



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach
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Background

This document contains the Outcome of the PRESSURE 3-2015 where issues of relevance for the Gear Group are marked in bold. Annexes to the Outcome can be found in the correspondent [document library](#) of the meeting portal.

Action required

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

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Outcome of the Third Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (PRESSURE 3-2015)

Introduction

0.1 The Third Meeting of the HELCOM Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (PRESSURE 3-2015) was held by invitation from the Ministry of Environment and Food, Nature Agency, at the premises of the Nature Agency in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 7-9 October 2015.

0.2 The Meeting was attended by the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention, except for European Union, Latvia and Lithuania. Observers from CCB, EurEau, EurAqua, ICES and WWF Poland (Baltic Ecoregion Programme), as well as invited guests from EMEP, EUSBSR/PA Hazard, EUSBSR/PA Nutri and Keep Sweden Tidy and the Chair of RedCore DG also attended the Meeting. Ms. Monika Stankiewicz, Executive Secretary, also attended the Meeting. The List of Participants is contained in **Annex 1**.

0.3 Mr. Tonny Niilonen, Danish Head of Delegation to HELCOM, welcomed the Meeting on behalf of the host, the Ministry of the Environment and Food of Denmark.

0.4 The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Lars Sonesten, Chair of the Pressure Group. Mr. Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky, Ms. Marta Ruiz and Ms. Lena Avellan of the HELCOM Secretariat acted as secretaries of the Meeting.

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

Documents: 1-1-Rev.1, 1-2

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

1.2 The Meeting noted the large number of documents submitted and that Sweden would like to provide written comments on documents 9-2, 9-3, 9-4, 9-5 and that Poland will require more time to finalize their position on document 8-1 which was submitted late. Finland and Germany also noted that there may be some documents which require the opportunity to provide written comments.

Agenda Item 2 Matters arising from other HELCOM work

Documents: 2-1

2.1 The Meeting took note of the outcomes of HOD 48-2015, GEAR 11-2015 and HOLAS II 3-2015 meetings.

Agenda Item 3 Thematic session on hazardous substances

Documents: 3-1, 3-1-Rev.1; 3-2, 3-3, 3-3-att1-att8, 3-4, 3-5

3.1 The Meeting took note of the overview of hazardous substances included in the BSAP (doc. 3.2 Rev.1) as presented by Mr. Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky (Presentation 1).

3.2 The Meeting discussed alternative sources for data on emissions of particular pollutants than the currently used sources for the purposes of the second holistic assessment, and noted that no other major sources could be identified at this time.

3.3 **The Meeting agreed on the need to review and possibly revise the existing HELCOM Recommendation 31E/1 'Implementing HELCOM's objective for hazardous substances', namely the list of priority substances and substances of concern. The Meeting welcomed the offer by Finland to propose some changes to the Recommendation, in particular the List of Priority Hazardous Substances and the List of substances of possible concern in Attachment 2 to the Recommendation by the next Pressure WG**

meeting. The Meeting also noted the proposal that endosulfan, as well as short- and medium-chained chlorinated paraffins (SCCP/MCCP) could be changed from priority substance to substance of concern while pharmaceuticals included on the EU WFD watch list could be included on the list of substances of concern.

3.4 The Meeting discussed measures aimed at reduction of input of hazardous substance to the Baltic Sea which can be suggested for coordinated implementation in the HELCOM region and noted the following:

- **Russia:** The Stockholm Convention has been ratified, currently ongoing work is focussed on developing a national action plan for the implementation;
- **Germany:** The MSFD-related measures for hazardous substances are focussed on shipping and would appropriately be considered in the Maritime WG;
- **Finland:** Once the national EU WFD preliminary programme of measures on new WFD priority substances is published by the end of 2018, there will be sufficient information about the hazardous substances to prepare measures related to emissions and losses to environment. For the MSFD the final draft programme of measures (under preparation) contains two relevant research measures; one related to pharmaceuticals in the sea area and their emissions and the second related to river Kymijoki dioxin load to Gulf of Finland, furthermore under the maritime section contains a measure related to the preparation of a national action plan on ecological effects of chemical spills in the Baltic Sea;
- **Sweden:** Four measures related to hazardous substance input are included in the draft programme of measures which are all research related activities namely: risk assessment of contaminated areas, making information about hazardous substances in sediments readily available, TBT in harbours and marinas, identifying hazardous substances that can be released from waste water treatment plants that can be harmful to the marine environment. Furthermore, documentation on OSPAR recommendation implementation is available.

