



## Outcome of the 53rd Meeting of the Heads of Delegation

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## Outcome of the 53rd Meeting of the Heads of Delegation

### Introduction

0.1 The 53rd Meeting of the Heads of Delegation was held in Helsinki, Finland, on 12-13 December 2017.

0.2 The Meeting was attended by participants from all Contracting Parties and by Observers from Baltic Farmers' Forum on Environment (BFFE), Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation and Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions – Baltic Sea Commission (BSSSC and CPMR BSC), Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB), Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The List of Participants is contained in **Annex 1**.

0.3 The Meeting was chaired by the Chair of the Helsinki Commission, Ms. Marianne Wenning.

### Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

Documents: 1-1, 1-2

1.1 The Meeting adopted the Agenda as contained in document 1-1.

### Agenda Item 2 Preparations for HELCOM 39-2018 and HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2018

Documents: 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-4-rev1, 2-4-rev2, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9, 2-10, 2-11, 2-12

#### *Draft Ministerial Declaration*

2.1 The Meeting considered the first full draft Ministerial Declaration (document 2-4) prepared by EU and Executive Secretary based on the texts produced by the four drafting groups and presented in HOD 52B-2017.

2.2 The Meeting considered also the draft text on management of internal nutrient reserves by Finland and Sweden (document 2-10).

2.3 The Chair thanked all Contracting Parties and the Secretariat for their intersessional efforts and work to prepare the draft declaration for this Meeting.

2.4 The Meeting took note of the comment by EU that the draft Declaration in document 2-4 tries to: strike a balance between highlighting positive achievements without covering up any lack of progress, build up general momentum to step up implementation of previous commitments as well as provide a basis for updating the BSAP. In general, new issues such as litter and noise have been given more space than traditional issues in the draft.

2.5 The Meeting confirmed that even if efforts have been made to keep the Declaration concise, there could be merit in shortening the text further, if possible.

2.6 The Meeting took note of comments from Contracting Parties and Observers on the Draft Declaration:

- Sweden found the draft very comprehensive but the structure could be considered a bit more and there might be a need to include more material on hazardous substances, shipping, HELCOM's contribution to the implementation of Agenda 2030 and SDGs, and financing of BSAP commitments. The last para referring to legal obligations should be removed. Sweden has a study reservation on the section on nutrient recycling.
- Russia found that material on micro-plastics as well as ballast water management convention ratification and implementation should be expanded. Russia has a general study reservation on paragraphs on underwater noise and internal nutrient reserves.

- Poland highlighted national concerns on the 2013 Ministerial Meeting reduction targets which Poland still considers indicative. Poland has a general study reservation on the draft Ministerial Declaration.
- Lithuania found the draft ambitious but more concise than recent HELCOM declaration, which is appreciated. The material on hazardous substances could be expanded further. Lithuania has a specific study reservation on two paragraphs of the section on eutrophication.
- Latvia found that the renewal of the 2007 BSAP and shipping issues including BWMC could be highlighted more, including the close cooperation between HELCOM and OSPAR on Ballast water issues (TG BALLAST).
- Germany put a general reserve on the draft text and underlined the need for a more balanced approach with regard to protective issues along the line of the Helsinki Convention, the four agreed key strategic objectives of the BSAP and HELCOM's role as cooperation platform for the implementation of the ecosystem approach. Germany announced to come with more concrete proposals during the meeting. With regard to the last paragraph referring to the status of the Ministerial Declaration this paragraph should be formulated as part of the chapeau of the declaration and along the line of the Copenhagen Declaration of 2013.
- Finland had provided comments in advance (c.f. document 2-9) and found the draft a good starting point. Three most crucial points in the current draft are to ensure a clear mandate to update BSAP (deadlines need to be discussed thoroughly), to ensure flexibility in the key themes of the BSAP update and that the last para referring to legal obligations should be removed as it waters down the commitment. Financial aspects could be highlighted.
- Estonia found the text more concise than previous declarations but would prefer even more condensed document with more concrete targets. The part on maritime governance could be expanded as some issues are missing.
- Denmark pointed out that there seems to be a move of focus from reduction targets to emission ceilings in the paragraphs on eutrophication which should be discussed closer and the wording on not postponing any already agreed deadlines in the BSAP update could be modified to be more realistic. A clearer link between the Declaration and the debate questions for the Ministers (c.f. document 2-6, Annex 2) would be appreciated. The national consultation on the draft ministerial Declaration is still ongoing.

2.7 The Meeting considered the proposals by Finland (document 2-9) and other Contracting parties to the draft Ministerial Declaration and based on these comments developed document 2-4 via plenary drafting sessions. Interim versions are included in documents 2-4-Rev1 and Rev2 and the final draft is included in **Annex 2** to the Outcome.

2.8 In response to the question by Denmark, the Meeting took note of the clarification by the Chair that the aim of the paragraph on hazardous substances (cf. document 2-4, paragraph 31) does not imply any immediate new HELCOM monitoring obligations, as well as took note of the proposal by Denmark to reflect on not only the socio-economic benefits but also the costs related to the implementation of the Baltic Sea Action in the Ministerial Declaration.

2.9 The Meeting agreed on the draft Declaration of the 2018 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting as included in **Annex 2**, with the understanding that the document would still be subjected to further national consultation by all Contracting Parties due to a general study reservation on the draft.

2.10 The Meeting agreed that further comments on the **Annex 2** should be submitted at the latest by **15 January 2018**, and to be restricted to central substantial issues (including justification). Based on the comments the Chairmanship and the Secretariat will develop the final draft for the Ministerial Meeting.

2.11 The Meeting took note of the concern by Germany on the text proposal on managing internal nutrient reserves and suggestion to bring the issue to the attention of respective working parties (document 2-12).

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*HELCOM 39 Agenda and Ministerial Meeting Programme*

- 2.12 The Meeting endorsed the Provisional Agenda for HELCOM 39-2018 (5 March 2018) as contained in document 2-1.
- 2.13 The Meeting endorsed the draft provisional agenda for the Ministerial Meeting (document 2-6, Annex 1)
- 2.14 The Meeting took note of the need to identify an inspiring high-level speaker for the Meeting.
- 2.15 The Meeting took note of the information on the Ministerial level attendance from the Contracting Parties to the HELCOM 2018 Ministerial Meeting.
- 2.16 The Meeting took note that EU will communicate a final cut-off date for confirming ministerial level participation.
- 2.17 The Meeting discussed and considered the proposed questions for the Ministerial Meeting (document 2-6, Annex 1), revised and agreed to them as included in document 2-6-Rev1.
- 2.18 The Meeting agreed that the participation and statements by observers and invitees at the 2018 Ministerial Meeting will be guided by document 2-11.
- 2.19 The Meeting agreed to the participation of Race For The Baltic to the 2018 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting.
- 2.20 The Meeting took note of the information by WWF and CCB on a side event to be organised 6 March 13:30-1500 at the venue of the 2018 Ministerial Meeting (Palais d'Egmont).

*Update of BSAP*

- 2.21 The Meeting considered the proposal for the update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (document 2-5).
- 2.22 The Meeting took note of the comment from Denmark that socio-economic matters should be considered in the process of updating the BSAP.
- 2.23 The Meeting endorsed the proposal for the BSAP update and agreed to submit it to HELCOM 39-2018 for adoption, taking into account that the sections referring to the Brussels Declaration 2018 (e.g. on page 3 of document 2-5) will be cross-checked and aligned by the Secretariat.

*Nutrient Recycling Strategy*

- 2.24 The Meeting took note of the document "Background for regional nutrient recycling strategy" (document 2-7) submitted by Finland.
- 2.25 The Meeting concluded that the material in document 2-7 provides suitable background information to support the text of a Ministerial decision on development of a regional nutrient recycling strategy and took note that Sweden needs additional time to review the document (by 21 December 2017).
- 2.26 The Meeting took note of the comments by Russia on the background document (document 2-8) and agreed that the comments are to be taken into account in the future development of a nutrient recycling strategy.

