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<b>Document title</b>	Extracts from recent HELCOM meetings of relevance for EG MAMA
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<b>Agenda Item</b>	2 – Information by the Chair, HELCOM Secretariat and Contracting Parties
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## Background

This document contains extracts from recent HELCOM meetings of relevance for Seal Expert Group, including:

- [STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018](#) (Copenhagen, Denmark, 22-26 October 2018)
- [HOD 55-2018](#) (Helsinki, Finland, 4-5 December 2018)
- [FISH 9-2019](#) (Tallinn, Estonia, 30-31 January 2019)
- [STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019](#) (Hamina, Finland, 6-10 May 2019)
- [HOD 56-2019](#) (Helsinki, Finland, 18-19 June 2019)
- [FISH 10-2019](#) (Copenhagen, Denmark, 25-26 June 2019)
- [SFI WS 1-2019](#) (HELCOM Workshop on Seal-Fisheries Interactions; Copenhagen, Denmark, 27 June 2019)

## Action required

The Meeting is invited to take note and make use of the information.

## Extracts from recent HELCOM Meetings of relevance for EG MAMA

### Change of name of the group, working structure and Terms of Reference for EG MAMA 13-2019

STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018 agreed on the suggested change of name of the SEAL group to expert group on marine mammals (EG MAMA) as well as the new proposed working structure.

STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018 considered the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for EG MAMA 13-2019, edited them and in principle endorsed the ToR as contained in ([document 7J-10 rev.1](#)), with study reservations by Germany and Denmark. The meeting noted that comments to the ToR could be provided by 7 November 2018.

HOD 55-2018 took note that the Terms of Reference and the name of the SEAL EG have been updated.

### HELCOM core indicators on marine mammals

STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018:

- invited all indicator leads and the Secretariat to present an overview of gaps in the data needed to make the indicators fully functional, to facilitate prioritization of the upcoming work (to largely be based on already existing information collected through the indicator review questionnaire), and invited the indicator manager to present the information at State and Conservation 10-2019.
- invited the Secretariat to include data flows and data needs for candidate indicators in the overview, to facilitate prioritizing further work on indicator development, and present this overview at State and Conservation 10-2019.

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019:

- took note of information from Sweden that they are willing to co-lead the work on the development of the Harbour Porpoise indicator (Julia Carlström), that Sweden can confirm a new lead for the seal health indicators (Sara Persson).
- took note that Germany have a new nominated lead for the Harbour Porpoise indicator (Anita Gilles) and a new nominated contact for Fish Pro III (Claudia Starke).
- welcomed progress made on finding a common way forward by lead countries within the EG MAMA health team and the leads on existing HELCOM seal indicators that address health-related components. The Meeting also took note that the health team will hold a physical meeting for the whole Health Team on the 14th to 15th of August 2019 in Büsum, Germany, and supported the proposed work to develop assessments and harmonize monitoring and methods.
- took note of the following comments from Sweden on the work of mammal health indicators:
  - Sweden generally supports that the MAMA health team continues working on developing assessment approaches regarding the health of marine mammals. The outcome of the work should also provide a better understanding of effects from various pressures. This may include the outlined target organ approach but also other parameters should be considered. Several indicators should not be developed but rather using several parameters in one indicator or assessment approach.
  - The team should consider and provide a proposal for what can be delivered in the short term for use in HOLAS III regarding an assessment of marine mammal health, including addressing if and how current indicators (blubber thickness and pregnancy rate) should be considered in the assessment. The team should also consider and provide a proposal for medium- long term work on possibilities for developing quantitative methods and thresholds for assessing marine mammal health, including resource and research needs. Sweden encourages additional countries to contribute to the work and participate in the Health Team.

- Sweden is considering providing expert support to the work, including providing retrospective analyses on responses in seal health parameters coupled to population level impacts, exposure to environmental contaminants, and other pressures.
- Sweden strongly supports the outlined aims of the work of the group, to facilitate harmonisation in monitoring and methods
- took note that first HELCOM indicator workshop (HELCOM Indicator WS 1-2019 on 14-15 May 2019 in Berlin) takes place to initiate the future work on HELCOM indicators, and the provisional plans for a second workshop (autumn 2019), which will finalize the planning for the HELCOM indicator development.

