



Document title	Outcomes of working groups' meetings
Code	3-14
Category	DEC
Agenda Item	3 - Matters arising from the HELCOM Groups
Submission date	21.11.2017
Submitted by	Executive Secretary
Reference	

Background

The outcomes of the following HELCOM meetings are available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal:

- The 23rd Meeting of the Response Working Group ([RESPONSE 23-2017](#)), 14-16 June 2017, Helsinki, Finland (briefly and orally presented in HOD 52-2017).
- The 17th Meeting of the HELCOM Maritime Working Group ([MARITIME 17-2017](#)), 10-12 October 2017, St. Petersburg, Russia.
- The Seventh Meeting of HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries ([FISH 7-2017](#)) to be held on 14-15 November 2017 in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- The Eight Meeting of the Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Task Group on Ballast Water Management Convention Exemptions ([HELCOM/OSPAR TG BALLAST 8-2017](#)) 16-17 November 2017 in Helsinki, Finland.
- The 7th Meeting of the Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation ([STATE & CONSERVATION 7-2017](#)), 23-27 October 2017, Sopot, Poland.
- The 7th Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area ([PRESSURE 7-2017](#)), 24-26 October 2017, Vilnius, Lithuania.
- Workshop on implementation of the RAP ML ([WS RAP ML 2-2017](#)), 23 October 2017, Vilnius, Lithuania.
- The 15th Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group ([HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 15-2017](#)), 7-8 November, Warsaw, Poland.
- The Fifth Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices ([AGRI 5-2017](#)), 9-10 November 2017, Helsinki, Finland.

Essential issues for HODs attention

An extract of the main outcomes of the meetings is provided in the Attachment. Parts of the outcomes included in other documents to HOD 53-2017 are not repeated in the Attachment.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

Take note:

- of the outcomes of the meetings of the working groups including the essential issues listed in this document,
- that HELCOM MARITIME re-elected Ms. Anna Petersson, Sweden, as Chair and Ms. Natalia Kutaeva, Russia, and Mr. Jorma Kämäräinen, Finland, as Vice-Chairs of HELCOM MARITIME for the next two-year period (2018-2019),

-
- that the Fish group tasked the Secretariat to on a regular basis share information with BALTFISH Chair and that the FISH WG should be informed of the correspondence.
- that the Fish group raised the issue of prolongation of the Fish group mandate beyond 2019 and plans to discuss the issue at its next meeting (FISH 8-2018 May 2018 in Warsaw, Poland)
- of the Terms of Reference for Correspondence Group on fisheries data for operationalizing indicators used for the purposes of MSFD implementation, for the CPs which are also EU members (CG FISHDATA) with the task to develop the roadmap via the workshop and subsequent correspondence (c.f. outcome of FISH 7-2017, Agenda Item 5, Annex 3) as included in Annex 1 of this document.
- that no progress has been achieved on the draft Recommendation on biotopes, habitats and biotope complexes. All Contracting Parties with the exception of Denmark can endorse the Recommendation as it stands and Denmark has been asked to reconsider their position.
- that with involvement of State & Conservation and GEAR more detailed planning of the indicator work beyond the HOLAS II project has started, including consideration of maintenance and development of HELCOM indicators, frequency of updating the indicators and the possibility for automatization of the indicator process.

The Meeting is also invited to:

1. approve the prolongation of the mandate of the RESPONSE Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR) until end of 2018.
2. approve the updated ToRs of CG Aquaculture (c.f. Annex 2, outcome of FISH 7-2017), as included in Annex 2.
3. approve HELCOM GREEN TEAM Work Plan for 2018-2019 (c.f. Annex 3, outcome of MARITIME 17-2017) as included in Annex 3.
4. agree on HELCOM engagement in a joint project application on updating regional response manuals on chemical spills (for HELCOM: Response Manual volume II) to the DG ECHO together with, Mediterranean (REMPEC), North Sea (BONN) as well as possibly also other regional secretariats as well as member state institutions as project partners.
5. note the Agri group highlighted that further work on nutrient recycling matters require financial support and invited the Secretariat to seek for the opportunities to apply for appropriate funding.
6. agree to renew the Secretariat mandate to submit a proposal for a new MPA project relating to tools, management and updating the HELCOM MPA guidelines, for external funding.
7. approve the organization of the following meetings:
 - a workshop in early 2018 as part of the HELCOM FISH Correspondence Group FISHDATA (c.f. outcome of FISH 7-2017, Agenda Item 5, Annex 3)
 - RESPONSE 24-2018, 10-12 April 2018, Klaipeda, Lithuania
 - MARITIME 18-2018, 25-27 September 2018, Hamburg, Germany
 - FISH 8-2018, 23-24 May 2018, Warsaw, Poland
 - HELCOM/OSPAR TG BALLAST 9-2018, tentatively 14-15 November 2018 pending confirmation of the host
 - STATE & CONSERVATION 8-2018, 14-18 May 2018, pending confirmation of the host
 - PRESSURE 8-2017, 18-20 April 2018, tentatively in Berlin, Germany
 - PRESSURE 9-2018, during the week from 8-12 October 2018, pending confirmation of the host

- HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 16-2018, 7-8 May 2018, Helsinki, Finland
- AGRI 6-2018, 15-16 May 2018, Riga, Latvia
- CG Aquaculture in May-June 2018, Åland, Finland

