Agenda Item 2  Information by the Secretariat

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TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AD HOC EXPERT WORKING GROUP ON SHORELINE RESPONSE

Background
The Contracting Parties have agreed in HELCOM Recommendation 28E/12 “Strengthening of sub-regional co-operation in response field” to take necessary steps to assess the risk of oil and chemical pollution and on that basis review emergency and response resources on a sub-regional basis in order to ensure that there is adequate response capacity to enable effective shoreline response.

The Recommendation also requires the Contracting Parties to integrate shoreline response into national contingency plans, and cooperate by conducting trainings and organizing exchange programmes to ensure swift and adequate response capacity and to develop best practices.

The Contracting Parties are also to identify by 2010, based upon sensitivity mapping, the need for and to finalize the quantification of countermeasures for shoreline response, and to prepare concrete plans/programmes for fulfilling them by 2013.

Tasks of the EWG:
In order to contribute to the implementation of the above mentioned actions, an ad hoc Expert Working Group on Shoreline Response under HELCOM RESPONSE is established. The task of the Group is to:

1. Based on the outcome of the BRISK project, e.g. risks of oil pollution, environmental sensitivity maps, information on impacts of oil on the shore, as well as other relevant projects to consider adequacy of existing resources to respond to shoreline pollution and to give recommendations how these capabilities could be improved;

2. Develop a proposal for a HELCOM Recommendation on integrating shoreline response into national contingency plans and improving response capacities, e.g. based on the gaps in the national shoreline response systems as identified in document HELCOM RESPONSE 11/2009, 7/6, as well as suggestions for improvements of shoreline response capacities in the Contracting Parties;

3. Consider the need for developing a new Volume to the HELCOM Response Manual on shoreline response, e.g. based on the existing national and international manuals, and to develop a relevant proposal for further consideration by the HELCOM Response Group.

Working mode
The Group will arrange two meetings in 2011 to conduct their work. The first meeting will be held in February 2011 in Poland and the second meeting in June 2011 in Germany. The EWG will report to HELCOM RESPONSE on the progress made.
Members of the Group

The work of the Group is co-led by Poland and Germany. The Group consists of: *)
- Marek Reszko, Poland
- Karsten Petersen, Germany
- Karl-Erik Kulander, Sweden
- Heli Haapasari, Finland
- Vanessa Klötzer, WWF

*) Note by the Secretariat: New members have been nominated to the Expert Working Group since the adoption of the Terms of Reference by HELCOM HOD 34/2010
Last update in May 2012

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