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This document has been prepared by the HELCOM RETROUT Project manager

Background

Following the agreement by [HOD 49-2015](#) (Outcome para. 4.35), HELCOM is involved as a partner in the three-year (10/2017–09/2020) Interreg project RETROUT (Development, promotion and sustainable management of the Baltic Sea Region as a coastal fishing tourism destination).

The RETROUT project develops and promotes sustainable and ethical fishing tourism in the Baltic Sea region and improves the environmental conditions in rivers to strengthen migratory fish populations, with special focus on sea trout. RETROUT will provide guidance in the form of best practice toolboxes for river restoration and fishing tourism. These toolboxes can be used by authorities and stakeholders to help foster sustainable growth within this field through measures for improving stock and river habitat status and through appropriate policy and regulatory adjustments for fishing tourism.

The project comprises 14 partners from the Baltic Sea countries (Sweden, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland) including HELCOM as an intergovernmental organization. Stockholm County Administrative Board is the lead partner responsible for the overall project coordination. RETROUT is a flagship project of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Policy Area Bioeconomy and it is co-financed by Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme under the Natural resources priority field.

HELCOM is leading Work Package (WP) 4 “Assessment of status and management of seatrout rivers and stocks”. The aim of WP 4 is to compile information on the status of sea trout rivers and stocks, evaluate different river restoration solutions and processes, and to recommend best practices and management options. The WP 4 working group includes experts in the fields of river restoration, fish biology, water resources management and environmental communication. HELCOM is responsible for the strategic planning and coordination of the working group. The main results will be published as HELCOM publications by the end of the project, after endorsement from the Fish Group.

The tasks and deliverables of WP 4 are in line with HELCOM 2013 Ministerial Agreements on salmon and sea trout, and the project activities will support implementation of HELCOM BSAP conservation goals for the Baltic sea trout based on HELCOM Recommendation 32-33/1. The work of RETROUT WP 4 aligns with the scopes of the Group on Ecosystem based Sustainable Fisheries (ToR) and Task Force on Migratory Fish Species (ToR) with regard to migratory fish.

The recent and upcoming activities of RETROUT WP 4 are set out in the Annex to this document.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the RETROUT activities.

Recent and upcoming activities of the RETROUT project, Work Package 4 (Assessment of status and management of sea trout rivers and stocks)

The overall scope of RETROUT is to develop and promote the Baltic Sea Region as a coastal fishing tourism destination, with focus on sea trout. The project has four Work Packages addressing different aspects of the project scope, including the biological basis for trout fishing through stock and river habitat status assessment and management and river restoration practices, policy reform studies and dialogue, and actual development and promotion of coastal fishing tourism destinations.

The main aim of RETROUT Work Package 4 (WP 4), led by HELCOM, is to compile information on the status of sea trout rivers and stocks, evaluate different river restoration methods and technological solutions, and to recommend best practices and management options. The assessment of status of sea trout rivers and stocks will support national implementation of [HELCOM Recommendation 32-33/1](#) "Conservation of Baltic salmon and sea trout populations by the restoration of their river habitats and management of river fisheries", while the river restoration best practices guidelines can contribute to the updating of HELCOM Recommendation 32-33/1, with regard to addition of guidelines on restoration practices.

The work of WP 4 is divided in the following 4 Groups of Activities (GoA) that in summary will:

