



18 March 2019

To: HELCOM Heads of Delegation
HELCOM Observers
HELCOM GEAR Contacts and Observers
Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the HELCOM Groups
BSAP-UP Contacts

Cc: HELCOM Pressure Contacts and Observers
HELCOM State and Conservation Contacts and Observers

Re. 20th Meeting of the HELCOM Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, (GEAR 20-2019), Berlin, Germany, 15-17 May 2019

Dear Madam/Sir,

With reference to the outcome of GEAR 19-2019 (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, Building 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) **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](#).

Yours sincerely,



Monika Stankiewicz
Executive Secretary