



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

HELCOM FISH Correspondence Group concerning a draft document on BAT/BEP descriptions for sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea region (CG Aquaculture)

CG Aquaculture 2-2018

Berlin, Germany, 7-8 November 2018

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The HELCOM HOD 54-2018 (Outcome § 4.57) requested the Contracting Parties to contribute to the work on BAT/BEP for sustainable aquaculture and agreed that organizing a meeting of the CG Aquaculture would be a good way for experts to come together to exchange views and share information regarding what is considered BAT/BEP in the different Contracting Parties. Following the guidance of HOD 54-2018, the Second Meeting of the HELCOM Fish Correspondence Group concerning a draft document on BAT/BEP descriptions for sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea region (CG AQUACULTURE 2-2018) will be held at the premises of the Federal Ministry for the Environment (Krausenstraße 17–18, 10117 Berlin), on 7-8 November 2018.

The Meeting will start on Wednesday 7 November at 12:00 and is expected to end on Thursday 8 November 2018 at 14:00.

Documents for the Meeting will be made available on the [CG AQUACULTURE 2-2018](#) meeting site on the HELCOM Meeting Portal. Please note that you need to be a registered user with relevant rights to access the restricted meeting documents. Instructions for the use of the Meeting Portal are available on the [HELCOM website](#).

Those Meeting participants that wish to provide their contributions for the Meeting are requested to submit meeting documents using the online [document template](#) to Professional Secretary Markus Helavuori (markus.helavuori@helcom.fi) at the latest **by 16 October 2018**. Documents containing comments to the basic documents as well as information documents shall be received by the Secretariat no later than seven days before the opening of the Meeting, i.e. **by 31 October 2018**.

Participants are kindly invited to register to the Meeting by answering the [Participation Survey](#) **by 30 October 2018 at the latest**.

The Meeting will focus on exchanging views and share information regarding what is considered BAT/BEP in the different Contracting Parties. The Meeting will be invited to consider the synthesis prepared by Sweden on the completed questionnaire regarding the definition of BAT/ BEP that was re-sent to the Contracting Parties in early September 2018. Additionally, the Meeting is invited to assigning CG leads, and proposing tasks and a way forward with a view to completing the work on BAT/BEP definitions, techniques and practices applicable in the Baltic Sea region, originally envisaged to be completed in summer 2018. Based on the outcome of this meeting, HOD 55-2018 in December 2018 is expected to make a final decision on the continuation of the work.

Provisional Annotated Agenda

Agenda Item 1 Election of Chair

The Meeting is invited to elect a Chair for the Meeting.

Agenda Item 2 Adoption of the Agenda

This Provisional Annotated Agenda has been prepared by the Secretariat based on the outcomes of the CG AQUACULTURE 1-2017, FISH 8-2018 and HOD 54-2018 meetings.

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda as contained in document 2-1.

Agenda Item 3 Matters arising from HELCOM work of relevance of the group

The Meeting is invited to take note and discuss as appropriate the outcomes of recent HELCOM meetings of relevance for CG Aquaculture (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to note that actions taken by the Contracting Parties to implement the HELCOM Recommendation 37/3 on Sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea Region should be reported for the first time in 2018, and that this is relevant and linked to the work of the correspondence group.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the strategic plan for the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan approved by HOD 54-2018 and note the discussion at HOD 54-2018 concerning the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan being a priority for the HELCOM working groups, and 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. The Meeting is invited to note that the updated BSAP should include actions necessary to achieve the HELCOM strategic goal of “Maritime activities carried out in an environmentally friendly way”.

Agenda Item 4 Aquaculture BAT/BEP definitions

As welcomed by [HELCOM FISH 7-2017](#) meeting, Sweden has the lead in task 1A (aiming at Output 1: *Compilation of national Aquaculture BAT/BEP definitions*) outlined in the Work plan of CG Aquaculture 2017-2019. In accordance with the Work plan, Sweden sent out a questionnaire regarding the definition of BAT/BEP to be completed by Contracting Parties but did not received any response by the set deadline. As agreed by the [HELCOM FISH 8-2018](#) meeting, Sweden re-sent the questionnaire to be completed by the Contracting Parties no later than **28 September 2018**.

The Meeting is invited to recall the BAT and BEP definitions of the 1992 Helsinki Convention.

Sweden is invited to present recent activities and progress as regards the *Compilation of national Aquaculture BAT/BEP definitions*. The Meeting is invited to consider the information and take action as appropriate.

Agenda Item 5 First ideas on BAT/BEP concept by Contracting parties

Germany is invited to present a first draft concept of BAT/BEP for discussion by the meeting (document to be submitted). The discussion will be structured based on this document along the following topics:

- BAT/BEP for the establishment of aquaculture operations (site selection, permitting regulations, MPAs etc.);
- BAT/BEP for aquaculture operation considering for example the following issues: hazardous substances, eutrophication, alien species, marine litter and sustainable feeds; and

- BAT/BEP for the monitoring of impacts from aquaculture operations.

Contracting Parties are invited to prepare short expert inputs on the above listed topics or any additional issues that are not yet listed and to notify the secretariat in advance about contributions.

Agenda Item 6 Future work and assigning leads

As recalled by the [HELCOM FISH 8-2018](#) meeting, the correspondence group currently lacks a lead country and commitment from several Contracting Parties. FISH 8-2018 invited Contracting Parties to consider taking the lead of the group and to recommit to completing the work on BAT/BEP definitions, techniques and practices applicable in the Baltic Sea region, originally envisaged to be completed in summer 2018. The Meeting is invited to note, that HELCOM HOD 54-2018 was requested to provide guidance on the way forward regarding the work on BAT/BEP, and it was stressed that for the work on BAT/BEP to continue, Contracting Parties should fully commit to contribute to the work in order enable its finalization and efficient use of resources.

[HOD 54-2018](#) noted the lack of progress and lead country with regard to the development of BAT/BEP for sustainable aquaculture, but agreed that, despite progress being slow, the matter is important, in particular in view of HELCOM Recommendation 37/3 on sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea Region. The HOD 54-2018 meeting requested the Contracting Parties to contribute to the work and agreed that, based on the outcome of CG AQUACULTURE 2-2018, HOD 55-2018 in December 2018 could make a final decision on the continuation of the work of the correspondence group.

Lead Country for CG Aquaculture

The [HELCOM FISH 8-2018](#) meeting (Outcome §4.5) noted with appreciation that Germany agreed to ask whether they are able to take a leading role in the development of BAT/BEP and invited Germany to inform [HOD 54-2018](#) on the matter, however this was not considered by the meeting.

Contracting Parties are encouraged and invited to consider taking a leading role in the development of BAT/BEP and to inform the Meeting on their possibilities in this matter.

Future work of CG Aquaculture

In order to implement the work plan of the HELCOM Fish Group and as a follow up of the HELCOM Recommendation on sustainable aquaculture ([Rec. 37/3](#)), CG Aquaculture was established in 2016. The work of the correspondence group is based on the ToRs for the group as agreed by HELCOM 37-2016 and should follow the work plan of the group as agreed by HELCOM FISH 7-2017 and approved by HOD 53-2018.

The Meeting is invited to recall the HELCOM Recommendation on sustainable aquaculture, the Terms of Reference for CG Aquaculture and the work plan of CG Aquaculture 2017-2019 as the background/basis for the future work (documents to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to plan for the continuation of the work beyond 2018, based on the current work plan of the group, with a view to completing the work on BAT/BEP definitions, techniques and practices applicable in the Baltic Sea region.

The Meeting is invited to agree on the tasks and time schedule for implementing the Work plan, including the assigning of lead Countries for each task.

Agenda Item 7 Any other business

The Meeting is invited to review, and update as needed, the list of CG Aquaculture contacts and observes (to be circulated at the meeting).

Contracting Parties and Observer organizations are invited to inform of any new, or changed, nominations to the Secretariat (henri.jokinen@helcom.fi).

Contracting Parties and Observers are invited to present any other business of relevance for CG Aquaculture.

Agenda Item 8 Outcome of the Meeting

A draft Outcome with main decisions will be prepared by the Secretariat for consideration and approval by the Meeting.

Meeting participants will be asked for permission of sharing their contact details in the Meeting Outcome in the form of a list of participants.