



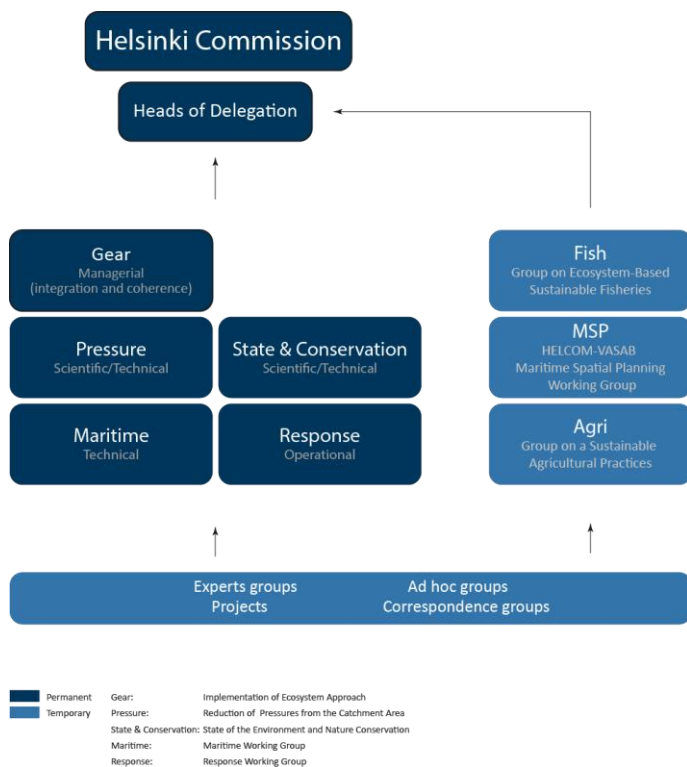
Document title	Outcomes of recent HELCOM meetings and information on upcoming HELCOM meetings
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Agenda Item	2 - Matters arising from other HELCOM and VASAB meetings
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Background

The attached document (attachment 1) contains extracts from outcomes of recent HELCOM meetings, which are relevant for HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG, as well as information on some upcoming HELCOM meetings.

A list of upcoming meetings within HELCOM as well as other relevant/major meetings in 2016 can be found in attachment 2 to facilitate scheduling of activities of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG. Additional information on past and upcoming HELCOM meetings can be found in the [HELCOM Meeting Portal](#). Documents and presentations of past meetings are publicly available.

The below organogram shows the working structure of HELCOM.



Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

Attachment 1

Outcomes of recent HELCOM meetings and information on upcoming HELCOM meetings

Past meetings

STATE & CONSERVATION 3-2015, Helsinki, Finland, 9-13 November 2015

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Mapping of landscape and biotopes

6J.1 The Meeting took note of the reported national metadata on biotopes, as presented by the Secretariat (document 6J-1) and the available data for development of distribution maps for non-benthic species (document 6J-2) and discussed for which habitats, biotopes and species HELCOM should aim to develop Baltic-wide maps, as a first step to support assessments under the HOLAS II project.

6J.2 The Meeting took note of the information from Finland on national mapping activities carried out under the VELMU programme (**Presentation 7**). The programme has covered benthic habitats, fish spawning areas and species observations on e.g. *Zostera*, *Fucus*, *Furcellaria* and *Stuckenia pectinata*. Species distribution modelling of *Zostera*, *Fucus*, *Mytilus* and *Potamogeton perfoliatus* has also been carried out.

6J.3 The Meeting proposed to make use of available landscape maps for the Baltic Sea, currently being updated by EUSeaMap, and for EU Member States to provide maps on the habitats as defined in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive, and 'predominant habitats' according to the MSFD, i.e. at EUNIS level 2.

6J.4 The Meeting proposed to develop maps for selected species, as a starting point for the species listed in the BSAP (*Fucus* spp., *Zostera marina*, *Mytilus* spp., *Furcellaria lumbricalis* and *Charales*) and complement the list as needed and feasible. The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to inform to the Secretariat on availability of data and existing maps (shapefiles) for these species (joni.kaitaranta@helcom.fi) by **30 November 2015**. The Meeting took note that the Secretariat will make a call for relevant data and existing national maps in late 2015 or early 2016.

