



Document title	Input to the evaluation of accomplishment of HELCOM actions related to oiled wildlife response
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Background

The 2018 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting will be held 6 March in Brussels, Belgium. To support the planning of the Ministerial Meeting a background report is being prepared that summarizes the status of the Baltic Sea and the accomplishment of actions agreed in HELCOM. The report is primarily based on the results of the 'State of the Baltic Sea report, first version 2017' and the national reporting of implementation of HELCOM actions that was carried out in 2016. The national reporting is available in the [HELCOM Explorer](#); a web-based platform that provides information on the implementation of agreements under the Baltic Sea Action Plan and Ministerial Declarations in 2010 and 2013.

The background report for the Ministerial Meeting will include a section on 'Hazardous substances' including accidental pollution by maritime activities. The EWG OWR is invited to provide input and updates to the evaluation of accomplishment of HELCOM actions related to oiled wildlife response.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- provide, as needed, clarification and updates on national implementation of actions related to oiled wildlife response,
- review the text related to oiled wildlife response for the Ministerial Meeting report,
- discuss the already agreed HELCOM actions from viewpoint of their sufficiency to ensure adequate oiled wildlife response in the Baltic Sea.

Input to the evaluation of accomplishment of HELCOM actions related to oiled wildlife response

Background

A summary of the environmental status of the Baltic Sea and the current status of accomplishment of HELCOM actions is being prepared as a background report to the 2018 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting. A draft of the report will be prepared by 23 October for consideration at a planned online HOD meeting (to be held 13 November 2017) and the report will be finalized by 22 November for consideration by HOD 53-2017 (12- 13 December 2017).

The summary of environmental status is based on results of the 'State of the Baltic Sea, version 2017'. Trends are reflected as far as available to indicate direction of change in status. There will be no public update to the 'State of the Baltic Sea' report or the core indicator reports before the upcoming Ministerial Meeting and thus no new data will be taken into account.

The summary of accomplishment of HELCOM actions is primarily based on national reporting from 2016 on the implementation of actions agreed under the Baltic Sea Action Plan and HELCOM Ministerial Meetings in 2010 and 2013. The presentation of actions distinguishes between 'joint actions' i.e. actions carried out jointly in HELCOM through expert groups, working groups or project, and 'national actions' that are agreed jointly but carried out on a national level. The final presentation will not include information on which country that has or has not accomplished the actions. Countries may however be mentioned when providing examples of activities.

Each chapter of the background report aims at including a 'Reflection on HELCOM actions'. The intention is to, if feasible, reflect on the sufficiency and tentative gaps in HELCOM agreements in view of reaching a good environmental status in the Baltic Sea. Such reflection needs to take into account the level of implementation of current agreements, tentative time lags between full implementation of agreements and environmental improvements, and that HELCOM actions are only representing part of the measures taken to improve the state of the Baltic Sea. This section should if possible draw from existing evaluation studies but expert judgement can also be used if specified.

HELCOM actions on oiled wildlife response in the BSAP and HELCOM Ministerial Declarations

There was one HELCOM actions related to national measures and management coordination of oiled wildlife response that has been agreed in the Baltic Sea Action Plan and HELCOM Ministerial Declarations in 2010 and 2013. This action is presented below together with the national responses that were submitted in 2016 on the request to report on the implementation of HELCOM actions. Specific request to the EWG OWR network is listed for each action.

Action: Integrate the subject of oiled wildlife response (OWR) into oil pollution contingency plans either on a national or sub-national/local level (BSAP, MD 2013 2-R)

Two question were posed:

1a) Is OWR part of the oil pollution contingency plan, either in national or sub-national/ local level?

Response option; yes, ongoing, no

1b) Have the Guidelines to Recommendation 31E/6 "Integrated wildlife response planning in the Baltic Sea area been applied in the OWR plan? Response option; yea, ongoing, not

- **EWG OWR is invited to clarify the reporting as relevant.**

Table 1a. National reporting on the action: to integrate the subject of OWR into oil pollution contingency plans.

Country	Response	Supporting information
Denmark	Yes	Termination and collection of oiled birds is a part of the local pollution contingency plan. Other wildlife are not included
Estonia	Yes	
Finland	Yes	The updating of the national oil pollution contingency plan is under preparation. Also updating of the sub-national contingency plans are under preparation and new plans will be approved 2016.
Germany	Yes	OWR is part of the German Contingency Plan https://www.vpsserver1.de/vpsweb/start/start_web.aspx The subject of OWR is continuously updated within Germany (ongoing process) and is subject of a national working group. Now two regional OWR plans exist. The aim is to prepare a common framework for OWR response for all German coastal states and include it in the German contingency planning for oil response.
Lithuania	No	At the moment there it is mentioned in national legislation that Lithuanian Sea Museum provides help for oiled wildlife. After the Balex Delta exercise there is an intention to update oil pollution contingency plan with responsibilities related to oiled wildlife
Latvia	No	
Poland	No	National OWR solutions are being developed under Ministry of Environmental lead. Maritime administration as well as WWF volunteers will support OWR actions."
Russia	Ongoing	постановление Правительства РФ от 14 ноября 2014 г. № 1189 «Об организации предупреждения и ликвидации разливов нефти и нефтепродуктов на континентальном шельфе Российской Федерации, во внутренних морских водах, в территориальном море и прилегающей зоне Российской Федерации» там есть положение, что планы должны содержать «мероприятия по реабилитации загрязненных территорий и (или) водных объектов в соответствии с проектами (программами) рекультивации земель и восстановления нарушенного состояния водных объектов и водных биологических ресурсов»
Sweden	Ongoing	Contingency planning is a sub-national responsibility in Sweden and many subregions have adequate plans in place. However there is no over all picture of the status. The Swedish EPA will develop national guidelines during 2016 to support the sub-national OWR contingency planning.

