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<b>Document title</b>	Provisional Annotated Agenda
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<b>Category</b>	DEC
<b>Agenda Item</b>	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
<b>Submission date</b>	18.3.2019
<b>Submitted by</b>	Secretariat
<b>Reference</b>	

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## Background

With reference to the outcome of GEAR 19-2018 (Paragraph 6.22) I have the pleasure to invite you to the 20th Meeting of the Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (GEAR 20-2019), which will be held on 15-17 May 2019 in Berlin, Germany, at the premises of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Stresemannstraße 128-130, 10117 Berlin, Meeting Room 1.001. The Meeting will be held back to back to the Workshop on indicators to be held in Berlin, Germany on 14 May 2019, at the same premises.

The Meeting will **start on Wednesday, 15 May at 12:30** and is expected to **terminate on Friday 17 May 2018 by 15:00**. An evening session dedicated to support the informal exchange of information on Contracting Parties' national experiences is planned for 15 May.

The Meeting will be Chaired by Ms. Heike Imhoff. The Meeting will consider:

- future coordination on the aspects of the revised Commission Decision on Good Environmental Status which require regional cooperation,
- initiate scoping for HOLAS III, including indicator work.
- progress on the update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan,
- election of a Chair for the group.

Input for discussions under agenda item 3 has been prepared by CG MSFD.

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. Jannica Haldin ([Jannica.Haldin@helcom.fi](mailto:Jannica.Haldin@helcom.fi)) **by 24 April 2019**. 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. **8 May 2019**. The Secretariat has prepared the attached document template (also available in the Meeting Portal), and would like to encourage the Contracting Parties to use the template when submitting documents to the Secretariat.

Participants of the Meeting are requested to register to the Meeting by answering the [Meeting Participation Survey](#) by **8 May 2019**. 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 20-2019 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 from meetings of relevance for the Gear Group.

### Agenda Item 3 Regionally coordinated implementation of MSFD

GEAR 18-2018 requested that for GEAR 19-2018 and GEAR 20-2019 one day of the GEAR meetings be reserved for MSFD coordination ([Outcome of GEAR 18-2018](#), para. 3.31). This agenda item is dedicated to such coordination among the Contracting Parties being EU member states.

GEAR 18-2018 agreed to set up a Correspondence Group (CG) MSFD to support broad scale, policy oriented, MSFD coordination for Art. 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 MSFD from a strategic point in GEAR. CG MSFD had its second meeting in February and the third meeting is planned for 16 April 2019. Input for discussions under agenda item 3 has been prepared by CG MSFD.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the work conducted by the CG MSFD since GEAR 19-2018.

GEAR 19-2018 took note of the document on GEAR planning on future work related to coordinated implementation of the MSFD ([document 5-4](#)) and, due to time limitations, invited Contracting Parties to provide comments to the Secretariat aiming at their collation and provision to the next CG MSFD meeting. No additional input has been provided to the Secretariat.

CG MSFD may wish to provide a proposal on how to turn recommendations from the Art. 16 MSFD report of the EU-Commission presented in [document 5-5](#) to GEAR 19-2018 into suitable questions for possible use in the review of the BSAP, e.g. measures EU noted as being used in some countries but not others, or where gaps have been identified for possible use as support when new measures are being proposed, to be submitted to the SOM platform in support of their tasks related to the BSAP review.

#### *National timetables*

GEAR 19-2018 agreed to postpone the discussion on the overview of national timetable for MSFD implementation containing information from Denmark, Germany, Poland and Sweden ([document 5-3 Rev 1](#)) to GEAR 20-2019 and invited the Contracting parties who have not provided information to fill in the table and send it to the Secretariat ([Outcome of GEAR 19-2018](#), para. 5.11).

Contracting Parties are invited to supply information on the national timetables using the template (document 3-1), to the Secretariat ([marta.ruiz@helcom.fi](mailto:marta.ruiz@helcom.fi)) by **26 April 2019**.

The Meeting is invited to take note of and discuss the provided information.

#### *INSPIRE*

GEAR 19-2018 agreed to postpone the discussion on possibilities in providing coordinated HELCOM input to INSPIRE data model process ([document 5-6 to that meeting](#)) to GEAR 20-2019, in lieu of the guidance expected to be provided at the TG DATA meeting in December 2018 ([Outcome of GEAR 19-2018](#), para. 5.16). The Meeting will be invited to take note of information regarding guidance received from TG DATA and, using that as background, discuss the topic.

#### *Revised Commission Decision*

Following GEAR 19-2018 agreements, the Meeting will be invited to discuss topics and priorities in relation to the regionally coordinated implementation of the Commission Decision 2017/848.

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### *Update of monitoring programmes*

The Contracting Parties are invited to share information regarding their national approaches for updating monitoring programmes.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information and use it when discussing approaches and any regional aspects.

### *Program of measures*

The Contracting Parties are invited to provide information on national planning and expectations of regional coordination in relation to updating the Programmes of Measures.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information and use it when discussing regional coordination in relation to updating the Programmes of Measures.