*BONUS*

- 2.27 The Meeting took note of the joint conclusions from the HELCOM-BONUS workshop held on 6 November 2017 in Stockholm, Sweden, and selected results by the BONUS projects on the issues of

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biodiversity protection and MPAs, nutrients, social and economic analysis as well as climate change presented at the workshop (document 2-2).

2.28 The Meeting welcomed the initiative to organize the workshop and the crucial contribution of the BONUS research programme to the recent work of HELCOM and its solid scientific basis for policy measures, and especially highlighted a need for research support with regard to cumulative impact of multiple stressors on species and habitats.

2.29 The Meeting further recognised the relevance of BONUS results, such as on the importance of including genetic diversity in biodiversity management and on assessing effects of different scenarios of climate change to nutrient loads and suggested to aim at utilizing the results in the strengthening of the implementation of the BSAP and in the BSAP update.

2.30 The Meeting welcomed the third BONUS symposium “Sustainable ecosystem governance under changing climate and land use in the Baltic Sea region” planned to take place 14-16 March 2018 in Gdansk, Poland.

#### *Implementation of HELCOM Agreements*

2.31 The Meeting considered the final draft of the report on implementation of HELCOM agreements (document 2-3) and agreed on the proposed changes by Working Groups, Experts Groups and the Secretariat to the status of accomplishment of actions as well as to update the HELCOM Explorer with updated responses and supporting information.

2.32 The Meeting took note of the information from Lithuania, Latvia and Germany that they have recently ratified the Minamata Convention on Mercury and requested the Secretariat to update document 2-3 accordingly.

2.33 The Meeting agreed that the Contracting Parties can still check country specific information in document 2-3 and submit any corrections to the Secretariat ([ulla-li.zweifel@helcom.fi](mailto:ulla-li.zweifel@helcom.fi)) by **7 January 2018**.

2.34 The Meeting approved the report taking into account input from the consultation round and agreed that it would be included as a background report to the 2018 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting as well as utilized in further HELCOM work.

#### **Agenda Item 3 Matters arising from the HELCOM Groups**

Documents: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6, 3-7, 3-8, 3-9, 3-10, 3-11, 3-11-rev, 3-12, 3-13, 3-14, 3-15, 3-16, 3-17, 3-18, 3-19, 3-20, 3-21

#### *Underwater noise*

3.1 The Meeting recalled that HOD 52-2017 agreed on the “HELCOM Input to the process of establishing environmental targets for underwater noise” pending the clarification of the study reservations by Germany and Russia. The Meeting also recalled that Germany has lifted their study reservation after providing specific comments to the documents and reaching an expert agreement on the document in HELCOM EN-NOISE on 16 August 2017.

3.2 The Meeting took note that Russia needs some additional time to clarify their study reservation on the document and will inform on their national position by **31 January 2018**. The Meeting clarified that if Russia lifts their study reservation the document can be considered as approved.

3.3 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to streamline terminology, specifically use of “underwater sound” and “underwater noise”.

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### Outcomes of working group meetings

3.4 The Meeting took note of matters raised within recent meetings of the subsidiary bodies (documents 3-14 and 3-15) as introduced by the Executive Secretary:

- Planning of the HELCOM indicator work beyond the HOLAS II project has started within STATE&CONSERVATION and GEAR, including further developments and considerations on updates including frequency and possible automatization.
- Last MARITIME meeting 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). The Meeting congratulated the Chairs for their re-elections.
- that 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.
- Cooperation with BALTFISH has progressed with exchange of letters between HELCOM and BALTFISH Chairs and that a symmetrical agreement on exchange of information in the form of key documents has been reached, that the Secretariat has been requested by FISH to share information on a regular basis with BALTFISH Chair and that the FISH group agreed that the Chair of HELCOM FISH should attend the BALTFISH Forum on behalf of HELCOM.
- that the second Meeting of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue between secretariats and representatives of regional fisheries management bodies and regional seas organisations (including HELCOM for the Baltic Sea) 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.

3.5 The Meeting regretted that no progress has been achieved on the draft Recommendation on biotopes, habitats and biotope complexes and noted that all Contracting Parties with the exception of Denmark can endorse the Recommendation as it stands. Denmark informed the Meeting that their position remains the same and noted that the matter is tabled at STATE&CONSERVATION 8-2018. The Meeting requested the parties to continue their efforts to conclude on the issue by HELCOM 39-2018.

3.6 The Meeting took note of the view brought forward by Denmark that it would be preferable if all the core indicators reports were submitted to HODs for approval. The Meeting agreed that, as these reports are technical and scientific in nature, and to avoid replicating work across several levels, the approval of the reports should be given at the Working Group level. The Meeting tasked the Secretariat to ensure a quality control process of the indicator reports before publication.

3.7 The Meeting noted with concern the recent plans to reduce national grey seal monitoring in Finland and the information by Finland that they are still in the process of considering these changes, including their consequences to indicators and assessments (c.f. document 3-18).

3.8 The Meeting considered the substantial proposals emerging from recent meetings of the subsidiary bodies (c.f. requests for agreement or approval listed in documents 3-14 and 3-15) and:

- agreed 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.
- agreed 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.
- approved the prolongation of the mandate of the RESPONSE Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR) until end of 2018.
- approved the updated ToRs of CG Aquaculture as included in **Annex 3**.

- approved HELCOM GREEN TEAM Work Plan for 2018-2019 as included in **Annex 4**.
- approved the organization of the next meetings of the working groups and workshops as listed in document 3-14.

3.9 The Meeting took note of the confirmation by Germany that PRESSURE 8-2018 will be held 18-20 April 2018 in Berlin, Germany, and that Germany offers to host the next GEAR meeting (in Berlin).

3.10 The Meeting welcomed the information that Germany has provided funding to HELCOM for the activity by EMEP to estimate effects of air emission policies on reduction on nitrogen to the Baltic Sea which has been identified as needed by the Pressure WG.

3.11 The Meeting took note of the comments to the outcomes of the working groups' meetings by CCB (document 3-18).

#### *FISH*

3.12 The Meeting recalled the initiative to develop an inventory of data needs, and steps to fill the identified data gaps, of HELCOM indicators 'Number of drowned mammals and water birds in fishing gear' and 'Cumulative impact on benthic biotopes' (cf. document 5-3 of the HELCOM FISH 7-2017) and took note of the current status of work based on information presented by the lead country Poland.

3.13 The Meeting recalled that the issue has engaged both State and Conservation group as the main responsible for core indicators, as well as Fish group, tasked with the operationalization of fisheries related indicators.

3.14 The Meeting noted the work planned for the Correspondence Group to develop a HELCOM road map on fisheries data for operationalizing the two indicators established by the FISH 7-2017 (Annex 1 of document 3-14, and c.f. FISH 7-2017 Outcome, paragraphs 5.14-5.18), including a workshop planned for January-February 2018 in Denmark.

3.15 The Meeting supported the lead country (Poland) approach to give priority to finalizing HELCOM inventory on data needs and thus provide guidance in developing the roadmap as indicated in the ToR of the Correspondence Group.

3.16 The Meeting expressed the wish to follow this process closely, thanked Poland for the work so far and invited Poland to report to HOD 54-2018 on finalisation of the inventory of data needs.

3.17 The Meeting requested Denmark to inform of the dates of the HELCOM FISH CG workshop and prepare an invitation letter as soon as convenient and requested that, based on the invitation by Denmark, the Secretariat prepares and circulates the invitation and Provisional Agenda.

3.18 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the Regional Workshop on Eel and the Baltic Sea (FISH-M 5-2017) organized by HELCOM in cooperation with the Convention on Migratory Species and Sargasso Sea Commission (document 3-17) and thanked Sweden for hosting and preparing this timely and successful workshop.