1. *Assessment of sea trout river and stock status, impacts of recreational fishing and management options*, with the aims to
 - develop a common, standardised methodology for assessing sea trout river and stock status
 - assess sea trout river and stock status
 - gather data on recreational fishing and its impacts on sea trout populations
 - evaluate management option scenarios and potential growth of sea trout stocks
2. *Joint evaluation of completed restoration projects*, with the aims to
 - undertake a research study of past river restoration projects to identify differences between successful and failed projects
 - evaluate the ecological effects of habitat restorations and fish ways already installed in the study cases
 - gather data costs, construction time, stakeholder involvement/information and project difficulties
 - produce a consolidated report on river restoration success factors based on the study outcome
3. *Demonstrating efficient river restoration measures*, with the aims to
 - demonstrate efficient river restoration measures and implementation methods as a way to promote identified success factors/best practices and innovative approaches
 - transnational learning-by-doing that will result in increased knowledge of lessons learned of different approaches, management systems and innovative tools (e.g. stakeholder communication, cross-sectorial coordination) valuable for advancing implementation
 - at the pan-Baltic level, provide new knowledge for a concrete input to the Baltic ToolBox for River Restoration and development of recommendations for improving habitat and stocks of migratory fish species
4. *Develop Baltic Toolbox for River Restoration*, with the aims to
 - using inputs from WP 4 GoAs 4.2 and 4.3 to jointly develop a Baltic Sea Guidelines for river restoration best practices, to be published as a HELCOM report in the BSEP and used by local, regional, national public authorities.

The following meetings/events have been organized/are planned under WP 4:

- Monitoring and assessment method workshop at Klaipeda University in Lithuania (in June 2018) – *DONE*
- Partnership mid-term meeting (in May 2019) – *DONE*
- Study visits to demonstration sites in Estonia (*DONE*), Latvia/Lithuania (summer 2020), Sweden (*DONE*) and Poland (spring 2020)
- Yearly RETROUT partnership meetings (yearly in fall; 1st in Stockholm October 2017, 2nd in Stockholm October 2018, 3rd in Stockholm October 2019)
- RETROUT end-conference (in September 2020)

Summary of the recent activities and progress within WP4

The project has entered its final year and is currently in its fifth (of six) period.

Progress summaries for different GoAs in WP 4 are provided below. An overview of all planned WP 4 GoAs and tasks is given in Table 1.

GoA 4.1 Assessment of sea trout river and stock status, impacts of recreational fishing and management options

Lead: HELCOM (PP 13)

Timeframe: Periods 1-4, to be finished by end of the project (originally September 2019)

Progress summary:

In earlier project Periods, progress has been made on the tasks (4.1.1, 4.1.3, 4.1.4-4.1.7) concerning monitoring methodologies, with task 4.1.3 (Monitoring and assessment method workshop in Lithuania) completed already in Period 2, and with task 4.1.1 (Common methodology on trout river habitat monitoring and electrofishing) partly finished in Period 2. The current agreed approach is to combine the outputs of tasks 4.1.1 and 4.1.4-4.1.7 (Tests of assessment methods in [Countries]) in a common sea trout river monitoring methods report. In Periods 3 and 4 progress was made in planning of the format to be used as well as doing preliminary preparations for the 'methods' report. Part of the monitoring methods testing (4.1.4-4.1.7) has been conducted during 2018 and part in 2019 in Period 4&5, with some remaining testing to be done later in 2020. Part (3/5 concerned project partners) of the experiences from the methods testing have been reported and is available to be compiled in the 'methods report'.

Concerning task 4.1.2 (Assessment of sea trout river and stock status...), after some initial delays, detailed plans to take the work forward have been developed and access to needed data has been secured during Periods 2, 3 and 4. The plan is to conduct a Baltic Sea wide assessment of sea trout streams, based on existing data and information available via ICES and project partners. In Period 4, permissions to use sea trout data sets gathered by ICES WGBAST was requested and granted from the data contributors, and thereafter initial data exploration and preliminary analyses as well as report outlining and drafting has been done (Periods 4&5). Particularly, the sub-task of writing a literature summary on recreational fishery of sea trout in the Baltic Sea, to be included in the 4.2 report as a chapter, has been advancing with a full version of the chapter currently under review by the WP 4 working group.

