



Document title	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda
Code	2-2
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
Submission date	17.12.2021
Submitted by	Secretariat

Background

With reference to the outcome of FISH 13-2021 (paragraph 10.1) and HOD 60-2021 (paragraph 5.46), the 14th Meeting of HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (FISH 14-2022) will be organized on 23-24 February 2022. The Meeting will be held as an online meeting via Zoom in accordance with the HELCOM COVID-19 policy.

The Meeting will start on **Wednesday 23 February at 9:30 EET** and is expected to end on **Thursday 24 February 2021 at 16:30 EET**.

The Meeting will be Chaired by Marianne Goffeng Raakil, Chair of HELCOM Fish Group.

Documents and registration

Meeting documents will be submitted by the Secretariat to the [FISH 14-2022 Meeting site](#) via the [HELCOM Meeting Portal](#). The Secretariat has prepared a [document template](#) and recommends using the template when submitting documents to the Secretariat.

The Secretariat kindly requests the Contracting Parties and Observers to observe the deadlines for submission of documents to a HELCOM meeting. Basic documents and documents requiring action or a decision by the Meeting should be submitted to Professional Secretary, Markus Helavuori (markus.helavuori@helcom.fi) by **2 February 2022**. Bulky documents should include abstracts embodying the essence of the proposals and action requested from the meeting. Documents containing comments to the basic documents as well as information documents should be provided to the Secretariat by **16 February 2022**.

Participants are kindly requested to register to the Meeting by answering the [Participation Survey](#) at their earliest convenience, and not later than **16 February 2022**. [Instructions](#) for the use of the Meeting Portal are available on the HELCOM website. An invitation to participate online through Zoom will be sent to registered participants.

Annotations to the Provisional Agenda

Agenda Item 1 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Meeting is invited to recall that FISH 10-2019 elected Ms. Marianne Goffeng Raakil, Sweden, as Chair of the HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (Fish) for 2020-2021. The Meeting further elected Ms. Katarzyna Kaminska, Poland, as Vice-Chair for the same period.

The Meeting is invited to elect/re-elect the Chair and Vice-Chair of HELCOM Fish Group for the next two-year period (2022-2023).

Agenda Item 2 Adoption of the Agenda

These Annotations to the Provisional Agenda have been prepared based on the outcome of the FISH 13-2021 meeting and consultations between the Chair and the Secretariat.

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda as contained in document 2-1.

The Meeting is invited to note that as a general rule and mindful of the limited time available, pure information documents will no longer be introduced at the Meeting but will be taken as read. Comments of particular interest related to such documents may, however, be considered by the Meeting. Participants are therefore invited to familiarize themselves with all submitted documents prior to the Meeting.

Agenda Item 3 Matters arising from HELCOM work of relevance for the group

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcome of HOD 60-2021 (3-4 June 2021) and HOD 61-2021 (8-9 December 2021) and use the information as appropriate (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to note that the HELCOM-Baltic Earth [Climate Change Fact Sheet](#) was published in September 2021, including information on climate change impacts on fish, fisheries, and aquaculture, among other topics, in the Baltic Sea (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to take note of any other matters arising from HELCOM work of relevance for the Fish Group.

Agenda Item 4 Implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

The Meeting is invited to note that the updated [Baltic Sea Action Plan](#) was adopted by the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting held on 20 October 2021 in Lübeck, Germany. The Meeting is invited to take note of the fish and fisheries related actions within the Action Plan and to plan the implementation of those actions (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcome of a second meeting of Chairpersons of HELCOM and HELCOM main groups held online on 25 January 2022, organized in order to enhance the flow of information, and improve coordination between HELCOM main groups, especially concerning the implementation of the 2021 BSAP and to deliberate on a potential renewal of the HELCOM working structure.

The Meeting is invited to note that HELCOM 43-2022 in March 2022 will continue the discussion on guidance for the Working Groups to plan their future work in relation to the implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, which was initiated at HOD 61-2021.

Agenda Item 5 Regional cooperation on fisheries and environment

Cooperation between HELCOM and BALTFISH

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcome of a joint HELCOM, BALTFISH and BSAC meeting planned for January 2022 in order to inform the BSAC and BALTFISH about the 2021 BSAP, the relevant actions relating to fisheries management and their timelines.

The Meeting is invited to recall that FISH 13-2021 noted that there has not been any additional input from BALTFISH members or their data collection framework (DCF) contact points in relation to the *Roadmap on fisheries data in order to assess incidental bycatches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes in the Baltic Sea* and invited the BALTFISH presidency to provide an update on this matter to FISH 14-2021.

The Latvian Presidency of BALTFISH is invited to provide an update on possible input received from BALTFISH members or their DCF contact points to the *Roadmap on fisheries data*.

