recommendation to the January meeting of HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group for consideration of the proposed changes. The Secretariat should simultaneously inform the HABITAT group and the Meeting agreed that the outcome of these consultations should be submitted for agreement by HELCOM 34/2013.

3.72 (LD 97) The Meeting welcomed the progress in development of the new Recommendation to safeguard important wintering habitats and migration routes of Baltic seabirds from the use of those areas for energy production (document 3/2), supported the new Recommendation in general and regarded it as a timely initiative.

3.73 (LD 98) The Meeting took note of the comments by the Contracting Parties, e.g. the comment by Latvia related to the need for information on the studies presenting the declines of seabirds and concerns related to the recommendation to support to development of technologies for building energy installations in deep water areas, and the comments by the EU related to the need to clarify the scope of the draft Recommendation, i.e., whether it

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<sup>3</sup> The proposal has been tacitly approved.

should also address breeding and moulting areas of seabirds and whether it should be further focused in relation to energy installations. The Meeting also took note of the information by the EU that there are guidelines related to building energy installations in Natura 2000 sites that can be consulted in further development of the Recommendation.

3.74 (LD 99) The Meeting invited the Secretariat to revise the draft Recommendation on the basis of the comments provided by the Contracting Parties and to forward the revised draft Recommendation to the HELCOM-VASAB WG on MSP for their consideration with the view that it will be forwarded to HELCOM 34/2013 for approval and to the HELCOM 2013 Ministerial Meeting for adoption.

3.75 (LD 100) The Meeting considered the project proposal for HELCOM PG on Baltic sturgeon remediation presented by Poland and Germany (as contained in document 3/15) and recalled that this proposal had been considered by HELCOM HOD 31/2010, which supported the project proposal and its establishment by applying for EU funding.

3.76 (LD 101) The Meeting took note of the concern expressed by CCB related to that introduced species can compete with existing species, e.g. released salmon spawning in wild salmon areas and destroying their nests.

3.77 (LD 102) The Meeting agreed on and approved the Baltic sturgeon project proposal, as contained in **Annex 5**, with the view that it will be funded from external sources and invited the Contracting Parties to nominate participants to the project by informing the Secretariat ([maria.laamanen@helcom.fi](mailto:maria.laamanen@helcom.fi)) **by 30 April 2013**.

3.78 (LD 103) The Meeting took note of the outcome of the Sixth Meeting of the *ad hoc* HELCOM Seal Expert Group (HELCOM SEAL 6/2012) and welcomed the intention by the SEAL group to provide HELCOM HABITAT 15/2013 with an assessment of whether the HELCOM BSAP objective of finalising management plans for the seals had been reached by 2012.

3.79 (LD 104) The Meeting welcomed the updates to the Baltic Sea Environment Fact Sheet on harbour porpoise done by the Chair of HELCOM SEAL Mr. Anders Galatius, Denmark.

3.80 (LD 105) The Meeting thanked the HELCOM SEAL expert group for providing the estimates of minimum viable population sizes of each seal species in each management unit calculated with different extinction risk levels (1, 3, 5 and 10%) that could be used as Limit Reference Levels (LRLs) and noted that in the view of the experts these figures represent minimum estimates and that already HELCOM SEAL 5/2011 in principle agreed to set LRL for each Baltic Sea seal management unit at a total of 10,000 individuals (approximately 5000 adult seals).

3.81 (LD 106) The Meeting took note of the view of Finland that the estimates of extinction risk levels unfortunately have been produced based on old data and hence Finland cannot accept the LRL at this stage. Finland would like to forward the issue for consideration by the HELCOM HABITAT 15/2013 meeting.

3.82 (LD 107) The Meeting took note that Sweden cannot support the suggested LRL of 10,000 individuals but welcomes the work done by HELCOM SEAL in broadening the background material including the different extinction risk levels. Sweden would like to see that HELCOM HABITAT and HELCOM SEAL in their further discussions, and before any decision by HELCOM HOD, will take into consideration that a LRL should reflect the different risk levels and that further discussions need to take into consideration the ongoing implementation of the MSFD in EU countries and the development of the HELCOM core set of indicators as well as the on-going national work on management plans.

3.83 (LD 108) The Meeting invited the SEAL group and HELCOM HABITAT to further look into the LRL issue taking into account the need for broadened background material and the use of the latest data in estimating the extinction risk level and the need to reflect the different extinction risk levels as well as the ongoing work in the EU countries on the

implementation of the MSFD and the development of the HELCOM core set of indicators that also contains indicators on marine mammals.

3.84 (LD 109) The Meeting took note of the statement of Germany that Germany recalled that the title of HELCOM Recommendation 27-28/2 reads “Conservation of seals in the Baltic Sea area” and that the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention are bound to the precautionary principle. Germany further pointed out that she agreed to report to the 2010 Ministerial Meeting of HELCOM that the seal Recommendation is effective. This was done in the spirit of a compromise and with the assumption that the proposed LRLs for all seal species and their management units will be set to 10,000 individuals respectively. Germany was willing to accept these figures although German experts proposed a LRL for grey seals of 20,000. From the German perspective it is regrettable that HELCOM HOD 39/2012 could again not agree on the proposed LRLs, and informed the Meeting that if the seal issues are addressed in the upcoming Ministerial Meeting, from the German point of view such an address must include that HELCOM Recommendation 27-28/2 obviously is not effective.

3.85 (LD 110) The Meeting welcomed the lifting of the study reservation by Sweden on the ToR of the distribution team of HELCOM SEAL.

3.86 (LD 111) The Meeting welcomed the clarification by Denmark of its study reservation on HELCOM Recommendation 17/2 “Protection of harbour porpoise in the Baltic Sea” and agreed in principle to change the fifth paragraph of the Recommendation so that it better reflects the new results of the SCANS survey and the knowledge on the current state of the porpoise in the Kattegat, Belts, and Sound, i.e. to include the word “non-significant” to the paragraph in the sentence that reads: “CONVINCED that the critical status of harbour porpoises in the Baltic Sea calls for immediate actions in order to safeguard their survival. The progressive, critical threat of extinction of the harbour porpoise in the Baltic proper (ICES areas 24-32) and *non-significant* decline in numbers in other parts of the Baltic Sea region (such as ICES area 21-23) requires immediate action and...”. The Meeting invited all other Contracting Parties to inform the Secretariat on their approval of the addition **by 18 December 2012 latest**.

3.87 (LD 112) The Meeting endorsed the organising of a one-day workshop on 20 March 2013 to prepare input to the Ministerial Meeting on the Gulf of Finland ringed seals and invited HELCOM HABITAT to further consider the question of LRLs.

3.88 (LD 113) The Meeting agreed to organise the next meeting of the HELCOM *ad hoc* Seal Expert Group (HELCOM SEAL 7/2013) on 15-17 October 2013 and thanked Denmark for its confirmation regarding the hosting of the meeting in Denmark.

3.89 (LD 114) The Meeting urged especially Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to nominate additional experts to the teams of HELCOM SEAL and allocate resources for the work of the seal experts.

3.90 (LD 115) The Meeting took note of the outcome from the Fourth Steering Group Meeting of the Project for Completing the HELCOM Red List of Species and Habitats/Biotopes (HELCOM RED LIST 4/2012) (document 3/16).

3.91 (LD 116) The Meeting welcomed the progress of the project and noted the timetable of the project and the risk of delays in project products due to the great work load on the project experts. The Meeting took note of the intended project deliveries aimed to be delivered as input for the 2013 Ministerial Meeting, including the already finalised Checklist of Baltic Sea Macro-species, the EUNIS compatible habitat/biotope classification, the Red List of Baltic Sea Species and the Red List of habitats/biotopes.

3.92 (LD 117) The Meeting endorsed the holding of the following meetings:

- HELCOM RED LIST BIOTOPES 9/2013, 19-21 February 2013 in the Secretariat, Helsinki, Finland,
- HELCOM RED LIST 5/2013, 3-4 April 2013 and thanked Denmark for its willingness to host the Meeting.

3.93 (LD 118) The Meeting took note of the draft red list assessment of cod in the Baltic Sea (document 3/23, Attachment 1) and of the replies by the HELCOM RED LIST Fish and lamprey team to the comments by Poland, EC, Denmark and Finland (Attachment 2), and welcomed the initial general views of IUCN on the assessment results on cod (Attachment 3). The Meeting took note of the study reservations by the EU and Poland on the cod assessment.

3.94 (LD 119) The Meeting invited ICES to be part of the review of the draft assessment of the cod according to the IUCN criteria and stressed the importance for the evaluations by IUCN and ICES to be discussed by HELCOM HABITAT 15/2013 before they will be considered by HELCOM HOD 41/2013.

3.95 (LD 120) The Meeting agreed to review the progress in the assessment during HELCOM 34/2013.

