



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries

FISH 8-2018

Warsaw, Poland, 23-24 May 2018

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The eighth Meeting of HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (FISH 8-2018) will be held on 23-24 May 2018 at the premises of Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation (Nowy Świat 6/12 Street) in Warsaw, Poland.

The Meeting will start at 10:00 on Wednesday 23 May and is expected to terminate by 17:00 on Thursday 24 May 2018.

The Meeting will be held back-to-back with the second meeting of the correspondence group for fisheries data (CG FISHDATA 2-2018) which will be organized on 22 May at the same premises in Warsaw, Poland.

Documents and registration

Documents for the Meeting will be made available on the [FISH 8-2018](#) 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 Markus Helavuori (markus.helavuori@helcom.fi) **at the latest by 30 April 2018**. 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. **16 May 2018**.

Participants are kindly requested to register to the Meeting by answering the [participation survey](#) on the HELCOM Meeting Portal by **16 May 2018 at the latest**. Instructions for the use of the HELCOM Meeting Portal are available at the [HELCOM Website](#).

Provisional Annotated Agenda

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

This Provisional Annotated Agenda has been prepared based on the outcome of the FISH 7-2017 meeting and consultations between the Chair and the Secretariat.

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

Agenda Item 2 Matters arising from HELCOM work of relevance of the group

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcome of the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2018 (document 2-1).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the plan for updating the Baltic Sea Action Plan (document 2-2).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the HELCOM report 'Implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan 2018 – three years left to reach good environmental status' (document 2-3), and in particular the status of the implementation of regional and national actions related to the work of HELCOM Fish, and initiate discussions on how the remaining actions could be implemented by 2021.

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 outcome of the regional workshop on eel and the Baltic Sea, organized as part of the Task force on migratory fish species subgroup, on 29 November – 1 December 2017 in Stockholm, Sweden (document 2-4).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the publication of the [HELCOM Maritime Assessment](#) (BSEP 152) on HELCOM website.

The Meeting is invited to note that HOD 53-2017 approved the [project description](#) for continuation of the [FISH-PRO II project](#) (FISH-PRO III) for years 2018-2023 and to take note of the draft third thematic assessment of the status of coastal fish communities in the Baltic Sea, produced by FISH-PRO II (document to be submitted later).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the progress of work on the second holistic assessment of the ecosystem health of Baltic Sea (HOLAS II).

Agenda Item 3 Regional cooperation on Fisheries & Environment

Cooperation between HELCOM and BALTFISH

FISH 7-2017 tasked the Secretariat to on a regular basis share information on HELCOM Fish work plans, provisional agendas of meetings, outcome documents including main recommendations and decisions, with BALTFISH Chair and suggested further that fisheries and MSP-related information, considered within the Contracting Parties or the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG should be included.

FISH 7-2017 further requested that the Secretariat adds a short account of Fisheries related work of HELCOM and related commitments to the first submission to BALTFISH, consults the Chair before making the submission, and that the Fish WG should be informed of the correspondence.

The Secretariat will inform the Meeting on information sharing between HELCOM Fish and BALTFISH Chair.

FISH 7-2017 agreed that in the future the Chair of HELCOM Fish should attend the BALTFISH Forum on behalf of HELCOM and act within the framework of the HELCOM Fish Terms of Reference and outcomes of Meetings.

The next BALTFISH meeting will be organized as a joint high level group and forum meeting and will be held on 29 June 2018 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The Chair of HELCOM Fish is invited to inform the Meeting on activities within the BALTFISH Forum.

Cooperation with the BSAC sub group on ecosystem based management

FISH 6-2017 agreed to establish cooperation with the BSAC sub group on ecosystem based management, regarding the development and trials of alternative fishing gears or fishing techniques in the Baltic Sea.

Poland is invited to inform the Meeting on the status of the living document on the draft list of trialed alternative fishing gears or fishing techniques by HELCOM Fish, which was presented for the BSAC workshop on selectivity of fishing gears in November 2017.

Cooperation with other organizations

The Secretariat will inform the Meeting on the outcome of the Second Meeting of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue between secretariats and representatives of regional seas organisations (including HELCOM for the Baltic Sea) and regional fisheries management bodies, held on 10-13 April 2018 in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

The Meeting is invited to share information on other 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 4 BAT/BEP for sustainable aquaculture

The 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 5 HELCOM data interests

FISH 7-2017 agreed on the ToR for a Correspondence Group on fisheries data for operationalizing indicators used for the purposes of MSFD implementation, for the CPs which are also EU members, with the task to develop the roadmap via a workshop.

HOD 53-2017 noted the work planned for the CG and supported the lead country (Poland) approach to give priority to finalizing HELCOM inventory on data needs and thus provide guidance in developing the roadmap as indicated in the ToR of the Correspondence Group. HOD 53-2017 expressed the wish to follow this process closely, thanked Poland for the work so far and invited Poland to report to HOD 54-2018 on finalization of the inventory of data needs.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the Outcome of CG FISHDATA 1-2018 (document 5-1), as well as the outcome of CG FISHDATA 2-2018, to be held back to back with FISH 8-2018 on 22 May 2018.

The Meeting is invited to consider and agree on the draft roadmap on fisheries data for operationalizing of indicators 'Number of drowned mammals and waterbirds in fishing gear' and 'Cumulative impact on benthic biotopes', submitted by CG FISHDATA.

The Meeting is invited to consider and agree on the document on HELCOM data availability, information and quality issues in relation to incidental by-catches and cumulative impact on benthic habitats in the Baltic Sea, as well as other relevant documents to be submitted by CG FISHDATA (documents to be submitted later).

Agenda Item 6 Salmon and sea trout including HELCOM Recommendation 32-33/1

The Meeting is invited to take note of the recent activities of RETROUT (Development, promotion and sustainable management of the Baltic Sea Region as a coastal fishing tourism destination) project (2017-2020) co-funded by Interreg, with HELCOM involvement as a project partner, with considerable focus on river restoration activities (document to be submitted later).

The Contracting Parties are invited to clarify the still open issues in the 2017 reporting and the Meeting is invited to endorse the final report on the implementation of HELCOM Recommendation 32-33/1 based on the national reports of the Contracting Parties (document 6-1).

FISH 7-2017 agreed to come back to the revision of Recommendations 32-33/1 and 19/2 at a later stage.

The Meeting is invited to incorporate the timetable for the revision of the two Recommendations to the update of the work plan (document to be submitted later).

Agenda Item 7 Interactions between fisheries and marine ecosystems

Seals-fishery interactions

FISH 7-2017 agreed that there is merit in further discussing seal-fishery interactions and requested that the Chair of Fish, HELCOM Seal EG and the Secretariat are in contact intersessionally to consider how to address the issue in the best possible way.

The Secretariat will inform the Meeting on the correspondence between the Chair of Fish, Seal and Secretariat on the issue.

Agenda Item 8 Future work, including work on indicator developments for holistic assessments

The Meeting is invited to finalize the update of the work plan 2017-2018 of HELCOM Fish to reflect the status of implementation of the agreed tasks (document to be submitted later), taking into account document 2-3 on the implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan 2018, including a list of regional and national actions of relevance for HELCOM Fish that have not been fully implemented yet.

The Meeting will be presented with the latest update of the State of the Baltic Sea report (HOLAS II) in relation to fish and fisheries.

Contracting Parties are invited to consider hosting the next meeting of the group.

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

Agenda Item 9 Any other business

The Meeting is invited to review, and update as needed, the list of Fish contacts and observers (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.