

## Invitation for the HELCOM Workshop on Blue Carbon Potential in the Baltic Sea region

Dear colleagues,

We have the pleasure to invite you to the HELCOM Workshop on “Blue Carbon Potential in the Baltic Sea region” that will be held online on 17 and 18 November 2021. In accordance with the decision by the 60<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation (HOD 60-2021), the Workshop will be co-hosted by Germany, in line with the German HELCOM Chairmanship priority on climate change. The Workshop will start at 09.00 CET/10.00 EET on both days. It will end by 14.00 CET/15.00 EET on the first day and 12.30 CET/13.30 EET on the second day. Please note that all participants are expected to attend both days.

Goals of the workshop:

The Workshop aims to gather scientific and governmental experts from each HELCOM Contracting Party, especially those who are involved in projects or project ideas in the Baltic Sea area, ranging from seagrass restoration to coastal wetland protection activities. The main goals will be to find a common understanding on the meaning of “Blue Carbon” as well as to look into the potential of Baltic Blue Carbon habitats in the context of climate change policy, including possible joint actions. Thus, the workshop will focus particularly on:

1. Discussions and, if possible, finding a common definition for Blue Carbon in the Baltic Sea area (Day 1);
2. Sharing knowledge of ongoing projects and project ideas which are relevant to the Blue Carbon topic to narrow down obstacles and challenges, but also solutions such as funding possibilities (Day 1 and 2);
3. Gathering views on the role of Blue Carbon in the HELCOM area in the context of climate change mitigation and adaptation (Day 2).

The results of the Workshop will be presented at the joint HELCOM/Baltic Earth Stakeholder Conference on Climate Change in March 2022, where a further discussion and feedback on the outcomes of this workshop is expected, among other topics.

General information:

The Workshop will tentatively be held via WebEx. The online-event link and instructions will be sent to registered participants only. Interested participants are invited to register [here](#) by **26 October 2021**. To provide well-balanced online discussions, we recommend that the HELCOM Contracting Parties nominate 3 to 4 representatives each. NGO representatives are also welcome to participate.

To gather a good information basis for the discussion during the workshop, the organizers are asking each participant to answer a few questions on Blue Carbon during the registration process. All answers will be compiled and forwarded to the participants prior to the workshop. If participants wish to submit additional information documents to the workshop, they should be sent via e-mail to the organizers below by 27 October 2021.

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Yours sincerely,

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Vice President of the  
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