



15 August 2017

To: Contacts of EWG OWR
Contacts of HELCOM RESPONSE
Observers of HELCOM RESPONSE

cc: HELCOM Heads of Delegation
HELCOM Observers
Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the HELCOM Groups

Re: Invitation to Baltic Oiled Wildlife Response seminar and training event, Helsinki, Finland, 17-18 October 2017

Invitation to the Ninth Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR 9-2017), Helsinki, Finland, 19 October 2017

Dear Madam/Sir,

With reference to the Outcome of HELCOM RESPONSE 23-2017 (paragraph 8.2), I have the pleasure to invite the Contracting Parties and the Observer Organizations to the Helsinki Convention to Baltic Oiled Wildlife Response seminar and training event and the Ninth Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR 9-2017), which will be held back-to-back at the HELCOM Secretariat premises (Katajanokanlaituri 6b) in Helsinki, Finland on **17-19 October 2017**. The Meeting will be chaired by Mr. Hugo Nijkamp, Sea Alarm and Chair of the Expert Working Group.

The seminar and training event that the EWG OWR organizes in the framework of its Work Plan will start on **Tuesday 17 October 2017 at 13:00** and is expected to terminate **by Wednesday 18 October 2017 at 17:00**. The EWG OWR 9-2017 Meeting will be opened on **Thursday 19 October 2017 at 9:00** and is expected to terminate **by 12:00** on the same day.

Please take note that prior to the Baltic Oiled Wildlife Response seminar and training event the First Meeting of the SHORE Network will also take place at the HELCOM Secretariat premises on 16-17 October 2017.

The OWR seminar on 17-18 October will explore options for improving the level of preparedness for OWR at a regional level by cross-border cooperation, and options to strengthen national partnerships between authorities and NGOs in the field of oiled wildlife preparedness and response. The EWG OWR 9-2017 Meeting on 19 October aims to draw conclusions from the seminar and training event and deal with ongoing work.

The Contracting Parties are therefore encouraged to invite representatives of their partner non-governmental organizations on oiled wildlife response. Due to limited space around 2 participants per partner non-governmental organizations are expected.

Documents for the meeting will be made available on the EWG OWR 9-2017 [Meeting Site](#) in the HELCOM Meeting Portal. Participants are kindly requested to register to the Baltic Oiled Wildlife seminar and training event and EWG OWR 9-2017 Meeting by answering the [Participation Survey](#) not later than **by 10 October 2017**. Please note that you need to be a registered user with relevant rights to access the restricted meeting



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documents and to register to the meeting. [Instructions](#) for the use of the Meeting Portal are available on the HELCOM website.

Documents for the Meeting should be submitted in electronic form to the Secretariat (hermanni.backer@helcom.fi) **by 10 October 2017** (no decision documents anticipated beyond the annotated agenda).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hermanni Backer".

Hermanni Backer
Professional Secretary