## Reporting on implementation of Recommendations

### STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018:

- noted that in accordance with the Strategic Plan for the BSAP update, Contracting Parties will be requested to report on the implementation of HELCOM recommendations to support the update of the BSAP and that Working Groups are invited to propose a priority list of recommendations to be reported. The Meeting agreed on a priority list of recommendations as included in Annex 6, focusing on recommendations that include concrete measures to improve or protect the Baltic Sea. Recommendation 17/2, Protection of Harbour Porpoise in the Baltic Sea Area and Recommendation 27-28/2, Conservation of seals in the Baltic Sea Area, were included in the proposed list of recommendations to be reported.

### STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019:

- took note of the reporting on HELCOM recommendations under State and Conservation Working Group as presented by the Secretariat (document 8J-7, document 8J-7 rev.1)).
- took note of the state of the reporting and received information on implementation. The Meeting took note that reporting is still missing from three Contracting Parties, and that for some Contracting Parties the reporting is incomplete. The Meeting took note that any remaining reporting needs to be submitted to the Secretariat as soon as possible, as the results are to be presented at HOD 56-2019, as well as forming important input to the sufficiency of measures analysis.

### HOD 56-2019

- took note of the reporting on implementation of HELCOM Recommendations aimed for use in the sufficiency of measures analysis as part of the BSAP update (document 2-7) and noted that the Heads of Delegation will be requested to approve the results of the reporting intersessionally when the reporting is completed.

## Follow-up of Recommendation Conservation of seals in the Baltic Sea Area (27-28/2)

### STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019:

- took note of the BALTFISH symposium on seal – fish/fisheries interaction in the Baltic Sea, as presented by the Secretariat (presentation 17). The Meeting took note that, at the invitation of BALTFISH; HELCOM presented Recommendation 27-28/2 in the symposium.
- took note of HELCOM workshop on seal – fisheries interactions, taking place 27 June, back to back with HELCOM FISH 10-2019 meeting. The Meeting invited the planning group to involve EG MAMA in both the planning of the workshop and in the event itself.
- expressed support for the proposal that BALTFISH be invited to give a more comprehensive presentation at the HELCOM Fisheries-Seal workshop regarding the outcome and conclusions from the BALTFISH symposium.

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## Follow-up of Recommendation 37/2 Conservation of Baltic Sea Species categorized as threatened according to the 2013 HELCOM Red List.

### STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018:

- agreed to initiate reporting on the Recommendation and welcomed Germany's offer to draft a template for reporting on the level of implementation of the actions under the Recommendation, with assistance from the Secretariat, and present it to State and Conservation 10-2019.
- agreed that it would be beneficial to report on the Recommendation both from the perspective of level of implementation and effectiveness of measures, taking note of the related OSPAR work.

### STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019:

- recalled that STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018 agreed to initiate reporting on the Recommendation and welcomed Germany's offer to draft a template for reporting on the level of implementation of the actions under the Recommendation, with assistance from the Secretariat, and present it to State and Conservation 10-2019.
- took note of a draft template for reporting on the level of implementation of the actions under Recommendation 37/2, as presented by Germany (document 3N-10), and made further suggestions for further edits to the template, as provided in document 3N-10 rev.1.
- agreed to, once the changes have been implemented, test the template by implementing the first round of reporting on the Recommendation using the template by STATE&CONSERVATION 11-2019, as this allows CPs to use some of the information collated for the BSAP UP Recommendations reporting for the exercise.
- considered the schedule for reporting on the Recommendation. The Meeting considered the suggestion to use either a 3 or a 6 year reporting interval period and agreed that the final frequency of reporting will be agreed at STATE&CONSERVATION 11-2019 when there is a better understanding of the workload involved in using the template for reporting.
- took note of the reporting done under OSPAR recommendations on species protection and conservation as presented by Germany (document 3N-7). The Meeting considered that some of the reporting questions in the OSPAR reporting approach are also valid for HELCOM Recommendation 37/2. Germany informed the Meeting that therefore the respective questions were incorporated into the draft reporting template for Recommendation 37/2.
- took note that no updates in information on national conservation plans for species and biotopes categorized as threatened according to HELCOM 2013 Red List have been received since STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018 (document 3N-2).

