



HELCOM ACTION Workshop 2.2 - Existing and tentative new measures and the status of benthic species and habitats.

The workshop will be hosted by the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) and held at the Viikki Building A (Meeting Centre) in the meeting room is Tiimi A2. The address is Latokartanonkaari 9, Helsinki. The Workshop will take place on 4-5 February, 2020 and will start at 13.00 on day one and end by 17.00 on day two.

The meeting site is circa 30 minutes by public transport from the city centre and there are a number of regular transport options available.

The workshop will address topics from the HELCOM ACTION project and address the Baltic Sea regional perspective on these topics, with a particular focus on regional and sub-regional management activities or restoration approaches and their potential impact on Good Environmental Status.

Provisional agenda

Agenda item 1: Introduction and overview report

Progress made on the summary report from the ACTION project will be briefly presented. The summary report, 'Impacts on seabed - Approaches for assessment and successful measures', aims to provide a collation of current knowledge related to the topic of seabed habitats. The report focusses on gathering all available information from previous projects and recent developments taking place to provide an overview of the best available information in the Baltic Sea region. The report will be presented, and participants are invited to further guide the finalisation of the report.

Agenda item 2: Coastal restoration measures and potential impacts on Good Environmental Status

The results from the ACTION project work on collating and evaluation coastal restoration measures will be presented. Other information related to relevant pressures (e.g. construction works, extraction of material from the seabed, invasive species, and hypoxic areas) will also be discussed. An overview of the national/sub-regional/regional effectiveness evaluations so far received from HELCOM Contracting Parties will also be presented by the ACTION project and further evaluations or gap filling will be carried out where necessary in the workshop.

Topics that will be addressed and documented during the workshop include: which coastal habitats are most in need of improvement in the Baltic Sea region, coastal waters, what are the main activities/pressures causing deteriorated state, what measures that contribute to

achieving Good Environmental Status are currently available and applied in the Baltic Sea region, what new measures have been proposed and/or tested in the region, from testing or application of these current and new measures what evidence exists regarding their effectiveness, and can application of such measures effectively contribute to achievement of Good Environmental Status and at what scale (local, sub-regional, regional Baltic Sea scale). Much of the discussion at this stage will feed directly into agenda item 4 also.

Agenda item 3: Fisheries management activities and potential impacts on Good Environmental Status

The results from the ACTION project work on the potential of fisheries management scenarios (e.g. displacement of fisheries activities via the DISPLACE model) to support the achievement of Good Environmental Status in benthic habitats will be presented. Where appropriate other relevant pressures have also be considered. The scenarios tested in the DISPLACE model (including the conceptual measures that underpin the scenarios and the methodology) will be presented for discussion.

The uncertainty within the scenarios, the effectiveness of the tested measure scenarios and the testing/evidence to support these will be discussed. How the potential measures (scenarios tested in the model) can contribute to achieving Good Environmental Status and in what way they contribute to improved status (e.g. how species or habitats benefit and can direct links between pressures/activities and state be made) will also be considered, as will if such measures can reach good status. Much of the discussion at this stage will feed directly into agenda item 4 also.

Agenda item 4: Potential new measures and actions to support the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

Building on the discussion from agenda item 2 and 3, a discussion will be held to make an evaluation on the relevant and effective potential new measures that should be put forward for consideration in the process to update the Baltic Sea Action Plan. Other aspects not directly covered by the above two items that may also be relevant contributing measures will also be considered. The conclusions from this process should be a collation of clear and concrete measures (and an evaluation of the proposed measures) that would contribute to the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan.

Agenda item 5: Estimating effectiveness of measures at the regional and sub-regional (national) scale

A 'score card' will be developed and presented at the workshop to support a common approach to estimate effectiveness of measures where quantitative estimates are not available (e.g. to account for spatial, temporal, or species differences). The score card approach will be utilised at the workshop to trial the functionality of the approach and to gather information that can support subsequent work in ACTION work package 6 on the assessment of the Sufficiency of Measures (existing and new).