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<b>Document title</b>	Recent and upcoming activities of the RETROUT project
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<b>Agenda Item</b>	7 – Salmon and sea trout including HELCOM Recommendation 32-33/1
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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 3 ½-year (10/2017–03/2021) 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 on 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 and best practices 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 (postponed), Sweden (*DONE*) and Poland (postponed)
- Yearly RETROUT partnership meetings (yearly in fall; 1<sup>st</sup> in Stockholm October 2017, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Stockholm October 2018, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Stockholm October 2019, 4<sup>th</sup> online November 2020)
- National conclusion meetings (one meeting in each country, in spring 2021)
- RETROUT end-conference webinar (in February 2021)

## Summary of the recent activities and progress within WP 4

### **Project prolongation until 31 March 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic**

According to the original project duration and plan, the project's implementation period was to be completed in the end of September 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic considerable delays and challenges in the project implementation emerged, and it became clear that planned activities cannot successfully be carried out and outputs not delivered within the project's original duration.

In relation to the COVID-19 pandemic the Interreg Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat, with the approval of the Monitoring Committee, revised the Interreg Programme rules to allow ongoing projects to adjust to the challenges of the pandemic, and to support them in achieving their results in the best possible quality. The maximum length of the project duration was prolonged, and projects were offered the possibility of an additional 6 months of implementation time.

The RETROUT project consortium decided to utilize the prolongation possibility, and on 3 July 2020 the Interreg Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat approved the proposed change in the project set-up based on the decision of the Monitoring Committee on 9 April 2020. While the possibility of prolonged implementation time did not include any increase of the total project budget, a major internal budget reallocation between project partners was done to enable the prolongation and the continuation of all partners. To secure the continuation of HELCOM as a project partner and as the WP 4 lead until the end of the prolonged project implementation time, HELCOM's project budget was increased to the needed amount through the reallocation of a corresponding project budget share from another project partners with unused and excessive budgets.

Following these changes, the project has now entered the 6-month prolonged implementation time and is in its seventh and final 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: finished by fall 2020

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 earlier Periods 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, 2019 and 2020. However, some testing still remains to be done as schedules have been affected by the pandemic. Part (3/5 concerned project partners) of the experiences from the methods testing has 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...), the preliminary work (plans, securing of data, analyses) has been conducted and partly finished during earlier periods. However, the finalization of the work has been delayed due to challenges posed by the pandemic. The aim of this task 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 6, analyses work and drafting was continued, with certain chapters (e.g., the literature summary on recreational fishery of sea trout in the Baltic Sea) already finalized.

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. In leading and promoting the task 4.1.2 HELCOM has had a central role and has actively worked with implementing the task according to the developed and jointly agreed plans. In rest of the GoA 4.1 tasks HELCOM has had an active coordinating and supporting role, including the concrete development of work and reporting plans for the ‘methods report’ (tasks 4.1.1 and 4.1.4–4.1.7).

## **GoA 4.2 Joint evaluation of completed restoration projects**

Lead: Campus Roslagen AB (PP 16, Sweden)

Timeframe: finished by fall 2020

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). By end of Period 5 data concerning past river restoration cases (task 4.2.2) had been received by all concerned project countries as well as from Russia, Finland and Denmark. 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 riverbanks, etc.). In earlier Periods progress was also made in task 4.2.3 (Interviews with key Stakeholders of selected past river restoration cases), but the last stakeholder interview report was not received until the mid of Period 6. This and other delays have been caused by – and by that the overall progress of this GoA have been affected by – the pandemic since spring 2020.

During Period 6, based on the gathered data material (task 4.2.2–4.2.3) qualitative analyses has been conducted to investigate success factors in river restoration projects. With the aim of producing a consolidated report (task 4.2.4) presenting the results from the study, work has proceeded, and first drafts have been completed and circulated for comments to the WP4 working group.

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, and in Period 6 especially participated in the report drafting process.