3.19 The Meeting noted that the workshop called for urgent implementation of HELCOM commitments on eel from Ministerial Meetings in 2007 and 2013, that it was of the opinion that these commitments should be taken on board, and if necessary further strengthened, during the foreseen update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan.

3.20 The Meeting noted that action needs to be taken on eel and expressed support that the HELCOM Secretariat follows up the initiative discussed in the workshop to prepare a regional project on eel with links to the implementation, and foreseen update of, the Baltic Sea Action Plan (c.f. document 3-17).

3.21 The Meeting took note of the planned second range state workshop by the Convention on Migratory Species and Sargasso Sea Commission on 15-16 May 2018 to be hosted by the World Maritime University in Malmö and encouraged participation by the Baltic Sea states as well as by HELCOM.

3.22 The Meeting took note of the comment by CCB that the time for research has passed and there is an urgent need to take concrete and efficient management measures in the Baltic Sea coastal countries and EU to ensure the survival of the European eel. Stock of European eel has declined dramatically since the early 1970s and the species is currently classified as Critically Endangered by the IUCN and HELCOM Red Lists, listed in Appendix II of the CMS and Appendix II of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). CCB has launched a dedicated web page on European eel (<http://www.ccb.se/eel/>).

#### *HELCOM Recommendations*

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’ (document 3-2, Attachment 3).

3.24 The Meeting agreed to delete from the list of valid HELCOM Recommendations:

- HELCOM Recommendation 2/2 “Recommendation on the Acceptance by the Baltic Sea States of International Instruments on Maritime Safety, Pollution Prevention and Related Matters”;
- HELCOM Recommendation 21/2 “Amendments to Annex IV "Prevention of pollution from ships" of the 1992 Helsinki Convention”;
- HELCOM Recommendation 22E/5 “Amendments to Annex IV "Prevention of pollution from ships" to the Helsinki Convention”;
- HELCOM Recommendation 24/8 “Amendments to Annex IV “Prevention of pollution from ships” to the Helsinki Convention, concerning discharge of sewage”.

#### *Maritime*

3.25 The Meeting took note that HELCOM has been approached by the IMO Secretariat regarding the Glofouling initiative, a new project that builds on the widely recognised GloBallast Project, to which HELCOM contributed via its regional work on the Ballast Water Management Convention. Glofouling has the main aim to facilitate the implementation of the IMO Guidelines for the control and management of ships biofouling to minimise the transfer of invasive aquatic species.

- 3.26 The Meeting welcomed and agreed to the call to become a strategic partner to GEF/UNDP/IMO Glofouling and to support the initiative based on the ongoing Interreg project COMPLETE and other available resources and material including the core indicator on non-indigenous species.
- 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).
- 3.28 The Meeting agreed to publish the HELCOM Maritime Assessment (document 3-12) in the HELCOM BSEP series after implementing the corrections in document 3-21 and noted that the Secretariat is going to carry out proofreading and final layout, including redrawing of figures, before release.
- 3.29 The Meeting approved publishing of the HELCOM 2017 update to the Overview on Port Reception Facilities (PRF) (document 3-5) as an electronic HELCOM publication.
- 3.30 The Meeting welcomed that Russia will send updated information the PRF overview by 15 December 2017 to the Secretariat ([hermanni.backer@helcom.fi](mailto:hermanni.backer@helcom.fi)) and requested other Contracting parties to provide similar updates if available.
- 3.31 The Meeting highlighted that the PRF information in the IMO online database (GISIS) is outdated for many Baltic Sea ports and requested all Contracting Parties to check and update the contents based on the updated HELCOM PRF Overview and other relevant information.
- 3.32 The Meeting approved submission of the updated PRF Overview publication to IMO MEPC 73 (autumn 2018) as an information document, as appropriate incorporating further updates from Contracting Parties, and requested that the Secretariat submits the document to IMO MEPC 73 within the established deadlines.
- 3.33 The Meeting approved publishing of the Baltic Sea Clean Shipping Guide - revised 2017 edition (document 3-7).

#### *Pressure*

- 3.34 The Meeting discussed the principles of reallocation of extra reduction to evaluate the progress towards national reduction targets (document 3-8).
- 3.35 The Meeting took note of the position of Germany that the amount of extra reductions depends on a number of factors, e.g. the factors calculated by the model, the time series of the nutrient input data and the methodology used for the CART follow-up and hence incorporates large uncertainties. In fact, extra reductions are not a fixed number but can vary considerably (as demonstrated in document 3-20). Hence, Germany is of the opinion that principle 8 in document 3-8 is fundamental to the use of extra reductions. The principle states that based on the precautionary approach extra reductions cannot be used to purposely increase nutrient inputs to a basin.
- 3.36 The Meeting took note of the position by Denmark that political commitments of Contracting Parties to CART stem from the Ministerial Declaration 2013, however, Denmark understands the reason to focus on MAI in the longer term in order to achieve GES. On this basis, Denmark calls for fixed, longer intervals for updating of the evaluation of the reduction targets and would also like to discuss the possibility of carrying out minor adjustments of CART for specific basins, where data for reference period has changed significantly, cf. p. 35 in supplementary paper. Denmark considers the supplementary paper as integrated part of the policy message. Denmark cannot accept principle 8 in document 3-8 as it should be up to Contracting Parties how to meet the commitments.
- 3.37 The Meeting took note that Germany is not in the position to agree on the use of the reallocation of the extra reduction in the assessment unless all principles are agreed.
- 3.38 The Meeting took note of the suggestion by Germany regarding a compromise version for the text of the principle 8 and invited Germany and Denmark to consider and agree on the principle 8 in the

format of intersessional consultations and continue discussion at HELCOM 39-2018 with an intention to come to an agreement on the use of the extra reduction for the assessment.

3.39 The Meeting pointed out that the methodology of reallocation of extra reduction has been already agreed by HOD 49-2016 and that the only disagreement on principle 8 is still preventing its application for the assessment results. The Meeting also took note that many countries are in favour of application of this methodology for the PLC-6 assessment.

3.40 The Meeting highlighted that the assessment of progress towards national nutrient input targets is to be performed in suitable intervals and, if possible, synchronised with the needs of WFD and MSFD.

3.41 The Meeting discussed the two options for policy messages on assessment of progress towards national nutrient input targets (document 3-9) taking into account the considerations on reallocation of extra reduction.

3.42 The Meeting took note of the position by FEAP that documents 3-8 and 3-9 should be subject to decision by the Ministerial Meeting in March 2018 and the concern regarding the reallocation of extra reductions (document 3-20).<sup>1</sup>

3.43 The Meeting pointed out that the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme to follow up the joint effort of the countries to reduce pollution of the marine environment by nutrients is unique in the world. The Meeting decided to continue discussion on the policy messages at HELCOM 39-2018 with an intention to agree on the assessment results.

3.44 The Meeting considered the final draft document on sources and pathways of nutrient inputs (source apportionment) as one of the PLC-6 products (document 3-10). The Meeting pointed out that PLC assessment products are of high demand in the region and reminded the Contracting Parties that the assessment should be based on the common principles, described in the adopted PLC Guidelines, and the data reported to the HELCOM PLC database.

3.45 The Meeting approved the draft document on sources and pathways of nutrient inputs (source apportionment), agreed on its publication and thanked PLC team for the work done.

3.46 The Meeting took note of the information by Russia that Russia has reported nitrogen emission data for 2015 and the request by Russia to include this in the latest EMEP assessment and use it in follow-up assessments of progress towards CARTs/input ceilings (c.f. document 2-8).

3.47 The Meeting considered the draft assessment of nutrient input by seven biggest rivers (document 3-11-rev) as one of the PLC-6 products. The Meeting took note that this is a new PLC product and decided that the product should be further elaborated by the PLC-6 group.