The role of HELCOM (PP 13) in GoA 4.1 has been overall coordination and internal and external communication. Contact to concerned project partners has been maintained through discussions, email exchange and monthly WP 4 online meetings. Plans for implementing the GoA 4.1 were discussed in detail and agreed upon during the yearly partnership meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, in October 2018, and further

refined during the partnership midterm meeting in Gdansk, Poland, in May 2019, and during the 2019 yearly partnership meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, in October (FISH 11-2020 document 7-1). In leading and promoting the task 4.1.2 HELCOM has had a central role and has actively worked with developing concrete plans for the task and taking them forward. In rest of the GoA 4.1 tasks HELCOM has had an active coordinating role.

GoA 4.2 Joint evaluation of completed restoration projects

Lead: Campus Roslagen AB (PP 16, Sweden)

Timeframe: Periods 1-3, to be finished by March 2020 (originally in 2019)

Progress summary:

In earlier Periods, progress was made in tasks 4.2.1 (Case study template and interview guide) and 4.2.2 (Case study data collection and summary). During Period 3, data concerning past river restoration cases (task 4.2.2) had been received by all concerned project countries (PP1, PP5, PP8, PP9, PP17). Additionally, during Period 4, some information was received from a Russian NGO, and from Finland. All-in-all 87 completed and 6 non-realized restoration projects in about 70 rivers have been reported. The types of restorations included in the data sets cover migration improvements (dam removals, fish ways) and habitat restorations (adding gravel & stones, planting trees on river banks, etc.).

In Period 3 progress was also made in task 4.2.3 (Interviews with key Stakeholders of selected past river restoration cases). Based on the interview guide (task 4.2.1) developed by GoA lead project partner (PP 16), concerned project partners conducted interviews with relevant stakeholders for each chosen restoration project. By end of Period 3, interview reports were submitted to GoA 4.2 lead by 2 of 5 concerned project partners. During Period 4, nearly all (4/5) stakeholder interview reports were completed and reports submitted, with certain needs for complementation still in some cases. To have a complete data material for the analyses, the GoA lead partner (PP 16) has recently (mid-Period 5) sent out specific clarification/complementation requests to concerned partners.

With the aim of producing a consolidated report (task 4.2.4) on success factors of restoration, during Period 4 and early Period 5 (in end-2019), data exploration and initial analyses work were conducted, but not yet completed. Additional data to be included in the final analyses is still awaited from non-partner countries in order to improve the coverage of the data used and through that the representativeness of the results to be obtained.

The role of HELCOM (PP 13) in GoA 4.2 has been to support the GoA Lead (PP 16), e.g. through active project coordination and communication with relevant partners. Particularly, HELCOM has continued to approach and maintain contacts to the non-partner Baltic Sea counties for acquisition of additional data on past river restoration projects.

GoA 4.3 Demonstrating efficient river restoration measures

Lead: University of Tartu /EMI (PP 5, Estonia)

Timeframe: Periods (2)3-6, to be finished by end of September 2020

Progress summary:

Within GoA 4.3 the involved partners intend to demonstrate efficient river restoration measures and implementation methods based on national and transnational knowledge from research and dialogue. The

purpose of the restoration projects is to demonstrate solutions for improving quality of sea trout river habitats with the aim to increase natural production and secure sustainable sea trout populations. The river restoration demonstration projects are carried out independently and in internal coordination by concerned project partners in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden (PP1, PP3, PP5, PP7, PP8, PP9, PP14, PP15, PP17). A total of 12-14 restoration cases are included, covering measures such as building of fish ways, biotope restorations, water quality improvement, and dam removal plans.

Different cases are in different stages, depending on the progress of each process. Initial planning has been done in all cases, and in most cases procurement for the design and thereafter for the actual restoration work has been done by the end of Period 4. During Period 4 many of the cases entered the implementation phase. In several sites of the Swedish cases (implemented by external non-project funding) as well as the in the Lithuanian case, restoration work has already finished by the end of Period 4. In Estonia, the work consists of the planning and design phase of restorations and has proceeded well. In Latvia, the work of constructing a fish pass has proceeded to the stage of production of detailed design documents, to be followed by initiating the construction work through a procurement process. In Poland, the project partner is not the implementing agency of the demonstration project (implemented by external funding), but functions as an expert observer organisation.