RESPONSE 23- 2017

- recalled that the mandate for EWG OWR has been extended until 2017 and agreed on a prolongation of the group's mandate until 2018 to facilitate the development of national preparedness in oiled wildlife response in the region.
- supported the idea of a joint application on updating regional response manuals on chemical spills (for HELCOM: Response Manual volume II) to the DG ECHO Call 2018, if eligible, with the Baltic Sea (HELCOM), Mediterranean (REMPEC), North Sea (BONN) as well as possibly also other regional secretariats as well as member state institutions as project partners.
- decided to close the TG HNS and thanked all the countries which contributed to the work, recalling that the latest outcome of the TG is available (document 11.1-2) and that the foreseen project will be a possible opportunity to continue the work which was initiated in the TG.
- took note of the information by Sweden on BALEX DELTA 2018 supported by a Project which has received funding from the EU and is running since 1 May 2017. Three planning conferences are anticipated and all Contracting Parties are invited.
- recalled that according to decision by RESPONSE 15-2012 the host for BALEX DELTA up to 2021 are 2017 Russia, 2018 Sweden, 2019 Denmark, 2020 Estonia and 2021 Finland and recalled the decision by RESPONSE 20-2015 that starting from BALEX DELTA 2017 the exercises will be held in August.
- The Meeting decided that the hosts for BALEX DELTA up to 2025 are: Germany 2022, Latvia 2023, Lithuania 2024, Poland 2025 and Russia 2026.
- decided that there is no need for TG POLREP anymore, discontinued the TG and thanked TG POLREP members and particularly the chair Ojars Gerke for the valuable work.
- decided that the next meeting of the Group (RESPONSE 24-2018) will be held on 10-12 April 2018 and welcomed the kind offer by Lithuania to host the Meeting in Klaipeda.
- welcomed the offer by Germany to host the second HELCOM RESPONSE meeting in autumn 2018.

MARITIME 17-2017

- recalled that the 2004 IMO Ballast Water Management Convention (BWMC) entered into force on 8 September 2017 and the remaining countries (EE, LT, LV and PL) are in different stages of ratification.
- welcomed the information that Finland will host the next GREEN TEAM meeting in 2018 and that the Donsö Shipping Meet (Donsö, Sweden) is willing to host a GREEN TEAM meeting in 2019.
- amended and agreed on the HELCOM GREEN TEAM Work Plan for 2018-2019.
- updated the work plan for 2016-2018 of the HELCOM Cooperation Platform on Special Area According to MARPOL Annex IV.
- agreed that there is a need for more information on fertilizer cargo handling and this information should be collected by an official data request/questionnaire from the HELCOM Secretariat. The Meeting requested the Secretariat and Sweden with the help of CCB to develop during spring 2018 a draft questionnaire which will be circulated for comments to interested Contracting Parties and Observers before it is sent out in its final form. The Meeting requested the Secretariat, Sweden, CCB and other interested parties to draft a document to MARITIME 18 -2018 based on the information received.
- decided to terminate the Correspondence Group on updating of HELCOM Recommendation 19/14 on a harmonized system of fines in case a ship violates anti-pollution regulations (CG FINES),
- agreed to discontinue the work on the Correspondence Group to revise HELCOM Recommendation 28/3 on "Guidelines on bunkering operations and ship to ship cargo transfer of oils, subject to Annex I of MARPOL 73/78, in the Baltic Sea Area" (CG STS) and that further work to consider the

environmental effects/risks of bunkering operations and ship to ship transfers in the Baltic Sea, and also the revision of HELCOM Recommendation 28/3 should take place as part of the Green Team work plan.

- suggested that the tasks of the ad hoc Correspondence Group on Ballast Water Management (CG BALLAST), re-established at MARITIME 16-2016, can be partly covered in substance by upcoming activities of the COMPLETE project, and decided to discontinue CG BALLAST, pending the confirmation from the Chair of the CG. If needed, the CG could be re-established at MARITIME 18-2018.
- endorsed the presented future actions and encouraged the Contracting Parties to participate in EU INEA CEF Motorways of the Sea, DG REGIO Interreg and Cohesion funding programmes to ensure the resources for hydrographic surveys in order to meet the Re-Survey Scheme timetables agreed by the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting (Copenhagen, October 2013).
- the date and venue of MARITIME 18-2018 were defined as 25-27 September 2018 in Hamburg, Germany by MARITIME 17 and subsequent offer by Germany (email exchange after the meeting).

FISH 7-2017

- took note of the regional workshop on eel and the Baltic Sea to be held as part of the HELCOM Task force on migratory fish species, in Stockholm, Sweden on 29 November to 1 December 2017 (document 2-4), and noted that all participating countries are requested to submit a presentation summarising information regarding eel in their countries by 22 November 2017.
- highlighted that regional maps of fish nursery areas and other essential habitats were not available and requested that the HELCOM FISH should be informed of any events on this topic (whether PanBaltic SCOPE, HELCOM or any other initiative) and 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.
- 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.
- agreed to task the Secretariat to on a regular basis share information with BALTFISH Chair and that the FISH WG should be informed of the correspondence.
- agreed that in the future the Chair of HELCOM FISH should attend the BALTFISH Forum on behalf of HELCOM.
- took note that the Second Meeting of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue between secretariats and representatives of regional seas organisations (including HELCOM for the Baltic Sea) and regional fisheries management bodies will take place 10-13 April 2018 in Seoul, Republic of Korea and that the event would be a good opportunity to present and develop the ongoing work on closer cooperation between HELCOM, BALTFISH and other fisheries related bodies in the Baltic Sea.
- welcomed the information that the draft list of trialed alternative fishing gears or fishing techniques was submitted to, and presented by Poland at the meeting of the BSAC sub group on ecosystem based management in October, BSAC WS on selectivity of fishing gears (7 November 2017) and that Poland is waiting for BSAC comments in writing.
- agreed that that there is a merit to further discuss seal-fishery interactions and requested that the Chair of FISH, SEAL and the Secretariat are in contact intersessionally to consider how to address the issue in the best possible way.

