



## Outcome of the eighth Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (FISH 8-2018)

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### Introduction

01. The eighth Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (FISH 8-2018), was held on 23-24 May at the premises of the Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation (Nowy Świat 6/12 Street) in Warsaw, Poland.
02. The Meeting was attended by delegations from Denmark, Finland, Germany, Poland and Sweden and Observers from BirdLife International, Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC), Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB), Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP), the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE) as well as an invited guest from The MARE Foundation. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex 1**.
03. The Meeting was chaired by Marianne Goffeng Raakil. Markus Helavuori, Professional Secretary and Petra Kääriä, Assisting Professional Secretary, acted as secretaries of the Meeting.
04. Ms. Marta Rabczynska-Kapcinska, Deputy Director of the Fisheries Department, Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation of Poland, welcomed the participants to the Meeting and to Warsaw, and highlighted the important topics of the meeting from the Polish point of view, including closer cooperation between fisheries and the environment sector, cooperation between HELCOM Fish, BALTFISH and BSAC, minimizing impacts of fisheries on the marine environment, discussion on seals-fisheries interactions in cooperation with the Seal expert group, river restoration and removal of abandoned and discarded fishing gear.
05. Ms. Monika Stankiewicz, HELCOM Executive Secretary, welcomed the Meeting on behalf of the HELCOM Secretariat.

**Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda**

1.1 The Meeting adopted the Agenda of the Meeting as contained in document 1-1.

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

2.1 The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting held on 6 March 2018, in Brussels, Belgium (document 2-1), as presented by the Secretariat, and agreed to use the information as appropriate. The Meeting noted that the Ministerial Meeting adopted the Ministerial Declaration, and that underwater noise, marine litter and seabed damage and disturbance as three components HELCOM will be increasingly focusing on.

2.2 The Meeting took note of the plan for updating the Baltic Sea Action Plan (document 2-2), presented by the Secretariat, and noted that the update will be based on the status of implementation of the current action plan, will take into account the Ministerial Declaration and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and that new actions will also be included. The Meeting further noted that the process for the update will be discussed at HOD 54-2018 in June 2018 and will be finalized by the 2021 Ministerial Meeting. The Meeting noted that the Fish group will be informed on the update and on expected contribution from the group to the process during the upcoming meetings of the group.

2.3 The Meeting took note of the report 'Implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan 2018 – three years left to reach good status' (document 2-3), as presented by the Secretariat. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to plan for a structured discussion on how to address existing gaps in the implementation of the BSAP for the next meeting, including relevant documents, to support a thorough discussion on the matter at the next meeting.

2.4 The Meeting took note of the information provided in document 2-7 on CCB input to the HELCOM 2018 Ministerial Meeting, especially noting those actions with direct link to fisheries. The Meeting highlighted the need to take into account all factors affecting the stocks of eel and cod.

2.5 The Meeting noted the comment by Denmark that ICES advice on cod for the Baltic will be published during the last week in May, as well as several questions regarding eel and cod and the presented data. Denmark also informed the Meeting that eel mortality due to fishery is estimated to be only 3 %.

2.6 The Meeting welcomed the presentation on the final draft of the thematic assessment on coastal fish (document 2-5, **Presentation 1**), as presented by Jens Olsson, Project Manager and Chair of FISH-PRO II, and noted that STATE & CONSERVATION 8-2018 supported the publication of the assessment in the Baltic Sea Environmental Proceedings for endorsement by HOD 54-2018.

2.7 The Meeting noted the comment by Denmark that more work might be needed in relation to the Danish data.

2.8 Recognizing that some data gaps still exist, the Meeting noted the need for more attention and efforts by Contracting Parties to the data collection and assessment of coastal fish communities at a regional and local level.

