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<b>Document title</b>	Extracts from recent HELCOM events
<b>Code</b>	2-4
<b>Category</b>	INF
<b>Agenda Item</b>	2 – Matters arising from other HELCOM and VASAB work
<b>Submission date</b>	27.4.2018
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<b>Reference</b>	

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## Background

This document contains extracts from relevant HELCOM meetings held since HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 15-2017:

- 6th Meeting of the Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries ([FISH 7-2017](#)), Copenhagen, Denmark, 14-15 November 2017;
- 53rd Meeting of the Heads of Delegation ([HOD 53-2017](#)), Helsinki, Finland 12-13 December 2017;
- the 39th meeting of Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission ([HELCOM 39-2018](#)), Brussels, Belgium, 5 March 2018;
- The 8th Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area ([PRESSURE 8-2018](#)), Berlin, Germany, 18-20 April 2018.

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

## Extracts from the relevant meetings.

### FISH 7-2017

- 2.14 The Meeting took note of the recommendations from the Baltic SCOPE project (document 2-2).
- 2.15 The Meeting highlighted that regional maps of fish nursery areas and other essential habitats were not available and requested that HELCOM Fish should be informed of any events on this topic (whether PanBaltic SCOPE, HELCOM or any other initiative).
- 2.16 The Meeting highlighted also that Baltic-wide maps on a number of other fisheries related topics (e.g. vessels smaller than 12m) were not available and that further regional work on these would be needed.
- 2.17 The Meeting recalled the work of the dedicated regional group on MSP, the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group, established in 2010, which convenes competent marine planning authorities of the Baltic Sea coastal states.
- 2.18 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to include fish and fisheries related outcomes of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG, including dates of national MSP consultations, to the document on outcomes of HELCOM meetings submitted regularly to the meetings of HELCOM Fish and to similarly inform HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG of the outcomes of HELCOM Fish.
- 3.2 The Meeting agreed to task the Secretariat to on a regular basis share information on HELCOM Fish work plans, provisional agendas of meetings, outcome documents including main recommendations and decisions, with BALTFISH Chair and suggested further that fisheries and MSP-related information, considered within the Contracting Parties or the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG should be included.
- 8.6 The Meeting welcomed the confirmation (c.f. Outcome FISH 6-2017 § 8.3) of Poland to host the next meeting of the Group and agreed that the next meeting of the Group will be held in Warsaw, Poland tentatively on 23-24 May 2018.

### HOD 53-2017

- 3.23 The Meeting endorsed the following draft revised HELCOM Recommendations and agreed that they are forwarded to HELCOM 39-2018 for adoption, including draft revised Recommendations 34E/2, 19/10 and 10/11 pending the clarification of a Danish study reservation by 21 December 2017:
- HELCOM Recommendation 34E/2 “Further testing and developing the concept of pro-active route planning as well as other e-navigation solutions to enhance safety of navigation and protection of the marine environment in the Baltic Sea Region” (document 3-1, Attachment 1);
  - HELCOM Recommendation 19/10 “Application by the Baltic Sea States of guidelines for holding tanks/oily water separating or filtering equipment for ships of less than 400 tons gross tonnage” (document 3-1, Attachment 2);
  - HELCOM Recommendation 10/11 “International co-operation on liability for damage resulting from vessel-based pollution” (document 3-1, Attachment 3).
  - HELCOM Recommendation 36/3 “Marine pollution incident reporting and requests for assistance between Contracting Parties in the Baltic Sea area” (document 3-1, Attachment 4)
  - HELCOM Recommendation 15/1 ‘Protection of the coastal strip’, (document 3-2, Attachment 1);
  - HELCOM Recommendation 19/3 on ‘The Manual for the Marine Monitoring in the Combine Programme of HELCOM’ (document 3-2, Attachment 2);

- HELCOM Recommendation 24/10 'Implementation of Integrated Marine and Coastal Management of Human Activities in the Baltic Sea Area'

3.27 The Meeting welcomed and approved the final draft of the HELCOM Maritime Assessment (document 3-12) together with the technical comments to the HELCOM Maritime Assessment provided by Germany (Document 3-21).

4.3 The Meeting took note of the information on the approval by the Heads of Delegation of the recommendation by the recruitment panel (established based on HOD 51-2016, para 7.6) and appointment of Mr. Markus Helavuori for the post of HELCOM Professional Secretary for Maritime, Response and Fish groups initially for three years as from 1 March 2018.

#### HELCOM 39-2018

3.1 The Meeting considered HELCOM input to the process of establishing environmental targets for underwater noise (document 3-5).

3.2 The Meeting took note that the study reservation by Russia remains on the document. Russia is of the view that the need for further scientific knowledge should be stressed in the document and that economic interest should be taken into account.

3.6 The Meeting took note that Poland could not agree on the revised Recommendation 24/10 'Implementation of integrated Marine and Coastal Management of Human Activities in the Baltic Sea Area' and invited Poland to clarify the reservation at the next meeting of the State & Conservation Working Group.

3.18 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the CBD Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in the Baltic Sea, held on 20-24 February 2018 in Helsinki, Finland, as presented by Ms. Penina Blankett, co-Chair of the State and Conservation Working Group (document 3-10).

5.6 The Meeting considered the applications for observer status to HELCOM by Race For The Baltic, Waste Free Oceans Foundation and Baltic Sea Action Group (document 5-3) and granted observer status to these organizations.

#### PRESSURE 8-2018

3.13 The Meeting took note of the suggestions on work forward on a regional approach to the problem of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear.

3.15 The Meeting agreed to develop a regional survey taking into account the comments given by the Meeting.

#### Agenda Item 5 Physical damage to the sea floor

5.1 The Meeting considered the method used for evaluation of environmental pressure caused by dredging/depositing operations at sea (document 5-1).