



Document title	Extracts from meetings of relevance for the Gear Group
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Agenda Item	2 – Matters arising from other meetings of relevance to GEAR
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Background

This document contains extracts from relevant HELCOM meetings held since the last meeting of the Gear Group.

- [HELCOM ACTION WS2.1-2019](#), 22-23 May 2019, Helsinki, Finland
- [EN ESA 4-2019](#), 3 June 2019, Helsinki, Finland
- [HOD 56-2019](#), 18-19 June 2019, Helsinki, Finland
- [EN ESA 5-2019](#), 21 August 2019, on-line
- [EN ESA 6-2019](#), 5 September 2019, on-line
- [EN ESA 7-2019](#), 18 September 2019, Helsinki, Finland
- [PRESSURE 11-2019](#), 23-25 October 2019, Brussels, Belgium

Information on the second meeting of the SOM Platform ([SOM Platform 2-2019](#)) held on 16-17 September 2019 in Helsinki, Finland and the 2nd indicator workshop ([INDICATOR WS 2-2019](#)) held on 16-18 October in Copenhagen, Denmark, are submitted separately to this Meeting.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

Extracts from meetings of relevance for the Gear Group

HELCOM ACTION WS2.1-2019

Opening of the Workshop and general background

- It was stated that the ACTION project will feed its results into WG GES and that it will be explored whether a closer link between ACTION WP6 and TG Seabed could be established.

Review of consolidated results on activities and pressures and causing major impacts on the seabed

- The planned format for the summary report on prior knowledge was presented. This report will represent a major deliverable from the ACTION project WP2 and is expected to develop a summary of the current level of knowledge in the HELCOM region – see Presentation 3 Impacts on seabed - Approach for assessment and successful measures, and document 1.
- It was proposed that, to feed all available and not yet included information on the effect of pressures on the seabed and its communities into the process (e.g. additional publications and information from grey literature, such as EIA results, national reports or other investigations) participants could be invited to fill in a template (by 16 September) and provide such information.
- Earlier discussion at the project kick-off meeting as to how to link coastal and offshore areas was revisited. The possible interlinkages utilising the DISPLACE model had been further evaluated and due to the scales applied (e.g. very local vs regional scales of restoration vs modelling input parameters) and the current understanding of ecological effects (e.g. full understanding of fish stocks-juveniles-population) it was considered as not appropriate to apply the model to address coastal restoration directly.
- The workshop considered that an additional section relating to measures relevant to benthic habitats and seafloor integrity would be a good addition.
- The workshop considered that where possible pressure-specific information related to sensitivities of benthic habitats and biota should also be incorporated into the report.
- Approaches for integration were seen as a valuable part of the report and inclusion of indicators and integration approaches proposed in HELCOM region would be good to summarise.
- It was discussed whether MSFD D6 (integrity of the seafloor) covers the physical environment only or includes the biology as well, the latter being the understanding of EN Benthic due to the close link between D1 and D6 (e. g. criteria D6C4 and D6C5 to be assessed under D1 Biodiversity/Benthic habitats).
- The workshop participants were invited to participate in development of the report and act as co-authors. It was considered that chapters could be developed by different people with particular expertise, in association with the main leads from HELCOM ACTION WP2 (SYKE). The possibility to explore publication of the final report as a HELCOM Baltic Sea Environmental Proceedings (BSEP) was raised, and it was suggested that the question could be raised at the relevant HELCOM Working Groups level. Participants with an interest to be involved in the final report were encouraged to contact Leena Laamanen and cc the Secretariat.

Expert based evaluation of the contribution of activities to the identified pressures per sub-basins

- The topic was introduced to the Workshop – see Presentation 4 - ACTION WP2 survey Activities-Pressure.
- A proposed division of the Baltic Sea to carry out the analysis of the sufficiency of measures and this survey were presented to the Workshop (see Presentation 4). Six divisions were considered and these are based on generalized considerations of where major activities take place and the extent of those activities.
- The workshop suggested dividing the six presented sub-basins into 9 sub-basins where Arkona Basin, Bornholm Basin, Eastern Gotland Basin-Gdansk Basin as well as the Gulf of Riga would be separated (see slide 13, Presentation 4). The other remaining areas (aggregations of HELCOM subbasins) would be retained. It was again noted that within subbasins, divisions of coastal and offshore regions would likely

need to be considered in future work. Further spatial division of these due to differences in scales of variation, the relevant translation of activities into pressures, and aspects such as how measures have an influence, need to be considered so as to ensure ecological and local relevance.

- The outcome of the completed expert-based survey will be collated by ACTION WP6, including an assessment of variation between respondents for any common assessment area. The current information is considered to be a draft/pilot overview and will not be made public due to the need for an improved process and the incorporation of greater national validation, especially across different sectors.
- ACTION WP6 will review the information gathered in this process and develop the process further, provide feed-back and a summary for commenting to the participants of the Workshop, and re-run the process via the HELCOM Expert Network on Benthic Habitats (November 2019), also including the participants of this workshop in the relevant parts of the process.

Expert discussion, including proposal and evaluation of mitigation measures, with a view to designing and testing relevant scenarios

- The workshop was introduced to the DISPLACE model, its potential for evaluating impacts on benthic habitats, and its potential for use as a management tool – see Presentation 5 ACTION WP2 DISPLACE Francois Bastardie.
- Ongoing work within the WP to use the model to explore impacts of cutting fishing effort in marginal cells by different percentages (i.e. maintaining catch quotas by concentrating effort in smaller geographical areas) and the potential to extrapolate relative status changes along this gradient were introduced to the Workshop.
- The potential for the DISPLACE model to also provide a basis for the development of new measures in the later stages (i.e. early 2020) of the project was also discussed.
- The workshop was introduced to the compiled coastal restoration measures (Document 6, Document 6 ATT 1, Document 6 ATT 2) derived during the HELCOM ACTION WP 2 – see Presentation 6 - HELCOM ACTION WP2 Coastal measures Patrik Kraufvelin.
- The workshop were invited to provide input and evaluation on the compilation of coastal restoration measures, in particular from national perspectives (e.g. national relevance in local areas), and indication of the potential of the listed measures (i.e. where any effectiveness of measures is known). by 16 September 2019.

Effectiveness of measures on reducing pressures

- The workshop was introduced to the topic and to the approach being developed in ACTION WP6 to utilise the gathered information in their assessment – see Presentation 7 ACTION WP2 Current measures.
- A preliminary list of existing measures (BSAP and MSFD, though not national measures) was presented to the Workshop (see ExistingMeasures -Seabed spreadsheet in the document library) and selected example cases were discussed. This is a draft list of measures that will be updated and shared with HELCOM Contracting Parties for commenting.
- The workshop considered that an updated list needed to be supplied to HELCOM Contracting Parties to allow national measures to be included, priori to an evaluation of effectiveness. A proposed plan included supplying the updated list of measures to relevant HELCOM Working Groups (e.g. State and Conservation and PRESSURE) and Expert Groups (e.g. ACTION WS2.1 participants, EN DREDS, EN BENTHIC, EN FISHDATA) with a clearly defined approach and request for expert-based evaluation of effectiveness. Where possible, providing additional information to give detail where possible behind the measure titles would also support this approach.

State of seabed in relation to pressures and measures:

- The topic was introduced to the Workshop participants followed by discussion and filling in of the expert-based evaluation – see Presentation 8 ACTION WP2 Pressures impacting.
- The ranking of pressures (1-5, 5 being high) per sub-region (six divisions) of the Baltic Sea was carried out for four broad habitat types. Pressure pathways were also separated to define the different level of pressures. The information is available in the meeting documents (ACTION WP2 draft expert-based pressure ranking). The compiled information may be utilised to support discussion on this topic at the HELCOM EN BENTHIC meeting in November but this aspect will be revisited at EN BENTHIC.
- The workshop noted that the broad habitat scale was not always the most appropriate scale of assessment, considering that monitoring is often carried out at HELCOM HUB scale 4/5 (i.e. species or species groups). The Workshop however acknowledged that the broad habitat type offers a solid basis for an overall assessment and facilitates MSFD reporting for those Contracting Parties who are also EU Member States. The Workshop considered that finding an appropriate way to take into account smaller assessment scales/other incorporated habitat types (i.e. within a given broad habitat type) could be a valuable consideration in future assessment work within HELCOM.
- The list of pressures was compiled and a draft ranking carried out, as presented in the meeting documents (ACTION WP2 draft expert-based pressure ranking) for four broad habitat types.