3.48 The Meeting took note of the specific comment by Latvia that the unified methodology has to be used for the assessment of specific loads from all sub-catchment areas as well as unified colour pattern for the maps throughout the document.

3.49 The Meeting took note that Germany regrets that in this exceptional case national aggregated data (2012-2014) developed in a different context (MSFD) have to be used for the German source apportionment due to ongoing considerations in Germany on the issue of 'national background losses.' Germany will make any effort to better harmonize the national and PLC methodology for the PLC-7 process.

3.50 The Meeting agreed that written comments on the draft assessment of nutrient input by seven biggest rivers can be provided by countries to the Secretariat ([dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi](mailto:dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi)) by **31 January 2018**. The updated product based on the comments will be further considered by PRESSURE 8-2018 and submitted to HOD 54-2018 for approval.

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<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 3.42 added to Outcome of HOD 53-2017-rev

*Agri*

3.51 The Meeting took note of the activities in the HELCOM Agri group as presented by the Chair of Agri, Ms. Tarja Haaranen (**Presentation 1**).

3.52 The Meeting discussed the suggested scope of the revision part 2 of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention (document 3-4) and agreed on the revised scope (**Annex 5**) with the following<sup>2</sup>:

- to consider integration of a new paragraph on nutrient recycling to the Annex in line with corresponding decision of the Ministerial Declaration.
- to take into account of the concern expressed by Denmark regarding potential consequences of adding of the glossary to the Annex for the whole text of the Convention. In this respect, the Meeting suggested establish the Glossary of terms and decide on its place after relevant consultations.

3.53 The Meeting discussed a suitable timetable for the future review and revision work and decided that the work is to be started in spring 2018 and requested the Agri group to provide a suggestion regarding time frame to HOD 54-2018.

*State and conservation*

3.54 The Meeting considered and approved the plan for the update of the first version of the “State of the Baltic Sea” report (document 3-16).

3.55 The Meeting considered the suggested strategy and timetable to review the HELCOM Red List of Species (document 3-13). The Meeting took note of the concern raised by some Contracting Parties as regards the proposed intervals of the Red List revision of being too short and highlighted the need to align the Red List work with other processes, such as HELCOM HOLAS III and reporting under different regulations, and noted national limitations with regards to expert resources within the time frame of the suggested review.

3.56 The Meeting invited the State and Conservation Working Group, together with the Secretariat, to further plan Red List assessment work and present a revised proposal for a strategy the Heads of Delegation.

3.57 The Meeting took note that Denmark does not see a need for updating the Red List as Denmark does not see a need for expanding the list.

3.58 The Meeting approved the proposal for continuation of FISH-PRO II project (document 3-6).

3.59 The Meeting took note of the proposal for a HELCOM project to develop a workspace for the evaluation of HELCOM hazardous substances indicators and integrated assessment (document 3-19). The Meeting agreed on a tacit approval procedure for the project proposal with a deadline of **21 December 2017** for possible comments to the Secretariat.

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

Documents: 4-1, 4-2

4.1 The Meeting took note of the Audit Report and the Financial Statement of the Helsinki Commission for the financial period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, as well as of the explanatory memorandum (document 4-1) and advised the Executive Secretary to submit them to HELCOM 39-2018 in order to have the accountables officially discharged from responsibility.

4.2 The Meeting considered the draft budget for the financial period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (document 4-2) and advised the Executive Secretary to submit the draft budget to HELCOM 39-2018 for

<sup>2</sup> Study reservation regarding nutrient recycling issue by Sweden to be clarified by 21 December 2017.

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official adoption. The Meeting considered the draft income budget estimate for the financial period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 and advised the Executive Secretary to submit it to HELCOM 39-2018 for official endorsement.

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.

4.4 The Meeting took note of the information related to the recruitment process for the post of Communication Secretary and that Heads of Delegation are requested to approve the recommendation by the recruitment panel and agree on the appointment of the new Communication Secretary via correspondence by **21 December 2017**.

4.5 The Meeting took note that Executive Secretary has received no comments from Contracting Parties to the applications for observer status to HELCOM by Race for the Baltic, Waste Free Oceans Foundation and Baltic Sea Action Group, respectively, and noted that HELCOM 39-2018 will decide on observership.

#### **Agenda Item 5 Any other business**

Documents: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5, 5-6, 5-7, 5-8

5.1 The Meeting took note of the presentation by Mr. Simon Bonnell of Nord Stream 2 AG on the comprehensive information on the ongoing Nord Stream 2 pipeline project (**Presentation 2**).

5.2 The Meeting took note of the comments and concerns expressed by CCB about the need:

- to re-assess the option of laying the gas pipeline westwards (closer to Narva River) from the currently proposed route to minimise impacts on Kurgalskiy Nature Reserve, unless microtunnelling option is not technically feasible
- to limit period for trenching and pipe-laying across the proposed N2K area south of Gotland to January-April to minimise the impacts of underwater noise on highly vulnerable Baltic harbour porpoise population
- to provide further information about expected discharge of contaminated water resulting from hydro-testing of the pipeline, after the construction is accomplished.
- to follow in full the requirements related to EIA and environmental expertise procedure in Russia, namely by providing the correct minutes of the public hearings on the EIA to the state environmental expertise.

5.3 The Meeting took note the reply from Nord stream AG that in order to avoid harm to the harbour porpoise in the Gotland area Nord Stream 2 project will avoid construction activities in June and July, and also August whenever possible, and that the pipe will not be tested by water but rather via air in order to minimise the risk of environmental harm.

5.4 The Meeting took note of the proposal for a joint HELCOM-BONUS stakeholder conference in 2018 (document 5-4) and supported the organization of the joint conference (c.f. further discussion on BONUS under Agenda Item 2).

5.5 The Meeting took note of Finland's recently adopted Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (document 5-3) which defines six focus areas and is now being implemented.

5.6 The Meeting took note of the information by Russia about the XIX International Environmental Forum "Baltic Sea Day" planned to take place in St. Petersburg on 22-23 March 2018 (document 5-8). The event will be organised in memory of Mr. Leonid Korovin, a long-time member of HELCOM family and "primus motor" behind the BSD, but is also a moment of renewal as the venue for the event has changed to

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the convention-and-exhibition centre EXPOFORUM (Peterburgskoye sh. 64/1) and will take place in parallel with an environmental exhibition “Ecology of Big City”.

5.7 The Meeting was of the view that the BSD has been a valuable event and suggested to make concrete recommendations in the forum in addition to general conclusions as well as follow-up on the conclusions from the previous BSD events.

5.8 The Meeting supported the planned discussion on the local BSAP and involvement of municipalities into implementation of the BSAP at the Baltic Sea Day. The Meeting also welcomed the information to make recommendations of the Forum available for the HELCOM society.

5.9 The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to contribute to the content of the BSD 2018 agenda and engage national stakeholders to attend the event.

5.10 The Meeting took note of the WWF initial assessment of the country-wise implementation of a set of key actions within segment Biodiversity and Maritime Activities of the BSAP (early draft of the WWF Baltic Scorecard report) (document 5-7).

5.11 The Meeting took note that WWF highlighted the need to keep the BSAP Explorer up to date as this is a key tool to enable transparency to implementation of national commitments, informed that work with the scorecard will continue and will be presented at the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in Brussels .

5.12 The Meeting took note of the call by CCB for thorough Strategic Environmental Assessment of the E40 inland waterway project (document 5-6) and the comment that the E40 inland waterway project will open a gateway for biological invasions between the Black Sea and the Baltic Sea, and therefore carries high environmental risks but has nevertheless received funding from EUSBSR, ENPI as well as many other EU instruments in addition to national sources.

