



Document title	Comments by Poland to Report on the status of national wildlife response plans in the Baltic Sea (doc. 4-15)
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Background

The last few months since the RESPONSE 22-2016 meeting was the time of well-coordinated and intensive efforts on the national level in Poland with relation to the national oiled wildlife response plan. This work resulted in elaboration of the draft document. Although not formally approved yet, it has been in principle agreed among all the institutions sharing the responsibilities in this matter. Therefore Poland proposes to make some corrections to the doc. 4-15 reflecting the actual state-of-the-art in Poland.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the proposed changes and correct the Report accordingly, prior to its publication.

Comments by Poland to Report on the status of national wildlife response plans in the Baltic Sea

The following corrections to the document HELCOM 38-2017 4-15 “Report on the status of national wildlife response plans in the Baltic Sea” are proposed:

Page 2, Summary, third last bullet should read:

- “The approach for oiled wildlife response is different between countries. Denmark uses (mass) euthanasia as the preferred approach for dealing with live oiled animals, unless species with conservation interest are involved. Germany requires NGOs to demonstrate an ability to deal with live oiled animals with high standard skills and organisation structure. Countries such as Finland, Estonia **and Poland** have adopted rehabilitation as the standard approach, however administering euthanasia for animals that would not benefit from rehabilitation.”

According to the draft National Wildlife Response Plan, rehabilitation is considered as a primary and basic measure. Euthanasia should be accepted only if there is no chance for successful rehabilitation.

Page 28, chapter 4.7 Poland (nb. number of the chapter should be corrected, so as the numbering of other country-chapters as well)

Subchapter 4.7.1. 1st para should read:

“The national oiled wildlife response plan in Poland **is on final stage of preparation.** The leading authority ought to be selected from the following entities: the Ministry of Environment, General Directorate for Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, with a significant role of rehabilitation centres as well as volunteers coordinated by an environmental NGO. The Ministry of Environment has organized preliminary meetings with potential stakeholders concerning establishing the national OWR plan (legal basis, scientific analysis, preventive system, provide for the risk of oil spills in Crisis Management plans, trainings, financing system, appointment of the coordinator). [last sentence deleted]”

Subchapter 4.7.2. 1st para should read:

“There is no regular exercise plan. Exercises and study tours, organized by WWF Poland, had an *ad-hoc* character.”

Subchapter 4.7.3. should read:

“There are parties interested in being trained – inter alia WWF Blue Patrol volunteers, ornithologists, veterinarians from rehabilitation centres, national and landscape parks employees, nature protection authorities, Maritime Search and Rescue Service etc.

The need for training at different levels, from volunteers to managers, is recognized as well. Main authorities have occasionally taken part in exercises.”