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<b>Document title</b>	Outcome
<b>Submission date</b>	18.12.2018
<b>Submitted by</b>	HELCOM Secretariat

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

### Introduction

The online meeting took place in 14<sup>th</sup> December. It started at 10:00 and terminated at 12:30 (EET). Participants from Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Estonia and Poland attended the meeting. List of participants is contained in the Annex 1.

### Agenda item 1

1.1 The Meeting adopted the agenda of the Meeting.

### Agenda item 2

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

3.1 The Meeting took note of the status of the 2017 reporting and agreed to proceed further with data verification in accordance with agreed procedure.

3.2 The Meeting clarified that both depositing and beneficial use of the material are included into the LP reporting.

3.3 The Meeting took note of the info that Polish data were reported in mg/kg which was indicated in the notes to the data in the five HELCOM dumping sites.

### Agenda item 4

4.1 The Meeting took note of and discussed the result of data verification 2006-2016.

4.2 The Meeting took note of the information that Sweden is uncertain of the quality of their data for the years 2006-2012, but would not like to delete the data, and that Denmark suggests to delete their data for the years 2009 and 2010.

4.3 The Meeting took note of Germany's opinion that only regionally consistent dataset should be considered in the analysis.

4.4 The Meeting agreed that only the data which are quality assured across the region are to be used for the assessment. Therefore only data for the years 2013-2016 will be used for the draft assessment.

4.5 The Meeting agreed that data that is not quality assured will still be kept in the database and published in the HELCOM Map and Data service. This data will be specifically marked with quality flag and relevant explanations will be given in the metadata.

4.6 The Meeting agreed that Contracting Parties will provide the Secretariat a short explanation text (by **1<sup>st</sup> February 2019**) justifying why their data could not be quality assured and this text will be added to the metadata.

4.7 The Meeting took note of Germany's remark that in fig. 3 and 4 the text should be changed to indicate not the "type of deposited material", but the "type of activity that this material is originating from".

4.8 The Meeting took note of Germany's comment to add "originating from sea" also to the heading of fig. 10.

4.9 The Meeting considered and discussed the content of the assessment document, particularly, whether the contaminant loads should be presented on maps (Fig. 38-42) as total amount of pollutants introduced into the marine environment with the deposited material or as their concentrations in the dredged material.

4.10 The Meeting agreed that the Secretariat will prepare maps illustrating the concentration and present them at the next meeting. A map visualizing data on total amounts of material deposited at sea will also be prepared.

4.11 The Meeting agreed that the Secretariat will make the suggested changes by **1<sup>st</sup> February 2019** and circulate it to the group.

#### Agenda item 5

5.1 The Meeting agreed that the mandate of the group is to be prolonged for the years 2019-2021.

5.2 The Meeting agreed that the suggested changes to ToR will be made by Secretariat and the amended ToR will be circulated to the group, together with the outcome.

5.3 The Meeting agreed on procedure that Contracting Parties will have time until **11<sup>th</sup> January 2019** to comment on the ToR. After the commenting the document will be forwarded to PRESSURE for endorsement by correspondence and then submitted to HELCOM 40-2019 for approval.

#### Agenda item 6

6.1 The Meeting took note on the info that OSPAR changed their assessment period for three years, but the reporting will still take place annually.

6.2 The Meeting took note of the information about the draft programme of the round table devoted to dredging activities at the Environmental Forum Baltic Sea Days 2019 in St. Petersburg. The Meeting acknowledged the importance of the Forum for the involvement of Russian experts into the regional work on compilation of data and assessment of environmental pressure caused by dredging/depositing operations at sea and invited Contracting Parties to investigate their possibilities to attend the Forum.

#### Agenda item 7

7.1 The Meeting agreed to have the next online meeting tentatively during the week 18-22 February 2019.

## 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	Christina Abel	chabe@mst.dk
Estonia	Ministry of the Environment	Martin Ott	martin.ott@envir.ee
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