5.13 The Meeting reminded of existing national, EU and international legislation related to SEA/EIA.

5.14 The Meeting took note that CCB intends to keep updating the HODS on other major projects with potential significant environmental concerns and impacts in the Baltic Sea catchment area.

5.15 The Meeting took note of the comment from CCB that Danube Commission has made efforts to elaborate transparent and clear procedures for new inland waterway projects which could be considered as a model by the Contracting parties and HELCOM.

5.16 The Meeting took note of a statement from Poland on the E40 waterway highlighting that the Vistula river waterway is in the very initial phases and further process will be handled according to Polish and EU legislation. The Meeting invited Poland to send a full translated statement to the HELCOM HOD via the Secretariat, when available.

5.17 The Meeting took note of the request from Russia on more information on the status of the planned construction of a navigable canal through the Vistula spit, including EIA process on the construction project, and the reply from Poland that further information on the subject can be provided upon request and submitted to HODs next week through the Secretariat.

5.18 The Meeting took note of the update on and future outlook for HELCOM communication activities including building publicity for the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting (document 5-5).

5.19 The Meeting took note of the information on the on-going projects within HELCOM and with HELCOM involvement (document 5-2).

5.20 The Meeting took note of the list of upcoming meetings within HELCOM and other forums in 2017 (document 5-1).

5.21 The Meeting took note of the information that the European Union hosted the 4th edition of the Our Ocean conference in Malta on 5 and 6 October 2017. The event resulted in 437 tangible and measurable commitments, EUR 7.2 billion in financial pledges, 2.5 million square kilometres of additional Marine Protected Areas. The EU's 36 commitments alone exceeded EUR 550 million and implied action throughout the globe. Together with its individual Member States and the European Investment Bank, the

EU pledged more than EUR 2.8 billion. HELCOM's white table presentation was visible and well received at the event.

5.22 The Meeting took note of the statement by the European Union on financing and legislation as included in **Annex 6**.

**Agenda Item 6      Next meeting(s)**

Documents:

6.1 The Meeting confirmed that the next meeting (HOD 54-2018) will be held on 14-15 June 2018 and welcomed the information EU is investigating a possibility to host the meeting in Brussels.

**Agenda Item 7      Outcome of the Meeting**

Documents: 7-1

7.1 The Meeting adopted the draft Outcome of the Meeting as contained in document 7-1. The final Outcome, incorporating the comments by the Meeting, will be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair and made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal.

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## Annex 2 Draft Ministerial Declaration

6 March 2018 – Full draft v4 – 13.12.2017

*The HOD 53-2017 Meeting agreed to the draft Declaration of the 2018 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting as included in this Annex, with the understanding that the document would still be subjected to further national consultation by all Contracting Parties due general study reservations on the draft.*

### General

1. RECALLING the objective of the Helsinki Convention to prevent and eliminate pollution in order to promote the ecological restoration of the Baltic Sea area and the preservation of its ecological balance, and RECALLING further the aim of HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan to restore the good environmental status of the Baltic marine environment by 2021 to have a healthy Baltic Sea environment, with diverse biological components functioning in balance, resulting in good environmental status and supporting a wide range of sustainable human economic and social activities.
2. WELCOMING the first version of the “State of the Baltic Sea” report (2017) that presents an assessment of environmental status, and pressures and impacts on the Baltic Sea marine environment as well as social and economic analyses of the use of marine waters and cost of degradation and AGREEING to update and finalize this first version by June 2018, to provide the common basis to assess whether the goals and objectives of the Baltic Sea Action Plan have been achieved. PLANNING to prepare the next holistic assessment of the state of the Baltic Sea in 2023 / 2024 based on the updated assessment of indicators.
3. NOTING with great concern that (a) almost the whole Baltic Sea area is still affected by eutrophication, NOTING that this is partly due to the time lag between measures and effects, (b) unfavourable conservation status of Baltic marine biodiversity is widespread as a result of multiple pressures from human activities and in particular that several species, biotopes and habitats are still in danger of becoming extinct in the region; that most assessed habitats are not in good status, that there are signs of deterioration of food web; and (c) levels of hazardous substances continue to be elevated and a cause for concern, d) invasive alien species are still being introduced to the Baltic Sea, marine litter is a pressure of special concern, and other pressures such as underwater noise disturb the marine life, and e) around half of the seabed is potentially disturbed by human activity.
4. NOTING with great concern the impacts of climate change on the marine environment in the Baltic Sea, including decreasing ice extent and duration, increasing water temperature and lowering salinity, as well as the all-time low level of oxygen near the seabed. NOTING that these impacts compound existing pressures on marine ecosystems and thus make the need to reduce these pressures even more important, so as not to further impair the ability of the seas and ocean to act as climate regulator.
5. ACKNOWLEDGING in this regard that the Paris Climate Agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C, and WELCOMING the increasing visibility of ocean issues on the climate agenda.
6. NOTING that the status of Baltic Sea marine environment continues to be unsatisfactory as a result of pressures from human activities and that recovery is not yet sufficient to achieve the goals and ecological objectives of the Baltic Sea Action Plan. NOTING ALSO that the most widely-distributed pressures causing impacts are excess nutrients, contamination underwater noise, invasive alien species, extraction of fish and

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physical disturbance, and that an analysis of cumulative pressures and impacts indicates that those tend to be higher in coastal areas than the open sea.

7. RECOGNIZING that the state of the marine environment affects human welfare, and that according to the “State of the Baltic Sea” report losses in recreational values due to the deterioration of the marine environment are estimated to be 1-2 billion euros annually and NOTING that the high level of eutrophication, if reduced, is estimated to result in annual economic benefits in the order of 4 billion euros that are spread across various sectors.
8. ACKNOWLEDGING the progress in implementing the 2007 Baltic Sea Action Plan with [68]% of the regional actions and measures implemented, and between [23%] and [60%] of the national actions completed by all or some Contracting Parties, and positive impacts it has had on preventing further deterioration, such as drastically reducing the number and volume of illegal oil spills, substantially decreasing the input and deposition of cadmium, mercury and lead, and increasing the abundance of most seal populations,
9. WELCOMING the progress that Contracting Parties have made in reducing their nutrient input to the Baltic Sea from land-based sources and in addressing inputs from ships by designating the Baltic Sea as a special area under MARPOL Annexes IV and VI.
10. REGRETTING, however, that Maximum Allowable Inputs of phosphorus have not been fulfilled in six out of seven sub-basins and of nitrogen in four out of seven sub-basins of the Baltic Sea.
11. REITERATING the agreed actions and measures in the Baltic Sea Action Plan and the Moscow (2010) and Copenhagen (2013) Ministerial Declarations, we RE-AFFIRM our strong commitment to strengthen the implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and the follow-up declarations, by 2021, as pledged by HELCOM at the United Nations Ocean Conference on Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14) in 2017,
12. WITHOUT PREJUDICE to national legislation, international agreements and legislation of the European Union, and EXPRESSING our strong political commitment to implement this Declaration, whilst noting that it is not legally binding in itself.
13. WE DO HEREBY ADOPT this HELCOM Brussels Ministerial Declaration.
14. EXPRESSING CONCERN that, despite all current efforts that we made together and individually, GES for the Baltic Sea area and favourable conservation status of biodiversity, is unlikely to be reached by 2021, we CONTINUE to strive, as a first priority, for achievement of already agreed actions with renewed efforts to make decisive progress towards our 2021 goals and in particular to strengthen our efforts to address the most widely-distributed and harmful pressures.
15. We AGREE to complete and fully operationalise the set of indicators used for regularly assessing the status of the marine environment, and to advance mapping and assessment of the extent and intensity of human activities in the Baltic Sea region, and improve the understanding of their impacts including the cumulative effects on the ecosystem, and to use this information for strengthening the implementation of ecosystem-based management.
16. We DECIDE to update the Baltic Sea Action Plan by 2021 at the latest with the aim to set out a robust action plan for continuous achievement of the agreed HELCOM vision of a healthy Baltic Sea environment. We also DECIDE that the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan will, in addition to existing commitments to be fulfilled by

2021, address new issues, on the basis of the commitments made in this Ministerial Declaration and further deliberations during the BSAP updating process.

