



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Making the HELCOM eutrophication assessment
operational (EUTRO-OPER)
Videoconference 7 May 2014

EUTRO-OPER 2-2014

Document title	Extracts from outcomes of relevant HELCOM meetings
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Agenda Item	2 - Information by the Secretariat, Project Manager and Contracting Parties
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Submitted by	Secretariat
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Background

The following HELCOM meetings relevant for HELCOM EUTRO-OPER took place since EUTRO-OPER 1-2014 (24-25 March 2014).

- HELCOM GEAR 6-2014, 26-27 March 2014
- HELCOM MONAS 20-2014, 8-10 April 2014
- HELCOM MORE 9-2014, 23-24 April 2014

Action required

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcomes of HELCOM meetings relevant for planning the work of EUTRO-OPER.

HELCOM GEAR 6-2014, 26-27 March 2014

The progress of EUTRO-OPER were presented to the meeting, who:

- Found the harmonization of the coastal and open sea assessment essential, but reminded that the WFD should be included as a component to the MSFD, in a way with no contradictions between the two. The meeting also noted, that the European Commission will look into the relationship of WFD and MSFD to work out the relation and complementarity.
- Discussed the sub-class / distance to target approaches in visualizing the eutrophication assessment, and requested to see a proposal in their next meeting, after EUTRO-OPER has further investigated the alternatives.
- Welcomed the input of EUTRO-OPER to indicator development, and agreed that EUTRO-OPER will take lead of the development of the following indicators (proposed by EUTRO-OPER 1-2014): total nutrients, nutrient ratios, oxygen indicator, spring bloom and cyanobacterial blooms.

HELCOM MONAS 20-2014, 8-10 April 2014

The progress of EUTRO-OPER were presented to the meeting, who:

- Welcomed the interest of JRC to be involved in the development of the chlorophyll *a* indicator using remote sensing data, inviting Mr. Nicolas Hoepffner, JRC, to join the project.
- Did not in principle see obstacles in including coastal datasets into the eutrophication data streams directed to ICES, though some CP's informed that they require some time to organize the issue nationally.
- Acknowledged the intents of the development of proposed indicators to be shifted under EUTRO-OPER.

HELCOM MORE 9-2014, 23-24 April 2014

The monitoring sub-programme files which also EUTRO-OPER has contributed to were presented to the meeting, who:

- Reviewed and discussed the draft HELCOM monitoring manual, and agreed that a final draft will be submitted for to MONAS for approval for review in the period 2-20 June 2014; within MORE.
- Agreed that Germany is in charge of producing a summary of the eutrophication monitoring programme, which will subsequently be sended to MORE and EUTRO-OPER contacts for comments.
- Discussed the draft monitoring programme topic templates, welcoming the work done so far. The meeting agreed, that for MSFD reporting purposes only aggregated information and reference to existing guidelines is needed.
- Also stressed that for the continued revision and coordination of monitoring programmes and guidelines, it is necessary to gather detailed information e.g. the precise frequency for sampling.
- Agreed, that general information, for example to clarify who will be the responsible HELCOM subsidiary body in the future, is needed.
- Proposed specific changes to the programme topic file of hydrochemistry. The changes will be implemented by the Secretariat.
- Agreed that the sub-programmes will be published on-line by 15 July for relevant HELCOM working groups, and made public by 15 October 2014. The meeting suggested, that by this date the COMBINE manual is replaced, and relevant sections should have been transferred into the Monitoring manual.
- The meeting noted the plans of EUTRO-OPER to use remote sensing data in the update of the chlorophyll *a* indicator.