Emission and deposition of heavy metals and organic pollutants – inputs and measures

3.5 The Meeting took note of the information presented by Mr. Alexey Gusev (Presentation 2) on EMEP atmospheric supply of lead, cadmium, mercury and PCB-153 to the Baltic Sea in the period from 1990 to 2013 (doc 3-3, att 1, att 2, att 3, att 4, att 5, att 6, att 7, att 8).

3.6 The Meeting noted that emissions of Cd, Pb, Hg and PCB-153 have declined in the HELCOM area during the considered time period, and that emissions are spatially variable, with stationary combustion (i.e. residential combustion), industry and public power being the largest contribution categories. Furthermore the Meeting noted the future aim of EMEP to provide data on emission and deposition with finer spatial resolution 0.1x0.1° instead of the current 50 km².

3.7 The Meeting checked the draft report and informed about required amendments that Finland and Germany will provide as written technical comments and approved in principle the report for publishing on the EMEP and HELCOM websites, pending a study reservation by Germany to be resolved in two weeks' time by informing the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi by 23 October 2015).

3.8 The Meeting took note of the information presented by Mr. Alexey Gusev on airborne input data availability (doc. 3-5, Presentation 3).

3.9 The Meeting noted that data on PCDD/Fs, PAHs and PCBs are regularly assessed by EMEP, while PBDEs, HBCDD and PFOS are under consideration for inclusion in the CLTRP Protocol on POPs and currently some data are available for pilot studies, further noting that for HBCDD and PFOS further cooperation with national experts to estimate total emissions is needed to allow for modelling.

3.10 The Meeting noted that several of the reported substances are also included in the HELCOM status core indicators that will be used for HOLAS II with data up till 2015 and noted that the data processing requires 2 years and thus EMEP data from 2015 will be available in 2017. The Meeting furthermore noted that 'near real time' deposition estimates are made in EMEP based on meteorological data and the

assumption that recent annual emissions do not vary substantially, based on these data it could be possible to provide some more recent data for HOLAS II.

3.11 The Meeting noted that within EMEP benzo-a-pyrene is proposed as an indicator PAH to be reported and modelled, although currently four PAH substances are included in UNECE emission inventory.

3.12 **The Meeting proposed the following rotating reporting schedule for EMEP: in 2016 EMEP will report on Hg, Cd, PAH and a pilot report on PBDE using 2014 data, and preliminarily in 2017 EMEP will report on Hg, Cd, Pb and a pilot report on PFOS if EMEP receives further input from the Contracting Parties on total emissions to using 2015 data, and agreed on a two-week written procedure to endorse the rotation and substance list by informing the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi by 23 October 2015).**

3.13 **The Meeting discussed the suitability of the input data on the substances for the purposes of HOLAS II and noted that with the proposed rotating plan the assessment will give important additional information in a cost-efficient way on the whole picture to supplement the current understanding on pathways and emissions.**

Waterborne inputs of heavy metals –inputs and measures

3.14 The Meeting took note of the information presented by Mr. Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky on reporting of riverine input of heavy metals (doc 3-4).

3.15 The Meeting noted that Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia and Sweden have provided information on analytical procedures on monitoring of heavy metals in rivers, which revealed some of the differences in analytical procedures between the Contracting Parties, and concluded that reliable regional overview can be obtained if all the Contracting Parties inform about the analytical procedures. The Meeting took note that Germany and Russia provided requested information recently, and that is why the data were not included into the overview.

3.16 The Meeting invited Poland to provide information on the analytical procedures on monitoring of heavy metals in rivers before the next PLC-6 meeting.

3.17 **The Meeting took note of the information that the Contracting Parties do not foresee any obstacles in reporting data on riverine input of heavy metals to the Baltic Sea for PLC 6.**

Pharmaceuticals - "Status report on pharmaceuticals in the Baltic Sea region" state of play

3.18 The Meeting took note of the information presented by Mr. Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky on the preparation of the status report on pharmaceuticals (doc. 3-1, Presentation 4) and noted that the Pressure WG can access all reported data through the [dedicated HELCOM workspace](#).

3.19 **The Meeting noted that data processing, supported by UNESCO-Sida project, will be completed by November 2015, progress report will be submitted to UNESCO by December 2015 and circulated to the Pressure Group contacts. The final report will be prepared by mid-February 2016.**

3.20 The Meeting emphasized the importance of consideration of issues related to the medical waste management systems and in particular to receiving of outdated pharmaceuticals from citizens in the Status report.