6J.5 The Meeting proposed that when developing maps for non-benthic species (document 6J-2), the focus would be on the distribution or functional habitats for harbor porpoise, seals, selected birds and fish species and recognized the need to collect new data and information to support the development.

6J.6 The Meeting proposed to make the best use of available data as regards both commercial and non-commercial fish species, as well as to consider selecting species based on the interest towards them from both the commercial and biodiversity perspective, potentially also considering linkages to ecosystem services. The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to propose for which fish species to focus the development effort by **30 November 2015**.

6J.7 The Meeting recalled that the follow-up of HELCOM Recommendation 34E/1 'Safeguarding important bird habitats and migration routes in the Baltic Sea from negative effects of wind and wave energy production at sea' will provide maps related to Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and migration routes for birds. The Meeting welcomed the information that Germany is prepared to look into the possibility to support the development of data layers on birds.

6J.8 The Meeting took note of the information by Germany that the European Seabird at Sea database should be used for assessing issues related to birds.

Monitoring of benthic habitats

6J.9 The Meeting took note of the activities of the intersessional network on benthic habitat monitoring and noted that one physical meeting has been held jointly with the Marmoni project in January 2015. The Meeting noted the possibility to convene a meeting of the network back-to-back with an international seminar to be held in Tallinn between mid-December 2015 and mid-January 2016.

6J.10 The Meeting noted that the definitions for the terms 'landscape' and 'detailed landscape mapping' have been discussed in the network, as requested by State and Conservation 2-2015, but not yet concluded and that the issue will be further discussed with the view of informing State and conservation 4-2016.

6J.11 The Meeting suggested the network to initiate intersessional communication as soon as possible to plan for the future work of the network.

6J.12 The Meeting agreed that the Secretariat together with the Chair will propose a revision of the current Terms of Reference for the network in order to reflect the new tasks placed for the network by HOD 48-2015, which will be communicated with the network. The Meeting further agreed that the new draft ToR will be circulated to State and Conservation contacts for a one-month commenting period.

6J.13 The Meeting noted the information from Germany on a workshop on marine biotope mapping for conservation purposes in the Baltic and North Sea areas that will be organized on the Isle of Vilm between 30 November and 2 December 2015.

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[FISH 3-2015, Warsaw, Poland, 26-27 November 2015](#)

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2.8 The Meeting noted that as regards fisheries and maritime spatial planning, the HELCOM Secretariat is a partner in the project Baltic Scope (Towards coherence and cross-border solution in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans), and the Secretariat's role in the project is to provide shipping related input as well as a synthesis on MSP and maritime activities in general which will be published as part of the Maritime Assessment (section 5 in document 2-2). The Meeting suggested that a representative of the SCOPE project should be invited to the next meeting of the FISH group to present interactions between fisheries and MSP.

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[HOD 49-2015 Helsinki, Finland, 10-11 December 2015](#)

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3.3 The Meeting tentatively agreed that the next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting will be held in 2018. The exact timing will be decided as soon as possible based on knowledge of other events on the international agenda and the development of the priority topics identified and invited the Secretariat to start preparations.

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MSP WG

4.139 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the Eleventh Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 11-2015), Riga, Latvia, 30 September-1 October 2015 (document 4-1).

4.140 The Meeting took note that the Guideline for the implementation of ecosystem-based approach in Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Baltic Sea has been agreed by the Working Group and requested, to consider the conservation aspects in accordance with the ecosystem approach, that the guidelines are consulted with State and Conservation WG before the adoption by HOD.

4.141 The Meeting approved organizing of the next meeting of the Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 12-2016) tentatively on 25-26 February 2016 in Poland, and noted that a workshop on MSP is planned by Poland to be held back-to-back with the meeting.

4.142 The Meeting took note that the work of the newly established Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-Group (BSR MSP Data ESG) has started with the first meeting held on 1-2 October 2015, in Riga, Latvia.

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7.1 The Meeting agreed to hold the next meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation (HOD 50-2016) on 15-16 June 2016 and welcomed the offer of Estonia to host the meeting.

