

Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Task Group on Ballast Water Management Convention Exemptions  
Eighth Meeting  
Helsinki, Finland, 16-17 November 2017

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<b>Document title</b>	Redevelopment of the Online Decision Support Tool
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<b>Category</b>	DEC
<b>Agenda Item</b>	5- Decision Support Tool
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## Background

The meeting of the Joint Task Group in 2015 agreed that the Online Decision Support Tool, which supports the Joint Harmonised Procedure, needed to be redeveloped to improve the visual appearance and to take into account the development of separate target species lists for the North East Atlantic and Baltic. To facilitate this the Secretariats developed a proposal for the redevelopment of the tool. The proposal has two phases as outlined below one for essential upgrades to ensure the continued functioning of the tool and one for desirable upgrades which would improve its functioning.

### Phase 1/ Priority:

- Upgrading to latest Oracle Apex version for enhanced tools, user interface and lay-out, to ease independent use of the tool by stakeholders (e.g. ports, shipping companies and national authorities);
- Implementing the two revised target species lists (endorsed by OSPAR & HELCOM in 2015) in the JHP tool.
- Double/Check verification of the Risk Assessment algorithm in the JHP tool runs correctly.

### Phase 2/ Desirable upgrades:

- Semi-automatic data upload function, to ensure ease of updating and quality control of data feeding the system;
- To consider and if feasible implement map (GIS) functionalities, to enhance visualization of the information in the tool;
- Automatic report generation, to enable ease of use of the tool results in exemption applications to national authorities according to IMO BWMC Regulation A-4;
- To consider and if feasible implement live links to existing Europe non-indigenous species databases (such as DAISIE and AquaNIS), to maximize synergies with other data sources.

The OSPAR secretariat was able to access funding to undertake the first phase of priority improvements and Brockmann Consilt were contracted to undertake the work during autumn 2016/ Spring 2017. The upgraded tool can be found at [jointbwmxemptions.org](http://jointbwmxemptions.org). The HELCOM Secretariat has also managed to secure additional funding to undertake the second phase of work through the COMPLETE project (see Document 8-1), which started on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

## Action required

The Meeting is invited to review and discuss the Phase 2 upgrades and highlight any other desirable upgrades to the tool that would improve its functionality.