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<b>Document title</b>	Provisional Annotated Agenda
<b>Code</b>	1-2 Rev. 1
<b>Category</b>	DEC
<b>Agenda Item</b>	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
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<b>Reference</b>	

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The location, time and agenda have been revised to accommodate for an online meeting, arranged instead of a physical meeting due to [HELCOM policy on COVID-19](#). Also, a provisional timetable has been added. Revisions are marked in red.

## Background

With reference to the outcome of GEAR 21-2019 (Paragraph 6.1) and HOD 57-2019 (Paragraph 4.34) I have the pleasure to invite you to the 22nd Meeting of the Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (GEAR 22-2020), which will be held on 27-29 April 2020. In line with [HELCOM policy on COVID-19](#), all HELCOM meetings scheduled as of Monday, March 16th through May 13th, 2020 will take place online.

With respect to GEAR 22-2020 this means that an **invitation to on-line participation will be sent to registered participants in a separate e-mail. Please note that the meeting will be conducted using Zoom. You are kindly invited to familiarize yourself with the [meeting guide for participants](#) and the [instructions to participate in online meetings using this tool](#).**

The Meeting will **start on Monday, 27 April at 10:30** and is expected to **terminate on Tuesday 28 April 2020 by 16:00**. The informal session on informal exchange of Contracting Parties' national experiences in MSFD implementation originally planned as part of the first half day of the meeting (27 April) has been postponed.

Please note that, due to the online meeting format and associated time limitations, agenda points of a take note nature which do not have associated documents will not be specifically raised during the Meeting. Contracting Parties whom have possible input to such items are asked to provide questions or concerns in writing to the Secretariat ([marta.ruiz@helcom.fi](mailto:marta.ruiz@helcom.fi)) by **24 April 2020**.

Contracting Parties are similarly invited to notify the Secretariat ([marta.ruiz@helcom.fi](mailto:marta.ruiz@helcom.fi)) by **24 April 2020** regarding any items they wish to raise under Agenda item 6 Any other Business.

The Meeting will be Chaired by Ms. Andrea Weiss. The Meeting will consider:

- progress on the update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, including sufficiency of measures,
- scoping and planning for HOLAS III and associated processes.

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 **6 April 2020**. 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. **20 April 2020**. The Secretariat has prepared a document template (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 **20 April 2020**. 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 21-2019 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, 1-2 and 1-2 Rev. 1).

### 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.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the new initiative to establish an EU stakeholder forum dedicated to oceans and seas worldwide - the International Ocean Governance Forum (IOG Forum), as well as the outcome of the first meeting 22-24 April 2020 in Brussels.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the content of the UN CBD zero draft document outlining proposals for new global targets for biodiversity, to supersede the current so-called Aichi targets.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the regional voluntary commitments for the Oceans Conference on 2-6 June 2020, in Lisbon, Portugal, as agreed on by HELCOM 41-2020.

### Agenda Item 3 Regionally coordinated implementation of MSFD

Due to the outbreak of Covid-19, and the subsequent change of GEAR 22-2020 from a three day physical meeting to a two day online meeting, the Chair, together with the Secretariat, agreed that the informal session of GEAR 22-2020 will be postponed and any matters related to the MSFD deemed urgent are to be considered under an intersessional informal session planned for early June (dates to be agreed based on the results of the following [Doodle](#)) or under the umbrella of CG MSFD.

### Agenda Item 4 Implementation and update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan

#### BSAP Update workplan

The Meeting is invited to take note of the ongoing work to implement the Strategic Plan and Work Plan for the BSAP update ([document 4-3](#)).

#### Updated BSAP Objectives

HOD 57-2019 agreed in principle on the revised set of ecological and management objectives while keeping it open for adjustments to individual objectives or proposals on additional objectives as found relevant in the further BSAP update process (Annex 2 of the [Outcome of HOD 57-2019](#)). Open issues from HOD 57-2019 were further considered by an ad hoc Group of Chairs of the relevant Working Groups and an updated proposal on the objectives was circulated to HOD for intersessional commenting before being finalized and submitted for consideration by HELCOM 41-2020.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcome of HELCOM 41-2020 (held on 4-5 March 2020) in relation to the proposed revisions to existing HELCOM objectives and new ecological and management objectives ([contained in Annex 3 of document 4-2 to this Meeting](#)).

