



Baltic Marine Environment  
Protection Commission

31 August 2017

To: HELCOM Heads of Delegation  
HELCOM Observers  
HELCOM Expert Network on Underwater Noise  
HELCOM Pressure Contacts and Observers  
Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the HELCOM Groups

Cc: Contacts and Observers of SEAL Expert Group  
Contacts and Observers of GEAR Working Group  
Contacts and Observers of MARITIME Working Group  
Contacts and Observers State and Conservation Contacts and Observers

Re: **1st Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Network on Underwater Noise, (EN-Noise 1-2017) and Joint Session of OSPAR ICG-Noise and HELCOM EN-Noise, Gothenburg, Sweden, 4-5 October 2017**

Dear Madam/Sir,

With reference to the outcome of GEAR 16-2017 (Paragraph 6.2) I have the pleasure to invite you to the 1st Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Network on Underwater Noise (EN-Noise 1-2017), which will be held on 4 October 2017 in Gothenburg, Sweden, at the premises of the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (Gullbergs Strandgata 15). On the second day, 5 October 2017, a Joint Session of OSPAR ICG-Noise and HELCOM EN-Noise will be held at the same premises.

The Meeting of the network will be opened at **10:00 on Wednesday, 4 October 2017** and it is expected to terminate **by 16:00 on the same day**. The **Joint Session of OSPAR ICG-Noise and HELCOM EN-Noise** will be held on **Thursday, 5 October 2017 (9:00-16:00h)**.

A joint dinner will be arranged on the evening of Wednesday 4 October for both the OSPAR and HELCOM networks, at delegates' own cost, and details will be provided at a later stage.

Attached please also find practical information together with the Provisional Agenda for the Meetings (document 1-1).

The Meeting of the network will be chaired by Mr. Peter Sigray. The Meeting of the network will consider:

- Underwater noise as part of the Ministerial Meeting 2018,
- Update of the underwater noise section within the 'State of the Baltic Sea' report,
- Underwater noise indicators: from pre-core to core indicators.

The Joint Session of OSPAR ICG-Noise and HELCOM EN-Noise will be moderated by Mr. Nathan Merchant and Mr. Peter Sigray. The Joint Session will focus on current and future activities of joint interest including the revised EU Commission Decision on MSFD Criteria and Methodological Standards on GES of marine waters, further development of the Impulsive Noise Registry and the development of impact indicators and monitoring of continuous noise.

Documents for consideration of the Meeting, with a clear indication of actions proposed by the Contracting Parties, should be sent in electronic form via e-mail to Associate Professional Secretary, Ms. Marta Ruiz

([marta.ruiz@helcom.fi](mailto:marta.ruiz@helcom.fi)) by **13 September 2017**. Documents containing comments to the basic documents shall be received by the Secretariat not later than seven days before the opening of the Meeting, i.e. **27 September 2017**. The Secretariat has prepared the attached document template (also available in the Meeting Portal), and would like to encourage the Contracting Parties to use the template when submitting documents to the Secretariat.

Participants of the Meeting are requested to register to the Meeting by answering the [Meeting Participation Survey](#) by **27 September 2017**. Please indicate whether you are planning to attend the meeting physically or online.

Documents for the Meeting, which are restricted until the end of the Meeting, will be made available via the HELCOM Meeting Portal on the EN-Noise 1-2017 Meeting Site's [Document folder](#). Instructions for the use of the Meeting Portal are available on the [HELCOM Website](#).

Yours sincerely,



Jannica Haldin  
Professional Secretary