EN ESA 4-2019

Aims

- The aim of the meeting was to discuss the Outcome of GEAR 20-2019 as it relates to the work of the Network and consider ongoing developments in the application of the SOM approach developed by the ACTION project. More specifically, the meeting:
 - Discussed the update of the Economic and Social Analyses Roadmap
 - Discussed the Network's role in the upcoming HOLAS III process
 - Considered the presented information on the applicant of the SOM approach and made recommendations for its further development
 - Discussed the working mode for completing the Survey on HELCOM knowledge and research needs.

Outcomes of GEAR 20-2019 relevant to EN ESA

The meeting

- discussed the interrelations between the ESA Roadmap and HOLAS III process and agreed to focus on the Roadmap update first, using it as a tool for guiding the Network's input into HOLAS III. The issue of HOLAS III input will be taken up again during informal working meetings in August-September 2019.
- noted that both the updated ESA Roadmap and proposal on input into HOLAS III should be completed by 11 October 2019 at the latest to be submitted in time for GEAR 21-2019.
- welcomed the offer by Denmark to start the Roadmap update process, primarily with text on benefits and ecosystem services. The meeting agreed that the first draft to be completed by 5 July 2019 and subsequent drafts to be completed by other members of the Network. The Secretariat was invited to establish a folder on the Network's workspace for this purpose.

SOM approach

The meeting

- took note of the presentation by Finland on information regarding the SOM approach developed by the ACTION project and in particular the outcome of the WP2 workshop held in Helsinki 22 – 23 May 2019 (Presentation 2).
- discussed the issues identified by the WP2 workshop and suggested that a completed measures request and the small changes requested by WP2 should solve many of the issues.

- took note of the introduction by Finland to the Guidance for providing available cost data on proposed/new BSAP measures (Document 6).
- took note of the comment by Latvia that Latvia uses different cost categories than those presented and invited Latvia to share the relevant Latvian documents. Furthermore, the meeting noted that Latvia had difficulty gathering quantitative data during a similar national effort and suggested a more semi-quantitative/qualitative approach be also considered.
- took note of the suggestion by Denmark that the guidance should be shared with colleagues participating in the SOM Hazardous Substance topic team to determine their views on the availability of the data outlined in the guidance. The meeting agreed to do so.

Other EN ESA business

The meeting

- noted the Survey on HELCOM knowledge and research needs (Document 7, Att. 7.1) and agreed to begin with the Roadmap update and use that process to inform the Survey.
- agreed to ask for national responses to the Survey to be gathered before a September working meeting.

Closing business

The meeting

- agreed to hold next meeting (EN ESA 5) during the second half of August to further the update of the ESA Roadmap and to consider Network input into HOLAS III. The meeting also agreed to hold another online (EN ESA 6) meeting during the first half of September to conclude work on the update of the ESA Roadmap, further work on input into HOLAS III, and to discuss national contributions to the Survey on HELCOM knowledge and research needs. The meeting further agreed on physical meeting of the Network during the first half of October (EN ESA 7) to finalize the work carried out in the August and September meetings.

HOD 56-2019

Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

The meeting

- endorsed the revised work plan for the BSAP update as included in Annex 2.
- agreed on the proposals from FISH 9-2019 on the not yet accomplished HELCOM actions as outlined in document 2-1, Annex 2, taking note of the following proposals:
 - by Poland: with regard to the action "Development and implementation of effective monitoring for by-caught birds and mammals", to consider adding to the proposed further work: "After development of the roadmap on collection of fisheries data, promotion of suggestions and recommendations contained in the document, in order to improve the monitoring of by-catch of protected species, should take place as soon as possible";
 - by Finland: with regard to actions "The further development and testing of the HELCOM generic decision-support tool ...etc" and "Development and implementation of fisheries management measures for fisheries inside marine protected areas", to consider that joint recommendations are being developed through a process linked to the EU Habitats Directive and Common Fisheries Policy and that guidelines will be developed for fisheries measures in Natura 2000 areas. For the second action there is, in addition, a need to consider how to improve the harmonization of reporting of fisheries related measures to the HELCOM MPA database, including associated guidance, when updating the MPA database. These processes should be taken into account in the further implementation of relevant actions by the Fish and State & Conservation WGs.
- agreed on the proposals from AGRI 7-2019 on the not yet accomplished HELCOM actions as outlined in document 2-1, Annex 3.

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- took note of the organization of work under the HELCOM SOM Platform and the HELCOM ACTION project (document 2-1).
 - took note that the template for synopses on potential new HELCOM actions has been submitted to HELCOM subsidiary bodies including Observers to the Groups, as agreed by HELCOM 40-2019, and also distributed to BONUS projects. As outlined in the work plan, the synopses are to be submitted to the Secretariat by the end of 2019 and will be reviewed by HELCOM Working Group meetings in spring 2020.
 - noted the lack of Lead countries on biodiversity and agreed to organize HELCOM workshops, in autumn 2019, to contribute to the SOM analyses.
 - welcomed that Finland is looking into the possibility to take the lead on migratory fish.
 - discussed the proposed approach for analyzing sufficiency of measures to support the BSAP update (document 2-3).
 - endorsed the approach for analyzing sufficiency of measures and its use to support the BSAP update as presented in document 2-3, taking note of the following specific comments:
 - proposals by Finland 1) with regard to when GES can be reached, that the analyses related to eutrophication should be carried out through the level of status 2) clarify how climate change will be considered in the analyses 3) to make use of the recommendation that Contracting Parties being EU Member States received with regard to the PoMs under the MSFD;
 - request by Denmark 1) to clarify how uncertainty in the analyses will be accounted for, including for steps that will make use of expert-based judgement 2) clarify the method for analyzing the response in status linked to pressures, noting pressures-state curves as presented in document 2-3 will not be possible to provide for all elements included in the analyses;
 - request from Germany to clarify what is expected in terms of data from national authorities.
 - took note that countries will be requested to check lists of national measures and complement them with additional information as needed. Such lists will be circulated to appointed contacts of the SOM Platform by the end of July 2019 at the latest. HELCOM experts will in autumn 2019 also be requested to provide any available information on the effect of already implemented measures.
 - discussed the end year for the analyses and was of the view that it should be set to a year between 2030-2035 but did not come to a conclusion.
 - took note of the document on the structure of the BSAP (document 2-4) and the activities and pressures that would tentatively be addressed under the respective segment according to the provisional agreement by HOD 55-2018 (Presentation 1). The meeting noted the aim to agree on the structure of the updated BSAP at the HOD meeting in December 2019.
 - agreed to use the provisional 'BSAP structure' as a basis for ongoing work of HELCOM Working Groups on the BSAP update and supported the proposed outline of a BSAP segment as presented in document 2-4 and the use of ecological objectives, management objectives and action areas to structure the segments. The meeting took note of the following detailed comments on document 2-4:
 - the view by Finland to highlight the biodiversity segment as representing the state components that are accumulating the impacts of human activities, the proposal to address actions for different ecosystem components separately, and to also map pressures vs ecosystem components. When making reference to UN SDGs it was proposed to address them after references to the Helsinki Convention as well as to consider adding them as footnotes, in case the reference becomes too extensive;
 - the view of Germany that combining hazardous substances and litter in one segment is not preferred but acceptable if objectives and actions are clearly separated, and the proposal to also make the BSAP available as a database to make it possible to extract information of interest;
 - the view by Russia that the activity-pressure mapping needs further elaboration, including for seabed loss and disturbance, underlining that windfarms should be considered in terms of causing loss to the seabed, and to clarify that airborne pollution is included when referring to input of nutrients and hazardous substances;
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- the view by Sweden that climate change could be addressed in terms of adaption of HELCOM actions to compensate for future changes in climate;
 - the view by Latvia that maritime activities should continue to be highlighted as an important area of work in HELCOM.
- noted that the activity-pressure mapping included in document 2-4 is interim, based on, e.g., results from HOLAS II, PLC, HELCOM TAPAS project, while an evaluation of how much different activities contribute to specific pressures is ongoing through the analyses of sufficiency of measures (SOM). The final activity-pressure mapping will be presented for validation by HELCOM Working Groups.
 - noted the proposals by Finland and Sweden to address financing of the implementation of the BSAP as a part of updating the action plan and suggested to consider this topic in further detail at the next HOD meeting.
 - considered a target year for the updated BSAP, including options ranging from 2030 to 2035. The meeting agreed to revisit the matter at the next meeting.
 - took note of the reporting on implementation of HELCOM Recommendations aimed for use in the sufficiency of measures analysis as part of the BSAP update (document 2-7) and noted that the Heads of Delegation will be requested to approve the results of the reporting intersessionally when the reporting is completed.
 - took note of the proposed plan for the development of the HELCOM Science Agenda (document 2-6). The Meeting noted that the Secretariat will compile an overview report based on the input from HELCOM subsidiary bodies when the survey has been completed in autumn 2019. The Meeting agreed on the draft time-table for work and agreed to establish a Task Group to prepare the Science Agenda. The Contracting Parties are invited to nominate 1-2 representatives to the Task Group by 30 August 2019.
 - agreed to prepare a HELCOM voluntary commitment to the UN 2020 Ocean Conference on HELCOM contribution to UN Decade of Ocean Science and the Task Group is assigned to develop a proposal.
 - considered the topics for the High-Level Segment of HELCOM 41-2020 (document 2-5) and, taking into account the limited time reserved for the segment, suggested to focus on two main topics: update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and HELCOM global outreach including voluntary commitments to UN Ocean Conference 2020 (on the update of the BSAP, on the UN Decade of Ocean Science, and on sharing experiences with other Regional Seas Conventions). Regarding BSAP update, the Meeting discussed that the work on sufficiency of measures analysis would be interesting to present. The Meeting also took note of suggestions that working towards a global agreement on marine litter and the impact of climate change on oceans could be interesting topics for debate.
 - took note of the suggestion by CCB that ecosystem-based management and the status of the East Baltic cod could be discussed in the High-Level Segment.
 - invited the Secretariat to further elaborate on the topics to produce a general outline for autumn 2019 and a proposal for the agenda for HOD 57-2019.
 - agreed that the HELCOM Stakeholder Conference to be organized on 3 March 2020 back-to-back with HELCOM 41-2020 will focus on the update of the BSAP and should have an engaging format to attract a variety of stakeholders.

Matters arising from the HELCOM Groups

Response Group

The meeting

- noted the view of RESPONSE 26-2019 that the BSAP management objective “Efficient emergency and response capabilities” should remain in the updated BSAP.
- took note of the progress regarding concretization of BSAP actions agreed by RESPONSE 26-2019.

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- endorsed the proposal to revoke HELCOM Recommendation 24/7 on Further development and use of drift forecasting for oils and other harmful substances in the Baltic and agreed to submit the proposal to HELCOM 41-2020 for approval.
 - invited the Contracting Parties to confirm willingness to take the lead in developing proposals for revisions to HELCOM Recommendations 12/7 on *Special Cooperation in Case of a Chemical Tanker Accident in the Baltic Sea* and 17/12 on *Measures to Abate Pollution by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Grounding, Collision, Sinking of a Ship or other Maritime Casualty*. Interested Contracting Parties are invited to contact the Secretariat (markus.helavuori@helcom.fi).
 - considered the proposal by RESPONSE 26-2019 to review all valid HELCOM Recommendations before the 50th anniversary of the signing of the 1974 Helsinki Convention in 2024. The meeting recognized that keeping HELCOM Recommendations updated is important and invited the Secretariat to provide an overview of the ongoing and completed updates of HELCOM Recommendations with a view to further plan the work.

Maritime Group

The meeting

- considered the draft revised HELCOM Recommendation 28E/13 on Introducing Economic Incentives as a Complement to Existing Regulations to Reduce Emissions from Ships (document 3-18) as well the comments by Russia (document 3-19) and the comments and amendments by Finland (document 3-25). Following discussion and agreement on further amendments to the draft text as included in document 3-26-W.P., the Meeting, as mandated by HELCOM 40-2019, adopted the revised HELCOM Recommendation 28E/13 as set out in Annex 3.

Pressure Group

The meeting

- considered and approved HELCOM principles of the methodology to reallocate extra reduction of nutrient input (document 3-4).
- agreed that the wording of the principles will be adjusted once the 2018 Ministerial decision to focus the follow-up of the nutrient reduction requirements of the BSAP on national commitments based on Maximum Allowable Inputs has been implemented.
- took note of the remark by Poland that the national CART has indicative character and invitation to the HELCOM community to work further to improve the methodology to identify and assess nutrient loads on the Baltic Sea.
- considered and agreed on the proposed advancement of the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme and its follow up system and approved the concrete actions (document 3-16).
- took note that the transboundary data from the past are not always available and encouraged countries to provide as good data as available to set firm background for future assessments.
- took note that Finland considers the potential reduction achieved through river basin management plans (3.1) and advancement of the HELCOM core indicator on nutrient inputs, including into the indicator the information on nutrient loads (2.7) as the most significant elements of the proposed advancement of the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme (document 3-16).
- took note of the document on marine fish farming in Estonia (document 3-24), appreciated the information and reiterated that HELCOM MAI is seen as a regionally coordinated threshold for nutrient load on the Baltic Sea sub-basins.
- expressed concern over the growing demand for fish farming, which may pose an additional challenge to meet HELCOM nutrient reduction targets and noted that the countries are interested in exchanging information within HELCOM on the permitting systems for the new sea-based fish farms including scientifically proved effect of compensatory measures.

- took note of the information by Denmark and Finland that HELCOM nutrient ceilings have been implemented in their national marine strategy as environmental targets. Denmark further informed that national legislation was amended with the aim to allow compensatory tools for discharge of nutrients which are based on scientific knowledge and appropriately scaled to ensure efficiency as well as mandatory passing an evaluation of the potential environmental impact of the compensatory instrument itself.
- also took note that there is very limited room for Sweden to issue new permits for marine aquaculture due to eutrophication and that Sweden is instead looking into closed aquaculture systems.
- took note of the position of FEAP that fish farming is the most efficient way to produce food and mitigate climate change.
- also took note of the CCB's position that only land-locked recirculating farms is the sustainable type of aquaculture in the Baltic Sea region while suggested compensation measures have not proved to be efficient for the main part of the Baltic Sea according to the [policy brief](#) by the Baltic Eye.
- considered the provisional programme of the HELCOM Workshop with River Basin Management Authorities, to be held on 18-20 September 2019 in Riga (document 3-17) and highlighted the importance of the section dedicated to sufficiency of measures at the Workshop.
- noted that CCB will make effort to attract Belarusian and Ukrainian authorities to the Workshop and bring some cases related to the transboundary cooperation.
- took note of document 3-22 by FEAP concerning the subdivision of the Baltic Sea. The meeting took note that Germany in general agrees that the finer resolution serves for better management and of the relevant research project in Germany. The meeting also pointed out the need to harmonize the models used for the assessment of eutrophication and nutrient load.
- also took note that in regard with the update of the Baltic Sea nutrient load model Denmark refers to their previous statement at HELCOM 40-2019.
- recognized that this task is challenging and resource demanding and for this reason proposed to be included into the HELCOM science needs.

Agri Group

The meeting

- considered and endorsed the draft vision and objectives for the Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy (document 3-5).
- took note of the position of Poland that future actions to reduce ammonia emissions should not extend beyond the EU NEC Directive.
- also took note of the remark by Russia that the strategy should cater for the needs of all Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention and not be limited to EU regulations.
- approved the organization of a workshop on nutrient recycling measures in Finland in January 2020.
- took note of the progress report on the revision of Annex III, part II of the Helsinki Convention (document 3-15).
- noted the progress achieved by the Agri group in the revision of the Annex and the remaining open issues. The meeting emphasized that in line with the HELCOM Ministerial Declaration 2018 and the agreed ToR for the work, the provisions of the Annex should not be weakened. The meeting pointed out that the revised Annex should provide precise and clear regulations regarding, e.g., storage capacity, incorporations of manure, fertilization practices, etc.
- A number of Contracting Parties expressed the view that the revised Annex should not be limited to serving only for adaptation to current needs but take a progressive approach.
- took note of the view of Poland on the progress made so far for the revision of Annex III part II (Presentation 3).
- took note of the positions of BSAG, CCB and WWF that the revision of the Annex should be based on innovative progressive approach considering such challenges as climate change and shortage of nutrient

resources, facilitating recycling of nutrients and sustainable use of agricultural land as well as preventing contamination of the environment resulting from agricultural production (e.g. antibiotics) and thus, possible revision of other provisions is needed.

- noted that WWF has many examples of farmers applying innovative and progressive measures to reduce nutrient runoff underscoring that the Annex III part II should align with the progressive agriculture practices already applied in the region.
- noted that CCB raises the issue of not using general terms in the text of the revised Annex, particularly the term “environmentally friendly” which, in the CCB’s opinion, requires specification.
- encouraged the Contracting Parties to continue the discussion and cooperation on the important issue of the Annex revision in order to reach a compromise and requested the HELCOM Agri group to continue the work in accordance with the work plan with guidance from HODs when needed. The meeting also encouraged the Contracting Parties to engage and contribute to the work of the Agri group.
- recalled that the revision is to be finished by the end of 2020 and took note that the EU and Germany will provide technical comments to the document.
- invited all Contracting Parties to provide further input to document 3-15 to the Secretariat as soon as they are available and well in advance of the next Agri meeting for consideration by the Agri group.

State and Conservation Group

The Meeting

- took note of the outcome of the Tenth Meeting of the Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation (STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019) held on 6-10 May 2019 in Hamina, Finland (document 3-8).
- approved the arranging of the following meetings:
 - second HELCOM MPA Management Workshop tentatively on 9-12 September 2019;
 - one-day joint HELCOM-ICES online workshop focused on improving reporting and usability of data for the HELCOM COMBINE database in autumn 2019;
 - one-day extra session of State and Conservation Monitoring focusing on the reporting on and update of the monitoring programmes in early fall, possibly back-to-back with a joint BONUS FUMARI-SEAM workshop; and
 - STATE&CONSERVATION 12-2020 on 11-15 May 2020, tentatively to be hosted by Estonia.
- welcomed the information that Germany can provide the additional funding needed to take the project work for further development of HELCOM eutrophication test assessment forward. A project proposal outlining the planned work will be provided to HOD intersessionally for approval, with the intention to enable the work to commence in autumn 2019.
- took note of the comment by the EU that the update of the monitoring manual should consider the ongoing work of EU WG DIKE which will affect the Contracting Parties who are also EU Members States. The Meeting took note of the comment by the EU that it would be preferable if, in the future, automated reporting of monitoring data from the Contracting Parties to the EU via HELCOM could be further established.
- approved the revised project proposal for Quality assurance of phytoplankton monitoring in the Baltic Sea (HELCOM PEG QA) 2020-2022 (document 3-11).
- considered the draft Terms of Reference for the HELCOM Expert Group on Sturgeon Remediation (EG STUR) (document 3-12) and approved the establishment of the HELCOM Sturgeon EG (**Annex 4**).
- took note of the Terms of Reference for the HELCOM Network for Marine Protected Area Management (EN MPA MANET) (document 3-13). The meeting took note of the comments received by the EU, considered the amendments and approved the amended Terms of Reference (document 3-13-Rev.1) as contained in **Annex 5**.
- took note of the comment by Estonia and Finland that it would be useful to hold a strategic discussion on the number, coverage and requirement for the Expert Groups. The meeting welcomed the

information that this was touched upon in STATE&CONSERVATION 10-2019 and invited the State and Conservation group to elaborate the discussion in STATE&CONSERVATION 11-2019.

- in principle approved the HELCOM monitoring sub-programme on beach litter as contained in document 3-14-Rev.1, taking into account that editorial amendments may still be included.

Gear Group

The meeting

- took note of the outcome of the 20th Meeting of the Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (GEAR 20-2019) held on 15-17 May 2019 in Berlin, Germany (document 3-10).
- approved the arranging of the next meeting of GEAR (GEAR 21-2019) on 6-8 November in Helsinki, Finland.
- supported that HELCOM will co-host the joint workshop on marine ecosystem accounting to be held on 10 October 2019 in Helsinki, Finland.
- took note of the election of Ms. Andrea Weiss, Germany, as Chair for the GEAR Group, as well as Asker Juul Aagren, Denmark, as Vice-Chair for the period 2019-2021 and congratulated the Chair and Vice-Chair for their election.
- took note of the progress and planned future work on HELCOM indicators (document 3-20).
- took note of the comments by Denmark regarding the provisional timetable of the workshop and that it could be explored whether expert participation could be limited to day 1 and 2, in order to limit resource use. However, such a change should not result in limiting the scope from that presented in the plan. With regards to the indicator spreadsheet for the hazardous substances Denmark would like to see all elements and substances in the spreadsheet and would like to see the secondary threshold values included as well.
- endorsed the arranging of the Second HELCOM indicator Workshop, proposed to take place 16-18 October 2019, as well as endorsed the Terms of Reference for the Workshop.

HELCOM institutional and organisational matters

The meeting

- considered, commented and approved the updated post description, vacancy announcement and the timetable for the recruitment of Professional Secretary for the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (Pressure), the Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (Agri) and the HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (MSP WG) (document 4-1) as well as advised the Executive Secretary on further actions as outlined on the cover page of document 4-2.
- nominated the following three members Russia, Germany, and Estonia (in addition to the ex officio members, i.e., the Chair and the Executive Secretary of the Commission) to the Recruitment Panel to conduct the selection procedure of the Professional Secretary for Pressure, Agri and Maritime Spatial Planning groups.

Any other business

The meeting

- took note that BSAC is planning a meeting to focus on fisheries in the updated BSAP, scheduled tentatively for September 2019 in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- thanked the outgoing Executive Secretary Monika Stankiewicz for her excellent work and contribution to HELCOM and welcomed the incoming Executive Secretary Rüdiger Stempel who will take up the post on 1 August 2019.

Next meeting(s)

The meeting

- decided that the next meeting (HOD 57-2019) will be held on 10-11 December 2019 in Helsinki. The meeting decided that HOD 58-2020 will be held tentatively on 8-9 June 2020.

EN ESA 5-2019

Aims

The primary aim of the meeting was to progress the update of the Economic and Social Analyses Roadmap.

The meeting also:

- Considered the Network's input to HOLAS III
- Discussed the Survey on HELCOM knowledge and research needs

Update of EN ESA Roadmap

The meeting

- agreed to a draft structure to guide intersessional work (below). Participants volunteered their contributions as noted. Network members not in attendance are encouraged to contribute, particularly in areas not otherwise covered. Contributions need not be extensive, bullet points or open questions on a topic are still appreciated. Contributions are requested by 3 September and can be integrated into this [joint document](#).

i) Updated Roadmap working outline

- (1) Conceptual approach, based on figure 3.3 from HOLAS II report [Finland]
 - (2) Past work e.g. TAPAS, SPICE, relevant BONUS projects [?]
 - (3) Integrated model, HOLAS III, ACTION, BSPI, SYMPHONY, PBS [Finland, Sweden, Secretariat]
 - (4) Use of marine waters [?]
 - (5) Marine ecosystem accounting & cost of degradation [Estonia, Denmark]
 - (6) BAU [Germany]
- requested that the Secretariat contribute to the update process with a timeline of upcoming general and ESA related events that the Roadmap should consider.

Input to HOLAS III

- the meeting shortly discussed the Network's input and agreed to readdress the topic again at EN ESA 6-2019. The meeting also invited perspectives to be presented at the proposed meeting 18 September.

Research needs survey

The meeting

- discussed the survey of knowledge and research needs and agreed that it could be considered in parallel with the Roadmap update, i.e. filled in as needs are identified in the Road map update process.
- agreed to readdress the topic again at EN ESA 6-2019

SOM approach

The meeting

- noted the request by Finland that any available cost effectiveness analyses on relevant measures be made available to the HELCOM ACTION project.
- noted the request for synopses on potential new measures and agreed to readdress the issue at EN ESA 6-2019.
- noted that multiple documents are expected next week concerning the SOM approach and agreed to readdress the issue at EN ESA 6-2019.

EN ESA 6-2019

Aims

The primary aim of the meeting was to progress the update of the Economic and Social Analyses Roadmap.

The meeting also:

- considered the Network's input to HOLAS III

- discussed the Survey on HELCOM knowledge and research needs.

Timely Network Business

The meeting

- requested an update on synergy opportunities with the Pan Baltic Scope project, with Latvia noting ongoing work on the valuation of benefits from designing new Marine Protected Areas and related ecosystem services and the BONUS Basmati project as possible areas of cooperation.
- noted the information by the Secretariat that the project timing and near-term working structure of Pan Baltic Scope makes it difficult to incorporate external outputs at the moment, but also noted that there may be opportunities for the Network to provide input later in the process.

Update of EN ESA Roadmap

The meeting

- discussed the structure of the document and agreed that a short introduction summarizing past work, the state-of-the-art and lessons learned should be created in addition to the main section including the actual Roadmap. The meeting invited the Secretariat to draft this introduction, with input from Finland on issues related to HELCOM ACTION and SOM Platform, by 4 October.
- further discussed content and structure of the main Roadmap document and agreed the document should address integration of the Network into other work streams within HELCOM, integration of environmental and ESA assessments, preservation and distribution of institutional memory of the previous regional ESA work/projects and improved integration of research outcomes from the Baltic Sea region.
- considered the issue of the preservation and distribution of institutional memory of the previous regional ESA work/projects and supported the development of a HELCOM website for ESA materials similar to the [ESA website](#) already available but tailored to the use and dissemination of knowledge to topic experts.
- considered the issue of integration of ESA into other HELCOM work strands and supported the view that this would be fundamental to the Network's future work and should be strongly indicated in the Roadmap.
- invited Contracting Parties to provide brief wish lists for future development of ESA in the Baltic Sea Region by 13 September. Contracting Parties not able to attend EN ESA 7-2019 are particularly encouraged to contribute. Among others, topics that may be covered include
 - i) Use of marine waters
 - ii) Cost of degradation
 - iii) BAU
 - iv) MSP
 - v) Integrated approach
- noted the opportunities for integrating BONUS projects and other regional work on the topic of cost of degradation.
- invited those CPs who have not yet completed the intersessional contributions agreed to at EN ESA 5-2019 to please submit them by 13 September.

Input to HOLAS III

The meeting

- strongly supported the integration of ESA analyses with the status assessment and other components of HOLAS III, which is not evident based on the current version of the timeline and organization of tasks. The Meeting agreed that in possible future projects to prepare for HOLAS III, resources are needed also for ESA work, and ESA should be properly interlinked with the other work packages in the project to support integration within HOLAS III.
- invited the Secretariat to add the preliminary timetable of HOLAS III to the [working draft of ESA in HOLAS III](#).
- invited the Network to read the current version of the ESA in HOLAS III and prepare comments in preparation to the discussion in the next EN ESA meeting on 18 September. Written comments can be sent by CPs who cannot join the meeting.

Knowledge and research needs survey

- The meeting discussed the [survey of knowledge and research needs](#) and agreed to complete the Network's submission during the next EN ESA meeting 18 September, based on input received from EN ESA representatives. The Meeting invited CPs to provide their input to the Secretariat by 13 September.

EN ESA 7-2019

Aims

The aims of the meeting were to:

- Present information on relevant projects
- Continue the update of the ESA Roadmap
- Continue drafting the network's input into the HOLAS III process
- Discuss the survey on HELCOM knowledge and research needs
- Consider outcome of SOM Platform 2-2019.

Update of EN ESA Roadmap

The meeting

- took note of the comments from Finland, Latvia and Lithuania on the ESA Roadmap document and agreed that they will be reflected in the next version of the Roadmap.
- discussed the components of the updated Roadmap and proposed the following topics to be included (among others):
 - i. General aim of the EN ESA work and securing continuation and institutional memory of regional ESA work
 - ii. Importance of involving all CPs in the work of the network
 - iii. Spatial approaches, data and results to support MSP
 - iv. Integrated approaches for assessing the marine environment, linking ecosystem and socio-economic system, building on the approaches and results developed in HELCOM SPICE, BONUS BASMATI and HELCOM ACTION projects.
 - v. Ecosystem services approach
 - vi. Coordinated economic valuation studies
- took note of the timetable and plan of work for updating the ESA Roadmap. The next version will be made by the Secretariat by 4 October, and comments are requested from the ESA network by 11 October. The document will be sent to GEAR 16 October

Input to HOLAS III

The meeting

- took note of the comments from Latvia and Lithuania on the ESA in HOLAS III document.
- discussed the network's input in planning HOLAS III and outlined the changes for the working document.
- took note of the timetable and plan of work for developing the document on ESA in HOLAS III. The next version will be made by Finland by 4 October, and comments are requested from the ESA network by 11 October. The document will be sent to GEAR 16 October.

Knowledge and research needs survey

- discussed and filled in the survey on knowledge and research needs and submitted it on behalf of the meeting participants (Annex 3).

Next meeting

- EN ESA 9-2019 meeting will be held as an online meeting in late November or early December, scheduled using Doodle.

PRESSURE 11-2019

Marine litter

The meeting

- took note of the Outcome of the Workshop as contained in document 3-8.

