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

Introduction

The online meeting took place 6 September. It started at 10:00 and terminated at 12:00 (EET). Participants from Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Lithuania 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 discussed the results of the trial consolidated reporting to the LC/LP including feedback from LC/LP Secretariat.

3.2 The Meeting took note that the trial consolidated reporting was welcomed, and the information was highly useful, and that this practice is to be continue in future.

3.3 The Meeting discussed proposals from the Secretariat of LC/LP to improve consolidated report including information on the number of annually issued permits and monitoring activities in relation to depositing operations which is mandatory for the HELCOM reporting under recommendation 36/2.

3.4 The Meeting concluded that most of the HELCOM countries have already been reporting number of annually issued permits, thus, this information can be directly included into the consolidated report. The Meeting also pointed out that only used permit are reported.

3.5 The Meeting agreed that Contracting Parties that were not participating the meeting will be given the opportunity to discuss this matter at PRESSURE 11-2019 in the end of October.

3.6 The Meeting recalled that reporting requirements related to monitoring are rather general in the HELCOM Guidelines and require clarification. The Meeting took note of the different monitoring practices in the countries. Some of the countries include monitoring as a part of depositing permit while others set separate monitoring programmes for depositing site.

3.7 The Meeting agreed that Contracting Parties will supply information about their national monitoring practices to the Secretariat (juuso.haapaniemi@helcom.fi) by **31 October 2019**.

3.8 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to compile the information and propose clarification regarding reporting requirements for monitoring in the HELCOM Guidelines for Management of Dredged Material at Sea and the proposal will be presented at the next EN DREDS meeting.

3.8 The Meeting discussed the initial ideas on institutionalizing of consolidated reporting to LC/LP (document 3-2).

3.9 The Meeting agreed that process for reporting to LC/LP should be formalized and the required amendments should be made to the HELCOM Recommendation 36/2 and Guidelines for Management of Dredged Material at Sea.

3.10 The Meeting agreed that comments to the initial text will be submitted to the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi, juuso.haapaniemi@helcom.fi) by **30 September 2019**.

3.11 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to inform PRESSURE 11-2019 on the group's proposal to revise the Recommendation and Guidelines seeking for approval of the revision. Comments on the initial text can be used to justify the need for the revision and as an initial proposal for the revision, if appropriate.

Agenda item 4

4.1 The Meeting discussed the upcoming deadline for reporting data for 2018 and Contracting Parties and foresaw no obstacle for timely reporting.

4.2 The Meeting took note of the information from Denmark that they will include some information about dredging in this year's reporting, as a trial for further consideration, being focused on reporting of the mandatory information.

Agenda item 5

5.1 The Meeting discussed the publication of the HELCOM Baltic Sea environment fact sheet (BSEFS) on depositing of dredged material in 2017.

5.2 The Meeting took note of the request by Poland to correct the third bullet point of the key messages on the main contributors to maintenance dredging, and also that the color scheme applied for Fig 6 should be made more readable.

5.3 The Meeting took note of the comment by Denmark regarding the need to check the figures 14 and 15, particularly regarding the data for the year 2015.

5.4 The Meeting took note of the written comments by Finland about suspiciously high values of Cd and Hg reported in 2017 and that Finland will doublecheck the reported values.

5.5 The Meeting discussed the figure 2 illustrating locations of dredging sites in the Baltic Sea area in 2017. The Meeting pointed out that not all dredging operations have been reported which might give a biased impression on the intensity of dredging activities and related disturbance to the environment in the Baltic Sea area.

5.6 The Meeting agreed that a relevant disclaimer should be added to the caption of figure 2 and the heading of the map should be amended to be more self-explanatory.

5.7 The Meeting agreed that any further comments about the BSEFS 2017 should be submitted to the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi, juuso.haapaniemi@helcom.fi) by **17 September** and requested the Secretariat to make needed amendments to the text and circulate it to the group for final endorsement by **20 September**.

Agenda item 6

6.1 The Meeting took note the information about the survey on HELCOM knowledge and research needs (document 6-1).

6.2 The Meeting agreed to send proposals and initial ideas to the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi, juuso.haapaniemi@helcom.fi) by **20 September**.

6.3 The Meeting took note of the discussion about the assessment methodology for physical loss and physical disturbance and the ongoing work at HELCOM and ICES (document 6-2).

6.4 The Meeting took note that Sweden will likely send comments later and Denmark will have an internal discussion with their experts taking part of the work at ICES.

6.5 The Meeting agreed that written comments and any initial ideas could be sent to the Secretariat by **31 October**, and these suggestions will be considered further in the next EN DREDS meeting in December.

Agenda item 7

7.1 The Meeting agreed to have the next online meeting tentatively 4 December 2019 at 10.00-12.00 EET.

Annex 1. List of Participants

Contracting Party	Organization	Name	E-mail address
Denmark	The Danish Environmental Protection Agency	Christina Abel	chabe@mst.dk
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