2.9 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the Regional Workshop on Eel and the Baltic Sea, which was organized as part of the task force on migratory fish species (HELCOM Fish-M) in cooperation with the Convention on Migratory Fish Species and Sargasso Sea Commission and hosted and moderated by Sweden on 29 November – 1 December 2017 (document 2-4), as presented by the Secretariat. The Meeting further noted the information on the second meeting of the Range States for the European Eel, organized by the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and Sargasso Sea Commission, in Malmö, Sweden, on 15-16 May 2018. The Meeting noted that according to the CMS meeting there is potential for international cooperation to address gaps and challenges in European eel conservation, there is a potential for CMS to begin consultations on setting up a mechanism for more coordinated and comprehensive European eel conservation and consideration should also be taken of the need to reinforce action as soon as possible given the species' Critically Endangered conservation status. The outcome of the meeting is set out in document 2-10.

- 2.10 The Meeting noted the comment by CCB encouraging the continuation of efforts by the CMS secretariat on European eel conservation, especially regarding the illegal trade of the species.
- 2.11 The Meeting took note of the suggestion by the Executive Secretary to come back to the results of the HELCOM workshop at a later stage and as part of the BSAP update process, also taking into account progress achieved at the international and European levels.
- 2.12 The Meeting took note of extracts from outcomes of recent HELCOM meetings of relevance for the Fish group (document 2-6), as presented by the Secretariat. The Meeting further noted that HOD 54-2018 is expected to consider the streamlining of HELCOM, in particular a renewed structure of groups, including deciding on prolongation of the work of the HELCOM Fish group. The Meeting agreed to come back to the matter under Agenda Item 8.
- 2.13 The Meeting took note of document 2-9 containing information regional maritime spatial planning (MSP) work related to fish and fisheries, in particular work of recent sessions of the HELCOM VASAB MSP WG.
- 2.14 The Meeting noted that document 2-8, containing a proposal for practical cooperation between HELCOM Fish group and the HELCOM-VASAB MSP working group, was submitted after the established deadline as it was based on the outcome of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 16-2018 held from 8 to 9 May 2018, and agreed to discuss it.
- 2.15 The Meeting expressed unanimous support for the proposal for cooperation between the HELCOM Fish group and the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG in principle. However, it was agreed that a more detailed consideration about the exact means of cooperation, as well as possible resource implications, should take place at a later stage.
- 2.16 In addition, the Meeting noted comments that it would be useful to share information about how national cooperation regarding fisheries and MSP work is organized in the different Contracting Parties and that the cooperation should focus on creating added value while duplication of efforts should be avoided.
- 2.17 The Meeting noted the comment by Denmark that much effort is put into producing relevant fish data layers for the MSP process. Data sources are VMS, AIS, logbook data etc.
- 2.18 The Meeting considered the indicative timetable for cooperation between HELCOM/VASAB MSP WG, HELCOM S&C WG and the Pan Baltic Scope project, and expressed interest in the “Joint workshop on sharing results of projects / national experiences on concepts such as Green Infrastructure to link MSP and MPAs / EBA at Pan Baltic Scope, HELCOM/VASAB MSP WG and HELCOM State and Conservation”, planned for December 2018.
- 2.19 In this regard, the Meeting expressed willingness to contribute to the development of the agenda for the workshop and instructed the Secretariat to contact Latvia, leading this activity within the Pan Baltic Scope project, to aim at circulating the draft agenda for the workshop to the Fish group contacts for possible input.
- 2.20 The Meeting also invited the Contracting Parties and observers to attend the workshop in December 2018.
- 2.21 In the spirit of cooperation with regard to MSP matters, the Meeting agreed to invite a chair of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG to attend the next Meeting of the Fish group.
- 2.22 The Meeting noted information provided by Sweden regarding the international consultation on a maritime spatial plan in Sweden which will take place 15 June-15 September 2018. Information about the consultation on the plan will be posted on [this SWAM website](#) on 1 June. As part of the international consultation Sweden will invite planning authorities from neighbouring countries to a meeting on 19 June 2018 at the World Maritime University in Malmö, Sweden. Participants interested in attending the meeting were encouraged to contact their national MSP authorities in their respective countries. Sweden also agreed to provide further information upon request, to those interested in the meeting.
- 2.23 The Meeting noted that the HELCOM Maritime assessment has been published under the Baltic Sea Environmental Proceedings (BSEP 152) on [the HELCOM website](#).

