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

Introduction

The online meeting took place 21st February. It started at 10:00 and terminated at 12:00 (EET). Participants from Sweden, Denmark, Germany and Estonia 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 discussed the draft analysis of reported data in 2016.

3.2 The Meeting took note that at fig 8 the sites with 0 deposition should be removed from the map.

3.3 The Meeting agreed that for Fig 2, it should be clarified that the reflected dredging sites have links with depositing sites and other dredging sites have not been shown.

3.4 The Meeting agreed to replace "threshold" by "below detection limit" in Fig 46.

3.5 The Meeting discussed the way how concentrations can be visualized on the map.

3.6 The Meeting agreed with the suggestion by Germany to postpone the discussion on the way to include concentrations to the assessment. Germany will come up with a suggestion when national discussion on the information required for the assessment will be finalized.

3.7 The Meeting took note of the ongoing discussion in Sweden on the effects of human activities that should be included into environmental assessment. The Meeting agreed to withdraw the maps with concentrations for the assessment for time being and return to the discussion at a later stage.

3.8 The Meeting proposed to use the same scale for Figures 12 and 13 but the scaling of vertical axis of Fig 11 can be different.

3.9 The Meeting pointed out that the group will work further on the advancement of the assessment.

Agenda item 4

- 4.1 The Meeting discussed data verification and Estonia approved their national datasets for 2017 reporting. Sweden informed to perform the verification soon.
- 4.2 The Meeting urged the other group members to approve the national datasets as soon as possible.
- 4.3 Germany also suggested to keep reporting with the current reporting format for a couple of years and then consider whether it needs revision.
- 4.4 The Meeting discussed the way to visualize the data in MADS.
- 4.5 The Meeting agreed that if there is less than 500 meters difference in the spatial object of polygons between different years, the newest spatial object will be used also for the previously reported polygons. In case of larger difference or different shape of the site, CPs are to be communicated to resolve the issues. Dredging areas are to be published as they are reported, and Sweden pointed out that point objects will remain as they are reported.
- 4.6 The Meeting took note of the clarification by the secretariat that the data in MADS is old and not quality assured. The new data utilizing new structure and WEB tools will be published in the mid-March as latest and the group will be notified.
- 4.7 The Meeting discussed quality flagging of the data. The Meeting invited the CPs that haven't yet provided text for the metadata to state why the data quality assurance hasn't been possible, to do so as soon as possible.
- 4.8 The Meeting agreed with the proposed system of the data quality flags.
- 4.9 The Meeting agreed on the changes to numeric system of attributes which will include "null" for not reported data and 0 values. The Meeting suggested that the zero value is to be consider as below LOD/LOQ. In publications this explanation should be attached to the data.
- 4.10 The Meeting agreed that reports should contain corresponding comment on the data on pollutants with low concentrations.
- 4.11 The Meeting suggested to harmonize the procedure with OSPAR.
- 4.12 The Meeting took note that dredging sites will be linked with depositing sites in the new MADS structure.
- 4.13 The Meeting took note that in Sweden the original data is mainly reported in volumes rather than dry weight, which causes high uncertainty of the amounts of deposited data. The Meeting agreed to include this remark to the national meta data.
- 4.14 The Meeting further discussed a draft consolidated report to LC/LP.
- 4.15 The Meeting pointed out that the classification of sub-basins is to be further checked.
- 4.15 Sweden pointed out that the number of activities might be incorrect. The reason could be that one permit might be used for several sites or vice versa. Swedish beneficial use is to be checked. DE proposal in the aftermath: delete permits in brackets and keep only "number of activities". This is enough out of focus.
- 4.16 The Meeting pointed out that beneficial use of dredged material is to be clarified in the report for LP.
- 4.17 The Meeting agreed on the report in general but requested one extra week for final check of the data.

4.18 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to prepare an explanatory note for the report explaining classification/terminology used in HELCOM reporting. The data will be further forwarded to PRESSURE group for endorsement of the report to the LP.

4.19 The Meeting discussed the possibility to change the time frame for the reporting and concluded that for many countries speeding up the reporting procedure is not feasible at this time.

Agenda item 5

5.1 The Meeting took note of the status of the group's ToR.

Agenda item 6

6.1 The Meeting thanked Heiko Leuchs for the contribution to the work of the group and HELCOM.

Agenda item 7

7.1 The Meeting agreed to have the next online meeting tentatively in May.

Annex 1. List of Participants

Contracting Party	Organization	Name	E-mail address
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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