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| <b>Document title</b>  | Meetings of chairpersons of HELCOM main groups |
| <b>Code</b>            | 5-2  |
| <b>Category</b>        | DEC  |
| <b>Agenda Item</b>     | 5 - Matters arising from the subsidiary bodies |
| <b>Submission date</b> | 10.2.2020                                      |
| <b>Submitted by</b>    | Secretariat                                    |
| <b>Reference</b>       |  |

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## Background

A first Meeting of chairpersons of HELCOM main groups will be held at the premises of the HELCOM Secretariat, on 2 March 2020. The invitation to Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the HELCOM main groups, namely Gear, Maritime, Pressure, State and Conservation, Response, Agri, Fish and HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group groups, was sent out on 30 October 2020. To date, chairpersons of all main groups have registered except for chairpersons of HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group. The Meeting will be chaired by the Chair of the Helsinki Commission, Ms. Saara Bäck.

The Meeting is held in order to enhance the flow of information and improve coordination between the main HELCOM groups. The chairpersons have been invited to prepare a presentation on achievements in 2019 and projected activities in 2020 to enable them to jointly take stock of what was achieved in the previous year as well as to coordinate, insofar as appropriate and feasible, their activities during the current year. The chairpersons have further been invited to liaise with the respective Professional Secretary.

Future meetings of chairpersons should ideally be scheduled for the first quarter of each year back-to-back with other events in which all or some of the chairpersons would presumably participate.

A short outcome of the first Meeting of chairpersons will be presented to HELCOM 41-2020.

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to consider the need for face-to-face meetings of chairpersons of HELCOM main groups in the future and, if considered needed, endorse the organization of such meetings on an annual basis.