Please note that after sending out the attached original invitation the workshop has been moved to online format.
To: Contacts and Observers of HELCOM MARITIME  
Contacts and Observers of HELCOM RESPONSE  
Contacts and Observers of PRESSURE  
Contacts of HELCOM SOM Platform  

Cc: HELCOM Heads of Delegation  
Observers of HELCOM  
Contacts and Observers of HELCOM STATE & CONSERVATION  
Contacts and Observers of HELCOM GEAR  
Contacts and Observers of HELCOM-VASAB MSP  
Contacts and Observers of HELCOM FISH  
Contacts and Observers of HELCOM AGRI  

Re. Invitation to the HELCOM BSAP UP workshop on maritime activities, including underwater noise, non-indigenous species and response actions, for the consideration of proposed new actions (HELCOM BSAP UP WS-SEA 2020), 2 - 4 September 2020, Helsinki, Finland

Dear Colleagues,

With reference to the Outcome of the 57th Meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation (HOD 57-2019, paragraph 3.14), I have the pleasure to invite the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention and Observer Organizations to the HELCOM BSAP UP workshop for the consideration of proposed new actions for maritime activities including underwater noise, non-indigenous species and pollution response actions, (HELCOM BSAP UP WS-SEA 2020) that will take place at the premises of the HELCOM Secretariat, (Katajanokanlaituri 6b) Helsinki, Finland.

The workshop will be opened on Wednesday 2 September at 13.00 and is expected to end at Friday 4 September at 13.00.

Note that the workshop is held back to back with the BSAP UP workshop on biodiversity, including disturbance to the seabed from fisheries, extraction of species and spatial measures, taking place 31 August – 2 September 2020, also at the HELCOM Secretariat. Due to the COVID-19 related travel restrictions the organization of the BSAP UP workshops has been moved from the originally planned May 2020 to autumn 2020. Please see Annex 1 for the overall timetable of the workshops.

The workshop is convened to evaluate proposed new actions for the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP). Key background information to the workshop will be the results of the analysis of sufficiency of measures (SOM analysis) that is carried out to support the BSAP update and the synopses on new actions for the updated BSAP that have been submitted to HELCOM. At the workshop commonly agreed criteria will be applied to support the evaluation. Experts on measures in the maritime sector, measures to reduce input of underwater noise and non-indigenous species from sea-based activities, and on pollution response actions, are encouraged to participate as well as national representatives of HELCOM Working Groups MARITIME, REPSONSE, and PRESSURE as relevant. In addition, countries are invited to consider nominating experts working with the national programmes of measures. Conclusions from the Workshop will be submitted to relevant HELCOM Working Groups for consideration.
Information for the Workshop will be made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal on the HELCOM BSAP UP WS-SEA 2020 Meeting site (please see the instructions for signing up and signing in). Participants are kindly requested to register to the Workshop by answering the Participation Survey not later than 26 August 2020.

Yours sincerely,

Rüdiger Strempel
Executive Secretary

Annex 1. Overall timetable for the BSAP UP workshops

- Hazardous substance and litter: August 24th – 25th, 2020
- Eutrophication: August 26th – 27th, 2020
- Biodiversity, loss and disturbance to the seabed, extraction of species (including by-catch, hunting), spatial measures (MPA, MSP): 31st – Sept. 2nd (lunchtime), 2020
- Maritime activities, underwater noise, non-indigenous species, response actions: Sept 2nd (afternoon) – Sept 4th, 2020