



Outcome of the Seventh Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR 7-2017)

Introduction

0.1 The Seventh Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR 7-2017) was held as an online meeting on 25 January 2017.

0.2 The Meeting was attended by representatives of Estonia, Finland, and Germany as well as Sea Alarm and WWF as Observers. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex 1**.

0.3 The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Hugo Nijkamp, Sea Alarm and Chair of EWG OWR. Ms. Susanna Kaasinen, Agri-Environment Coordinator of HELCOM, acted as Secretary of the Meeting.

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

Documents: 1-1

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

Agenda Item 2 Update on planning/preparedness in Contracting Parties

2.1 The Meeting took note of the following national OWR planning and preparedness activities:

- Estonia: There was a meeting at the end of the year with all parties involved in oiled wildlife response. It has been challenging to move forward with the issue when a lot of the resources are allocated to Estonian EU presidency.
- Finland: The national OWR plan is nearly finished pending still some appendixes and will be adopted in February. It is expected that later this year the ministry will give the official licence to take the plan into action. An overview in English has been provided for this group previously. However, most of the relevant information is in the appendixes and they have not been translated yet. A table top exercise of the plan will probably be organized but it has not yet been decided. The plans for changes in oil response administration have not yet been finalized. The responsibility for oiled wildlife response would still remain in Syke according to current plans.
- Germany: There is a national expert working group consisting of representatives of the agencies of the five coastal states and the Central Command of Maritime Emergencies meeting twice per year. The main tasks of this group is to get prepared for incidents with oiled wildlife of medium to major extent across interstate and international borders. A Common Framework Plan for Oiled Wildlife Response in Germany is under development. For the Baltic Coast, where two coastal states are situated there is a regional guideline for OWR in Schleswig-Holstein which is being modified to include operational date so that it will become an OWR plan. A change in personnel has occurred and Tobias Zisenis will be a new second contact for EWG OWR from the Schleswig-Holstein Agency for Coastal Defence, National Park and Marine Conservation. The latest oiled wildlife response exercise was organized in the end of 2016.
- WWF Poland: The authority responsible for oiled wildlife response has still not been nominated, nonetheless the draft OWR plan has been just prepared by the authorities (with the leading role of

the Ministry of Environment) and it is ready for further interinstitutional consultations. There have been no new exercises since the last meeting.

Agenda Item 3 EWG OWR activities

Documents: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3

3.1 The Meeting encouraged the members of the group to collect reports from OWR exercises, even if only available in national languages, and present them to the group.

3.2 The Meeting took note that RESPONSE 22-2016 agreed to publish the report on the status of oiled wildlife response plans in the Baltic Sea as a HELCOM publication (document 3-1) and that the report will be published on HELCOM web page pending approval by Contracting Parties in HELCOM 38-2017.

3.3 Estonia agreed to write their country description for the report and submit it to the Secretariat (susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi) by **6 February 2017**.

3.4 The Meeting considered how to proceed with the second round of filling in the oiled wildlife preparedness self-assessment tool (SAT) in 2017 and to update the EWG OWR report. The Chair encouraged the countries to find ways to reach a higher level of preparedness in the next assessment. The planned Baltic Network meeting in the autumn could be a chance to further discuss plans together.

3.5 The Meeting took note of the outcomes of the EUROWA project (document 3-2). The aim of the project was to create a centrally coordinated and streamlined training system that would allow for a consistent development of expertise in Europe, including various levels from Basic responder to Managers (via Advanced Responders, Specialists, Section Heads), and to indicate how to mobilize a coordinated team of international experts to countries in need of assistance via the formal European CECIS system. The EUROWA team will be registered in the CECIS by Belgium. The EUROWA Module (team of experts and their equipment) was designed and developed according to the EU guidelines for a module for civil protection/humanitarian aid, but because the EUROWA Module is for oil spills only and as such not self sufficient when mobilized, the European Commission still has to consider how to classify the EUROWA Module as part of their systems.

3.6 The Meeting invited Sea Alarm and WWF to distribute any available material from the project to the EWG OWR and took note that some of the material is dedicated to training modules and is available to trainees only. The Meeting took note that Sea Alarm will start to schedule and organize regular training events to maintain the project outcomes and welcomes experts from different countries to take part in the trainings.

3.7 The Meeting took note of the outline for a project proposal on oiled wildlife in the Baltic Sea which could be submitted to the next financing call of the EU civil protection mechanism in February-March 2017 (document 3-3).

3.8 The Secretariat informed that in order for HELCOM to become a project partner or to write a letter of support the Contracting Parties need to be consulted first. The Secretariat also informed that a HELCOM-led project OPENRISK that is focused on risk mapping has just started. Sensitivity mapping could be the next step from the project and the planned project on OWR could be one way to start the work.