3.96 (LD 121) The Meeting took note of the outcome of the Eighth Meeting of HELCOM Baltic Fisheries/Environmental Forum for implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan Fish/Fisheries related items (HELCOM FISH/ENV FORUM 8/2012) and the First Expert Workshop of HELCOM Managing Fisheries in Baltic Marine Protected Areas BALTFIMPA EWS 1/2012 (document 3/12) in general and more specifically:

- took note that issues suggested by the Forum to be addressed by the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting are already partly included in the scope of the Ministerial outcome (e.g. marine litter including setting up specific targets on microscopic plastic particles and underwater noise) and that actions on implementation of the HELCOM BSAP should be promoted, e.g. discard ban in Baltic Sea commercial fisheries;
- welcomed the following recent actions on implementation of fisheries-related actions of the HELCOM BSAP and the 2010 Moscow Ministerial Meeting:
  - the proposal to implement discard ban in the Baltic Sea as a pilot region, prior to respective CFP requirements will enter into force;
  - proposed series of HELCOM/ICES eel-related workshops is expected to be arranged in January-February 2013 in coordination with ICES;
  - recently signed agreement between Poland and Russia (Kaliningrad Oblast) on development until November 2013 of a joint eel management plan for Vistula Lagoon and Pregolya River Basin District;
  - submission of the large-scale BALTFIMPA project proposal for financing through the EU LIFE+ Programme;
  - submission of the follow-up project proposal for HELCOM SALAR for financing through the EU LIFE+ Programme and aiming at implementation of specific salmon and sea trout restoration measures;
- took note of the progress in development of the BALTFIMPA Generic tool and the background document on development of the BALTFIMPA Generic Tool and the List of environmentally-sound/sustainable/selective fishing gear and stressed the importance of continuing collaboration in low-impact and ecosystem-based fisheries both within the BALTFIMPA process and the Fisheries/Environment Forum;
- approved the arrangement of an additional expert workshop/meeting prior to the March BALTFIMPA Stakeholder Conference and, taking into account time and resource constraints, requested the Secretariat to investigate a possibility for arranging it as video/telephone conference in January/February 2013, when the new version of the Generic Tool becomes available;
- considered the proposal for establishing a Task Force on migratory fish species under Fisheries/Environment Forum and, taking into account the comments and reservations by several Contracting Parties on the scope and

tasks of the proposed Task Force, agreed to come back to this proposal at the next meeting of the Forum;

- expressed the support for the need to address further the aquaculture development within HELCOM work, especially bearing in mind:
  - proposal for draft updated recommendation regarding measures aiming at sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea Region and especially focusing on e.g. limits of nutrient discharges, as an input to the 2013 Ministerial Meeting, pending study reservations by Finland and Poland to be clarified **preferably by 31 January 2013** to enable further drafting of the Recommendation;
  - the need to highlight the boundaries for sustainable human activities in the region in order to ensure reaching a good environmental status;
  - information on planned large-scale aquaculture development in the eastern Gulf of Finland and invitation to Russia to present information about these plans at the upcoming meeting of the Forum;
- agreed that the draft recommendation should be also coordinated/consulted with HELCOM HABITAT before the submission to HELCOM HOD in June 2013 for approval;
- took note that the proposed topics for next meeting(-s) of the Forum to address ghost nets and marine litter problem, sustainable aquaculture, including innovative/sustainable technologies applied in aquaculture and, possibly, health problems of wild fish.

3.97 (LD 122) The Meeting agreed to arrange the next meeting of HELCOM Baltic Fisheries/ Environmental Forum during spring 2013, preferably prior to HELCOM HABITAT 15/2013 (14-17 May 2013) and in line with preparations for the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting.

3.98 (LD 123) The Meeting encouraged better participation of the Contracting Parties in the work of HELCOM Baltic Fisheries/ Environmental Forum, representing both fisheries and environment authorities.

3.99 (LD 124) The Meeting took note of the outcome of the Fifth Meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG) (document 3/7) in general and more specifically:

- took note that the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG will function as Project Advisory Group for the PartiSEApate project on Multilevel Governance in Maritime Spatial Planning throughout the Baltic Sea Region, as well as the intention to cooperate between PartiSEApate and HELCOM's BALTFIMPA project;
- took note of the plans for the VASAB Ministerial Meeting which will be arranged in autumn 2014 in Tallinn, Estonia, under the Estonian Chairmanship of VASAB;
- noted the discussion in the Group regarding availability and quality of MSP relevant data and supported the MSP Working Group to take a pro-active role in this field with the aim to identify and communicate the needs in terms of data for MSP towards national, regional and European data developments, such as EMODNET;
- supported the intention of the Working Group to develop the following inputs to the Ministerial Meeting:
  - a roadmap to facilitate drawing up and application of ecosystem-based maritime spatial plans in transboundary context in the Baltic Sea, including evaluation of the MSP Principles in the regional framework as well as

linking MSP with Good Environmental Status and the ecosystem approach as well as with goals of other policy areas;

- an input on practical application of the ecosystem approach in Maritime Spatial Planning, in support of the use of ecosystem knowledge in MSP planning processes;
- took note of the ongoing “Gulf of Finland Year 2014” initiative, addressing, among other, MSP (under the lead of Co-chair Ms. Anita Mäkinen, Finland), and recognized the opportunity linked to the already started initiative to establish a new MSP cross-border project similar to the already finalized HELCOM project Plan Bothnia;
- approved organizing HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 6/2013 on 29-30 January 2013 and welcomed the offer by the VASAB Secretariat to host it in Riga, Latvia.

3.100(LD 125) The Meeting supported the work of the Working Group especially in relation to enhancing ecosystem-based MSP in the Baltic Sea, as well as its leading role for the Horizontal Action on MSP under the EU SBSR.

3.101(LD 126) The Meeting considered the information on the modernization of HELCOM data management and systems: how to cope with emerging needs to better serve the Contracting Parties in their work to achieve a good environmental status of the Baltic Sea (document 3/21) and supported in general the presented focus of future HELCOM data-related work, in line with the conclusions outlined in the paper, taking into account the study reservation by Sweden and Estonia to be clarified **by 18 December 2012<sup>4</sup>**, and more specifically:

- welcomed the update of the HELCOM data and information management system which will enhance accessibility to data and usability of HELCOM data products, and also increase data and service interoperability between HELCOM and other organizations;
- noted that in terms of HELCOM database needs, especially the Pollution Load Compilation (PLC) and biodiversity databases require development work - the first one to be addressed by the proposed PLUS project (project proposal to be forwarded to HELCOM 34/2013) and the latter one to benefit from and utilize the wealth of information on habitats and species that will become available from the RED LIST project;
- noted that the existing HELCOM information structures related to MARITIME and RESPONSE work, i.e. the HELCOM AIS (including monitoring of non-compliant ships), SeaTrackWeb, databases related to shipping accidents, illegal oil discharges, and accident and response capacity), as well as POLREP (Pollution Reporting) need to be further developed to ensure that they provide regional added value to HELCOM Contracting Parties which are also EU member states;
- took note of the ongoing consultation process of the EU Green paper “Marine knowledge 2020; from seabed mapping to ocean forecasting” and supported that HELCOM shares experience and best practices in response to the consultation process, however, agreed that the Contracting Parties should come back **by 13 December 2012<sup>5</sup>** with possible comments on this;
- welcomed the intention to increasingly cooperate with the EU and other organizations, such as OSPAR and ICES, in order to make the best use of the HELCOM’s experience on regional sea data reporting, as well as to streamline

<sup>4</sup> Sweden and Estonia lifted the study reservation on 20 December 2012.

<sup>5</sup> No comments have been received and the HELCOM Secretariat has responded to the consultation process.



reporting according to different obligations and policies and enhance data access;

- considered the idea of setting up a small task force consisting of the HELCOM Secretariat and experts from interested Contracting Parties and organizations as a way forward to address specific and emerging data management needs in the future and noted the interest of a number of countries to be involved in such as a possible task force.

#### HELCOM LAND

3.102(LD 127) The Meeting took note of the outcome of the Second Workshop of the Land-based Pollution Group (HELCOM LAND WS 2/2012) (document 3/22) in general.

3.103(LD 128) The Meeting welcomed the adoption of the new regulation in Estonia setting up requirements for advanced municipal waste water treatment (WWTPs>300 p.e) in line with HELCOM Recommendations [28E/5](#) and [28E/6](#).

3.104(LD 129) The Meeting invited HELCOM LAND 18/2013 to consider the outcome of the Workshop and report back to HELCOM HOD in June 2013 about:

- the progress on developing inputs from the Group to the Ministerial Meeting, in collaboration with other subsidiary bodies, consisting of a number of deliverables outlined in document 3/22 and having in mind contribution by the Contracting Parties for these deliverables as agreed in the workshop, including inputs to reporting on recommendations and comments and proposals for the various inputs;
- results of the reporting round on implementation of [HELCOM Recommendation 17/6](#) on fertilizer production, with specific focus on phosphogypsum waste;
- further development of the proposal to change award-like Green Baltic Spot Award concept into a broader “Greener Practices” approach, welcoming the willingness by Poland and Russia to lead this work;
- the application for deletion of hot spot No. 54 Lifosa, Lithuania, taking into account the need to clarify the reservation by Finland.

3.105(LD 130) The Meeting approved the deletion of hot spot No. 127 Ryaverket WWTP, Sweden and congratulated Sweden for this achievement.

3.106(LD 131) The Meeting approved the revised and updated General Working Programme of HELCOM LAND for 2013-2014 (as contained in Annex 2 of document 3/22).

3.107(LD 132) The Meeting agreed on the arrangement of the next meeting of HELCOM LAND on 17-19 April 2013 in Uppsala, Sweden, back-to-back with the Fifth HELCOM Agricultural and Environmental Forum.

3.108(LD 133) The Meeting made a general note that outcomes of expert meetings and workshops should in principle be considered by relevant subsidiary bodies before submission to HELCOM HOD.

3.109(LD 134) The Meeting took note of the outcome of the Fourth Meeting of HELCOM Baltic Agricultural and Environmental Forum (HELCOM AGRI/ENV FORUM 4/2012) (document 3/9) in general, and more specifically:

- welcomed the intention to revise/update the palette of agri-environmental measures under the HELCOM BSAP to serve as a supporting tool for implementation of Part II “Prevention of pollution from agriculture” of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention (1992) and form a contribution to the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting;
- noted that the Secretariat will present the proposal for the revision of the palette of agri-environmental measures for the next meeting of the Forum,

based on a Discussion Paper on further actions in the BSR related to wetlands and buffer zones and on nutrient balancing, taking into account comments by Forum participants;

- took note that the Baltic COMPASS Project provided an overview of cross-country and national agri-environmental cooperation and dialogues, which could be used for discussion of future shape and activities for the HELCOM AGRI/ENV FORUM, representing a wider platform for policy, science and industry interactions;
- welcomed a joint seminar initiative by HELCOM and Finnish and Polish Coordinators of Priority Areas Nutri (1) as well as Finnish and Swedish Coordinators for PA Agri (9) of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, and encouraged further cooperation in agri-environmental field to be developed among the priority areas of the EU SBSR, also with possible involvement of other Priority areas, e.g. on biodiversity and nature conservation, taking into account efficiency of back-to-back arrangements of policy dialogue with broader stakeholder conferences and also welcomed the proposal to have similar arrangement for the next meeting of the Forum;
- approved arranging of the next meeting of the HELCOM Agricultural and Environmental Forum on 15-16 April 2013, in Uppsala, Sweden, at the premises of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, back-to-back with the proposed workshop on final results of the Baltic COMPASS Project and preceding the 18th Meeting of the HELCOM Land-based Pollution Group;
- noted that the main focus of the Fifth Meeting of the HELCOM Agricultural and Environmental Forum will be on preparation to the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting, and that election of co-chairs of the Forum, representing agriculture and environment sides, will be carried out at the next meeting.