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**Agenda Item 3      Closer regional cooperation on Fisheries & Environment**

3.1            The Meeting welcomed a questionnaire on alternative fishing gears and fishing techniques (document 3-1), as prepared by Poland. The Meeting invited Contracting Parties to provide updated information to Poland (K.Kaminska@mgm.gov.pl) and agreed that the document will be considered as a living document in the future meetings of the group. The Meeting noted information on an existing website GearingUP devoted on selective gears.

3.2            The Meeting noted that a workshop on fishing gear development, co-organized by ICES and BSAC, is currently taking place. The workshop concentrates on the problems in developing selective gears and on how to move from testing to practical implementation. The Meeting invited the BSAC to inform on the outcome of the ICES/BSAC workshop during FISH 9.

3.3            The Meeting emphasized that the purpose of the information needs to be clarified and noted the comment by CCB highlighting that the document improves the knowledge on ongoing projects and activities and provides means for further information exchange regarding gear development between the Contracting Parties and facilitates the exchange of national contact information.

3.4            The Meeting thanked Contracting Parties for their contribution to the work and welcomed the offer by Poland to revise the questionnaire, taking also into account further updates that may be provided by Contracting Parties, to be published on the HELCOM website and other relevant websites. The Meeting further invited the Secretariat, in cooperation with Poland, to investigate options for maintaining the content of the questionnaire up-to-date in a longer term and having it published with the use of online tools.

*Cooperation between HELCOM and BALTFISH*

3.5            The Meeting recalled that FISH 7-2017 had agreed to task 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 the BALTFISH Chair and had suggested further that fisheries and MSP-related information, considered within the Contracting Parties or the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG should be included.

3.6            The Meeting noted that a compilation of fish and fisheries related work in HELCOM, including information on relevant past and upcoming HELCOM meetings, has been submitted to the Chair of BALTFISH by the HELCOM Executive Secretary, for circulation and discussion within BALTFISH as appropriate. The contacts of the Fish group have been informed accordingly.

3.7            The Meeting noted that the next BALTFISH Forum is planned to be organized on 29 June 2018, and that while the Chair of Fish group is not able to attend the meeting, she will ensure that the Fish group will be informed on the outcome of that meeting.

*Cooperation with other organizations*

3.8            The Meeting took note of the second meeting of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Sustainable Development Goals (document 3-2), as presented by the Secretariat. Experiences from the Baltic Sea region regarding cross-sectorial cooperation in maritime spatial planning and maritime activities were presented at the event by the Secretariat.

3.9            Meeting participants were invited to share any relevant information on other regional, EU and international (FAO, CBD, other regions) developments for closer regional cooperation between organizations in the fields of fisheries and the marine environment.

3.10          In this context, the Meeting noted that Sweden and Germany as part of the voluntary commitment under the UN ocean conference held in 2017, are participating in a partnership for regional ocean governance (PROG) to support the establishment of a cross-sectoral and cross-boundary multi-stakeholder platform for regional ocean governance. In this respect, a first Marine Regions Forum is planned to be organized in Berlin in 2019.

**Agenda Item 4      BAT/BEP for sustainable aquaculture**

4.1            The Meeting took note of information on recent activities relevant to the development of sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea as well as the BAT/BEP for sustainable aquaculture, as presented by the Secretariat. The Meeting noted that it has not been possible to organize a meeting of CG Aquaculture for June 2018, according to the original plan.

4.2            The Meeting recalled that the group currently lacks a lead country and commitment from several Contracting Parties, and invited Contracting Parties to consider taking the lead of the group and to recommit to completing the work on BAT/BEP definitions, techniques and practices applicable in the Baltic Sea region, originally envisaged to be completed in summer 2018.

4.3            The Meeting noted a comment by FEAP, suggesting that the Nordic Council of Ministers report on aquaculture, *Bat for fiskeopdræt i Norden*, should be translated into English as discussed already at FISH 6-2016. The Meeting noted that the translation has not progressed due to lack of allocated funds in the Secretariat.

4.4            The Meeting further noted information by Sweden, that the Swedish study on aquaculture techniques has been published in Swedish and is under translation into English.

4.5            The Meeting noted with appreciation that Germany agreed to ask whether they are able to take a leading role in the development of BAT & BEP and invited Germany to inform HOD 54-2018 on the matter.

