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## Background

Since 2016, the Self-Assessment Tool (SAT) has been used as a tool for Contracting Parties to report progress in developing their national oiled wildlife preparedness. The SAT was supported by RESPONSE 25-2018 as the reporting tool on oiled wildlife preparedness. CPs that participated in the Expert Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR, predecessor to the Expert Group on Wildlife Response (EG WILDLIFE)) have filled out the tool as part of their reporting to the HELCOM Response Working Group every two years. The SAT has also been adopted by the Bonn Agreement's OTSOPA Group, although results are not routinely reported at meetings, and has also been used by a number of Mediterranean countries as part of the RETOS and the West MOPoCo projects. The tool is therefore already in use by countries from all three major Regional Agreements in Europe, as a way to benchmark and evaluate the level of preparedness for oiled wildlife emergencies.

Sea Alarm has recently transformed the tool from an excel format into an online format, housed within the Sea Alarm website at <https://www.sea-alarm.org/self-assessment-tool/>. The new online tool is a pilot (see Figure 1 below), designed to be easier to use than the previous excel-based version. The online version ensures that all completed SAT's from one country are saved in one location and can be accessed and reviewed year after year or whenever needed. SATs from different countries in Europe will be kept in the same place allowing Sea Alarm to access and support countries if needed. It also allows for preparedness averages to be easily created and visualised per region, which is an efficient way to present the current state of play throughout the different regional seas in Europe.

In the pilot version, the SAT is not publicly available. It can only be accessed via a login provided by Sea Alarm (no logins have been issued so far). One account is provided per country to ensure that only one national version of the tool is submitted (with the idea that all stakeholders in each country discuss the SAT together before completing it online).

Once logged in, HELCOM countries would have access to the SAT application, including a guide on how to complete it and will be able to complete their own SAT straightaway (they might also find previously completed versions of the SAT that Sea Alarm have transferred into the system). Countries with a login will also have access to a view of the different SAT diagrams from other countries within the HELCOM Region that have also completed the SAT online (see Figure 2, results from 2020 transferred by Sea Alarm). HELCOM countries would also be able to view the SAT diagrams from countries in the North Sea and Mediterranean regions. The underlying data that generated the diagrams is only visible by individual countries.

Sea Alarm will provide a short demo of the pilot online SAT tool during the meeting.

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Self-Assessment Tool (SAT) (Version 2.0) Home » Self-Assessment Tool (SAT) (Version 2.0)

**Background**  
 In 2015 IPECA-DGP published the [Good Practice Guide on Oiled Wildlife Preparedness](#). The document is designed to guide industry and governments in developing a level of preparedness for oiled wildlife response that meets an international standard of good practice. It describes the nature of an oiled wildlife incident and the various challenges that responders may be confronted with and it also provides recommendations for developing response plans and their implementation. To assist with benchmarking their progress, Sea Alarm has developed a Self-Assessment Tool (SAT) as an instrument that countries can use to assess their current level of preparedness against what could be considered as an "excellent" system of preparedness, or at least a "good basis".

**SAT Principles**  
 The Self-Assessment tool takes you through a series of statements, divided into 6 categories (Planning & Integration, Exercises, Training, Equipment & Facilities, Euthanasia and Partnering & Funding). The categories represent systems that have been created or activities that are taking place as part of a country's intention to develop a higher level of oiled wildlife preparedness. The statements you choose when filling in the SAT signify the level of preparedness in each category, and that level of preparedness increases as you move through the statements in each category. In other words, leading to "excellent" preparedness rating as the last statement. When completing the SAT, countries should select the statements which most closely describe their assessment of preparedness, which will result in a specific score for each category. Once you have finished completing the SAT, the results are represented on a radar chart (See Fig.1) with the different preparedness categories on each of the chart's axes and the different levels of preparedness in the chart's gridlines. The blue rings in the chart, moving from light to dark blue as you move outwards, represent an increasing level of preparedness.

**Fig. 1. Example of a completed SAT**

**Completing a SAT**  
 This page gives you access to your country's portal to complete the SAT v2.0.

Figure 1 – Entry (login) page to the Self-Assessment Tool on Sea Alarm’s website

**SEA ALARM**  
 Back to main page Self-assessment tool

**Results Self Assessment Tool**  
 Region: HELCOM

Sweden (2020) Poland (2020) Lithuania (2020) Latvia (2020) Germany (2020)  
 Finland (2020) Estonia (2020) Denmark (2020)

Note: These are the SAT completed and published on the online portal by the countries in the Region so far. If for some reason you prefer that your country's SAT result graph does not appear in this Region summary page please contact Sea Alarm.

Figure 2 – Results page for HELCOM countries

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information provided about the new online Self-Assessment Tool (SAT) and to consider the following:

- Is the SAT still useful as a HELCOM tool for reporting progress on developing national oiled wildlife preparedness?
- Are Contracting Parties willing to keep using it for this purpose?
- Is there added value in keeping the tool updated online and, in that way, having access to the results from other countries when logged in?