-
- took note of the outcome of the CG Aquaculture 1-2017 (document 4-1)-and agreed to the updated TORs and welcomed that Sweden can lead task 1A (*Compilation of national Aquaculture BAT/BEP definitions including relevant definitions from international and EU law by Summer 2018*) of the CG Aquaculture work plan
 - welcomed the information that Åland islands is available to host the next Meeting of CG Aquaculture in May-June 2018, agreed to the proposal and invited the Secretariat to consult the host on the details.
 - took note that FEAP invited the FISH group to be more engaged in mussel farming for nutrient removal, would appreciate exchange of views on this topic within the FISH or PRESSURE groups in accordance with the decision at HELCOM HOD.
 - took note of the status of the inventory of HELCOM data needs (cf. document 5-3) and (after discussion) concluded that some delegations supported, and wished to endorse, the contents of document 5-3 (inventory), especially the content regarding identifying HELCOM indicator data needs/interests, while some delegations saw the need for major improvements to the document before endorsement.
 - agreed that a roadmap is needed to create a robust process to further define the fisheries data needs of MSFD, including HELCOM indicator data needs in its role as the regional coordinator for MSFD in the Baltic for EU Members, identify available data sources and identify possible measures to improve the availability of the needed data, established a Correspondence Group (DK, PL, DE & FI and other interested delegations and stakeholders) and welcomed the information that Denmark is willing to host a workshop as part of the Correspondence Group work (DK to suggest date).
 - agreed to the Terms of Reference for Correspondence Group on fisheries data for operationalizing indicators used for the purposes of MSFD implementation, for the CPs which are also EU members (CG FISHDATA) with the task to develop the roadmap via the workshop and subsequent correspondence as included in Annex 3 (of the FISH 7 Outcome).
 - considered the 2017 reporting of implementation of HELCOM Recommendation 32-33/1 based on the national reports of the Contracting Parties and agreed that the CPs can provide clarifications by 29 November and that after incorporating comments the Secretariat circulates the report for final endorsement by FISH.
 - welcomed the possibility to exchanges experiences on restoration, asked to be kept informed about the progress of the work and suggested that the upcoming FISH-M meetings could be held in connection with the meetings of the RETROUT project. The Meeting tasked the Secretariat to explore this possibility.
 - took note of the initial draft of a HELCOM Recommendation on abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) and noted that Finland and Denmark were not in favour of developing a Recommendation at this point while Sweden and Germany did not yet have a clear position.
 - took note of the point brought forward by Finland on evaluating the need for the group and the need to receive a prolonged mandate by the Heads of Delegations. The Meeting decided that these issues will be discussed at FISH 8-2018.
 - requested the Secretariat to provide suggestions for updates and/or revision to the work plan based on decision and discussions held at relevant HELCOM meetings, as well as any background material needed for evaluating the existence and mandate of the group in good time before FISH 8-2018.
 - 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 on 23-24 May 2018.

HELCOM/OSPAR TG BALLAST 8-2017

- agreed that it is not foreseen that the update of the NIS indicator update will take place with the involvement of HELCOM/OSPAR TG Ballast as it requires different expertise and is not covered by the Terms of Reference of the Group. The Group suggested that another HELCOM group is given the task to update the Baltic NIS indicator.
- agreed that the next meeting will be held tentatively in 14-15 November 2018, and requested the OSPAR Secretariat to inquire interest in hosting the meeting.

STATE & CONSERVATION 7-2017

- acknowledged that the current situation (with regards to the draft Recommendation on biotopes, habitats and biotope complexes) is in a deadlock and regretted the lack of progress regarding the draft Recommendation. Acknowledging that all Contracting Parties besides Denmark can agree with the Recommendation, the Meeting requested Denmark to reconsider their position. The Meeting agreed to return to the discussion of this issue at STATE & CONSERVATION 8-2018.
- requested Contracting Parties to provide updated information on bird national conservation plans before STATE & CONSERVATION 8-2018, so that the information can subsequently be shared with the 2018 meeting of the HELCOM/OSPAR/ICES JWG Birds.
- considered the draft outline for a new HELCOM MPA project proposal (document 3N-3, presentation 5) which aims to address needs identified by HELCOM Recommendation 35/1 'System of Coastal and Marine Baltic Sea Protected Areas (HELCOM MPAs)', the list of issues regarding the HELCOM MPA database, the State & Conservation Working Group's Work plan for 2017-2018, as well as comments and input from the Task Group on MPAs. The Meeting acknowledged that that this project is needed to assist Contracting Parties in the implementation of the commitments related to MPA work, including e.g. work towards reaching the goals of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, the Convention on Biological Diversity's Aichi Targets and United Nations Sustainability Goals. The Meeting took note of the comments by Germany to the project proposal as contained in document 3N-3-Rev.1, and especially:
 - o the importance of prioritizing the identification of offshore areas as new HELCOM MPA, including organizing of a workshop on offshore MPAs where tools like MARXAN could be discussed further
 - o Concerning the deliverables: HELCOM has got valid guidelines, there is some need for technical updates and actualizations with special focus on essential items and on guiding principles how to monitor MPAs. In conclusion, this task should not end up in creating totally new guidelines.

The Meeting agreed on the general concept of the new HELCOM MPA project and the further development of the project proposal planned to be submitted for external funding. The Meeting welcomed Germany's offer to assist the Secretariat in the application process, and Finland's interest in partnering in the project. Germany will investigate its possibility to be a project partner. The Meeting invited other Contracting Parties to inform the Secretariat by 1 December 2017 of their willingness to participate in the project as a partner and of their perceived role.

- invited Contracting Parties to provide their feedback on document 4N-3 (**presentation 8**) and to propose potential new ideas regarding HELCOM work on climate change by writing to the Secretariat (jannica.haldin@helcom.fi) **by 31 January 2018**.
- discussed and endorsed, in principle, the planned updating process of the 'State of the Baltic Sea' report, pending clarification of the study reservation by Denmark, and noted the document will be

submitted to the upcoming GEAR 15-2017 meeting, with Germany's suggestions, for further strategic discussion and final agreement. The Meeting considered and agreed (noting the Danish study reservation) on the request of EN Hazardous Substance for the approval of hazardous substances indicator evaluations and associated data to be approved by Contracting Parties already by the end of January 2018 so that the group can prepare for the integrated assessment calculations at their meeting in early February 2018.

