



Document title	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda
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Agenda Item	1 - Adoption of the Agenda
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The 40th Meeting of the Helsinki Commission will be opened at 10:00 on Wednesday, 6 March 2019. The Meeting is expected to terminate by 15:00 on Thursday, 7 March 2019.

The Meeting will be chaired by the Chair of the Helsinki Commission, Ms. Saara Bäck.

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

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

Agenda Item 2 Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

Work according to the Strategic Plan (cf. Annex 2 of HOD 54-2018 [Outcome](#)) and the Work Plan (cf. Annex 4 of HOD 55-2018 [Outcome](#)) for the BSAP update

The Meeting is invited to take note of the status of work on the implementation of the analyses of sufficiency of measures (SOM) including the kick of meeting of the SOM Platform to be held in February 2019 (cf. Annex 3 of HOD 55-2018 [Outcome](#)).

HOD 55-2018 supported the use of a Lead Country approach to carry out analyses of sufficiency of measures for topics complementary to the HELCOM ACTION project and to develop syntheses to support the BSAP update. The Meeting is invited to follow-up on the status of the leads offered for the topics.

The Meeting will be informed of the progress in reporting of HELCOM Recommendations to support the analyses of sufficiency of measures in the BSAP update.

Based on the outcome of HOD 55-2018, the work will continue to further develop the supporting framework for the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, including mapping of HELCOM action areas, management objectives and ecological objectives, and further elaborating the links between activities, pressures and status. The Meeting will be invited to take note of and consider the information and agree as appropriate.

A thematic session regarding the latest scientific knowledge of relevance for the update of the BSAP

Information on additional projects funded under the BONUS call 2017: Synthesis, will be submitted to the Meeting.

Presentations of BONUS projects (three presentations), serving as examples of the ongoing / finalized scientific projects, will be made by invited project representatives.

The BAItic and NOrth Sea Coordination and Support Action (BANOS CSA) 'Towards a Baltic and North Sea research and innovation programme' will be presented at the Meeting. BANOS CSA prepares a framework for launching the joint Baltic Sea and the North Sea research and innovation programme as a successor of

the Baltic-Sea-focused BONUS programme, and runs from November 2018 until early 2021. HELCOM is one of the strategic partners in the project.

The Meeting is invited to take note of and consider the information and in general discuss the importance of fit-for-purpose scientific results to support the BSAP update. The Meeting is further invited to consider an idea to map the needs for new scientific knowledge and research in support of future implementation of the updated BSAP. Such a mapping could be done in HELCOM based on gaps identified in the BSAP.

A presentation of a project on ocean literacy (ResponSEable) will be made by a project representative. The Meeting is invited to take note of the information and consider how ocean literacy could be utilized to support implementation of the BSAP.

Information on processes relevant to the BSAP update

The Meeting is invited to consider and approve a draft report on the progress in HELCOM voluntary commitments to the UN Ocean Conference 2017. The aim of the report is to update the progress to the UN registry of voluntary commitments.

HOD 55-2018 supported an idea to submit a HELCOM commitment to the next UN Ocean Conference in 2020, which could, for instance, be related to the BSAP update. The Meeting is invited to continue discussing a suitable commitment(s) to be pledged at the conference.

Agenda Item 3 Matters arising from the subsidiary bodies

The Meeting is invited to adopt the following draft revised and new HELCOM Recommendations:

- “Unified interpretation in relation to access to and use of HELCOM AIS data” (33/1);
- “Introducing Economic Incentives as a Complement to Existing Regulations to Reduce Emissions from Ships” (28E/13);
- “Implementation of Integrated Marine and Coastal Management of Human activities in the Baltic Sea Area” (24/10) (pending outcome of the final round of consultation on the working level)
- “Conservation and Protection of Marine and Coastal Biotopes, Habitats And Biotope Complexes Categorized as Threatened According to the HELCOM Red Lists” to supersede HELCOM Recommendation 21/4 “Protection of heavily endangered or immediately threatened Marine and Coastal Biotopes in the Baltic Sea Area”.