Table 1b. National reporting on the: application of guidelines to Recommendation 31E/6 in the OWR plan

Country	Response	Supporting information
Denmark	Partly	The contingency plan is currently being revised.
Estonia	Yes	
Finland	Yes	
Germany	Yes	Germany is a member of the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response under HELCOM Response that should help member states to integrate wildlife response planning in the Baltic Sea by including OWR into existing contingency plans for oil response. OWR plans are existing and getting updated (see Q 9).
Lithuania	No	
Latvia	Partly	

Poland	Partly	National OWR solutions are still under preparation
Russia	Partly	
Sweden	Partly	The Rec 31E/6 will be considered when developing the national guideline for OWR

Input to the evaluation of accomplishment of HELCOM actions related to shoreline oiled wildlife response

This is an extract of text related to accidental pollution from maritime activities from the draft chapter on hazardous substances to be included in the background report for the 2018 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting.

Implementation of HELCOM actions related to accidental pollution from maritime activities

Joint actions

Joint actions to minimize accidental pollution from maritime activities have focused on promoting safe navigations systems for ships entering the Baltic Sea and all joint actions agreed in the BSAP and HELCOM Ministerial Meetings that are related to measures and management measures have been achieved.

Table 2.2.5. Accomplished joint actions related to accidental pollution from maritime activities. ‘Status’ indicates the level of accomplishment and number of countries that have implemented the action. Blue=accomplished.

Action	Status
Strengthen the work on OWR (Oiled Wildlife Response) through a targeted expert working group and by enhancing co-operation with NGOs and the private sector	Blue
Develop and agree on a decision support system for use of dispersants	Blue
Consider joint submission to IMO to introduce the necessary modification of Automatic Identification System (AIS)	Blue
Agree on amended HELCOM Agreement on Access to AIS (Automatic Identification System) Information	Blue
Cooperation in investigation of the potential for DGNSS (Differential Global Navigation Satellite Systems) broadcast via AIS (Automatic Identification System) base stations	Blue
Further develop the online Mariners' Routeing Guide Baltic Sea	Blue

National actions

HELCOM has cooperated in response at sea already for four decades. Response on shore and oiled wildlife response are newer topics first introduced in HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan in 2007. Some HELCOM Contracting Parties have integrated both shoreline and oiled wildlife response into national, regional or local contingency plans. For example in Germany, shoreline response is part of contingency planning and there are regional plans for oiled wildlife response. Also Denmark has integrated shoreline and oiled wildlife response into contingency planning. In some countries, the work is still ongoing. E.g. Poland is currently preparing the national oiled wildlife response plan (Table 2.2.6).

The need to revise of the HELCOM RESPONSE manual Volume II on HNS spills dating from 2001 was highlighted at the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2013 in Copenhagen. Work has been initiated in 2014 but due to the challenging topic, in combination with lack of resources at the Contracting Parties or the Secretariat, the activity has been put on hold by the HELCOM RESPONSE WG in June 2017 until substantial project funding is secured. During the cooperation between European regional spill response organisations the revision has also been recently highlighted as an activity which should preferably be carried out as a joint initiative by all the regional response organisations in Europe –all of which have faced the same challenge as HELCOM in this issue recently (Table 2.2.6)

Table 2.2.6. Accomplishment of national actions related to accidental pollution from maritime activities. ‘Status’ indicates the level of accomplishment and number of countries that have implemented the action. Blue=accomplished (all countries have implemented the action). Orange=partly accomplished (some countries have implemented the action). Red=not accomplished (no activity ongoing). Target year is indicated.

Action	Status
Develop and implement a mutual plan for places of refuge (PoR) and further investigate issues of liability and compensation related to a mutual plan on PoR	
Measures to improve safety of navigation (HELCOM Recommendation 28E/11): trained crew in ice navigation- voluntary pilotage	
Revise the Baltic Sea Re-survey Scheme and extend its scope to cover all routes and other areas used for navigation according to the 2009 Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission Vision; present the national re-survey plans (2013, not later than 2015), including time schedule estimations; undertake necessary measures to ensure that sufficient funding, will be available for re-surveys	
Based upon sensitivity mapping, to identify the need for and to finalise the quantification of countermeasures for shoreline response, and to prepare concrete plans/programmes for fulfilling them by 2013	4/9
Integrate shoreline response into national contingency plans and conduct trainings and organize exchange programmes [Questioned posed in survey: Have the amendments to Annex VII of the Convention been transposed to national systems?]	5/9
Integrate the subject of oiled wildlife response into oil pollution contingency plans either on a national or sub-national/local level	4/9
Update HELCOM Manual on Co-operation in Combatting Marine Pollution Volume II, focusing on response to accidents at sea involving spills of hazardous substances and loss of packaged dangerous goods	2016