- considered the proposed approach to the maintenance and development of HELCOM indicators in the future and recognized the importance of starting the discussion on this issue so further work beyond HOLAS II could be planned in a good time. The Meeting considered and discussed the proposed options concerning the frequency of updating the indicators. The Meeting acknowledged the current heavy workload associated with updating of the indicators and was of the view that they should not be updated more frequently than needed. Three years updating frequency with a possibility of the alternating data groups was initially suggested by a number of the Contracting Parties, but requesting information from expert networks was considered to be a valuable option. The Meeting supported the automatization of the indicator process as far as possible and agreed that for such operational indicators (as for the eutrophication indicators), the updating of the status maps could be more frequent, but it may be suitable to update the integrated assessment only every six years. The Meeting invited Contracting Parties to provide their comments and proposals regarding the maintenance and development of HELCOM indicators in the future. The Meeting noted that the document will be considered also by GEAR 17-2017 and invited Contracting Parties to provide their comments to the Secretariat, or their national GEAR contacts for further discussion during GEAR 17-2017. The Meeting agreed to carry out intersessional work to further develop proposals for HELCOM future work on indicators and welcomed the offer by Sweden to support the process. The Meeting decided to come back to this issue at the next State and Conservation meeting.
- endorsed the diclofenac indicator as a pre-core test indicator for inclusion in a descriptive approach within the State of the Baltic Sea report. The Meeting noted that Denmark, Estonia and Poland cannot agree on the threshold value before the relevant document has been approved at the EU level.
- supported the inclusion of the results of the indicator in HOLAS II as descriptive supportive information and hence its use as a test indicator. The Meeting noted that the threshold values were an issue that should be addressed at the first opportunity.
- supported the proposal by Sweden to coordinate a meeting for getting an overview of what indicators and information are available on benthic habitats in order to identify which ones should be prioritized for further development. The Meeting was of the view that it would be good if the IN Benthic expert group would meet at least once a year in order to more actively contribute to the development of HELCOM core indicators and that an indicator workshop could be arranged back to back with a physical meeting of the expert group.
- requested that the HELCOM pre-core indicator on cumulative impacts of benthic habitats as well as other indicators related to benthic parameters be considered by the IN Benthic group in their next meeting and invited Contracting Parties to provide their comments to IN Benthic and the Secretariat by 15 January 2018. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to inform IN Benthic.
- was of the opinion that the development of an indicator on acidification can be relevant, acknowledging that although there is no requirement within the MSFD to monitor these parameters, there is interest in the Contracting Parties to obtain information on the carbon cycle. The Meeting welcomed the offer of Sweden to co-lead the indicator and invited other Contracting Parties to also consider their possibility to participate in the work as co-leads. The Meeting also invited Contracting Parties to nominate relevant experts for the further development to the Secretariat. The Meeting

- agreed that this document will be further developed and expanded intersessionally by the authors, with possible support from co-lead countries, to encompass relevant issues for HELCOM indicators, inclusive of monitoring and assessment guidelines, and reviewed again by State and Conservation, prior to distribution to any relevant expert network(s).
- endorsed the updated evaluation of effectiveness of a HELCOM Recommendation 27/28-2 'Conservation of seals in the Baltic Sea area'.
 - took note that Finland retains its study reservation with regard to the core indicators on nutritional and reproductive status of seals since they are still waiting for the results of a national public hearing, which are due in mid-November. The Meeting noted that there are possibilities for compromise, especially concerning the reproductive status indicator, but that discussions are still needed at the expert level. The Meeting noted the proposal of Finland to continue the work on updating and development of the indicator, with the objective of including one or both indicators in HOLAS II if the results allow.
 - took note of Germany's concern regarding the indicators on 'Reproductive status of seals' and 'Nutritional status of seals' and noted that Poland supports their view that there is need for further discussion among experts regarding the current indicators, which are not seen as representative of the health status. The Meeting noted that Germany and Sweden are planning a bilateral meeting to discuss the issue during 2018 and welcomed the offer of Germany to invite also Finland to participate in the discussions.
 - considered and endorsed the proposal on using all available data in the HELCOM COMBINE database for the update of the 'State of the Baltic Sea' report and invited Contracting Parties to communicate to ICES that they can agree to include also data that is not flagged as COMBINE data. For EN-HZ indicators, data not currently flagged as COMBINE that is extracted for the indicator update process will be indicated in a document presented at the indicator evaluation national checking stage, so that Contracting Parties are aware of the data used.
 - noted and supported the request of EN-HZ to have the national checking of indicator evaluations completed by the end of January 2018 to enable the expert network to gather for a workshop focused on the indicators (cf. paragraph 3J.13).
 - endorsed the draft guidelines for: the determination of salinity and temperature using CTD, the monitoring of turbidity, the determination of chlorinated hydrocarbons in sediment, the determination of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in sediment, and the determination of persistent organic compounds in seawater and requested the Secretariat to make the corrected guidelines available on the HELCOM website.
 - considered the draft guidelines on the determination of heavy metals in sediment. The Meeting noted that Estonia and Sweden cannot accept the guidelines as they are currently presented. The Meeting invited Contracting Parties to provide their comments to the Lead Party Germany and invited Germany to submit an updated version of the guidelines to STATE & CONSERVATION 8-2018.
 - supported the development of additions to the endorsed turbidity, chlorophyll-*a* and water transparency guidelines to include also Earth Observation methods, and welcomed the offer of Finland to present drafts to STATE & CONSERVATION 8-2018.
 - agreed, in principle, on the HELCOM Guidelines for monitoring beach litter, but agreed that the Lithuanian comments contained in the document should be discussed and agreed on by HELCOM EN-Marine Litter and requested the network to submit the guidelines for final approval by State and Conservation before transferring them to the Monitoring Manual.