#### Progress on Sufficiency of Measures Analysis

GEAR 21-2019 was informed on the ongoing development of criteria by the HELCOM SOM Platform, led by Latvia and Sweden, for supporting the evaluation of the proposed new actions at the thematic BSAP UP workshops in spring 2020 ([Outcome of GEAR 21-2019](#), para 4-28). HOD 57-2019 agreed that the criteria should be endorsed by the GEAR Group ([Outcome of HOD 57-2019](#), para 3.15).

The Meeting is invited to take note that the endorsement took place via correspondence, where input was provided by Denmark. The implementation of the criteria was considered at HELCOM SOM Platform 3-2020, taking place [online](#) 24-26 March 2020.

The Meeting is invited to take note of information of the outcome of the Third Meeting of the ad hoc HELCOM Platform on sufficiency of measures ([SOM Platform 3-2020](#)).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the progress of the SOM analysis and endorse the updated methodology for the SOM analysis ([document 4-4](#)).

The Meeting is invited to consider the proposed approach for the cost-effectiveness analysis and guide the further development ([document 4-5](#)).

#### Actions and measures for the updated BSAP

HOD 57-2019 considered how to draft the updated BSAP ([document 3-5](#)), provided input and noted that proposals on the formulation of actions will be provided by the HELCOM Working Groups, based on ongoing activities to review existing actions and proposals on new actions to be considered in spring 2020 and further worked on at autumn meetings in 2020 with the aim of having a first full draft available at HOD in December 2020.

#### *Rephrasing of existing HELCOM actions*

GEAR 20-2019 recalled that the 2018 HELCOM Ministerial Declaration includes a number of paragraphs related to activities under the mandate of the GEAR Group (Annex 1 to [document 5-2](#)). These paragraphs give the direction for HELCOM work in the upcoming years, but some need further specification in order to be turned into concrete tasks for the Group or associated networks. The aim is that the concretized actions that are not carried out by the end of 2020 will be included in the updated BSAP to be agreed in 2021.

GEAR 21-2019 considered the proposals on concretized HELCOM actions as contained in [document 4-6](#) and agreed that the actions are to be presented as work in progress at HOD 57-2019. The meeting invited EN-ESA to provide proposals for concretizations to the three first actions outlined in the document, possibly using the ESA roadmap, and submit the proposal to the Secretariat. The meeting agreed that for the remaining two actions GEAR contacts will provide suggestions for concretizations to the Secretariat who will collate the proposals, combine them with those received from EN ESA and send out a revised document containing all proposals to GEAR contacts for review and subsequent approval at an intersessional GEAR online meeting on 27 February 2020 ([Outcome of GEAR 21-2019](#), para. 4.39-4.41).

The Meeting is invited to review progress done under the intersessional process and agree on the type of concretized actions relevant for GEAR for inclusion in the BSAP-UP ([document 4-6](#)).

#### *Proposed new actions and measures for the updated BSAP*

GEAR 21-2019 took note that the template for synopses on potential new HELCOM actions was submitted to HELCOM subsidiary bodies including Observers to the Groups, as agreed by HELCOM 40-2019, and also distributed to BONUS projects. The synopses that have been received are collated at a dedicated [workspace](#) on the HELCOM Meeting portal.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the guidance provided for the technical review of the synopses ([document 4-1](#)).

The Meeting will be informed on the process to review the synopses by HELCOM Working Group meetings in spring 2020.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of information on the status of work of the ACTION project ([postponed to GEAR 23-2020](#)).

## Agenda Item 5                      Activities of relevant HELCOM projects or processes

### Planning for HOLAS III and associated processes

GEAR 20-2019 agreed to further elaborate the initial proposal of the components of HOLAS III, and invited countries to provide comments and suggestions to these components to the Secretariat ([Outcome of GEAR 20-2019](#), para. 4.5).

GEAR 21-2020 took note of the proposed timeline and process of HOLAS III ([document 5-4 Rev. 1](#)). In principle, the meeting supported the inclusion of 2016 in the assessment period for HOLAS III, noting the reservation by Poland. The meeting agreed to include 2021 data in the assessment period, aiming to include a full six years of data wherever possible. The meeting endorsed the proposed provisional plan and agreed to submit it to HOD 57-2019 for approval ([Outcome of GEAR 21-2019](#), para. 5.2-5.8, 5.10 and 5.12).

