



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries

FISH 8-2018

Warsaw, Poland, 23-24 May 2018

Document title	Work plan of Fish for 2018-2020
Code	8-1
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	8 – Future work, including work on indicator developments for holistic assessments
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Submitted by	Secretariat

Background

FISH 7-2017 considered the work plan of Fish for 2017-2018 and took note of the information by the Secretariat that a full revision of the work plan will take place at the FISH 8-2018 meeting and requested the Secretariat to provide suggestions for updates and/or revision to the work plan based on decision and discussions held at relevant HELCOM meetings.

The annex to this document contains a draft revised work plan for Fish for 2019-2020, with changes marked based on the work plan adopted by HELCOM Heads of Delegation in December 2016 (HOD 51-2016) and revised by FISH 6-2017 and 7-2017.

The work plan has been updated based on the outcome of the implementation of agreed HELCOM actions as well as the overview of actions under the HELCOM Fish group (Annex 1 of document 2-3). In particular the actions not yet accomplished have been considered.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to finalize the update of the work plan 2019-2020 of HELCOM Fish to reflect the status of implementation of the agreed tasks, for approval by HELCOM HOD 54-2018.

Draft Work Plan for HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (Fish Group) 2018-2020

[Track Changes are HELCOM Secretariat initial updates on 3 May 2018]

No.	ACTION	LEAD/RESPONSIBLE	INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	FUTURE PROCESSES	TIME FRAME
Action 1 Integrated assessment of human impacts¹					
1	Contracting Parties to support the future joint ICES/HELCOM VMS data calls for the ICES & HELCOM advice on the spatial distribution and impact of fishing activities (confidentiality of VMS data for both data transfer and use to be ensured). To formulate a request for ICES advice on fishing intensity e.g. affecting the seabed per a type of fishing gear based on VMS data.	HELCOM Secretariat in cooperation with ICES Secretariat Possibly in coordination with OSPAR	The data will support assessing pressures within HOLAS III and mapping human activities affecting seafloor integrity (activity under HELCOM Gear Group) ICES Working Group on Spatial Fisheries Data	The data will support assessing pressures within HOLAS III and mapping human activities affecting seafloor integrity (activity under HELCOM Gear Group)	2017-2018 [2019-2020] [Continuous]
2	Provide an overview of data collection activities related to i.a.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> incidental catch of marine mammals and water birds recreational fisheries Based on this overview, assess the presence of data gaps. Support other HELCOM processes in their further specification of data needs for the HOLAS III assessment, the MSFD and the implementation of BSAP.	FISH, STATE & CONSERVATION, CG FISHDATA <u>FISH-PRO III</u>	Supporting information for use in HOLAS III as well as in mapping human activities affecting seafloor integrity (under HELCOM Gear Group) <u>FISH-PRO III work on recreational fisheries</u>		2016-2018 [20189-2020]

¹ Contribute to recognizing **the data gaps** that prevent adequately assessing human pressures on the ecosystems in cooperation with relevant bodies, thus contributing to HELCOM **holistic assessments**, and contribute to operationalization of HELCOM **fish-related core indicators** from point of view of biodiversity, food webs and seafloor integrity (indicators on commercial fish are dealt with by ICES)

			ICES WG on the Ecosystem Effects of Fishing Activities		
3	Contribute to operationalization (ensuring quality assured data flow) of fish-related HELCOM regional core indicators (BSAP, and MSFD and CFP for EU countries).	CG FISHDATA	Roadmap on fisheries data for operationalizing the two indicators, used for the purposes of MSFD implementation for the CPs which are also EU members <u>is being drafted by the correspondence group for fisheries data. A suggestion will be provided to FISH 8-2018.</u>	<u>The Roadmap aims to contribute to the EU DC-MAP process.</u>	Draft roadmap by FISH 8-2018 or FISH 9- <u>[tbc pending outcome of FISHDATA 2 and FISH 8]</u>
4	Create a common knowledge base on ghost nets distribution and abundance as well as an estimation of their impacts on the ecosystem.	FISH Group	Projects e.g. WWF Poland project on retrieval of ghost nets Danish initiative on ghost net distribution and abundance assessment MARELITT		<u>2017-2018 [20189-2020]</u>
Action 2 Sustainable fisheries practices²					
5	Provide tools for sustainable fishing practices, including to address by-catch of fish, birds and mammals:	Contracting Parties	Utilise the outcomes of updated work on red listed species and		Continuous

