



Swedish Agency  
for Marine and  
Water Management



## Provisional Programme

Regional Workshop on Eel and the Baltic Sea  
29 November (13:00) – 1 December 2017 (14:00)

Biz Apartment / Gärdet  
Sandhamnsgatan 67  
Stockholm, Sweden

The Regional Workshop on Eel and the Baltic Sea 2017 will take place in Biz Apartment / Gärdet (Sandhamnsgatan 67) Stockholm, Sweden starting at 13:00 on Wednesday 29 November and is expected to terminate by 14:00 on Friday 1 December 2017.

The workshop will gather representatives from management bodies, scientific experts and relevant stakeholders in charge of assessment and management of eel in countries around the Baltic Sea and its tributaries to:

- update each other on regional and international processes and their role/contribution to eel assessment and management in the Baltic
- exchange information on national eel assessment and management
- discuss similarities, differences, challenges and opportunities
- propose next steps towards the aim of a Baltic wide stock status assessment and facilitating subsequent action, to be further developed at the appropriate fora (HELCOM FISH work plan, Action 3.7).

**Participants from Baltic Sea coastal countries are kindly requested to prepare a comprehensive presentation of information available at the national level in their country for agenda item 5. If possible, presentations should be submitted to the HELCOM Secretariat before 22 November 2017 for distribution to Workshop participants in order to allow for productive discussions under agenda point 6.**

The outcome of the Workshop will be submitted to HELCOM FISH and other organisations/bodies, as appropriate, for consideration and follow-up.

In order to facilitate progress in the Workshop, reports and documentation from earlier meetings (including the 2010 Workshop on eel by HELCOM & ICES, recent assessment reports and meetings on eel management and assessment, etc.) will be made available before the Meeting.

The workshop is organised as part of the HELCOM Task force on migratory fish species sub-group (HELCOM FISH-M 5-2017) with reference to the Work Plan of HELCOM FISH (Action 3.7) and outcomes of HELCOM FISH 6-2017 (§8.1) and HELCOM HOD 52-2017 (§3.11).

A key feature of the Workshop is to organise it in cooperation with other organisations. The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and Sargasso Sea Commission (SSC) have already agreed.

The Workshop is hosted by the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SWAM) with the Swedish University of Agriculture (SLU).

## Provisional Programme

*Wednesday 29 November 2017*

1. Opening of the Meeting - *SwAM, SLU-Aqua, HELCOM*
2. Introduction to the Workshop - *Willem Dekker, SLU-Aqua*
  - background, aims and programme of the Workshop
  - status of the eel stock with a focus on the Baltic Sea
3. The role and contribution of regional and international organisations towards eel assessment and management in the Baltic Sea region - *brief presentations from ICES, HELCOM, Sargasso Sea Commission, CMS, BSAC and the EU Commission (TBC)*
4. Overview of information available at the national level highlighting challenges and opportunities - *20 min presentation by each participating country followed by Q&A*
  - The status of the eel stock in each country
  - The impact of commercial, recreational, unreported, illegal fisheries on eel
  - Reported and unreported landings, traceability, illegal catches and control

- Other impacts on the stock, including restocking, migration barriers, hydro-power, etc.
- Monitoring and assessment: achievements, shortcomings, further requirements
- Interaction and collaboration with other countries, magnitude of the interaction, inclusion in monitoring and assessment

*Thursday 30 November 2017*

5. Continuation of presentations of information available at the national level - *participating countries*
6. Similarities, differences, challenges and opportunities of national assessments: implications for enabling a Baltic-wide assessment - *reflections by Willem Dekker, SLU-Aqua followed by thematic discussions on key topics such as:*
  - Fishery-independent monitoring of recruitment, abundance, escapement
  - Commercial fisheries, reported and unreported
  - Recreational fisheries, reported and unreported
  - Illegal fisheries, traceability, control, monitoring
  - Restocking, achievements, stumbling blocks, effectiveness
  - Migration barriers, upstream and downstream, and hydropower related mortality
  - Monitoring and assessment, methods, coverage, short-comings
  - Baltic assessment, opportunities, stumbling-blocks

*Friday 1 December 2017*

7. Next steps towards a Baltic wide stock status assessment and subsequent actions - *discussion facilitated by Willem Dekker, SLU Aqua*
  - *What* is needed to enable a Baltic-wide stock status assessment and subsequent regionally coordinated actions?
  - *How* can this be organized?
  - *When* and in which order?
  - by *Whom*, within which forum/institutional framework?
  - does it require funding? *Where* can this be sourced?
8. Drafting of joint messages and outcomes from the Workshop – *facilitated by Willem Dekker, SLU Aqua*
9. Closure of the Meeting – *SLU Aqua/SwAM/HELCOM*