## Agenda Item 4                      *Activities of relevant HELCOM projects or processes*

### *Scoping for HOLAS III*

The Secretariat will prepare information on a draft timeline for the proposed work on HOLAS III.

In the process of developing HOLAS II a number of non-exhaustive observations were made by Secretariat staff working on the various themes regarding gaps and possible further developments. These were noted down as background to take into account when considering future work, this information will be shared with the Meeting. Information on further developments on HELCOM indicators is available as part of the indicator review process (see next agenda sub-point).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the background information (document to be provided later).

GEAR 17-2018 took note of policy related comments from the regional State of the Baltic Sea' report consultation process which included proposals for HOLAS III.

GEAR 17-2018 agreed to conduct an exercise of "lessons learnt" from the HOLAS II process and a regional survey on the process and results of the HELCOM HOLAS II project was circulated on 16 July with a deadline to provide feedback by 31 August 2018. GEAR 18-2018 noted the low response rate to the survey and agreed to re-open the survey for four additional weeks (mid-November-mid-December).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information (document to be provided later).

The Meeting is invited to use all the provided background information when initiating the discussion and scoping regarding potential changes in the design, structure, contents of HOLAS III, based on HOLAS II design, structure, and contents.

The Meeting is invited to highlight links with ongoing work in HELCOM and EU MSFD CIS which could be expected to contribute to topics, as well as MSFD-requirements which might be relevant for the discussion of adjustments to the HOLAS II report (e.g. should future assessment include implementation of measures (linking to Art. 18 MSFD) and their effectiveness and a systematic approach to providing reasons for not reaching GES).

### *Future work on HELCOM indicators*

Following discussions and agreements at GEAR 19-2018 ([Outcome of GEAR 19-2018](#), para. 4.4-4.9 and 4.11), and consequent revision based on the intersessional approval process held in mid-March, the first HELCOM Workshop for indicator review is to be held on 14 May. The Workshop functions as a step in the process to review the indicator catalogue and prioritize indicator work from a policy perspective.

GEAR 19-2018 ([Outcome of GEAR 19-2018](#), para. 4.12) took note of the overview of responses from indicator leads and co-leads and expert networks, to the analysis of current status by mapping to policy documents

(step one of the work plan to further develop indicators), noting that new comments have been received and the living document will be updated. The responses, as well as other material were prepared as background documents for the indicator workshop.

Following discussion at the online meeting of the HELCOM indicator core group (as agreed at GEAR 19-2018, para. 4.8), and the intersessional approval of the GEAR group, the format for HELCOM indicator workshop planned for May was adjusted. The workshop will be a one day event with the focus to separate out issues on which ongoing work should continue directly, and issues that were more complex in nature and required greater preparation and development. The latter will be considered in a second workshop in autumn 2019.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the background material prepared, information, and as needed, provide input and guidance regarding the outcome of the prioritization work done at the Workshop. The Meeting is invited to agree on the endorsement process for the document prepared to be submitted to HOD 56-2019 that summarised the workshop outcomes in the form of a plan forward on the indicators.

GEAR 18-2018 supported a joint OSPAR-HELCOM workshop on by-catch indicator work ([Outcome of GEAR 18-2018](#), para. 3.35). The Meeting is invited to take note of the progress regarding the workshop.

### Agenda Item 5                      Implementation and update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan

The Meeting is invited to take note that HOD-55-2018 approved the workplan for the BSAP update (document 5-1).

The Meeting is invited to take note that HOD 55-2018 agreed to establish a HELCOM Platform for analyzing sufficiency of measures (SOM Platform) and associated ToR. The HELCOM SOM Platform will, together with HELCOM ACTION project co-funded by the EU, carry out analyses of sufficiency of measures to reach HELCOM goals and objectives. The analyses will also support the selection of new and strengthened HELCOM actions for the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP).

The Meeting is invited to take note that the kick-off meeting of ACTION project took place 25 – 27 February 2019 at the premises of HELCOM Secretariat, Helsinki (document to be provided later).

The Meeting is invited to take note that the kick-off meeting of the ad hoc HELCOM Platform on sufficiency of measures (SOM Platform 1-2019) took place 28 February – 1 March at the premises of HELCOM Secretariat, Helsinki (document to be provided later).

The HELCOM ACTION project and SOM Platform has developed a proposal for an approach to carry out the analyses of sufficiency of measures to support the BSAP update. The Meeting is invited to consider and endorse the methodological framework.

### Ministerial Declaration 2018 agreements

The 2018 HELCOM Ministerial Declaration includes a number of paragraphs related to activities under the mandate of the GEAR Group. The Meeting is invited to provide concretisation of GEAR-related commitments from MD 2018, e.g. to specify measurable aims and target years (document to be submitted later).

### Agenda Item 6                      Election of Chair

The Meeting is invited to elect a Chair for the Working Group for the period of 2019-2021.

### Agenda Item 7                      Future work and any other business

The Meeting will be invited to exchange their views on interaction and cooperation of the HELCOM and the EU technical groups, especially on the expert group level ([Outcome of GEAR 19-2018](#), para. 6.11).

### Next meeting of GEAR

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.

#### Any other business

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 (document to be submitted).

#### Agenda Item 8                      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](#).