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<b>Document title</b>	Terms of Reference of the EG MAMA
<b>Code</b>	2-1
<b>Category</b>	INF
<b>Agenda Item</b>	2 – Information by the Chair, Secretariat and Contracting Parties
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<b>Submitted by</b>	Secretariat
<b>Reference</b>	STATE & CONSERVATION 11-2019, paragraph 7J.4

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## Background

This document contains the Terms of Reference for the HELCOM Expert Group on Marine Mammals (EG MAMA) drafted at the latest meeting of the group, EG MAMA 13-2019, held in Helsinki, Finland, 24-26 September 2019.

STATE & CONSERVATION 11-2019 considered the draft Terms of Reference of the EG MAMA and invited the EG to:

- to discuss how a Precautionary Approach Level for the individual seal populations (Management Units) or something similar can be modelled or otherwise determined (e.g. by expert assessment). If a separate project is required for this purpose, a project description should be drawn up;
- discuss how knowledge about the partially unknown occurrence and birthplaces of grey seals can be improved
- re-examine if seal populations are adequately protected by HELCOM and Natura 2000 MPAs
- present figures on seal abundances in tabular form, to be included in the HELCOM biodiversity database, and population trend curves for all management units to be presented on the HELCOM website,
- look into the possibility to define the share of the population in national waters,
- come up with a proposal to further the knowledge on parasites in grey seals, the interaction with fish (including cod) and the possible effects on fisheries,
- collect and collate more precise information on illegal killing and bycatch of marine mammals.

and agreed on the ToR with these clarifications and additions.

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information and act according to the ToR and the additional tasks set by State and Conservation WG.

## Draft Terms of Reference for EG MAMA 14-2020

The HELCOM Expert Group on Marine Mammals (EG MAMA) will during its 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, and in the intersessional period leading up to the meeting, do the following:

1. Indicators:

- a. The Marine Mammal Health team will further develop existing and new indicators for the health status of seals and porpoises including considering expanding the reproduction indicator to include ringed seal, harbor seal and harbor porpoise, and report to **EG MAMA 14-2020**.
- b. The co-Leads for the Harbour Porpoise Abundance and Distribution indicators, together with the Harbour Porpoise Abundance and Distribution Team, will continue the work on developing the indicators on 'Harbour porpoise distribution and abundance', including further defining key monitoring sites and reference levels and report to **EG MAMA 14-2020**.
- c. Mr. Sven Koschinski, Germany, in collaboration with Poland and Sweden and supported by CG FishData, will continue the work on the development of the indicator 'Number of drowned mammals and waterbirds in fishing gears' and report to **EG MAMA 14-2020**.

2. Management plans of marine mammals:

- a. The national representative to EG MAMA are requested to review the new and updated national management- and action plans from their respective countries against the guidelines developed by SEAL 8-2014, and present the results for discussion at **EG MAMA 14-2020**.

3. Dataflows for data on seals and harbor porpoise:

Data on seal abundance and distribution

- a. Countries to present the results of the 2019 seal surveys.
- b. The Secretariat to report back on how seal survey data can be included in the HELCOM Biodiversity Database.
- c. Countries to report on any ongoing telemetry data initiatives to EG MAMA 14-2020 and consider presenting the results in the HELCOM Map and Data Services.

HELCOM/ASCOBANS Database on Harbour Porpoise

- d. 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](mailto:jannica.haldin@helcom.fi)) in advance of EG MAMA 13-2019.
- e. Nomination of national contacts for updating the HELCOM/ASCOBANS harbour porpoise database to be submitted to the Secretariat ([jannica.haldin@helcom.fi](mailto:jannica.haldin@helcom.fi)).

Mortality of Marine Mammals

- f. Denmark to report mortality data from previous years from Kattegat in advance of EG MAMA 13-2019.

- g. All Contracting Parties to provide data on the mortality of marine mammals for year 2018 in advance of EG MAMA 13-2019.
  - h. 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.
4. Monitoring guidelines:
- a. The guidelines for monitoring blubber thickness-, guidelines for monitoring of reproductive status-, guidelines for monitoring for the draft health indicators for marine mammals will be further improved by the health team intersessionally and presented at **EG MAMA 14-2020**.
  - b. The Harbour Porpoise Distribution and Abundance team will commence the work on drafting monitoring guidelines for distribution and abundance intersessionally and present at **EG MAMA 14-2020**.
5. Work on Baltic Sea harbour porpoise:
- a. Follow up on issues related to the update of Recommendation 17/2.
  - b. 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 14-2020**.
9. Marine mammals - fisheries interaction:
- a. Continue discussion on the interactions between mammals and fisheries in cooperation with the HELCOM Fish group.
  - b. Present progress from the ASCOBANS&ACCOBAMS working group on bycatch.
10. Intersessional activities of the teams
- a. The marine mammal health team is requested to inform on their intersessional activities at **EG MAMA 14-2020**.
    - i. The Team will strive to further work on the Anisakid nematode species in marine mammals resident in the Baltic Sea and strive to expand the work to include fish health and intermediate hosts.
    - ii. The Team will hold its second workshop in Poland in January.
  - b. The Seal Distribution team is requested to inform on their intersessional activities at **EG MAMA 14-2020**.
  - c. The Seal Abundance team is requested to inform on their intersessional activities at **EG MAMA 14-2020**.
  - d. The Harbour Porpoise Abundance and Distribution Team is requested to inform on their intersessional activities at **EG MAMA 14-2020**.
    - i. The Team is to collate national information on how Favourable Conservation Status has been decided, and develop a suggestion for a regional definition for the term,