The Meeting is invited to adopt the following documents:

- the updated “Guidelines for the annual and periodical compilation and reporting of waterborne pollution inputs to the Baltic Sea (PLC-Water);
- the HELCOM Action Plan for the protection and recovery of Baltic sturgeon;
- the HELCOM-VASAB Guidelines on transboundary MSP output data structure in the Baltic Sea;
- the amendments to the HELCOM Response Manual Volume 1 (in Chapters 10.5 and 11) (pending the outcome of an additional commenting round on the proposed amendments);
- the draft updated HELCOM Data and Information Strategy (after the consultation with the Working Groups).

The Meeting is invited to consider the outcome of Ninth Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (FISH 9-2019), to be held on 30-31 January 2019, in Tallinn, Estonia, and decide as appropriate.

As requested by HOD 55-2018, the further elaborated document on coordinated reporting and hosting of HELCOM continuous noise monitoring data will be submitted for consideration and approval by the Meeting.

HOD 54-2018 recognized that the Roadmap on HELCOM activities on ecosystem approach provides a good common basis for joint planning and requested the Secretariat to add indications of which working bodies

are responsible for individual activities to the roadmap. The Meeting is invited to consider and endorse the updated roadmap on ecosystem approach.

Information on the progress of work of the HELCOM Groups and the status of HELCOM projects will be submitted to the Meeting.

Agenda Item 4 Activities of the Commission during 2018 and contributions to the work of the Helsinki Commission

The Executive Secretary will give a statement in accordance with the decision by the Commission (HELCOM 4/17, Paragraph 2.4) on the work of the Secretariat including her comments and evaluation of the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. The Meeting will be invited to take note of the statement.

The Meeting is invited to approve the 2018 HELCOM activities report, prepared having regard to Rule 11.4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Helsinki Commission.

The Contracting Parties, Observer Governments and Observer Organizations are invited to give their statements, if so wished, under this Agenda Item. If possible, the statements should be received by the Secretariat in written form in advance of the Meeting. The oral statements should not last longer than five minutes and should concentrate on concrete contributions to the work of the Commission.

Agenda Item 5 Accounts 2017–2018, budget 2019–2020 and other institutional and organisational matters of the Commission

The Meeting is invited to take note of the explanatory memorandum on the accounts of the Helsinki Commission for the financial period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, to adopt the Audit Report by the State Audit Office of Finland together with the Financial Statement, and to discharge the accountables from responsibility in respect of the implementation of the budget 2017-2018.

The Meeting is invited to consider and adopt the budget for the financial period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 to be submitted at a later stage.

HOD 55-2018 took note of the long-term budget comparison and noted that the HELCOM budget has remained on the similar level for the last seven budget years. HOD 55-2018 recognized the value of HELCOM work for the Contracting Parties for their national purposes and agreed to start discussing future budget development starting from the budget year 2020-2021, taking into account HELCOM needs and inflation.

A background document for proposing an increase to the budget will be prepared by the Secretariat and submitted to the Meeting at a later stage.

The Meeting is invited to start discussing future budget development, including a budget estimate for the budget year 2020-2021 and decide as appropriate.

The Meeting is invited to decide on the appointment of the next HELCOM Executive Secretary.

The Meeting is invited to consider the application for observer status to HELCOM of the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO) and to decide as appropriate.

Agenda Item 6 Any other business

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

Agenda Item 7 Next meeting(s) of the Commission

The Meeting will be invited to decide on the dates of the next meeting of the Commission, back-to-back with a HELCOM stakeholder conference, and decide that a high-level segment of the Helsinki Commission will be held as part of HELCOM 41-2020 (cf. Activity 6 of the Strategic Plan for the BSAP update).

Agenda Item 8 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.