



Title	1-1, Provisional Annotated Agenda
Category	DEC
Agenda Item	1 - Adoption of the Agenda
Submission date	22.9.2014
Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	Outcome of HELCOM 35-2014 (Paragraph 3.18)

Provisional Annotated Agenda

With reference to the decisions of HELCOM 35-2014 (paragraph 3.18) and HELCOM HOD 46-2014 (paragraph 3.8), the First Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (HELCOM FISH 1-2014) will be held 20-21 October 2014 at the premises of the HELCOM Secretariat (Address: Katajanokanlaituri 6 B, 00160 Helsinki, Finland).

Documents for consideration by the Meeting, with a clear indication of actions proposed by the Contracting Parties, Observers and other interest groups should be sent in electronic form via e-mail to the Professional Secretary, Mr. Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky (Dmitry.Frank-Kamenetsky@helcom.fi).

The participants are requested to note that HELCOM HOD 41/2013 in June 2013 adopted the amended Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Helsinki Commission according to which **basic documents and documents which require action or decision** by the Meeting shall be received by the Secretariat not later than twenty-two days before the opening day of the Meeting, i.e. not later than **28 September 2014**. **Documents containing comments to the basic documents** shall be accepted if they are received by the Secretariat not later than seven days before the opening of the Meeting, i.e. **13 October 2014**.

1. *Practicalities*

The Meeting will start at **9:00 on Monday, 20 October** and is expected to terminate by **16:00 on Tuesday, 21 October**.

2. *Focus of the meeting*

HELCOM 35-2014 decided to establish a new HELCOM group dealing with fisheries (paragraph 3.18 of the Outcome of HELCOM 35-2014) and HOD 46-2014 adopted the Terms of Reference for the new Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries.

The main aims of this first meeting are to:

- prepare a Work Plan for the future work of the Group according to the ToR, including setting timetables and assigning lead parties for different tasks,
- progress in drafting of and agreeing on a new HELCOM Recommendation on aquaculture.

3. *Expected participation*

The new group is to involve representatives from fisheries and environment authorities and agencies of the Baltic Sea countries, as well as EU, and HELCOM Observers and others as appropriate. The Contracting Parties and Observers will be invited to confirm the nomination of their representatives to the Group.

The Participants are kindly requested to register to the Meeting by answering the [Participation Survey](#) for the Meeting in the new HELCOM Meeting Portal **by 13 October 2014 at the latest**.

1 Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Agenda as contained in document 1-1.

2 Election of Chair

The Meeting will be invited to elect a Chair for the Group for a two-year period.

3 Outcome of HELCOM modernization

HELCOM has gone through the process of streamlining its activities and modernizing its operation, including the working structure. The outcome of the streamlining will be submitted to the Meeting at a later stage.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the Terms of Reference of the Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries, adopted by the 46th Meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation, as contained in document 3-1. The ToR serves as a basis for the work of the Group.

4 Matters arising from other HELCOM work of relevance for the Group

The Meeting will be informed of the outcome of relevant recent HELCOM meetings.

The Meeting will further be informed on the priorities of the Estonian Chairmanship of HELCOM during 2014-2016.

5 Work Plan for the Group

Following the ToR agreed by HELCOM HOD 46-2014 and taking into account the outcome of FISH/ENV FORUM 10-2014 the Secretariat will come up with an outline for the Work Plan for the Group. The Meeting is invited to consider the outline and develop the Work Plan further with the aim to have it presented to HOD 47-2014 for adoption.

a) Development of sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea Region

One of the tasks for the Group is to develop a new HELCOM Recommendation on sustainable aquaculture by 2014 to substitute the existing HELCOM Recommendation 25/4.

The drafting of the Recommendation has already started under the lead of Finland, and a first round of comments from the core drafting group has now been completed. The Meeting is invited to consider the draft Recommendation, to be submitted at a later stage, and develop it further with the aim to have the draft ready for submission to HOD 47-2014 in December for endorsement and to HELCOM 36-2015 for adoption.

b) Integrated assessment of human impacts

Another task for the Group is to contribute to recognizing the data gaps that prevent adequately assessing human pressures on the ecosystems in cooperation with relevant bodies, thus contributing to HELCOM holistic assessments. Further, the Group is to facilitate the work and utilise the results of fish- and fisheries related work of HELCOM, including coastal fish network of experts (FISH-PRO II) and contribute to the operationalization of HELCOM fish-related core indicators.

HELCOM is about to start the preparation of the 2nd Holistic assessment of the status of and pressures on the marine environment of the Baltic Sea (HOLAS II). The assessment will be indicator-based and will cover, among others, the status of fish-stocks as well as all significant pressures on the Baltic Sea, including fisheries. A document on HOLAS II and the current state of development of the HELCOM fish related indicators will be submitted at a later stage.

The Meeting is invited to discuss cooperation with relevant stakeholders and data holders and further steps needed to collect, or access relevant data, including identify data gaps, to enable adequate assessment of

impacts of fisheries on marine ecosystems to serve the assessment needs of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, and for the HELCOM countries being EU members also of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Common Agriculture Policy. In this context the Meeting will be informed of the status of the recent joint call for VMS data by HELCOM and ICES.

The Meeting will also be informed of activities to develop a joint Action Plan and recommendations by HELCOM and ICES for synergies between environmental and fisheries surveys, carried out under the HELCOM BALSAM project. The Meeting might wish to discuss how better coordinated fisheries and environmental surveys could contribute to more cost-efficient monitoring and sharing of the data.

c) Migratory fish species

The task of the group is to further develop co-operation to implement best practices with the view to achieve the established objectives of HELCOM related to migratory fish species, including the corresponding BSAP targets.

The Meeting will be invited to review the ongoing activities in HELCOM on migratory fish species and agree on how to prioritize the future work and assign leading countries, based on country-wise priorities and ongoing national restoration activities. Information on the activities within the HELCOM Task Force on migratory fish species (FISH-M), HELCOM project [STURGEON PG](#) and HELCOM BASE project regarding salmon management plan for River Luga will be submitted at a later stage.

d) Fisheries and conservation objectives

Based on a background document for the development of guidelines for sustainable fishing practices within HELCOM Marine Protected Areas (to be submitted later), the Meeting is invited to discuss and plan future work of the Group regarding sustainable fisheries practices in MPAs.

6 Any other business

The Meeting might wish to discuss any other issues relevant for the work of the Group.

7 Outcome of the Meeting

The Meeting will be invited to adopt the Outcome of the First Meeting of the HELCOM Group on sustainable fisheries (FISH 1-2014).