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<b>Document title</b>	Information on meetings and decisions within HELCOM
<b>Code</b>	2-1
<b>Category</b>	CMNT
<b>Agenda Item</b>	2 – Matters arising from other HELCOM meetings
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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 in chronological order, e.g.:

- 56<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Heads of Delegation ([HOD 56-2019](#));
- 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Safety of Navigation ([SAFE NAV 10-2019](#));
- 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Maritime Working Group ([MARITIME 19-2019](#));
- 57<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Heads of Delegation ([HOD 57-2019](#));
- 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Response Working Group ([RESPONSE 27-2020](#));
- 41<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Helsinki Commission ([HELCOM 41-2020](#));
- 19A Intersessional Meeting of the Maritime Working Group ([MARITIME 19A-2020](#)).

In particular, the Meeting is invited to consider the request by the Maritime Working Group related to the existing BSAP action on “*Further work with regard to the regional HELCOM AIS system operational since 2005 in order to increase safety of navigation and gain environmental benefits*”, discuss whether the action is still relevant for the updated BSAP and, propose possible rephrasing of it for further consideration by MARITIME 20-2020, as appropriate.

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- take note of the information;
- take note of the update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP), being a priority for the HELCOM working groups;
- take note that the update of the BSAP will be based on the existing expertise in the HELCOM working structure according to the mandates of the working groups and will be overseen by the Heads of Delegation. In this context, the Meeting is invited to take note of the latest developments to update the BSAP; and
- consider the BSAP action on “*Further work with regard to the regional HELCOM AIS system operational since 2005 in order to increase safety of navigation and gain environmental benefits*” and advice as appropriate.

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## Information extracted from the outcomes of meetings within HELCOM of relevance to AIS EWG

(in chronological order)

### [HOD 56-2019](#)

The 56th Meeting of the Heads of Delegation (HOD 56-2019) was held in Helsinki, Finland, on 18-19 June 2019.

The Meeting endorsed the revised work plan for the BSAP update as included in Annex 2 of the [Outcome](#).

The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to confirm willingness to take the lead in developing proposals for revisions to HELCOM Recommendations 12/7 on Special Cooperation in Case of a Chemical Tanker Accident in the Baltic Sea and 17/12 on Measures to Abate Pollution by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Grounding, Collision, Sinking of a Ship or other Maritime Casualty. Interested Contracting Parties are invited to contact the Secretariat ([markus.helavuori@helcom.fi](mailto:markus.helavuori@helcom.fi)).

### [SAFE NAV 10-2019](#)

The Tenth Meeting of the HELCOM Group of Experts on Safety of Navigation (SAFE NAV 10-2019) was held on 19 September 2019 at the premises of the Swedish Transport Agency in Stockholm, Sweden.

The Meeting noted information provided by Sweden on current information on the Sea Traffic Management in the Baltic Sea. The Swedish Maritime Administration has been running the Sea Traffic Management (STM) Validation Project since 2015, the final outcome of which is currently being finalized for completion in autumn 2019. The Meeting also noted that a number of parallel projects are also working on related matters.

The Meeting invited each Contracting Party to review and report their progress of revising the Cat I & II areas in their waters based on up-to-date hydrographic surveys and current commercial shipping AIS information to ensure safe navigation in their waters. Participants were therefore invited to liaise with hydrographic offices in their respective countries in this regard.

### [MARITIME 19-2019](#)

The 19th Meeting of the HELCOM Maritime Working Group (MARITIME 19-2019) was held on 23-26 September in Lisbon, Portugal, at the premises of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). The first day of the Meeting (23 September) was reserved for a dedicated session on the update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan.

The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Working Group for Mutual Exchange and Deliveries of AIS & Data (AIS EWG 30-2019) held on 28-29 May 2019 in Helsinki, Finland. In this context, the Meeting noted the importance of developing the timestamping, buffering and retransmission of AIS data to prevent losing data during possible communication line failures, also in relation to the update of the BSAP and actions related to AIS.

The Meeting took note of the information on the BSAP Update Work Plan for the Maritime Group (document 3-3, [Presentation 1](#)).

The Meeting discussed the paragraphs from the 2018 HELCOM Ministerial Declaration on commitments related to Maritime ([document 3-2](#)) and made proposals for concretized actions for uptake in the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan as further detailed in Table 4 of Annex 2 of [the Meeting Outcome](#).