During the 2019 yearly partnership meeting, one whole afternoon session was dedicated to GoA 4.3 to serve the need for a better sharing of demonstration case details and progress among the working group during and after implementation. These case-specific river restoration presentations and afterward discussions were deemed useful both from an information sharing and learning perspective as well as from the viewpoint of making use of the joint expertise to find solutions and improve plans. For the documentation and reporting of the river restoration demonstration cases, instructions have been prepared and circulated during Period 4, and agreed by the WP 4 during the yearly partnership meeting in October 2019.

The importance of establishing and maintaining stakeholder communication in relation to river restoration projects, have also been considered during Periods 4&5, and especially during the 2019 yearly partnership meeting. Despite delays and changes to the original set up, stakeholder communication continues to remain important for the effectiveness and sustainability of the restoration measures implemented under RETROUT. To fulfill the RETROUT Work Plan, and as discussed and agreed during the YPM -19, despite the initial delays, stakeholder communication under GoA 4.3 is now to be established and organized with the stakeholders of the river restoration projects completed or under implementation. To support this process of establishing and organizing stakeholder communication within the GoA 4.3, guidelines as well as reporting instructions have been developed by UCV/CR (PP 16) in Period 5.

The role of HELCOM (PP 13) in this GoA is to facilitate and coordinate the transnational dialogue and peer-learning between the restoration demonstration cases. This is done through active contact keeping and communication on the status and progress of the different restoration projects, leading to frequent sharing of experiences. HELCOM has also steered and supported the final restoration case reporting process, in practice, e.g. by developing the reporting instructions.

GoA 4.4 Develop Baltic Toolbox for river restoration

Lead: HELCOM (PP 13)

Timeframe: Periods 4-6, to be finished by end of September 2020

Progress summary:

This activity formally started in Period 4. The key task of it is to jointly develop a Baltic Sea Guidelines for river restoration best practices to be used by local, regional, national public authorities. These Guidelines will also

serve the macro-regional level by providing input for policy recommendations at HELCOM and EU levels. The Guidelines will consist of summary inputs from GoAs 4.2 (Joint evaluation of completed restoration projects) and 4.3 (Demonstrating efficient river restoration measures). The main objective is to provide a list of best available practices and recommendations for cost-efficient and effective river restoration for enhancing ecological quality and increasing sea trout productivity.

During Period 4, detailed plans for carrying out the task and compiling the Guidelines were developed. The Guidelines – what it will contain, who it will serve, how it will be done, was considered by the WP 4 working group at the RETROUT midterm meeting in Gdansk, Poland, in May 2019, and further during the yearly partnership meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, in October 2019. During planning and discussions, it has been acknowledged that a number of river restoration manuals already exist, and that it is important to be clear on what this project outcome will produce and how it will complement to what already exists in this field. To this end it can be noted that most existing river restoration manuals give detailed practical advice on how to do the restoration work itself, whereas the RETROUT report strives to describe the best practises for the whole process of conducting successful restoration projects from initial evaluation of the problem and need for a restoration to planning, practical implementation and impact evaluation.

As part of the initial work done in GoA 4.4, a work plan and with a preliminary structure of the Guidelines report has been developed and agreed upon within the WP 4 working group (FISH 11-2020, Annex to document 3-2): It should have an introduction, methods & approaches chapter, a chapter with the main results from 4.2, a chapter with summarising the demonstration cases 4.3 (the full case reports could be annexed to the Guidelines), and a synthesis with a list of best available practices and recommendations for cost-efficient and effective river restoration.