- supported in principle the proposed contents of the regional monitoring sub-program of continuous noise, but noted that since the document was submitted late, some Contracting Parties need more time for providing their national comments. The Meeting invited Contracting Parties to provide their comments on the proposed contents of the monitoring sub-programme to the Lead Party Sweden and the Secretariat.
- agreed, in principle, on the draft HELCOM Guidelines for monitoring continuous noise, but invited EN-Noise to update them according to the comments of the Meeting and Germany and to submit the revised guidelines to STATE & CONSERVATION -2018 for endorsement.
- considered the revised Recommendation 19/3 on 'The Manual for the Marine Monitoring in the Combine Programme of HELCOM' and updated it. The Meeting agreed that it should be submitted to HOD 53-2017 for adoption.

PRESSURE 7-2017

Marine litter

- noted the initial draft for a HELCOM Recommendation on abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) and agreed that the Contracting Parties will organize national consultations and inform the Secretariat (marta.ruiz@helcom.fi) by **17 November 2017** on their coordination position regarding the initiative to elaborate the HELCOM Recommendation;
- agreed on the status of implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter as included in the follow-up table (Outcome of WS RAP ML 2-2017, Annex 2 and [document 3-7](#)).

Assessment of input of nutrients and selected hazardous substances (PLC-6 project outcomes)

- agreed that the trend-based method is to be used for the evaluation of the progress towards national reduction targets and input ceilings to Baltic Sea sub-basins; The Meeting agreed that the trend analysis should include identification of change points (break points) and that the break points are to be evidenced and approved by national representatives in the PLC Project group.
- agreed that the Contracting Parties would explicitly approve the break points identified in the trends and inform the PLC-6 Project Manager Lars Svendsen (lms@dce.au.dk) with copy to the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi) by 10 November 2017;
-
- considered the draft Summary on the evaluation of effectiveness of measures, implemented in the period 1995-2014 and expected effect of measures implemented or planned for implementation after 2015 and agreed on the submission of the final product to PRESSURE 8-2018. The countries are invited to provide additional information to improve the product quality by 20 December 2017.
- took note of document 5-8 providing an overview on the PLC-6 information sources, which are planned to be made publicly available;
- in principle agreed to open public access to the quality-assured data on monitored and unmonitored areas in the PLC-6 database;
- considered the draft Assessment of input of selected hazardous substances into the Baltic Sea and took note that some countries would like to update the data on input of hazardous substances; The Meeting agreed that the comments on the chapter and additional data will be provided by countries by 8 December 2017).

Nutrients recycling and follow-up of HELCOM Recommendation on sewage sludge handling

- in principle endorsed the overview on nutrient recycling in the Baltic Sea countries;

- supported the suggested background document for the regional nutrient reduction strategy. the Meeting and took note of the position of Germany and EU that the strategy should be focused on recycling of nutrients upstream but not on end of pipe solutions (large-scale technical measures to remove nutrients from the Baltic Sea) and of Lithuania, Sweden and Finland that the strategy should reflect opportunities to use nutrients from eutrophic water, which includes small-scale measures to remove nutrients e.g. from bays, fjords or lagoons; The Meeting took note of a suggestion of Sweden to take losses of nutrients from aquaculture into account. Sweden also suggested to include into the strategy a section with follow-up indicators;
- discussed the draft reporting format (document 6-3);
- agreed with the proposed extended reporting format for reporting sewage sludge quality for HELCOM Recommendation 38/1 as presented by Sweden with additional tacit approval procedure by 10 November 2017 and agreed that reporting using the extended format will be organized in the timeframe established by HELCOM Recommendation 36/1 in 2019, utilizing 2018 data.

Hazardous substances

- took note of the presentation by the EMEP MSC-W Consultant on the results of the assessment of emissions of nitrogen in the region and its deposition on the Baltic Sea water area (document 7-5 and Presentations 6, 7 and 8);
- took note of the suggestion by Germany to reflect on the increased ship emissions in the supplementary paper for the CART policy message;
- pointed out an increasing proportion of nitrogen emissions from agriculture and invited the Agri group to address the issue in line with the ongoing process of revision of Annex III, Part 2 of the Helsinki Convention. The Meeting also took note of the suggestion of CCB to consider updating of HELCOM Recommendation 24/3;
- welcomed the suggestion by Germany to utilize a project started by OSPAR to evaluate the effects of the nitrogen emissions' reductions due to the implementation of the Gothenburg Protocol and the new EU NEC Directive to obtain estimates of potential reduction in atmospheric nitrogen deposition also for the Baltic Sea and requested the Secretariat to investigate the opportunity to finance the work by EMEP to estimate the nitrogen reductions by 2030;
- approved in principle the EMEP Technical report and indicator fact sheets and invited the Contracting Parties to provide additional comments on the Report and fact sheets by 17 November 2017). EMEP will send the corrected Report and indicator fact sheets to the Secretariat for publication at the latest by 15 December 2017;
- decided to include the following substances for the assessment (by EMEP) in 2018-2020, as it is stated in document 5-5, namely: nitrogen, cadmium, mercury, PCB-153 and PAH;
- took note of the suggestion by Sweden to consider an opportunity to assess airborne input of hexachlorobenzene (HCB). The Meeting invited countries to inform the Secretariat by 15 November 2017 whether this is a common need for all the countries;
- endorsed in principle the Diclofenac indicator as a pre-core test indicator for inclusion in the descriptive part of the second version of the State of the Baltic Sea report to be ready by mid-2018.
- discussed and endorsed in principle the templates for data collection on micropollutants and riverine inputs of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). Denmark, Finland and Sweden informed that comments on the reporting form have been/are to be provided.
- agreed that reporting of available data on diclofenac will be organized separately from the other data to enable using the diclofenac data for the second version of the State of the Baltic Sea report;
- agreed on the following timeline for reporting: reporting request to be circulated to the Pressure group contacts during week 44 with the request to report on diclofenac by 20 December 2017. The deadline for reporting on other substances and micropollutants is by end of March 2018, in time for consideration by PRESSURE 8-2018.
- endorsed the suggested cooperation plans with PA Hazards and its flagship project CW Pharma.

