



Outcome of the Twelfth Meeting of the
Expert Working Group on Response on the Shore
(EWG SHORE 12-2016)

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3.1 The Meeting took note of the national developments regarding on-shore response reported by Finland and Poland (document 3-1) and Sweden (document 3-1-Add).

3.2 In addition, the Meeting took note of the following information on recent national and regional developments of relevance for EWG SHORE:

- Estonia: The Estonian Police and Border guard is currently making a revision of the valid contracts related to response matters as well as the national contingency plan (from 2006), the latter which will cover response both at sea and on the shore and will possibly also be available in English. On shore rescue capabilities are being built up. The exercise “PuhasMeri” will be organised 22-23 May 2016 and covers as usual both sea and shore components. The Rescue Board has carried out some smaller exercises. Estonia has recently acquired new response equipment including sea booms, containers and one truck to drive booms.
- Finland: In addition to the information in document 3-1 Finland informed that a process is ongoing for renewing the administrative set-up related to response matters possibly including a reduction of the number of responsible districts from the current 22 to 12 but that no governmental decision has been taken yet. The currently valid contingency plans (in force since March 2015) will most likely be revised in 2019 due to this restructuring. A number of shore related projects have been finalised. New Host nation support Guidelines have been released.
- Latvia: During 2016 exercises and local projects including the theme of response on the shore will be carried out which involve also Estonian and Lithuanian rescue services. Latvia has acquired new oil skimmer, coastal boats and coastal boom. Latvia will likely send a shoreline response unit to BALEX DELTA 2016 in June in Lithuania.
- Poland: In addition to the information in document 3-1, Poland informed that tasks related to the response on the shore are not yet formalised on the national level. Poland hosted BALEX DELTA 2015, thanked participants for a good cooperation. Maritime Search and Rescue was responsible for part of BALEX DELTA 2015 on response on the sea. State Fire Service organized the shore component of the exercise. Poland has an ongoing new project on waste management during oil spill operations. Also OWR responsibilities are not yet. A large group of volunteers (approx. 200) of WWF (Blue Patrol) is willing to participate.
- Sweden: See information in document 3-1-Add.
- WWF: The next step in a project on volunteers in oil spill response will be the actual testing of the framework. The Finnish Inventory Programme for the Underwater Marine Environment (VELMU) has come to an end and a map portal has been opened with VELMU data, as well as information on human activities and pressures which could be useful for oil spill response purposes.

3.3 The Meeting appreciated the written information prior to the meeting and requested the Secretariat to make the following changes for improving the reporting template:

- to change the name “Legal” to “Legal and organizational” and to add “possible revisions of existing legislation” in the category,
- to separate past and future developments,
- add a new category “Strategic/policy level development”,
- add a new category “Highlights/summary” to be published on the HELCOM web page.

3.4 The Meeting suggested that the same template should be used for reporting all national developments, including on shore, at sea and oiled wildlife response. The Meeting agreed to present the revised template to RESPONSE 21-2016 and suggest the reporting process is considered at future RESPONSE meetings.

Documents: 4-1, 4-1-Add, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4

4.1 The Meeting discussed the revision of the HELCOM Response Manual Volume III (response to pollution incidents on the shore) (document 4-3) as follows:

4.2 The Meeting took note that the map of sub-regions, included in Chapter 1.5, is considered final but can still be adjusted if needed (to be discussed at the RESPONSE capacity workshop 2016 (c.f. paragraph 2.2)).

4.3 The Meeting took note that no further suggestions on nomenclature to be used when describing the oiling of shore has been received by Finland (Lead country of Task 3) and that the terminology included in Annex 5 is based on the POLSCALE project and further took note that there are some extensive IMO document(s) on nomenclature and that the correspondence group for defining CECIS categories etc. has not been activated.

4.4 The Meeting recalled the different perceptions on adequate response capacity (Task 2, Lead Country Germany) as discussed by previous meetings of EWG SHORE and the proposal by Sweden to await the results of the study on sensitivity mapping under preparation before getting into defining the adequacy.