4.6            The Meeting noted the comment by Finland regretting the lack of a lead country for the process and highlighting the need for a thorough discussion on the matter, noting also the reporting deadline for 2018 specified in Recommendation 37/3 on Sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea Region. In this context, Finland expressed the possible need to develop a template for reporting in accordance with the Recommendation.

4.7            The Meeting noted that Sweden, in accordance with the agreed work plan for CG aquaculture, sent out a questionnaire regarding the definition of BAT & BEP to be completed by Contracting Parties but had not received any response by the set deadline. The Meeting agreed that Sweden will resend the questionnaire to be fulfilled by the Contracting Parties by **mid-September 2018**. Pending guidance from HODs on the further process, Sweden will synthesize the results of the questionnaire.

4.8            The Meeting noted that Denmark and Finland considered as one option the discontinuation of the BAT & BEP work if no progress can be foreseen.

4.9            The Meeting requested HELCOM HOD 54-2018 to provide guidance on the way forward regarding the Aquaculture work on BAT & BEP. Furthermore, the Meeting stressed that for the work on BAT & BEP to continue, Contracting Parties should fully commit to contribute to the work in order enable its finalization and efficient use of resources.

**Agenda Item 5      HELCOM data interests**

5.1            The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the first workshop organized as part of the activities of the HELCOM Fish Correspondence Group on fisheries data for operationalizing indicators used for the purposes of MSFD implementation, for the CPs which are also EU members (CG FISHDATA 1, document 5-1), as presented by the Chair of the correspondence group.

5.2            The Meeting further noted the Outcome of the second workshop, CG FISHDATA 2 organized back to back with FISH 8 on 22 May 2018 (document 5-2), as presented by the Chair of the correspondence group.

5.3            The Meeting noted the offer by Denmark and Poland to update the draft Roadmap provided in Document 8 of CG FISHDATA 2-2018, as well as templates for providing data based on the discussions at the Workshop. The Workshop invited the Secretariat to circulate the revised draft Roadmap with the templates as annexes to the CG FISHDATA contacts, copied also to the contact points of the Fish group, with a request to fill in the templates and to comment on the draft Roadmap by 29 June 2018. A revised draft of the

Roadmap will subsequently be circulated with a view for agreement on a draft version to be submitted to STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018 (22-26 October 2018) for comments that could be taken into account by the next meeting of FISHDATA before finalization and submission to the Fish group for approval.

5.4 The Meeting noted the comment by BirdLife International on the urgency of the issue and the importance of incorporating the data needs in the EU control regulation.

5.5 The Meeting noted the comment by Germany on the need to have a more specific documentation on seabird bycatch on the species level, in order to operationalize the indicator 'Number of drowned mammals and waterbirds in fishing gear'.

5.6 The Meeting encouraged all Contracting Parties to participate in the work of the correspondence group and, noting that four Contracting Parties have not participated in the work, invited all Contracting Parties to formally nominate experts to the group.

5.7 Recognizing that a more appropriate format for continuation of the work would be an Expert Group rather than a Correspondence Group, the Meeting invited the Secretariat to provide a proposal for the next meeting regarding potential revision of the group's Terms of Reference to reflect all components needed for Expert Groups

5.8 The Meeting agreed that the Heads of Delegations are to be informed on the progress within the CG FISHDATA.

5.9 The Meeting noted information on the ongoing process under OSPAR Meeting of the Biodiversity Committee (BDC), which in February 2018 had agreed that proposals should be developed for a workshop to examine needs and possibilities for developing indicators for incidental by-catch of birds, seals, cetaceans, turtles and non-commercial fish, linked to related work by HELCOM and ICES as relevant.

5.10 The Meeting further noted that GEAR 18-2018 had supported organizing a joint HELCOM/OSPAR workshop on bycatch indicators, including fisheries data issues, supported the initiative and requested the Secretariat to be in contact with the OSPAR Secretariat accordingly. The Meeting noted that other relevant organizations, such as ICES and ASCOBANS, could contribute to such a workshop. The Meeting further noted an initiative by EFARO on exploring synergies in data collection between MSFD and CFP, which could also be relevant to the workshop. Based on this, the Meeting requested the Secretariat to inform both State and Conservation WG and Fish group on the initiative with the aim of having these groups contributing to the process.