## Conservation of ringed seals

### STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018

- took note of the information by Finland on regional cooperation for conservation measures for dunlin and ringed seal: Cooperation on ringed seal is ongoing in the Gulf of Finland, including aerial counts done by all relevant CP (SEAL 12-2018 presentation 2). Finland is currently updating the national seal management plan and measures for the ringed seal are to be included. No progress has been made on dunlin.
- expressed concern about the low numbers of ringed seal in the Gulf of Finland and encouraged the relevant Contracting Parties to take necessary measures to ensure the conservation of the species.

- took note of the information on Violations of HELCOM Recommendations in case of construction of Nord Stream II pipeline, as presented by Ida Carlén, Coalition Clean Baltic (document 3N-6). The Meeting noted the concern of CCB of the effects of the construction of the pipeline e.g. the important area in the Kurgalskiy peninsula and nature reserve for the threatened population of ringed seal in the Gulf of Finland.

## Guidelines

### STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018:

- took note of the monitoring guidelines for seal abundance and distribution in the HELCOM area, based on consideration by SEAL 12-2018 Meeting (document 4J-1)
- took note of the study reservation by Sweden and Denmark, and agreed that further comments to the guidelines can be submitted to the Secretariat (laura.hoikkala@helcom.fi) by 14 November 2018.
- agreed that reporting frequency should be included into the guidelines and suggested that the reporting should take place annually concomitantly with the EG MAMA meeting. The Meeting invited EG MAMA to discuss this at EG MAMA 13-2019 and agree on a reporting frequency for data on distribution and abundance.
- in principal endorsed the guidelines, noting the study reservation by Sweden and Denmark, and agreed that once they have been approved they will be transferred to the HELCOM Monitoring Manual.

### STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019:

- took note that the Guidelines for Monitoring Seal abundance and distribution in the HELCOM area, endorsed by STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018, have been published on the HELCOM website.

## Regional coordination of the assessment of marine mammals

### STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018:

- Recommendation of voluntary session on common understanding and future regional coordination of the assessment of marine species and habitats under EU directives: In depth discussions could be started within relevant HELCOM Expert groups, as the Helcom SEAL expert group for both harbour porpoise and seal species. Policy support for this discussion is needed. For seals, regional differences need to be reflected in the discussions.

## Fisheries-marine mammals interactions

### STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018:

- took note of the information on draft Terms of Reference for a joint OSPAR-HELCOM workshop for indicators for incidental bycatch, as presented by the Secretariat (document 3J-1).

### FISH 9-2019:

- noted that future Fish Group meetings will in particular follow and guide activities under the HELCOM ACTION project related to by-catch of mammals and birds and impacts on the seabed from fisheries.
- took note of the draft Terms of Reference for a joint OSPAR-HELCOM workshop for indicators for incidental bycatch (document 9-1), as introduced by the Secretariat.
- noted that the draft ToRs for the workshop have been drafted by the Secretariats of OSPAR and HELCOM, and have been submitted also to CG FISHDATA 3-2018, STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018 and GEAR 192018, as well as OSPAR ICG-COBAM for comments, and are also to be considered by OSPAR BDC 2019 on 25-29 March 2019 before finalization by the HELCOM and OSPAR Secretariats based on the comments received from all relevant meetings.

- noted with appreciation that experts from ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS and ICES working groups have already been contacted to ensure their valuable expertise is included already in the early preparation of this Workshop.
- recalled that CG Fishdata has been developing a Roadmap on collection of fisheries data in order to assess incidental bycatches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes in the Baltic Sea. CG FISHDATA 3-2018 agreed in November 2018 that while the draft Roadmap (set out in document 5 + attachments of CG FISHDATA 3-2018) contains much of the information needed, its current structure was not fit for purpose, and consequently a new structure for the Roadmap was developed (Annex 2 of the CG FISHDATA 3-2018 Outcome; document 6-1).
- the Meeting discussed the way forward with a view to finalizing the Roadmap, and agreed that Denmark will develop a revised draft Roadmap for consideration by the next meeting of EG Fishdata, with the aim of finalizing and agreeing on the Roadmap at FISH 10-2019 and subsequent submission for approval to the next possible meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation.

#### STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019:

- took note that a joint OSPAR-HELCOM workshop to examine possibilities for developing indicators for incidental by-catch of birds and marine mammals will take place on the 3-5 September in Denmark.
- took note of the increased cooperation between HELCOM, ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS and ICES in relation to work on the bycatch indicator.
- took note of proceedings on the draft Roadmap on collection of fisheries data in order to assess incidental by-catches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes in the Baltic Sea. The Meeting took note of progress of the work on the Draft Roadmap, as presented by Katarzyna Kaminska, Poland.
- noted that as of yet no milestones have been achieved, however EG FISHDATA is working intensely to finalize the roadmap. The Meeting noted that since STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018, the Roadmap has been discussed in the meetings of CG FISH DATA 3-2018, FISH 9-2019 and at an informal CG FISHDATA meeting back to back meeting with BALTFISH seal symposium on seal-fish-fisheries interactions in March. The Meeting further noted that the sub-tasks were divided on 1 April in an online meeting, and there is an upcoming online meeting on the 15 May to finalize the Roadmap in order to send it to FISH 10-2019 in June. The Meeting further noted that the intention is to provide the finalized Roadmap for STATE & CONSERVATION 11-2019.

#### FISH 10-2019:

- recalled that the Fish Group is to guide and review the work of the HELCOM ACTION Project, in particular Work Package 1 related to by-catch and Work Package 2 related to impacts on benthic habitats.
- took note of the information on planned work to evaluate the effect of spatial fishery regulation measures on seafloor integrity and by-catch in the HELCOM coordinated ACTION Project, utilizing the DISPLACE model (document 3-6-Rev.1) which can be used to evaluate the effect of closure of areas for fishing, both in terms of impact on benthic habitats and impacts on catch/revenue/profit for fisheries (Bastardie et al 2014). The results are meant to support the identification of areas most suitable for implementing spatial fishery regulations.
- took note of the information on Work Package 1 of the ACTION Project regarding by-catch (Presentation 6). This Work Package is also cooperating with Work Package 2, e.g., with regard to assessing the cost and effectiveness of fisheries closures or displacements. The Meeting noted that with regard to harbour porpoises the focus is currently on Danish and Swedish waters due to better availability of density data, but the project will also make efforts to assess the situation elsewhere in the Baltic Sea, e.g. using data from the SAMBAH Project.
- took note that measures to reduce by-catch may be expensive (in particular the development of alternative fishing gears) and that coordination between countries is necessary to optimize resources.
- took note of the Terms of Reference and information regarding the progress in planning the OSPAR-HELCOM Joint By-catch Workshop, to be held on 3-5 September 2019 in Copenhagen, Denmark (document 9-2).

- discussed the workshop in more detail and noted that formal communication and request of advice may need to be submitted jointly by HELCOM and OSPAR to the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), in case there are needs for involving ICES working groups or the ICES Data Centre on the basis of the outcome of the workshop.
- considered the draft Roadmap on fisheries data in order to assess incidental by-catches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes in the Baltic Sea, submitted by Denmark, Finland, Germany, Poland, and Sweden (document 6-1).
- agreed that a timeline of due MSFD and HD assessments should not be included in the Roadmap.
- took note of the contribution by ICES to the draft Roadmap (document 6-2) and agreed that the Annex from that document will be included as annex to the draft Roadmap. The Meeting did not see the need for any additional annexes to be included in the Roadmap.
- having drafted and agreed on a new text for Chapter 5 of the draft Roadmap, and having made some additional minor amendments to the draft set out in document 6-1, the Meeting agreed on the final version of the Roadmap as contained in Annex 3. The Meeting also agreed that there should be a strong link with the Roadmap and the update of the BSAP.
- agreed that the agreed Roadmap should be submitted for agreement also to STATE&CONSERVATION 11-2019 (October 2019), as Chapter 1 of the Roadmap requests State&Conservation to ensure that the collected data serve the scientific purpose of the HELCOM indicators. The Meeting further proposed that the draft Roadmap should subsequently be submitted to HOD 57-2019 for approval and HELCOM 41-2020 for adoption.