17. We ACKNOWLEDGE that while we work on updating the Baltic Sea Action Plan we will [at least] maintain ambition level of agreed actions and objectives.
18. We REITERATE our determination to implement the declaration *Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action* adopted by the high-level United Nations Conference (June 2017) and the Agenda 2030 and related Sustainable Development Goals, in particular its water- and ocean-related targets, and RECALL the role of HELCOM in leading the coordination of regional efforts in this regard and in line with the Outcome of the High-Level segment of HELCOM 38-2017. We therefore COMMIT to also using those goals and targets as a framework and guidance for the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan.
19. We DECIDE that the overall objectives of the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan should include actions necessary for managing human activities in such a way that the current HELCOM's strategic goals "Baltic Sea unaffected by eutrophication", "Baltic Sea with life undisturbed by hazardous substances", "Maritime activities carried out in an environmentally friendly way" and "Favourable conservation status" can be achieved, also linking relevant political processes and science. We RECOGNIZE the economic and social benefits of achieving these objectives.
20. We AGREE that the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan should be based on an ecosystem approach, fully use the precautionary principle, be supported by fit-for-purpose scientific research, strong communication with stakeholders and knowledge sharing between science and policy and across all policy levels, and be developed in a participatory and transparent way that includes regional and local levels, as appropriate, NGOs, sectors and other stakeholders.

#### *Eutrophication*

21. We RECALL the country-allocated reduction targets for nutrients which will lower nutrient inputs as specified by the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial meeting, including through implementation of measures taken under relevant EU legislation for contracting parties being EU Member States and under relevant national legislation in the Russian Federation.
22. We ACKNOWLEDGE that due to improved data on nutrient inputs in the reference period<sup>3</sup>, the country allocated nutrient reduction targets are no longer always sufficient to achieve good environmental status of the Baltic Sea with regard to eutrophication and that, therefore, the follow up of the nutrient reduction requirements of the BSAP should focus on national commitments based on maximum allowable inputs and this should be reflected in the BSAP update.
23. RECOGNIZING, however, with concern the sustained high amounts of nutrient inputs especially from agriculture, we DECIDE to engage, as a priority, in further enhanced cooperation with the agricultural sector in the Baltic as well as aim for enhanced cooperation with other relevant sectors.
24. In that context, we DECIDE to engage with the relevant river basin authorities to better align nutrient reduction requirements of the BSAP with those of coastal waters.
25. RECOGNIZING with concern that large amounts of phosphorus have accumulated in the Baltic Sea during the past decades due to anthropogenic activities, resulting in an enhanced internal flux of nutrients between sediments and sea water thereby exacerbating eutrophication;

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<sup>3</sup> Pre-BSAP period.

26. We ENCOURAGE as a first step to further improve the knowledge base regarding the nature and dynamics of internal nutrient reserves.
27. We EMPHASIZE that the risks to ecosystem and human health and long-term sustainability of effects of measures to manage internal nutrient reserves need to be considered and thoroughly evaluated. We ENCOURAGE to as a second step undertake research on the potential of measures to manage internal nutrient reserves, together with the development and application of a risk assessment framework in HELCOM to meet the necessary environmental requirements for measures planned for the open sea outside coastal waters and any other measures having potentially significant transboundary effects. We also ACKNOWLEDGE the need to elaborate - in line with the Helsinki Convention - commonly agreed regional principles as guidance for internal nutrient reserves management.

*Nutrient recycling strategy*

28. BEING AWARE that nitrogen fertilizer production is a highly energy consuming process and that its replacement could contribute to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and that phosphorus is a limited natural resource and a critical raw material, for which recycling methods for use in agricultural production already exists; RECOGNISING also that nutrient resources are not optimally managed everywhere and that there is a need to improve both use efficiency and recycling of nutrients, thereby reducing nutrient surpluses and losses, WE COMMIT to elaborate by 2020 a Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy that should:
- aim for reduced nutrient inputs to and eutrophication of the Baltic Sea,,
  - be based on the best available scientific knowledge on sustainable management and processing of nutrients in agriculture by safe recycling of nutrients especially from manure and sewage,
  - promote environmentally safe nutrient recycling in the Baltic Sea region, taking into account principles of circular economy, geographical and socio-economic conditions, as well as spatial distribution of nutrient stocks and their flows,
  - give guidance on risk assessments and solutions to prevent potentially harmful consequences from the application of recycled products and technological processes of nutrients recycling,
  - help to identify regional challenges, applicability and added value for the whole Baltic Sea region,
  - be established with a step-by-step approach and contain a common vision and objectives for nutrient recycling.
29. WE DECIDE to develop as follow-up to the Strategy also nutrient recycling measures to be included in the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan.

*Marine litter and circular economy*

30. We REGRET that marine litter, and in particular plastic waste, continues to be a problem in the Baltic Sea and we STRESS that marine litter does not belong in the sea.
31. We are DETERMINED to combat marine litter through coordinated implementation of the Regional Marine Litter Action Plan and, for contracting parties that are EU Member States, of measures taken for instance under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive in order to achieve GES for marine litter in the Baltic Sea.

32. We RE-COMMIT to prevent and reduce marine litter from land and sea-based sources and to achieve a significant quantitative reduction of it by 2025. To that end we COMMIT to regional work on developing baselines and threshold values for maximum levels of marine litter in the Baltic Sea in close coordination with work undertaken by contracting parties in other relevant fora, and, if additional efforts are needed to achieve those levels, we COMMIT to developing ambitious, regionally coordinated, quantitative targets to reduce input of litter
33. We also COMMIT to strengthening regional research and developing harmonised monitoring methods on the sources, distribution, amounts and impacts of marine litter with particular focus on micro-plastics, in coherence with similar work undertaken by contracting parties in other relevant fora, and to improving assessment of the effectiveness of measures.
34. We SUPPORT measures aimed at preventing plastics including micro-plastics from contaminating the marine and coastal environment, addressing the entire lifecycle of products and examining effective and cost-efficient options to reduce plastic and micro-plastic releases from products and processes into the environment.
35. We DECIDE to develop possible measures to address micro-plastics in waste water effluents as well as storm water based on an increased knowledge on the scale of the problem.

#### *Hazardous substances*

36. WE AGREE to identify the scale of problems of contaminants of emerging concern, including micro-pollutants in coastal and marine waters and, based on this knowledge, to consider possible cost-effective mitigation measures and WELCOME the joint HELCOM-UNESCO status report on pharmaceuticals in the aquatic environment in the Baltic Sea Region as the information basis for developing measures, as appropriate, to prevent pharmaceuticals from reaching the Baltic Sea.
37. We also AGREE to identify and assess further hazardous substances and contaminants from offshore sources, which may give rise to pollution effects.

#### *Underwater noise*

38. We WELCOME the progress made in the implementation of the Regional Baltic Underwater Noise Roadmap 2015-2017, including the establishment of a joint HELCOM/OSPAR registry of licenced impulsive sound events and the development of a regional monitoring programme and guidelines for continuous noise as well as new evidence regarding potential impact of underwater noise on species in the Baltic Sea.
39. We EMPHASIZE the need to further improve our understanding of the adverse impacts of underwater noise on the identified noise sensitive marine species and in particular the cumulative impacts of impulsive noise from multiple activities.
40. We AGREE to develop an action plan and implement regionally coordinated measures on underwater noise, aiming, in the long-term, at addressing adverse effects of underwater noise on marine species, whilst safeguarding the potential of the Baltic Sea for sustainable human activities.
41. We COMMIT to continue fruitful cooperation between European Regional Sea Conventions and in particular OSPAR in order to exchange good practice and to fill knowledge gaps, and to continue regional work in developing threshold values for underwater noise that are consistent with GES for noise-sensitive species in the Baltic Sea, in close coordination with work undertaken by contracting parties in other relevant fora.