### **GoA 4.3 Demonstrating efficient river restoration measures**

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

Timeframe: finished by end of March 2021

Progress summary:

Within GoA 4.3, a number of different river restoration cases are carried out in the Project partner countries Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden. Progress and finalization of some of the projects has been delayed during the pandemic. By the end of Period 6, all river restoration cases had been completed in Estonia and Lithuania, as well as in several sites of the Swedish cases (implemented by external non-project funding). The still remaining cases in Sweden and Latvia are to be finished during the fall 2020, while the restoration case in Poland (implemented by external funding) will proceed but will not be completed within the project duration. Draft case reports (which still can be complemented) on the restoration projects have been received from Latvia and Poland, with the remaining ones to be received as soon as possible.

Inter-partnership knowledge-sharing and consultation have been practices to some degree, which has been 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 Periods 4, 5, and 6, and agreed by the concerned WP 4 project partners during the yearly partnership meeting in October 2019.

The importance of stakeholder communication in relation to river restoration projects, have also been considered during Periods 4–6. Stakeholder communication is important for the effectiveness and sustainability of the restoration measures implemented under RETROUT. To fulfill these functions, stakeholder communication under GoA 4.3 have been established and organized for the different restoration cases, with support from PP16 and the developed and jointly agreed process guidelines and reporting instructions for stakeholder communication. Some stakeholder meetings have, however, not been possible to be carried out due to the pandemic.

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

### **GoA 4.4 Develop Baltic Toolbox for river restoration**

Lead: HELCOM (PP 13)

Timeframe: finished by end of March 2021

Progress summary:

The key task of this GoA is to jointly develop Baltic Sea Guidelines for river restoration best practices (task 4.4.1) 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. Overall, the progress of this work has been delayed due to the delays in GoAs 4.2 and 4.3 as a consequence of the pandemic.

As part of the initial work done in GoA 4.4, a work plan with a preliminary structure of the Guidelines report has been developed and agreed upon within the WP 4 working group: It will have an introduction, methods & approaches chapter, a chapter with the main results from 4.2, a chapter with summarizing 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. As most existing river restoration manuals give detailed practical advice on how to do the restoration work itself, the RETROUT Guidelines 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.

To the other parts of this GoA 4.4, it can be noted that the study visits to river restoration sites in the PP countries (task 4.4.3) have been conducted in Estonia and Sweden. Plans for the remaining study visits to Poland and to Latvia/Lithuania exist but the implementations is delayed until further notice due to the pandemic. Alternative ways of implementation of these tasks are explored. Further, the task 4.4.5. "Pan-Baltic meeting on river restoration" will be organized as an integral part of the RETROUT end conference in spring 2021, and planning and preparation work for this has been carried out during Period 6. At this end it has been decided that the end-conference will be organized as an online webinar in mid-February 2021.

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. Additional work is done to support the responsible PPs in organizing the study visits (tasks 4.4.3) and the national conclusion meetings (task 4.4.4). Further, HELCOM as the WP4 lead has a central part in the RETROUT end-conference (task 4.4.5) planning work.

## Deviation in implementation (WP 4)

Due to the exceptional circumstances posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, general project work and specific activities have been negatively affected and hence delayed. The original plans have been revised to the current work plan for the 6 months 'Covid-19'-prolongation period. Therefore, compared to the original work plan there are considerable deviations in form of delays but also as some potentially alternative implementation solutions that, however, now are taken into account in the current updated Work Plan.

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

According to the original 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 WP4 working group agreed to combine the outputs of tasks 4.1.1 and 4.1.4–4.1.7 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 finalization of the combined 'methods report' will be allocated during fall 2020 and it is expected to be ready within the project duration.

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 of this task. However, much effort has been put clarifying and developing the plans, and currently this task is progressing. Due to the difficulties the original schedule of completion by end of Period 4 was not realistic and the finalization needed to be postponed in order to enable a good and useful output from this task. The pandemic has further delayed the progress of this task. Currently, further analyses and drafting work are being done, following the commonly agreed detailed plans for the report. A first draft report is expected to be ready in short and, and finalization can be done by end of 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. These challenges throughout the project have shifted the schedule of all the tasks of this GoA and the finalization of the GoA as well. Further, the pandemic has caused additional delays. However, now the GoA 4.2 is well progressing. Currently, the data analyses have been done, a first report draft reviewed, and a second full report draft prepared and in short circulated for comments to the working group.

