



Document title	Outcome of the Fourth Workshop on implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (WS RAP ML 4-2019)
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Agenda Item	8 – Interactions between fisheries and marine ecosystems
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Background

The Fourth Workshop on implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (WS RAP ML 4-2019) was held in Brussels, Belgium, on 22 October 2019. The workshop was held back to back with the Eleventh Meeting of the HELCOM Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (PRESSURE 11-2019) on 23-25 October.

This document summarizes the main points discussed during the Workshop and the following decisions on way forward as agreed by Pressure. Of relevance for Fish is the discussion on Abandoned Lost or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) held both at the Workshop and at the Pressure meeting. Discussion on further actions to address ALDFG is foreseen at the upcoming PRESSURE 12-2020 meeting to be held on 21-24 April, in Finland.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- take note of the Outcome of the Fourth Workshop on implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (WS RAP ML 4-2019); and
- comment on the proposed further actions to address ALDFG in the Baltic Sea (Annex 2 of [document 3-8](#) to PRESSURE 11-2019) through national representatives at Pressure.

Outcome of the Fourth Workshop on implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (WS RAP ML 4-2019)

The Forth Workshop on implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (WS RAP ML 4-2019) was held in Brussels, Belgium, on 22 October 2019. The workshop was held back to back with the Eleventh Meeting of the HELCOM Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (PRESSURE 11-2019) on 23-25 October.

The Workshop focused on three topics: (i) the revision of the recommendation on urban storm water management; (ii) progress in regional work to mitigate environmental impact of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear; and (iii) measures to minimize littering of the marine environment by expended and extruded polystyrene.

The main issues to point out from the workshop ([Outcome of WS RAP ML 4-2019](#)) could be summarized as follows:

- abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (**ALDFG**) (including socioeconomic effects of lost fishing gear): the workshop discussed each of the preliminary proposed actions to address ALDFG in the Baltic Sea as listed in [document 3-5](#) to PRESSURE 10-2019 in light of current HELCOM activities (Presentation 2) and **concluded on further actions for PRESSURE 11-2019 to consider as contained in Annex 2;**
- **update of HELCOM Recommendation on storm water management (Rec. 23-5):** the workshop considered a proposal to update the Recommendation jointly prepared by the City of Riga and the City of Helsinki based on the output of the [Water INTERREG project](#) in the frame of the [BSR Water Platform](#) as contained in [document 2-1](#). The workshop discussed the proposal suggested to arrange an additional commenting and **agreed to submit the current proposal to update the Recommendation to PRESSURE 11-2019 for consideration (included as Annex 3);**
- possible measures to reduce releases of EPS and XPS to the environment: the workshop took note that PRESSURE 10-2019 agreed that the “**Survey of polystyrene foam (EPS and XPS) in the Baltic Sea**” (document 3-10) provides an overview of the most significant sources of EPS (and XPS) ending up in the marine environment, as requested by action RL9 in the RAP on ML and thus this part of the action is to be considered accomplished once a study reservation raised by Sweden is lifted (document 3-10 and Outcome of PRESSURE 10-2019, para. 3.43-3.45). The workshop took note that Sweden lifted their study reservation, and thus, following PRESSURE request, the report **is available on the HELCOM website** (Outcome of PRESSURE 10-2019, para. 3.47). The workshop considered the **prioritization of the proposed actions in the catalogue for regional implementation** (Chapter 7 of the report), discussed how they could be included in the Baltic Sea Action Plan update, also discussed whether additional information is needed to justify inclusion of proposed actions to the updated BSAP and how this information can be obtained, and **agreed as contained in Annex 4**. The workshop agreed to propose such prioritization to PRESSURE 11-2019 for consideration. The workshop agreed to invite **countries to contribute with further national information that could facilitate implementation of the prioritized measures or consider HELCOM processes which might be of support for the implementation.**
- **wrap up and closing of the workshop:** the workshop agreed that there is a need to continue holding regular Workshops on implementation of the RAP ML. Participants suggested to **select themes for the next workshop based on the suggestions by countries and prioritization of actions**. The actions without leadership should also be considered to identify reasons of not implementing and find way for future progress. The workshop agreed to submit the outcome of the Workshop to PRESSURE 11-2019 for consideration.

Subsequently, PRESSURE 11-2019 ([Outcome of PRESSURE 11-2019](#), para. 3.4) took note of the Outcome of the WS RAP ML 4-2019 ([document 3-8](#)). The meeting agreed to **arrange a written procedure to comment the proposed new actions as contained in Annexes 2, 3 and 4 of the Outcome of the Workshop by 6 November 2019. Based on the comments, the work will continue and will be further discussed at PRESSURE 12-2020.**

Denmark and Sweden provided input to the further actions agreed by WS RAP ML 4-2019.

Denmark provided input to the draft update of HELCOM Recommendation 23/5 (Annex 3 of the Outcome of WS RAP ML 4-2019 and indicated that they do not have additional comments on proposed new actions contained in Annex 2 nor 4. Denmark also indicated that they are not able to take the role as lead country for the update of Recommendation 23/5.

Sweden commented on the proposed further actions to address ALDFG in the Baltic Sea and to reduce releases of EPS and XPS to the environment as contained in Annex 2 and 4 of the Outcome of the WS RAP ML 4-2019.

Also, EurEau informed that they were not able to comment on the draft update of HELCOM Recommendation 23/5 at the deadline established but that they will have the opportunity to discuss the draft document in a meeting to be held at the end of January 2020. In case of comments they will provide them as soon as possible after the meeting.