3.110(LD 135) The Meeting took note of the comments by CCB on specific inputs for the revision of the palette of agri-environmental measures and invited CCB to come back with the proposals prior to the next meeting of the Forum.

3.111(LD 136) The Meeting approved the draft HELCOM project proposal on improvement of the quality of data on nutrient inputs with focus on transboundary loads as contained in document 3/27/Rev.1 (**Annex 6**), to be implemented taking into account the proposals for further collaboration with HELCOM BASE and RusNIP Projects and also pending the study reservation by Germany and Poland **by 12:00 of 5 December 2012 latest**<sup>6</sup>.

3.112(LD 137) The Meeting took note of the information on the progress within the BASE project on the implementation of the HELCOM BSAP in Russia (document 3/28), including the amendments to the tentative working plan for the project (Annex 1, document 3/28) and requested the Secretariat to distribute the document to the Contracting Parties for consideration.

3.113(LD 138) The Meeting also took note of the information by the Executive Secretary that Mr. Kaj Forsius will leave the position of the BASE Project Manager from the beginning of 2013 due to his return to his permanent institution and expressed its gratitude to Mr. Forsius for his excellent work in the HELCOM Secretariat on Balthazar and BASE Projects. The new Project Manager will start on 1 February 2013.

#### *HELCOM RESPONSE*

3.114(LD 139) The Meeting took note of the outcome of the 16th Meeting of the Response Group (HELCOM RESPONSE 16/2012) (document 3/20) in general and more specifically:

- took note of the initiative to amend the Helsinki Convention Annex VII by explicitly introducing shoreline response;

<sup>6</sup> Germany and Poland have lifted their study reservation.

- noted the recent developments regarding pollution notification systems in the Baltic Sea, including the development by European Commission DG ECHO of a dedicated version of its CECIS system for marine pollution incidents incorporating a regional dimension enabling access for all Contracting Parties, and that HELCOM RESPONSE 17/2013 will consider the future of HELCOM incident reporting (POLREP) governed by Annex VII of the Convention;
- welcomed new HELCOM Sea Track Web (STW) oil drift model tool developments, considered funding of HELCOM STW from the HELCOM budget and approved the development of a proposal for an externally funded project to enable renewal of HELCOM AIS, and other MARITIME and RESPONSE related information services;
- took note of the developments for automatic exchange of shipping accident data between HELCOM and EMSA;
- took note that according to HELCOM RESPONSE fair sharing of costs referred to in HELCOM Recommendation 31E/5 on places of refuge is likely best solved on a case-to-case basis, an approach to be reconsider when needed;
- took note of the developments on oiled wildlife response including aims to create a concise Baltic OWR “preparedness assessment”, and of arrangement of Bonn Agreement / HELCOM RESPONSE seminar on Euthanasia and Post Release Survival of Oiled Wildlife to be held in Malmö, Sweden on 18-19 March 2013;
- took note of the on-going updating of the HELCOM Response Manuals and the agreement to create a separate Volume III on shoreline response;
- took note that HELCOM RESPONSE 16/2012 agreed that HELCOM MUNI work should be continued in a follow-up group covering also other submerged objects and that the draft ToRs are to be commented by 15 January 2013;
- took note that IWGAS was mandated by HELCOM RESPONSE to finalise a proposal on longer term surveillance flight permits for pollution surveillance within foreign airspace (removing need for long advance notifications) and submit that to HELCOM HOD;
- took note of the re-election of Mr Bernt Stedt as the Chair and Mr Kalervo Jolma and Mr Marek Reszko as Vice-Chairs of HELCOM RESPONSE for the next two-year period (2013-2014) and congratulated them for the re-election;
- approved that HELCOM RESPONSE 17/2013 will be organised on 28-30 May 2013 in Klaipeda, Lithuania.

#### **Agenda Item 4**

#### **HELCOM institutional and organisational matters**

Documents: 4/1, 4/2

4.1 (LD 140) The Meeting considered the draft budget for the financial year 2013/2014 and the five-year budget frame (document 4/2), and noted that it has been prepared in a difficult situation of not all countries yet paying the equal share to the HELCOM budget, while other countries are enforcing their earlier decision on contributing with equal shares according to Article 22, Paragraph 3 of the 1992 Helsinki Convention.

4.2 (LD 141) The Meeting noted the information by the Executive Secretary that the draft budget for 2013/2014 is proposed to be on the same level as in the present financial year, and that part of it could not be allocated to any Contracting Party at this stage, resulting in deficit of ca. 50 000 EUR that needs to be filled in order to be able to sustain the activities of

HELCOM at the current level. The Meeting recognized the urgency to find a solution on how to cover the income deficit in the proposed budget for 2013/2014.

4.3 (LD 142) The Meeting noted that a budget freeze for two more financial periods (2013/2014 and 2014/2015) is proposed in the draft five-year budget frame after which it will be necessary to start increasing the budget again by one percent annually in order to account for inflation.

4.4 (LD 143) The Meeting expressed appreciation to Latvia for confirming the schedule to reaching an equal share contribution by 2015/2016.

4.5 (LD 144) The Meeting took note of the information by Poland and Estonia that they could agree on the proposed budgets for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 and took note of the information that they would need to reconsider and consider, respectively, the return to one-percent increase in 2015/2016.

4.6 (LD 145) The Meeting welcomed the information by Denmark that they would be willing to continue with the present level of contribution for another year in response to the positive development in Latvia and if likewise Lithuania is able to devise a roadmap towards equal shares.

4.7 (LD 146) The Meeting took note of the reservation by Lithuania on the proposed roadmap for Lithuania and of the information that the budget and the roadmap towards equal shares will be proposed to the new Lithuanian Government as soon as it is formed and invited Lithuania to come back **by 31 January 2013** with indication that they are able to start negotiating the roadmap in 2013, i.e. for budgetary year 2014/2015, and the preliminary information on the timetable for reaching an equal share.

4.8 (LD 147) The Meeting decided to continue the work on the five-year budget roadmap via correspondence as soon as the information from Lithuania has been received by 31 January 2013 in order for the Secretariat in cooperation with the Contracting Parties to be able to prepare a long-term solution to the HELCOM budget.

4.9 (LD 148) The Meeting decided to further consider the five-year budget estimate at HELCOM HOD 40/2013 with the view to have the draft budget 2013/2014 adopted by HELCOM 34/2013.

4.10 (LD 149) The Meeting approved in principle the expenditure part of the draft budget pending the filling in the deficit.

4.11 (LD 150) The Meeting took note of the Audit Report and the Financial Statement of the Helsinki Commission for the financial period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 as well as of the explanatory memorandum (document 4/1) and advised the Executive Secretary to submit them to HELCOM 34/2013 in order to have the accountables officially discharged from responsibility.

4.12 (LD 151) The Meeting exchanged initial views on modernization of HELCOM and invited the Secretariat to provide an initial document especially focusing on fine-tuning of existing working methods that could be implemented as a first step, before the Ministerial Meeting. The Meeting decided to come back to this issue at the next meeting of the Heads of Delegation.

## **Agenda Item 5**

### **Information and communication strategy**

Documents: 5/1

5.1 (LD 152) The Meeting approved the progress report on the annual HELCOM Plan of Information and Communication activities (2012) and Plans for 2013 (document 5/1).



**ANNEX 1**

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## **ANNEX 2**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE HELCOM GROUP OF EXPERTS ON SAFETY OF NAVIGATION**

#### **1. The Rationale**

The Baltic Sea is an area of heavy maritime traffic which is predicted to grow also in the future. Increasing traffic also increases the risk of major pollution accidents, which could have devastating impacts on the marine environment.

Numerous measures to improve maritime safety have been implemented in different parts of the Baltic Sea, including routing measures and new ship reporting systems as agreed e.g. in the 2001 HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration. However, the increasing maritime traffic and the associated risks call for further, improved and tailor-made safety and environmental risk reduction procedures.

It is recognized that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) is the body regulating navigational safety. It has further been recognized that close and enhanced cooperation and especially exchange of technical expertise on navigational safety is needed in the Baltic Sea.

The HELCOM 2010 Ministerial Meeting in Moscow agreed to identify the possible areas for strengthening regional cooperation in maritime safety in the framework of the HELCOM Maritime Group and consider the appropriate forms for this cooperation, while recognizing the need for the exchange of technical expertise in the field of maritime safety, especially in risk assessment to avoid shipping accidents in the Baltic Sea, and taking into account the work of the IMO.

This is in line with one of the objectives of the 2007 HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan to ensure safe maritime traffic without accidental pollution.

#### **2. Overall aims and tasks of the Expert Group**

The overall aim of the Expert Group is to create a forum on enhancing navigational safety through regional cooperation.

The Expert Group will function as information exchange forum, and will also discuss and propose measures to improve safety of navigation, as well as provide feedback and expertise as need be.

The Expert Group will enable more regular discussions on the safety of navigation, including coordination and exchange of views before IMO meetings (MSC, NAV) as well as in relation to other issues.

The basis for the work of the Expert Group is the list of identified areas in need of regional cooperation as found in Annex 1 of this document.

#### **3. Membership**

Participation is open to representatives of the HELCOM Contracting Parties. The members should be nominated by the Contracting Parties.

HELCOM observers can participate. Other guests, organisations and initiatives with a maritime safety interest can be invited to the meetings.

#### **4. Organisation**

The Expert Group will meet once per year based on IMO calendar and well in advance of relevant IMO meetings (MSC, NAV). The forum could also communicate via correspondence. If need arises, more meetings could be arranged.

