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<b>Document title</b>	Information on meetings and decisions within HELCOM
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<b>Category</b>	INF
<b>Agenda Item</b>	2 – Matters arising from other HELCOM meetings
<b>Submission date</b>	26.04.2019
<b>Submitted by</b>	Secretariat
<b>Reference</b>	

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## Background

This document contains information on other HELCOM meetings and decisions within HELCOM in the intersessional period having relevance to the work of HELCOM AIS EWG, including, e.g.:

- 40th Meeting of the Helsinki Commission ([HELCOM 40-2019](#));
- 54th and 55th Meetings of the Heads of Delegation ([HOD 54-2018](#), and [HOD 55-2018](#));
- 18th Meeting of the Maritime Working Group ([MARITIME 18-2018](#));
- 25th Meeting of the Response Working Group ([RESPONSE 25-2018](#));
- 9th Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Safety of Navigation ([SAFE NAV 9-2018](#));
- 4th Inter-regional Workshop on Risk Assessment methods for Pollution Prevention and Response ([OPENRISK WS 4-2018](#)); and
- 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of HELCOM Cooperation Platform on Special Area According to MARPOL Annex IV ([CP PRF 8-2019](#)).

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

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Information extracted from the outcomes of meetings within HELCOM of relevance to AIS EWG  
(in chronological order)

#### [HOD 54-2018](#)

The 54th Meeting of the Heads of Delegation was held in Helsinki, Finland, on 14-15 June 2018.

The Meeting recalled that the EU chairmanship of HELCOM is coming to an end on 30 June 2018 and took note of the account by EU on accomplishing the chairmanship priorities. The Meeting acknowledged the accomplishments of the EU chairmanship, especially the excellent organization and good outcome of the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in Brussels on 6 March 2018. The Meeting took note that progress has been made regarding the priorities by completing the second holistic assessment (HOLAS II) and Pollution Load Compilation products, promoting sustainable agriculture and advancing port reception facilities as well as improving regional cooperation with fisheries bodies. Further development of core indicators related to seafloor integrity and marine litter continue to be important priorities for HELCOM. Work still remains on improving the coherence of the MPA network. The Meeting thanked EU for the successful chairmanship.

The Meeting took note of and welcomed the following [priorities](#) of the Finnish chairmanship: updating the Baltic Sea Action Plan, reduction of nutrient inputs and nutrient recycling, Baltic Sea and climate change and synergy between Agenda 2030 and HELCOM work. The Meeting welcomed the Finnish chairmanship team, Ms. Saara Bäck, Chair of HELCOM, and Ms. Tarja Haaranen, Vice-Chair, from the Ministry of the Environment of Finland.

The Meeting approved the strategic plan for the update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) (c.f. AIS EWG 30-2019 document 2-2, Annex 1).

The Meeting took note that the update of the BSAP coincides with the update of the EUSBSR Action Plan starting in autumn 2019 and stressed the importance of finding synergies with the update of the EUSBSR Action Plan and the BSAP.

The Meeting agreed that the update of the BSAP should be given a priority by the working groups in the round-up to the Ministerial Meeting 2021 and that this process will require enhanced cooperation and coordination of the groups.

#### [SAFE NAV 9-2018](#)

The Ninth Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Safety of Navigation was held in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 7 September 2018.

The Meeting noted comments by Denmark regarding a discrepancy with HELCOM Recommendation 23-3 on *Enhancing the use of pilots in route T and the Sound by notification to departing ships and establishment of an early warning system* and IMO resolution MSC.138(76) on *Recommendation on navigation through the entrances to the Baltic Sea*. The issue is that Recommendation 23-3 recommends ships with a draft exceeding 13 meters to use a pilot through Route T in Danish waters, while MSC.138(76), which superseded IMO Resolution A.620(15), recommends ships with a draft exceeding 11 meters to use a pilot in the same waters.

The Meeting invited Denmark to submit a proposed revision to Recommendation 23-3 to SAFE NAV 10-2019.

The next meeting of SAFE NAV will be held in Stockholm, Sweden, in September 2019, with exact dates to be decided later.

#### [MARITIME 18-2018](#)

The 18th Meeting of the Maritime Working Group was held in Hamburg, Germany, on 25-27 September 2018.

The Meeting took note of the information on the EnviSuM project containing the draft HELCOM/EnviSuM overview "Alternative Fuels for Shipping in the Baltic Sea Region". The overview which is envisaged for

publication on the HELCOM website has been developed as part of the project by using input provided by EnviSuM, HELCOM Maritime and HELCOM Green Team contacts both at workshops and by correspondence.