#### SFI WS 1-2019:

- **Outcome and next steps:**

Considering the information provided in the presentations as well as the summaries of the group discussions, the Workshop recognized that seal populations in general have been increasing in the Baltic Sea, but the situation varies between sub-regions. Abundance data is available, but spatial and temporal distribution at sea is not as well known. It was also noted that the ecosystem approach needs to be considered, it is not viable to only focus on seals. Seal-fisheries interactions were noted to be a serious issue, although the reasons and solutions thereto were challenging to identify objectively. The possible need to revise HELCOM Recommendation 27-28/2 on conservation of seals in the Baltic Sea was also raised.

Concrete steps are needed to make the ecosystem approach operational. The BSAP calls for the ecosystem based management approach, but this has not yet been accomplished. Involvement from all stakeholders would be needed, including fishermen and nature conservation. It was also noted that the issue may need to be divided into tangible portions (e.g. ecology, fisheries management, depredation and technical options) and to involve the relevant experts to consider each portion.

The Workshop was seen as a useful start to the discussions in addressing seal-fisheries interactions in the Baltic Sea, but more work, including involvement of, e.g. the HELCOM Fish Group, State & Conservation, EG MAMA, EN-Noise, the HELCOM-VASAB Working Group on MSP is evident. The process of updating the BSAP was agreed to provide a good opportunity in ensuring commitment for a way forward in this regard, both on a regional and national level.

#### Underwater noise

##### STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018:

- highlighted that there is a need for more concrete planning for HELCOM work on threshold values for underwater noise, in line with the decision of the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2018, which is currently lacking in the proposed ToR for EN-Noise for 2018-2021. The Meeting suggested to GEAR to discuss the issue with the aim of establishing a shared understanding and guidance on how this Ministerial task related to thresholds should be executed in collaborative manner with the work of TG Noise.

- took note of the information on coordinated reporting and hosting of HELCOM continuous noise monitoring data and supported the hosting of the database and soundscape by ICES (document 3MA-6).
- took note that Denmark and Poland would prefer that the database is funded from the HELCOM budget and welcomed the information that Sweden is willing to co-fund initial cost to set up the database at ICES and that Sweden is of the opinion that the tool should also be hosted there.
- took note that Germany is of the opinion that the evaluation of the requirements for soundscape modelling should be addressed as soon as possible, or as soon as the hosting of the data is settled.
- agreed that it would be highly beneficial for experts across the region working on monitoring of noise to share experiences, e.g. Contracting Parties which are now starting monitoring could seek advice from Contracting Parties where the monitoring is already in place.
- agreed to submit this information to the upcoming HOD 55-2018 for further deliberation on funding options for hosting HELCOM continuous noise monitoring data from the Contracting Parties.

#### HOD 55-2019:

- agreed provisionally to maintain the original segments for the updated BSAP with the following preliminary adjustments, noting that the detailed content to be covered by the segments is still to be further defined and that the agreement on the BSAP structure is aimed for at HOD in December 2019:
  - o to include under the Maritime segment a broader set of sea-based activities, e.g. construction work, dredging, extraction of mineral resources, fishing, and consider changing the name of the segment to 'Sea-based activities'. The topics underwater noise and loss and disturbance of the seabed are tentatively assigned to this segment.
  - o to request Working Groups to initiate the development of ecological or management objectives for the topics marine litter, underwater noise, and loss and disturbance of the seabed.
- agreed that hazardous substances, non-indigenous species, marine litter, underwater noise, and elements of biodiversity not covered by the HELCOM ACTION project are possible additional topics for analyses of sufficiency of measures, to be carried out by the SOM Platform.
- considered and approved the draft Terms of Reference for the Expert Network on Underwater Noise for 2018-2021 (documents 4-7 and 4-7-Corr.1), as contained in Annex 6 to outcome of the meeting.

#### STATE & CONSERVATION 10:

- took note of recent progress on the monitoring of underwater noise. The Meeting noted that enough resources have been gathered to establish the database at ICES.

