



Document title	Outcome of the work on follow-up of the draft Recommendation on aquaculture
Code	4-11
Category	DEC
Agenda Item	4 - Matters arising from the subsidiary bodies
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Submitted by	Chair of the HELCOM FISH Group
Reference	

Background

HOD 49-2015 took note of the draft HELCOM Recommendation on sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea as editorially revised intersessionally (cf. document 4-10).

The Meeting recalled that the FISH 3-2015 meeting had agreed to propose a follow up to the HELCOM Recommendation by developing a draft document on BAT/BEP for sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea region in a HELCOM Fish Correspondence Group and noted that the Chair of FISH Group proposed the following way forward:

- *that given the heterogeneous nature of aquaculture a scoping/matrix approach could be a good start;*
- *variability in technology and geography (differences between sub-regions) are important dimensions in the scoping exercise.*

The Meeting took note of the comment by Finland that their reservation on the Recommendation follow-up as expressed in FISH 3-2015 remains.

The Meeting discussed the follow up of the Recommendation, once adopted, regarding BAT/BEP for aquaculture in the Baltic Sea region and noted the different views of the Contracting Parties on the approach and further process in developing BAT/BEP.

The Meeting agreed on the need to clarify this issue before adoption of the Recommendation and agreed to establish a correspondence under the lead of the HELCOM FISH Chair to pave the way to be able to agree on the Recommendation and its follow-up at HELCOM 37-2016.

The Meeting agreed that HELCOM 37-2016 should reconsider the draft Recommendation based on the outcome of the correspondence work.

The Meeting took note of the comment by FEAP that involving the aquaculture industry in the work on HELCOM Recommendation on sustainable aquaculture is highly appreciated, the regional aquaculture BAT/BEP process should be industry driven and that the economic feasibility of measures should be included in the work.

The Meeting noted the comment by CCB that developing regional HELCOM BAT/BEP documentation is a key element based on fundamental principles of 1992 Helsinki Convention. The Meeting also took note of the information on CCB Seminar on Land-based aquaculture systems, held on 11-12 November 2015 in Stockholm, Sweden, as a first step of involving industry in development of BAT/BEP. (Paragraphs 4-39, 4.43-4.48 of the HOD outcome)

Following the mandate given by the HOD 49 meeting, the correspondence work has been established under the lead of Mr. Marcin Ruciński, Chair of the HELCOM Fish Group.

Online Meeting on Sustainable Aquaculture BAT/BEP was held on 9 February 2016, with the aim of reaching a common understanding on the draft ToR on follow-up to the draft Recommendation on Sustainable Aquaculture. The Meeting was attended by Estonia, European Union, Finland, Germany and Sweden, and it was chaired by the Fish Chair.

Prior to the Online Meeting, Germany, Denmark and Finland provided contributions in writing on the draft Terms of Reference for the HELCOM FISH Correspondence Group concerning a draft document on BAT/BEP descriptions for sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea region (CG Aquaculture).

The Chair prepared a compromise proposal for the ToR based on these contributions which was presented and explained in the meeting.

The Contracting Parties were invited to comment the proposal by the Chair for the further developed ToR by 16 February.

Germany and Finland informed that they would be in position to present their stand on the revised ToR at the HELCOM Meeting. Sweden supported the proposed ToR. Denmark informed that they have not further comments, emphasising that the Danish understanding is that the BAT-BEP will be non-binding descriptions.

The Chair considered any further needed amendments to the draft ToR based on the exchange of views during the meeting and prepared the attached ToR for CG Aquaculture.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to consider and approve the Terms of Reference for the HELCOM FISH Correspondence Group concerning a draft document on BAT/BEP descriptions for sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea region (CG Aquaculture).

Revised DRAFT

Terms of Reference for the HELCOM FISH Correspondence Group concerning a draft document on BAT/BEP descriptions for sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea region (CG Aquaculture)

In order to implement its work plan and follow up the [draft] HELCOM Recommendation on sustainable aquaculture [*Rec. code tbd*], the HELCOM FISH Group established an intersessional Correspondence Group on Best Available Technology / Best Environmental Practices (BAT/BEP) for sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea region (CG AQUACULTURE) (c.f. outcome of HELCOM FISH 3-2015, §§3.5-3.8).

These TORs were agreed by [HELCOM 37-2016].

