



HELCOM ACTION Workshop 3 - MPA network effectiveness (HELCOM ACTION WS3-2020)

The workshop will be held at the premises of the HELCOM Secretariat, Katajanokanlaituri 6 B, Helsinki, Finland on 5 – 6 February, 2020. The workshop will start at 10.00 on day one and end by 12.00 on day two.

The workshop will address topics from the HELCOM ACTION project work on MPA network effectiveness. The results of the MPA management effectiveness assessment questionnaire distributed among HELCOM Contracting Parties will be presented. The workshop will also focus on an exchange of information and discussion how to use existing policy instruments (e.g. the Baltic Sea Action Plan, the Habitat and Bird Directives (MPA networks), and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive) can support each other in the Baltic Sea area. The workshop will also consider possible recommendations and actions that can support the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) and the Baltic MPA network.

Please note that the results that will be presented at this workshop are currently being finalised and no documents are expected in advance of the workshop. The ACTION project partners leading the work on the topic will present full findings at the workshop and lead discussion on the remaining agenda items. Other agenda items will focus on discussion of the approach and proposed ideas, and on documenting appropriate recommendations or actions that can feed into relevant HELCOM processes.

Provisional annotated agenda

Agenda item 1: Review of results – application of management effectiveness (ME) assessment method and validation of approach.

The results of the questionnaire on the ME assessment of the Baltic Sea MPA network carried out by the ACTION Project will be presented and discussed by this HELCOM workshop (invited participants from all HELCOM Contracting Parties). The approach used for ME assessment, benefits, and pitfalls will be evaluated as part of the validation of the results and methodology.

Agenda item 2: Expert-based evaluation of the contribution of MPAs in achieving Good Environmental Status (GES).

The contribution of the MPA network to achieving Good Environmental Status, with a particular focus on biodiversity criteria, will be evaluated and discussed. Other aspects such as how MPAs contribute to reducing pressures affecting the species and habitats will also be considered. An expert-based evaluation of effectiveness will be carried out during the workshop based on discussion and the results presented. Participants of the workshop will

be invited to provide their expertise regarding how MPA network can contribute to achieving GES in the Baltic Sea area.

Agenda item 3: Development of, and discussion on, recommendations for an effective MPA network and MPA management approach.

The workshop will discuss relevant issues that relate to an improved contribution of MPAs in achieving GES in the Baltic Sea area. The outcome of this work will be a collation of recommendations on the topic to support future developments in HELCOM regional work, such as the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP). The effective and regular application of ME assessment method will also be considered.