The Meeting took note of the clarification that the review of existing objectives and proposals for new ones are led by the Working Group with the main mandate to address the objectives in question. However, since the segments and many objectives are cross-cutting, other Working Groups also have the possibility to comment on objectives that are related to their areas of work before they are submitted for approval by HOD. Since shipping is generating many different types of pressure the Maritime Working Group has the possibility to comment on all objectives that are related to maritime activities.

The Meeting noted that EMCIP will be used as the primary source of accidents data in future reports, starting with accidents that occurred in 2019.

### [HOD 57-2019](#)

The 57<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Heads of Delegation was held in Helsinki, Finland, on 10-11 December 2019.

The Meeting took note of the preparations for the HELCOM Stakeholder Conference 2020 on the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) to be held on 3 March 2020 in Helsinki, Finland, back-to-back with HELCOM 41-2020 ([document 2-1](#)) and endorsed in principle the provisional programme and the format of the Stakeholder Conference.

The Meeting approved the revised Terms of Reference for HELCOM-OSPAR TG BALLAST for 2020-2024 as contained in Annex 5 to the [Outcome](#), noting that they are still pending approval by OSPAR.

The Meeting considered and approved the revised HELCOM Recommendation 23/3 on enhancing the use of pilots in route T and the Sound ([document 4-3](#)) and agreed to submit it for adoption by HELCOM 41-2020.

The Meeting considered the draft HELCOM Recommendation on Deep-Sea Pilotage in the Baltic Sea ([document 4-14](#)) and corrected an error related to Polish contact details in Attachment 1 of the draft. The Meeting approved the draft Recommendation as set out in [document 4-14-Rev.1](#) and agreed to submit it for adoption by HELCOM 41-2020.

### [RESPONSE 27-2020](#)

The 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the HELCOM Response Working Group (RESPONSE 27-2019) was held on 26-28 February 2020 in Vejle, Denmark.

The Meeting took note of the update of the [workplan](#) for the BSAP update of the Response Working Group including timetables for addressing the individual activities of the plan ([document 3-3](#)). The Meeting discussed what the updated BSAP will contain, and it was also identified that it is important to ensure that no actions are missed, e.g. if they fall under the responsibility of several HELCOM working groups.

The Meeting took note of the existing BSAP actions that still may need consideration as set out in the annex of [document 3-1](#) and worked on rephrasing of existing actions and formulating new actions, taking into account the Outcome of HOD 57-2019. The Meeting agreed as further specified in Annex 2 of the [Outcome](#).

The Meeting noted that the STW has no planned developments at the moment, but it is in maintenance.

The Meeting recalled that the Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA) had agreed to make the AISyRisk tool available for all HELCOM and Bonn Agreement Contracting Parties. The Meeting noted, however, that information regarding the formalities and technical details in this regard is not yet available.

The Meeting noted information provided by Denmark regarding the BE-AWARE Trend Analysis 2030 project. The Meeting also discussed the proposal by COWI on a possible update of the risk analysis done by the BRISK project based on data from 2008. The Meeting noted that since 2008 many things have changed, including shipping patterns and volumes, as well as the HELCOM response sub-regions. While the usefulness of such an update was recognized, the Meeting was not able to state a firm position on the matter at this stage, as e.g. costs and other details would have to be considered in more detail.

The Meeting discussed risk analysis in general and agreed that it is important to share the results of national risk analysis by submissions to the meetings of the Response Working Group.

The Meeting recalled the decision by MARITIME 18-2018 that the European Marine Casualty Information Platform (EMCIP) will be used as the primary source for accident data in future annual reports starting with the reporting of accidents that occurred in 2019. A Memorandum of Understanding for access to this EMCIP data has been signed by EMSA and HELCOM. The Meeting noted that a request to the Response Working Group for reporting of significant response operations at sea and on the shore in 2019 was sent by the Secretariat on 30 January 2020 with the reporting deadline on 3 April 2020.

### [HELCOM 41-2020](#)

The 41<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Helsinki Commission was held in Helsinki, Finland, on 4-5 March 2020.