4.5 The Meeting took note of the clarification by the Secretariat that if needed two or more alternative recommended approaches for defining adequacy of response resources can be used if that is more appropriate by the Contracting Parties and that if needed reservations by a single Contracting Party, or softening of the wording of the task, may also be used in order to come to a conclusion on the issue.

4.6 The Meeting recognized that there might be a broader interest for a project on adequacy and took note of the suggestion by WWF that arranging a series of workshops/table top exercises with realistic scenarios may help determine adequacy for different regions.

4.7 The Meeting also recognized that EWG SHORELINE and SHORE already has discussed capacity in detail. Germany (Mr. Karsten Petersen) developed a methodology to calculate on shore response on different shore types.

4.8 The Meeting welcomed the offer by Sweden to communicate with Germany and to prepare a document for RESPONSE 21-2016 to clarify that Task 2 cannot be fulfilled by EWG SHORE by the end of 2016 and to suggest to RESPONSE 21-2016 to remove the chapter from Response Manual Volume III at this stage.

4.9 The Meeting thanked Finland, Poland and Sweden for filling in the country fact sheets to be included in Annex 4 (document 4-2) and noted that the Polish information is not yet complete and only concerns the Maritime Search and Rescue Service at this stage but other institutions are still assessing their capabilities and possible involvement.

4.10 The Meeting agreed on the following changes to the template for country fact sheets:

- to remove the row on Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs);
- to include short descriptions of responsibilities of the authorities;
- to include a short description in Annex 4 on the use of the country fact sheets.

4.11 The Meeting welcomed the offer by Finland and Sweden to lead the correspondence group on improving the country fact sheet with the input from other Contracting Parties and to have it ready **by 10 February 2016** and to circulate it to EWG SHORE for clearance before sending it to RESPONSE 21-2016.

4.12 The Meeting took note of the availability of on-shore response equipment in Finland (document 4-1-Add) and Sweden (documents 4-1, same equipment as offered for the EU voluntary pool), which can be sent to assist other Contracting Parties, and recognized the need for defining common terminology for equipment at a later stage.

4.13 The Meeting discussed the difficulty to include prices in the equipment lists but still considered it needed and took note that EMSA has organized a training course on calculating daily price.

4.14 The Meeting welcomed the offer by Estonia, Latvia and Poland and invited also remaining Contracting Parties to send equipment lists for response on the shore **by 15 February 2016** to Finland

(heli.haapasaari@ymparisto.fi) and the Secretariat (laura.meski@helcom.fi) and requested the Secretariat to circulate the Excel list by Sweden, to be used as a template, as soon as possible.

4.15 The Meeting took note of the proposal for a chapter on oiled wildlife response (document 4-4) and welcomed the offer by WWF to communicate with Sea Alarm and to suggest a revised chapter which is more in line with the purpose and format of the other chapters of the Manual (e.g. shorter introduction, make formulations more long term and practical, remove references to specific projects, suggestion to have an annex on national practices, policy, responsible authorities on OWR) **by 15 February 2016** to EWG SHORE for decision if the chapter can be submitted to RESPONSE 21-2016 as part of the Response Manual Volume III.

4.16 The Meeting discussed the detail of information to be included in Annex 2 on the organisational structure for response on the shore and welcomed the offer by the correspondence group (c.f. paragraph 4.9) to also look into Annex 2 to avoid duplication with the country fact sheets.

Agenda Item 5 Other tasks of EWG SHORE

Documents: 5-1, 5-2

5.1 The Meeting took note of the presentation (**Presentation 1**) by Mr. Pär Eriksson, Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI), on the final results of the study on HELCOM BALEX DELTA Exercises 2004-2014 (document 5-1, [report](#)) and the proposal for a revised exercise chapter for HELCOM Response Manual Volume III (document 5-2).

5.2 The Meeting decided that document 5-2 as a whole including the proposal for a revised exercise chapter as part of the Response Manual Volume III, with the following amendments, should be sent to Finland (heli.haapasaari@ymapristo.fi) **by 15 February 2016** for submission to RESPONSE 21-2016:

- to include a reference to Volume I on the content of the host nation report or to include a description in the exercise chapter for Volume III;
- include person months for planning.

5.3 The Meeting took note that the information by Sweden that preparations for BALEX DELTA 2018 have started and that Sweden is looking into possibilities for external funding, possibly from EU. BALEX DELTA 2018 will be a combined exercise at sea and on shore aim one of the aims will be to test the exercise framework for response on shore.

5.4 The Meeting thanked Sweden and Mr. Eriksson for the important study and the report, which could be the starting point for an expanded version covering overall history of BALEX DELTA exercises since the beginning of 1980s.

5.5 The Meeting noted that the recommendations are relevant for both on shore and at sea exercises and thus useful for the whole cooperation on response issues and was of the opinion that it could be worth considering at a later stage to detach the exercise related material in Volume I and III to a separate Volume of the Response Manual.

5.6 The Meeting noted that a joint volume of the Response Manual for exercises could be appropriate for exercises at sea, on shore and combined. The Meeting further discussed advantages of the Manual being restructured as one document instead of several volumes with similar information.

5.7 The Meeting took note of the presentation (**Presentation 2**) by consultant Ms. Egle Obcarskaite, Sister Consulting, on the Swedish pre-study on how to execute regional sensitivity mapping, as part of Task 4 (Lead Country Sweden).

5.8 The Meeting discussed the scope and purpose of such a study on sensitivity mapping and noted that the partnership for such a project is dependent on the decided scope and purpose (scientists, authorities, ministries).

5.9 The Secretariat pointed out that sensitivity mapping is also related to socioeconomic evaluations and has the potential for a broader project (possibly Interreg) and could be related to Maritime Spatial Planning.

5.10 The Meeting suggested that the chairs of the Response Working Group and EWG SHORE consider the issue forward together with the Secretariat.

Agenda Item 6 Any other business

Documents: 6-1, 6-2

6.1 The Meeting took note of the presentation (**Presentation 3**) by Ms. Egle Obcarskaite, Sister Consulting, on the report on mapping of the institutional architecture for protection from oil spills in the Baltic Sea region (document 6-2, [report](#)).

6.2 The Meeting thanked Sweden and specifically Ms. Obcarskaite for the interesting and comprehensive study and report, which helps the countries understand the structures in other countries.

6.3 Sweden welcomed comments and corrections to the report and informed that the background material is available.

6.4 The Contracting Parties checked and updated the list of contacts for EWG SHORE (document 6-1) as contained in **Annex 2**.

Agenda Item 7 Future work and next meeting

7.1 The Meeting recognized the great work done by the EWG SHORE and its predecessor (EWG SHORELINE), which has resulted in the on shore response issues being recognized more broadly within the response community and discussed the future of the Group having in mind that the mandate of the Group will terminate in the end of 2016.

7.2 The Meeting took note that intersessional correspondence groups on various topics can be established by the Response Working Group when seen needed.

7.3 The Meeting decided to agree on the timing of the next meeting of the Group (EWG SHORE 13-2016) at RESPONSE 21-2016 and welcomed the offer by Sweden to host the meeting. The meeting will focus on completing the Response Manual Volume III, which will be submitted to RESPONSE 22-2016 (tentatively planned for October/November 2016) for final approval.

7.4 The Meeting thanked Finland for hosting the meeting and for excellent arrangements.

Agenda Item 8 Outcome of the Meeting

Documents: 8-1

8.1 The Meeting adopted the draft Outcome of the Meeting via correspondence (document 8-1).

8.2 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.

Annex 1 List of Participants

Representing	Name	Organisation	Email address
Chair	Sonja Dobo	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)	sonja.dobo@msb.se
Estonia	Teet Koitj�r	Environmental Board of Estonia	teet.koitjarv@keskkonnaamet.ee
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Estonia	Ksenia Vihrina	Estonian Rescue Board	ksenia.vihrina@rescue.ee
Finland	Heli Haapasaari	Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)	heli.haapasaari@ymparisto.fi
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Annex 2 List of nominated contacts for the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Response on the Shore (EWG SHORE)

Representing	Name	Organization	E-mail address
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