Physical damage to the sea floor

- took note of the outcome of the third meeting of the Expert Network on dredging/depositing operations at sea (EN DREDS 3-2017), which was held on 12 September 2017 and the suggestions on the method used for the first version of the HELCOM State of the Baltic Sea reports to evaluate effects of dredging and depositing of dredged material on the sea floor.
- requested those Contracting Parties who have not reported data to report by 20 December 2017 at the latest to the Secretariat (juuso.haapaniemi@helcom.fi) .

Follow-up of HELCOM Recommendations: implementation, reporting and revision

- reviewed the actions with different responses to the follow-up of national reporting under the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) (document 9-2). The Meeting was of the opinion that item 2 cannot be followed up, as the commitment formulation is unclear and might be interpreted ambiguously. The Meeting recommended to exclude it from the follow up system.
- took note that Estonia, Denmark, Finland and Sweden have recently ratified the Minamata Convention.
- invited the Contracting Parties to review the answers on the questions listed in document 9-2, except item 2, with specific attention on the answers “no” or “on-going” and to inform the Secretariat (leena.heikkila@helcom.fi) accordingly by 17 November 2017.
- considered and endorsed the overview of the status of reporting on HELCOM Recommendations under the mandate of the Pressure group, selected to be included in the BSAP follow-up.

Any other business

- took note of the overview on involvement of municipalities in the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action plan (BSAP) and invited the Contracting Parties to provide additional information on the involvement of municipalities to the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi). The Meeting took note of a message from the ongoing IWAMA Water Forum by UBC, that HELCOM would need to be more visible at the municipality level as municipalities are in many cases the driving force for implementation of BSAP. The municipalities would need guidance on the priorities etc. and a revised recommendation on storm water would be useful. The Meeting invited national HELCOM representatives to actively participate in events with involvement of municipalities in order to provide guidance on HELCOM priorities.
- took note of the invitation by Germany to host the next meeting of the Pressure Group (PRESSURE 8-2017) on 18-20 April 2018, tentatively in Berlin.
- agreed to arrange PRESSURE 9-2018 during the week from 8-12 October 2018 and invited the Secretariat to approach Latvia regarding hosting. The Meeting welcomed the offer by Finland to consider hosting the meeting, if Latvia would not be in the position to host it.
- thanked Lithuania for hosting the PRESSURE 7-2017 meeting as well as for the great hospitality and the excellent facilities.

HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 15-2017

- took note of the results of the second international consultations on a draft Polish MSP as presented by Poland. The Meeting took note that Poland is awaiting for the comments on marine transportation corridors by December 2017 and that the SEA procedures will be conducted through the Espoo Convention focal points.
- suggested that the group utilize the information on cumulative pressures and impacts of human activities on the marine environment in its work, and pointed out that the group should promote the development and application of approaches to assess cumulative pressures for the use in regional projects.

-
- emphasized the need to discuss the linkage between MSFD and MSP at the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG meetings, particularly MSFD descriptors and indicators of GES, as well as utilizing of the GES indicators into EIA and SEA. The Meeting pointed out that MSP is a tool contributing to the GES of the Sea.
 - suggested to arrange a regional workshop with representatives of relevant HELCOM groups and other regional organizations on the recommendations of the Baltic Scope project and on mapping of ecosystem components, particularly. The Meeting also noted that kick-off meeting of PanBaltic SCOPE project, which might be also used for this discussion, will be held 27-28 February 2018.
 - pointed out that the outcomes of HOLAS II are also of use for the further development of spatial planning. The Meeting also took note of information from Sweden on the high level of similarity between the BSII approach used in HOLAS II and the Symphony tool being developed in Sweden to support MSP, and its relevance to support economic and social analyses, as well of the possibility to account for information from indicator-based assessments of environmental status in spatial planning.
 - took note of and discussed the suggestion by Sweden together with Finland, Germany and Latvia ([document 4-2](#)) on the work plan on Green infrastructure/blue corridor maps linking MSPs and MPAs and summarizing related ongoing processes, and agreed that the first event of the work plan might be EBSA workshop in February 2018. The Meeting agreed on the working plan in general and suggested to include into the work plan a regional recommendation/guideline on how to utilise the green maps for the MSP purposes. The Meeting agreed that practical discussion on the scope of the recommendation/guideline would be supported by PanBaltic SCOPE project and might be started in 2019.
 - took note of the information on the upcoming CBD Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSA) in the Baltic Sea and pointed out that it could be of use for the members of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP group to attend the Workshop. The Meeting supported further work on EBSA in general and took into account the position of Sweden that MS planners should be involved in the discussion on EBSA from technical point of view and invited the organizers of the Workshop to take the MSP aspect into account in the agenda. The Meeting also pointed out that EBSA criteria might be utilized as a starting point for the discussion on the criteria or green infrastructure.
 - agreed that the next meeting will be held in Helsinki, Finland, in spring 7-9 May 2018 back-to-back with presentation of the progress in national MSP. The dates for the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 16-2018 were agreed later as 7-9 May 2018.

