



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries

FISH 9-2019

Tallinn, Estonia, 30-31 January 2019

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The ninth Meeting of HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (FISH 9-2019) will be held on 30-31 January at the premises of the Ministry of the Environment (Narva mnt 7c) in Tallinn, Estonia.

The Meeting will start at 10:00 on 30 January and is expected to terminate by 17:00 on 31 January 2019.

Documents and registration

Documents for the Meeting will be made available on the [FISH 9-2019](#) 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 8 January 2019**. Information documents and 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. **23 January 2019**.

Participants are kindly requested to register to the Meetings by answering the [Participation Survey](#) on the HELCOM Meeting Portal by **23 January 2019 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 8-2018 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 HOD 54-2018 and HOD 55-2018 and use the information as appropriate (document to be submitted). In particular, the Meeting is invited to note that HOD 54-2018 approved the updated Work Plan for the Fish Group for 2018-2019 and prolonged the mandate of this time-limited group until 2022, to cover the period of updating the Baltic Sea Action Plan.

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

The Meeting is invited to take note of information regarding the FISH PRO III project.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the Regional expert workshop on essential fish habitats, organized by Pan Baltic Scope project and HELCOM, in Riga, Latvia, on 12-13 December 2018.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the publication of the HELCOM [State of the Baltic Sea report – Second holistic assessment 2011-2016](#) (BSEP 155) and the [Status of coastal fish communities in the Baltic Sea during 2011-2016 – the third thematic assessment](#) (BSEP 161), available on the HELCOM website.

Agenda Item 3 Implementation and update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

The Meeting is invited to take note of the strategic plan for updating the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) approved by HOD 54-2018 as well as the work plan approved by HOD 55-2018 (documents to be submitted). The Meeting is invited to note that the update of the BSAP is a priority for the HELCOM working groups, and that the update will be based on the existing expertise in the HELCOM working structure according to the mandates of the working groups and will be overseen by the Heads of Delegation.

The Meeting is invited to consider the request by HOD 54-2018 to the HELCOM groups to plan their work accordingly, including the putting in place of additional arrangements as may be necessary, e.g. correspondence work and possible additional workshops (c.f. Outcome of HOD 54-2018, paragraphs 3.9-3.12).

The Meeting is invited to discuss and identify the current status of joint and national actions in the current BSAP related to fisheries, and agree on the reporting of existing HELCOM Recommendations related to the Fish Working Group (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to note the outcome of HOD 55-2018 related to the update of the BSAP in general, including inter alia the interdisciplinary platform for analysis of sufficiency of measures (SOM Platform) and the request that future Working Group meetings should provide a separate report or annex to summarize discussions and activities related to the update of the BSAP.

The Meeting is invited to take note of information to be provided by the Secretariat on a project entitled “Actions to evaluate and identify effective measures to reach GES in the Baltic Sea marine region” (HELCOM ACTION) and use the information as appropriate.

The Meeting is invited to make use of the above information presented by the Secretariat, as a basis for a thorough discussion concerning matters related to the update of the BSAP, and take action as appropriate.

Agenda Item 4 Regional cooperation on Fisheries & Environment

Cooperation between HELCOM and BALTFISH

The Meeting is invited to recall that 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 the BALTFISH Chair.

The Meeting is invited to note that HOD 54-2018 took note of a letter sent in June 2018 by the HELCOM Chair to the then Chair of BALTFISH (Denmark), the upcoming HELCOM Chair (Finland) and the upcoming BALTFISH Chair (Sweden), suggesting a meeting between HELCOM and BALTFISH regarding closer cooperation between management of fisheries and marine environment.

The Secretariat will inform the Meeting on information sharing between HELCOM Fish and BALTFISH Chair, as well as a meeting between HELCOM and BALTFISH.

The Meeting will be informed on recent 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 draft list of trialled alternative fishing gears or fishing techniques, which FISH 8-2018 agreed will be considered a living document at future meetings of the Fish Working Group. Contracting Parties are invited to provide updated information to Poland (K.Kaminska@mgm.gov.pl). The Secretariat will inform the Meeting about 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, as invited by FISH 8-2018.

Cooperation with other organizations

BSAC is invited to inform the Meeting on the outcome of the ICES WKMSIGD 2018 workshop on methods for stakeholder involvement in fishing gear development hosted by the BSAC in May 2018.

The Meeting is invited to share information on regional, EU and international (FAO, CBD, other regions) developments for closer regional cooperation between organisations in the fields of fisheries and the marine environment.

The Meeting is invited to take note that the planning for a joint OSPAR-HELCOM bycatch indicator workshop is progressing (to be further presented under Agenda Item 9).

Agenda Item 5 BAT/BEP for sustainable aquaculture

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcome of CG AQUACULTURE 2-2018 held in Berlin, Germany on 7-8 November 2018, and in particular take note of the related outcome of HOD 55-2018, which expressed appreciation for the progress made and adopted Terms of Reference and approved a revised Work Plan for CG Aquaculture for 2019-2020.

