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<b>Document title</b>	Matters arising from other HELCOM groups
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<b>Agenda Item</b>	2 - Matters arising from other HELCOM and VASAB work
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## Background

The document contains extracts from relevant HELCOM meetings held since HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 18-2019:

- Outcome of the 56<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Heads of Delegation (HOD 56-2019), Helsinki, Finland, 18-19 June 2019;
- Outcome of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Group of Experts on Safety of Navigation (SAFE NAV 10-2019), Stockholm, Sweden, 19 September 2019;
- Outcome of the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Maritime Working Group (MARITIME 19-2019), Lisbon, 23-26 September 2019.

## Action requested

The meeting is invited to take note of the information.

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## Extract from recent HELCOM events

HOD 56-2019

### Agenda Item 2      Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

2.5            The Meeting took note that the template for synopses on potential new HELCOM actions has been submitted to HELCOM subsidiary bodies including Observers to the Groups, as agreed by HELCOM 40-2019, and also distributed to BONUS projects. As outlined in the work plan, the synopses are to be submitted to the Secretariat by the end of 2019 and will be reviewed by HELCOM Working Group meetings in spring 2020.

2.6            The Meeting noted the lack of Lead countries on biodiversity and agreed to organize HELCOM workshops, in autumn 2019, to contribute to the SOM analyses. The Meeting noted that the workshops will likely be held in association to planned meetings for EG MAMA, EN Benthic and JWG Birds, either as part of the planned meetings or by extending the meetings by one day. The Meeting noted that a dedicated workshop on migratory fish will be proposed at FISH 10-2019.

2.7            The Meeting welcomed that Finland is looking into the possibility to take the lead on migratory fish.

2.8            The Meeting took note of the request by Russia to clarify which expertise is required for participation in the SOM Platform meetings. Russia, furthermore, emphasized the importance for Chairs of HELCOM Working Groups to participate in the SOM Platform meetings and that Working Groups should have a clear role in reviewing the progress of work on the SOM analyses. The Meeting noted that Russia is seeking support for participating more actively in the ACTION project.

2.25           The Meeting noted that the activity-pressure mapping included in document 2-4 is interim, based on, e.g., results from HOLAS II, PLC, HELCOM TAPAS project, while an evaluation of how much different activities contribute to specific pressures is ongoing through the analyses of sufficiency of measures (SOM). The final activity-pressure mapping will be presented for validation by HELCOM Working Groups.

2.30           The Meeting took note of the presentation by Ms. Anna Jöborn, member of the Executive Planning Group for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for sustainable development (**Presentation 2**) and the invitation for HELCOM to contribute to the Decade of Ocean Science.

2.31           The Meeting thanked Ms. Jöborn for the presentation and considered the Decade of Ocean Science as a valuable opportunity coinciding with the elaboration of a HELCOM Science Agenda.

2.33           The Meeting agreed to prepare a HELCOM voluntary commitment to the UN 2020 Ocean Conference on HELCOM contribution to UN Decade of Ocean Science and the Task Group is assigned to develop a proposal.

2.34           The Meeting considered the topics for the High-Level Segment of HELCOM 41-2020 (document 2-5) and, taking into account the limited time reserved for the segment, suggested to focus on two main topics: update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and HELCOM global outreach including voluntary commitments to UN Ocean Conference 2020 (on the update of the BSAP, on the UN Decade of Ocean Science, and on sharing experiences with other Regional Seas Conventions). Regarding BSAP update, the Meeting discussed that the work on sufficiency of measures analysis would be interesting to present. The Meeting also took note of suggestions that working towards a global agreement on marine litter and the impact of climate change on oceans could be interesting topics for debate.

2.35           The Meeting took note of the suggestion by CCB that ecosystem-based management and the status of the East Baltic cod could be discussed in the High-Level Segment.

2.36           The Meeting invited the Secretariat to further elaborate on the topics to produce a general outline for autumn 2019 and a proposal for the agenda for HOD 57-2019.

**Agenda item 3 Matters arising from the HELCOM Groups**

3.80 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 18-2019) held on 27-28 March 2019 in Hamburg, Germany (document 3-2).

**Agenda item 4 HELCOM institutional and organisational matters**

4.12 The Meeting considered, commented and approved the updated post description, vacancy announcement and the timetable for the recruitment of Professional Secretary for the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (Pressure), the Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (Agri) and the HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (MSP WG) (document 4-1) as well as advised the Executive Secretary on further actions as outlined on the cover page of document 4-2.

4.13 The Meeting nominated the following three members Russia, Germany, and Estonia (in addition to the ex officio members, i.e., the Chair and the Executive Secretary of the Commission) to the Recruitment Panel to conduct the selection procedure of the Professional Secretary for Pressure, Agri and Maritime Spatial Planning groups.

**SAFE NAV 10-2019****Agenda item 5 New and existing routeing measures in the Baltic Sea**

5.5 The Meeting noted information on changes to the border points in the Danish and Polish EEZ (Presentation 3). The Meeting noted that the changes have an impact on routeing measures, relating closely also to Agenda Item 6. The Meeting invited Poland to liaise directly with the Swedish Maritime Administration regarding updating the maps available on their website. The Meeting further agreed that this matter should be raised with the BSHC as it is not within the mandate of SAFE NAV.

5.6 The Meeting noted a question by Estonia on how to address risk assessments for wind farms considering ship safety in the area, and how this should be addressed as part of environmental impact assessments conducted by the developing companies. In this context, the Meeting noted the relevance of the IMO general provisions on ships' routeing (IMO Resolution A.572(14) as amended by MSC.419(97)).

5.7 The Meeting also noted that the matter is related to Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and requires cooperation between the national authorities involved in routeing measures and MSP, respectively. The Meeting emphasized that safety of navigation is to be considered regardless of whether the planned wind farms are in national or international waters. The Meeting invited the HELCOM-VASAP MSP Working Group to take note of this discussion.

**MARITIME 19-2019****Agenda Item 10 Safety of navigation and related matters***Baltic Sea accident data*

10.9 The Meeting approved the report for publishing, pending any corrections necessary based on the comments provided by the Meeting and SAFE NAV 10-2019.

10.10 The Meeting noted that EMCIP will be used as the primary source of accidents data in future reports, starting with accidents that occurred in 2019.