The Meeting instructed the Secretariat to prepare a revised draft overview, taking into account comments made, to be circulated for endorsement by HELCOM Maritime contacts and submission to HOD 55-2018 for approval for publication on the HELCOM website.

The Meeting approved the [Work Plan](#) for 2018-2020 of the Cooperation Platform on Special Area According to MARPOL Annex IV.

The Meeting took note of the updated HELCOM Overview on Baltic Sea sewage port reception facilities, which has been submitted by the Secretariat as an INF document to MEPC 73 as agreed by MARITIME 17-2017 and HOD 53-2017.

The Meeting considered the draft Annual HELCOM report on shipping accidents in the Baltic Sea area in 2014-2017 and noted the information provided on corrections. The Meeting approved the report on shipping accidents, subject to the Secretariat making the necessary corrections. The Meeting consequently requested the Secretariat to publish the corrected final report.

The Meeting agreed on a new updated Work Plan for HELCOM Maritime 2018-2020, taking into account the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan.

The Meeting expressed its appreciation for the confirmation by the EU to host MARITIME 19-2019 at EMSA, Lisbon, on 24-26 September 2019. The Meeting noted that a meeting room will be made available also on 23 September 2019, in case there is need for a workshop related to the update of the BSAP, or a meeting of one of the expert groups of HELCOM Maritime.

#### [OPENRISK WS 4-2018](#)

The Fourth Inter-regional Workshop on Risk Assessment methods for Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) under the [OpenRisk project](#) was organized by HELCOM in cooperation with the BONN Agreement. The Workshop was hosted by the World Maritime University in Malmö, Sweden on 30 October 2018.

In Part I of the Workshop, the focus was on results of the Baltic Sea case study, obtained using the risk assessment tools of the OpenRisk Toolbox. In Part II, the OpenRisk Guideline was introduced, which includes also the OpenRisk Toolbox. Part III was addressed to the needs of end-users and possible follow-up projects.

#### [RESPONSE 25-2018](#)

The 25th Meeting of the Response Working Group was held in Rostock-Warnemünde, Germany, on 14-16 November 2018.

The Meeting took note of the updates of the OpenRisk project and its main outcomes. In this context the Meeting took note of the OpenRisk Guideline for Regional Risk Management to Improve European Pollution Preparedness and Response, and of the Baltic Sea Case Study, which has been published on the [HELCOM website](#).

The Meeting took note of the offer made by the Norwegian Coastal Administration to make the AISyRISK risk assessment tool available to the HELCOM Response authorities. The Meeting discussed that this tool can be applied also in the Baltic Sea, as long as AIS data and other Baltic Sea parameters (e.g. bathymetry) are fed into the system. The Meeting agreed that the tool would be useful also for the HELCOM Contracting Parties and agreed to invite the Secretariat to request access to the tool from the Norwegian Coastal Administration at this stage. In addition, the Meeting invited the Secretariat to clarify with the Norwegian Coastal Administration the conditions and technical requirements for using the tool.

The Meeting noted that there are resource constraints in most Contracting Parties and that in order to use AISyRISK significant preparatory work may be necessary on a national level. The Meeting agreed that any future projects on risk assessment/management could build on AISyRISK or other existing tools, rather than

starting from zero. The Meeting also agreed that the level of ambition for any new project should be carefully detailed in the planning stages.

The Meeting took note of information provided by Sweden on the status of financing the SeaTrackWeb (STW) including statistics on contracts with organisations of HELCOM members.

The 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Response Group will be held in Warsaw, Poland, on 3-5 June 2019.

### [HOD 55-2018](#)

The 55th Meeting of the Heads of Delegation was held in Helsinki, Finland, on 4-5 December 2018.

The Meeting approved the work plan for the BSAP update (c.f. AIS EWG 30-2019 document 2-2, Annex 2), noting that it will be updated by the Secretariat when additional agreements regarding the BSAP update are made.

The Meeting recalled that HOD have been requested to consider a proposal for the establishment of an *ad hoc* Expert Group on analyses of sufficiency of measures to support the implementation of the strategic plan for the BSAP update. The Meeting agreed that the work will be carried out via an interdisciplinary platform for the implementation of the analyses (SOM Platform), which is to engage the existing HELCOM ESA (social and economic analysis) network, national technical experts on the topics to be addressed by the group, and the Chairs of HELCOM Working Groups.

The Meeting approved the [Work Plan](#) for the Maritime Working Group for 2018-2020.

