



Document title	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda
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Agenda Item	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
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The 38th Meeting of the Helsinki Commission will be opened at 10:00 on Tuesday, 28 February 2017. The Meeting is expected to terminate on Wednesday, 1 March 2017 no later than 16:00.

The Meeting will be chaired by the Chair of the Helsinki Commission, Ms. Marianne Wenning.

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda (document 1-1).

Agenda Item 2 High-level segment with a focus on ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals combined with regional issues important for the Baltic Sea area

The aim of the high-level segment is to exchange views and formulate joint guidance on future work. The Contracting Parties and Observers are invited to discuss how the ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets can be met in the Baltic Sea by 2030 - particularly in relation to eutrophication, marine litter and climate change - and how HELCOM should enhance cooperation and which partnerships should be strengthened to reach effective results. The session will debate about how the Sustainable Development Goals are considered regionally, and how the shared targets could be better achieved in the future.

Further, the outcome of the preparatory meeting (15-16 February 2017, New York) on the Conference “Our oceans, our future: partnering for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14”, 5-9 June 2017, in New York, co-hosted by Sweden and Fiji, may be a useful contribution for the HELCOM high-level segment.

The outline for the high-level segment (document 2-1) was sent to the Contracting Parties and Observers on 19 December 2016 with the invitation.

A document “Measuring progress for the same targets – HELCOM and UN Sustainable Development Goals” will be provided to the Meeting as background information. The document contains information how HELCOM commitments and goals match the targets of SDGs, information on HELCOM indicators that could be used to monitor progress in reaching SDGs, and an overview of the status of implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan.

The high-level segment will be invited to adopt the outcome document, to be prepared in advance by the Contracting Parties with the assistance of the Secretariat.

Agenda Item 3 Next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting

HOD 51-2016 agreed that it would be best to organize the Ministerial Meeting in spring or early summer 2018, possibly back-to-back with the EU Environment Council, and the EU offered to host the meeting in Brussels. The EU will be invited to inform the Meeting about possible dates and other progress in this matter.

The Meeting will be invited to continue planning concrete topics and possible outcomes of the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting.

The updated Roadmap for HELCOM activities to implement the ecosystem approach will be provided to the Meeting.

Agenda Item 4 Matters arising from the subsidiary bodies*New Recommendations and Response Manual*

The Meeting is invited to consider and adopt the draft HELCOM Recommendation on 'Conservation and Protection of Marine and Coastal Biotopes, Habitats and Biotope Complexes Categorized as Threatened According to the HELCOM Red Lists' (document to be submitted later).

Additional comments and updates to the draft HELCOM Recommendation on Sewage Sludge Handling were provided by Germany at HOD 51-2016. HOD 51-2016 agreed in general on the proposed version of the document, noting study reservations by Sweden and Denmark, and invited the Contracting Parties to provide minor written comments on the updated version of the draft Recommendation by 20 January 2017 with an intention to adopt it at HELCOM 38-2017. The Meeting is invited to consider and adopt the draft Recommendation (document will be submitted at a later stage).

The Meeting is invited to adopt the revised RESPONSE Manual volume III (document to be submitted later).

Core indicators

An extra online meeting of the State & Conservation Working Group will take place on 26 January 2017 in order to consider and possibly endorse threshold values for five core indicators. The Meeting will be informed of the outcome of State & Conservation 5E-2017 and possibly invited to adopt threshold values for core indicators.

Underwater noise

The Meeting is invited to consider and support regional input for defining levels of underwater noise that are consistent with GES for noise-sensitive species as well as decision support trees for establishing environmental targets for ambient and impulsive noise (document to be submitted later)

The goal of the Regional Baltic Underwater Noise Roadmap (2015-2017) is to make every effort to prepare a knowledge base towards a regional action plan on underwater noise in 2017/2018.

The Meeting is invited to discuss progress in implementing the underwater noise roadmap (document to be submitted later).

The Meeting is invited to exchange views on development of a future regional action plan on underwater noise, including its possible scope and format, and provide guidance on further work as appropriate.

The draft budget estimate for the following financial period (2018-2019), to be based on the draft budget for 2017-2018, will be submitted to the Meeting as per Financial Rule 2.

The Meeting will be invited to take note on the outcome of the recruitment procedure of Communication Secretary and approve the outcome of the recruitment procedure of Professional Secretary for State&Conservation and Gear.

The Meeting will be invited to consider the applications for observer status to HELCOM of Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE) and by Baltic Sea States Sub-Regional Cooperation (BSSSC) (document 6-1) and to decide as appropriate.

Agenda Item 7 Any other business

The Meeting is invited to take note of and provide a feedback on the draft agenda of the Baltic Sea Day 2017 in St. Petersburg 22-23 March 2017.

The Meeting might wish to discuss any other matters under this Agenda Item.

Agenda Item 8 Next meeting(s) of the Commission

A preliminary reservation for the year 2018 has been made at the Marina Congress Centre in Helsinki for week 10 in March 2018.

The Meeting will be invited to decide on the dates of the next meetings of the Commission.

Agenda Item 9 Outcome of the Meeting

A draft outcome of the Meeting, reflecting decisions made will be prepared and presented for consideration and adoption before the closing of the Meeting.