3.21 The Meeting noted that PA Hazards will organize a stakeholder meeting on 15 December 2015 in Copenhagen to disseminate the results, receive comments from experts and initiate future work.

3.22 The Meeting invited all Contracting Parties to provide existing information about pharmaceutical in the environment, their pathways and sources.

3.23 The Meeting noted that vast amount of data have already been reported by Estonia, Finland, Germany, Poland and Sweden and encouraged all the Contracting Parties to contribute data for the preparation of the Regional Status report.

3.24 The Meeting noted the information by the CCB about plans to address source-reduction and consumer behaviour in relation to environmentally safe handling of old and outdated pharmaceuticals through public awareness actions within 2016-2017.

Agenda Item 4 Sewage sludge handling

Documents: 4-1

4.1 The Meeting took note of the information presented by Mr. Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky on the Draft HELCOM Recommendation on sewage sludge handling (doc. 4-1) and the outcome of the two commenting rounds.

4.2 The Meeting acknowledged that Germany places a study reservation on the whole Recommendation, due to an ongoing revision of national legislation and related national consultation and that Germany will provide consolidated comments on the issue to the Secretariat by 16 October 2015 (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi).

4.3 The Meeting acknowledged that Poland is not in a position to accept the draft Recommendation in its present form.

4.4 **The Meeting discussed and elaborated on a compromise solution of the main part of the Recommendation and Annex 1 “Guidance for sustainable sewage sludge handling in the Baltic Sea region”. Due to the question regarding applicability of Annex 2 “Tentative limit values” for variable requirements of national legislation of the Contracting Parties, the Meeting decided on the need of further expert consultations with the view to consider the issue at PRESSURE 4-2016.**

4.5 The Meeting also highlighted the need in more comprehensive studies concerning limit values for concentrations of pollutants in sewage sludge and their relevance to the Baltic Sea before its application as a fertilizer, taking into account specific soil conditions.

4.6 The Meeting took note that the Russia will provide additional suggestions based on the discussion in writing to the Secretariat by 16 October 2015.

4.7 **The Meeting decided that the Secretariat will circulate the elaborated compromise version of the main part of the draft Recommendation and Annex 1 with integrated consolidated comments by Germany by 23 October 2015.**

4.8 **The Meeting invited the lead countries Germany and Russia to confirm their lead role in further development of the draft Recommendation and inform the Secretariat by 16 October 2015 (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi).**

Agenda Item 5 Implementation of the RAP on Marine Litter

Documents: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5, 5-6, 5-7, 5-8, 5-9, 5-10, 5-11, 5-12,5-13

5.1 The Meeting took note of HELCOM Recommendation 36/1 on Regional Action Plan (RAP) on Marine Litter (doc. 5-1).

5.2 The Meeting took note of the information that the Secretariat has established [HELCOM marine litter workspace](#) on the HELCOM website to serve as a working tool for sharing information and progress of work on the ML RAP. **The Meeting encouraged the Contracting Parties as well as Observers to use the workspace, following an example of Sweden who already uploaded their information to the workspace (doc. 5-9).**

5.3 **The Meeting took note of the information by Sweden on two measures that are planned nationally related to RL1 on the inclusion of marine litter references in national and local waste prevention and waste management plans. The Meeting was also informed about a Swedish and an OSPAR report on best available techniques to reduce and prevent sewage and storm-water related waste entering the marine environment, including micro particles, as well as reports on best practices for waste management within the fishing sector, both to be ready during 2016, which could then be considered regarding the applicability in the Baltic Sea for actions RL7 and RS5 (doc. 5-10).**

5.4 The Meeting welcomed the offer by Estonia to lead actions RL 11 on deposit refund systems and RL 14 on landfills or dumpsites and noted that a first possible step to start up these actions could be a survey to the Contracting Parties to be initiated by Estonia in cooperation with the HELCOM Secretariat.

5.5 The Meeting took note of the following further information on specific actions within the RAP on Marine Litter:

- Finland is offering to co-lead microliter indicator development,
- Sweden is willing to contribute to RL1 and RL4 if a lead country for those actions could be identified.

5.6 The Meeting took note of the information on the ‘Blastic project – plastic pathways from land to sea’, funded by the Central Baltic Programme, which will run 2016-2018, as presented by Keep Sweden Tidy. The project has the potential to contribute to actions of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter RL1, RL4, RL6, RL2, RL3 and RL8 (doc. 5-12, Presentation 5).

