



## Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Twelfth Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Working  
Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR 12-2018)

EWG OWR 12-2018

Online meeting, 18.10.2018

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<b>Document title</b>	Outcome of the HELCOM SHORE Network
<b>Code</b>	3-5
<b>Category</b>	INF
<b>Agenda Item</b>	3- EWG OWR Activities
<b>Submission date</b>	10.10.2018
<b>Submitted by</b>	Secretariat
<b>Reference</b>	

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### Background

The attached document contains the [Outcome](#) of the Second Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Coordination Network on Response on the Shore (SHORE Network 2-2018) which was held on 30 August 2018 in Karlskrona, Sweden.

### Action required

The Meeting is invited to take note of Outcome of SHORE Network 2-2018.



## Outcome of the Second Meeting of the Expert Coordination Network on Response on the Shore (SHORE Network 2-2018)

### Introduction

0.1 The Second Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Coordination Network on Response on the Shore (SHORE Network 2-2018) was held on 30 August 2018 in Karlskrona, Sweden.

0.2 The Meeting was attended by representatives of Estonia, Finland, Germany, Poland, Sweden and the European Union. Consent for publication of the list of participants and the information contained therein (**Annex 1**) was received by all participants.

0.3 The Meeting was welcomed and chaired by Ms. Marit Mätik, Chair of SHORE Network. Mr. Markus Helavuori, Professional Secretary acted as secretary of the Meeting.

### **Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda**

Documents: 1-1, 1-2

1.1 The Meeting adopted the Agenda of the Meeting as contained in document 1-1.

### **Agenda Item 2 Matters arising from other HELCOM activities**

Documents: 2-1, 2-2

2.1 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the HELCOM Response Working Group (RESPONSE 24-2018) held on 10-12 April 2018 in Klaipeda, Lithuania (document 2-1). The Meeting noted that no new contact points have been nominated to the SHORE Network, despite the request by RESPONSE 24-2018. The Meeting reiterated the need to involve all Contracting Parties and encouraged those that have not yet nominated contact points to do so.

2.2 With reference to paragraph 7.2 of the Outcome of RESPONSE 24-2018, the Meeting noted that no nominations for Vice-Chair were received by the deadline (end of May 2018). Following discussion, the Meeting agreed that it is not necessary to have a Vice-Chair, as the group is nowadays a Network with a lighter agenda, and as several participants regularly attend HELCOM Response meetings, being able to report on the outcomes in case the Chair is not available.

2.3 The Meeting took note of the outcomes of the 2018 HELCOM Brussels Ministerial Meeting held on 6 March and HOD 54-2018 held on 14-15 June (document 2-2) and agreed to use the outcomes as appropriate in its future work. In this context, the Meeting noted the agreement and process to update the Baltic Sea Action Plan by 2021.

### **Agenda Item 3 Recent developments regarding on-shore response**

Documents: 3-1

3.1 The Meeting took note of the following information on recent national and regional developments of relevance for SHORE network as provided by:

Estonia: A new response vessel has recently been delivered and is now in operation. It has various oil skimmer equipment, 140 m<sup>3</sup> oil storage capacity, 200 metres of PVC booms as well as additional absorbent booms. A new aircraft for aerial surveillance is also now in operation. Estonia also informed about the SafeSea project which is coming to an end in 2018. Under the project a successful exercise took place in August 2018, and another one will take place in Latvia in October 2018. Estonia now has six trailers on Saaremaa Island with equipment for shore response operations. The equipment may also be used by volunteers. Estonia further informed about the CleanSea exercise that took place in May 2018, organized between Estonia and Finland for the past 15 years already.

European Union: Contracting Parties are encouraged to complete information on their national shore response equipment resources in the CECIS Marine Pollution Database. In addition, Contracting Parties are encouraged to register their resources in the voluntary pool.

Finland: The main responsibility for marine pollution response is proposed to be moved from SYKE to the Finnish Border Guard, possibly already in 2019. This also means that the responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment would in the future be with the Ministry of the Interior. There would also be changes in the responsibilities and number of rescue services, with an envisaged timetable for 2021. Further, Finland informed that around 20 exercises take place every year, some of which are focusing on spill response in icy conditions. One exercise will take place next week and according to the plan 12 km of booms will be deployed. The Åland Islands have their own legislation related to response, and they have recently acquired a new response vessel and booms and an exercise is being organized this autumn.

