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<b>Document title</b>	Draft Roadmap on fisheries data
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## Background

HELCOM FISH 7-2017 took note of the first draft of a roadmap for the inventory of HELCOM data needs (document 5-4), as presented by Poland (outcome HELCOM FISH 7-2017 para 5.3).

HELCOM FISH 7-2017 agreed that a roadmap is needed to create a robust process to further define the fisheries data needs of MSFD, including HELCOM indicator data needs in its role as the regional coordinator for MSFD in the Baltic for EU Members, identify available data sources and identify possible measures to improve the availability of the needed data (outcome HELCOM FISH 7-2017 para 5.14).

FISH 7 established a Correspondence Group consisting of Denmark, Poland, Germany, Finland and other interested delegations (the CG is open for further nominations beyond HELCOM networks) to a) draft a roadmap and b) further consider the inventory document and submit the outcome for consideration of FISH 8-2017 and welcomed the information that Denmark is willing to host a workshop as part of the Correspondence Group work (outcome HELCOM FISH 7-2017 para 5.15).

FISH 7 agreed to the Terms of Reference for Correspondence Group on fisheries data for operationalizing indicators used for the purposes of MSFD implementation, for the CPs which are also EU members (CG FISHDATA) with the task to develop the roadmap via the workshop and subsequent correspondence as included below (outcome HELCOM FISH 7-2017 Annex 3):

The Correspondence Group should:

1. Plan and organize a workshop on fisheries data for operationalizing the two indicators,<sup>1</sup> used for the purposes of MSFD implementation for the CPs which are also EU members, hosted by Denmark during the period January-February 2018.
2. Via the workshop and subsequent correspondence, draft a comprehensive roadmap on fisheries data for operationalizing the two indicators, used for the purposes of MSFD implementation for the CPs which are also EU members, covering –e.g. procedures, steps to be taken, roles of different institutions/bodies, data needs specifying related legal obligations, identifying existing data sources and recommending potential methods and steps to fill the identified data gaps taking into account the legislative framework.
3. Consider, and find guidance from, documents 5-3 and 5-4 of FISH 7-2017 in this process.
4. Submit a draft roadmap on fisheries data for operationalizing indicators used for the purposes of MSFD implementation, for the CPs which are also EU members to HELCOM FISH 8-2018.

## Action requested

The Correspondence Group is invited to:

- via this workshop and subsequent correspondence, draft a comprehensive roadmap on fisheries data for operationalizing the two indicators, used for the purposes of MSFD implementation for the CPs which are also EU members, covering –e.g. procedures, steps to be taken, roles of different institutions/bodies, data needs specifying related legal obligations, identifying existing data sources and recommending potential methods and steps to fill the identified data gaps taking into account the legislative framework.
- use the attached first draft by Denmark in completing the tasks of the CG

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<sup>1</sup> HELCOM indicators 'Number of drowned mammals and water birds in fishing gear' and 'Cumulative impact on benthic biotopes'

## Draft roadmap on fisheries data

### Draft ROADMAP submitted by Denmark

**Aim, scope and further steps concerning the “Inventory of HELCOM data needs to assess incidental by-catches, fisheries impact on benthic biotopes, in the Baltic Sea to support HELCOM indicator assessment work”**

#### **Aim**

Aim of preparing an Inventory is to fill data gaps in order to fulfill HELCOM commitments and to identify possible synergies between the data collection processes under the Common Fisheries Policy for EU Member States (Data Collection Framework) and the MSFD, particularly in view of the potential benefits to both policies in collecting ecosystem-based management, and in order to achieve the best cost effectiveness possible.

The following compilation directly refers to these HELCOM commitments as well as links to European legislation:

#### **Baltic Sea Action Plan**

*Therefore, **WE AGREE** to increase knowledge on and protection of Baltic Sea marine habitats, communities and species*

*- by 2010 by further developing in co-operation with the 1991 Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS) a coordinated reporting system and database on Baltic harbour porpoise sightings, bycatches and strandings;*

*- by the promotion of research aiming at developing additional methods for the assessment of, and reporting on, the impacts of fisheries on biodiversity;*

*- by the development and implementation of effective monitoring and reporting systems for by-caught birds and mammals;*

#### **Ministerial Declaration 2010**

##### **DECIDE**

*- to establish, for those HELCOM Contracting States being also EU-Member States, the role of HELCOM as the coordinating platform for the regional implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (EU MSFD) in the Baltic Sea<sup>1</sup> including striving for harmonised national marine strategies for achieving good environmental status according to the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan and the EU MSFD; and*

##### **ALSO DECIDE**

*- that core set of indicators with quantitative targets shall be developed for each of the segments of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, while ensuring that the indicators can also be used for the other international monitoring and reporting requirements inter alia the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, and that a full indicator-based follow-up system for the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan be further developed and placed on the HELCOM website by 2013;*