5.7 The Meeting took note of the information on a Swedish nationwide recycling system for end-of-life boats (doc. 5-7).

5.8 The Meeting took note of and considered the state of play of the ‘Removal of derelict fishing gear, lost or discarded by fishermen in the Baltic Sea’ project presented by WWF Poland, co-lead for actions RS6 and RS7 from RAP ML (doc. 5-11, Presentation 6) and welcomed the information that there is a plan to continue the activities with involvement of a larger number of the countries within a new project.

5.9 The Meeting took note of the activities by CCB to promote the reduction of microplastics in cosmetics products by raising awareness among public, retailers and industry.

5.10 The Meeting took note of the report of the German MARLISCO Forum on Marine Litter (doc. 5-2).

5.11 The Meeting took note of the outcome the informal meeting on cooperation between Regional Seas Conventions in Europe regarding implementation of the activities related to marine litter of common interest, held on 18 September 2015 in Paris, attended by the HELCOM Secretariat and Germany (doc. 5-5). The Meeting invited Sweden and Denmark, being members to both HELCOM and OSPAR, to join the initiative. The Meeting noted that the next meeting of the initiative is planned for May 2016, to be possibly hosted by Spain and agreed that the Contracting Parties will be approached by the Secretariat with a request to contribute to the updating of the overview of the activities on marine litter in RSCs (table 2 of doc. 5-5) prior to the meeting.

5.12 The Meeting took note of the information by ICES on the ongoing OSPAR work that could provide points of collaboration for HELCOM work to develop standardized monitoring and assessment protocols for marine litter. Particularly, ICES highlighted the ICES advice to OSPAR on the development of a common monitoring protocol for plastic particles in fish stomach and selected shellfish on the basis of existing fish disease surveys, ICES advice:

http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/Special_Requests/OSPAR_PLAST_advice.pdf News article: <http://www.ices.dk/news-and-events/news-archive/news/Pages/Fish-stomachs-as-indicators-of-marine-litter.aspx>.

5.13 Furthermore, ICES informed the Meeting of an upcoming OSPAR marine litter data call (contacts: Thomas Maes and John Mouat), “OSPAR Data call: Seabed litter data collected during fisheries trawl surveys from 2012 until 2014 for the OSPAR area”. ICES will manage the data via existing database systems, i.e. DATRAS. There will be no changes to DATRAS, but litter data collected during a trawl survey will be stored and connected to the DATRAS database. The DATRAS Unique key information will be used to link litter data to the DATRAS haul data to ensure a streamlined reporting process. The data will by default be available through the ICES Data Portal on the ICES website <http://ecosystemdata.ices.dk/>.

5.14 The Meeting took note of the final report for the European Commission DG Environment ‘Identification and Assessment of Riverine Input of Marine Litter’ (doc. 5-8) and discussed a possible way forward to develop standards for monitoring of riverine litter inputs to the Baltic Sea while noting:

- that Poland, Russia and Sweden informed of the lack of experience on monitoring litter in rivers, whereas Finland is about to start conducting some activities in years 2016 and 2017 as part of BLASTIC project and is ready to share information,
- that Keep Sweden Tidy will perform monitoring of microplastics in rivers as part of the BLASTIC project,
- proposal by CCB to use PLC as the forum to approach such issue and also to consider transfer of hazardous substances absorbed by microplastics,,
- that the EU TG Marine Litter is currently preparing a report on riverine litter monitoring to be available by mid-2016.

5.15 The Meeting expressed the view that it would be premature to establish any expert group on this issue, however it is desirable to work together on methodology for monitoring, especially as some monitoring activities are planned to be carried out in a number of countries and there is an opportunity to harmonize the purposes of the river and marine monitoring of litter. **The Meeting agreed that this topic could be added to the Terms of Reference of the EN-Marine Litter, to be started with investigating outcomes of the studies and pilot activities across Europe and scope for the river and sea monitoring harmonization, however priority should be given to finalizing the work on indicators. The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to nominate experts on river monitoring to the EN-Marine litter and to consider leading this topic, and took note that Germany will hold a conference on plastics in fresh waters in June 2016.**

5.16 **The Meeting took note of the information by the Secretariat that Denmark and Sweden offered to co-lead the work on the three indicators on marine litter, and that lead countries for these indicators are still needed. Finland informed that they could offer the lead for the development of microlitter indicator.**