*Seabed damage and disturbance*

42. We AGREE to regional work on developing threshold values and if needed to achieve GES, to develop ambitious, regionally coordinated quantitative targets, to reduce adverse effects of physical disturbance and habitat loss on the basis of best available scientific advice, and, through improved scientific understanding of the distribution, extent and impact from pressures on different seabed habitats and the effects thereof .
43. We COMMIT to working together towards a regional action plan that will deliver the necessary reductions in adverse effects of physical disturbance.

*Biodiversity and impacts on ecosystems*

44. We COMMIT to increase the protection and restoration of biodiversity, and to intensify regional, sub-regional and cross-sectoral cooperation and to preserve and promote the ecological balance of the Baltic Sea area with strengthened resilience, also as streamlined response to human-induced climate change adaptation needs.
45. We AGREE to take actions to prevent the loss of biodiversity in the Baltic Sea and to improve the status of species, biotopes and habitats that are threatened according to the 2013 HELCOM Red Lists<sup>4</sup>, by establishing conservation plans or other relevant programmes or measures for species, biotopes and habitats at risk of extinction, inside and outside protected areas.
46. WE WELCOME the significant progress made towards increasing the geographical coverage of the HELCOM marine protected areas (HELCOM MPAs) network; we COMMIT to strengthen our efforts - regionally and nationally - to fully establish an ecologically coherent and well-managed network of HELCOM MPAs, in particular to ensure connectivity between these sites, and improve understanding of the role of MPAs for ecosystem services, in order to enhance cost-effectiveness of MPAs management and yield the greatest environmental benefits. We also AGREE to strive for full achievement of Aichi Target 11 regarding the management, ecological representativeness and connectivity of the HELCOM MPAs network.
47. WE RECALL the HELCOM commitment on identification of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSA) in the Baltic Sea in collaboration with the Convention of Biological Diversity, made at the Ocean Conference on SDG 14.

*Climate change*

48. We STRESS the need for research and adaptive management to strengthen the resilience of the Baltic Sea in the face of climate change impacts and AGREE to increase HELCOM's preparedness to respond to climate change impacts, by taking foreseen climate change impacts into account when updating the Baltic Sea Action Plan and by exploring the needs and possibilities to adapt HELCOM's policies with the objective to ensure protection of the marine environment also under the changing climate and to maximise the capacity of the Baltic Sea ecosystem to contribute to mitigation of climate change through blue carbon storage.
49. WE EMPHASIZE the need to further strengthen the scientific understanding of the impacts of climate change together with multiple other stressors on the Baltic Sea marine environment and AGREE that HELCOM should take action to bridge this knowledge to policy.

*Implementation of the ecosystem approach*

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<sup>4</sup> BSEP No. 138 and 140

50. WE RECOGNIZE that knowledge on the relationship between the state of the marine environment and human well-being is essential for applying the ecosystem approach to management of human activities and in maritime spatial planning in the region, as well as for implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention on Biological Diversity.
51. To this end, we AGREE to further develop and carry out coordinated regional economic and social assessments, including mapping and analysis of ecosystem services and natural capital accounting, taking advantage of improved methods and comparability of data.
52. We also AGREE to encourage further coordinated research to support cost of degradation analyses, cost-effectiveness analyses of regional measures, and assessment of cost and benefits related to achieving good environmental status covering the entire Baltic Sea region.
53. We EMPHASIZE that this will help the transition towards a sustainable use of marine goods and services by present and future generations and the results will serve for the next holistic assessment of the marine environment and other processes, to the benefit of marine management as well as maritime spatial planning.

#### *Improving regional ocean governance*

54. We WELCOME the great successes already achieved in regional cooperation and governance for instance in the fields of maritime transport, maritime spatial planning and research:
- In particular, we WELCOME the progress made in addressing the environmental impact of the maritime transport sector in the Baltic Sea via (a) the collaborative long-term effort to designate the Baltic Sea as a NOx Emissions Control Area (NECA), (b) HELCOM commitment at the Ocean Conference on SDG 14 on NECA and to promote green shipping technology and use of alternative fuels, and (c) the recent International Maritime Organization (IMO) decisions on the date of enforcement of the Baltic Sea as a special sewage area under MARPOL Annex IV<sup>5</sup>,
  - We also RECOGNISE the Baltic Sea region as a forerunner in regional cooperation on maritime spatial planning (MSP) and regional governance, involving HELCOM and VASAB and facilitated by the HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group, and the important contribution maritime spatial planning can make to fulfil the Agenda 2030, in particular SDG 14,
  - We APPRECIATE the constructive cooperation with other partners in the region, including the Council of the Baltic Sea States, and UNDERLINE in this context the many successful cooperation projects developed within the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR), such as Baltic Scope or Baltic Lines, or within the BONUS Research Programme as well as initiatives by cities and municipalities in areas of common interest.
55. To strengthen regional governance, we COMMIT to enhance cooperation, policy coherence and coordination at all levels for delivering water- and ocean-related SDGs under Agenda 2030, in particular:
- in maritime transport, we COMMIT to improve the availability of port reception facilities in the region for delivery of sewage and other ship-generated waste ,

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<sup>5</sup> 1 June 2019 for new IMO registered passenger ships and 1 June 2021 for existing passenger ships with an extension until 1 June 2023 for direct passages between St. Petersburg area in Russia and the North Sea

- we REITERATE the common goal of all Baltic Sea countries to, by 2020, establish maritime spatial plans that are coherent across borders and apply the ecosystem approach, and in this regard, stress the importance to further cooperate to use the agreed principles, guidelines, concepts and mechanisms for planning purposes and develop them further as needed,
  - we AGREE to strengthen cooperation on ship hull fouling both with regards to introduction of invasive alien species and hazardous substances in anti-fouling systems,
  - we AGREE to strengthen coordination and cooperation mechanisms with international and regional fishery bodies active in the Baltic Sea region, in particular BALTFISH, and the Baltic Sea Advisory Council and ICES, to create synergies (for instance in relation to data management and the production of scientific advice) and ensure compatibility between conservation and management measures.
  - We STRIVE to raise awareness on the situation of the Baltic Sea area, enhance ocean literacy, and support transparency, networks and campaigns.
56. We STRIVE for joint approaches and synergies among HELCOM and relevant multilateral environmental agreements including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Migratory Species and the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas.
57. We WELCOME the entry into force of the Ballast Water Management Convention on 8 September 2017 and COMMIT to regionally back ratification, harmonized implementation and further development of IMO instruments, including MARPOL and the Ballast Water Management Convention for the Baltic Sea area.
58. ACKNOWLEDGING that projects on issues of common interest under the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region has given substantial contribution to the implementation of the BSAP, we will CONTINUE the constructive cooperation with actors involved in this framework to contribute to the implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan.
59. WE AGREE to cooperate with other Regional Sea Conventions and relevant River Basin authorities in our work to reach SDGs, and RECOGNIZE the opportunities for increased knowledge, efficiency gains and effectiveness when jointly addressing implementation challenges.
60. We AGREE TO strengthen the cooperation with OSPAR in collaboration on common challenges and transboundary issues to gain efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of SDGs such as ballast water management and introduction of invasive alien species, underwater noise, micro-plastic, migratory birds, MPA network and management, threatened and endangered species.
61. We are DETERMINED to continue working together in HELCOM to deliver our common objectives until 2030 and beyond efficiently and effectively; and to this end we WILL continue to work to strengthen the cross-sectorial, regional and inter-regional partnerships and mobilize financing to support implementation of the BSAP and Agenda 2030 in the Baltic Sea Region.

