



Document title	Extracts from recent HELCOM meeting outcomes of relevance for Fish-M
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Background

The following HELCOM meetings that are relevant for the Fish-M group have taken place during 2017-2018:

1. FISH-M 4-2017, Bredsten, Denmark, 29-30 May 2017
2. FISH 7-2017, Copenhagen, Denmark, 14-15 November 2017
3. FISH-M 5-2017, Stockholm, Sweden, 29 November- 1 December 2017
4. STATE & CONSERVATION 8-2018, Klaipeda, Lithuania 14-18 May 2018
5. FISH 8-2018, Warsaw, Poland, 23-24 May 2018

Action required

The Meeting is invited to take note of the attached extracts from the outcomes of relevant HELCOM meetings.

Extracts from recent HELCOM meeting outcomes of relevance for Fish-M

1. FISH-M 4-2017, Bredsten, Denmark, 29-30 May 2017

The Fourth Meeting of HELCOM Task Force on migratory fish species (FISH-M 4-2017) was held as a “Workshop on river restoration and best practices”.

In the workshop, information on national activities on river restoration was presented by Denmark, Sweden, Lithuania and Germany and the workshop participants visited several locations where river restoration measures had been taken or were planned.

The outcome of the workshop, as well as presentations held, are available on the [HELCOM meeting portal](#).

2. FISH 7-2017, Copenhagen, Denmark, 14-15 November 2017

The Meeting

- took note of the outcome of HELCOM workshop on river restoration and best practices in the Baltic Sea (HELCOM FISH-M 4-2017) (document 6-1) and thanked Denmark for organizing the Workshop.

Reporting on Rec 32-33/1 on conservation on salmon and sea trout

- considered the 2017 reporting of implementation of HELCOM Recommendation 32-33/1 based on the national reports of the Contracting Parties (document 6-2) and agreed that the CPS can provide clarifications by 29 November and that after incorporating comments the Secretariat circulates the report for final endorsement by Fish.
- agreed that in the next reporting round of the Recommendation 32-33/1 (2020) the data needed to assess the implementation of this Recommendation, as included in document 6-2 Annex 3, should be explicitly included in the reporting request from the Secretariat.
- agreed to come back to the revision of Recommendations 32-33/1 and 19/2 at a later stage.

RETROUT

- took note of the three year INTERREG RETROUT project (document 6-3) lead by county administrative board of Stockholm. HELCOM is the lead on the work package on river restoration tool box. The work is expected to take place throughout the project period 3 years. The overall aim of the project is exploring and increasing the potential of ecologically sustainable small scale fisheries tourism.
- welcomed the possibility to exchange experiences on restoration, asked to be kept informed about the progress of the work and suggested that the upcoming Fish-M meetings could be held in connection with the meetings of the RETROUT project. The Meeting tasked the Secretariat to explore this possibility.

NASCO International Year of Salmon in 2019

- noted the upcoming NASCO International Year of Salmon in 2019 and enquired into the possibility of the Secretariat taking proactive contact to NASCO and possibly producing some deliverable with regards to this, and report back to the FISH 8-2018.

See the whole outcome [via this link](#).

3. FISH-M 5-2017, Stockholm, Sweden, 29 November- 1 December 2017

The fifth Meeting of HELCOM Task Force on migratory fish species (FISH-M 5-2017) was held as ‘Regional Workshop on Eel and the Baltic Sea’. The Workshop was hosted by the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in cooperation with the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS) and the Sargasso Sea Commission (SSC).

The workshop started with regional and international organizations presenting their role and contribution towards eel assessment and management in the Baltic Sea region, and Contracting Parties presenting national information on the status of the eel stock, impact of fisheries, reported and unreported landings, traceability, illegal catches and control, other impacts on the stock, monitoring and assessment as well as

interaction and collaboration with other countries. Based on the national presentations, a summary of the status of national work was collected including conclusions regarding relevant aspects (heading 4).

The workshop provided comments on the European eel (contained under heading 5 reflection) and agreed on the next steps, of which the most important a project on eel monitoring, assessment and management action should be prepared as soon as possible with the view to submit it in 2018 to a suitable funding call and requested the 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 (willem.dekker@slu.se).

See the whole outcome [via this link](#).

4. STATE & CONSERVATION 8-2018, Klaipeda, Lithuania 14-18 May 2018

See the whole outcome [via this link](#).

The Meeting

- took note of the information by Sweden and Finland on grayling and on a project which has just been granted funding in Sweden, and that the possibility to include regional aspects in this work will be explored.

HELCOM Action Plan for Baltic sturgeon

The Meeting

- considered the draft HELCOM Action Plan for the protection and recovery of Baltic sturgeon *Acipenser oxyrinchus* (document 3N-9, **Presentation 23**), as presented by Jörn Gessner, Germany.
- welcomed the work, the continued and increased cooperation of Contracting Parties on the topic and the information that Russia will look into the possibility to expand the work to the Neva river and lake Ladoga.
- in principle endorsed the action plan, noting that the Contracting Parties can provide further comments by **1 September 2018** to Jörn Gessner (sturgeon@igb-berlin.de) and agreed to submit the plan to HOD 53-2018 for approval, with the aim of submitting it to HELCOM 40-2019 for adoption.
- requested the countries involved in the Action Plan for the protection and recovery of sturgeon to inform State and Conservation and Fish working groups on the continuation of activities on sturgeon Actions during the future meetings.
- took note of the examples of species conservation plans and guidelines (document 3N-8), as presented by the Secretariat.

5. FISH 8-2018, Warsaw, Poland, 23-24 May 2018

See the whole outcome [via this link](#).

Eel workshops

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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.

Reporting on Rec 32-33/1 on conservation on salmon and sea trout

- 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.
- 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.
- noted the comment by CCB that salmon management is currently high on the agenda of BALTFISH.
- 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**.

RETROUT

- 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.
- 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).