5.17 **The Meeting considered (doc. 5-4) and agreed on the revised Terms of Reference for the HELCOM Expert Network on Marine Litter (Annex 2 to the Outcome). The Meeting agreed that the Terms of Reference may be amended in the future as work progresses, and noted it will be presented to the next meeting of the State and Conservation WG.**

5.18 **The Meeting took note of the contact details of the HELCOM Expert Network on Marine Litter (HELCOM EN-Litter) (doc. 5-3) and requested updates to the list to be forwarded to the Secretariat (marta.ruiz@helcom.fi) by 22 October 2016, including information on area of expertise (e.g. indicators, management, individual actions) of the nominated contacts.**

5.19 The Meeting invited also Observers and other stakeholders to consider leading actions within the RAP on Marine Litter.

5.20 **The Meeting welcomed the offer by Germany to lead some actions within the RAP on ML and to inform the Secretariat accordingly, possibly already during the following week.**

5.21 **The Meeting discussed the aims and desired outcomes of the Marine Litter Stakeholder Conference to take place on 9 March 2016 in Helsinki, back-to-back with the 37th Meeting of the Helsinki Commission (10-11 March 2016) (doc. 5-6). The Meeting invited the Secretariat to develop further the contents and programme of the Conference, taking into account feedback and suggestions provided during the Meeting.**

5.22 The Meeting considered that the Conference provides an opportunity for a possible meeting of the experts within EN-Marine Litter on the side of the event.

5.23 **The Meeting considered document 7-4 with regard to data layers on marine litter (cf. para 7.4) and concluded that data on beach litter should be available, e.g. from MARLIN project. The Contracting Parties are invited to inform if any other data on marine litter could be made available by October 2015. This information can either be provided to the Secretariat (marta.ruiz@helcom.fi) by 30 October 2015 or communicated to national participants of the HOLAS II Pressure Workshop to take place on 13 November 2015.**

Agenda Item 6**Underwater noise**

Documents: 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, 6-5, 6-6, 6-6-Rev.1, 6-7

6.1 The Meeting took note of the work plan on preparing a roadmap to building a knowledge base on underwater noise in a short term (2015-2017) as agreed by HOD 48-2015 (doc. 6-2).

6.2 The Meeting considered the draft Regional Baltic Underwater Noise Roadmap (doc. 6-6) and developed it further according to the discussions in the Meeting (doc. 6-6-Rev.1). The Meeting noted that the draft roadmap will be presented to the 1st Workshop of the HELCOM Intersessional Group for Programmes of Measures (28 October 2015, Warsaw) and further considered at STATE&CONSERVATION 3-2015 (9-13 November 2015). These meetings present an opportunity to provide further feedback the Contracting Parties and Observers may have. According to the work plan, the final draft roadmap will be submitted to HOD 49-2015 (10-11 December 2015) for approval decision.

6.3 The Meeting welcomed that a number of Contracting Parties have an intention to nominate additional experts to the HELCOM Expert Network on Underwater Noise (HELCOM EN-Noise) (doc. 6-1) and requested the Contracting Parties to do so, including indication of area of expertise of the nominated contacts, by 22 October 2015 by informing the Secretariat (marta.ruitz@helcom.fi).

6.4 The Meeting took note of the information that the EU co-financed HELCOM BalticBoost project (2015-2016) will support activities outlined in the work plan, through a project partner Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI) from Sweden and a project researcher planned to be employed to the Secretariat.

Ambient noise

6.5 The Meeting took note of the progress within BIAS project (Baltic Sea Information on the Acoustic Soundscape) and considered the proposed next steps in the development of the pre-core indicator 'Continuous low frequency anthropogenic sound' presented by the lead countries for the indicator, Sweden and Finland (doc. 6-7, Presentation 7).

6.6 The Meeting noted that the monitoring standards prepared within the BIAS project will be fed to the work of the EU TG Noise with the aim to develop a European standard, and in parallel a proposal will be made for an ISO ambient noise standard.

6.7 The Meeting agreed on the following next steps to take the indicator work forward:

- present the monitoring guidelines developed in BIAS to State&Conservation 3-2015 for consideration by the Contracting Parties to conclude if this could be a HELCOM common monitoring guideline, as well as to discuss the network of monitoring stations from a regional perspective;
- develop the assessment protocol of the indicator based on the monitoring data (measurements and models) of the BIAS project,
- prepare a plan for establishing GES-boundary.