Denmark and Sweden will host the meetings in turn, unless some other countries offer to host the meeting.

The Group will be chaired by the hosting country unless otherwise decided.

The Expert Group will document its meetings. A concise outcome will be adopted before the end of each meeting. The outcome is agreed by consensus.

HELCOM Meeting Portal will be used to distribute documents (in a restricted access mode) as well as publish the meeting documents, presentations and the outcome (public after the meeting). Access to some documents may be kept restricted.

The outcome of meetings will be reported to the Maritime Group of HELCOM. Chair can attend the HELCOM MARITIME meetings as far as possible.

## **5. Agenda for the meetings**

The agenda for the meetings will be developed by the Secretariat in cooperation with the chair/hosting country.

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## **ANNEX 1**

### **Areas of strengthening of regional expert cooperation in navigational safety**

Numerous measures to improve maritime safety have been implemented in different parts of the Baltic Sea, including routing measures and new ship reporting systems as agreed e.g. in the 2001 HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration.

The increasing maritime traffic in the Baltic Sea and the associated risks call for further, improved and tailor-made safety and environmental risk reduction procedures.

While it is recognized that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) is the body regulating navigational safety, the following non-exclusive list of areas in need of strengthened regional cooperation have been identified:

- 1) Evaluate the current and foreseen risks related to shipping and other maritime activities in the Baltic Sea area.
- 2) Identify appropriate and pro-active risk control measures to address the risks to the Baltic Sea environment based on a comprehensive risk approach, and promote their implementation.
- 3) Develop common understanding of the causes of shipping accidents with the aim to suggest how these could be addressed.
- 4) Investigate the need for, and share and utilize the results of, research projects, risk assessment studies, "cost and benefit" analysis, and Formal Safety Assessment(s) (FSAs) in support of decision making when choosing the best mitigating measures and for use in IMO rule-making process.
- 5) Build regional knowledge, experience and excellence in FSAs and showcase the Baltic good standards and practices of both how FSAs can be carried out and documented.
- 6) Consider and consult the development of, and proposals for, amending the existing and introducing new traffic management measures, such as routing measures, with the aim to ensure that all systems and services assist safe navigation of ships in the Baltic Sea in an optimized and uniform manner.
- 7) Discuss and promote the harmonization of operation and procedures of ship reporting systems (SRSs), Vessel Traffic Services (VTS), and other related vessel traffic management measures.
- 8) Investigate guidance of under keel clearance (UKC) for open seas.
- 9) Discuss measures to increase safety of winter navigation taking into account the work of the IMO on Polar Code.
- 10) Cooperate with the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission regarding prioritization of areas for hydrographic re-surveys taking into account the planned and upcoming routing measures.

- 11) Work out uniform interpretation of new regional and international regulations and standards for maritime safety, where needed.
- 12) In a long term, ensure utilization of expertise on maritime safety in the emerging regional processes aiming at testing and implementing Maritime Spatial Planning in the Baltic Sea in a cross-border context.
- 13) Contribute to the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in relation to maritime safety.
- 14) Identify research and development needs in support of navigational safety with the aim to have the relevant research topics well represented in available national and international funding programmes.

## ANNEX 3

### PROJECT “TEST, FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE HELCOM BIOLOGICAL SURVEY PROTOCOLS AND A-4 RISK ASSESSMENTS IN THE BALTIC SEA (HELCOM ALIENS 3)”

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

##### 1. Title of Project

Test, further development and operationalization of the HELCOM biological survey protocols and A-4 risk assessments in the Baltic Sea. (HELCOM ALIENS 3)

##### 2. Project Manager (s)

##### 3. Proposing Party

HELCOM MARITIME

##### 4. The body supervising the Project

HELCOM MARITIME

##### 5. Background, target and activities

###### *Background*

This project will test, further develop and operationalize the harmonized system for granting exemptions according to Regulation A-4 of the IMO BWM Convention (BWMC) in intra-Baltic traffic, developed within the HELCOM ALIENS 2 project (to finalise in December 2012).

The overall aim is to give the Contracting Parties a possibility to test the regionally harmonised A4 process before the entry into force of the BWMC.

The project will support the work of the HELCOM-OSPAR Task Group for Ballast Water Management Convention Exemptions (HELCOM-OSPAR TG BALLAST), with plans to further develop and adapt the outcome of the HELCOM ALIENS 2 project for the combined North Sea-Baltic region. The project will further support the drafting of alien species related material for the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in October 3 2013.

The Project will be implemented during 2013 through inter-sessional work, punctuated by a minimum number of project meetings, to be organised whenever possible back-to back to the meetings of the HELCOM-OSPAR TG BALLAST.

The Project will be linked to and supported by other activities, including anticipated projects related to EU MSFD implementation. Cooperation with industry regarding funding sampling in specific ports can be included as supporting activity.

The project will be coordinated by the HELCOM secretariat.

Work will be divided into three work packages: WP 1: Pilot port surveys, WP 2: Testing and developing the decision support tool including the criteria and the list for the determination of target species WP 3: Project Management and Coordination.

### *Targets and Activities*

#### WP 1: Pilot port surveys

According to financial limits the Project will select a [number of] ports which have frequently operated routes within the Baltic Sea (e.g. frequent ferry traffic, see table included as Annex 2). Furthermore, the project should select ports with as broad variety of size, uses and habitats as possible to ensure data for a robust sampling methodology.

Port surveys will be conducted in the selected Ports during summer –autumn 2013 according to HELCOM port survey protocol, or according to the joint HELCOM-OSPAR survey protocol -if available.

Cooperation with industry regarding funding sampling in specific ports can be included as supporting activity.

#### WP 2: Testing and developing the decision support tool

The Project will further develop and test the HELCOM decision support tool and the linked port survey database to an operational regional system.

The Project will also fine-tune the HELCOM risk assessment models to be used within the decision support tool.

The project will further develop and test the criteria and the list for target species.

The Project will also consider different solutions for hosting and maintenance of the decision support tool and the linked port survey database.

#### WP 3: Project Management and Coordination

The Secretariat will provide coordination support through a dedicated part time (50%) project staff member and the MARITIME Professional Secretary.

This component will also enable support to the HELCOM-OSPAR TG BALLAST work regarding the necessary drafting for a joint HELCOM-OSPAR framework for A-4 Exemptions and to the drafting of BWMC related material for the HELCOM MM 2013.

## **6. Expected results**

These activities will enable HELCOM countries to be better prepared to granting exemptions in a regionally harmonised way when the IMO Ballast Water Management Convention enters into force.

The activities will especially provide:

1. Coordination and drafting support for the joint HELCOM-OSPAR guidelines for A4 exemptions.
2. A test and further development of the survey protocols for A4 exemptions developed within the HELCOM ALIENS 2 project in different types of ports.
3. A test and further development of the risk assessment models and decision support tools for A4 exemptions developed within the HELCOM ALIENS 2 project.
4. Support to drafting of other alien species/BWMC related material for the HELCOM MM 2013

**7. Consistency with HELCOM priorities**  yes  no

## 8. Timetable

Starting: January 2013

Completion: January 2014

## 9. Budget

### 9.1 Total costs

The Project is Conditional to funding from the CPs and the Secretariat. Finland will contribute € 50.000.

### 9.2 Costs divided per financial year of HELCOM (1 July- 30 June) and WP

Financial period	Total amount €	WP3 Secretariat Project Staff €	WP3 Secretariat Travel costs €	WP 1 Port surveys	WP 2:
Febr 2013- June 2013		11200 (2,5 man months)	4 000		[xxx]
July 2013-Jan 2014		11200 (4,5 man month)	4 000	[40 000]	[xxx]
<i>Total</i>	<b>32400</b> <b>[+40.000 port surveys]</b>	24 400	8 000	[40 000]	[xxx]

#### WP 3: Project Management and Coordination [Subject to CP funding]

Salary costs include 14 months of part time Secretariat project staff, including 12 months researcher staff (50%), 2 months database related staff (50%). Travel costs within the project total 8 000 €.

Total budget for the WP 3 covering coordinating project staff including travels and advisor support is thus 32400 €.

#### WP 1: Pilot port surveys [Subject to CP funding]

WP 1 will raise survey costs, estimated as 10 000€/port.

The total cost of WP 1 will naturally depend of the number of ports to be sampled.

A possible minimum solution regarding sampling which would cover two routes (4 ports to be sampled) and would add 40 000 €

More routes/ports can be added via other initiatives as long as the same survey protocol is used:

- sampling by other activities, including anticipated projects related to EU MSFD implementation.
- sampling through cooperation with industry.

WP 2: Testing and developing the decision support tool [Subject to CP funding]

- Database and decision support tool fine tuning, installation to final host servers
- Additional target species work
- Additional risk assessment model work

Can only partly be carried out by Secretariat personnel with costs indicated under WP 3. However would need to be completed with dedicated funds for full implementation (the costs for this work package has to still be determined together Germany/BSH).

**10. Additional requests**

The Contracting Parties are already involved, through the established cooperation under ALIENS 2.

The Contracting Parties are requested to continue to support the project with expertise through the HELCOM-OSPAR TG BALLAST.

Project staff will work in the Secretariat to implement the project.

The Professional Secretary for HELCOM MARITIME, Mr. Hermanni Backer will participate and coordinate the work within the Secretariat, cooperation with other HELCOM bodies and OSPAR. Other HELCOM Secretariat staff will provide general assistance to the project.

**11. Organization of Project/ Procedure of nomination of the Project team members**

The HELCOM-OSPAR TG BALLAST, Chaired by Germany and established within HELCOM under the MARITIME group, will be involved in the project. The Contracting Parties should nominate their member(s) to the TG if they have not done yet so.

**12. Signature of the Project Manager**

The project will be managed by the HELCOM Secretariat.

**13. Opinion of the Chair of the relevant body**

The Chair of HELCOM MARITIME supports the establishment of the project.

**14. Opinion of the Executive Secretary**

The Executive Secretary supports the establishment of the project.