The Meeting approved the revised HELCOM Recommendation 33/1 on “Unified interpretation in relation to access to and use of HELCOM AIS data” to be submitted for adoption by HELCOM 40-2019.

The Meeting approved the draft revised Recommendation 28E/13 on “Introducing Economic Incentives as a Complement to Existing Regulations to Reduce Emissions from Ships” to be submitted for adoption by HELCOM 40-2019.

The Meeting approved that MARITIME 19-2019 will be held in Lisbon, Portugal on 24-26 September 2019 and the possibility of organizing an intersessional workshop or an extension of the MARITIME 19-2019 meeting in order to make progress on the update of the BSAP.

### [HELCOM 40-2019](#)

The 40th Meeting of the Helsinki Commission was held in Helsinki, Finland, on 6-7 March 2019.

The Meeting took note of the status of work on the implementation of the analyses of sufficiency of measures (SOM), including the kick-off meeting of the SOM Platform held on 28 February – 1 March 2019.

The Meeting recalled that the SOM Platform will contribute to the analyses of sufficiency of measures to support the BSAP update for the topics hazardous substances, marine litter, underwater noise, non-indigenous species, and biodiversity. Other topics relevant for HELCOM will be covered by the ACTION project, which is co-financed by the EU. The Meeting noted that the analyses of sufficiency of measures under HELCOM SOM Platform and ACTION project will be coordinated and make use of the same methodological framework for the analyses.

The Meeting noted that the work under the SOM Platform is a joint effort in HELCOM. Through the planned engagement of HELCOM expert groups, networks, all Contracting Parties have a possibility to take part and contribute to the work. The data and information used in the analyses will furthermore be validated by HELCOM Working Groups. The Meeting took note that Heads of Delegation will be kept informed of the offers on lead and co-lead countries, which expert groups that will be involved in the work, and progress overall and specifically for different topics of the SOM Platform and the ACTION project.

The Meeting endorsed the updated [Roadmap](#) on HELCOM activities on ecosystem approach.

The Meeting adopted the [revised HELCOM Recommendation 33/1](#) on Unified interpretation in relation to access to and use of HELCOM AIS data. In this context, the Meeting noted a statement made by the EU, that the Recommendation should be without prejudice to Regulation 2002/59 (EC).

The Meeting considered the draft revised HELCOM Recommendation 28E/13 on Introducing Economic Incentives as a Complement to Existing Regulations to Reduce Emissions from Ships, as approved by HOD 55-2018 for adoption. The Meeting took note of editorial and substantial changes to the draft revised Recommendation 28E/13, as proposed by Russia. Following discussion, the Meeting was not able to reach a decision and agreed to intersessionally consider the issue further through the Heads of Delegation with engagement of Working Groups as needed. The Meeting consequently mandated HOD 56-2019 to consider and adopt the revised Recommendation.

The Meeting adopted the updated [HELCOM Data and Information Strategy](#).

The Meeting took note of the [statement](#) by Ms. Monika Stankiewicz, Executive Secretary of HELCOM, on the work of the Secretariat, including her comments and evaluation of the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies during 2018.

The Meeting decided to appoint Mr. Rüdiger Stempel as the next HELCOM Executive Secretary. The appointment is for an initial period of three years starting from 1 August 2019, with a possibility of a prolongation.

The Meeting granted observer status to the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation - NEFCO. Further, the Meeting invited an active participation of NEFCO for the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan.

#### [CP PRF 8-2019](#)

The Eighth Meeting of HELCOM Cooperation Platform on Special Area According to MARPOL Annex IV was held in Helsinki, Finland, on 27-28 March 2019.

The Meeting took note of the following presentations:

- the current status of the revision of the PRF Directive (2000/59/EC);
- the results of the Interreg [Green Cruise Port \(CGP\) Project](#);
- the “Technical Guidance for the handling of waste water in Ports of the Special Area Baltic Sea”;
- the CLIA assessment of sewage PRF in the Baltic Sea;
- the current progress within the IMO related to the implementation and possible revision of MARPOL Annex IV; and
- the practical case study of the Port of Helsinki.

The Meeting took note of the draft update of the HELCOM PRF Overview with new data for the year 2018, containing information received from Contracting Parties during spring 2019. The Meeting noted, that according to the work plan of CP PRF, the Overview should be updated annually.

The Meeting made a *tour de table* on the update on the recent developments and experiences in the Baltic Sea with respect to PRFs by participating ports and took note of the information.