A high-level segment was held back-to-back with HELCOM 41-2020. The high-level representatives of the HELCOM Contracting Parties: Katrine Nissen (Denmark), Harry Liiv (Estonia), Veronica Manfredi (EU), Terhi Lehtonen (Finland), Jochen Flasbarth (Germany), Silvija Nora Kalnins (Latvia), Vitalijus Auglys (Lithuania), Katarzyna Krzywda (Poland), Nuritdin Inamov (Russia) and Gunvor G Eriksson (Sweden) deliberated on the following topics, as included in the updated outline ([document 2-1](#)):

- The update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP);
- HELCOM outreach including HELCOM contribution to the 2020 UN Ocean Conference, including the HELCOM Voluntary Commitments;
- The HELCOM Science Agenda.

The HELCOM Stakeholder Conference focusing on the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) was held on 3 March 2020 in Helsinki, Finland, back-to-back with HELCOM 41-2020. The Conference was attended by over 120 people from a wide array of HELCOM stakeholder organizations, such as governments, industry, business, municipalities, researchers, financing institutions and non-governmental organizations. The HELCOM Stakeholder Conference 2020 was organized to collect views from a broader group of stakeholders on key issues for the updated BSAP, including the proposal of actions to be considered for the update of the plan. The [Outcome](#) contains a summary of the outcome of the Conference.

HELCOM 41-2020 considered the Draft HELCOM Recommendation on Deep-Sea Pilotage in the Baltic Sea already approved by HOD 57-2019 and adopted it as HELCOM Recommendation 41/1.

The Meeting also considered the draft revised HELCOM Recommendation 23/3 on Enhancing the use of pilots in route T and the Sound and adopted the revised Recommendation as HELCOM Recommendation 41/2, superseding the current HELCOM Recommendation 23/3.

The Meeting further decided to withdraw HELCOM Recommendation 24/7 "Further development and use of drift forecasting for oils and other harmful substances in the Baltic" as well as the associated Guidelines for the implementation of HELCOM Recommendation 24/7, as its provisions have been fulfilled.

## [MARITIME 19A-2020](#)

The Intersessional on-line Meeting of the HELCOM Maritime Working Group (MARITIME 19A-2020) was held online on 14-15 April 2020 (postponed from the originally agreed dates 16-17 March 2020).

The Meeting took note of the Notes from the 1st online meeting of the HELCOM Science Agenda Task Group, held on 17 December 2019 ([Science Agenda TG 1-2019](#)) and the 2nd meeting of the HELCOM Science Agenda Task Group, held on 29-30 January 2020 in Helsinki, Finland ([Science Agenda TG 2-2020](#)).

The Meeting recognized the importance of cooperation between HELCOM Working Groups, noting that a number of objectives and measures fall under the responsibility of more than one Working Group. In this context the meeting noted a clarification by the Secretariat that cooperation between HELCOM Working Groups is indeed of a great importance, and that actions to increase this cooperation have been taken, such as organizing the First Joint Meeting of Chairpersons of HELCOM main groups on 2 March 2020 at the premises of the HELCOM Secretariat in Helsinki, Finland.

The Meeting discussed the rephrasing of existing BSAP actions and follow-up of the HELCOM Ministerial Declarations. The Meeting considered the possibility to include target years, as appropriate, for those actions that did not have them. Following discussion, the Meeting finalized the proposals for all existing actions and agreed on them as contained in Annex 2 of the [Outcome](#).

In discussing the existing action on *“Further work with regard to the regional HELCOM AIS system operational since 2005 in order to increase safety of navigation and gain environmental benefits”*, the Meeting recalled that MARITIME 19-2019 had invited the AIS EWG to consider the action further.

The Meeting took note of the changes in the dates of the upcoming BSAP UP workshops which have been postponed from May 2020 to autumn 2020. Thus, the workshop that will address proposed new actions for the updated BSAP related to maritime activities, underwater noise, non-indigenous species and response actions will be held 2-4 September 2020 in Helsinki, Finland. The Meeting recognized the importance of national representatives of the Maritime Working Group attend this workshop for founding the validity of the outcome.

The Meeting noted that the technical review of synopses for proposed new BSAP actions should not include political or financial considerations at this stage, and that no proposed actions will be excluded based on the comments made by the Correspondence Group or the present Meeting. 3.17 The Meeting took note of the seventeen submitted synopses for proposed new BSAP actions related to the Maritime Group, as contained in [documents 3-2](#), [3-2 Add.1](#) and [3-2 Add.2](#).

The Meeting undertook a technical review of synopses for proposed new BSAP actions and agreed as set out in Annex 2 of the [Addendum to the Outcome of MARITIME 19A-2020](#).