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

6.1 The Meeting took note of the final report of the 2017 reporting on the implementation of Recommendation 32-33/1 (document 6-1), as presented by the Secretariat, and noted that clarifications on the submitted information are still needed.

6.2 The Meeting noted that Finland will send information to the Secretariat in order for the Secretariat to update the report and that Sweden will clarify the needed updates on the document and will inform the Secretariat as soon as possible.

6.3 The Meeting noted the comment by CCB that salmon management is currently high on the agenda of BALTFISH.

6.4 The Meeting agreed that the still open issues will be clarified by **15 June 2018** and the reporting will be endorsed via correspondence **before the end of June 2018**.

6.5 The Meeting welcomed the presentation by Mika Rahikainen, HELCOM Project Manager of RETROUT (Development, promotion and sustainable management of the Baltic Sea Region as a coastal fishing tourism destination), on recent and upcoming activities of the project, (document 6-2, **Presentation 2**). The project (2017-2020) is funded by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region programme under priority area bioeconomy/blue growth, and HELCOM is the lead for Work Package 4: assessment of sea trout river status and river restoration. The project and its partners provide guidance in the form of toolboxes for river

restoration and fishing tourism. These toolboxes shall be used by authorities to help foster sustainable growth and jobs through appropriate policy and regulatory adjustments.

6.6 The Meeting agreed that a workshop on RETROUT methods to be held in Klaipeda, Lithuania, on 26-28 June 2018, will be combined with the next meeting of the HELCOM Task Force on migratory fish species (FISH-M 6-2018).

### **Agenda Item 7 Other interactions between fisheries and marine ecosystems**

7.1 The Meeting took note of the draft regional survey to compile information on on-going national activities with regard to abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) (document 7-1), as presented by the Secretariat.

7.2 The Meeting supported the initiative and noted that based on the reporting and resulting evaluations, the intention is to evaluate the pros and cons of a harmonized regional approach and alternative approaches to tackle the problem to fill in existing gaps identified. The Meeting noted that while the survey is designed to gather information about national activities, regional activities are already well known by the HELCOM Expert Network on Marine Litter.

7.3 The Meeting took note of information provided by Denmark that a national campaign on lost fishing gear has been targeting all sectors of the fishing industry and tourists. Denmark further informed that funds have been prioritized for marine litter under the EMFF program (IMP funds).

7.4 Following discussion, the Meeting agreed that renaming the survey to be called a “questionnaire” would in fact reflect its contents and structure more accurately. The Meeting also agreed that the questionnaire should focus on recent, ongoing and planned national activities, as covering only ongoing activities may limit the scope and value of the results.

7.5 Furthermore, the Meeting agreed that it would be helpful if the introduction to the questionnaire would define what is meant with fishing gear (complete gear and parts thereof), and that it should be clarified that both commercial and recreational fishing gear are covered by it.

7.6 Following a detailed discussion on some of the questions, the Meeting agreed that question 3 should be specified to read “What legal frameworks (legal acts, guidelines other regulations and communications, including any applicable EU and international legislation) for ALDFG management exist in your country”. The Meeting also agreed that in the additional information to be provided under question 5, it could be specified that in addition to the amount of recovered fishing gear, data availability regarding the type of gear also merits consideration.

7.7 The Meeting instructed the Secretariat to take the above agreed comments into account in the further development of the questionnaire before a final draft is sent out for comments to the Fish and Pressure group contact points for final commenting.

7.8 During the lunch break on 24 May 2018, participants had the opportunity to view a Polish video on the actions regarding collection of ALDFG which took place in 2017.

#### *Seals-fisheries interactions*

7.9 The Meeting recalled that FISH 7-2017 had agreed that there is merit in further discussing seal-fisheries interactions and requested that the Chairs of HELCOM Fish, Seal and the Secretariat are in contact intersessionally to consider how to address the issue in the best possible way.