3.9 The Meeting took note that the project planning can only proceed if a consortium of at least three to four possible partners will soon start preparing the project application.

3.10 The Meeting also took note that the project funding might allow the organizations involved to hire a project manager as an extra resource for OWR.

3.11 The Meeting welcomed the offer by the Chair to prepare a short document with questions and distribute it with the help of the Secretariat to find out which organizations could be interested to be partners in the project and prepare the application.

Agenda Item 4 Training and information activities to support work of EWG OWR

Documents: 4-1, 4-2

4.1 The meeting took note of the information by Germany that the Schleswig-Holstein Agency for Coastal Defence, National Park and Marine Conservation is basically interested in organizing the Baltic oiled wildlife responders' network meeting in Germany in autumn (document 4-2). But first funding has to be secured by Germany. The Meeting welcomed the information that Germany can confirm by first week of March if they are able to host the event.

4.2 The Meeting took note of the overview of training and exercises that have become internationally available (document 4-1). The Meeting asked for more time to get acquainted with the document. The Chair invited the group to give comments via email (nijkamp@sea-alarm.org) **by 15 February 2017**. The Meeting invited the Chair to inform the HREP drafting group and RESPONSE Chair that the EWG OWR is also working on the issue.

Agenda Item 5 Any other business

Documents: 5-1

5.1 The Contracting Parties checked and updated the list of contacts for EWG OWR (document 5-1) as contained in **Annex 2**.

5.2 The Meeting thanked Vanessa Ryan, WWF Finland, and Monika Laskawska-Wolszczak, WWF Poland, for their excellent input to the work of the group and wished them a nice maternity leave.

Agenda Item 6 Next Meeting

6.1 The Meeting decided that the next meeting of the Group (EWG OWR 8-2017) will be held as an online meeting in May and invited the Secretariat to prepare a doodle poll to find a suitable date.

Agenda Item 7 Outcome of the Meeting

Documents: 7-1

7.1 The Meeting adopted the draft Outcome of the Meeting via correspondence (document 7-1).

7.2 The Outcome of the Meeting was finalized by the Secretariat and made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal together with the documents considered during the Meeting.

Annex 1 List of Participants of EWG OWR 7-2017

Representing	Name	Organization	E-mail address
Chair	Hugo Nijkamp	Sea Alarm	nijkamp@sea-alarm.org
Estonia	Teet Koitjärv	Environmental Board	teet.koitjarv@keskkonnaamet.ee
Estonia	Agni Kaldma	Ministry of the Environment	agni.kaldma@envir.ee
Finland	Pekka Rusanen	Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)	pekka.rusanen@ymparisto.fi
Germany	Uda Tuent	Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (CCME)	UTuent@havariekommando.de
Observer	Vanessa Ryan	WWF Finland	vanessa.ryan@wwf.fi
Observer	Monika Łaskawska-Wolszczak	WWF Poland	MLaskawska@wwf.pl
HELCOM	Hermann Backer	HELCOM Secretariat	hermann.backer@helcom.fi
HELCOM	Susanna Kaasinen	HELCOM Secretariat	susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi

Annex 2. Contacts of HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR)

Representing	Name	Organization	E-mail address
Chair	Hugo Nijkamp	Sea Alarm	nijkamp@sea-alarm.org
Denmark	Henrik Lykke Sørensen	Ministry of the Environment	hls@svana.dk
Estonia	Agnes Villmann	Ministry of the Environment	agnes.villmann@envir.ee
Estonia	Teet Koitjärv	Environmental Board	teet.koitjarv@keskkonnaamet.ee
Finland	Pekka Rusanen	Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)	pekka.rusanen@ymparisto.fi
Germany	Tobias Zisenis	Schleswig-Holstein Agency for Coastal Defence, National Park and Marine Conservation	Tobias.Zisenis@lkn.landsh.de
Germany	Uda Tuent	Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (CCME)	UTuent@havariekommando.de
Latvia	Laura Mazmača	State Environmental Service	laura.mazmaca@vvd.gov.lv
Lithuania	Ignas Kazlauskas	Lithuania sea museum	i.kazlauskas@muziejus.lt
Russia	Natalia Kutaeva	FBI "Marine Rescue Service of Rosmorrechflot"	kutaevang@morspas.com
Sweden	Eleonor Glad	Swedish Environment Protection Agency	eleonor.glad@naturvardsverket.se
Observer	Monika Łaskawska-Wolszczak	WWF Poland	mlaskawska@wwf.pl
Observer	Vanessa Ryan	WWF Finland	vanessa.ryan@wwf.fi