AGRI 5-2017

- acknowledged current rapid development of the national political and legal frame for nutrient recycling and agreed to publish the Overview of nutrient recycling in the Baltic Sea countries in its present state including the reference to the date when the information was supplied by Contracting Parties.
- was of the opinion that further work on the nutrient recycling matters require financial support and invited the Secretariat to seek for the opportunities to apply for appropriate funding (e.g. from Interreg project platform).
- considered the role of HELCOM AGRI group as a platform for regional dialogue on innovative water management solutions in rural areas in relation with the WATERDRIVE project initiative and decided that AGRI group would like to serve as a communication platform for the innovative water management solutions.
- acknowledged that countries have different views of the BAT and BEP for cattle farms but agreed on the need for further dialogue on the matter. The Meeting invited Estonia to present information on the national BAT and BEP system for cattle farms at the next meeting and encouraged also other contracting parties to prepare relevant information on the state of national legislation. The Meeting also agreed that based on the discussion at AGRI 6-2018 an opportunity to arrange a

scientific workshop to discuss feasibility and need to promote the BAT for cattle farms further will be considered.

- agreed to include a new activity into the action 5 of the work plan related to mitigation of ammonia emissions from agriculture and requested the Secretariat to make relevant updates.
- agreed that the Recommendation 24/3 Measures aimed at the reduction of emissions and discharges from agriculture”, adopted in 2003, is outdated and requires revision. Taking into account ongoing national processes related to the mitigation of the ammonia emissions and other activities of AGRI group, the Meeting decided to postpone the revision and consider it in AGRI 6-2018.
- welcomed the offer by Latvia to host the next meeting of the group (AGRI 6-2018) 15-16 May 2018 in Riga.

WS RAP ML 2-2017

- supported the initiative to elaborate HELCOM Recommendation on abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) (document 5).
- considered an overview of HELCOM Recommendations on storm and waste water management proposed for amendment to address microlitter (document 7) and concluded that currently there is no reliable knowledge base to substantiate measures to prevent input of microliter into the marine environment from urban and other storm waters thus proposed amendment of Recommendations is premature.
- recommended to continue building reliable knowledge base on monitoring of microliter in storm water in line with action RL4.

Annex 1: Terms of Reference for the Correspondence Group on fisheries data for operationalizing indicators used for the purposes of MSFD implementation, for the CPs which are also EU members (CG FISHDATA) [Originally Annex 3, Outcome of HELCOM FISH 7-2017]

The Correspondence Group should:

1. Plan and organize a workshop on fisheries data for operationalizing the two indicators,¹ used for the purposes of MSFD implementation for the CPs which are also EU members, hosted by Denmark during the period January-February 2018.
2. Via the workshop and subsequent correspondence, draft a comprehensive roadmap on fisheries data for operationalizing the two indicators, used for the purposes of MSFD implementation for the CPs which are also EU members, covering –e.g. procedures, steps to be taken, roles of different institutions/bodies, data needs specifying related legal obligations, identifying existing data sources and recommending potential methods and steps to fill the identified data gaps taking into account the legislative framework.
3. Consider, and find guidance from, documents 5-3 and 5-4 of FISH 7-2017 in this process.

Submit a draft roadmap on fisheries data for operationalizing indicators used for the purposes of MSFD implementation, for the CPs which are also EU members to HELCOM FISH 8-2018

¹ HELCOM indicators ‘Number of drowned mammals and water birds in fishing gear’ and ‘Cumulative impact on benthic biotopes’

Annex 2: Draft Work plan of CG Aquaculture 2017-2019

Objectives and Tasks of the CG Aquaculture TORs	Responsible	Milestone	Output and deadline
<p>Objective A</p> <p>Exchanges BAT/BEP information and experience gained on aquaculture in the Baltic Sea region</p>	All participants	Meetings of CG Aquaculture Meetings of HELCOM Fish	
To provide other relevant latest information on innovative aquaculture techniques (Detailed task C)	All participants	Meetings of CG Aquaculture Meetings of HELCOM Fish	
<p>Objective B</p> <p>Menu of BAT/BEP descriptions for sustainable aquaculture for the Baltic Sea region, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. defining environmentally acceptable, economically viable and socially equitable standards ii. differentiating between land- and sea-based aquaculture, where appropriate iii. promoting innovation iv. not forcing any specific BAT/BEP description to be applied by all contracting parties 	[Overall coordination by Chair supported by the Secretariat]	Meetings of CG Aquaculture	
<i>Phase I compilation of information</i>	Work by dedicated leads	Meeting of CG Aquaculture summer 2018	Summer 2018
To provide by October [2018] a concise compilation of existing BAT and BEP techniques applied in the Contracting Parties or otherwise relevant for the Baltic Sea area/region and, if possible, the relevant experiences (pros and cons) gained in applying such	Overall coordination by Chair supported by the Secretariat	Reported to meeting of HELCOM FISH Autumn 2018	
	Sweden	Questionnaire to be developed by lead Meeting of CG Aquaculture summer 2018	Output 1: <i>Compilation of national Aquaculture BAT/BEP definitions including relevant definitions from</i>

