



Document title	Information on the preparation of HELCOM Maritime Assessment
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Background

The HELCOM Contracting Parties agreed as part of the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Declaration to comprehensively assess the status, environmental risks and opportunities of maritime activities in the Baltic Sea region within HELCOM by 2016.

A “pre-draft” of the HELCOM Maritime Assessment document, with the available illustration drafts, was made available for download and subsequent CP input and preliminary comments on 3 May 2017. The files are accessible via a dedicated assessment library (one folder for each chapter) at the HELCOM Sharepoint site (requires login): <https://portal.helcom.fi/workspaces/Martime%20Assessment-129/>

The draft material available covers 15 of the foreseen 20 Chapters. The Secretariat editorial team continues to work on the missing pre-drafts (fisheries, aquaculture, hazardous submerged objects, leisure boating, the concluding “future” section as well as the summary) and will submit them as soon as available to the HELCOM Sharepoint repository. Due to the lack of resources at the Secretariat and the complexity of the matter, EU legislation (of relevance for the coastal countries which are also EU Members) is not covered at the moment and in the appropriate sections the focus is on international treaties and the 1992 Helsinki Convention & HELCOM Recommendations.

This early pre-draft version was circulated widely not only for commenting purposes but also to provide an opportunity for as many interested CP/Observer contacts to be involved in the process by providing additional text, illustrations and references.

The Contracting Parties and Observers were invited to provide any new input or preliminary comments by Monday 15 May 2017 to the Secretariat (maritime.response@helcom.fi).

With the initial input received by 15 May the Secretariat editorial team will compile a complete draft of the Maritime Assessment 2017 document and submit it for commenting on Friday 19 May with final commenting deadline a week later (Friday 26 May).

Based on the feedback received during the commenting round 19-26 May the Secretariat will consider submitting the draft to HELCOM HOD 52-2017 (20-21 June 2017 Brussels) for publishing approval.

Timetable for the process for HELCOM Maritime Assessment:

15 May 2017	Deadline for Initial comments and input on the chapter pre drafts
19 May 2017	Secretariat to send out complete draft
26 May 2017	Deadline for comments on the complete draft
29-30 May 2017	Secretariat to submit draft to HOD 52-2017 (incorporating comments received during consultation 19-26 May)

Further consultations will be carried out intersessionally.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note the information.