The role of HELCOM in this GoA is to lead and coordinate the development of the Baltic Sea Guidelines for river restoration best practices. This involves detailed planning with a constant view of the progress on GoA 4.2 and 4.3 that will serve as input and basis for the Guidelines report.

Deviation in implementation (WP 4)

GoA 4.1 Assessment of sea trout river and stock status, impacts of recreational fishing and management options

According to the original project Work Plan an output of task 4.1.1 was to be finalized by the end of June 2018. This was not reached. At the yearly partnership meeting in October 2018 the WP 4 working group agreed to combine the outputs of tasks 4.1.1 and 4.1.4-4.1.7 (Tests of assessment methods in [Countries]) in a common sea trout river monitoring methods report, to include summary descriptions of the main methods as well as summarized experiences of them by the PPs. Most of the national monitoring and assessment methods testing (4.1.4-4.1.7) have already been conducted, but some testing as well as reporting remain to be done during the remaining project time. More work for the finalisation of the combined 'methods report' will be allocated during March 2020 and it is expected to be ready during the spring 2020.

Concerning task 4.1.2 (Assessment of sea trout river and stock status...), there was some initial unclarity of the proper approach for implementing the task. Partly since many of the persons involved in the original planning of the project or in the early start of it have left and been changed to new people, it has turned out to be challenging to follow precisely the original idea. This has caused a considerable delay at the beginning phase of this task. However, much effort has been put clarifying and developing the plans, and currently this task is progressing well. Due to the early difficulties the original schedule of completion by end of Period 4 was not realistic and needed to be postponed in order to enable a good and useful output from this task. Currently, detailed planes for the task are in place, needed data have been secured, and data exploration as well as preliminary analyses have been done. A first draft report is expected to be ready in short, and finalization can be done by summer 2020.

GoA 4.2 Joint evaluation of completed restoration projects

GoA 4.2 has suffered from some delays, namely due to organizational changes in the start of the project (change in lead partner organization for the GoA), and more lately the progress has been delayed and dependent on the data submission from project partners (and HELCOM countries). These challenges throughout the project have shifted the schedule of all the tasks of this GoA and the finalisation of the GoA as well. Currently stakeholder interviews have to most parts been reported, with a need for some last ongoing complementing. Preparations for the data analyses have started and initial analyses work have been done. Otherwise, the GoA 4.2 is well progressing. After finalizing analyses and drafting the reports, ready conclusions and a first complete draft report should be ready by mid-March 2020.

GoA 4.3 Demonstrating efficient river restoration measures

The Swedish (Bränningeån, Erstaviksbäcken, Moraån, Skeboån and Vitsån), and the Polish (Reda) rivers should also be listed in the work plan as demonstration cases (as own tasks) since they will be considered in the project, regardless that they are (partly) implemented by external non-project funding.

GoA 4.4 Develop Baltic Toolbox for river restoration

Not relevant

HELCOM's contribution to project communication

During Period 3 HELCOM has contributed the project's internal communication, by sustaining an active contact to RETROUT communications manager and management team, project partners and collaborators.

HELCOM contributed to the first [RETROUT newsletter](#).

The Project manager presented recent and upcoming activities in the WP 4 of the RETROUT project to the HELCOM [FISH 9-2019](#) Meeting on 30-31 January 2019, and have submitted information documents about the RETROUT project to [FISH 10-2019](#) and [FISH 11-2020](#).

According to the project's visibility rules, HELCOM has a RETROUT project web site (<http://www.helcom.fi/helcom-at-work/projects/retROUT/>).

HELCOM also prepared and published on its web site a news article about the [first results from the RETROUT river restorations in Lithuania](#).

Summary of the upcoming activities within WP4

The next upcoming activities of RETROUT WP 4 include tasks from all GoAs. An overview of all planned WP 4 GoAs and tasks is given in Table 1.

