

Joint Harmonized Procedure for the Contracting Parties of HELCOM and OSPAR on the granting of exemptions under International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, Regulation A-4 - summary of Polish comments.

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Main issues of concern:

1. Port Survey Protocol:

- Number of sampling sites per port and their selection
- Survey design
- Site selection
- Field sampling
- Quality assurance of methods and data

2. Administrative procedures

3. New issues



1. Port Survey Protocol – Chapter 2 & Annex 2

Number of sampling sites per port and their selection – needs clarification

➡ How many samples to be taken in the port?

2.10 „The field sampling will be carried out in a number of sampling sites, or exact locations, within a port. Three sampling sites per port area is the minimum required.”

➡ How many samples to be taken at each sampling point?

Annex 2 p. 24 „Within each port several sites representing a wide range of environmental characters (including consideration of different salinities, water velocities and substrates) should be sampled. At minimum, three sites in each port area should be sampled. A minimum of three replicate samples at each site should be taken. „ - **Comment: It is except for plankton!**



**Table 1. Minimum number of samples at each site
(p.25)**

Sample type	Spring bloom	Summer maximum	Total
Phytoplankton	1 x 20 µm net, 1 x Water	1 x 20 µm net, 1 x Water	4
Zooplankton	1 x 100 µm net, 1 x 500 µm net	1 x 100 µm net, 1 x 500 µm net	4
Zoobenthos		3 x Benthic grab	3
Fouling plates		3 x plate unit (3 plates 15x15 cm)	3-9
Fouling, scrape		approx. 3-6	3-6
Traps		6-9 traps (3 box, 3 minnow, 3 artificial habitat collectors)	6-9
Total	4	19-28-22 31	23-32- 26-35
Plus:			
Pathogens	1 x 0.5 l water sample	2 x 0.5 l water sample	2

Site selection

Chapter 2.13 „Before conducting the first survey at a given port, visual observations and general mapping of the underwater habitats is highly recommended to assure survey efforts are conducted in the most abundant/ relevant habitats.”

Annex 2, p. 25 „Spatial distribution of the sites is to be designed carefully prior to sampling.”

➡ Is it required for the purpose of JHP to prepare maps of underwater habitats?



Field sampling (Annex 2)

- Should JHP provide for sampling also from the boat if this is more convenient? - currently it is advised in JHP to collect groups of organisms from the quays.
- Are sediment sample(s) mandatory?
p. 26 „Sediment type and fractions can be assessed visually from the benthic grab samples or taking a separate sediment sample.”
- Is using trawls and gillnets really impossible?
p. 28 „However, methodology for sampling epifauna in the port area is very limited and for example using trawls and gillnets is impossible.”
- How many samples of fouling organisms to be collected on rocky shores or breakwaters?
p. 30 “At least three pilings or similar structures should be sampled from these abovementioned locations at each site. Three pilings should be scrape sampled in the sub littoral zone. An area of 0.1 m² be scraped to the piling surface using a hand-held scraper tool... Similarly, on rocky shores or breakwaters three vertical transects should be inspected and sampled as described above...” – 9?



Field sampling

p. 26: Water salinity and temperature should be measured at least at 2.5 m intervals from surface water to bottom at each site, taking into account the potential effect of tides and characteristics of the port.

➡ Should not the depths be the same as in the case of sampling of e.g., phytoplankton or fouling organisms (plates)?

p. 26: Sediment type and fractions can be assessed visually from the benthic grab samples or taking a separate sediment sample.

➡ How many replicates per site should be taken? Table in Appendix 4 (Format suitable for transferring to the database) includes information on grain size...



Field sampling

Human Pathogens

•2.21 „Human pathogen samples should be collected during both sampling visits (spring bloom and summer maximum)”.

•Annex 2, p. 27 Table 1. indicates 2 samples only in Summer maximum.

•Reference methods of analysis of *Vibrio cholerae* to be indicated in JHP?



Directive 2006/7/EC of 15 February 2006 concerning the management of bathing water quality only includes reference methods of analysis of **intestinal Enterococci & *Escherichia coli***

Data reporting – Appendix 3: Data sheets for field recording

Port information sheet (Field data sheet 1)

Port name and ID		Date (day, month, year)	
Established (year)		Location (Lat. Long. In WGS84)	
Assessor(s) (name, surname)			
General description (General info about the port: size, area, what kind of cargo or people etc.)			
Recent construction (Description of any recent construction activities)			
Ship movements (Last port of call and next port of call)			
Main shipping routes			
Ballast water released (m ³)		Salinity max. (psu)	
Ballast water taken (m ³)		Salinity min. (psu)	
Ballast water origin (Lat., Long. in WGS84)		Sea surface T³ min. (°C)	
Habitat description		Sea surface T³ max. (°C)	
Existing monitoring		Sea floor min. T³ (°C)	
Adjacent waters		Sea floor. T³ max. (°C)	
		Tidal range (m)	

- **(Field data sheet 1)** Does it refer to 1 specific sampling site for 1 day of sampling?
- **(Port characteristics)** In what units these characteristics are to be defined? (size in km's? movement of goods?)
- **(Recent construction)** Examples of such activities should be included in parentheses for reference.
- **(Ships movements)** Needs explanation, What does it refer to? Does it mean all ship calls for a given day must be reported here?
- **(Main shipping routes)** - Too general?
- **(Ballast water taken, released, Ballast water origin (Lat., Long. in WGS84))** - Does it refer to ballast water taken/discharged in the whole port? 1 berth? Per day? This information might be very difficult to obtain.
- **(Salinity)** - Does it refer to the salinity in the whole port? Or it refers to salinity range only?
- **(Habitat description)** - Does it refer to the whole port or a specific berth/ sampling site?
- **(Temperature)** - Does it refer to the whole port? Are the temp values and salinity related to three sampling sites?



Criteria for quality assured laboratories

- Annex 2, p. 36 “All samples are to be analyzed by a quality assured laboratory (Appendix 2) to account for adequate taxonomic expertise... ISO/IEC quality assured laboratories are rare. However, other proofs of quality assurance are accepted as well. For example, participation in HELCOM quality assurance projects such as ZEN QAI and PEG intercalibration are considered adequate assurance of quality. In addition, any laboratory approved by national administrations can be considered quality assured. Executing party should contact the local laboratories prior to the sampling to obtain any specific instructions, equipment and/or materials concerning sample preservation and handling.”

- ⇒ **HELCOM ZEN QAI** - only standard of zooplankton monitoring
- ⇒ **PEG** – only standard for phytoplankton monitoring
- ⇒ **No standard for zoobenthos, fish and *Vibrio cholerae***

- ⇒ **More specific guidance needed in JHP?**
- ⇒ **Including in JHP an open list of qualified laboratories in HELCOM & OSPAR countries?**



2. Administrative procedures

Application process

- Responsibilities of involved administrations - (e.g. if both administrations of ports states have to issue exemptions for the same route or just the recipient port issues an exemptions?)
- Procedure of consultation with affected/neighbouring states?
- Who will conduct the intermediate survey in case of exemptions based on shared data on port sampling? What will be the requirements for intermediate survey in case of port data shared by various applicants? Guidance regarding intermediate review to be stated in the exemption decision?
- Withdrawals. Conditions to be specified in the Exemption form?



3. New issues

- **Sampling of Pathogens** – sampling, methods and developing thresholds, including in Risk Assessment Scheme.
- **Including Fish in Port Survey Protocol.**
- **Conditions for withdrawals of exemptions** – role of developing an early warning system for NIS in HELCOM and OSPAR regions?

Thank you!