Upcoming meetings

[HELCOM 37-2016, Helsinki, Finland, 10-11 March 2016](#)

The Annual Meeting of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM 37-2016) will among other things discuss the prolongation of the work of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and possible working topics for the future. Mr. Jacek Zaucha, Chair of VASAB CSPD/BSR and Mr. Talis Linkaits, Head of VASAB Secretariat, have been invited to attend the meeting. Consideration of this issue is planned to continue in the course of the year.

Attachment 2

List of meetings in the framework of HELCOM as well as other meetings in 2016

Date and place	Name of Meeting
9-10 February 2016 Malaga, Spain	EU Red List of Habitats Final Synthesis Workshop
10-11 February 2016 Helsinki, Finland	Tenth Meeting of the Sixth Baltic Sea Pollution Load Compilation Project (PLC-6 10-2016)
10-11 February 2016 Berlin, Germany	13th Meeting of the Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (GEAR 13-2016)
11-12-February 2016 Copenhagen, Denmark	HELCOM BalticBOOST Workshop on the HOLAS II Biodiversity assessment tool (HELCOM BalticBOOST Biodiv WS 1-2016)
16-18 February 2016 Riga, Latvia	3rd Meeting of the continuation of the project on Baltic-wide assessment of coastal fish communities in support of ecosystem-based management (FISH-PRO II 3-2016)
16-17 February 2016, Tallinn, Estonia	1 st Meeting of the intersessional network on benthic biotope monitoring
17 February 2016 London, U.K.	Inter Secretariat meeting of EMSA, DG ECHO and Regional Seas Conventions
23 February 2016 Gdansk, Poland	70 th Meeting of the VASAB CSPD/BSR
24 February 2016 Gdansk, Poland	VASAB Workshop on Assessment of Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020
24-25 February 2016 Gdansk, Poland	Twelfth Meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 12-2016)
29 February 2016 Brussels, Belgium	EU MSFD WG Economic and Social Analysis (ESA)
29 February – 2 March 2016 Copenhagen, Denmark	WKD1Agg - Workshop on providing a method to aggregate species within species groups for the assessment of GES for MSFD D1
2 March 2016 Brussels, Belgium	Workshop on MSFD and licencing, authorisation and permitting procedures
2-3 March 2016 Venue TBC	SCOPE project steering committee meeting
7-8 March 2016 Sopot, Poland	Annual Meeting of the Informal Working Group on Aerial Surveillance (IWGAS 2016)
9 March 2016 Helsinki (MCC)	HELCOM Stakeholder Conference on Marine Litter
10-11 March 2016 Helsinki (MCC)	37 th Meeting of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM 37-2016)
14-17 March 2016 Copenhagen, Denmark	WKIND3.3 - Workshop on guidance on development of operational methods for the evaluation of the MSFD criterion D3.3. Phase-I
14-15 March 2016	8th meeting of the Member States Expert Group on Maritime Spatial

Madrid, Spain	Planning
15-17 March 2016 Stockholm, Sweden	21 st Meeting of the Response Working Group (RESPONSE 21-2016)
18-19 March 2016 Copenhagen, Denmark	WKGEFish - Workshop on guidance on the practical methodology for delivering an MSFD GES assessment on D3 for an MSFD region/subregion
22-23 March 2016 St. Petersburg, Russia	XVII International Environmental Forum «Baltic Sea Day»
5-6 April 2016 Tartu, Estonia	Third Meeting of the Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (AGRI 3-2016)
7 April 2016 Brussels, Belgium	EU Marine Strategy Coordination Group (MSCG)
11-15 April 2016 Germany	Fourth Meeting of the HELCOM Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation (STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016)
12-13 April 2016, Gothenburg, Sweden	Third Meeting of the Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Group (BSR MSP Data EG 3-2016)
12-13 April 2016 Tallinn, Estonia	Fifth Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Group on Environmental Risks of Hazardous Submerged Objects (SUBMERGED 5-2016)
13-14 April 2016, Gdansk, Poland	PA NUTRI Steering Committee meeting and Stakeholder seminar
[13-14 April 2016 Brussels, Belgium]	EU MSFD WG Data, Information and Knowledge Exchange (DIKE)]
[8-22 April 2016 London, U.K.	69 th Session of IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC)
19-21 April 2016 Gothenburg, Sweden	Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (PRESSURE 4-2016)
21-22 April 2016 Brussels, Belgium	EU MSFD WG Good Environmental Status (GES)
21-22 April 2016 Berlin, Germany	Baltic LINes project kick-off
26-28 April 2016 Venue TBC	Fifth Meeting of the Project for the development of the second holistic assessment of the Baltic Sea (HOLAS II 5-2016)
[2 second week May 2016] [Sweden]	Workshop on fish related indicators
2-5 May 2016 [Sweden]	Fourth Meeting of the Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable fisheries (FISH 4-2016)
18-20 May 2016 Turku, Finland	European Maritime Day
19-20 May 2016 Brussels, Belgium	EU Marine Strategy Coordination Group (MSCG)
24-26 May 2016 Uppsala, Sweden	Sixth Meeting of the Expert Group on Monitoring of Radioactive Substances in the Baltic Sea (MORS EG 6-2016)