- agreed to arrange a written procedure to comment the proposed new actions as contained in Annexes 2, 3 and 4 of the Outcome of the Workshop by 6 November 2019. Based on the comments, the work will continue and will be further discussed at PRESSURE 12-2020.
- agreed that with the revision of the report (document 3-1, "Review of existing policies and research related to microplastics" conducted as part of the project "FanPLESStic-sea project – Initiatives to remove microplastics before they enter the sea") to address the input provided by the Meeting and its subsequent publication the first part of action RL6 ("Establish an overview of the importance of the different sources of primary and secondary microplastics") is accomplished and that the second part ("Evaluate products and processes that include both primary and secondary micro plastics, such as fibers from clothing, assess if they are covered or not by legislation, and act, if appropriate, to influence the legal framework, or identify other necessary measures") is to remain in the revised RAP on ML.
- considered and welcomed the draft summary for policy makers (document 3-1 Add. 1), agreed to provide written comments by 1 November 2019 to the Secretariat and to publish the summary on the HELCOM Website once the input provided is addressed.
- recalled that PRESSURE 10-2019 considered action RL14 - landfills or dumpsites which may eventually pose a risk to the marine environment and recommended the needed steps to accomplish the action (Outcome of PRESSURE 10-2019, paras 3.35-3.38).
- took note of the current status of the implementation of the recommended steps as contained in document 3-2.
- agreed that the table of the landfills is to be verified by national data reporters including re-evaluation of the risk posed by the sites and to provide the updated information to the Secretariat together with missing landfills' coordinates in WGS 84 decimal degrees coordinate system by 1 December 2019.
- concluded on the accomplishment of the action, once the decisions made by the meeting are implemented.
- in general supported the development of a regional approach which would assist countries to handle the problem [appropriate disposal of End of Life Boats] and invited Finland with the assistance of Sweden to produce a policy document based on the existing material.
- took note of the report on the results of the questionnaire on waste management in the Baltic Sea conducted by Germany (document 3-7), which gathers input from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Poland, Russia, Sweden as well as KIMO and WWF Poland, as well as five additional responses from municipalities and one from a port operator.
- took note of the planned discussions related to the identification of useful elements linking marine litter to national waste prevention and management plans envisaged by the revised EU Waste Framework Directive.
- invited Germany to provide additional information on these discussions once available.
- took note that some countries are ready to nominate representatives to participate in such discussions and encouraged all Contracting Parties to inform Germany and the Secretariat about their nominations by the end of November 2019.
- took note that Russian waste management legislation has been under the reform during last few years including implementation on national project "Ecology" (2019-2024) which contains a wide range of changes in waste management on federal, regional and local levels. No local expert is expected to be nominated at this point.
- agreed that the RAP ML follow-up table will be updated via correspondence after PRESSURE 11-2019. The meeting requested the Secretariat to update the table with the input from the WS RAP ML 4-2019 and this Meeting by 15 November and circulate it to Contracting Parties for verification. Corrections are to be supplied to the Secretariat by 4 December 2019 when the table will be made available on the HELCOM website.

Underwater noise

The meeting

- considered the revised draft Regional Action Plan on Underwater Noise based on the feedback provided by PRESSURE 10-2019 and MARITIME 19-2019, as well as additional input provided by Germany (document 4-1-Rev.1).
- took note of the proposal by BSAP UP Project Manager that the measures compiled in the BSAP update process could also be included in the Action Plan.
- agreed on the revised draft Action Plan as contained in document 4-1-Rev. 2, and further agreed on the need to provide additional written comments to the document by 6 November 2019 to the Secretariat.
- agreed to submit the draft Action Plan on underwater noise to HOD 57-2019 to guide its further development in relation with the BSAP update process to align measures in the revised BSAP and in the Action Plan.
- agreed to arrange the joint meeting [to advance on the assessment of underwater noise indicators] with OSPAR ICG Noise and in coordination with EU TG Noise in connection with the Ocean Noise conference to be held on 25-29 May 2020, pending on the reservation and additional clarifications by 1 November 2019.

Physical damage to the sea floor

The meeting

- supported the proposed revision of HELCOM Recommendation 36/2 and the Guidelines and mandated EN DREDS to prepare the draft version of the updated Recommendation for submission to HOD 57-2019 pending the proposal by the EU on inclusion of the additional parameters to the HELCOM reporting.
- considered the BSEFS (Baltic Sea Environmental Fact Sheet) on depositing of dredged material in the Baltic Sea in 2017 (document 5-2) and agreed on its publication on the HELCOM website.
- took note of the status of 2018 data reporting under HELCOM Recommendation 36/2 (document 5-3) and invited those Contracting Parties, which have not yet reported the data, to report or at least inform on the anticipated date for reporting, bearing in mind the work required to prepare the consolidated report to LC/LP.

Hazardous substances

The meeting

- endorsed the fact sheets [document 6-1, Airborne input of hazardous substances – EMEP report, containing indicator reports as a part of the annual report by EMEP on airborne input of three heavy metals and POPs in the period from 1990 to 2017] for publication on the EMEP and HELCOM websites after incorporating received comments.
- PRESSURE 3-2015 proposed rotation of the substances to be assessed in annual EMEP reports. A new contract between HELCOM and EMEP regarding estimation of airborne inputs of N and selected hazardous substances was signed for the 3-year period 2018-2020. The meeting agreed with the list of substances for assessment in the last year of the current 3-year contract, as given in the annex to document 6-1.
- discussed the format of the contract and agreed on a continuation of cooperation with EMEP in the next 3-year cycle.
- discussed proposal to develop a strategic regional policy document on modernizing of HELCOM hazardous substances framework (document 6-4), submitted by the Secretariat. Further, the meeting agreed on the proposed approach to update HELCOM framework on hazardous substances including the relevant segment of BSAP.
- discussed the proposed document, agreed on the need to revise HELCOM framework on hazardous substances and supported the development of the strategic regional policy document on hazardous substances.

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- proposed to arrange a 3-week written procedure to express nationally coordinated positions regarding the proposed strategic regional policy document.
 - was encouraged to consider national co-leadership of the development of the strategic policy document to ensure its relevance to global, regional, and national policy demands and expectations and also to ensure its relevance to the update of the BSAP.

First results of the extended reporting on sewage sludge handling in the BS region

The meeting

- supported the concept of the workshop [on nutrient recycling measures, document 7-1] and encouraged the Contracting Parties to attend it.
- took note of the current status of the reporting on HELCOM Recommendation 38/1, contained in the Overview of the reporting on sewage sludge handling (document 7-2).

Update of the Baltic sea Action Plan and associated activities

The Meeting

- took note of the ongoing work to update the Baltic Sea Action Plan and ongoing activities to support the analysis of sufficiency of measures (document 8-5, Presentation 1).
- took note of the planned technical review of synopses on potential new HELCOM actions to take place at PRESSURE 12-2020, and that guidance for the review will be prepared in advance of the meeting.
- took note of the proposed dates for thematic BSAP UP workshops, and that a workshop related to hazardous substances, litter, and eutrophication is to take place during the week 11-15 May 2020 (dates to be confirmed), and that cross-cutting workshops with topics of relevance for Pressure's representatives are to take place 18-20 May 2020 (including e.g. underwater noise; dates to be confirmed), and during the week 25-29 May 2020 (including e.g. disturbance to the seabed; dates to be confirmed).
- underlined that there are also cross-cutting aspects between the workshop themes and underlined also the importance of information flow between the workshops.
- discussed the development of synopses on new measures for the BSAP. The meeting noted that a proposal on new actions should preferentially be supported by quantitative information on effect and costs of actions but that if such data is missing qualitative estimates can also be provided.
- took note of the approach for the analysis of sufficiency of measures (SOM) (Presentation 2) and that expert-based surveys have been developed to provide information on contribution of activities to pressures, effectiveness of measures, and to identify the response on the state of the environment as a result of a reduction in pressure.
- took note of the summary presentation on the outcome of the HELCOM SOM workshop on hazardous substances, held on 22 October 2019 (HELCOM SOM-HZ WS 1-2019) (Presentation 2). The meeting noted that the Workshop participants tested and proposed revisions to the planned surveys on hazardous substances and that Notes from the Workshop will be prepared shortly.
- noted that background documents are being prepared by the SOM topic team on hazardous substances for each of the four substances under analysis (PFOS, TBT, mercury, diclofenac) and that those documents will be distributed to Pressure Contacts to provide an opportunity to comment or contribute national data to the work.
- noted the view of the Workshop participants that the surveys likely cannot be answered by one expert and that countries are encouraged to identify experts to contribute to the surveys with knowledge on the substances addressed as well as knowledge on different type of measures applied to reduce hazardous substances, i.e. related to waste treatment, global conventions, etc.