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 6 HELCOM data interests

Roadmap on collection of fisheries data in order to assess incidental bycatches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes in the Baltic Sea

The Meeting is invited to recall that, as established by FISH 7-2017, the 'Correspondence Group on fisheries data for operationalizing indicators used for the purposes of MSFD implementation, for the Contracting Parties which are also EU members (CG Fishdata)' has worked, according to the Groups ToR (Annex 3, FISH 7-2017 Outcome), for developing a draft Roadmap on fisheries data for operationalizing the two indicators ('Number of drowned mammals and waterbirds in fishing gears' and 'Cumulative impact on benthic biotopes') used for the purposes of MSFD implementation for the Contracting Parties which are also EU members.

The Meeting is further invited to recall the progress made with regard to the development of the Roadmap lead by Denmark and Poland, and being considered by the CG FISHDATA 2-2018, FISH 8-2018, STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018 and CG FISHDATA 3-2018 meetings.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcome of CG FISHDATA 3-2018, held in Copenhagen on 21 November 2018 and to approve the draft Terms of Reference and new status of the group as "Expert Group on fisheries data for operationalizing indicators used for the purposes of MSFD implementation" (EG Fishdata). The Meeting will further be invited to consider the draft Roadmap to be developed intersessionally by the Chair of CG Fishdata and interested parties with a view to submission to FISH 9-2019.

The Meeting is invited to consider the possibilities of also including Russia into the scope of the Roadmap as well as the work of EG Fishdata.

Agenda Item 7 Salmon and sea trout including HELCOM Recommendation 32-33/1 *Recommendation 32-33/1*

The Meeting is invited to take note of the [2017 Report](#) on implementation of HELCOM Recommendation 32-33/1 '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 is to be reported to the Commission every three years, starting in January 2012.

FISH-M and RETROUT project

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcome of FISH-M 6-2018 (document to be submitted) held as a joint HELCOM-RETROUT workshop on sea trout population status and habitat assessment methods, in Klaipeda, Lithuania, 26-28 June 2018.

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, leading work package 4 ('Assessment of status and management of sea trout rivers and stocks') with considerable focus on river restoration activities and assessment of sea trout river and stock status (document to be submitted), as presented by HELCOM RETROUT Project manager Mr. Henri Jokinen

Agenda Item 8 Interactions between fisheries and marine ecosystems *Seals-fishery interactions*

The Meeting is invited to recall that FISH 8-2018 welcomed the organization of a workshop on seal-fisheries interactions 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 is also invited to recall that Denmark has offered to host the workshop and co-lead the preparatory work, and note the offer by Poland to be the second co-lead. The Meeting is further invited to note that HOD 54-2018 approved the organization of this workshop. More information about the preparations will be provided at the Meeting.

Agenda Item 9 Work on indicator development
HELCOM indicators

The Meeting is invited to note information on the ongoing work within HELCOM to review the catalogue of HELCOM indicators, particularly those used in the 2018 State of the Baltic Sea report or those pressures and gaps identified within the report – including matching of the existing indicators to policy requirements (e.g. the Baltic Sea Action Plan, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive), as informed by the Secretariat.

In this respect, the Meeting is invited to note that a workshop for detailing the planned work on indicators and the relevant milestones tentatively planned for 13-15 May 2019.

HELCOM-OSPAR by-catch workshop

The Meeting is invited to review the draft Terms of Reference for a joint OSPAR-HELCOM workshop on indicators for incidental bycatch, as drafted by the Secretariats of OSPAR and HELCOM, and provide comments and amendments as needed (document to be submitted). The draft Terms of Reference have also been submitted to STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018, GEAR 19-2018, FISHDATA 3-2018, as well as OSPAR ICG-COBAM for comments, and will be revised by the HELCOM and OSPAR Secretariats based on the comments received from all relevant meetings. The Meeting is invited to note that Denmark has agreed to host the workshop.

Agenda Item 10 Future work

Based on guidance to be provided by the Secretariat, as invited by FISH 8-2018, the Meeting will be invited to consider how the Fish Working Group should prioritize its work and develop its future work plans, in particular in light of the update of the BSAP, including possible monitoring and evaluation of progress.

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 the Fish Working Group.

Agenda Item 11 Any other business

The Meeting is invited to consider the draft updated HELCOM Data and Information Strategy (document to be submitted), which HOD 55-2018 approved in general and agreed should be communicated to all relevant HELCOM groups before adoption at HELCOM 40-2019.

The Meeting is invited to review, and update as needed, the list of Fish contacts and observers (document to be submitted). Contracting Parties and Observer organizations are invited to inform of any new, or changed, nominations to the Secretariat (henri.jokinen@helcom.fi).

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

Agenda Item 12 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.

Meeting participants will be asked for permission of sharing their contact details in the Meeting Outcome in the form of a list of participants.