



Document title	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda
Code	1-2
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
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Submitted by	Executive Secretary
Reference	

The 42nd Meeting of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM 42-2021) will be held on 17-18 March 2021. In light of the COVID-19 situation the Meeting will be held as an online meeting.

The Meeting will be opened on **Wednesday, 17 March at 9:00 CET/10:00 EET** and it is expected to terminate on **Thursday, 18 March by 16:00 CET/17:00 EET**.

The Meeting will be co-chaired by the Chair of the Helsinki Commission, Ms. Lilian Busse, Germany, and the Vice-Chair 2020-2021 of the Helsinki Commission, Mr. Johannes Oelerich, Germany.

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

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

Agenda Item 2 Outcome of the HELCOM Stakeholder Conference 2021

The HELCOM Stakeholder Conference 2021 focusing on the Ecosystem Approach and Ecosystem-Based Management will be held online on 11 March 2021 in cooperation with Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB) and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM). The Meeting is invited to consider the outcome of the Conference (document to be submitted).

Agenda Item 3 2021 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting

The next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting will be held on 20 October 2021 in Lübeck, upon invitation by Germany as the chairing country of HELCOM for 2020-2022.

Germany might wish to inform on organisational and other relevant matters related to the Ministerial Meeting.

The Meeting is invited to consider the first draft of the ministerial statement prepared by Germany and decide as appropriate (document to be submitted).

The updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP), to be considered under Agenda Item 4 of this Meeting, is envisaged to be adopted by the Ministerial Meeting. Alongside the updated BSAP, a number of documents are foreseen to be adopted to support the implementation of the updated BSAP. These documents will be considered under Agenda Items 4 and 5 of this Meeting. HOD 59-2020 supported categorization of these documents as background documents, supporting documents, associated action documents depending on their nature (cf. paragraph 5.64 of the Outcome).

The Meeting is invited to consider the need for additional preparatory meetings prior to the Ministerial Meeting.

Agenda Item 4 Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

The Meeting is invited to take note of the second draft of the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) noting that the drafting will continue in the Ad hoc Drafting Group for the Updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (DG BSAP) and DG BSAP Segment Teams based on the guidance by HELCOM 42-2021 (document to be submitted).

Overarching preamble and introduction

HOD 59-2020 agreed that the overarching preamble and introduction is to be further considered and developed by DG BSAP 5-2021, based on the guidance from HOD 59-2020 and comments received in the review processes in 2020. The Meeting is invited to consider the further-developed overarching preamble and introduction and provide guidance to DG BSAP for further drafting.

Segment introductions

HOD 59-2020 agreed that the introductions to the biodiversity, eutrophication, hazardous substances and litter, and sea-based activities segments are to be further considered and developed by the Segment Teams, based on the guidance from HOD 59-2020 and comments received in the review processes in 2020, and reviewed by DG BSAP 5-2021, and that the introduction to the horizontal actions segment is to be further considered and developed by DG BSAP 5-2021. The Meeting is invited to consider the further developed segment introductions and provide guidance to DG BSAP and the Segment Teams for further-drafting.

Operative section: Actions

HOD 59-2020 agreed that the actions are to be further considered and developed in the Segment Teams, based on the guidance from HOD 59-2020 and comments received in the review processes in 2020. HOD 59-2020 also agreed that the actions are to be presented for review at DG BSAP 5-2021 and provisional agreement at HELCOM 42-2021. The Meeting is invited to take note of the progress in developing the actions in the Segment Teams and DG BSAP 5-2021, consider the actions for which the drafting group finds the proposed wording satisfactory and agree in principle on the inclusion of these actions in the updated BSAP.

Annexes

HOD 59-2020 discussed the proposal for the structure of the annexes to the updated BSAP that are to provide additional information on the actions and the different proposals on where to place the additional information. HOD 59-2020 agreed that the Working Groups are to collect this supplementary information on the actions in spring 2021 and that HELCOM 42-2021 is to continue discussion on where to place the information. The Meeting is invited to discuss and agree on where to place and how to presents the supplementary information on the actions.

Analysis on sufficiency of measures

HOD 59-2020 discussed that, in addition to being published as a project report, the SOM main report could be published as either a background document to the 2021 Ministerial Meeting, and/or as a Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings (BSEP) report and noted that after submission to DG ENV the main report will be reviewed by EN ESA and GEAR 24-2021. The Meeting is invited to discuss the format.

Agenda Item 5 Matters arising from the subsidiary bodies

The Meeting is invited to adopt the revised HELCOM Recommendations 31E/6 on integrated wildlife response planning in the Baltic Sea area (document to be submitted).

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The Meeting is invited to consider adoption of the revised HELCOM Recommendation 23/5 on storm water management after clarification by Germany on their study reservation expressed at HOD 59-2020.

The Meeting is invited to:

- approve the working structure of the HOLAS III assessment phase;
- approve the extension and description of the position of HELCOM Indicator Coordinator;
- adopt the HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Underwater Noise;
- consider the latest draft of the Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy and provide guidance for its finalization with a view to endorsement at HOD 60-2021 and subsequent adoption at the 2021 Ministerial Meeting;
- adopt the draft Joint Inter-Regional Marine HNS Response Manual;
- adopt the draft revised HELCOM Response Manual;
- approve the HELCOM-Baltic Earth Baltic Sea Climate Change Fact Sheet;
- consider the first draft of the Regional Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2021-2030 provide guidance for its finalization with a view to endorsement at HOD 60-2021 and subsequent adoption at the 2021 Ministerial Meeting;
- consider the procedure for the revision of Part 2 of Annex III to the Helsinki Convention (documents to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to take note of and consider the outcomes of the meetings that have been held or will be held by the time of HELCOM 42-2021 (documents to be submitted):

- STATE & CONSERVATION 13D-2021 (State and Conservation intersessional meeting on the MPA LIFE project proposal), 28 January 2021, online;
- HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 21A-2021 (Intersessional Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group), 3 February 2021, online;
- STATE & CONSERVATION 13F-2021 (State and Conservation intersessional meeting on review and approval of the key messages for the Climate Change Fact Sheet), 15 February 2021, online
- STATE & CONSERVATION 13E-2021 (State and Conservation intersessional meeting on marine mammal indicator development), 2 March 2021, online.

Agenda Item 6 Activities of the Commission during 2020 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 his 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 further invited to take note of the final Activities Report for the year 2020 (document to be submitted).

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 7 Accounts 2019-2020, budget 2021–2022 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 2019 to 30 June 2020, 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 2019-2020 (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to consider and adopt the budget for the financial period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 and the draft budget estimate for 2022-2023 (documents to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcome of the recruitment procedure for the post of HELCOM Professional Secretary for the Pressure and Agri Groups and the Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group.

The Meeting is invited to consider the application for observer status to HELCOM of the Nordic Boat Council (NBC) as agreed by HELCOM 41-2020 and to decide as appropriate based on additional information provided to HOD 58-2020 (document to be submitted).

Agenda Item 8 Any other business

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

Agenda Item 9 Next meeting(s) of the Commission

A preliminary reservation for the next meeting of the Commission in 2022 (HELCOM 43-2022) has been made at Botta in Helsinki Finland, for 9-10 March 2022.

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

Agenda Item 10 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.