Part I:

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Exchange on already available BAT/BEP information and experience gained on aquaculture as common knowledge base of the *status quo* in the Baltic Sea region; jointly develop a 'basket' of scientific ambitious BAT/BEP descriptions for sustainable aquaculture for the Baltic Sea region for reaching at commonalities and a 'menu of adequate BAT/BEP options' when individually applying BAT/BEP in the region. In this context (i) differentiate between land- and sea-based aquaculture, where needed, (ii) define environmental acceptable, economically viable and socially equitable standards, and (iii) promote innovation while (iv) not forcing any SPECIFIC BAT/BEP DESCRIPTION TO BE APPLIED BY ALL CONTRACTING PARTIES.

SCOPING/MATRIX APPROACH

Refer to heterogeneous nature of aquaculture and likely sub-regional differences; variability in technology and geography with need for a differentiated (if not locally- and/or sub-regionally concentrated) approach and a common understanding on BAT/BEP descriptions on sustainable aquaculture for the benefit of the Baltic Sea region; recognize the principles and Guidance, laid down in the (draft) Recommendation on Sustainable Aquaculture and its Annex¹; and additionally nutrition impacts and thresholds of the Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration, available new (open/closed) technologies/systems, such as IMTA or RAS, including reference e.g. to the recent CCB Workshop and environment impact assessments.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Joint BAT/BEP descriptions on sustainable aquaculture for the benefit of the Baltic region; best practice and lessons learnt for successful application of BAT/BEP in the region, input for the HELCOM information platform as well as identification of research and development needs.

Part II:

The CG AQUACULTURE is instructed to carry out intersessional work between the meetings of HELCOM FISH in order to:

1. Carry out general information exchange regarding existing BEP and BAT on Aquaculture within the Baltic Sea region and beyond including how they are implemented nationally;
2. Consider overall approach, outline and main components of a HELCOM document on jointly collected and developed BAT/BEP descriptions for sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea region, best practice and lessons learnt for their effective application to follow up HELCOM Recommendation on sustainable aquaculture [*Rec. code tbd*] in its interim report.
3. Provide HELCOM FISH with a draft document on BAT/BEP descriptions for sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea region as part of its final report and input for the HELCOM information platform.

¹ cf. HELCOM 37-2016 document 4-10

4. Provide for a stepwise process.
5. In terms of working procedures the CG will:
 - be led by [country/countries] [alternatively: Chairman of WG FISH]
 - be assisted by the Secretariat;
 - will report progress to HELCOM FISH WG (meetings in 2016 and 2017);
 - be initially established for the period [two years from date of approval], but this mandate may be extended by the HELCOM FISH WG;
 - be open to HELCOM Contracting Parties, Observers and invited Guests;
 - follow HELCOM Rules of Procedure, *mutatis mutandis*;
 - work *via* correspondence; if needed, HELCOM FISH WG may decide on CG meetings e.g. *via* internet or face-to-face.

Part III

Indicative work plan and timeline for the Correspondence Group

- First Request/Questionnaire addressed to Contracting Parties (CPs) and relevant Observers on available BAT/BEP;
Questionnaire to be prepared by [June 2016]
Answers to be provided by [October 2016]
- (Scientifically condensed) Literature Study on feasible BAT/BEP descriptions for the Baltic Sea region including SWOT and gap analyses against the needs and specificities of the Baltic Sea region;
To be completed by [March 2017]
- Workshop of all Contracting Parties, business & industry, science and environmental NGOs on available national and other BAT/BEP descriptions;
Held [May 2017]
Deliverable: draft BAT/BEP descriptions for the Baltic Sea aquaculture
- Fine-tune draft BAT/BEP descriptions for the Baltic Sea region in the CG, with interim reports to WG FISH and HoDs [2017], taking also into account other relevant results, e.g. *via* the EU Industrial Emissions Directive (IED, 2010/75/EU) and its guidance document (2012/119/EU) [September 2017]
- Based on the outcome of the above activities jointly specify remaining research and development needs in order to fill knowledge gaps in relation to BAT/BEP descriptions and criteria;

After the completion of the work by CG and based on its outcomes, the next foreseen possible steps are:

- discussions at FISH group as needed*
[2017 to mid-2018]
- *Agreement of final BAT/BEP descriptions for the Baltic Sea aquaculture*