GoA 4.1 Assessment of sea trout river and stock status, impacts of recreational fishing and management options

Tasks 4.1.1 *Common methodology on trout river habitat monitoring and electrofishing*, and 4.1.4 *Tests of assessment method [in countries]* have been decided to be combined in one common 'methods' report. The

report will provisionally contain a common description for habitat survey methods and river status assessments as well as trout monitoring and electrofishing, and additionally summaries of the experiences of each partner country in testing/applying the sea trout stock and habitat assessments methods considered at the methods workshop (task 4.1.3) in some selected test rivers. Specifically, the report will first present the River Habitat Survey (RHS), the Trout Habitat Score (THS) and the parr density estimation from electrofishing, and then contain a compilation/synthesis of the country-wise summaries on available information/experiences of the testing/use of these methods. This work led by Stockholm County Administrative Board (PP1, Sweden) is to be finished during spring 2020.

Task 4.1.2 *Assessment of sea trout river and stock status, extent of pressures and management options*, has a high priority, as this task is still lagging in schedule. According to the RETROUT project workplan, the Baltic Sea-wide assessment will be largely based on existing data and information available via project partners, HELCOM Contracting Parties and ICES WGBAST. In short, following what was agreed by the WP 4 working group at the YPM in Stockholm, the current aim is to update the HELCOM SALAR project report ([BSEP 126A](#)) from 2011 to the parts concerning sea trout, although with slightly renewed approaches (parr densities to be used instead of estimated smolt numbers as basis for status measurement). The assessment within RETROUT project aims to take into account more rivers with existing data, and hence provide a more comprehensive status evaluation with higher single river resolution than what has so far been done by ICES WGBAST or HELCOM.

Currently final analyses, and drafting work remains. The work continuously progressing and should be ready by summer 2020, where after finalization and final approval for publication in HELCOM working structures can be done during spring 2020.

GoA 4.2 Joint evaluation of completed restoration projects

The stakeholder interviews (task 4.2.3) have been finished by most project partner countries as well as regarding one interview case in Finland and some additional information from Russia and Finland.

After the ongoing final complementing and clarifications of the interview material, the remaining phase of GoA 4.2 contains quantitative data analysis of all reported restoration projects supported (to be supported by the Project leader, PP 1) as well as qualitative data analysis of all reported cases and the in-depth interview-based data (to be done by the Activity leader, PP 16).

Based on multivariate quantitative analyses of received restoration case data, and on qualitative analyses and interpretation of the interview material, a consolidated report (task 4.2.4) on success factors of restoration activities will be produced and estimated to be finished (first complete draft) by mid-March 2020. This consolidated report will then feed into the Baltic Sea Guidelines for river restoration best practices (GoA 4.4).

GoA 4.3 Demonstrating efficient river restoration measures

The work with the river restoration demonstration cases will proceed over different implementation phases depending on the stage of each restoration project. The work with the restoration demonstration cases is being carried out very independently by each responsible project partner. Each restoration demonstration case shall produce a dedicated demonstration project report in form of a process documentation, generally following the developed and agreed (by the WP 4 working group) reporting instructions. The dedicated demonstration case reports will feed into the Baltic Sea Guidelines for river restoration best practices (GoA 4.4) as an own chapter/section and shall be ready by the end of period 5 regardless of the current stage of the project at that time, in order to enable the compilation and preparation of the Guidelines report in time.

As part of the carrying out a river restoration project, establishing and maintaining stakeholder communication is important, as acknowledged in the project application and workplan. With reference to this background, the WP 4 working group agreed that stakeholder workshops should be organized at the latest by 15 February 2020 with a ready and submitted conclusion report at the latest by 15 March 2020.