**15. Decision of the Heads of Delegation**

\_\_\_ to establish \_\_\_ not to establish



## ANNEX 4

### PROJECT “OPERATIONALIZATION OF HELCOM CORE INDICATORS (HELCOM CORESET II)”

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

(HELCOM Project No. XXXX)

##### 1. Title of Project

Operationalization of HELCOM core indicators (HELCOM CORESET II)

##### 2. Project Manager

Mr. Samuli Korpinen, HELCOM Secretariat

##### 3. Proposing Party

Contracting Party	_____
Commission	_____
Subsidiary body	_____
Heads of Delegation	_____
Executive Secretary	<u>  X  </u>

##### 4. The body supervising the Project

As the subsidiary body responsible for coordinated ecosystem-approach implementation work, HELCOM GEAR will supervise the project but the technical and scientific aspects of the project will be carried out in good cooperation and coordination with HELCOM MONAS.

##### 5. Background, purpose, objectives and activities

###### Background

Development of HELCOM core indicators has produced the first set of indicators which will serve as the follow-up system for the state of the Baltic Sea marine environment for the upcoming assessments of BSAP and – for those HELCOM countries being EU Member States – the EU MSFD. The core indicators also enable measuring of the effectiveness of the BSAP and devise new measures if necessary, and give the basis for the preparation of the programme of measures under the EU MSFD for those Contracting Parties being EU Member States.

The objectives of the HELCOM CORESET project (7/2010-6/2013) and the CORE EUTRO process are to develop a set of core indicators for biodiversity, hazardous substances and eutrophication and make the 2010 holistic assessment of the Baltic Sea ecosystem health status available on the HELCOM web site with links to the technical background reports and supporting information. The objective of the CORESET project *was not*, however, the operationalization of the indicators, i.e. consistency of their maintenance, continuous expert support for the core indicators (*cf.* Figure 1) or development of integrated assessment products for the upcoming policy needs. That task is to be carried out in the continuation of the HELCOM work.

The core indicator activity has also had a central role in the review of the HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy and the consequent revision of the joint monitoring programmes. Not all core indicators are covered by the existing joint monitoring programmes, some not even by the national monitoring, and hence the establishment of expert groups or expert networks to give expert views of the monitoring and assessment of core indicators is the essential for successful development of the HELCOM joint

monitoring and reaching the vision of the review process of the Monitoring and Assessment Strategy: cost-efficiency.

Scientific work to find solid solutions for integrated assessments and implementation of ecosystem approach is being carried out in the Europe (e.g. the FP 7 projects DEVOTES and KnowSeas). By tapping into and building on these processes, the HELCOM core indicators and the associated follow-up system can make use of the latest scientific knowledge and strengthen the assessment products during the next assessment round.

According to the proposed GEAR road map, the indicator integrations should be used to update core part of the HELCOM thematic assessment reports (system of annually/bi-annually/tri-annually updated core indicators and indicator integrations) and in addition the production of the Holistic assessment of ecosystem health will be carried out every six years (next one planned to be delivered early 2016).

Purpose of the project

The proposed project sets up processes to maintain and regularly update the HELCOM core indicators for eutrophication, biodiversity, hazardous substances and associated data products, focusing on data availability, establishment of expert groups and preparatory work for making of thematic and holistic assessment products. As such, the project would continue the activities of the CORESET project and support the CORE EUTRO process under HELCOM MONAS.

Objectives of the project

- a. To establish self-standing expert groups for the core indicators on eutrophication, biodiversity and hazardous substances with the purpose of taking responsibility of the entire core indicator assessment cycle (cf. Figure 1).
- b. To establish routines for data submissions, sharing through direct portal connections or coordinated data compilation for the core indicators.
- c. To review the need for more effective measures and pave the way for the next assessment round.

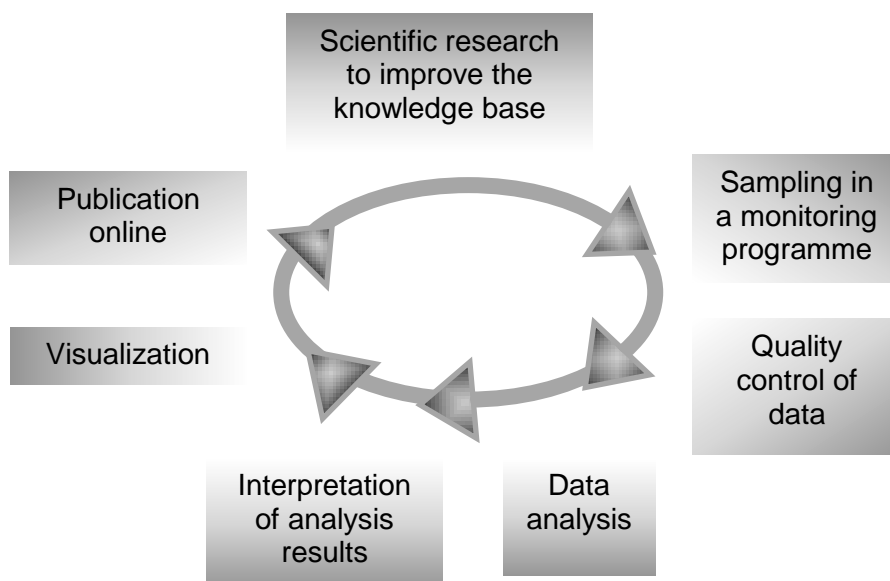


Figure 1. Core indicator data and assessment cycle of an operational core indicator.

### Activities

The project will start the work by engaging– in co-operation with HELCOM GEAR – experts to groups that can take care of the entire core indicators data and assessment cycle, as presented in Figure 1. For each expert group a work plan will be prepared to further detail the terms of reference and working practices of the group as well as the foreseen steps to reach each of the objectives. Depending on the core indicator or a wider theme (i.e. hazardous substances) the expert groups can make use of several ways of sharing expertise, e.g. through e-meetings, etc., without meeting physically more than annually. Moreover, it is foreseen that some expert groups would not have the need to update their core indicators every year (e.g. slowly changing indicators). The activity aims to find cost-efficient solutions for the establishment and working practices of the expert groups.

The project starts by establishing expert groups for the operationalization of core indicators on the basis of the existing CORESET expert groups. This activity will seek co-operation with ICES in order to ensure efficient use of expert resources, best use of scientific knowledge, closer connection to the data (ICES being data host to many HELCOM parameters) and coherent assessment products.

The expert groups will have five primary objectives: (1) to draft Terms of Reference for the group and agree on working practices; (2) to ensure timely data availability to regularly update the core indicators and other assessment products; (3) to review, and if necessary draft, monitoring methods and guidelines for each of the core indicators to support the setting up (or revising) of monitoring programmes for core indicators; (4) to suggest possible management measures and pressure indicators (e.g. using the BSAP objectives) to support reaching of good environmental status (GES) for each of the core indicators, taking into account the HELCOM ecological objectives and strategic goals as well as other environmental objectives, e.g. EU directives; and (5) update the core indicator reports taking into account all the steps of the data and assessment cycle (Figure 1) and presenting the data, temporal changes and current status in the online electronic form.

The project will also prepare for the integration of core indicators by using the most recent scientific results (e.g. FP7 projects DEVOTES, KnowSeas), experience from other activities (e.g. HOLAS, HARMONY) and the extensive expert network behind the core indicators, and review, and if necessary propose improvement to , and test assessment tools for integrated assessments of biodiversity, hazardous substances and eutrophication, as well as holistic assessment, which are in line with the BSAP and MSFD assessment needs. The activity is seen to contribute to the planned HELCOM work to produce the next thematic and holistic integrated assessments for the Baltic Sea.

The project will cooperate with HELCOM monitoring programme revision activity (MORE), as well as HELCOM BASE project, and more specifically with its component on Russian contribution to the operationalization of HELCOM core indicators.

## 6. Expected results

Following results and products are expected to be delivered:

- 1) Expert engagement in active and effective expert groups working on eutrophication, biodiversity and hazardous substances core indicators;
- 2) Basis for regular update of core indicators, including established expert groups, agreed terms of references and working practices and proposals for methods and guidelines for monitoring of core indicators;
- 3) Updated core indicator reports with new data with the view of testing the new working practices;
- 4) Expert evaluation of the core indicator results with a specific focus on possible management measures and pressure indicators and presentation of the core indicator report in the HELCOM follow-up system for the BSAP;
- 5) Support to the targeted assessment activities by, e.g. suggesting technical and scientific approaches for and testing revised assessment tools for thematic and integrated assessments using the core indicators.

## 7. Consistency with HELCOM priorities: yes \_\_\_ no

The HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan includes an agreement to “monitor and evaluate the status of implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan by making use of the indicators agreed upon, as well as HELCOM thematic assessments, annual HELCOM indicator fact sheets and other information available.” HELCOM HOD 27/2010 decided that in order to ensure a full application of the ecosystem approach HELCOM will focus on developing a HELCOM core set of indicators with targets reflecting good environmental status for monitoring progress towards the ecological objectives of the Action Plan.

The 2010 Ministerial Declaration decided “to establish, for those HELCOM Contracting States being also EU-Member States, the role of HELCOM as the coordinating platform for the regional implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (EU MSFD) in the Baltic Sea, including striving for harmonised national marine strategies for achieving good environmental status according to the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan and the EU MSFD”.

The Declaration continues that the HELCOM work will be based on

- “shared understanding of the current status of the marine environment, and the predominant pressures on the status and impacts”;
- “joint coordinated monitoring providing the necessary data for regular assessment of the status of the Baltic Sea and of pressures and impacts affecting the status, adapted to support the assessing of progress towards the achievement of the environmental objectives and targets, using indicators developed under the Baltic Sea Action Plan, enabling the assessment and evaluation of the implementation of the jointly agreed measures”;
- “that newly applied tools and methods for the assessment of the environmental status and ecosystem health of the Baltic Sea, such as those used in the HELCOM Initial Holistic Assessment are further developed and updated by 2013 according to improved data availability and scientific knowledge”.

Moreover, the Ministerial Declaration reconfirms the BSAP statement of the need for evaluation of the effectiveness of the agreed measures and the need to have supplementary actions.