#### Harbour porpoise

##### STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018:

- considered that, as new knowledge on the existence of two sub-populations of the harbour porpoises in the Baltic Sea and work on the new indicators concerning Baltic harbour porpoise, a revision of the Recommendation 17/2 is needed, and invited HOD 55-2018 to consider initiating a process to revise the Recommendation.
- discussed the not yet implemented joint HELCOM actions linked to the State and Conservation Group and agreed on a process for their implementation as indicated in Annex 5 to the outcome of the meeting. The Meeting noted the following identified needs related to harbor porpoise and agreed to include them in the State and Conservation 2019-2020 Workplan:
  - o to collate information on existing technical measures for minimising bycatch of harbour porpoise, and which of these measures are currently being used in the Baltic Sea, to support future evaluation of the effectiveness of measures.



- to collate information on existing criteria for assessing favorable conservation status of harbour porpoise.

## HOD 55-2018:

- took note of the technical amendments to HELCOM Recommendation 17/2 on protection of harbor porpoise (document 4-23). The Meeting took note of the clarification that Sweden can lift their study reservation on the proposal, and that, while Germany cannot lift their study reservation, they are open to a revision of the Recommendation.
- agreed to initiate a process to revise the Recommendation whereby State and Conservation 10-2019 will provide initial revisions to the document, to be submitted to EG MAMA 13-2019 meeting for further revision and to State and Conservation 11-2019 for endorsement and submission to HOD 57-2019 for approval, aiming at adoption by HELCOM 41-2020.

## STATE &amp; CONSERVATION 10-2019:

- took note that following the agreement HOD 55, the Meeting is invited to draft revisions to the Recommendation (document 3N-16).
- took note of the comment by Lead country Poland, that as a start two paragraphs need further work. The Meeting took note that the two populations should be separately taken into account in the revised recommendation. To forward the work, the Meeting formed a drafting group to further consider the revision to forward the process.
- took note of the edits proposed by the drafting group to the revision of the Recommendation and further edited the draft as contained in document 3N-16 rev.1.
- took note of the comment by Denmark that due to the upcoming elections a disclaimer regarding the Danish mandate needs to be added to the document.
- agreed that the draft revised recommendation will be submitted to EG MAMA 13-2019 for review and further input, before being reviewed by STATE&CONSERVATION 11-2019 with the intention of submitting the revised recommendation for approval by HOD 57-2019 and adoption by HELCOM 41-2020.
- took note of the national work relevant for the Recommendation as stated in outcome paragraph 3N.4.
- took note of the concerns by CCB related to harbor porpoise as stated in outcome paragraph 3N.5.
- took note that Sweden has Red-list reporting in 2018 and will report the two Baltic Sea harbor porpoise populations separately.
- took note of information by CCB about an ongoing project where so called seal-safe pingers, which emit sound presumably above the seal hearing frequency, from two manufacturers will be tested in active gillnet fisheries in the Baltic Sea. The Meeting noted that the aim of the project is to determine if the rate of seal-damage to catch is increased or not when using these pingers, and if the results may increase the willingness of fishermen in the Baltic Sea region to use pingers.
- took note that Denmark has results on seal/pinger interactions, which might be relevant for the CCB – WWF Sweden project. The Meeting further noted that these topics are also of considered under the bycatch work in ACTION project.
- took note that the HELCOM Secretariat was approached by a project consortium planning to submit an application under the current LIFE call for a SAMBAH II. The project consortium approached HELCOM to take the role of coordinator in the project. The Meeting took note that HOD have mandated HELCOM to function as coordinator for the the project, should the project get funded. The Meeting noted that if the project will actualize with HELCOM coordination, a project coordinator will be hired for the task.
- took note of information from Contracting Parties Denmark and Finland that they have not confirmed funding for the project, but both Contracting Parties are in favor of the project and checking the possibility to contribute with national funding for the project.

### Future meetings

HOD 56-2019 approved the arranging of the meeting of STATE&CONSERVATION 12-2020 on 11-15 May 2020, tentatively to be hosted by Estonia.

HOD 56-2019 decided that the next meeting (HOD 57-2019) will be held on 10-11 December 2019 in Helsinki. The Meeting decided that HOD 58-2020 will be held tentatively on 8-9 June 2020.