² In cooperation with relevant authorities and scientific institutions, address fishing practices which have a potential negative impact on conservation goals and/or threatened or declining species and habitats, especially within **coastal** and **marine protected areas**. When doing so, take into account environmental issues and processes, such as oxygen depletion, pollution, habitat destruction, and migratory barriers which may affect the quality, abundance and distribution of fish

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Follow the progress and outcomes of projects such as BalticBOOST and Pan Baltic ScopeCOPE ● Compile best practices on sustainable fisheries management in Marine Protected Areas ● Testing and use of the tools when implementing sustainable fishing methods and practices into MPA management plans ● Promotion of research of fishing gear impacts on marine species and biotopes ● Input to development of fisheries management and technical measures to minimize: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ unwanted by-catch of fish, birds and mammals (BSAP target: close to zero by-catch rates and minimized damage to sea bed habitat, [actions agreed in FISH 32-2015 agreed that tools for measures to be piloted locally in hot spots are essential for minimizing bycatch on hot spots and measures]) ○ seafloor impacts from fishing gear ○ damage to catches by marine mammals. 		<p>habitats in the Baltic Sea, HELCOM MPAs database.</p> <p>Possibly utilize information from coastal fish monitoring and assessment (FISH-PRO II)</p> <p>Poland is leading an activity on compiling information on low impact fishing gears.</p> <p>Cooperation with BSAC on alternative gear trials will be continued.</p>	<p>[Possible HELCOM workshop on seals-fisheries interactions]</p>	
6	Follow up on the development of principles for setting an environmental target for seafloor integrity	Lead by GEAR group	BENTHIS project work on the Baltic/North Sea		[2017]
Action 3. Migratory fish species³					
7	Prepare a joint comprehensive project on monitoring and assessment and management of eel involving national research institutes involved in stock assessment and eel management from the Baltic Sea and other partners as a useful step to catalyse work on eel in the Baltic Sea region. Request national administrations and other partners to consider such an initiative and nominate contact points as soon as possible to enable the forming of a new partnership.	FISH-M	ICES WGEEL Seminar/targeted meeting under Fish-M to present national management plans and consider regional collaboration related		Eel Workshop 29.11-1.12.2017, Sweden 2019-2020

³ Further develop co-operation to implement best practices with the view to achieve the established objectives of HELCOM related to **migratory fish species**, including the corresponding BSAP targets, and in particular taking into account the commitments 19(B) and 23(B) of the Copenhagen Ministerial Meeting.

	<p>Exchange of information on national eel management in the coastal countries including i.a.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tackling assumed illegal catches (to assess the scale of the problem and look for solutions for proper enforcement), • traceability/tracking of eel • data gaps and collection methods • links to international eel management (e.g. CMS) • development and financing of dedicated projects • other relevant issues as appropriate <p>The above is carried out with the aim of a Baltic wide stock status assessment and facilitating subsequent action, to be further developed at the appropriate fora.</p>		<p>to the implementation of national management plans on eel, for EU countries in relation to the EC regulation on eel[†] 2017.</p> <p>Participants should preferably include representatives from management bodies, scientific experts and relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Sweden to host a workshop on eel in the Baltic Sea in autumn 2017</p>	
8	<p><u>Recommendations for riverine and estuarine management and conservation measures:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>fish ways for up and down migration</u> • <u>restoration and protection of spawning grounds</u> • Compile best practices on <u>r</u>River restoration 	<p>Fish-M <u>RETROUT</u></p>	<p>Workshop on river restoration best practices in May 2017 hosted by Denmark</p> <p>RETROUT project WP on river restoration 2017-20</p>	<p>River restoration Ws 29-30 May 2017, Denmark</p> <p><u>20189-2020</u></p>
9	<p><u>Revision of HELCOM Recommendation 32/33-1 and consider future status of HELCOM Recommendation 19/2</u></p>	<p>FISH Group <u>Fish-M</u></p>	<p><u>Evaluation on the status and revision needs of HELCOM Recommendation 32/33-1 based on updated information and EU Salmon management plan developments by 2018</u></p>	<p><u>2019</u></p>

