



Outcome of the Ninth Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR 9-2017)

Introduction

0.1 The Ninth Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR 9-2017) was held in Helsinki, Finland on 19 October 2017.

0.2 The Meeting was attended by representatives of Finland, Germany, Latvia and Poland as well as Sea Alarm and WWF as Observers and invited guests. 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. Laura Meski, Assisting Professional Secretary and Ms. Susanna Kaasinen, Project Manager of HELCOM, acted as Secretaries 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:

- Finland: Organizational changes are most likely to come in the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) but expected only in 2019, which could affect the OWR department. SYKE, WWF Finland and other stakeholders will have a second meeting of the OWR group where the plan will be finalized and sent to be adopted by the Ministry of the Environment.
- Germany: Two-day training course (theory and practical training) to be held in November 2017 on OWR and emergency planning. All five coastal states of Germany (ministries, agencies etc.) have been invited.
- Latvia: Funding is pending and thus development of the OWR plan has not progressed. Funding expected in beginning of 2018.
- Poland: Law to incorporate OWR to crisis management and contingency plan has been passed. Workshop was organized by Ministry of Environment and WWF some weeks ago mainly aimed for veterinarians and volunteers including theory and practical exercises. Formal framework in place more or less.

Agenda Item 3 EWG OWR activities

3.1 The Meeting took note that RESPONSE 23-2017 agreed on a prolongation of the group's mandate until end of 2018 to facilitate the development of national preparedness in oiled wildlife response in the region.

3.2 The Meeting appreciated the HELCOM OWR report published in 2017 on the status of the national OWR plans 2016 based on the oiled wildlife preparedness self-assessment tool (SAT).

- 3.3 The Meeting discussed how to proceed with the second round of filling in the SAT in 2017 and how to update the EWG OWR report.
- 3.4 The Meeting decided to request the Contracting Parties to report on OWR activities in 2017 (training, exercises, planning, incidents) for the EWG OWR report 2017 based on a template to be prepared and circulated by the Chair and Secretariat within two weeks. The Contracting Parties will be requested to fill in the template **by mid-January 2018**. The SATs can be added in the annex.
- 3.5 The Meeting welcomed the offer by Sea Alarm to revise the SAT template to better incorporate euthanasia.
- 3.6 The Meeting took note that BALEX DELTA 2018 will be held in Karlskrona, Sweden, in August 2018 with EU co-funding. A planning conference will be held on 8-9 November 2017 in Stockholm, Sweden.
- 3.7 The Meeting decided to suggest to the BALEX DELTA 2018 team to consider including OWR as a topic in the exercise. The Meeting requested the Chair of EWG OWR to be in contact with relevant person.
- 3.8 The Meeting considered the EWG OWR Work Plan and updated it for 2018 as found in **Annex 2**.
- 3.9 The Meeting took note of the proposal by Germany to organize a seminar for diving deeper into early incident management events. The Meeting invited Germany to further elaborate on the idea and to share it with the Chair and the Secretariat and for further consideration by the next meeting of EWG OWR.
- 3.10 The Meeting considered it useful to apply for funding from EU for setting up a region wide managers training and education program.

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

Documents: 4-1, 4-1, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5

- 4.1 The Meeting discussed the two-day seminar and training event (wildlife managers' course by Sea Alarm) held prior to the meeting on 17-18 October 2017 and follow-up activities. Documents under Agenda Item 4 were considered during the event.
- 4.2 The Meeting highlighted the following lessons learnt from first day seminar:
- Good to learn about national preparedness and limited capacities
 - It would be useful to learn more about exercises in different countries and especially about the lessons learnt
 - There is a need in the group to learn more about methods to apply euthanasia and experiences in countries that apply euthanasia
 - Looking into establishing an organized online platform in addition to EWG OWR to share knowledge between authorities and NGOs
- 4.3 The Meeting highlighted the following lessons learnt from the second day training course:
- There was a lot of useful information for managers (from authorities and NGOs) and the event highlighted the need for planning, preparedness and a clear organizational structure where personnel know their duties and the way they relate to each other in case of an incident. Countries need to identify organizations to be involved in OWR and make sure that the designated personnel in these organizations are trained and exercised in a structured and frequent manner.
 - Exercises, including the table top exercise in the training course, are very useful and should be done regularly
 - It would be also useful to have the equipment list used in the table top exercise for planning purposes
 - Authorities need additional information to understand the complexity of OWR
 - Training courses would be useful in the future as well
- 4.4 The Meeting expressed appreciation to Sea Alarm for organizing the very useful event.

Agenda Item 5 Any other business

Documents: 5-1, 5-2

- 5.1 The Meeting took note that the 2018 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting will be held 6 March in Brussels, Belgium and that 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.
- 5.2 The Meeting reviewed the text related to oiled wildlife response for the Ministerial Meeting report on national implementation of actions related to oiled wildlife response (document 5-2).
- 5.3 The Meeting took note of the update provided by Latvia to table 1a.
- 5.4 The Meeting requested the Contracting Parties to provide additional updates and input **by 31 October 2017**.
- 5.5 The Contracting Parties checked and updated the list of contacts for EWG OWR (document 5-1) as contained in **Annex 3**.