7.10 The Meeting noted that a letter has been sent by the HELCOM Executive Secretary to the Chairs of HELCOM Fish and Seal, suggesting that a workshop on seal-fisheries interactions will be organized during 2019-2020. The Meeting further noted that the two Chairs have responded quite positively to the proposal.

7.11 The Meeting welcomed the organization of the workshop and emphasized that the workshop could provide an opportunity to discuss solutions, recognizing the different point of views on the topic and welcomed the willingness by several Contracting Parties and observers to contribute to the preparation and take active part in the workshop. The Meeting emphasized the need to organize the workshop already during

2019 and pointed out that State and Conservation is to be informed on the matter. BSAC informed of ongoing work related to seal and fisheries interactions, offering to contribute to this workshop after consulting Executive Committee.

7.12 The Meeting welcomed the offer by Denmark to host the workshop and co-lead the preparatory work, and the offer by Poland to consider to be the second co-lead. The Meeting encouraged Contracting Parties to inform the Secretariat ([petra.kaaria@helcom.fi](mailto:petra.kaaria@helcom.fi) and [markus.helavuori@helcom.fi](mailto:markus.helavuori@helcom.fi)) on their interest in taking part in the planning of the workshop.

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

8.1 The Meeting took note of the presentation on the draft 'State of the Baltic Sea' report 2018, especially the sections related to fish and fisheries (document 8-2, **Presentation 3**), as presented by HELCOM Professional Secretary Jannica Haldin, and acknowledged the extensive work carried out under HOLAS II.

8.2 The Meeting noted that some Contracting Parties still have reservations on specific aspects of the HOLAS II work, as considered in more detail by STATE & CONSERVATION 8-2018, and that the discussion on the next holistic assessment is taken forward mainly under the HELCOM Gear group.

8.3 The Meeting noted the comment by the Secretariat that the HOLAS II report is mainly developed in order to support HELCOM work and additionally can be used, by those HELCOM Contracting Parties that are also EU Members States, in the reporting under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

8.4 The Meeting considered the draft work plan for indicators (document 8-3, **Presentation 4**), as presented by Owen Rowe, Project Coordinator on HELCOM indicators.

### *Work plan of Fish group for 2018-2019*

8.5 The Meeting took note of a proposal by the Secretariat for the work plan of the Fish group for 2018-2019 (document 8-1) and took note of the comments on the work plan provided by CCB (document 8-4).

8.6 The Meeting had a general discussion and noted that the proposed Work Plan (cf. document 8-1) is partly outdated as it is based on the one developed in 2014, and that it its current form is not entirely fit for purpose. The Meeting recalled that the Baltic Sea Action Plan, and in particular the biodiversity segment containing fish and fisheries related actions provides a basis for the work of the Fish group.

8.7 The Meeting considered and commented on a proposal for a work plan by the Chair, which reflects the work of the group for the time period 2018-2019 based on current activities and after some adjustments agreed to the work plan as set out in **Annex 2**.

8.8 The Meeting noted the clarification that the Fish group has a mandate to manage the work of the sub-groups Fish-M, Aquaculture CG and CG FISHDATA.

8.9 The Meeting further noted that HOD 54-2018 is expected to make a decision of prolongation of mandate of the group as its current mandate will expire in 2019.

8.10 The Meeting suggested that the group could review the progress of its work and clarification of its role at the next meeting, however, agreed to await the decision by HOD 54-2018 on the prolongation of the mandate of the group before embarking on such a discussion.

8.11 The Meeting agreed that the planned discussion on how to address the identified gaps in the BSAP implementation, scheduled for FISH 9-2019, will provide a useful background for a more thorough discussion on priorities for future work and clarifying how the group could address emerging issues.

8.12 The Meeting invited the Secretariat to provide guidance for creating and updating work plans and incorporating new issues, including possible monitoring and evaluation of progress, for FISH 9-2019.

**Agenda Item 9      Any other business**

9.1            The Meeting agreed to provide updates the list of contacts and observers of the Fish group to the Secretariat ([petra.kaaria@helcom.fi](mailto:petra.kaaria@helcom.fi)) (document 9-1).