31 May – 2 June 2016 St. Petersburg, Russia	27 th Meeting of the Expert Working Group for Mutual Exchange and Deliveries of AIS & Data (AIS EWG 27-2016)
31 May 2016 Brussels, Belgium	EU MSFD Marine environment and fisheries workshop
31 May - 1 June 2016 Copenhagen, Denmark	WKFBFI - Workshop on guidance on how pressure maps of fishing intensity contribute to an assessment of the state of seabed habitats
8-9 June 2016 Azores	MSP Conference
9-10 June 2016 Azores	9th meeting of the Member States Expert Group on Maritime Spatial Planning
9-10 June 2016 Amsterdam, Netherlands	EU Water and Marine Directors' meeting
15-16 June 2016 Estonia	50th Meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation (HOD 50-2016)
Before 20 June 2016	Fourth Meeting of the Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Group (BSR MSP Data EG 4-2016)
21-22 June 2016 Klaipeda, Lithuania	HELCOM BALEX DELTA 2016
early summer or 14-15 September 2016 Venue TBC by OSPAR	Seventh Meeting of the Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Task Group on Ballast Water Management Convention Exemptions (HELCOM-OSPAR TG BALLAST 7-2016)
27 June – 1 July 2016 Spain	Meeting of the OSPAR Commission
30 August – 1 September 2016 Helsinki, Finland	8th Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS
during week 5-9 September 2016 Estonia	16th Meeting of the Maritime Working Group (MARITIME 16-2016)
12-16 September 2016 Germany	The 8. International Phosphorus Workshop
27-28 September 2016 Brussels, Belgium	EU MSFD WG Data, Information and Knowledge Exchange (DIKE)
29 September 2016 Denmark	Seventh Meeting of the HELCOM Group of Experts on Safety of Navigation (SAFE NAV 7-2016)
4-5 October 2016 Brussels, Belgium	EU MSFD WG Economic and Social Analysis (ESA)
[4-5/5-6 October 2016] [tbd]	HELCOM BalticBOOST workshop on underwater noise
11-12 October 2016 Brussels, Belgium	EU MSFD WG Good Environmental Status (GES)

24-25 October 2016 Hamburg, Germany	10th meeting of the Member States Expert Group on Maritime Spatial Planning
24-28 October 2016	Fifth Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (PRESSURE 5-2016)
[24-28 October 2016] London, U.K.	70 th Session of IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC)
[end of October 2016 Latvia]	22 nd Meeting of the HELCOM Response Working Group (RESPONSE 22-2016)
7-11 November 2016 [Estonia]	Fifth Meeting of the HELCOM Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation (STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016)
8-9 November 2016 Stockholm, Sweden	Annual EUSBRS Stakeholder Forum
9-10 November 2016 Brussels, Belgium	EU Marine Strategy Coordination Group (MSCG)
23-24 November 2016 Riga, Latvia	2 nd Baltic MSP Forum and Final Baltic SCOPE conference
28-29 November 2016 Bratislava, Slovakia	EU Water, Marine and Nature Directors' meeting
December 2016 tbd	51st Meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation (HOD 51-2016)