

Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Task Group on Ballast Water Management Convention Exemptions
Ninth Meeting
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Document title	Items for the new chapter (Chapter 7) on the final risk assessment
Code	3-2
Category	DEC
Agenda Item	3 - Updates to the Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Harmonized Procedure (JHP) on the Granting of BWM Convention Exemptions
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Submitted by	Co-Chairs
Reference	

Background

In the questionnaires circulated during the intersessional periods between HELCOM/OSPAR TG BALLAST 7-2016 and HELCOM/OSPAR TG BALLAST 9-2018, proposals have been brought forward on items to be included in a new chapter on the final risk assessment.

This document contains the proposals received which are grouped to facilitate the upcoming work.

Action required

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information and take action as appropriate.

Items for the new chapter (Chapter 7) on the final risk assessment

In the questionnaires circulated during the intersessional periods between HELCOM/OSPAR TG BALLAST 7-2016 and HELCOM/OSPAR TG BALLAST 9-2018, proposals have been brought forward on items to be included in a new chapter on the final risk assessment. Below the proposals are compiled and grouped to facilitate the upcoming work.

Role of expert judgement

- The role of expert judgement besides web based risk assessment tool has to be underlined.
- Clarify the role of expert knowledge (e.g. that expert judgement should only be able to question the result of high risk according to the RA tool if it is verified by a neutral expert panel).

Tiered approach for risk assessment

- On the basis of the results of the support tool, one may decide to do a more detailed risk assessment before taking a decision on the exemption. This more detailed risk assessment may focus for example on the potential medium/high risk target species, which were identified by the OSPAR/HELCOM decision support tool. When this more detailed risk assessment is done, all available data can be used, including data collected outside of the JHP port surveys.

Additional data on alien species

- Data on alien species monitoring under MSFD and also EU Regulation 1143/2014 on Invasive Alien Species.
- Further sources of information/data (e.g. AquaNIS).
- Monitoring data from nearby areas including COMBINE results.
- Generate a list of surveyed ports of Baltic and OSPAR regions that are most relevant for A-4 exemptions, with data from other sources as well as the task of HELCOM/OSPAR TG BALLAST.
- Verification and validation of data used in the risk assessment, if other data than port survey data is used, e.g. single observations and data from citizen science investigations and monitoring.

Case specific target species evaluation

- Focus for example on the potential medium/high risk target species, which are identified by the tool. When this more detailed risk assessment is done, all available data can be used, including data collected outside of the JHP port surveys.

Natural spread

- Same Risk Area concept.

Consideration of other relevant publications

- Consider results of former related research projects in the OSPAR and HELCOM area (NSBWO and ALIEN projects).
- Build up of a database on literature/publications to be taken into consideration.

Shipping information

- History of species distribution and the history of shipping in the affected ports (e.g. an invasive species has been established in one port for a long time but not in the other port even though ships have been on the route between these port for many years - could this indicate low risk for this particular species?).

Seasonal variations/climate

- Regional differences in climate that might influence on species ability to establish due to seasonal variations e.g. low/high temperature and ice as well as occurrence of extreme weather conditions such as heavy rains and floods.

Change of risk level

- Considerations if an increased risk level (e.g. if new species are introduced) can be accepted during the exemption period due to limited possibilities to immediately withdraw an exemption.