Germany: Two new LNG fuelled multipurpose vessels have been tendered and are planned for delivery in 2022. The national health and safety guidelines for shoreline response personnel is being revised. Germany has also begun training personnel in cooperation with CEDRE, in order to train under real oil conditions. Germany further invited participants to get in touch if they are interested in attending shoreline response exercises.

Poland: A new large response vessel is being planned, co-financed by the EU. The vessel is expected to be delivered in 2022. Changes have been made to the national contingency plan in order to implement the EU Offshore Safety Directive by developing external emergency response plan to cover all offshore oil and gas installations. No shore response exercises have been organized during the past year, although there has been active involvement in various sea exercises.

Sweden: Staff changes in the Swedish Coast Guard are likely to lead to changes also in the Swedish delegation at HELCOM Response and other groups. MSB has a new director general (from the Police). BALEX DELTA 2018 has required significant efforts. A national oil spill conference is being organized annually in Sweden where latest developments and experiences are discussed. The recent accidents as well as BALEX DELTA 2018 will be particularly highlighted. The 2018 conference is taking place in November 2018 in Stockholm ([Nationell konferens oljeskadeskydd 2018](#)). Attendance is free for all, including HELCOM contacts, language is Swedish. The Swedish sensitivity mapping system (Digital Miljöatlas) has been developed and updated with a new layer of prioritized areas on national level.

3.2 The Meeting emphasized the need to rotate the “Template for compiling information on national developments in response at sea, on shore and for oiled wildlife response” well in advance of each HELCOM Response meeting, in order to ensure that correct information is received from all Contracting Parties.

3.3 Noting that a large number of national exercises are being organized in the Baltic Sea, some of which are open for attendance from other countries, the Meeting agreed on the importance on sharing information on such events on a continuous basis. It was agreed that Germany will prepare a template for sharing such information, to be made available by the Secretariat on HELCOM Meeting Portal through a Workspace where SHORE Network contact points have access and can keep the information up to date continuously.

3.4 The Meeting noted the information provided by Finland on EMSA's process of establishing a stockpile in the northern Baltic Sea.

3.5 The Meeting took note of the information about the Makassar Highway grounding accident in Sweden in July 2018, as described in detail in document 3-1. Sweden indicated that they will get back to the matter in the future when more information is available on the outcome of the cleaning operation, which is still ongoing. Sweden also agreed to provide further information on the cleaning techniques using bark at HELCOM RESPONSE 25-2018.

#### **Agenda Item 4**

#### **Exercises**

Documents: none

4.1 The Meeting discussed the overview of the BALEX DELTA 2018 oil and chemical spill recovery exercise held in Karlskrona, Sweden, on 27-30 August 2018.

4.2 The Meeting took note of the evaluators' initial views (both sea and shore), as the evaluation is expected to be ready within one week. The overall first impression was that the exercise was successful. The shore exercise, however, was focused on national municipalities and therefore, not directly linked to the HELCOM framework. Nevertheless, initial feedback indicates that the exercise was very valuable.

4.3 The Meeting agreed that there is a need for clarity in the use of CECIS Marine Pollution vs. CESIS Civil Protection for shoreline response, as well as which national authorities are entitled to request assistance through these systems. The Meeting further agreed that this matter is to be taken into account when considering aims and objectives of future exercises.

4.4 Estonia commented on practical issues related to obtaining diplomatic clearance for the vessels participating in the BALEX DELTA exercises, which now had only been received in Swedish. The Meeting noted that this issue is not addressed in the HELCOM Response Manual and invited RESPONSE 25-2018 to consider updating the Manual in this regard, to ensure that such clearances are provided in the same language as the request was submitted.

4.5 The Meeting considered the need for arranging a BALEX ALPHA exercise, which has to date never been organized. The Meeting considered table top exercises such as BALEX ALPHA to be a useful tool, but agreed that there is no need to conduct such exercises if there is no clear aim or need for one. The Meeting further agreed that organizing such exercises during HELCOM Response meetings, as described in the HELCOM Response Manual Volume 1, is not practical, although aims for such exercises could be agreed at Response meetings.

4.6 The Meeting recalled the discussions at RESPONSE 24-2018 to streamline the contents of the HELCOM Response Manual Volume 1 in order to make it more user friendly (cf. Outcome of RESPONSE 24-2018 paragraph 12.9) and noted that a letter had been sent by the Secretariat on 26 April 2016 (to HELCOM Response contacts and observers, IWGAS, EWG OWR and SHORE network contacts) on this matter. The Meeting further noted that this includes consideration of proposals related to exercises, and agreed that the matter should be discussed in more detail during RESPONSE 25-2018, considering also the HELCOM Response Exercise Plan (HREP) and the [Memo](#) of the HELCOM RESPONSE Workshop on HREP (18 January 2017, Stockholm, Sweden).