*- that the already initiated revision of the HELCOM monitoring programmes be finalized by 2013 and that it results in cost-effective joint monitoring, which fully supports the indicator-based assessment approach and monitoring of the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, and is in line with other international monitoring and reporting requirements;*

**ACKNOWLEDGE**

- that with the activities and programmes of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Fisheries and Environmental Forum, HELCOM took a step towards the implementation of an ecosystem- based approach allowing for improved coordination and cooperation between fisheries and marine environment protection authorities, and insofar has begun to develop the Baltic Sea as a model of good management of human activities;

**Ministerial Declaration 2013**

**WE DECIDE** to implement on a regional level the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the 2011-2020 period of the UN Convention of Biological Diversity, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, taking into account the special characteristics of the Baltic Sea, bearing in mind that the implementation of the Plan in the EU and its Member States is carried out through the EU Biodiversity Strategy, and more specifically **DECIDE** to:

- take decisive action to work towards a favourable conservation status of the harbor porpoise based on implementation of the CMS ASCOBANS Jastarnia Plan for the harbor porpoise in the Baltic Sea, in particular by addressing the pressing problem of by-catch;

**WE SUPPORT** the further development and testing of the HELCOM generic decision-support tool to map possible negative impacts of specific gear types on threatened or declining species and habitats, and which helps to develop and/or recommend measures to address these;

**WE DECIDE** to take action to reduce the negative impacts of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem and to this end, **SUPPORT** the development of fisheries management and technical measures to minimize unwanted by-catch of fish, birds and mammals in order to achieve the close to zero target for by-catch rates of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and minimize damage to sea bed habitats;

**WE AGREE** to continue the work on strengthening ecosystem-based management for coastal fish populations, utilizing, and enhancing as far as possible, monitoring for assessment of coastal fish communities;

**WE AGREE** to continue to work to develop common procedures to facilitate the sharing of aggregated data on fisheries activities in the Baltic Sea in an applicable format for the purpose of assessing pressures on marine and coastal ecosystems e.g. to be applied in maritime spatial planning.

**RECOGNIZING** that recreational fisheries conducted e.g. from boats using commercial gears at a certain scale may contribute to fishing mortality of certain commercially exploited fish stocks and impacts on biodiversity, **WE AGREE** to ask for advice from Regional Coordination Groups within the EU Data Collection Framework and ICES on how to improve data collected on such recreational fisheries, with a view to evaluate the impacts of such recreational fisheries on the marine environment;

**WE SUPPORT** the first set of core indicators of environmental status and pressures with the intention that they will form the basis of an indicator-based follow-up system for measuring progress towards achieving good environmental status with a full set of operational core indicators, and further **STRESS** that the joint coordinated monitoring by the Contracting Parties should provide the data necessary for regular updating of the HELCOM core indicators and assessments;

**Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)**

**HELCOM** also supports countries being EU members in implementation of Marine Strategy Framework Directive (highly relevant is especially new Commission Decision laying down criteria and methodological standards on good environmental status of marine waters and specifications and standardised methods for monitoring and assessment, and repealing Decision 2010/477/EU – Member States should establish threshold values for biodiversity criterion D1C1 (by-catch) including sea mammals, birds and non-commercially exploited fish species, and Descriptor D6 (sea floor integrity). Reporting under Article 8 of the MSFD currently is based on national MSFD indicator assessments (where they exist) and otherwise on evaluation criteria according to other EU Directives, including the FISH 7-2017, including the Habitats

Directive which i. a. obliges EU members to monitor bycatch of protected species (art. 12 Habitats Directive: *Member States shall establish a system to monitor the incidental capture and killing of the animal species listed in Annex IV*).

### **Scope**

**Basic scope of the Inventory:** To make two HELCOM core and pre-core indicators needed for assessments of Descriptors 1 and 6, operational:

- "Number of drowned mammals and waterbirds in fishing gear"
- "Cumulative impact on benthic biotopes".

The rationale of preparing the Inventory, is to identify data availability in order to assess how best to use this data to facilitate the monitoring of the two indicators. Where sufficient data is not available, possible and cost effective ways to collect data and monitor the indicators should be identified.

[Scope to be further developed in the Correspondence Group]

### **Next steps**

The Inventory and recommendations should (preferably) be ready and finally accepted by HELCOM by mid-2018.

The first step is to endorse the Inventory by the HELCOM FISH and STATE & CONSERVATION groups. Then it should be submitted to HOD/HELCOM meeting for the final adoption.

When the document is adopted at HELCOM level, it should be submitted for consideration and discussion under the Regional Coordination Meetings and Baltic Sea Advisory Council.