



## Outcome of Eleventh Meeting of the Expert Network on dredging/depositing operations at sea

(EN DREDS 11-2021)

### Introduction

The online meeting took place 18 January 2021. It started at 14:00 and terminated at 15:30 (EET). Participants from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Sweden, and Poland attended the meeting. List of participants is contained in the Annex 1.

### Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

1.1 The Meeting adopted the agenda of the Meeting.

### Agenda Item 2 Outcomes of the recent HELCOM meeting relevant to the group's work

2.1 The Meeting took note of the outcomes of recent meetings relevant to the group's work presented by the HELCOM Secretariat.

### Agenda Item 3 Data Reporting

3.1 The Meeting took note of the procedure for data verification and the status of the process as presented by the Secretariat.

3.2 The Meeting took note of the information that all Contracting Parties present at the meeting foresee that they will be able verify the data by the deadline of 1 February.

3.3 The Meeting took note of the need for early reporting of 2021 data already in May 2022 due to the upcoming HOLAS III assessment (document 3-1).

3.4 The Meeting discussed the opportunity for early data report and concluded that for the CPs present at the Meeting early reporting will likely be possible, though some national consultations are still needed.

### Agenda Item 4 Conversion factors

4.1 The Meeting discussed the issue of conversion factors based on the presentation by Sweden (document 4-1).

4.2 The Meeting took note on the views of Contracting Parties as follows:

- Germany: Conducts the conversion using the conversion factors as indicated in the template of OSPAR (and its example calculation). Usually Germany calculates with 1.2 t/m<sup>3</sup> for silt (instead 1.3), 1.8 for sand and 1.5 for general (mixed type). If the water content is unknown Germany calculates with 50 % water content.
- Denmark: Conversion is mainly done using laboratory analysis of water content in core samples. This is however not always possible. Thus, in some cases, national default values are used.
- Finland: Suggests that the volume, type of volume (barge-, theoretical-, wet-volume, etc.) and conversion factor used in the reporting should also be reported by the template, in addition to dry weight

4.3 The Meeting in general concluded that using lab analysis is the preferable way for conversion from volume of dredged material to its dry weight. Nonetheless, default values could be used when lab analysis are not available. The Meeting also pointed out the difference in the reporting templates example calculation method given in HELCOM and OSPAR reporting templates and requested the Secretariat to enquire relevant OSPAR WG on the rationale and scientific background behind it.

4.4 The Meeting assumed that including of the raw data on volumes of dredged material and used conversion factors in the reporting might improve quality and traceability of the reported data as well as transparency of the HELCOM databases.

4.5 The Meeting suggested that after clarification with OSPAR there might be a need to update some parts of the HELCOM Guidelines for Management of Dredged Material at Sea to better harmonize the reporting with OSPAR and improve data quality. This issue will be discussed at the group next meeting in March 2021, and Contracting Parties are invited to indicate any other possible needs for revision of the Guideline.

#### **Agenda Item 5 Any other business**

5.1 The Meeting took note of the question by Poland about national permitting processes related to activities such as constructing a pipeline, where material dredged is being deposited at the same location. In Poland the dredging and depositing are considered in the same permit.

5.2 The Meeting took note of the information by Sweden that in their national processes this is usually considered as one permit, but it can also depend on the particular case. For Estonia there is also one permit, but the one responsible for the dredging has the possibility to decide whether to consider them separately.

5.3 The Meeting invited other Contracting Parties to inform Poland (Dominika.Dlutek-Malinowska@mi.gov.pl) about their national practices, with a copy to the Secretariat (Juuso.Haapaniemi@helcom.fi).

#### **Agenda Item 6 Future work and meetings**

6.1 The Meeting agreed to have the next online meeting tentatively on **15 March 2021, 14-16 EET**, to discuss the reporting to LC/LP, BSEFS for depositing of dredged material and possible revision of the Guideline due to changes in conversion factors.

#### **Agenda Item 7 Outcome of the Meeting**

7.1 The Meeting approved outcomes via correspondence.

## Annex 1 List of Participants

<b>Contracting Party</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>E-mail address</b>
Denmark	The Danish Environmental Protection Agency	Mikkel Keller Lees	mikle@mst.dk
Estonia	Ministry of Environment	Kaspar Anderson	Kaspar.anderson@envir.ee
Finland	Finnish environment institute	Lauri Äystö	lauri.aysto@syke.fi
Germany	Federal Institute of Hydrology	Holger Haase	holger.haase@bafg.de
Germany	Federal Institute of Hydrology	Heike Buettner	buettner@bafg.de
Lithuania	Ministry of Environment	Agnė Lukoševičienė	agne.lukoseviciene@am.lt
Sweden	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	Michael Pohl	michael.pohl@havochvatten.se
Sweden	IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute	Rasmus Parsmo	rasmus.parsmo@ivl.se
Sweden	IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute	Hanna André	hanna.andre@ivl.se
Poland	Ministry of Infrastructure	Dominika Dłutek-Malinowska	Dominika.Dlutek-Malinowska@mi.gov.pl
HELCOM Secretariat	HELCOM Secretariat	Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky	dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi
HELCOM Secretariat	HELCOM Secretariat	Juuso Haapaniemi	juuso.haapaniemi@helcom.fi