4.7 The Meeting consequently invited RESPONSE 25-2018 to decide on the matter, as appropriate.

#### **Agenda Item 5**

#### **HELCOM Response Manual and Recommendations**

Documents: 5-1

5.1 The Meeting considered one by one the proposals for revising the exercise chapters in the HELCOM Response Manual Volume 1 (Chapter 10) and Volume 3 (Chapter 4), contained in document 5-1.

5.2 The Meeting agreed:

- to rename and restructure chapter 10 in Volume 1 as “HELCOM exercise framework” to provide generic framework for exercises regarding at sea, on shore or wildlife;
- to remove duplication by first updating Volume 1 and then removing the parts from Volume 3;
- to add a section in chapter 10 in Volume 1 on combining exercises (at sea, on shore, wildlife);
- to update the planning, evaluation and reporting sections (10.3, 10.4, 10.5) in Volume 1 with material from Volume 3 section 4.5;
- to update section 10.1 in Volume 1 with material from Volume 3 section 4.2;
- to cut the introduction from Volume 3 section 4.1 to Volume 1 section 10.1;
- to add in Volume 1 chapter 10 sections 4.3 and 4.4. on frequency of exercises and participation from Volume 3;

and invited RESPONSE 25-2018 to decide and take action as appropriate.

5.3 The Meeting further invited RESPONSE 25-2018 to consider the reasonable notice for cancellation of the execution of the exercise in Volume 1 (currently 3 days) and deadline for the first announcement and invitation (currently 6 months).

5.4 The Meeting agreed that there is a need for a deadline for distributing the practical information and invited RESEPNSE 25-2018 to decide as appropriate.

5.5 The Meeting agreed that the names of exercise types in Volume 1 chapter 10 should be changed (e.g. synthetic vs table top). Consequently, the Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to submit concrete proposals on the matter to RESPONSE 25-2018 for further consideration.

5.6 The Meeting agreed that the exercise material left in Volume 3 should translate the overall HELCOM exercise framework into a shore specific context. The Meeting noted that Sweden may possibly be in a position to take the lead in developing a concrete proposal on the matter, subject to confirmation at a later stage.

5.7 The Meeting agreed to revisit the possible need to revise section 4.1 in Volume 3 to include existing national shoreline plans that make coordination and cooperation less challenging at the national level (at sea response, on shore response and wildlife response can be integrated following an incident) at a future session.

5.8 The Meeting considered the status of the national information in Annexes 1 and 2 of the HELCOM Response Manual Volume 3 and noted that no updates had been received in advance of this Meeting. The Meeting agreed that the information should be provided by using the templates in Annexes 1 and 2 of the HELCOM Response Manual Volume 3 (“List of specialized on shore equipment that can be sent to assist other Contracting Parties” and “Country fact sheets”, respectively). The Meeting further agreed that one month in advance of every meeting of the SHORE Network, all Contracting Parties review the information in these annexes, and provide any corrections and updates to the Secretariat. The Meeting instructed the Secretariat to circulate such a request together with the agenda to each meeting of the SHORE Network. The Meeting also emphasized the importance of keeping CECIS updated in this regard.

**Agenda Item 6****Future work**

Documents: 6-1

6.1 The Meeting took note that HOD 54-2018 approved the Work Plan 2018-2019 for the SHORE Network (document 6-1).

6.2 The Contracting Parties confirmed and updated the list of contacts for SHORE network, to be published on the HELCOM Meeting Portal when consent from all contacts has been received for its publication.

6.3 The Meeting tentatively agreed that the next meeting of the SHORE Network will be held in May 2019 in Tallinn, Estonia, either in conjunction with the Maritime Search and Rescue Conference (MSAR) 2019, or the Clean Sea exercise.

6.4 The Meeting instructed the Secretariat to liaise with Denmark regarding the chairmanship for 2020-2021.

**Agenda Item 7** **Any other business**

Documents: None

7.1 The Meeting did not discuss any issues under this Agenda Item.

**Agenda Item 8** **Outcome of the Meeting**

Documents: 8-1

8.1 The Meeting adopted the draft Outcome of the Meeting (document 8-1).

8.2 The Outcome of the Meeting has been finalized by the Secretariat and the Chair and made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal together with the documents and the presentation given during the Meeting.

## Annex 1 List of participants

Name	Representing	Organization	E-mail address
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