



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

13th Meeting of HELCOM Expert Group on Marine Mammals

EG MAMA 13-2019

Helsinki, Finland, 24-26 September 2019

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Background

This document contains the Terms of Reference for the 13th Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Group on Marine Mammals (EG MAMA 13-2019), drafted and agreed by SEAL 12-2018 and edited and endorsed by STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information and act according to the ToR.

Terms of Reference for EG MAMA 13-2019

The HELCOM Expert Group on Marine Mammals (EG MAMA) will during its 13th meeting, and in the intersessional period leading up to the meeting, do the following:

1. Indicators:
 - a. The health team will further develop existing, and start developing new, indicators for the health status of seals and porpoises.
 - b. Mr. Sacha Viquerat, Germany, and Ms. Julia Carlström, Sweden, Signe Sveegaard, Denmark and Iwona Pawliczka, Poland, and Olli Loisa, Finland, Ida Carlén (Chair of the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group) will continue the work on developing the indicator on 'Harbour porpoise distribution and abundance', splitting the indicator into two separate indicators, one on abundance and trends in abundance, and a second on trends in relative abundance, and report to **EG MAMA 13-2019**.
 - c. Mr. Sven Koschinski, Germany, in collaboration with Poland and Sweden and supported by CG FishData and the planner joint HELCOM and OSPAR workshop on by-catch indicator development, will continue the work on the development of the indicator 'Number of drowned mammals and waterbirds in fishing gears' and report to **EG MAMA 13-2019**.
2. Management plans:
 - a. Review current national management plans and their implementation in light of the Recommendation 27-28/2 as well as the management plan guidelines developed by SEAL 8-2014.
 - b. Review new and updated national management plans, to be circulated for discussion at **EG MAMA 13-2019**.
3. Database for abundance and distribution data on seals:
 - a. The Secretariat to present changes to the HELCOM Data and Information Strategy.
 - b. Countries to report on ongoing telemetry data initiatives to SEAL 13/2019 and consider presenting the results in the HELCOM Map and Data Services.
4. Monitoring guidelines:
 - a. The guidelines for monitoring reproductive and nutritional status of marine mammals will be further improved in cooperation between Germany, Sweden, Denmark and the health team **by EG MAMA 13-2019**.
5. Additional work on Baltic Sea harbour porpoise:
 - a. Information to the HELCOM/ASCOBANS database is to be updated by filling in the [reporting form](#) and sending it to the Secretariat (jannica.haldin@helcom.fi) **in advance of EG MAMA 13-2019**.
 - b. Nomination of national contacts for updating the HELCOM/ASCOBANS harbour porpoise database to be submitted to the Secretariat (jannica.haldin@helcom.fi).
 - c. Follow up on issues related to the update of Recommendation 17/2.

- d. Review the situation with the reporting form for Recommendation 17/2 based on developments in State and Conservation 9/ 2018 and in ASCOBANS at **EG MAMA 13-2019**.
- e. Ms. Penina Blankett, Vice-chair of the ASCOBANS AC to report on activities of ASCOBANS and Ms. Ida Carlén, Chair of Jastarnia Group, to report on activities of the Jastarnia Group at **EG MAMA 13-2019**.

9. Registered mortality of marine mammals

- a. Denmark to report mortality data from previous years from Kattegat **in advance of EG MAMA 13-2019**.
- b. All Contracting Parties to provide data on the mortality of marine mammals for year 2018 **in advance of EG MAMA 13-2019**.
- c. Germany, to inform **EG MAMA 13-2019** on the progress within OSPAR and ASCOBANS to develop databases for collecting detailed data (including geographical information) of mortality, necropsies and dead bodies, and to propose how to harmonize the HELCOM data collection with these other initiatives.

10. Marine mammals - fisheries interaction:

- a. Present outcome and results from the various seal/fisheries interaction initiatives taking place in 2019, CCB to present from the BaltFish symposium and the Secretariat to present the result of the HELCOM workshop on seal fisheries interactions.
- b. Continue discussion on the interactions between mammals and fisheries in cooperation with the HELCOM Fish group.
- c. Present progress from the ASCOBANS&ACCOBAMS working group on bycatch.

11. Intersessional activities of the teams

- a. The seal health team is requested to inform on their intersessional activities **at EG MAMA 13-2019**.
- b. The seal distribution team is requested to inform on their intersessional activities **at EG MAMA 13-2019**.