

Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Task Group on Ballast Water Management Convention Exemptions  
Ninth Meeting  
Gothenburg, Sweden, 13-14 December 2018

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Dear members of the JTG Ballast,

With a view to prepare the upcoming ninth meeting of the JTG Ballast, taking place in Gothenburg, Sweden from 13.-14. December 2018, we would like to share with you our priorities and next steps in reviewing the JHP.

Looking at the input we received to our second questionnaire during the last intersessional period (see document 3-1) and the expected input from the COMPLETE project on target species selection criteria (WP 3.1) and the decision support tool (WP 3.2) (documents to be submitted), we would like to prioritize at the next meeting in Gothenburg the following aspects:

1. Target species selection criteria / further guidance for the expert group updating the target species list
2. Technical updates and modifications to the online decision support tool
3. Content of the new Chapter 7 (see document 3-2), including an update on the SRA concept and related research results

Finally, we have also prepared a checklist of essential elements that should be included in a template for an exemption issued by the administration(s) (see document 3-3) for your consideration and further input.

As discussed at our last meeting, the results of our deliberations will be reflected in the table 'Current status of amendments to the Joint Harmonized Procedure (JHP) to ease the final revisions in 2020-21 (see [Outcome of JTG Ballast 8-2017-Rev.1](#), para. 3.10 and Annex 7).

We look forward to seeing you soon in Gothenburg!

Susanne Heitmüller and Henrik Ramstedt (Co-Chairs).