6.8 The Meeting agreed that it is realistic to aim at presenting the further developed indicator for agreement as a core indicator by HELCOM HOD at the end of December 2016. However, the Meeting noted that, due to the fact that data is only available for a short time, the GES-boundary might at this time only be presented on a conceptual level.

Impulsive noise

6.9 The Meeting noted the information about the OSPAR and ICES work on 'Establishing a register of the occurrence of impulsive sound – OSPAR experiences' (doc. 4-4).

6.10 The Meeting noted the guidance provided by State&Conservation 2-2015 that the continued development of the candidate core indicator 'Distribution in time and place of loud low- and mid-frequency impulsive sound' is to be taken forward closely linked to further development of a regional registry and that developing such a regional registry was considered important.

6.11 The Meeting noted that the development of the assessment protocol of the candidate indicator will be tied to the parameters defined in the registry, and agreed that parameters as recommended by TG Noise to be the basis for the OSPAR register at ICES should form the basis for the indicator assessment protocol.

6.12 The Meeting invited Germany to consider leading the continued development of the candidate indicator linked to the regional registry. Germany confirmed that they can take up the leading role and would welcome the contribution from Sweden.

6.13 The Meeting agreed that HELCOM should join the regional registry of impulsive noise developed by OSPAR and ICES, keeping in mind that technical details need to be solved during 2016.

6.14 The Meeting noted that one of the upcoming tasks of the EN-Noise together with the Lead Country will be to look into timely data delivery to the regional registry to allow for inclusion in the second holistic assessment.

6.15 The Meeting agreed that the Contracting Parties provide an initial indication of when data could be made available to the registry and to also provide information on the expected time delay in reporting data. The Meeting welcomed the offer by ICES to organize a virtual meeting with EN-Noise experts and ICES technical staff, where it could be possible to jointly formulate a joint data call and agreed to come back to the timing tentatively scheduled for the second half of November.

Agenda Item 7 Data sets on the anthropogenic pressure on the environment

Documents: 7-1, 7-2, 7-3, 7-4

7.1 The Meeting took note of the information presented by Ms. Lena Avellan, HELCOM Secretariat, on the 'Plan for assessing pressures and impacts within HOLAS II' and the 'Overview of data on environmental pressures' (doc. 7-1 and doc. 7-4).

7.2 The Meeting noted in particular the planned HOLAS II pressure workshop scheduled for 13 November 2015 to be held at the HELCOM Secretariat, at which the BSPI (Baltic Seas Pressure Index) and BSII (Baltic Sea Impact Index) development will be discussed and a list of pressure layers to be included in these indexes will be elaborated and finalized.

7.3 The Meeting scrutinized the information on the existing and desired data sets for HOLAS II BSPI and BSII (doc. 7-4), noting that the list will be updated to include, e.g., any changes to the data layers requested by HELCOM from EMEP and recognizing that data for the pressure layers to be included in HOLAS II need to be made available by 1 by October 2016.

7.4 The Meeting noted in particular the pressure layers for which the data source is not clear (Table 2 in doc.7-4) and requested the Contracting Parties to explore national options for making the data available for the purposes of the second holistic assessment (see paragraph 5.23 on litter and 6.14-6.15).

Marine sediment extraction and dredging and depositing

7.5 The Meeting took note of the information presented by the Secretariat on HELCOM Recommendation 19/1 on marine sediment extraction in the Baltic Sea area (doc. 7-2).

7.6 The Meeting noted that the reporting frequency of three years as defined in Recommendation 19/1 has not yielded any reporting, and furthermore that the reporting format does not contain specifications for appropriate GIS information. Further, the Meeting was not certain about a possible overlap of this Recommendation with the requirements for reporting on dredging activities.

7.7 The Meeting took note of the comment by Estonia that HELCOM reporting on dredging and IMO reporting on dumped material currently require double reporting and the comment by Sweden that units in these two reporting systems differ. The Meeting noted that the Guidelines on management of dredged material (HELCOM Recommendation 36/2), including the revised reporting format, has been adopted this year by HELCOM 36-2015, after a revision process led by Lithuania, in which the London Convention and OSPAR corresponding guidelines were considered.