## Annex 3 Work plan of CG Aquaculture 2017-2019

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

techniques from ecological, social and economic points of view <b>(Detailed task A)</b>			<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 <b>(Detailed task B)</b> .	[Lead needed]	Meeting of CG Aquaculture summer 2018	<b>Output 2:</b> <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 <b>(Detailed task D)</b> To draft a list of most suitable BAT and BEP aquaculture techniques, based on the information collected under a-d), by October [2019] <b>(Detailed task E)</b> ;	First draft by Chair  All participants to contribute	Meeting of CG Aquaculture summer 2019	<b>Output 3:</b> <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 <b>(Detailed task F)</b> .	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 <b>(Detailed task G)</b> .	All participants	Meeting of CG Aquaculture summer 2019  Reported to meeting of HELCOM FISH Autumn 2019	Summer 2019

## Annex 4 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"> <li>• Vessel (technology and design)</li> <li>• Infrastructure (port development)</li> <li>• Finance (to cope with the transition towards a new normal)</li> <li>• Regulation (new and updates)</li> <li>• R&amp;D (new identified areas and support moving forward)</li> </ul>
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. <sup>6</sup>		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.

<sup>6</sup> 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"> <li>• Environmentally differentiated fairway dues</li> <li>• Environmental Ship Index</li> <li>• Tax exemption on onshore power supply for shipping</li> </ul>
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"> <li>1. Suggestion is to coordinate a follow-up together with CBSS, to the Roadmap start-up WS in 2014, in September 2017</li> <li>2. Some with special focus on the implementation of NECA and NO<sub>x</sub> abatement technologies</li> </ol>

\* 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](http://www.zerovisiotool.com)

## Annex 5 The Scope of the Revision of Annex III part 2

- Establish a **glossary of terms**, that should be in line but not be singularly based on the legal terms of the EU legislation but serve for the purposes of the Convention.
- Review **Regulation 2 item 3** “Manure storage”
- Review **Regulation 2 item 6** “Application of organic manures”
- Review **Regulation 2 item 7** “Application rates for nutrients” only starting from the sentence “The amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year...”
- Consider a **new paragraph on nutrient recycling based on the outcome of MM 2018**

## Annex 6 Statements by the European Commission Regarding Financing and the Implementation of EU Legislation

The EU is an important financing body for potential projects being considered within the context of HELCOM. In order to avoid any interference with the independent decision-making procedures established under the various financing instruments, the EU does, as a matter of principle, not take any position as regards any project proposal intended for submission to EU financing bodies. This should not be interpreted in any way as prejudging the position of the EU when taking financing decision.

The responsibility for implementing EU legislation is solely with the EU Member States. The role of the European Commission is, inter alia, to assess compliance with EU legislation once a Member State has submitted its report. Hence, any statement or position taken by the EU within the context of HELCOM should not be construed to give any assessment of whether the work done by HELCOM is compliant with EU legislation.

### **Statement regarding MSFD Implementation**

The EU pointed out that any agreement that the EU delegation will give within the context of HELCOM in this respect is without prejudice to the European Commission's role under the EU Treaty to assess the implementation and compliance of EU Member States with EU law and the assessments that the European Commission is required to carry out in accordance with Articles 12 and 16 MSFD after EU Member States have officially reported to the European Commission.

## List of documents

<b>Title</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Submitted by</b>
<a href="#">1-1 Provisional agenda.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">1-2 Annotations to the Provisional Agenda.pdf</a>	CMNT	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">2-1 Provisional Agenda for HELCOM 39-2018.pdf</a>	DEC	Chair and Executive Secretary
<a href="#">2-2 Conclusions from the HELCOM-BONUS workshop.pdf</a>	INF	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">2-3 Final draft of the report on implementation of HELCOM agreements.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">2-4 Full Draft - Ministerial Declaration.pdf</a>	DEC	EU and Executive Secretary
<a href="#">2-4-rev1 Full draft - Ministerial Declaration.pdf</a>	DEC	Plenary
<a href="#">2-4-rev2 Full Draft - Ministerial Declaration.pdf</a>	DEC	EU and Executive Secretary
<a href="#">2-5 Update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary and EU
<a href="#">2-6 Draft Provisional Agenda and draft proposed programme of the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary, Chair and EU
<a href="#">2-6-rev Draft Provisional Agenda and draft proposed programme of the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary, Chair and EU
<a href="#">2-7 Background for regional nutrient recycling strategy.pdf</a>	DEC	Finland
<a href="#">2-8 Russian comments to the documents 2-7, 3-11 and 3-14.pdf</a>	CMNT	Russia
<a href="#">2-9 Finnish comments to Draft Ministerial Declaration.pdf</a>	CMNT	Finland
<a href="#">2-10 Draft text on management of internal nutrient reserves for the Ministerial Declaration 2018.pdf</a>	DEC	Finland and Sweden
<a href="#">2-11 Note on the statements by HELCOM Observers and invitees at the 2018 HELCOM Brussels Ministerial Meeting.pdf</a>	INF	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">2-12 German statement on internal nutrient reserves.pdf</a>	CMNT	Germany
<a href="#">3-1 Deletion and revision of Maritime and Response related HELCOM Recommendations.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">3-2 Revision of State and Conservation related HELCOM Recommendations.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">3-3 Revised HELCOM Input to the process of establishing environmental targets for underwater noise.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">3-4 Scope of the revision of Annex III part 2 of the Helsinki Convention.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">3-5 HELCOM Overview on Port Reception Facilities (PRF) update.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">3-6 Proposal for continuation of the FISH-PRO project.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">3-7 Baltic Sea Clean Shipping Guide - revised edition.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">3-8 Reallocation of extra reduction.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">3-9 Draft policy message on progress towards nutrient input targets.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">3-10 Sources and Pathways of nutrients to the Baltic Sea.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">3-11 Assessment of nutrient input by seven biggest rivers.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">3-11-rev Assessment of nutrients input by seven biggest rivers.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">3-12 HELCOM Maritime Assessment final draft.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">3-13 Strategy for reviewing the HELCOM Red List of Species.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">3-14 Outcomes of working groups' meetings.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">3-15 Outcome of GEAR 17-2017.pdf</a>	CMNT	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">3-16 Plan for the update of the first version of the "State of the Baltic Sea" report.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">3-17 Outcome of the Regional Workshop on Eel and the Baltic Sea (FISH-M 5-2017).pdf</a>	INF	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">3-18 Comments to the outcomes of working groups' meetings.pdf</a>	CMNT	CCB
<a href="#">3-19 Project proposal for Hazardous substances workspace.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary

<a href="#">3-20 Comment to documents 3-8 and 3-9.pdf</a>	CMNT	FEAP
<a href="#">3-21 Revision proposals from Germany to doc. 3-12 (Maritime Assessment).pdf</a>	CMNT	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">4-1 Accounts of the Commission 2016-2017.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">4-2 Draft budget for 2018-2019 and budget estimate for 2019-2020.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">5-1 Upcoming meetings within HELCOM and other forums in 2018.pdf</a>	INF	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">5-2 On-going projects within HELCOM and with HELCOM involvement.pdf</a>	INF	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">5-3 Finland's Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.pdf</a>	INF	Finland
<a href="#">5-4 Proposal for a joint HELCOM-BONUS stakeholder conference in 2018.pdf</a>	INF	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">5-5 Communication update - general activities and publicity for Ministerial Meeting 2018.pdf</a>	INF	Executive Secretary
<a href="#">5-6 Call for thorough Strategic Environmental Assessment of the E40 inland waterway project.pdf</a>	INF	CCB
<a href="#">5-7 Early draft of the WWF Baltic Scorecard report.pdf</a>	INF	WWF
<a href="#">5-8 Baltic Sea Day 2018.pdf</a>	INF	Russia