### 8. Timetable

The project is proposed to start in July 2013 and end in June 2015 (total of 24 months). The timetable for operationalization of core indicators is in line with the proposed GEAR road map.

Activity	VII-X/13	XI/13-II/14	III-VI/14	VII-X/14	XI/14-II/15	III-VI/15
Expert groups		█				
ToR+Working practices				▤		
Support to monitoring			█	█		
Data availability		▤	█	█	▤	
Core indicator updates			█			█
Management measures			▤	█	█	▤
Pressure indicators			▤	█	█	▤
Support to assessments					█	█

### 9. Budget

Taking into account financial year from 1 July to 30 June.

#### Total Costs

#### Costs divided per financial year

Financial period	Project Management €	Travel support € (incl. Chairs of EGs)	Total amount €
7/2013-6/2014	48,000	4,000 €	52,000
7/2014-6/2015	48,000	4,000 €	52,000
Total €	96,000	8,000	104,000

#### Sources of financing divided per financial year

2013/2014 – HELCOM budget

2014/2015 – HELCOM budget

### 10. Additional requests (manpower, equipment, facilities, etc.)

#### From the Contracting Parties

The project will use the existing expert network of the CORESET project to the extent possible. The Contracting Parties should contribute to the project by ensuring national expert participation in the expert groups.

The Contracting Parties should ensure domestic coordination between this project and the work carried out to develop monitoring methods for core indicators under the national monitoring programmes in order to ensure coherence between joint monitoring and national monitoring.

In addition, Contracting Parties should support the project objective of timely availability of data for the update of core indicators by nationally coordinating data policies to support the regionally coordinated assessment products. One of the key points in a successful implementation of the project objectives is to have data available for the expert groups. Some data can be made available through ICES (data submissions), some can be stored in HELCOM (small data sets) and some can be tapped to via direct links to national databases. In order to solve the best ways for data availability, the project requires national contact points to databases (managerial and technical) and likely a meeting among these contact points.

The Contracting Parties are also invited to note that the project will aim for improved coherence in monitoring and data holding, sharing and analysis work with ICES.

From the Secretariat

The Project Manager will work in the Secretariat to implement the project. The Professional Secretary for HELCOM GEAR and HELCOM MONAS will participate and coordinate the work with other HELCOM bodies. Other HELCOM Secretariat staff will provide general assistance to the project.

**11. Procedure of nomination of the Project team members and members of the Steering Group**

The Contracting Parties are requested to re-nominate biodiversity, eutrophication and hazardous substances experts as well as at the later stage managerial and technical contact points to relevant databases by informing the Secretariat ([maria.laamanen@helcom.fi](mailto:maria.laamanen@helcom.fi)).

HELCOM GEAR will supervise the project.

**12. Signature of the Project Manager**

The project manager has responsibility to follow Risk Management Procedure of HELCOM (Annex 8.3 of the Minutes of HELCOM 33/2012).

**13. Opinion of the Chairmen of the relevant body**

**14. Opinion of the Executive Secretary**

Executive Secretary supports the project.

**15. Decision of the Heads of Delegation**

X to establish  not to establish

Heads of Delegation supported in general the work on operationalization of indicators and agreed to adopt the project proposal (HELCOM HOD 39/2012, LD 86 and 87).

## ANNEX 5

### PROJECT "HELCOM STURGEON REMEDIATION"

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. **Title of the Project:** HELCOM sturgeon remediation
2. **Project Manager:** Mr. Jörn Gessner, Germany
3. **Proposing Party:** HELCOM HABITAT
4. **Supervising body:** HELCOM HABITAT

#### 5. Background

**Agenda Item 1** The HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan contains the paragraph "WE ALSO AGREE to enhance restoration of lost biodiversity by joining and/or supporting Poland and Germany in reintroducing Baltic sturgeon to its potential spawning rivers," which provides the basis for this proposal.

#### 6. Targets and activities: (6.1 – 6.3)

##### 6.1 First activity: Fund raising/first meeting of the project group

In order to carry out all activities listed below, additional funds are needed. The project manager with the help of the HELCOM secretariat will evaluate possibilities to raise additional funds, and develop respective applications.

The project group will meet at a joint kick off meeting/workshop planned for January 2013 in Berlin during the "International Green Week".

##### 6.2 Second activity: Reporting of marine catches of Baltic sturgeon

The information campaign with already existing flyers (in all languages of Baltic Sea nations) launched by HELCOM HABITAT must proceed. Information shall be disseminated via several tools such as the HELCOM webpage and national webpages. Flyers can also be copied and distributed to stakeholders of the fishery sector (electronically and as prints). Respective contacts must be established on a national basis including fisheries officers as multipliers.

When funds are available, rewards will be paid for the provision of catch reports in which the fate of the fish has to be indicated. Without such an offer response to the flyers would be much lower.

##### 6.3 Third activity: Drafting of a Baltic Sea Sturgeon Action Plan (BSSAP)

###### 6.3.1 Coordination of activities in sturgeon restoration, including

- evaluation of the status of regional legal prerequisites and activities concerning sturgeon protection and remediation measures,
- determination of differences in stakeholder attitude over the entire Baltic Sea region and to gain and provide detailed information about the attitude of stakeholders

towards sturgeon remediation and protection, their assessment of their own role in this process, their compliance. This will improve the responsiveness and responsibility towards such programmes.

- initiation of habitat evaluation in interested countries,
- exploration of breeding areas,
- expansion and dissemination of breeding plans,
- development and implementation of a common strategy towards the remediation including by-catch reduction.

### **6.3.2 Drafting of an Action plan for the Restoration of the Baltic sturgeon to be forwarded to HELCOM Habitat in 2017.**

The Bern Convention Standing Committee has unanimously adopted an Action Plan for the European sturgeon in 2007. This Action plan was considered as an outline to harmonize the protection and restoration of the European sturgeon in its previous range. Both France and Germany have developed a National Action Plan for *A. sturio* as a long-term support document to identify the various aspects to be dealt with in sturgeon rehabilitation. Also the plan is considered the baseline for river catchment-specific management plans. For the Baltic sturgeon (*A. oxyrinchus*), the development of a similar document is planned which outlines the prerequisites and the measures agreed upon among the range states.

This AP also is considered a tool to facilitate open discussion among range state agencies but also as a guideline for the works to be carried out in the states involved in the rehabilitation of Baltic sturgeon. As such is intended to provide both, common targets as well as an outline of the measures to be taken.

In addition, the AP is supposed to also be the basis for the evaluation of the national, bilateral or multilateral cooperation efforts to facilitate the remediation.

**7. Consistency with HELCOM priorities**  yes  no (Baltic Sea Action Plan)

**8. Duration:** 5 years

**9. Budget:** approx.12.000,- €/year, including: travel costs, printing and mailing costs and rewards for catch data.

Sources of financing: National and other; no implication for the HELCOM budget.

### **10. Additional requests:**

Contracting States who wish to attend the project are invited to nominate project members and contact persons. Subsequent annual meetings can be handled by the national representatives. At least one further final workshop is needed to adopt the results. The major part of the work should be conducted by intersessional correspondence.



**11. Procedure of nomination of the Project team members:**

National contact persons and project members should be nominated to the HELCOM Secretariat (maria.laamanen@helcom.fi) by 30 April 2013.

**12. Signature of the Project Manager**



**13. Opinion of the Chairmen of the relevant body**

The Chair of HABITAT supports the project.

**14. Opinion of the Executive Secretary:**

The Executive Secretary supports the project.

**15. Decision of the Heads of Delegation:**

(Reference is to be given to the relevant Minutes of the Heads of Delegation's Meeting)

X to establish  not to establish

Heads of Delegation agreed on and approved the Baltic sturgeon project proposal with the view that it will be funded from external sources (LD 102 of the Minutes of the Meeting of HELCOM HOD 39/2012).

## ANNEX 6

### PROJECT "IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF DATA ON NUTRIENT INPUTS WITH FOCUS ON TRANSBOUNDARY LOADS"

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- 1. Title of the Project:** Improvement of the quality of data on nutrient inputs with focus on transboundary loads
- 2. Project Manager:** Ms. Tea Törnroos, Finland
- 3. Proposing Party:** HELCOM LOAD and Executive Secretary
- 4. Supervising body:** HELCOM LOAD/MONAS

#### 5. Background

Incomplete and uncertain nutrient load data is a big challenge in relation to e.g. WFD and BSAP as Contracting Parties have nutrient reduction targets to fulfill. Missing and uncertain input data from some part of the Baltic Sea catchment area will result in nutrient reduction targets that are not reflecting the real loads which will lead to that some countries have to reduce more and other less than according to the allocations principles. It will also complicate the coupling of nutrient loading with eutrophication status in the Baltic Sea and further complicate and give misleading judgment of nutrient input sources. Uncertainties and bias on input data makes it difficult and more uncertain to evaluate progresses to fulfill nutrient reduction targets, and may lead to inappropriate and costly actions and measures to reach environmental objectives in the Baltic Sea.

The fifth Pollution load compilation (HELCOM PLC 5) addressed problems related to transboundary pollution load, coming from countries both inside and outside HELCOM area, as well as fair allocation of pollution burden in case of sharing transboundary watersheds between two or more HELCOM Contracting Parties. The initial calculations of nutrient loads by HELCOM allocate riverine loads to the country situated at the river mouth. This means that e.g. Latvia and Lithuania are assigned the entire load via Daugava and Nemunas while large share of drainage basin belongs to Belarus (and Russia in case of Daugava). Hence proper evaluation of transboundary pollution inputs and how big proportion of that reach to the Baltic Sea also needs to be carried out to serve for measuring the progress with nutrient input reductions.

The PLC 5 report shows that even though it provides the most complete compilation of total waterborne inputs to the Baltic Sea, some data are still missing e.g. from unmonitored areas, datasets are inconsistent and the methodologies applied by different countries are not fully comparable and have change during 1994 to 2008. To evaluate progress toward the fulfillment of the provisional reduction targets set in the BSAP, the importance of a common flow normalization and trend analysis methodology, and complete, comparable, consistent and quality-assured time series and datasets must be underlined. Owing to incomplete datasets and different methodologies, it is difficult to give an overall evaluation of the development in total loads of nutrients to the Baltic Sea and the waterborne nutrient inputs for some parts of the Baltic Sea are quite uncertain. Transboundary loads are in focus of many of the above mentioned items.

