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| Document title | HELCOM EWG SHORE - Continuation and Terms of Reference |
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| Submitted by | Executive Secretary |
| Reference | HELCOM HOD 42/2013, Paragraph 3.1 (LD 5.3), HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration 2013 / HELCOM Recommendation 34E/3, HELCOM RESPONSE 18/2014, Paragraphs 6.1-6.5 |

Background

HELCOM HOD 42/2013 considered the Terms of Reference for the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Response on the Shore (HELCOM EWG SHORE) for the period 2013-2016 (document 3/1) and supported it in principle. The Meeting took note that some of the Contracting Parties still need to clarify their positions and agreed to come back to this matter by the Heads of Delegation at the next suitable occasion.

HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Meeting 2013 adopted:

- HELCOM Recommendation 34E/3 “Amendments to Annex VII Response to Pollution Accidents of the 1992 Helsinki Convention, concerning response on the shore”;
- HELCOM Response Manual Volume III “Response to Pollution Incidents on the shore”;

HELCOM RESPONSE 18/2014 found it important that the work of the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Response on the Shore (HELCOM EWG SHORE) continues 2013-2016 in order to help the Contracting Parties to fulfil the commitments of the revised Annex VII of the Helsinki Convention and of recent Ministerial Meetings.

HELCOM RESPONSE 18/2014 requested the Secretariat to resubmit the Terms of Reference of EWG SHORE 2013-2016 and recommendations in document 6/3/WP.1 to HELCOM 35/2014 for adoption.

This document includes as **Attachment 1** the Terms of Reference originally submitted to and supported in principle by HELCOM HOD 42/2013.

Attachment 2 includes a working paper (document 6/3/WP.1) drafted at HELCOM RESPONSE 18/2014 (§6.5 of the Meeting outcome) which outlines the future of HELCOM EWG SHORE working under the HELCOM RESPONSE framework.

HELCOM RESPONSE 18/2014 kept the streamlining activity in mind when considering the work in sub-groups and task groups, including the Expert Working Group on Response on the Shore by i.a. minimizing the number of live meetings and maximizing the use of online correspondence and back-to back/side event meetings.

Action required

The Meeting is invited to:

- reconsider the extension of HELCOM EWG SHORE for 2013-2016 and adopt the Terms of Reference of HELCOM EWG SHORE as included in **Attachment 1**;

- consider the proposal by HELCOM RESPONSE in **Attachment 2** regarding the division of tasks within HELCOM EWG SHORE during 2013-2016 and proposed lead countries as well as the working mode including first meetings of the working group and chairing, and decide as appropriate.

Attachment 1

Terms of Reference for the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Response on the Shore (HELCOM EWG SHORE) for the period 2013-2016

Background

In Helsinki Convention, Ministerial Meeting Declarations as well as HELCOM Recommendations including, i.a., Recommendation 28E/12 of 2007 “Strengthening of sub-regional co-operation in response field” and Recommendation 33/2 of 2012 “Co-operation in response to spillages of oil and other harmful substances on the shore” the Contracting Parties have committed themselves to ensure an efficient response on the shore in order to, i.a.

- undertake the necessary measures to develop and put in place a plan for response on the shore integrated with existing contingency plan(s), constantly work on increasing and maintaining their capabilities for response on the shore, including technical resources and expertise with the aim to sufficiently protect environmental resources sensitive to oil in prioritized areas against pollution, analyse the needs for assistance from volunteers and undertake necessary measures to set up in advance a well-organized and trained national volunteers’ structure;
- to identify by 2013, based upon sensitivity mapping, the need for and to finalize the quantification of countermeasures for response on the shore, and to prepare concrete plans/programmes for fulfilling them by 2013.

Tasks of the EWG 2013-2016:

In order to contribute to the implementation of issues relating to response on the shore, an *ad hoc* Expert Working Group on Shoreline Response (*ad hoc* EWG) under HELCOM RESPONSE was established in 2011.

During 2011-2013 the *ad hoc* EWG completed parts of its original ToRs by drafting a new HELCOM Response Manual (Volume III) Response to Pollution Incidents on the Shore, as well as a proposal to amend the Helsinki Convention.

These ToR for the period 2013-2016 aims to follow up, build on and develop that work by:

1. Providing a regional platform in the field of response on the shore in order to exchange information on recent national and regional developments, best practices as well as to develop new policy proposals, as appropriate;
2. Considering the adequacy of existing resources to respond to pollution on the shore and to give recommendations how these capabilities could be improved;
3. Updating and developing the new Volume III Response to Pollution Incidents on the Shore, taking into account existing national and international manuals and other input, and to develop amendment proposals for further consideration by the HELCOM RESPONSE Group;
4. Making proposals on how to improve access to national and regional information on sensitive areas and sensitive coasts;
5. Working in the field of exercises on response on the shore to provide annual cross-border or international exercises;
6. Following up the outcome of relevant projects, coming with new information of relevance for the work on response on the shore on e.g. risks of oil pollution, environmental sensitivity maps, information on impacts of oil on the shore.