The Latvian Presidency of BALTFISH and/or other Contracting Parties are further invited to inform on recent activities within BALTFISH.

The Secretariat will further inform the Meeting on recent information sharing and cooperation between HELCOM and BALTFISH. The Meeting is invited to discuss information of particular interest, that should be shared with BALTFISH.

Cooperation with the BSAC sub-group on ecosystem-based fisheries management

The Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC) is invited to inform the Meeting on recent activities within BSAC relevant for HELCOM, including the ongoing work regarding ecosystem-based fisheries management.

Cooperation with other organizations

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcome of the HELCOM workshop on Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs) in the Baltic Sea, held in cooperation with IUCN WCPA and FAO on 1-3 February 2022 (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to share information on regional, EU and international (FAO, CBD, other regions) developments for closer regional cooperation between organisations in the fields of fisheries and the marine environment.

Agenda Item 6 BAT/BEP for sustainable aquaculture

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcome of the fourth meeting of the HELCOM Fish Correspondence Group concerning a draft document on BAT/BEP descriptions for sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea region (CG AQUACULTURE 4-2021), held on June 2021 as well as of the informal meeting of CG Aquaculture, held on 30 November 2021 (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is further invited to note that the next meetings of CG Aquaculture will be held online on 24-25 March 2022 and preliminarily physically in Marienhamn, Åland, on 21-22 June 2022.

Lead countries are invited to further inform the Meeting on the ongoing work regarding the development of BAT/BEP for sustainable aquaculture.

Meeting participants are invited to share information on recent activities relevant to the development of sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea as well as the BAT/BEP for sustainable aquaculture.

Agenda Item 7 HELCOM data interests

The Meeting is invited to recall that FISH 13-2021 invited Contracting Parties and Observers to submit proposals for revising the draft reporting template for the *Roadmap on fisheries data in order to assess*

incidental bycatches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes in the Baltic Sea to FISH 14-2021, with a view to finalising the reporting template at a future meeting.

The Contracting Parties and Observers are invited to submit proposals for revising the draft reporting template for the Roadmap (document 6-1) to the Secretariat (markus.helavuori@helcom.fi) by **2 February 2022**. The Secretariat will revise the draft reporting template accordingly and present it at the Meeting.

The Meeting is invited to note that a sub-contract with ICES has been established in June 2021 to produce fishing effort maps needed for HOLAS III purposes by 30 June 2022.

Agenda Item 8 Salmon and sea trout including HELCOM Recommendation 32-33/1

The Meeting is invited to recall that according to HELCOM Recommendation 32-33/1, the actions taken by the Contracting Parties for implementing this recommendation shall be reported to the Commission every three years in January, starting in 2012.

The Meeting is further invited to recall that the reporting was last carried out in 2017, with the final version of the reporting endorsed by correspondence in 2018, thus calling for a delayed reporting to be carried out in 2022.

The Meeting is further invited to recall the agreement by FISH 8-2018 that in the next reporting round of the Recommendation 32-33/1 the data needed to assess the implementation of this Recommendation, as included in [document 6-1 Annex 3](#) of that meeting, should be explicitly included in the reporting request from the Secretariat.

The Meeting is invited to agree on the reporting procedure for the Recommendation 32-33/1 in 2022.

Agenda Item 9 Interactions between fisheries and marine ecosystems

The Meeting is invited to take note of the follow-up and discussion by BALTFISH on the ICES Special Request Advice on EU request on emergency measures to prevent bycatch of Baltic Proper harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) in the Baltic Sea fisheries and to consider the matter as appropriate.

Agenda Item 10 Work on HELCOM indicator development

The Meeting is invited to take note of work related to the future work on HELCOM indicators and progress being made, and the outcome of a regional workshop to support the status assessment of commercial fish towards the third Holistic Assessment of the Baltic Sea (HOLAS III) (ComFish WS 1-2021) (document to be submitted).

Agenda Item 11 Future work

The Meeting is invited to note the decision by HOD 61-2021 that the current work plan of HELCOM Fish Group remains valid until HOD 63-2022.

The Meeting is invited to agree on the time and place of the next meeting of the Fish Group.

Agenda Item 12 Any other business

The Meeting is invited to review, and update as needed, the list of Fish contacts and observers (document 12-1). The Contracting Parties and Observer organizations are invited to inform of any new, or changed, nominations to the Secretariat (petra.kaaria@helcom.fi).

The Contracting Parties and Observers are invited to present any other business of relevance for the HELCOM Fish Group.

Agenda Item 13 Outcome of the Meeting

The Meeting will be provided with a draft Outcome for adoption. The final Outcome, incorporating corrections by the Meeting, will be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Meeting and made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal.