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Agenda Item	2 – Adoption of the Agenda
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Reference	Outcome of HOD 51-2016, paragraph 6.61

Introduction

With reference to the decision of HOD 51-2016 (Outcome paragraph 6.61), the Sixth Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (FISH 6-2017) will be held on 22-24 May 2017 at the premises of the HELCOM Secretariat (Katajanokanlaituri 6 B, 00160 Helsinki) in Helsinki, Finland.

The Meeting will start at 13:00 on Monday 22 May 2017 and is expected to terminate by 14:00 on Wednesday 24 May 2017.

The Meeting will elect a Chair for itself.

Documents for the Meeting will be made available on the [FISH 6-2017 meeting site](#) on the HELCOM Meeting Portal. Please note that you need to be a registered user with relevant rights to access the restricted meeting documents. Instructions for the use of the Meeting Portal are available on the [HELCOM website](#).

Those Meeting participants that wish to provide their contributions for the Meeting are requested to submit meeting documents in electronic format to Professional Secretary Mr. Hermanni Backer (hermanni.backer@helcom.fi) **at the latest by 24 April 2017**. Documents containing comments to the basic documents shall be received by the Secretariat not later than seven days before the opening of the Meeting, i.e. **15 May 2017**.

Participants are kindly requested to register to the Meetings by answering the [participation survey](#) on the HELCOM Meeting Portal by **15 May 2017 at the latest**. Instructions for the use of the HELCOM Meeting Portal are available at the [HELCOM Website](#).

Agenda Item 1 Election of Chair

The Meeting of FISH 5-2016 decided to postpone the election of Chair and Vice-Chairs of the HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries until the next Meeting of the group.

Firstly, the Meeting is invited to elect the chair for the Meeting.

Further, the meeting is invited to elect a Chair and vice-Chair for the HELCOM Group on sustainable fisheries (Fish) for the next two-year period, 2017-2019.

Agenda Item 2 Adoption of the Agenda

This Provisional Annotated Agenda has been prepared based on the outcome of the FISH 5-2016 meeting.

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

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

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcomes of recent HELCOM meetings of relevance for Fish (document to be submitted later).

The Meeting is invited to take note of [the work plan of the EU chairmanship at HELCOM \(2016-2018\)](#).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the publication [“Sustainable Development Goals-Measuring progress for the same targets in the Baltic Sea” \(BSEP 150\)](#), that highlights HELCOM efforts in the context of implementing ocean related Sustainable Development Goals; including on pages 4-5 the “HELCOM’s Implementation Outlook of the Ocean-related SDGs in the Baltic Sea - A Roadmap to Agenda 2030 (HELCOM-A2030)” adopted by the high-level representatives of the HELCOM Contracting Parties on 28 February 2017.

The Meeting is invited to note that the forth meeting of the Task force group on migratory fish (FISH-M), will be held as a workshop on river restoration and best practices in Denmark on 29-30 May 2017 and that the outcome will be considered at the FISH 7-2017 meeting.

The Meeting is invited to take note of information about recreational fisheries in the HELCOM countries as compiled by the HELCOM FISH-PRO II project (document to be submitted later).

Agenda Item 4 HELCOM Assessments & Indicators

The Meeting is invited to consider a draft of the HELCOM Maritime Assessment, especially the Fisheries and Aquaculture chapters (document to be submitted later).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the progress within the initiative to draft the Second Holistic Assessment of the Ecosystem Health of the Baltic Sea (HOLAS II) (document to be submitted later).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the recent work within fish related indicators based on a document to be submitted at a later stage, including:

- indicators ‘Abundance of coastal fish key functional groups’ and on ‘Abundance of key coastal fish species’ (updated with data up to 2015 and are the basis of input for HOLAS II and the thematic assessment on coastal fish).
- indicators on migratory fish: ‘Abundance of salmon spawners and smolt’ and ‘Abundance of sea trout spawners and parr’ (recent updates).
- indicator ‘Proportion of large fish in the community’ on offshore fish (LFI) (use in the HOLAS II report).
- indicator ‘Number of drowned mammals and waterbirds in fishing gear’.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcome of the request for reporting on the national implementation of HELCOM Recommendation 32-33/1 on conservation of Baltic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and sea trout (*Salmo trutta*) populations by the restoration of their river habitats and management of river fisheries, which was circulated by the Secretariat on 7 March 2017.

Agenda Item 5 BAT/BEP for sustainable aquaculture

Contracting Parties and Observers are invited to share information on new developments on aquaculture in the Baltic Sea of relevance for the Baltic Sea marine environment.

The Meeting is invited to recall that FISH 6-2016 welcomed the proposal by Denmark to base the work on aquaculture BAT/BEP on a translation of the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) report “Bat for fiskeopdræt i Norden”, as well as necessary updates and other material relevant to Baltic Sea countries that are not covered by the NCM report.

The Meeting is further invited to recall that FISH 6-2016 welcomed the proposal by Denmark to consider the possibility to enable such a translation and reworking and circulating the resulting document to the CG Aquaculture email list for comments and possible revisions before the next meeting of the FISH Group.

The Meeting is invited to take note that Denmark facilitated the translation of the NCM report during spring 2017 by connecting the report author with the Secretariat but informed that no resources were readily available in Denmark for this work.

The Meeting is further invited to recall that HELCOM 38-2017 took note of the seed money application on supporting the implementation of HELCOM Recommendation 37/3 on sustainable aquaculture, submitted by the Secretariat on 15 February 2017, and requested the Secretariat to establish contact with the relevant groups of the Nordic Council of Ministers in order to make NCM material available for further HELCOM work on Sustainable Aquaculture, especially the report TemaNord 2013:529 “Bat for fiskeopdræt i Norden” including the necessary translations (c.f. outcome of the HELCOM 38-2017, § 4.49).

Sweden is invited to inform the Meeting of the main outcomes of the Swedish literature study compiling an overview of different aquaculture techniques.

The Meeting is invited to update the list of nominated contacts of the HELCOM Fish Correspondence Group concerning a draft document on BAT/BEP descriptions for sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea region (CG Aquaculture) (document 5-1), which will commence its work after a translation of the NCM report or other material has been prepared to form the basis of the correspondence. The Contracting Parties who have not yet nominated a contact for CG Aquaculture, are invited to nominate contacts to the Secretariat (minna.pyhala@helcom.fi) as soon as possible.

The Meeting is invited to consider how to make progress in CG Aquaculture and implementation of HELCOM Recommendation 37/3 in general.

Agenda Item 6 Interactions between fisheries and marine ecosystems

Testing alternative fishing gears/fishing techniques

The Meeting is invited to recall that information on alternative fishing gears or fishing techniques is being gathered by HELCOM, with the aim of compiling a list of equipment that can be recommended as an environmentally friendly alternative. The list also serves to increase the dissemination of gear testing information in the region (under the joint action 4.7.1 and 4.7.2 of the HELCOM programme of measures *Testing alternative fishing gears/fishing techniques to minimize incidental catch through joint project/projects* as described in FISH 3-2015 document 2-3).

Poland is invited to present the latest compilation of information on alternative fishing gears or fishing techniques, updated with information provided by Contracting Parties and Observers since FISH 5-2016, acknowledging that the document is meant to be a living document, to be constantly updated.

The Meeting is invited to recall that FISH 5-2016 highlighted the need for economic and other incentives to facilitate testing and use of alternative fishing gears by fishermen and invited the coastal countries and observers to share information on available incentives at the next meeting.

Contracting Parties and Observers are invited to inform the Meeting of available or implemented economic and other incentives to facilitate testing and use of alternative fishing gears by fishermen.

Incidental bycatches and utilization of EU data collection framework (DCF)

The Meeting is invited to recall that FISH 5-2016 welcomed Poland’s offer to lead intersessional drafting on data collected as part of EU Data Collection Framework (DCF) to specify in more detail the data needed by HELCOM processes for the next meeting of HELCOM FISH, invited the interested Contracting Parties and observers to participate in this work (FISH 5 outcome § 5.36) as well as invited the Contracting Parties to present their national programmes of DCF data collection (§ 5.37).

Contracting Parties are invited to present their national fisheries data collected as part of DCF, with focus on incidental bycatches, to identify data gaps in more detail.

The Meeting is invited to consider the HELCOM needs and role as an end user of data collected as part of DCF based on a proposal by Poland, with input from Germany, resulting from intersessional consultations (document to be submitted at a later stage).

The Meeting is invited to plan and agree on follow-up regarding the use of incidental bycatch data collected as part of DCF in HELCOM processes.

The Meeting is invited to consider the need and possibilities to map areas with high risk of by-catch of sea mammals and birds in the Baltic Sea.

Ghost nets

The Meeting is invited to recall that FISH 5-2016 took note of a number of national initiatives on ghost nets (FISH 5 outcome §5.45-5.49) and agreed in the context of recreational fisheries that CCB will lead a small correspondence exchange to prepare a thematic document on ghost nets for the FISH 6 meeting (FISH 5 outcome §6.9).

The Meeting is invited to consider a thematic document on ghost nets (with focus on recreational fishing) to be submitted by CCB (document to be submitted at a later stage).

Denmark is invited to provide information on national activities on ghost nets, including an information campaign targeting fishermen concerning loss from gear and other material.

Contracting Parties and Observers are invited to share any additional information related to ghost nets, including submitting completed studies, especially concerning the impacts of ghost nets to the marine ecosystem including fish.

Fisheries and maritime spatial planning (MSP)

Contracting Parties are invited to share any information on fisheries and maritime spatial planning (MSP).

Agenda Item 7 Closer regional cooperation on Fisheries & Environment

The Meeting is invited to recall that FISH 5-2016 considered the draft plan for closer cooperation between marine environment and fisheries management in the Baltic Sea, agreed that the draft plan should be submitted to HODs, which should take the appropriate steps to initiate a process for regular information exchange between HELCOM FISH, BALTFISH and the EU-RU fisheries commission based on the three steps outlined in document 5-3 submitted to HELCOM FISH 5-2016.

The Meeting is invited to take note that based on the discussions at FISH 5, HOD 51-2016 supported the plan for closer cooperation between marine environment and fisheries management in the Baltic Sea and agreed to initiate a process for closer cooperation between HELCOM FISH, BALTFISH and the EU-RU fisheries commission based on the three steps outlined. The meeting agreed that the Chair of HELCOM will initiate communication with BALTFISH and other relevant stakeholders and that HELCOM FISH would consider the issue further based on intersessional developments regarding the cooperation.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the plan for closer cooperation between marine environment and fisheries management in the Baltic Sea supported by HOD 51 (document 7-1) as well as of the intersessional developments around implementing the plan based on information from the Secretariat.

The Contracting Parties and Observers are invited to discuss and propose key issues for concrete cooperation between HELCOM FISH, BALTFISH and the EU-RU fisheries commission.

BSAC is invited to inform on the newly created sub-group on ecosystem based management and its activities.

Contracting Parties and Observers are invited to inform on any other developments relevant for closer cooperation between marine environment and fisheries management in the Baltic Sea.

Agenda Item 8 Future work

The Meeting is invited to recall that FISH 5-2016 drafted a work plan 2017-2018 for HELCOM FISH and note that that the work plan was adopted by HOD 51-2016 (Outcome §6.51) and that HOD 51 took note that concerning the FISH Group, the work plan will be further polished for the next meeting of the group.

The Meeting is invited to consider and revise the work plan 2017-2018 of HELCOM FISH (document 8-1). Please note that the Contracting Parties and Observers are invited to prepare in advance for this work plan revision by identifying concrete priority tasks as well as consider leading these proposed tasks with assigned contact persons.

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

Agenda Item 9 Any other business

The Meeting is invited to review, and update as needed, the list of FISH contacts and observes (document 9-1).

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

Agenda Item 10 Outcome of the Meeting

The Meeting will be provided with draft Outcome of the Meeting 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](#).