#### 6. Targets and activities: (6.1 – 6.4)

Proposed project will support assessment of the importance of transboundary loads in the total inputs to the Baltic Sea. Further it will support "traditional" Baltic-wide<sup>7</sup> compilation and assessment of nutrient pollution load data with additional measures to improve its quality,

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<sup>7</sup> Baltic Sea Pollution Load Compilation (PLC)

completeness and consistency, e.g. through building common quality control capacity in participating countries, initiating support to intercalibration exercises including testing of sampling methodology, and application of common quality assurance methods for collection of data. It will also include preparatory work for harmonizing reporting to HELCOM with relevant EU directives. The Project will aim at supporting collection and delivery of nutrient input data to monitor the progress of implementation of actions to reduce nutrient loads within EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (overall and PA-specific targets and indicators) and fulfillment of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) regarding nutrient reduction targets.

Proposed project will be carried out in coordination with Sixth Baltic Sea Pollution Load Compilation (HELCOM PLC-6) and development of a HELCOM Pollution Load User System (HELCOM PLUS), as well as with relevant flagship projects under EUSBSR PA1, e.g. on assessment of transboundary loads from Belarus.

Transboundary nutrient loads originating from Russia within Daugava/Western Dvina and Nemunas/Neman catchments will be estimated within the HELCOM BASE and Swedish-Russian RusNIP Projects, hence the coordination will be enhanced.

### **6.1 Main activities**

The proposed activity will focus on selected countries (Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus), where transboundary load issues need to be resolved, and early activities aiming at complete, harmonized, consistent and high quality data sets provided by the countries. Specific focus within the project will be given to the following components:

- Support in evaluation of transboundary pollution inputs and to resolve bottlenecks in management/collection of pollution load data including sampling, analysis, data storage, calculation of estimated values and reporting.
- Support to harmonization of quality assurance and control, as well as reporting requirements of HELCOM relevant EU directives

### **6.2 Expected results**

The proposed project will result in:

- Facilitation of submission of more complete, consistent, higher quality and harmonized data sets on transboundary loads from the selected countries

Additionally, the Project will provide an input for development of

- Methodologies for filling-in gaps and missing data, and minimum Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) checks and procedures
- Support to intercalibration/intercomparison exercise in HELCOM PLC-6
- Inputs to the revision and extension of PLC guidelines e.g. on transboundary loads

### **6.3 Components/ step-wise elements**

#### **6.3.1 Identification of bottlenecks in management/collection of pollution load data with focus on transboundary loads**

During the compilation of the PLC-5 report, significant gaps in the reported transboundary data were identified. The initial calculations of nutrient loads by HELCOM allocate riverine loads to the country situated at the river mouth. This means that Latvia and Lithuania are assigned the entire load via Daugava and Nemunas while large share of drainage basin belongs to Belarus (40% of the entire Daugava catchment area and 48% of the Nemunas). These gaps are so serious that they complicate the interpretation of, for example, the trend analysis and the relative importance of different Contracting Parties as sources of nutrient loading to the Baltic Sea. In future it is important to focus on data completeness and to improve the comparability of applied methodologies between countries.

Compilation of relevant information includes circulation of questionnaire and direct contacts (interviews, site visits) with designated national contacts for HELCOM PLC and other relevant persons and organisations in the selected countries with a view to identify the bottlenecks (institutional, technical, financial etc.) regarding collection and reporting of transboundary pollution load.

This work will be carried out by a Consultant that should have good knowledge/experience in collection of data for HELCOM Pollution Load Compilation. Results of the study will be discussed at an expert workshop to serve for the purpose of several components of the project.

### **6.3.2 Quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) with focus on transboundary loads**

The Article 3, paragraph 5, of Helsinki Convention states that the Contracting Parties shall ensure that measurements and calculations of emissions from point sources to water and air and of inputs from diffuse sources to water and air are carried out in a scientifically appropriate manner in order to assess the state of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area and ascertain the implementation of this Convention. Detailed description of general aspects of QA/QC is described in the HELCOM COMBINE Manual, Part B. General Guidelines on Quality Assurance for Monitoring in the Baltic Sea, available on the [HELCOM website](#). Quality Assurance Chapter of PLC-Water Guidelines is also available [online](#).

Methodology for gathering relevant information will include circulation of questionnaire and direct contact with designated national contacts for HELCOM PLC in selected countries (Latvia and Lithuania), as well as non-HELCOM country Belarus with a view to especially evaluate the situation regarding collection of transboundary pollution load.

Results of the study will be discussed at an expert workshop (see above task 6.3.1) as an input for the PLC6 and PLUS projects to develop and agree on a minimum of standardized QA check and QC activities.

This section will be only supplementary to the on-going QA/QC activities within PLC 6 project carried out by DCE- Danish Centre for Environment and Energy Aarhus University.

### **6.3.3 Pilot sampling**

The collection of pollution load data will be organized within PLC-6 Project in order to provide PLC experts from the participating countries (Latvia and Lithuania) and Belarus the opportunity to take water samples together and to discuss and evaluate common applied sampling and analysis methodology. Samples will be sent to selected laboratories in the Contracting Parties that are used for chemical analysis in relation to analyze water samples used for pollution load compilation and international nutrient load data reporting.

The following elements of preparatory study will be carried out by a Consultant in collaboration with HELCOM Secretariat:

- Common sampling (or a few samplings) in the rivers Daugava and Nemunas; both on the boundary of the three countries (Latvia – Belarus, Lithuania – Belarus) and at the national monitoring points near to the mouth of the both rivers
- Samples will be analyzed in national laboratories of participating countries and by the Consultant. Results will be discussed at an expert workshop

The results will be used as a preliminary tool when evaluating riverine retentions on the way from country borders to the coast. The component will also facilitate participation of experts/labs from selected countries in the intercalibration/intercomparison activities within PLC-6. HELCOM Secretariat will support in arranging project workshops: for kick-off of the exercise and assessment of the result; and carried out through established network of PLC experts in participating countries.

### **6.3.4 Preparatory work for establishing common methodology for filling in data gaps and missing data, especially with respect to the transboundary loads**

The PLC-5 report highlighted the problems of incompleteness of data, including major data gaps, uncertainties and inconsistency with former years or between results from neighboring catchments. The database and project managers and the PLC Core group have used much effort to evaluate reported datasets, to follow up on missing data/data gaps and to evaluate and discuss, and in some case fill in, gaps and try to correct data which seem incorrect or biased.

There is a need to develop and agree on common methodologies for evaluating and correcting erroneous data, filling in data gaps and missing data also with respect to the transboundary loads. In PLC-6 project methodology for estimating uncertainties on reported input datasets, and to develop guidance on how to evaluate the quality and consistency of a national data set and criteria to be fulfilled before a dataset is used to evaluate progress in reaching or fulfilling BSAP reduction targets in parallel will be developed.

- The following elements of preparatory study will be carried out by a Consultant in collaboration with HELCOM Secretariat: Common methodology for evaluating and correcting erroneous data including filling in in data gaps and missing data e.g. defining criteria for when missing data can be inter- or extrapolated and when to use expert judged values, especially with respect to the transboundary loads.
- Common minimum data checking and quality assurance should be discussed, developed and agreed on before reporting them to the pollution load compilation database.

This will serve as the basis for statistical exercise to be included in in the PLC guidelines and used for review the progress in implementation of the BSAP nutrient reduction targets at the later stage of PLC-6 project. In the PLC-6 also methodologies for estimating uncertainties on datasets are developed. Some elements of the standard quality checking could at a latter staged be incorporate as a part of the automatic quality checking proposed in the future PLC database (from 2015 on onward).

## **6.4 Organization of Project**

### **6.4.1 Expected activities**

- The first workshop will be held in late 2012 to discuss methodologies applied in the participating countries to measure and calculate transboundary nutrient loads and prepare sampling activities within autumn 2012 and early 2013. Further, the workshop will discuss common methods in order to have a minimum quality assurance done by participating countries.
- Sampling activities in participating countries.
- The second workshop, consisting of evaluation results obtained during the project and further on the methodologies applied in estimating transboundary loads will be carried out in March 2013. This workshop will also discuss methodologies regarding sampling, estimating loads form unmonitored areas, source apportionment address the development of methodology for correcting possibly erroneous data, filling in gaps and missing data, etc.

### **6.4.2 Project management**

The proposed project will be carried out in coordination with the HELCOM LOAD Core Group, including also nominated experts from participating countries i.e. Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus. The Project will be supported by the HELCOM Secretariat in terms of help with practical arrangement of expert workshops and communication of project deliveries to relevant HELCOM groups, including HELCOM LOAD, PLC-5.5 and PLC-6 Projects.

The overall supervision of the Project will be carried out by PLC-6 Project Manager Mr. Lars M. Svendsen, Denmark in coordination with HELCOM LOAD Core Group members

Mr. Seppo Knuuttila, Mr. Pekka Kotilainen, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), Mr. Håkan Staaf, Swedish Environment Protection Agency and HELCOM Secretariat (Mr. Mikhail Durkin and Ms. Minna Pyhälä). HELCOM PLC/LOAD contact persons from participating countries will form the Project Group.

Specific components of the project will be assigned to the Consultants. The following preliminary division of tasks for the Consultants is proposed in Provisional budget below.

**7 Consistency with HELCOM priorities  yes  no (Baltic Sea Action Plan)**

**8 Duration: 5 months**

The Project is expected to start in December 2012 and last till the end of April 2013.

Exact timing of different events will be finalized at the PLC 5.5 -meeting in Helsinki 7-8 November 2012. Provisional timetable of activities and deliverables is provided in the table below. Overall project activities in relation to PLC-6 and HELCOM PLUS projects are presented under item 0.

Activity/Component (cf. 6.3)	Dec.2012	Jan.2013	Feb.2013	Mar.2013	Apr.2013
<b>Activities</b>					
6.3.1 Identification of bottlenecks in management/collection of pollution load data with focus on transboundary loads					
6.3.2 Quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) with focus on transboundary loads (parallel to QA/QC activities within PLC 6 project)					
6.3.3 Pilot sampling					
6.3.4 Preparatory work for establishing common methodology for filling in data gaps and missing data, especially with respect to the transboundary loads					
<b>Deliverables</b>					
– Interim report					
– Final report					

**9 Provisional budget**

Activity (cf. 6.3)	SYKE*	DCE**	Total
6.3.1 Identification of bottlenecks in management/collection of pollution load data with focus on transboundary loads*	10,000		10,000
6.3.2 Quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) with focus on transboundary loads (parallel to QA/QC activities within PLC 6 project)			
6.3.3 Pilot sampling*	20,000		20,000
6.3.4 Preparatory work for establishing common methodology for filling in data gaps and missing data, especially with respect to the transboundary loads**		10,000	10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>

\*SYKE – Finnish Environment Institute / \*\*DCE - Danish Centre for Environment and Energy, Aarhus University

**Cost estimate per spending category**

	Unit	Unit cost	Units	Total
1. Fees/services				<b>30,000</b>
– XX, SYKE	d			21,000
– XX, DCE	d			9,000
2. Reimbursable costs				<b>10,000</b>
– Travel				3,000
– Analyses				3,000
– Other (meeting support, etc.)				2,000
– Contingency				2,000
3. Total				<b>40,000</b>

**Sources of financing:** funding from the Ministry of the Environment, Finland

**10 Additional requests:**

Activities of the project will be mainly performed in Latvia and Lithuania, with involvement of Belarus

**11 Procedure of nomination of the Project team members:**

National contact persons and project members should be nominated to the HELCOM Secretariat (mikhail.durkin@helcom.fi) by 10 December 2013.

**12 Signature of the Project Manager**

Tea Törnroos, SYKE, Finland

**13 Opinion of the Chairman of the relevant body**

The Chair of HELCOM LOAD supports the project.

**14 Opinion of the Executive Secretary:**

The Executive Secretary supports the project.

**15 Decision of the Heads of Delegation:**

HELCOM HOD 39/2012, LD 136 4.12.2012 (final approval 5.12.2012)

X  to establish  not to establish

**Attachment. Provisional Timetable and project deliveries in relation to HELCOM PLC-6 and HELCOM PLUS**

Project	Activity	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>1. Quality assurance and calculation of uncertainties in data</b>							
Project	Intercalibration/intercomparison activity	X					
Project	Workshop in Eastern Baltic Region on evaluation of intercalibration/intercomparison activity	X					
Project	Monitoring in selected major transboundary rivers at the border between Contracting/non-Contracting Party (or between two Contracting Parties)	X	X	X			
PLC-6	Updating/revision of the pollution load Guidelines	X	X	X			
PLUS	Development and implementation of a revised database model		X	X			
PLUS	Development of web application for reporting and quality assurance of load data			X	X		
PLUS	Setting up a standardized quality assurance system for delivered data		X	X			
<b>2. Data collection, submission, quality assurance and compilation</b>							
Project	Support to development of standardized methodology for estimating uncertainties on reported input datasets, and to develop guidance on how to evaluate the quality and consistency of a national data set, how to fill in data gaps and standardized methodology on evaluating fulfillment of nutrient reduction targets	X					
Project	Workshop on development of standardized methodology to calculate uncertainties on national datasets	X					
PLC-6	Monitoring and data collection by Contracting Parties			X	X		
PLUS	GIS-application of pollution load database				X	X	
PLUS	Remote access of third parties to the load database				X	X	
PLC-6	Reporting of national data using the new database web application. Quality checking, correction of data and compilation of data into the database					X	X
<b>3. Data assessment and preparation of pollution load report</b>							
Project	Workshop discussing and agreeing on common quality assurance activities before reporting data		X				
PLC-6	Quality checking, correction of data and compilation on data into the database. Data assessment and preparation of the report					X	X
PLC-6	Finalization of the report						X



## LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<b>HELCOM HOD 39/2012</b>	<b>Date dd.mm.yy</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Submitted by</b>
1/1	14.11.12	Provisional Agenda	Executive Secretary
1/2	14.11.12	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda	Executive Secretary
2/1	14.11.12	Planning towards 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting	Executive Secretary
2/2	20.11.12	Provisional agenda for HELCOM 34/2013	Executive Secretary and Chair
2/3	28.11.12	Proposal concerning the HELCOM Stakeholder Conference	Russian Federation
2/3/WP.1	04.12.12	Proposal concerning the HELCOM Stakeholder Conference	Drafting Group
2/4	29.11.12	Draft overview document on the progress in implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan	Executive Secretary
2/4/Add.1	29.11.12	Draft overview document on the progress in implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan	Executive Secretary
2/5	29.11.12	Preliminary programme of the joint HELCOM-BONUS Stakeholder Conference on future research needs in the Baltic Sea	Executive Secretary
2/6	29.11.12	Outcome of HELCOM CORE EUTRO 7/2012	Executive Secretary
2/7	29.11.12	HELCOM eutrophication status targets	Executive Secretary
2/7/Rev.1	03.12.12	HELCOM eutrophication status targets	Executive Secretary
2/8	30.11.12	Preliminary draft Ministerial outcome	Executive Secretary
3/1	14.11.12	Outcome from HELCOM GEAR 2/2012	Executive Secretary
3/2	14.11.12	Proposal for a new HELCOM Recommendation Safeguarding important wintering habitats and migration routes of Baltic seabirds from the use of those areas for energy production	Executive Secretary
3/3	14.11.12	Revised Recommendation 15/1 Protection of the Coastal Strip	Executive Secretary
3/4	14.11.12	Revised HELCOM Recommendation 17/3 Information and consultation with regard to construction of new installations affecting the Baltic Sea	Executive Secretary
3/5	14.11.12	HELCOM ALIENS 2 - Study on Biological Survey Protocols and Target Species Selection	Executive Secretary

3/6	15.11.12	Outcome of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Monitoring and Assessment Group (HELCOM MONAS 17/2012)	Executive Secretary
3/7	15.11.12	Outcome of the Fifth Meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG)	Executive Secretary
3/8	19.11.12	Proposal for HELCOM core indicators of biodiversity and hazardous substances	Executive Secretary
3/9	20.11.12	Outcome of the Fourth Meeting of HELCOM Baltic Agricultural and Environmental Forum (HELCOM AGRI/ENV FORUM)	Executive Secretary
3/10	20.11.12	Roadmap of GEAR work and HELCOM's activities overall	Executive Secretary
3/11	20.11.12	Outcome of the Sixth Meeting of the ad hoc HELCOM Seal Expert Group (HELCOM SEAL 6/2012)	Executive Secretary
3/12	20.11.12	Outcome of the Eighth Meeting of HELCOM Baltic Fisheries/Environmental Forum for implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan Fish/Fisheries related items (HELCOM FISH/ENV FORUM 8/2012)	Executive Secretary
3/13	20.11.12	Outcome of the Eleventh Meeting of the Maritime Group (HELCOM MARITIME 11/2012)	Executive Secretary
3/14	23.11.12	Status of the HELCOM TARGREV project final report	Executive Secretary
3/14/Add.1	29.11.12	HELCOM TARGREV project final report	Executive Secretary
3/15	23.11.12	Project proposal for HELCOM PG on Baltic sturgeon remediation	Germany and Poland
3/16	26.11.12	Main outcomes from the HELCOM RED LIST 4/2012 meeting	Executive Secretary
3/17	27.11.12	Clarification of the polish study reservation on the status of the proposed core indicators in doc. 3/8	Poland
3/18	27.11.12	Clarification of the polish study reservation on deleting the last sentence from the disclaimer text considered by HELCOM HOD 37/2012 to be included to the TARGREV report in doc. 3/14	Poland
3/19	27.11.12	Marine litter in the Baltic Sea - overview of present status and potential for further HELCOM actions	Executive Secretary

3/20	27.11.12	Outcome of the 16th Meeting of the Response Group (HELCOM RESPONSE 16/2012)	Executive Secretary
3/21	27.11.12	Modernization of HELCOM data management and systems: how to cope with emerging needs to better serve the Contracting Parties in their work to achieve a good environmental status of the Baltic Sea	Executive Secretary
3/22	28.11.12	Outcome of the Second Workshop of the Land-based Pollution Group (HELCOM LAND WS 2/2012)	Executive Secretary
3/23	28.11.12	Draft Red list assessment of the cod in the Baltic Sea	Executive Secretary
3/24	29.11.12	HELCOM ALIENS 3 project proposal	Executive Secretary
3/25	29.11.12	Information on the preparations for the HELCOM Workshop on climate change and its implications	Executive Secretary
3/26	30.11.12	Operationalization of HELCOM core indicators	Executive Secretary
3/27	03.12.12	Project proposal "Improvement of the quality of data on nutrient inputs with focus on transboundary loads"	Finland
3/27/Rev.1	03.12.12	Project proposal "Improvement of the quality of data on nutrient inputs with focus on transboundary loads"	Finland
3/28	03.12.12	Progress within the BASE Project	Executive Secretary
4/1	20.11.12	Accounts of the Commission for the Financial Period 1 July 2011 - 30 June 2012	Executive Secretary
4/2	29.11.12	Roadmap towards reaching equal shares and a draft budget for the financial period 2013–2014	Executive Secretary and Chair
5/1	26.11.12	Progress report on the annual HELCOM Plan of Information and Communication activities (2012) and Plans for 2013	Executive Secretary
6/1	15.11.12	Meetings in the framework of HELCOM in 2013	Executive Secretary
6/2/INF	26.11.12	Information on Oceana's work in the Baltic Sea - Proposals for new Marine Protected Areas	Oceana
6/3	27.11.12	Ongoing HELCOM projects	Executive Secretary
6/4	29.11.12	IMO request for Baltic Sea material for a permanent display	Executive Secretary
8/1	04.12.12	Draft List of Decisions	Executive Secretary