techniques from ecological, social and economic points of view (Detailed task A)			<i>international and EU law by Summer 2018</i>
To provide assistance for a (scientifically condensed) Literature Study by May [2018] on feasible BAT/BEP descriptions for the Baltic Sea region including gap analyses against the needs and specificities of the Baltic Sea region; in parallel (Detailed task B) .	[Lead needed]	Meeting of CG Aquaculture summer 2018	Output 2: <i>Compilation of Aquaculture BAT/BEP techniques and practices applicable in the Baltic Sea region by Summer 2018</i>
<i>Phase II Menu of BAT and BEP descriptions</i>	First draft by Chair All participants to contribute	Meeting of CG Aquaculture summer 2019 Reported to meeting of HELCOM FISH Autumn 2019	Summer 2019
To jointly develop a menu of BAT and BEP descriptions for the aquaculture operators to choose from (Detailed task D) To draft a list of most suitable BAT and BEP aquaculture techniques, based on the information collected under a-d), by October [2019] (Detailed task E) ;	First draft by Chair All participants to contribute	Meeting of CG Aquaculture summer 2019	Output 3: <i>Menu of BAT and BEP descriptions including a list of most suitable BAT and BEP aquaculture techniques.</i>
<i>Phase III Recommending follow-up</i>	All participants	Meeting of CG Aquaculture summer 2019 Reported to meeting of HELCOM FISH Autumn 2019	Summer 2019
To identify possible research and development needs and knowledge gaps, with a view to improving the BAT and BEP menu of techniques for the Baltic region (Detailed task F) .	All participants	Meeting of CG Aquaculture summer 2019 Reported to meeting of HELCOM FISH Autumn 2019	Summer 2019
Potentially address the needs identified, in between, through a dedicated project, and report accordingly (Detailed task G) .	All participants	Meeting of CG Aquaculture summer 2019 Reported to meeting of HELCOM FISH Autumn 2019	Summer 2019

Annex 3 Work Plan of the sub-group Green Technology and Alternative Fuels for Shipping (GREEN TEAM) in 2018-2019

NO	ToR NO	WP ITEM	RESPONSIBLE	TARGET DATE	COMMENT
1	2	Confirming registered participants of the sub-group, keep invited and keep it open for more to join			
2	3, 4	Establish the GREEN TEAM <u>reporting mechanism and method</u> based on the traffic light idea where green shows agreed solutions, yellow issues needed to be discussed further and red main barriers and obstacles hindering green development and investments in our vulnerable sea area.	Finnish Maritime Cluster	30 June 2018	The background information is from the results of the questionnaire in 2015 and the outcome of the ZVT reports. The outcome will be arranged into the following themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vessel (technology and design) • Infrastructure (port development) • Finance (to cope with the transition towards a new normal) • Regulation (new and updates) • R&D (new identified areas and support moving forward)
3	3, 4	Report the outcome of the GREEN TEAM reporting mechanism and method to HELCOM MARITIME 18		autumn 2018	For accept at the HELCOM MARITIME in 2018 The main barriers, obstacles and challenges hindering the development and investments in green technology and alternative fuels in shipping
4	3, 4	Develop a GREEN TEAM <u>outcome reporting structure</u> , based on the internal reporting, and establish a permanent reporting mechanism to inform HELCOM MARITIME working group of the latest information gathered from the industry and ZVT reports.		1 January 2018	Ongoing procedure when implemented
5	5	Considering the regulatory bottlenecks/challenges hindering green investments, and define the so far established solutions on a regional level and within the mandate of HELCOM MARITIME		GREEN TEAM 2-2018	Base the information on ZVT reporting and, if decided by this group, an extra survey among the other stakeholders
6	5	Common standards (e.g. various issues related to alternative fuels, bunkering operations and Ship to Ship transfer (revision of recommendation 28/3)) could be considered taking into account the ongoing work in other processes including the European Sustainable Shipping Forum and avoiding double work		GREEN TEAM 2-2018	Support existing initiatives and identify new needs
7	6	Considering effective incentives to accelerate green investments, propose a way forward with a common Baltic Sea incentive scheme, where significant benefits to society and sea are addressed. Possible new incentive schemes will be addressed. ²		30 July 2018	This will be based on the information on already existing information such as the ZVT ECA Bonus Pre-study, Joint University Project ZERO.8 measurements and monetization to find societal/sea benefits, Environmental Performance Indicators etc.

² Action number 7-9 should have a broad interpretation and may be relevant in many different areas such as, for example, improvement of onboard waste handling

8	6	Existing regional and local incentive systems to be compiled and compared (such as index, tax exemptions etc). Any clear inadequacy will be recognized.		30 July 2018	The information of the following existing incentives in the Baltic Sea region will be outlined and their harmonized use investigated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmentally differentiated fairway dues • Environmental Ship Index • Tax exemption on onshore power supply for shipping
9	6	Updating the Guidelines of HELCOM Recommendation 28E/13 on Economic Incentives	Swedish Maritime Administration supported by the Finnish Maritime Cluster	MARITIME 18-2018	All Contracting Parties to submit incentive schemes in use; other members to submit identified good practices
10	6	Explore the possibilities, taking into account existing financial instruments for the Region and financial institutions in the Region, of developing a Baltic Sea financial instrument for risk sharing and guarantee mechanisms, including pricing based on society and sea benefits, together with the public and private sector to find workable solutions to enhance investments in Green technology and alternative fuels		30 December 2018	The sub-group will identify and recommend a possible financial institution to lead this work.
11	7	Continue to coordinate the GREEN TEAM activities with other regional organisations and platforms in the framework of Green Tech and Alternative Fuels (IMO, ESSF, EGMP working group in CBSS, BDF, SPI, EUSBSR and others)		ongoing	
12	9	Continue the started work on a joint information portal / digital or in real life (seminars) where exchange of knowledge and lessons learned are conducted		ongoing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suggestion is to coordinate a follow-up together with CBSS, to the Roadmap start-up WS in 2014, in September 2017 2. Some with special focus on the implementation of NECA and NO_x abatement technologies

* ZVT is a collaboration method and project platform for a safer, more environmentally, climate and energy efficient transport by sea. Within the platform representatives of industry, academy, agencies and administrations meet to share experiences and find common, workable and sustainable solutions. Today there are over 20 ongoing Joint Industry or University Projects (JIP, JUP), comprising over 160 collaboration partners from 10 countries that are using the ZVT method, reporting lessons learned and sharing knowledge. The ZVT reports have been gathered during the last five years from the on-going real life investments projects in the field of sustainable shipping covering the fields of Vessel, Infrastructure, Finance, R&D and Regulation. www.zerovisiotool.com