



Document title	Requested contribution to regional coordination of measures
Code	2-8
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	2 - Matters arising from other HELCOM work of relevance for the Group
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Reference	

Background

Within the HELCOM Gear group a stock tacking and analysis of new national programs of measures being proposed to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status in the Baltic Sea (under Marine Strategy Framework Directive for EU Member States and under relevant legislation for the Russian Federation) are carried out. The aim is to identify opportunities for regional coherence of national measures and for additional joint regional actions.

The attached document contains background information on the issue, including an initial list of specific topics in need of further regional coordination.

Action required

The Meeting is invited to:

- take note of the activity by Gear group in general,
- consider possible proposing new issues for regional coordination for the specific topics of relevance to agriculture,
- consider if nutrient recycling could be such a new cooperation issue as it is already included in the work plan of HELCOM (within the Agri group).

Background

In June 2014 Gear established an Intersessional Group on Programme of Measures (IG PoM) with the task to:

- 1) take stock of the existing HELCOM acquis (e.g. recommendations and other agreements adopted by HELCOM) and its implementation by Contracting Parties,
- 1) take stock of and analyse additional new national measures being proposed to achieve or maintain good environmental status of the Baltic Sea under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive by EU Member States and any relevant measures under the appropriate legislation of Russia such as the Russian Maritime Doctrine.

This led to the development of a [draft joint document on regional coordination of Programmes of Measures](#) that was made available on 23 February 2015. Countries that wish to do so can use the draft document in their public consultation on national PoMs. The document identifies opportunities for improved coherence of national measures in the region and for additional joint regional actions on measures with a focus on transboundary issues. The work is **aimed at improving coordination of measures for all HELCOM Contracting Parties and will provide an opportunity to reinforce the follow-up and implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan.**

The draft document will be finalized by end of 2015. Since the draft document was made available in February, IG PoM and Gear have further developed **a proposal for topics suitable for regional coordination (see the list below)** based on the list of tentative new measures provided by five countries so far (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany and Sweden). The full list of proposed national measures and an analysis thereof is available in [document 2-1](#) and its [attachment](#) to GEAR 10-2015.

GEAR 9-2014 agreed that emphasis should thereafter be shifted to HELCOM Working Groups, to gain technical based input on potential joint actions and regional measures. GEAR 10-2014 invited Chairs of HELCOM Working Groups and formulated **a set of questions that Working Groups are requested to consider and provide input accordingly by September 2015.**

- Indicate if the proposed topic for coordination is already well covered by the activities of the Group (to provide brief description, including reference to the existing ToR / Roadmaps / work plans / sub-groups) and briefly reflect on possible gaps or needs for further work and/or improved coordination;
- For new issues, propose how they could be taken forward in a coordinated manner, including next steps, possible technical requirements and time-lines;
- Indicate the most appropriate and effective action level according to the three categories of measures 1) coordination of national measures 2) joint measures and actions, or 3) joint proposals and inputs to other competent organizations and institutions.

The considerations within Gear will continue based on the input to be provided by the Working Groups. A final proposal on regional action regarding measures will be developed with the view of endorsement by HOD 49-2015. The development and implementation of the identified measures for regional coordination will mainly take place after 2015.

The Working Groups should **prioritize new coordination issues** when preparing the input to the workshop.

Specific topics in need of further regional coordination discussed at GEAR 10-2015

Input of nutrients and organic matter:

Coordinated follow-up or concerted actions to the BSAP commitments to achieve nutrient reduction targets, including:

- the implementation of the Gothenburg Protocol through non-HELCOM Contracting Parties,
- a short-term plan to reduce NO_x from shipping and the implementation of reduction requirements by third countries (in particular Belarus and Ukraine, e.g. through direct

investments) and by upstream countries (e.g. through WFD-implementation in international river commissions; dialog with ICPO has started).

Coordination may also include:

- Baltic-wide introduction of LNG as fuel and associated port infrastructure (sub-group Green Technology and Alternative Fuels for Shipping under Maritime WG);
- concluding the regional concerted proposal to IMO regarding the Baltic Sea NECA (Maritime WG);
- HELCOM Recommendation on aquaculture under development to support planned national measures for reducing nutrient enrichment of marine waters (Fish Group).

Spatial protection measures: Further development of the HELCOM MPA network, including its ecological coherence and effective management. Coordination may concern management of MPAs, in particular possibilities for actions in relation to restrictions on fishing, dredging and extraction of non-living resources in MPAs (State & Conservation, Fish Group).

Conservation, restoration and reintroduction of species: New HELCOM Recommendation on species conservation is ready (pending clarification of the study reservation by one CPs) and coordination may concern follow up implementation, in particular measures for the protection of migratory and mobile species, e.g. by developing joint conservation plans (State & Conservation).

Physical loss of, and damage to, seabed habitats: Development by 2018 of a regional action plan or common guidelines for the management of activities impacting the seafloor (Pressure, Fish Group).

Selective extraction and incidental by-catch of species:

Coordination may concern:

- proposals for joint actions, more specifically regionally coordinated measures on coastal fisheries taking into account transboundary species' conservation needs;
- joint regional input regarding Community actions which are required to reduce the impacts of EU fisheries management on non-target species (and benthic habitats – see the theme above) both within and outside MPAs (State & Conservation, Fish Group).

Input of litter: The Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter has been adopted (Recommendation 36/1) and its Annex on specific measures is planned for adoption by HOD 48-2015 (Pressure).

Input of energy: Coordination may concern methods and tools for monitoring, assessment and management, which prepare for strategies to reduce the introduction of underwater noise and mitigate adverse effects. Ultimately development by 2017/2018 of a regional action plan on underwater noise can be strived for (Pressure WG).

Input of synthetic and non-synthetic contaminants:

The coordination may concern:

- e.g. the identification of pharmaceuticals in the marine environment and of other chemicals in effluents, which are relevant for the environmental status of marine waters to provide knowledge base for action (Pressure, State & Conservation);
- addressing the issue of scrubbing residues (water and sludge) from exhaust treatment on board ships and possible regional concerted input to IMO (Correspondence Group under Maritime WG);
- improved prevention and response to accidental pollution from ships (Response WG).