- 7.8 The Meeting noted the information by Denmark that activities at their approximately 100 marine mineral extraction sites are reported annually to ICES.
- 7.9 The Meeting took note of the information by ICES that the Working Group on the effects of extraction of marine sediments on the marine ecosystem (WGEXT) in their latest report in 2015 included 2014 reported data from some HELCOM members (Poland, Germany, Finland), however these data are not reported forward to HELCOM and the data hosting arrangements could be clarified. The working group meets next time in April 2016 in Gdynia, Poland.
- 7.10 The Meeting took note of the comment by Sweden that if the Recommendation on marine sediment extraction is decided to be revised, then the scope of the revision could cover improving the impact assessments' requirements to include hydrographic changes, especially regarding sediment transportation, and the application of the Espoo Convention should be referred to regarding the activities taking place in locations with possible cross-border effects.
- 7.11 The Meeting recalled the existing requirements of the Helsinki Convention on information exchange and environmental impact assessment.
- 7.12 **The Meeting decided to come back to the issue of a possible revision of Recommendation 19/1 and improvements to the reporting format at the next meeting, noting that the reporting of the data is very important for the second holistic assessment to allow for inclusion of the data in the assessments and needs to be addressed first**
- 7.13 **The Meeting agreed that the Contracting Parties are to clarify their current reporting procedures on marine sediment extraction and dredging by informing the Secretariat (Dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi) by 8 November 2015. The Contracting Parties are requested to clarify if 1) maintenance dredging and extraction/mining dredging are reported as total volumes or specified volumes in order to clarify whether overlaps occur for mining and dredging reporting and 2) if the data can be made available in a timely manner (by October 2016) for the purpose of the second holistic assessment.**
- 7.14 **The Meeting agreed that the Contracting Parties communicate their opinions on the need for a revision of Recommendation 19/1 by the end of 2015 by informing the Secretariat (Dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi).**
- 7.15 The Meeting took note of the information on the status of reporting on dredged and deposited materials, including data for 2014, as prepared by the lead country Lithuania (doc. 7-3) and that new data has been reported for 2014 since document 7-3 was submitted to the Meeting (Presentation 8).
- 7.16 The Meeting noted that some Contracting Parties have complemented the data with data from previous years and corrected previous information, and that this option is available for all countries and that overall the reporting quality has improved with the new reporting format.
- 7.17 The Meeting took note of the request by Finland and Estonia to receive information from Russia on how HELCOM requirements are followed with regard to the current dredging activities of the Bronka harbour, including information on quality and quantity of the dredged sediments, monitoring data, information on methods applied to ensure sustainable disposal, deposit sites on sea and land, estimations on environmental impacts and mitigation measures. It was noted that also HELCOM Recommendation 17/3 is relevant.
- 7.18 The Meeting took note of the information by Russia that data on dredging and depositing has been reported to HELCOM according to the agreed format and the only remaining issue is final verifications of coordinates of the dredging activities which is expected to be finalized within one weeks' time. The Meeting also took note the information by Russia that before implementing activities in the Bronka harbour a comprehensive impact assessment had been carried out which showed that there should not be any significant impact on the environment. The impact assessment indicated that possible impacts might occur locally, and that there would not be any transboundary effects. Russia also informed the Meeting that all national permits were obtained and that regular monitoring was carried out and that additional information could be provided on corresponding request.

7.19 The Meeting noted that the regular reporting to HELCOM does not cover the information on how HELCOM requirements (Helsinki Convention and the Guidelines for management of dredged material at sea) are followed on national level and that Russia will respond to the request by the two Contracting Parties as soon as possible.

7.20 **The Meeting requested the Secretariat to assist in formulating a letter to Russia with a request to inform on how HELCOM agreements have been followed, with an option to return to inform on the issue at the HOD 49-2015 meeting in December.**

7.21 The Meeting reiterated the need for comparable and complete data for the assessment of dredging activities and that, e.g., any missing data must be clearly indicated in the result tables to ensure correct interpretations.

7.22 **The Meeting agreed that the Secretariat will look into developing a new structure for the assessment report as well as a summary of the dredging data reported so far to be used for policy and management purposes, for which expert assistance might be needed, and that the next meeting of the Pressure WG will consider this issue further.**