Working mode

The EWG will arrange two meetings annually in order to conduct their work. These can be live meetings or meetings via video communication or internet tools. The EWG will report to HELCOM RESPONSE on the progress made.

Participation

The EWG shall be open to the Contracting Parties and Observers of HELCOM RESPONSE.

The EWG Members of the HELCOM Contracting Parties will be nominated by HELCOM RESPONSE Heads of Delegations, via mail to the HELCOM Secretariat. EWG Members from HELCOM Observer organisations will be nominated by the HELCOM contact point of the Observer organization, via mail to the HELCOM Secretariat.

Working procedures

The EWG will, *mutatis mutandis*, follow the Rules of Procedure of the Helsinki Commission

The EWG will decide internally on division of work.

The HELCOM Secretariat will function as the Secretariat to the EWG.

The EWG will report the outcomes of its meetings to HELCOM RESPONSE contacts and observers.

Outcomes and publications created by the group will be subject to endorsement of HELCOM RESPONSE and after this to adoption by HELCOM HOD.

These ToRs of the EWG can be extended by HELCOM HOD based on a proposal by HELCOM RESPONSE.

Attachment 2**Continuation of HELCOM EWG SHORE**

HELCOM RESPONSE 18/2014 finds it important that the work of the EWG SHORE continues 2013-2016 in order to help the Contracting Parties to fulfill the commitments of the revised Annex VII of the Helsinki Convention and of recent Ministerial Meetings, requests HELCOM HOD to approve the ToR endorsed by HELCOM RESPONSE 17/2013 and supported in principle by HELCOM HOD 42/2013.

In order to carry out the work of the EWG in an efficient manner the RESPONSE Group proposes the following steps:

1. Division of tasks of the working group 2013-2016 and lead countries

The terms of reference of the EWG SHORE working group as accepted by HELCOM RESPONSE 17/2013 and supported in principle by HELCOM HOD 42/2013 define the tasks as follows:

1. Providing a regional platform in the field of response on the shore in order to exchange information on recent national and regional developments, best practices as well as to develop new policy proposals, as appropriate;
2. Considering the adequacy of existing resources to respond to pollution on the shore and to give recommendations how these capabilities could be improved;
3. Updating and developing the new Volume III Response to Pollution Incidents on the Shore, taking into account existing national and international manuals and other input, and to develop amendment proposals for further consideration by the HELCOM RESPONSE Group;
4. Making proposals on how to improve access to national and regional information on sensitive areas and sensitive coasts;
5. Working in the field of exercises on response on the shore to provide annual cross-border or international exercises;
6. Following up the outcome of relevant projects, coming with new information of relevance for the work on response on the shore on e.g. risks of oil pollution, environmental sensitivity maps, information on impacts of oil on the shore.

In order to carry out this work HELCOM RESPONSE Group proposes to choose a lead country for each of the above tasks of the EWG. This will facilitate the timely execution of the tasks.

The lead countries for the tasks are proposed as follows: Poland tasks 1 and 6, Germany task 2, Finland task 3 and Sweden tasks 4 and 5.

The lead country of the task shall make the first drafts of possible products, coordinate the work with the other working group members and ensure all working group members participate when needed.

2. Working mode including first meetings of the working group and chairing

The EWG will arrange two meetings annually in order to conduct its work. One of the meetings will be held via videoconference. The annual face-to-face meetings shall be organized back-to-back with HELCOM RESPONSE meetings.

The next meeting of the working group will be held as an online/telemeeting by the end of March 2014. The date will be agreed via correspondence among the currently nominated EWG contacts. CPs and Observers not

currently on the EWG contact list will be invited to nominate participants to the EWG to the Secretariat (hermanni.backer@helcom.fi) by 14 February 2014.

In advance of this first meeting, the lead countries are requested to make an outline and timetable for organizing the work for their particular tasks, and agree on which of the members contribute to the individual tasks.

At the first meeting, a chair will be chosen for the working group for the period 2014-summer 2015. A new chair shall be elected in summer 2015. The chair will report to HELCOM RESPONSE on progress of work.

The first face-to-face meeting of the group will be held in June back-to-back with the BALEX DELTA 2014 (10-12 June Ventspils, Latvia 2014). The face-to-face meeting will focus on initial information on adequacy of existing resources.