GoA 4.4 Develop Baltic Sea Guidelines for river restoration best practices

GoA 4.4 is formally active from the beginning of the Period 4. The key task is to jointly develop a 'Baltic Sea Guidelines for river restoration best practices. The Guidelines will consist of summary inputs from GoAs 4.2 (Joint evaluation of completed restoration projects) and 4.3 (Demonstrating efficient river restoration measures). The main objective is to provide a list of best available practices and recommendations for cost-efficient and effective river restoration for enhancing ecological quality and increasing sea trout productivity. As a number of river restoration manuals already exist, it is important to be clear on what this project outcome will produce and how it will complement to what already exists in this field. Most existing river restoration manuals give detailed practical advice on how to do the restoration work itself, whereas the RETROUT report strives to describe the best practices for the whole process of conducting successful restoration projects from initial evaluation of the problem and need for a restoration to, planning, practical implementation and impact evaluation.

Based on the material to be delivered by the WP 4 project partners, HELCOM will prepare a first draft of the Guidelines report to be circulated for comments and further development to the concerned PPs.

The final main output will be a Baltic Sea Guidelines for river restoration best practices to be published as a HELCOM report. Before publication by HELCOM the draft report will be circulated to members of the FISH Group for approval. The original time plan for the WP 4 activities might not enable a ready report published by HELCOM by the end of the project in September 2020, as the completion of the restoration demonstration cases directly overlap with this schedule as also they are set to be finished by the end of the project. As the restoration case reports will be a central ingredient of the Guidelines report, it has been agreed that the case reports (first full versions) need to be delivered at the latest by end of period 5 (i.e. March 2020), regardless of the status of the restoration project at that time. Due to these schedule uncertainties a realistic approach would be to strive for a finalized Guidelines as a RETROUT project report version by the end of period 6, where after the HELCOM review and publication process could take place as an own procedure.

The detailed provisional schedule for the 4.4. Guidelines report is the following:

- Preliminary drafting in winter/spring 2020
- Final input from GoA 4.2 by end March 2020 (4.2 report ready)
- Input from GoA 4.3 by end of period 5, i.e. end March 2020 (first complete case study reports ready regardless of the current situation of the demonstration cases at that time; this has been agreed upon earlier)
- Developing of the list of river restoration best practices and recommendations (based on 4.2 and 4.3 outputs as well as the expert knowledge within the project) during first half of 2020, finalizing during joint workshop for this purpose (time and place TBD)
- First full draft by HELCOM ready and circulated to WG by end of April 2020
- Input from PPs by May/June 2020
- Final version ready by August 2020
- HELCOM review and publication process could take place as an own procedure after this

In addition to the river restoration 'Guidelines, GoA 4.4 also includes study visits to river restoration demonstration sites in the concerned project partner countries. The study visits to Estonia took place during

18-19 September. The study visit in Sweden took place during the 2019 RETROUT yearly partnership meeting on 24 October. The study visit to Poland is planned for April 2020, and a combined visit to Latvia and Lithuania will be done in summer 2020.

The planning and preparation for the RETROUT end-conference (also listed under GoA 4.4), have started with a first planning group meeting held in Helsinki at the HELCOM HQ on 28 January 2020. The end-conference will be organized in Tallinn in late September 2020.