#### **GoA 4.3 Demonstrating efficient river restoration measures**

The finalization of some of the 4.3 river restoration demonstration cases as well as their reporting have been delayed, but otherwise progressing according to plans.

#### **GoA 4.4 Develop Baltic Toolbox for river restoration**

The development of the Baltic Sea Guidelines for River Restoration Best Practices has been delayed, but otherwise implementation will follow the work plan.

Also, the implementations of the study visits to the Polish and Latvian/Lithuanian river restoration sites have been delayed and are currently uncertain due to the pandemic.

Also, the organization of the national conclusion meetings as well as the RETROUT end-conference is delayed due to the pandemic. The end-conference will be organized as an online webinar in mid-February 2021.

#### **HELCOM's contribution to project communication**

During Period 6, HELCOM has contributed to the project's internal communication, by sustaining an active contact to RETROUT communications manager and management team, project partners and collaborators.

HELCOM has contributed to the content of the official RETROUT webpage (<https://retROUT.org/category/news/>), and the Project manager has contributed to the ongoing work of the second RETROUT newsletter.

HELCOM Project manager has kept relevant HELCOM staff and groups informed about the RETROUT project.

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

The Project manager wrote an invited article for the MERCES project's newsletter ([http://www.merces-project.eu/sites/default/files/MERCES\\_BusinessNewsletter\\_04\\_HQ.pdf](http://www.merces-project.eu/sites/default/files/MERCES_BusinessNewsletter_04_HQ.pdf)).

## 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 lead by Stockholm County Administrative Board (PP1, Sweden) is to be finished during fall 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 has been much delayed. 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, if possible, 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 further analyses and drafting work remains. Despite the at times slow progress the work continuously advanced and should be ready in fall 2020, where after finalization and final approval for publication in HELCOM working structures can be done during winter/spring 2021.

### **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 stakeholder interview (task 4.2.3) 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 the received restoration case data, and on the qualitative analyses and interpretation of the stakeholder interview material (task 4.2.3), a consolidated report (task 4.2.4) on success factors of restoration activities will be produced. A second full draft is being finalized, to then be circulated for a second internal review to the RETROUT WP4 working group before final completion. The ready 4.2 study report will be published online on the RETROUT webpage. This work led by Campus Roslagen (PP16, Sweden) is to be finished during fall 2020. The 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. All restoration cases but the one in Reda river in Poland will be finalised as planned during the project time. The work with the restoration demonstration cases is being carried out very independently by each responsible RETROUT 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. All reports are expected to be received by the responsible project partners during fall 2020. 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.

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 held at the latest in spring 2020. Some of these workshops are still to be organized with an uncertain schedule after being postponed due to the pandemic.

### **GoA 4.4 Develop Baltic Sea Guidelines for river restoration best practices**

The key task of GoA 4.4 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. 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.

Based on the material to be delivered by the WP 4 project partners, HELCOM will prepare a first full 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 March 2021, as the completion of some of the restoration demonstration cases have suffered from severe delays partly caused by the pandemic. Due to these schedule uncertainties a precautionary approach would be to be prepared to the Guidelines finalised as a RETROUT project report by the end of the Project's implementation time, where after the HELCOM review and publication process may need to take place as an own procedure.