Agenda Item 8 Nutrient input assessment

Document: 8-1

8.1 The Meeting took note of the information by Chair of RedCore DG on the following (Presentation 9):

- answers to the question raised at HOD 48-2015 as well as the written questions received by the Secretariat regarding the last CART follow-up assessment are at the stage of approval by national experts;
- procedures on elaboration of the PLC products will be finalized and submitted to PRESSURE 4-2016;
- PLC 6 final report will be concentrated on source apportionment, evaluation of measures, CART and MAI assessment and riverine input of heavy metals. The final report will be finalized by the first part of 2017 while the data will be available for HOLAS II by October-November 2016;
- PLC Guidelines were finalized just before the last summer and will be uploaded to the HELCOM website in two weeks;
- PLUS project is in progress, in particular, database was finalised and the transfer of data from old to new database was successfully completed except some specific data which are not critical for the assessment, QA 1 and 2 have been completed and put into operation, the procedures work automatically at the moment and are available for the Contracting Parties to use while reporting through the reporting template;
- reporting templates were prefilled and sent out to the Contracting Parties by 11 September; the Contracting Parties should report annual data at the latest by 10 November; on 19 October prefilled templates for periodic assessment will be sent out to be amended by the end of the month, the Contracting Parties to upload periodical data by the end of the year. The implementation of this plan will allow to compile data in time. EMEP informed that the data on airborne N will be provided in 2 weeks;
- all Contracting Parties have already reported at least part of the data on nutrient input in 2013 and the PLC data manager has verified data with 7 Contracting Parties and with 2 Contracting Parties data are partly verified.

8.2 The Meeting was informed that the detailed working plan of RedCore DG has been elaborated. The main points of the plan are: to finalize revised Recommendations on monitoring of water- and airborne input of pollutants, further elaboration of the PLC procedures, uploading and assure quality of the data 2014, further work with PLC 6 and PLUS, to kick off new project on operationalization of nutrient input assessment.

8.3 The Meeting discussed the suggestion to perform the next periodic PLC 7 assessment in 2019, based on the monitoring data 2017 in line with the reporting periods of MSFD. The Meeting took note that Russia agrees with the proposed deadlines for PLC 7. Nevertheless, the Meeting decided that the other Contracting Parties will provide written comments regarding PLC 7 by 23 October 2015 to the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi).

8.4 The Meeting thanked the RedCore DG and personally the Chair of the RedCore for the work on assessment of nutrients input to the Baltic Sea and to the follow up implementation of the nutrient reduction scheme.

8.5 The Meeting decided that the RedCore DG will further elaborate suggestions for visualization of the follow-up implementation of nutrient reduction scheme and present the suggestion to PRESSURE 4-2016 and invited the Contracting Parties to provide the suggestions regarding data visualization to the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi).

8.6 The Meeting took note that the new project on operationalization of the follow-up of the nutrient reduction scheme is proposed to be implemented in two stages, the detailed working plan is now under development and that the project will be launched by the end of 2015 with a workshop. The Meeting also took note of the information by Sweden that funds are allocated for the project under the budget for 2015, thus the project should preferably start before the end of the year.

8.7 The Meeting considered and further elaborated the revised HELCOM Recommendation 26/2 on waterborne pollution input assessment (PLC water) and revised Recommendation 24/1 on monitoring of airborne pollution input. The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to provide written comments on the proposed revised versions of both Recommendations, respectively (Annex 3 and Annex 4 to the Outcome) by 23 October 2015. Then the updated documents will be circulated by 30 October for two weeks, with a tacit approval procedure, and further submitted to HOD 49-2015 for approval.

8.8 The Meeting decided to come back to the discussion on the list of monitored compounds in Annex 1 and 2 to revised Recommendation on monitoring of airborne pollution input at PRESSURE 4-2016.

Agenda Item 9 Any other business

Document: 9-1

9.1 The Meeting reminded the representatives of the Contracting Parties to register at the HELCOM Meeting Portal prior the meeting.

9.2 The Meeting checked and updated the List of Contact Addresses and Observers of the Working Group (document 9-1), attached as Annex 5 to this Outcome.

Hot Spots

Documents: 9-2, 9-3, 9-4, 9-5

9.3 The Meeting took note of the information by Poland on the reconstructed and newly established WWTP and agreed to recommend to HOD 49-2015 to remove the JCP Hot Spots Nos. 87.1, Krakow – Plaszow WWTP (doc.9-2), No. 99.2, Poznan – Left bank WWTP (doc. 9-3), WWTPs in Warsaw – Czajka (No. 82), Poludnie (No. 83.1) and Pancierz (No. 84) (doc. 9-4) and No. 85, Lublin – Hajdow WWTP (doc.9-5), pending confirmation from Sweden.

9.4 The Meeting highly appreciated the efforts by Poland to improve waste water treatment systems and congratulated Poland for the achieved results.

9.5 The Meeting suggested that for pollution input assessment purposes it would be beneficial to receive information from Poland on achieved nutrient input reductions (end-of-pipe), due to completed reconstruction of old and building new WWTPs and invited Poland to submit such information to the Secretariat.