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- noted that the revised surveys will be distributed in November 2019. The meeting supported that the surveys will be distributed to the participants of the HELCOM SOM-HZ Workshop, EN Hazardous substances (EN-HZ), and furthermore agreed to nominate additional experts to take part in the survey.
 - took note that nomination of additional experts will be needed also for other topics, e.g. noise, litter, nutrients (effectiveness of agricultural measures), and the evaluation on loss and disturbance of seabed habitats (effectiveness of measures). The meeting agreed that the Secretariat will send out an invitation on what kind of experts that are needed and that nominations will be requested two weeks after the invitation has been submitted to the Contracting Parties.
 - took note that MARITIME 19-2019 was requested to nominate experts to support the analysis related to non-indigenous species.
 - noted that the validation of input to the SOM analysis with regard to estimating loss and disturbance to the seabed from human activities is proposed to use the same data and approach as in the HOLAS II project (document 8-12). The meeting noted that STATE & CONSERVATION 11-2019, which considered the same document, was not in position to decide on the proposal, due to late submission and therefore had agreed to submit comments to the Secretariat by 6 November 2019. The meeting agreed to provide one consolidated response per country through the State and Conservation Contacts by the agreed date.
 - considered the available input and approach for processing activity-pressure data on marine litter and underwater noise to be included in the SOM analysis (document 8-13). The meeting agreed to request national experts in EN Marine Litter and EN Noise, that have not yet done so, to contribute to the survey to improve the reliability of results.
 - agreed to validate the input to the SOM analysis via correspondence and requested the Secretariat to arrange for online meetings in case of deviating comments from the countries.
 - requested the Secretariat to convene a webinar to introduce the SOM model to the Pressure Group in more detail to get a better understanding on how the data will be used before being requested to validate the data. The Secretariat will propose dates for such webinar at a later stage. It was noted that a test run of model would be helpful to understand how the data will be used.
 - recalled the task to review existing HELCOM objectives and develop new ones for a set of additional topics as outlined in the work plan for the BSAP update (activity 2.2) (document 8-3; Presentation 3). Proposals on revised and new objectives are to be presented for endorsement at HOD 57-2019.
 - took note of the adjustment of segments and goals of the Baltic Sea Action Plan to be used as a basis for Working Groups as provisionally agreed by HOD 56-2019 (document 8-3).
 - took note that the proposals made at PRESSURE 10-2019 have been further amended by the State and Conservation and Fish Groups.
 - underlined the importance of harmonizing the objectives across segments and to avoid that overlapping issues are addressed in the segments.
 - took note of the proposal by State and Conservation to replace the term 'wild-life' as used in some objectives with the term 'Baltic Sea life' or 'Baltic Sea biodiversity'. The meeting did not support the use of the term biodiversity, since the aim of the objectives that currently use the term wild-life is to protect species, not diversity. It was also not felt necessary to refer to the Baltic. The Meeting therefore proposed to use the term 'sea life'.
 - agreed that with regard to management objectives they should be overarching and not pinpointing specific activities.
 - discussed and agreed on the ecological and management objectives as given in Annex 2.
 - considered the proposed revised objectives related to non-indigenous species under the segments on sea-based activities to simply read "No introduction of non-indigenous species", thereby embracing shipping, aquaculture, and other activities that are contributing to the input of NIS
 - took note of the input received by 13 October 2019 from subsidiary bodies to the HELCOM Science Agenda (documents 8-4-Rev 1, (8-4 Att1-Rrev.1). The Meeting took note that a Task Group has been established to work further on the science agenda based on the input from the subsidiary bodies (Presentation 4).
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- encouraged the submission of more comprehensive proposals noting that longer text proposals may exist, e.g. from IN Eutrophication that has contributed to the survey.
 - underlined the importance of communicating the results of the science agenda to e.g. national funding agencies, the BANOS project that is developing a science and innovation agenda for a tentative new programme to fund research in the Baltic and North Sea, and the EU MSFD process.
 - requested RedCore DG to clarify the proposal titled 'Alignment of nutrient input reduction targets for individual river basins with related targets of BSAP' and how it differs from ongoing work under the ACTION project WP4.
 - noted that the poor coverage of proposals related to food webs and pelagic habitats may be due to those areas not represented in expert groups or networks.
 - agreed to submit additional proposals on knowledge and research needs including requested clarifications to the Secretariat by 15 November 2019. The Secretariat will prepare an updated version to circulate to the Pressure Group by 30 November 2019 and thereafter submit to the first meeting of the Task Group for the Science Agenda.
 - recalled the task for Working Groups to develop concrete actions to follow up the HELCOM 2018 Ministerial Declaration according to the workplan for the BSAP update (activity 2.4) (document 8-1). The Meeting discussed and revised the proposals as contained in Annex 3 and agreed to submit the document, annotated as 'agreed at the working group level', to HOD 57-2019. The Meeting noted that most of the proposals are likely to be implemented before 2021 through joint activities in HELCOM.
 - recalled the task for Working Group to consider tentative needs for rephrasing of existing HELCOM actions that are not likely implemented by 2021 according to the workplan for the BSAP update (activity 1.1, document 8-10). The Meeting recalled that in accordance with the workplan for the BSAP update, proposals on rephrased actions should be finalized by PRESSURE 12-2020.
 - discussed and revised the existing proposals as contained in Annex 4 and agreed to submit them for information to HOD 57-2019, annotated as 'work in progress'.
 - invited lead countries for re-phrasing of individual actions to provide their input to the Secretariat by 31 January 2020. The Meeting will further discuss proposed drafts at the online meeting (see para 8.37).
 - recalled the task to consider development of concrete actions based on previous commitments that were proposed to set aside of the follow-up system due to: too general character, lack of targets, overlapping with other actions and specification in later HELCOM documents (activities 1.1 and 2.4 of the workplan for the BSAP update) (document 8-9). The Meeting took note of the proposals from the Secretariat on how these actions could be pursued or omitted from further work and agreed to provide response to the proposals through correspondence.
 - agreed to further advance the implementation of the task according to the following timeline:
 - The Secretariat will provide guidance for the commenting round including clarification of the final goal and anticipated results of the work and circulate it to the Pressure group members by 29 October 2019;
 - Contracting Parties to provide comments to the proposals contained in document 8-9 to the Secretariat by 22 November 2019;
 - Contracting Parties and RedCore DG are also invited to take the lead on concretization of the actions where this is missing. Secretariat will consolidate the comments and circulate a revised version of the document by the end of November 2019.
 - Lead countries are invited to submit proposals on rephrased actions, including target years as relevant, based on document 8-9, by 31 January 2020.
 - agreed to convene an online meeting to discuss the proposals related to documents 8-9 and 8-10 on 26 February 2020, at 09.00-12.00 CET.
 - took note of the reporting on Recommendations adopted before 2007 (documents 8-6 and 6-6-Att.1) and invited the countries that have not yet reported to do so as soon as possible.
 - took note that Lithuania will send an update on their reporting.
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- took note of the Outcome of the HELCOM Workshop with River Basin Management Authorities (document 8-29) in general and considered the proposals of the Workshop on practical measures to engage with the relevant river basin authorities to enhance implementation of the BSAP.
- suggested to follow up the recommendation to further develop harmonized methods for estimation of natural background losses of nutrients. The Meeting also noted that the Workshop highlighted the challenge to gain information on the effectiveness of measures.
- suggested to utilize the Outcome of the Workshop for rephrasing of actions (c.f. document 8-10).
- proposed a correction of the text of the outcome: - "... good environmental status of offshore areas is unlikely be achieved unless GES is also reached in the coastal waters".
- pointed out the importance of involvement of upstream non-HELCOM countries into the joint effort to reduce nutrient load on the Baltic Sea and consider a tool to involve representatives of these countries to PLC-8 project.
- took note of the progress in ACTION project WP4 (document 8-7) and of the approach for nutrient inputs in the SOM analysis, including the expert-based survey on the efficiency of agricultural measures planned for November 2019, and encouraged experts to take part in the expert-based survey.
- took note of the information in document 8-14, Preliminary outcome of the ACTION project WP4 activity on compatibility of targets under different marine policies.
- requested the ACTION project to circulate the draft to Pressure group Contacts for checking before publishing.
- took note of document 8-8, Update of the progress in ACTION project WP2, on the ongoing work in general.
- When taking note of document 8-8-Add.1, Progress and draft structure for report on Impacts on the seabed, the Meeting noted that WP2.1, Identification of major pressures in Baltic Sea sub-basins, is of main interest for the Pressure group. A draft of the report will be sent to HELCOM EN BENTHIC, EN DREDS, State and Conservation and Pressure groups, once it is completed and comments and input from these groups will be welcomed at that stage.