to support the revision of existing actions to be included in the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan, and provide the information to State and Conservation WG.

- ii. The Team is to review the list of by-catch mitigation measures prepared by FISH WG and submit a list of available measures to State and Conservation WG.

## ANNEX 1: Role and membership of the EG MAMA Teams

### Marine Mammal Health Team

Role of team:

To review marine mammal health data. This team will identify need for research relevant to assess marine mammal health status and collect information and evaluate results.

Team Membership:

Germany	Ursula Siebert (Team Lead)
Denmark	Morten Tange Olsen
Denmark	Heidi Huus Petersen
Denmark	Line Kyhn
Denmark	Rune Dietz
Denmark	Anders Galatius
Estonia	Ivar Jussi
Estonia	Mart Jussi
Finland	Marja Isomursu
Finland	Kaarina Kauhala
Germany	Kristina Lehnert
Germany	Michael Dähne
Latvia	Valdis Pilats
Lithuania	Ignas Kazlauskas
Lithuania	Vaida Surviliene
Poland	Iwona Pawliczka
Russia	Mikhail Verevkin
Sweden	Sara Persson
Sweden	Karin Hårding
Sweden	Britt-Marie Bäcklin

## Harbour Porpoise Abundance and Distribution Team

### Role of the Team:

To function as a cooperation and coordination platform in order to harmonize national harbor porpoise work, including monitoring, on a regional scale to achieve sufficient data quality for the harbor porpoise indicators. To support the indicator leads in their work to maintain and develop indicators for harbor porpoise.

### Team Membership:

Country	Name
Germany	Michael Dähne
Germany	Anita Gilles (Team lead)
Germany	Dominik Nachtsheim
Sweden	Julia Carlström (Team lead)
Denmark	Signe Sveegaard
Poland	Iwona Pawliczka
Finland	Olli Loisa
ASCOBANS	Ida Carlén
Denmark	Finn Larsen
Poland	Katarzyna Kaminska
Finland	Penina Blankett
WWF	Antti Halkka

**Seal Population Team**

Role of Team:

To develop and coordinate abundance and trend monitoring and undertake abundance and trend estimations

Team Membership

Country	Name
Estonia	Ivar Jussi (Team Lead)
Denmark	Finn Larsen
Denmark	Morten Olsen
Denmark	Anders Galatius
Finland	Penina Blankett
Finland	Mervi Kunnasranta
Finland	Mikko Toivola
Germany	Alexander Liebschner
Germany	Linda Westphal
Poland	Iwona Pawliczka
Russia	Mikhail Verevkin
Sweden	Markus Ahola
Sweden	Susanne Viker

## Seal Distribution Team

### Role of Team:

1. Review of seal distribution data
2. Gather information on, and evaluate research on seal movements, e.g. from satellite tagging programmes;
3. Identification of suitable habitats for breeding, moulting, and at sea distribution for harbour seals and moulting and at sea distribution for grey seals and ringed seals.
4. Identification of protected areas for seals in the Baltic either on a national, HELCOM or EU level and evaluate the protection regime;
5. Identification of those habitats already used by seals with a view to a potential establishment of those habitats identified under 2. and 3. as potential protected areas for seals; and
6. Work on the suggestion to use the degree of geographical coverage (expansion) of suitable habitats in the Baltic Sea as reference levels for the distribution reference levels. Development/Specification of this objective as an indicator for the Baltic Sea Action Plan.

### Team Membership:

Estonia	Mart Jussi (Team Lead)
Estonia	Märt Kesküla
Denmark	Finn Larsen
Denmark	Morten Olsen
Denmark	Anders Galatius
Finland	Mervi Kunnasranta
Finland	Penina Blankett
Germany	Alexander Liebschner
Germany	Michael Dähne
Poland	Iwona Pawliczka
Russia	Mikhail Verevkin
Sweden	Markus Ahola
Sweden	Susanne Viker
WWF	Antti Halkka