



Title	Provisional Annotated Agenda
Code	1-2
Category	DEC
Agenda Item	1 - Adoption of the Agenda
Submission date	20.10.2016
Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	Outcome of GEAR 14-2016 (para 6-2)

Background

In accordance with the outcomes of GEAR 14-2016 (Paragraph 6.2) the 15th Meeting of the Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (GEAR 15-2016), will be held on 17-18 November 2016 in Helsinki, Finland, at the premises of the HELCOM Secretariat (Katajanokanlaituri 6B, 00160 Helsinki).

The Meeting will start on **Thursday, 17 November at 13:00** and is expected to terminate on **Friday 18 November 2016 by 14:00**.

The Meeting will be opened by the Chair of GEAR, Ms. Heike Imhoff. The Meeting will focus on issues requiring immediate attention of the Gear Group:

- the outcome of STATE&CONSERVATION 5-2016 as regards endorsement of indicators and assessment tools and any needs to facilitate the adoption process at HOD 51-2016,
- evaluate implications of the tentative decision of the European Commission Decision on GES criteria to the development work under the HOLAS II project,
- guidance related to environmental targets to the BalticBOOST project which ends in December 2016.

Other issues discussed under the GEAR Group such as national consultation of HOLAS II and follow-up of national work on environmental targets will be addressed at the next meeting of GEAR.

Documents for consideration of the Meeting, with a clear indication of actions proposed by the Contracting Parties, should be sent in electronic form via e-mail to Professional Secretary, Ms. Ulla Li Zweifel (UllaLi.Zweifel@helcom.fi) by **27 October 2016**. 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. **10 November 2016**.

Participants of the Meeting are requested to register to the Meeting by answering the [Meeting Participation Survey](#) by **10 November 2016**. Please indicate whether you are planning to attend the meeting physically or online.

Documents for the Meeting, which are restricted until the end of the Meeting, will be made available via the HELCOM Meeting Portal on the GEAR 15-2016 Meeting Site's [Document folder](#). Instructions for the use of the Meeting Portal are available on the [HELCOM Website](#).

Provisional Annotated Agenda

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting is invited to adopt the agenda of the meeting (documents 1-1 and 1-2).

Agenda Item 2 Matters arising from other meetings of relevance to GEAR

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcomes of recent HELCOM Meetings which are of relevance for GEAR (document to be submitted at a later stage) and use the information as appropriate.

Agenda Item 3 Coordination and information related to the implementation of the ecosystem approach and related policies

STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016 (7-11 November) will consider the technical endorsement of HELCOM core indicators and the endorsement of assessment tools for use in HOLAS II. Pending the outcome of the meeting, HOD 51-2016 will be requested to adopt new core indicators and approve of the use of assessment tools in HOLAS II. The Outcome of STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016 will be submitted as a late document to the Meeting.

The Meeting is invited to consider the outcome of STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016, and prepare, as needed, for the decision at HOD 51-2016.

The BalticBOOST and TAPAS projects have followed the ongoing review and revision of the European Commission Decision on GES criteria and MSFD Annex III in the development of tools and approaches to assess status and pressures on the Baltic Sea environment. A tentative decision to revise these documents is anticipated by 10 November 2016. An analysis of how the outcome of the decision will influence work under HOLAS II will be provided as a late document to the Meeting.

The Meeting is invited to consider how the outcome of the decision should be taken into account in the HOLAS II project.

Agenda Item 4 Activities of relevant HELCOM projects or processes

BalticBOOST components related to environmental targets

Under the HELCOM BalticBOOST project, two work packages have had the task to develop guidelines on how to define environmental targets: WP 3.1 related to pressures acting on seabed habitats, and WP 4 related to underwater noise. GEAR 14-2015 provided initial guidance to the work.

The second BalticBOOST workshop to discuss guidelines for defining environmental targets related to pressures on the seabed habitats ([BalticBOOST Theme 3 WS 2-2016](#)) will be arranged 28-29 November at the premises of the HELCOM Secretariat, Helsinki.

The Meeting is invited to provide feed-back to the background documents to the workshop and guide the finalization of the guidelines (document to be provided at a later stage).

HOD 50-2016 approved organizing a two-day workshop on underwater noise under the BalticBOOST project ([Outcome of HOD 50-2016](#), para. 4.66). The workshop, held 5-6 October 2016 in Copenhagen, Denmark, further developed principles for defining levels of underwater noise that are consistent with good environmental status (GES) for noise-sensitive species.

The Meeting is invited to consider the recommendations from the workshop including the application of a decision support tree for ambient and impulsive noise using a risk based approach.

Continued work on Economic and Social Analyses (ESA) in HELCOM

HOLAS II 6-2016 noted the roadmap for further regional socioeconomic analyses beyond the HELCOM coordinated EU co-financed project TAPAS. The meeting discussed the proposed future activities of the roadmap, supported in general the continued future work of the ESA network ([Outcome of HOLAS II 6-2016](#), para. 5.10).

The Meeting is invited to consider the roadmap and support further work.

The Meeting will be informed on the new HELCOM project proposal “Implementation and development of key components for the assessment of Status, Pressures and Impacts, and Social and Economic evaluation in the Baltic Sea marine region (SPICE)” that has been submitted in response to the EU call for proposals on “*Implementation of the Second Cycle of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive: achieving coherent, coordinated and consistent updates of the determinations of Good Environmental Status, initial assessments and environmental targets*” ([Outcome of GEAR 14-2016](#), paras 4.14-4.15, [Outcome of HOD 50-2016](#) para 4.56).

Agenda Item 5 Future work and any other business

The Meeting is invited to agree on the dates and place of the next meeting of HELCOM GEAR and propose focal items for the next meeting.

The Contracting Parties are invited to consider their possibilities to host future meetings of the Group.

The Meeting is invited to discuss any other business related to the activities of the Group.

The Delegations and Observers are invited to check and update the List of Contact Addresses and Observers of HELCOM GEAR, as contained in document 6-1.

Agenda Item 6 Outcome of the Meeting

The draft Outcome of the Meeting will be presented for adoption. The final Outcome, together with documents and presentations considered by the Meeting will be made available on the [Meeting Site](#).