Nutrient loads to the Baltic Sea ecosystem

The meeting

- endorsed the updated version of the HELCOM Core Indicator on inputs of nutrients for the period 1995-2017 (document 9-5) for further submission to HOD 57-2019, pending proposed editing.
- decided to propose to HELCOM HOD 57-2019 in general to follow scenario one of PLC-8 implementation [document 9-1].
- proposed to make NIC (nutrient input ceilings) assessment available in late 2022 and to use 1995-2020 data and a periodical assessment based on 2021 data according to scenario one.
- took note that there might be a need for a mid-term evaluation of the updated BSAP, which would require an additional assessment of progress towards NIC, and that resources for that might be considered in PLC-8.
- agreed on the revision of the deadline for periodical data reporting and other subsequent assessment work by postponing them with four months compared to the existing ones, with a corresponding revision of HELCOM Recommendation 37-38/1.
- considered document 9-2, Proposal to update the textual part of the HELCOM nutrient input reduction scheme, and in general welcomed the document pointing out that this is a valuable contribution to the BSAP update [and] provided comments and suggestions on further improvement of the text [para. 9.14].
- When considering the proposal to update nutrient input ceilings (NIC) for the HELCOM Nutrient Input Reduction Scheme (document 9-6; Presentation 5) the meeting agreed in general on the proposed approach to update the values for input ceilings. The meeting also took note that the presented values are of indicative character, and they will be further improved utilising the best available information.

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- took note of the study reservation by Lithuania on the proposed nutrient input ceilings for further investigation of the calculations behind the proposed values and proposed to continue discussion in expert groups.
 - took note that Germany sees the document as a valuable and transparent and proposes also to consider the effect of NECA and potential discharges to water from scrubbers. Germany proposes to present the results of relevant study on scrubbers at the next PRESSURE meeting.
 - proposed to convene a workshop back-to-back with PRESSURE 12-2020 to discuss all aspects of the calculation and also use the workshop for consideration of the assessment work done by PLC-7 project.
 - requested to continue the discussion on the details of calculations with national experts in the PLC Project Implementation Group.
 - further proposed to communicate the proposal for the updated nutrient reduction scheme with Heads of Delegation, integrating the nutrient ceiling values with the textual part of the revised scheme and submitting the integrated proposal for commenting to HOD 57-2019 meeting. The proposal is to include the tables with all ceilings and also tables with splitting of national inputs to the rivers.
 - requested the Secretariat to make all information available at HELCOM website and discuss the update of the structure of the relevant WEB pages at the next PLC-7 Project IG meeting.
 - considered the BSEFS of atmospheric nitrogen emissions and deposition provided by EMEP (document 9-7).
 - took note of the RedCore DG expert opinion on BSEFS on nitrogen emission and deposition including the proposed requests considering EMEP report (document 9-9).
 - took note that Finland provided written comments on the presented BSEFS which are taken into account. The Meeting took note that a revised version of the document has been received and requested the Secretariat to circulate the revised document for the additional commenting round. The Meeting invited PRESSURE group Contacts to provide comments to the Secretariat by 8 November 2019.
 - agreed on publication of the BSEFS after incorporation of the comments.
 - supported the proposals by RedCore DG to improve the assessment of BSEFS.
 - took note of the conclusions regarding atmospheric phosphorus deposition (document 9-10) and considered the publication of the compilation (document 9-10-Att.) as a standalone document.
 - agreed to include study of P deposition in the HELCOM science agenda.
 - took note that Germany has recently finished a research project on P deposition and would like the project results to be included in the publication.
 - agreed to publish the compilation of the available information on P deposition after incorporating the results of the German project.
 - FEAP further developed its earlier proposal on subdivision of Danish Straits (document 9-4).
 - that Sweden is not in favour of combining the Kattegat and Great Belt in a single assessment unit, as this would imply enlarging the assessment unit and end up with losing of valuable information on nutrient loads.
 - also took note that calculating the reduction requirements for the proposed new basin divisions based on the total nutrient concentration is not a valid approach, since it does not take into account other eutrophication-related indicators, as does the current HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme.
 - also took note of the information that Germany and Denmark are both carrying out or will carry out modelling exercises for the Western Baltic Sea, which might be further discussed. The meeting also noted that the matter has been proposed for inclusion into the HELCOM science agenda.
 - The Secretariat introduced the state of the reporting on phosphogypsum waste sites (document 9-8). Additionally, Attachment 1 (separate 9-8-Att.1) to the document contains Excel spread sheet with reported parameters of phosphogypsum stacks. Attachment 2 (separate 9-8-Att.2) is a compilation of textual parts of the reports. Both attachments contain only not-validated reports.
 - took note that Poland and Russia approved the provided information.
 - took note that Lithuania will verify and update the information by 8 November and inform the Secretariat.

- took note that Sweden approves the reported information and can provide additional information on monitoring in the vicinity to the site.
- noted the information by JNF on the risk which these stacks pose to the Baltic Sea environment as the sites' continuing vast volume of phosphorus and that JNF calls HELCOM community to exchange regularly information on the state of the stacks based on regular monitoring of the sites.
- took note of the information by CCB about the current status of the work on fertilizer handling in ports and that this has been discussed at MARITIME 19-2019 and that the problem is bigger than previously estimated. MARITIME 19-2019 agreed that the matter may be considered in the updated BSAP.
- noted that Germany encourages JNF to provide a synopsis of the measures to prevent risks from stacks and also CCB regarding handling fertilizers in ports.

Development of the regional framework for internal nutrients reserves measurements

- PRESSURE 9-2018 agreed on Terms of Reference for the Group to draft the regional principles and risk assessment framework for management of internal nutrient reserves (*ad hoc* Group MINUTS). The MINUTS Group has since held three meetings.
- The group had proposed that the framework would consist of a guideline, recommendation and glossary of terms and definitions. The core of the framework is the guideline classifying measures to manage nutrient reserves, setting regional and national risk assessment procedures, providing guidance for national permitting authorities, etc. The HELCOM Recommendation is foreseen as a binding element of the framework identifying the basic principles to manage internal nutrient reserves, enforcing implementation of the guideline and establishing required policy links as well as reporting and other procedures.
- Two documents out of three proposed ones have been drafted by the MINUTS group (document 10-1). These documents are draft HELCOM Recommendation with a short list of definitions (Att. 1) and draft initial ideas for the content of the regional guidelines (Att. 2).
- considered the proposed structure of the risk assessment framework as well as the contents of the drafts (Attachments 1 and 2) and comments provided by Finland on the proposals on the structure of the risk assessment framework for internal nutrient management (document 10-2)
- Denmark, Lithuania and Sweden supported the comments provided by Finland and recommended to use them as a guidance.
- took note that Germany is in favour of having an Annex to the Helsinki Convention but agreed on the recommendation as a compromise. Germany is in favour of granting HELCOM a permitting role, not to prevent research but to reduce potential risks of the measures to manage internal nutrient reserves.

Any other business

- noted that LIFE Platform meeting on chemicals will take place on 27-28 November 2019 in Vilnius and that this event could be relevant for the BSAP update.

Future work and meetings

The meeting

- agreed that the PRESSURE 12-2020 will be held on 21-24 April 2020 in Finland, including the back-to-back workshop on NIC on 20 April 2020.
- agreed tentatively that PRESSURE 13-2020 will be held during the week 12-16 October 2020 and welcomed the offer by Sweden to host the meeting.