



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Continuation of the project on Baltic-wide assessment of coastal fish communities in support of an ecosystem-based management

FISH-PRO III 1-2019

Helsinki, Finland, 12-14 February 2019

Document title	Extracts of relevant HELCOM meeting outcomes
Code	2-1
Category	INF
Agenda Item	2 – Information of relevance to FISH-PRO III
Submission date	22.1.2019
Submitted by	Secretariat

Background

This document contains extracts of the following HELCOM meetings of relevance for FISH-PRO III, held since the last FISH-PRO meeting (FISH-PRO II 5-2018):

1. STATE & CONSERVATION 8-2018, Klaipeda, Lithuania, 14-18 May 2018
2. FISH 8-2018, Warsaw, Poland, 23-24 May 2018
3. HOD 54-2018, Helsinki, Finland, on 14-15 June 2018
4. FISH-M 6-2018, Klaipeda, Lithuania, 26-28 June 2018
5. STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018, Copenhagen, Denmark, 22-26 October 2018
6. HOD 55-2018, Helsinki, Finland, on 4-5 December 2018
7. HELCOM Pan Baltic Scope EFH WS 2018, Riga, Latvia, 12-13 December 2018

The complete outcomes can be accessed via the hyperlinks on the meeting codes/headings.

In addition, FISH 9-2019 will be held on 30-31 January 2019 in Tallinn, Estonia. Any outcome with relevance for FISH-PRO III will be reported separately to the Meeting.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note and make use of the information.

Extracts from recent HELCOM meeting outcomes of relevance for FISH-PRO III

1. [STATE & CONSERVATION 8-2018](#), Klaipeda, Lithuania, 14-18 May 2018

In accordance with the decision by HOD 52-2017 (Outcome of the meeting, paragraph 3.16), the eighth Meeting of the Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation (STATE & CONSERVATION 8-2018) was convened on 14-18 May 2018 in Klaipeda, Lithuania, in the premises of Marine Research Institute, Klaipeda University (Universiteto av. 17).

The Meeting

- approved the following indicator reports for publication on the HELCOM indicator webpage, noting that some editorial and harmonization will still be carried out:
 - Abundance of coastal fish key functional groups 2018
 - Abundance of key coastal fish species 2018
 - Abundance of salmon spawners and smolt 2018
 - Abundance of sea trout spawners and parr 2018
 - State of the soft-bottom macrofauna community 2018
 - Trends in arrival of new non-indigenous species 2018
 - Population trends and abundance of seals 2018
 - Diatom-Dinoflagellate index 2018
 - Zooplankton mean size and total stock (MSTS)
- reviewed the final draft of the thematic assessment on coastal fish (document 3J-2, Presentation 12), as presented by the Project Manager of FISH-PRO II, and supported the publication of the assessment in the Baltic Sea Environmental Proceedings for endorsement by HOD 54-2018

2. [FISH 8-2018](#), Warsaw, Poland, 23-24 May 2018

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.

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 FISHPRO 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
- noted the comment by Denmark that more work might be needed in relation to the Danish data
- recognized that some data gaps still exist and 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

3. [HOD 54-2018](#), Helsinki, Finland, on 14-15 June 2018

The 54th Meeting of the Heads of Delegation was held in Helsinki, Finland, on 14-15 June 2018.

The Meeting

- considered the Thematic Assessment on coastal fish and noted the small amendment to the report by Poland (document 4-26-Corr.1)

- approved the third draft thematic assessment on coastal fish (document 4-26) for publication in the Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings
- noted the suggestion by Denmark that in the future data for additional species and additional seasons are included in future assessments
- approved the updated Work Plan for the HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries 2018-2019 (document 4-24) and thanked the Chair of the Fish Group for her efforts in this regard
- decided to prolong the mandates of the Fish and Agri Groups until 2022, to cover the period of updating the BSAP
- expressed appreciation for the valuable work done by the Agri and Fish Groups and agreed to explore the possibility of even longer mandates for the groups, beyond 2022
- endorsed the proposed work plan for indicators (document 4-5), welcomed the forward looking planning on indicator work and decided on allocating resources from the HELCOM budget for the indicator manager in the Secretariat to continue the work from July 2019 until autumn 2021, and tentatively extending into 2022

4. [FISH-M 6-2018](#), Klaipeda, Lithuania, 26-28 June 2018

In accordance with the decisions of FISH 8-2018 (Outcome paragraph 6.6), the sixth Meeting of HELCOM Task Force on migratory fish species (FISH-M 6-2018) was held as a ‘Workshop on sea trout population status and habitat assessment methods’ together with the RETROUT project, in which HELCOM is leading work package 4 ‘Assessment of status and management of sea trout rivers and stocks’. The workshop was held in the premises of Amberton Hotel Klaipėda (Naujojo Sodo 1), in Klaipeda, Lithuania, on 26-28 June 2018.

5. [STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018](#), Copenhagen, Denmark, 22-26 October 2018

In accordance with the decision by HOD 54-2018 (Outcome of the meeting, paragraph 4.11), the ninth Meeting of the Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation (STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018) was convened on 22-26 October 2018 in Copenhagen, Denmark, in the premises of of Ledernes Mødecenter.

The Meeting took note that the third thematic assessment on coastal fish will be published under the Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings in November.

Additionally, in a voluntary session on common understanding and future regional coordination of the assessment of marine species and habitats under EU directive (outcome of this session in Annex 2. of the meeting Outcome), the assessment of fish species was discussed. It was suggested that Helcom FISH group could start discussions about regional coordination of both salmon and eel. However, the meeting acknowledged that non-commercial fish are difficult to tackle in a coordinated way and welcome further thoughts on this.

6. [HOD 55-2018](#), Helsinki, Finland, on 4-5 December 2018

The 55th Meeting of the Heads of Delegation was held in Helsinki, Finland, on 4-5 December 2018.

The Meeting considered and approved the Work Plan for the State and Conservation Working Group 2019-2020 (document 4-10).

7. [HELCOM Pan Baltic Scope EFH WS 2018](#), Riga, Latvia, 12-13 December 2018

With reference to HOD 54-2018, the Regional expert workshop on essential fish habitats, organized by the Pan Baltic Scope project and HELCOM, was held in Riga, Latvia, at the premises of Latvian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development (MoEPRD; Peldu Street 25, Riga, room 409, 4th floor), on 12-13 December 2018.

The Workshop was arranged in connection to a Pan Baltic Scope Workshop on Green Infrastructure, with shared opening and closing sessions. The purpose of the Workshop was to consider existing knowledge regarding essential fish habitats at the Baltic Sea regional scale.

The Workshop was invited to discuss and validate existing spatial data on essential fish habitats based on proposals collated within the Pan Baltic Scope project. The presented information will be further used in the Pan Baltic Scope project to develop a concept of green infrastructure for supporting maritime spatial planning in the HELCOM region.