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

- Preliminary drafting in fall/winter 2020-21
- Final input from GoA 4.2 by end November 2020 (4.2 report ready)
- Input from GoA 4.3 by end of November 2020 (first complete case study reports ready regardless of the current situation of the demonstration cases at that time)
- 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 late 2020, finalizing during joint workshop for this purpose in early 2021 (time and place TBD)
- Preliminary draft by HELCOM ready and circulated to RETROUT WP4 working group during fall 2020
- Full report draft ready and circulated to RETROUT WP4 working group by end of January 2021
- Final version ready by end-February 2021

GoA 4.4 also includes study visits to river restoration demonstrations sites in the concerned project partner countries. The remaining study visits to Poland and to Latvia/Lithuania will be organized in early 2021 if the covid-19 situation allows. Alternative ways of implementation of these tasks (e.g. online study visits with livestream and interaction possibilities) will also be explored.

The task 4.4.5. “Pan-Baltic meeting on river restoration” will be organized as an integral part of the RETROUT end conference in spring 2021, and planning and preparation work for an online webinar in mid-February will proceed continuously.

Table 1. Overview of WP 4 GoAs and tasks

TASK	TITLE	LEAD/RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE*	STATUS
<b>GoA 4.1 Assessment of sea trout river and stock status, impacts of recreational fishing and management options, Lead: PP 13, HELCOM</b>				
Task 4.1.1	Common methodology on trout river habitat monitoring and electrofishing	PP1 CAB Stockholm (Sweden)	by end of period 6	to be finalized
sub-task	Translation of River Habitat Survey manual	PP1 CAB Stockholm (Sweden)		delivered
sub-task	Plan for methods report	PP 13 HELCOM		delivered
sub-task	Instructions for reporting experiences of applying trout monitoring methods	PP 13 HELCOM		delivered
Task 4.1.2	Assessment of sea trout river and stock status, extent of pressures and management options	PP 13 HELCOM	draft in fall 2020 (ext.)	ongoing
sub-task	Plan for task 4.1.2	PP 13 HELCOM		delivered
sub-task	Gather data on recreational fishing and its impacts on sea trout populations	PP 19 GMU (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 of 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 19, GMU (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 of 2020 (ext.)	to be delivered
<b>GoA 4.2 Joint evaluation of completed restoration projects, Lead: PP 16, Campus Roslagen AB</b>				
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 end of October 2020	draft ready, final version to be finalized
<b>GoA 4.3 Demonstration projects, Lead: PP 5, University of Tartu (EMI)</b>				
Task 4.3.1.1-.4	Estonia (4 cases)	PP 5 EMI (Estonia)	by end of Period 6 (ext.)	finalized, report to be delivered
Task 4.3.1.5	Lithuania Smiltelė	PP 9 Klaipeda University and PP 15 Klaipeda District Municipality (Lithuania)	by end of Period 6 (ext.)	finalized, report to be delivered
Task 4.3.1.6	Latvia Rīva	PP 7 Kurzeme Planning Region, PP 14 Ventspils Regional Municipality,	by end of 2020	ongoing, first report version delivered

		supported by PP 8, BIOR (Latvia)		
Task 4.3.8	Sweden (5 cases)	PP1 CAB Stockholm (Sweden) & PP 3 Haninge municipality (Sweden)	by end of Period 7	same cases finalized, some to be completed in Period 7, all reports to be delivered
Task 4.3.1.8	Poland Reda	PP 19 GMU Poland)	report by end of Period 6	delivered
Task 4.3.1.12	Instructions/guidelines for documentation and preparation of the case study reports on the restoration demonstration projects	HELCOM	early Period 5	delivered
Task 4.3.2.1	Communication and reporting guide for stakeholder meetings	PP 16 Campus Roslagen AB (Sweden)	by December 2019	delivered
Task 4.3.2.2	Stakeholder meetings	all GoA 4.3 PPs	fall 2020 if possible, otherwise in spring 2021	some organized, some postponed, most reports still 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 7	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 7	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 7	2/4 accomplished
Task 4.4.4	5 national conclusion meeting/WP reference group meetings (one meeting in each country).	PPs active in restoration projects, in collaboration with HELCOM	by end of Period 7	ongoing
Task 4.4.5	RETROUT end-conference	PP 1, Lead partner and planning group	by end of Period 7	ongoing

\*According to current Project Work Plan (v. 4) in force or extended "(ext.)".