HOD 57-2019 welcomed the proposed provisional timeline and preliminary plan for HOLAS III, acknowledged that the plan is a living document and that changes might occur as the process is further refined ([document 4-19](#)), agreed to aim to include a full six years of data wherever possible. The meeting took note that, while Poland in general supports the plan, they retain their study reservation on the proposed assessment period (2016-2021) and that Russia placed a study reservation on the preliminary plan. The meeting invited Russia and Poland to clarify their positions by end of January 2020, with the aim to submit the preliminary plan and associated documents for approval to HELCOM 41-2020, thus enabling the work to continue ([Outcome of HOD 57-2019](#), para. 4.37, 4.39-4.40 and 4.43-4.44).

HOD 57-2019 also invited the Secretariat to, should the preliminary plan be approved at HELCOM 41-2020, prepare a more elaborate workflow for the assessment phase, outlining the timing of approval for the respective work strands as well as proposals for at what organizational level the approval is to take place ([Outcome of HOD 57-2019](#), para. 4.45).

The Meeting is invited to take note that Poland lifted their study reservation on the proposed assessment period (2016-2021) for HOLAS III.

The Meeting is invited to take note that following amendments to the structure of the HOLAS III process, Russia lifted their study reservation on the workplan and timeline. The Meeting is invited to take note of and consider the concern expressed by Russia regarding the participation of Russian experts in the HOLAS III assessment and associated processes.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the updated preliminary plan and provisional timeline for HOLAS III, revised based on input by Russia and presented for approval to HELCOM 41-2020, ([document 5-1 and 5-2](#)).

The Meeting is invited to consider, provide input and endorse the elaborated timeline for the HOLAS III assessment process, as prepared by the Secretariat ([document 5-3](#)), noting that it will also be submitted for review and input to STATE&CONSERVATION 12-2020.

#### *Funding the HOLAS III assessment and associated work process*

HOD 57-2019 noted that in the current plan for funding the successful implementation of work related to HOLAS III is dependent on the approval of the HELCOM budget as proposed to HOD 57-2019. HOD 57-2019 supported that resources from the HELCOM budget can be used to support the work towards HOLAS III ([Outcome of HOD 57-2019](#), para. 4.60-4.61).

HOD 57-2019 invited the Secretariat to elaborate a more detailed plan outlining the magnitude and temporal distribution of the foreseen resource needs for the various work strands under HOLAS III ([Outcome of HOD 57-2019](#), para. 4.59).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the decisions made by HELCOM 41-2020 in relation to the budget for the financial period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

The Meeting will be invited to consider a more detailed plan outlining resource needs for the various work strands under HOLAS III ([document 5-6](#)).

#### HOLAS III Associated Processes

##### *HELCOM indicators project*

The Meeting is invited to take note of progress on the consolidation and development of the HELCOM indicators ([postponed to GEAR 23-2020](#)).

*HELCOM Data Flow Project (DataFlow)*

GEAR 21-2019 took note of the HELCOM Data Flow project proposal ([document 5-6](#)), endorsed it and agreed to submit it to HOD 57-2019 for approval ([Outcome of GEAR 21-2019](#), para.5.14-5.17). HOD 57-2019 reviewed the project proposal for HELCOM Data Flow project ([document 4-21](#)) and in principle approved the project, pending securing of funding to cover the work ([Outcome of HOD 57-2019](#), para. 4.52., 4.55, 4.57).

The Meeting is invited to take note that the budget for 2020-2021 was approved at HELCOM 41-2020 and consequently funding for the project has been secured.

*HELCOM Holistic Assessment Methodology Development Project (MetDev)*

GEAR 20-2019 invited the Secretariat and the relevant Expert Groups to prepare more specific information on identified gaps and development needs for the various assessment work strands not covered by the indicator work, namely the Cumulative Impacts assessment and the ESA work, as identified in the HOLAS II process or in subsequent work. GEAR 21-2019 agreed to continue the discussion in GEAR 22-2020 with the intention to develop a concrete proposal for how to take this work forward, building on the work done for indicators and dataflows, for consideration at HOD 58-2020.

The Meeting is invited to take note that as HOD 57-2019 requested that the planned workshop on Cumulative Impacts Assessment, which is to inform the work under the work package on cumulative impacts assessment under the MetDev project, be moved to autumn 2020, the initially proposed timeline for approval of the project needs to be shifted.

The Meeting is invited to take note that the work packages under the MetDev project will also be presented the State and Conservation 12-2020 for review and input.

The Meeting is invited to take note of and endorse that, in line with the supported plan for HOLAS III, the outline and aim of the HELCOM Holistic Assessment Methodology Development (MetDev) Project, including preliminary work package information, will be presented to HOD 58-2020 for information, with the intention that the full project plan be submitted to HOD 59-2020 for approval, enabling the work to start in early 2021.