9.2            The Meeting took note of the report on recreational fishing in the Baltic Sea Region (document 9-2), as presented by CCB, appreciated the work done, and noted the vastness of the sector, the scarcity of data and the suggestion to prioritize the harmonization of rules and measures between Contracting Parties. The Meeting welcomed a more comprehensive presentation of the report at FISH 9.

9.3            The Meeting noted the comments by:

- Germany highlighting the need for HELCOM Fish group to focus more on the impact of recreational fisheries,
- Denmark noting some details in need of revision in the report and that the regulation of recreational fisheries is a national task,
- Poland regretting that the final version was not circulated to the Contracting Parties before publication,
- Sweden that SwAM has recently developed a proposal to change national legislation to expand the possibilities for authorities to impose reporting demands on and enable distribution of fishing rights to recreational fisheries in specific cases. The proposal is currently under consideration by the Swedish government,
- CCB welcomed comments to the report and informed that the report will be updated based on the comments provided.

9.4            The Meeting agreed to organize the next meeting of HELCOM Fish group on 30-31 January 2019, and invited the Contracting Parties, in particular those that have not yet done so, to consider hosting the meeting.

9.5            The Meeting noted that the HELCOM Action Plan for the protection and recovery of Baltic sturgeon *Acipenser oxyrinchus* was adopted by STATE & CONSERVATION 8-2018.

9.6            The Meeting thanked Poland for the outstanding organization and hospitality during the Meeting.

**Agenda Item 10      Outcome of the Meeting**

10.1          The Meeting adopted the outcome of the Meeting. The Outcome of the Meeting, together with the documents and presentations considered by the Meeting are available on the [FISH 8-2018 meeting site](#).

## Annex 1. List of participants

| Representing                  | Name                            | Organization   | E-mail                                    |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Chair</b>                  |                                 |  |   |
| Sweden                        | Marianne Goffeng<br>Raakil      | Swedish Ministry of Enterprise<br>and Innovation                   | marianne.goffeng-<br>raakil@gov.se        |
| <b>Contracting Parties</b>    |                                 |  |   |
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| Denmark                       | Joergen Dalskov                 | DTU Aqua   | jd@aqua.dtu.dk                            |
| Denmark                       | Kim Rægaard                     | Ministry of Foreign Affairs,<br>Fisheries                          | kimrag@um.dk                              |
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| Germany                       | Sven Koschinski                 | on behalf of the Federal Agency<br>for Nature Conservation         | sk@meereszoologie.de                      |
| Germany                       | Thurid Otto                     | Federal Agency for Nature<br>Conservation/GEOMAR                   | totto@geomar.de                           |
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| <b>Invited Guest</b>          |                                 |  |   |
| Invited Guest                 | Olga Sarna                      | The MARE Foundation  | osarna@fundacjamare.pl                    |
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|                           |                                |  |                              |
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## Annex 2. Work plan for HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (Fish), 2018-2019

| <b>Task/Action</b>   | <b>Lead</b>   | <b>Timeline</b> |
|--|---|-----------------|
| Work to achieve established objectives of HELCOM related to migratory fish species (including Rec 32-33/1), supported by Fish-M  | CPs taking up the lead for thematic Fish-M workshops            | 2018-2019       |
| Define fish/fisheries related data interests for HELCOM (e.g. for indicators on bycatch and cumulative impacts on the seafloor, data needs for recreational fisheries), supported by CG FISHDATA | CG FISHDATA chaired by Denmark                                  | 2018-2019       |
| Consider the interaction between fisheries and the marine ecosystem (e.g. seals-fisheries interaction, ghost nets, bycatch, trials for developing alternative fishing gears)                     |   | 2018-2019       |
| Workshop on the interaction between seals and fisheries  | hosted by Denmark<br>preparation co-led by Denmark [and Poland] | 2019            |
| [Development of BAT & BEP for aquaculture, supported by CG Aquaculture], guidance requested from HOD 54-2018   |   | 2018-2019       |
| Address the identified gaps in the BSAP implementation of the biodiversity section related to the fish and fisheries related actions   | the Secretariat   | FISH 9          |
| Contribute to the update of the BSAP   |   |                 |
| Cooperation with other bodies  |   |                 |