



Outcome of the Eighth Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR 8-2017)

Introduction

0.1 The Eighth Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR 8-2017) was held as an online meeting on 10 May 2017.

0.2 The Meeting was attended by representatives of Denmark, Germany and Latvia as well as Sea Alarm, WWF Finland and WWF Poland 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 response planning and preparedness activities:

- Denmark: Still working on revision of the contingency plan. There have been some changes in the ministry which has delayed the process. There was an oil spill incident in February where 200 birds had to be euthanized. In connection with the incident, there was a chance to look into procedures. Local hunters or employees of the nature agency are conducting the euthanasia.
- Germany: Work ongoing for regional OWR plans for Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony. Last week there was a big exercise. In the exercise scenario, oil was spilled from a tanker and as island with birds was affected according to drifting model calculation. There was also an equipment exercise on shore. There will be a report and a film produced that can be distributed to the group.
- Latvia: Latvia will not have an oiled wildlife response plan in place until the end of 2017. Waiting for next call for projects to find financing to produce the plan. An NGO that could be involved in making the plan has been identified.
- WWF Finland: Last week there was a WWF training for volunteers concentrating on how to take care of oiled birds. The next training for volunteers will take place in autumn 2017 or spring 2018.
- WWF Poland: Work is ongoing in Poland to produce an OWR plan. The Ministry of the Environment has organized a meeting for the working group consisting of representatives of different stakeholders, inter alia the Ministry of Environment, General Directorate for Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation, veterinarian inspectorates, voivodships (provinces), other local and central authorities, oil industry, rehabilitation centre and WWF Poland. A draft plan already exists but some improvements are still needed. The Ministry of Environment and WWF Poland are planning to organize a training event together in 2017.

Agenda Item 3 EWG OWR activities

3.1 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 Meeting took note that at least Poland will have materials that would justify an update of the self-assessment tool by the end of the year as they are working on the OWR plan. The Meeting also took note that there is no Response group meeting planned for autumn 2017 so the updated EWG OWR report should be sent to the meeting of the Response group only in 2018.

3.2 The Meeting was of the opinion that the EWG OWR is an important platform to share information on OWR as there is no similar platform for the Baltic region states, and therefore would like to request an extension of its mandate to HELCOM RESPONSE beyond 2017. The Meeting took note of the concern that focusing too much on rehabilitation can exclude from the work of the group countries that have chosen euthanasia as their main strategy respectively as one strategy next to rehabilitation. The Meeting considered it important to share knowledge also on euthanasia (methodology, lessons learnt, good practices) as it is a relevant option in challenging scenarios, and these options should also be considered in countries that are focusing on rehabilitation as their preferred main approach.

3.3 The Meeting requested the Chair to submit a proposal for RESPONSE 23-2017 to extend the mandate of EWG OWR at least until the end of 2018.

3.4 The Meeting took note that a report on the EUROWA project and further information has been published online and that various basic and advanced training courses are available. Sea Alarm will let CPs and observers know if and when more materials are made available and when EUROWA courses will be scheduled.

3.5 The Meeting took note that the report on the status of oiled wildlife response plans in the Baltic Sea in 2016 has been published as a HELCOM publication on the [HELCOM web page](#). The Meeting also took note that Germany would like to make one adjustment in their part of the report.

3.6 The Meeting took note that the document on Training and exercise packages on OWR by Sea Alarm which was discussed in EWG OWR 7-2017 has been sent to the HELCOM Response Exercise Plan (HREP) drafting group.

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

4.1 The Meeting took note that Germany is not able to host the Baltic oiled wildlife responders' network meeting in autumn as tentatively planned.

4.2 The Meeting welcomed the offer by the Secretariat to tentatively host the meeting at its premises in Helsinki in the autumn. The Meeting requested the Chair and Secretariat with the help of WWF Finland to prepare a proposal on the scope and time of the meeting **by the end of May** and send it to the group for comments. The aim is to have a pre-registration for the meeting open **in the month of June**.

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**.

Agenda Item 6 Next Meeting

6.1 The Meeting decided that the next meeting of the Group (EWG OWR 9-2017) will be held as an online meeting in September and requested the Secretariat to make a doodle poll to find the 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 8-2017

Representing	Name	Organization	E-mail address
Chair	Hugo Nijkamp	Sea Alarm	nijkamp@sea-alarm.org
Denmark	Henrik Lykke Sørensen	Ministry of the Environment, , The Danish Environmental Protection Agency	hls@mst.dk
Germany	Uda Tunte	Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (CCME)	UTunte@havariekommando.de
Latvia	Laura Mazmača	State Environmental Service	laura.mazmaca@vvd.gov.lv
Observer	Janica Borg	WWF Finland	Janica.borg@wwf.fi
Observer	Monika Łaskawska-Wolszczak	WWF Poland	MLaskawska@wwf.pl
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
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Estonia	Agnes Unnuk	Ministry of the Environment	agnes.unnuk@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 Tuenté	Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (CCME)	UTuenté@havariekommando.de
Latvia	Laura Mazmača	State Environmental Service	laura.mazmaca@vvd.gov.lv
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