<u>109</u>	<p>Reporting on the implementation of HELCOM Recommendation 32/33-1 and following up on the below activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the active conservation of at least ten endangered/threatened wild salmon river populations in the Baltic Sea region as well as the reintroduction of native Baltic Sea salmon in at least four potential salmon rivers, by 2009, common practices for breeding, rearing and releasing salmon as reintroduction in potential salmon rivers, investigating needed improvements for stocking practices (e.g. biological and genetic guidelines), as well as model recommendations for protection and conservation measures such as fish ways for up and down migration, restoration and protection of spawning grounds, fishery regulation for the river and estuaries; 	<u>FISH Group</u> Fish-M	<p><u>Updating of 2012 report</u></p> <p><u>Evaluation on the status and revision needs of HELCOM Recommendation 32/33-1 based on updated information and EU Salmon management plan developments by 2018</u></p>		<p><u>Updating of 2012 report after final round of correspondence consultation (by 1 December 2017)</u> <u>Reporting on the implementation in 2020 (every three years)</u></p>
<u>11</u>	<p><u>Further development and implementation of comparable methodology for data collection (salmon and sea trout) through surveys, especially on recreational fisheries</u></p>	<p><u>FISH Group</u> <u>CG FISHDATA</u> <u>Fish-M</u> <u>RETROUT</u></p>	<p><u>Implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan</u></p>		<p><u>2019-2020</u></p>
Action 4 HELCOM Recommendation on sustainable aquaculture⁴					
<u>129</u>	<p>A follow up on the HELCOM Recommendation on Sustainable Aquaculture on BAT and BEP</p>	<p>Fish Group in consultation with the CG on Aquaculture</p>	<p>Translation of existing reports and application to support continuation of the work Swedish report compiling existing technologies [NCM project if funded, <u>information on funding available by summer 2018</u>]</p>		<p><u>2017-2018</u> <u>2018-2020</u></p>

⁴ Develop a new HELCOM **Recommendation on sustainable aquaculture** by 2014 to substitute the existing HELCOM Recommendation 25/4 aiming at limiting potential environmental impacts of aquaculture activities taking into account the upcoming EU guidelines for aquaculture

			[Meeting of CG Aquaculture 2-2018 May-June 2018]		
Action 5 Cooperation between authorities and with stakeholders⁵					
131	Look for the ways how to cooperate in practise, e.g. with BALTFISH Liaise with Aquaculture Advisory Council soon to be operationalized	Secretariat mandated to exchange information with BALTFISH Chair	Initial <u>Continuous</u> exchange of information from <u>between HELCOM and BALTFISH side</u> according to FISH 7-2017 outcome and by end of 2017. <u>Proposal for a joint meeting between HELCOM and BALTFISH. BALTFISH will be chaired by Sweden from July 2018 to June And thereafter by xx.</u>		e Continuous
Action 6 Follow up of the Baltic Sea Action Plan⁶					
142	Support the follow up implementation <u>and update</u> of the of BSAP and Ministerial commitments regarding fisheries impact and conservation of fish species. Identify ways and propose actions to fill any gaps and shortcoming identified in the follow up.	Fish Group	<u>Task force for the update of the BSAP, to be established.</u> Contribution to work of the Gear group		Continuous

⁵ Enhance communication and cooperation between the fisheries and environmental administrations of the HELCOM Contracting Parties as well as relevant bodies and institutions, seek to establish **stronger cooperation with ICES, BALTFISH and JBSFC, and Baltic Sea Advisory Council** in order to facilitate mutually supportive agenda and maximize synergies between the different bodies

⁶ Provide support for the **implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, Ministerial Declarations and HELCOM Recommendations** as well as propose strategies, guidelines and recommendations in the area of its expertise according to the existing priorities as well as requests by the Heads of Delegations and subsidiary bodies