Table 1. Overview of WP 4 GoAs and tasks

TASK	TITLE	LEAD/RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	STATUS
<i>GoA 4.1 Assessment of sea trout river and stock status, impacts of recreational fishing and management options, Lead: PP 13, HELCOM</i>				
Task 4.1.1	Common methodology on trout river habitat monitoring and electrofishing	PP1 CAB Stockholm (Sweden)	by end of period 4 (ext.)	to be finalized
Task 4.1.2	Assessment of sea trout river and stock status, extent of pressures and management options	PP 13 HELCOM	draft by end 2019 (ext.)	ongoing
sub-task	Gather data on recreational fishing and its impacts on sea trout populations	PP 17 MI (Poland)	by end 2019 (ext.)	delivered
Task 4.1.3	Monitoring and assessment method workshop in Lithuania	PP 9 Klaipeda University (Lithuania)	by end of June 2018	delivered
Task 4.1.4	Tests of assessment method in Lithuania	PP 9 Klaipeda University (Lithuania)	by end January 2020 (ext.)	to be delivered
Task 4.1.5	Tests of assessment method in Latvia (in selected rivers)	PP 8 BIOR (Latvia)	by end January 2020 (ext.)	delivered
Task 4.1.6	Tests of assessment method in Estonia (in selected rivers)	PP 5 EMI (Estonia)	by end January 2020 (ext.)	delivered
Task 4.1.7	Tests of assessment method in Poland (in selected rivers)	PP 17, MI (Poland)	by end January 2020 (ext.)	delivered
Task 4.1.8	Tests of assessment method in Sweden (in selected rivers)	PP1 CAB Stockholm (Sweden)	by end January 2020 (ext.)	to be delivered
<i>GoA 4.2 Joint evaluation of completed restoration projects, Lead: PP 16, Campus Roslagen AB</i>				
Task 4.2.1	Case study template and interview guide	PP 16 Campus Roslagen AB (Sweden)	by January 2018	delivered
Task 4.2.2	Case study data collection and summary	all	by 28 September 2018 (ext.)	delivered
sub-task	Circulate template to all HELCOM countries	PP 13 HELCOM	by 19 October 2018	delivered
Task 4.2.3	Interviews with key Stakeholders	all, guidance by PP 16 Campus Roslagen AB	by May 2019 (ext.)	delivered
Task 4.2.4	A consolidated report on success factors of restoration activities	PP 16 Campus Roslagen AB (Sweden)	by mid-March 2020 (ext.)	to be finalized
<i>GoA 4.3 Demonstration projects, Lead: PP 5, University of Tartu (EMI)</i>				
Task 4.3.1-4	Estonian cases	PP 5 EMI (Estonia)	by end of Period 6	partly finalized, ongoing
Task 4.3.5	Lithuania Smiltelė	PP 9 Klaipeda University and PP 15 Klaipeda District Municipality (Lithuania)	by end of Period 6	finalized, report to be delivered
Task 4.3.6	Latvia Rīva	PP 7 Kurzeme Planning Region, PP 14 Ventspils Regional Municipality, supported by PP 8, BIOR (Latvia)	by end of Period 6	ongoing
Task 4.3.7	Poland Reda	PP 17 MI (Poland)	by end of Period 6	ongoing
Task 4.3.8	Sweden Bränningeån	PP1 CAB Stockholm (Sweden)	by end of Period 6	finalized, report to be delivered
Task 4.3.9	Sweden Erstaviksbäcken	PP1 CAB Stockholm (Sweden)	by end of Period 6	ongoing

Task 4.3.10	Sweden Moraån	PP1 CAB Stockholm (Sweden)	by end of Period 6	ongoing
Task 4.3.11	Sweden Skeboån	PP1 CAB Stockholm (Sweden)	by end of Period 6	ongoing
Task 4.3.12	Sweden Vitsån	PP1 CAB Stockholm (Sweden) & PP 3 Haninge municipality (Sweden)	by end of Period 6	finalized, report to be delivered
<i>GoA 4.4 River restoration best practices toolbox, Lead: PP 13, HELCOM</i>				
Task 4.4.1	Baltic Sea region best practices manual for river restoration	PP 13 HELCOM	by end of Period 6	ongoing
Task 4.4.2	Summary publications in national languages	EMI (Estonian), BIOR (Latvian), Klaipeda University (Lithuanian), MI (Polish) and Stockholm CAB (Swedish)	by end of Period 6	not started
Task 4.4.3	Study visits to demonstration sites in Estonia, Latvia/Lithuania, Sweden and Poland	EMI, BIOR, Klaipeda University, MI and CAB Stockholm	by end of Period 6	2/4 accomplished
Task 4.4.4	RETROUT end-conference	PP 1, Lead partner and planning group	by end of Period 6	ongoing