Agenda Item 6 Next Meeting

- 6.1 The Meeting decided that the next meeting of the Group (EWG OWR 10-2018) will be held in February 2018 and requested the Secretariat to set up a Doodle poll for deciding on the date.
- 6.2 The Chair encouraged the Contracting Parties to look into the possibilities to invite relevant NGO's to take part in the work of EWG OWR e.g. as part of the delegation or invited guests.
- 6.3 The Meeting encouraged all Contracting Parties to participate in the meetings.

Agenda Item 7 Outcome of the Meeting

Documents: 7-1

- 7.1 The Meeting adopted the draft Outcome of the Meeting (document 7-1).
- 7.2 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.



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response
Helsinki, Finland, 19 October 2017

EWG OWR 9-2017

Annex 1. List of participants

Representing	Name	Organization	Email
Chair	Hugo Nijkamp	Sea Alarm	nijkamp@sea-alarm.org
Finland	Pekka Rusanen	Finnish Environment Institute	pekka.rusanen@ymparisto.fi
Germany	Uda Tuent	Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (CCME)	UTuent@havariekommando.de
Germany	Tobias Zisenis	Schleswig-Holstein Agency for Coastal Defence, National Park and Marine Conservation	Tobias.Zisenis@lkn.landsh.de
Latvia	Laura Mazmaca	State Environmental Service	laura.mazmaca@vvd.gov.lv
Poland	Małgorzata Korczak	General Directorate for Environmental Protection	malgorzata.korczak@gdos.gov.pl
Poland	Dorota Łukasik	General Directorate for Environmental Protection	dorota.lukasik@gdos.gov.pl
Observer	Teemu Niinimäki	WWF Finland	teemu.niinimaki@wwf.fi
Observer	Saskia Sessions	Sea Alarm	saskia@sea-alarm.org
Invited guest	Sascha Regmann	Blue Sea eV	pbs.herne@gmail.com
Invited guest	Kathrin Umlauf	Tierschutzzentrum Weidefeld	Umlauf@tierschutzzentrum-weidefeld.de
HELCOM Secretariat	Hermann Backer	HELCOM Secretariat	hermanni.backer@helcom.fi
HELCOM Secretariat	Laura Meski	HELCOM Secretariat	laura.meski@helcom.fi
HELCOM Secretariat	Susanna Kaasinen	HELCOM Secretariat	susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi

Annex 2. Work Plan for the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR), 2014-2018

Categories	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Regular exchange at HELCOM RESPONSE meetings	Progress and lessons learnt on development of national plans	Progress and lessons learnt on development of national plans	Progress and lessons learnt on development of national plans	Report on possible updates of national plans	Report on possible updates of national plans
	Report on national training, exercises, events and planning progress	Report on national training, exercises, events, and planning progress	Report on national training, exercises, events and planning progress	Report on national training, exercises and events	Report on national training, exercises and events
	Progress and lessons learnt on authority-NGO cooperation	Progress and lessons learnt on authority-NGO cooperation	Progress and lessons learnt on authority-NGO cooperation	Progress and lessons learnt on authority-NGO cooperation	Progress and lessons learnt on authority-NGO cooperation
	Each CP proposes a wildlife authority rep for the HELCOM Oiled Wildlife Expert Group by 15 th of March 2014; Feedback on work of oiled wildlife expert working group by chair to HELCOM RESPONSE	Feedback on work of oiled wildlife expert working group by chair to HELCOM RESPONSE	Report on finalised integrated oiled wildlife response plans; HELCOM assessment of oiled wildlife response preparedness in the Baltic region.		Progress report on oiled wildlife response preparedness in the Baltic region
Training & Exercises	Item has been moved to the year 2015	Oiled wildlife response management course, including table top exercise			Table top driven workshop on early response priorities and crossborder issues on OWR
	BALEX Delta operational response exercise to include oiled wildlife response aspects	BALEX Delta operational response exercise to include oiled wildlife response aspects	BALEX Delta operational response exercise to include oiled wildlife response aspects	BALEX Delta operational response exercise to include oiled wildlife response based on finalised oiled wildlife response plan	BALEX Delta operational response exercise to include oiled wildlife response based on finalised oiled wildlife response plan
Workshops, meetings and events	Baltic OWR Responders/Authority event. Kick-off of Baltic oiled wildlife response network	HELCOM/BONN International workshop on aspects of Post Release Survival and Euthanasia of oiled wildlife		Baltic oiled wildlife response network meeting	Baltic oiled wildlife response network meeting
	First meeting of oiled wildlife response expert working group, 17 th of June 2014	Meeting of oiled wildlife response expert working group	Meeting of oiled wildlife response expert working group	Meeting of oiled wildlife response expert working group	Meeting of oiled wildlife response expert working group
Cooperation with other regional conventions and EU	Advocating an EU funding scheme for OW response and preparedness				

Annex 3. 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, The Danish Environmental Protection Agency	hls@mst.dk
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
Lithuania	Ignas Kazlauskas	Lithuania see museum	i.kazlauskas@muziejus.lt
Poland	Małgorzata Korczak	General Directorate for Environmental Protection	malgorzata.korczak@gdos.gov.pl
Poland	Dorota Łukasik	General Directorate for Environmental Protection	dorota.lukasik@gdos.gov.pl
Russia	Natalia Kutaeva	FBI "Marine Rescue Service of Rosmorrechflot"	kutaevang@morspas.com
Sweden	Eleonor Glad	Swedish Environment Protection Agency	eleonor.glad@naturvardsverket.se
Observer	Janica Borg	WWF Finland	Janica.borg@wwf.fi
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