**The Meeting is invited to review the information included in the draft project plan, and provide guidance as needed ([document 5-4](#)).**

*MetDev Cumulative Impacts Assessment work package*

GEAR 21-2019 considered the proposals for further improvements of the cumulative impact assessment in HOLAS III ([document 5-5](#)) and concluded ([Outcome of GEAR 21-2019](#), para. 5.18 and 5.23) to include BSPI/BSII as part of HOLAS III, but in what capacity and format needs further discussions.

The meeting agreed to organize a workshop focusing on how to tackle cumulative impacts assessment and ecosystem analysis in the Baltic Sea region proposed to be held on 23-24 April 2020.

HOD 57-2019 took note of the information that the proposed dates for the workshop on Cumulative Impacts Assessment and Ecosystem Analysis in the Baltic Sea Region (23-24 April 2020) overlap with the dates for PRESSURE 12-2020 and invited the Secretariat and the Gear group to consider alternative dates for the workshop, possibly back-to-back with an MSP workshop on cumulative impacts assessment currently being planned for autumn 2020 ([Outcome of HOD 57-2019](#), para. 4.35).

The Meeting is invited to review arrangements for taking the work on Cumulative Impacts Assessment and Ecosystem Analysis in the Baltic Sea Region **forward**, taking into account the timelines for submission and approval to autumn WG meetings and HOD 59-2020.

The Meeting is invited to consider and agree on the draft ToRs for the workshop ([document 5-5](#)).

## HELCOM Expert Network on Social and Economic Analyses (EN ESA)

GEAR 21-2019 considered the update of the roadmap for continued HELCOM work on ESA ([document 5-2](#)), and agreed in principle with the roadmap with the understanding that it will be revised based on the input from the meeting, including the addition of a timeline for the work ([Outcome of GEAR 21-2019](#), para. 5.33-5.35). The Meeting is invited to take note that the [roadmap for continued HELCOM work on ESA](#) has been updated.

### Agenda Item 6                      Future work and any other business

The renewed Roadmap of HELCOM activities on ecosystem approach, including perspectives beyond 2021, based on the outcome of the Brussels Ministerial Meeting, was presented to HELCOM 40-2019 for endorsement. The meeting recognized that the Roadmap is a living document to be kept updated and endorsed the roadmap.

The Meeting is invited to consider the roadmap and suggest any amendments for the roadmap to be finalized for consideration by HOD 58-2020 (**postponed to GEAR 23-2020**).

#### Next meeting of GEAR

The Meeting is invited to note that the next meeting of the GEAR WG will take place in Berlin, 9-11 November 2020. The Meeting is invited to propose focal items for the next meeting.

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

The Meeting is invited to agree on the dates and place of GEAR 24-2021 and GEAR 25-2021, based on the [Doodle](#) submitted prior to the Meeting.

#### Any other business

The Meeting is invited to take note of information on progress within the BONUS ROSMARIE project (**document to be submitted**).

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 **and inform the Secretariat ([marta.ruiz@helcom.fi](mailto:marta.ruiz@helcom.fi)) by 27 April 2020** (document 6-1) .

### Agenda Item 7                      Outcome of the Meeting

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

## Provisional timetable GEAR 22-2020

**Note: All times EET (Finnish local time)**

<b>Monday, 27 April 2020</b>	
10.30-11.30	Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda (doc. 1-1, 1-2 and 1-2 Rev. 1) Agenda Item 2 Matters arising from other meetings of relevance to GEAR (no documents) Agenda Item 4 Implementation and update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (doc. 4-3)
11.30-11.45	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:45 – 13:00	Agenda Item 4 Implementation and update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, cont. (doc. 4-4 and 4-5)
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00 – 16:00	Agenda Item 4 Implementation and update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, cont. (doc. 4-6 and 4-1)
<b>Tuesday, 28 April 2020</b>	
10.00-11.30	Agenda Item 5 Activities of relevant HELCOM projects or processes (doc. 5-1 and 5-2)
11.30-11.45	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:45 – 13:00	Agenda Item 5 Activities of relevant HELCOM projects or processes, cont. (doc. 5-3 and 5-6)
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00 – 16:00	Agenda Item 5 Activities of relevant HELCOM projects or processes, cont. (doc. 5-4 and 5-5) Agenda Item 6 Future work and any other business (doc. 6-2)