



Outcome of the 56th Meeting of the Heads of Delegation (HOD 56-2019)

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Outcome of the 56th Meeting of the Heads of Delegation (HOD 56-2019)

Introduction

- 0.1 The 56th Meeting of the Heads of Delegation was held in Helsinki, Finland, on 18-19 June 2019.
- 0.2 The Meeting was attended by participants from all Contracting Parties and by Observers from Baltic Farmers' Forum on Environment (BFFE), Baltic Sea Action Group (BSAG), Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC) and CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB), Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP), and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), as well as the incoming HELCOM Executive Secretary Mr. Rüdiger Stempel and invited guests from Maritime Office of Gdynia and EKO-PERSPEKTYWA. The List of Participants is contained in **Annex 1**. Consent for publication of the list of participants and the information contained therein was received by all participants.
- 0.3 The Meeting was chaired by the Chair of the Helsinki Commission, Ms. Saara Bäck.

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 Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

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

- 2.1 The Meeting endorsed the revised work plan for the BSAP update as included in **Annex 2**.
- 2.2 The Meeting agreed on the proposals from FISH 9-2019 on the not yet accomplished HELCOM actions as outlined in document 2-1, Annex 2, taking note of the following proposals:
- by Poland: with regard to the action "Development and implementation of effective monitoring for by-caught birds and mammals", to consider adding to the proposed further work: "After development of the roadmap on collection of fisheries data, promotion of suggestions and recommendations contained in the document, in order to improve the monitoring of by-catch of protected species, should take place as soon as possible";
 - by Finland: with regard to actions "The further development and testing of the HELCOM generic decision-support tool ...etc" and "Development and implementation of fisheries management measures for fisheries inside marine protected areas", to consider that joint recommendations are being developed through a process linked to the EU Habitats Directive and Common Fisheries Policy and that guidelines will be developed for fisheries measures in Natura 2000 areas. For the second action there is, in addition, a need to consider how to improve the harmonization of reporting of fisheries related measures to the HELCOM MPA database, including associated guidance, when updating the MPA database. These processes should be taken into account in the further implementation of relevant actions by the Fish and State & Conservation WGs.
- 2.3 The Meeting agreed on the proposals from AGRI 7-2019 on the not yet accomplished HELCOM actions as outlined in document 2-1, Annex 3.
- 2.4 The Meeting took note of the organization of work under the HELCOM SOM Platform and the HELCOM ACTION project (document 2-1).

- 2.5 The Meeting took note that the template for synopses on potential new HELCOM actions has been submitted to HELCOM subsidiary bodies including Observers to the Groups, as agreed by HELCOM 40-2019, and also distributed to BONUS projects. As outlined in the work plan, the synopses are to be submitted to the Secretariat by the end of 2019 and will be reviewed by HELCOM Working Group meetings in spring 2020.
- 2.6 The Meeting noted the lack of Lead countries on biodiversity and agreed to organize HELCOM workshops, in autumn 2019, to contribute to the SOM analyses. The Meeting noted that the workshops will likely be held in association to planned meetings for EG MAMA, EN Benthic and JWG Birds, either as part of the planned meetings or by extending the meetings by one day. The Meeting noted that a dedicated workshop on migratory fish will be proposed at FISH 10-2019.
- 2.7 The Meeting welcomed that Finland is looking into the possibility to take the lead on migratory fish.
- 2.8 The Meeting took note of the request by Russia to clarify which expertise is required for participation in the SOM Platform meetings. Russia, furthermore, emphasized the importance for Chairs of HELCOM Working Groups to participate in the SOM Platform meetings and that Working Groups should have a clear role in reviewing the progress of work on the SOM analyses. The Meeting noted that Russia is seeking support for participating more actively in the ACTION project.
- 2.9 The Meeting agreed to convene the next meeting of the HELCOM SOM Platform 16-17 September 2019.
- 2.10 The Meeting discussed the proposed approach for analyzing sufficiency of measures to support the BSAP update (document 2-3).
- 2.11 The Meeting took note that Russian experts have raised considerations regarding the scientific basis for the approach.
- 2.12 The Meeting took note of the remark by Finland that HELCOM is a forerunner in developing and implementing analyses of sufficiency of measures of marine policies and that while the approach is broad and demanding it will provide a basis for the selection of new actions for the BSAP update.
- 2.13 The Meeting took note of the view by the EU that the SOM analyses is a necessary and welcomed step to support the update of the BSAP. The Meeting noted that the EU will provide information on the Blue2 project, which is making a socio-economic assessment of freshwater and marine policies, at the upcoming meeting of the SOM Platform.
- 2.14 The Meeting took note of the view of Germany that while the approach is challenging and needs to seek a balance between being pragmatic and scientific, it is recognized as a first attempt to develop a methodology for analyzing sufficiency of measures in HELCOM that can be further developed and used also in the future.
- 2.15 The Meeting underlined that full transparency in the methodology is required and will facilitate countries to follow the process and evaluate the results of the analyses.
- 2.16 The Meeting endorsed the approach for analyzing sufficiency of measures and its use to support the BSAP update as presented in document 2-3, taking note of the following specific comments:
- proposals by Finland 1) with regard to when GES can be reached, that the analyses related to eutrophication should be carried out through the level of status 2) clarify how climate change will be considered in the analyses 3) to make use of the recommendation that Contracting Parties being EU Member States received with regard to the PoMs under the MSFD;
 - request by Denmark 1) to clarify how uncertainty in the analyses will be accounted for, including for steps that will make use of expert-based judgement 2) clarify the method for analyzing the response in status linked to pressures, noting pressures-state curves as presented in document 2-3 will not be possible to provide for all elements included in the analyses;
 - request from Germany to clarify what is expected in terms of data from national authorities.

2.17 The Meeting took note that countries will be requested to check lists of national measures and complement them with additional information as needed. Such lists will be circulated to appointed contacts of the SOM Platform by the end of July 2019 at the latest. HELCOM experts will in autumn 2019 also be requested to provide any available information on the effect of already implemented measures.

2.18 The Meeting discussed the end year for the analyses and was of the view that it should be set to a year between 2030-2035 but did not come to a conclusion.

2.19 The Meeting took note of the document on the structure of the BSAP (document 2-4) and the activities and pressures that would tentatively be addressed under the respective segment according to the provisional agreement by HOD 55-2018 (**Presentation 1**). The Meeting noted the aim to agree on the structure of the updated BSAP at the HOD meeting in December 2019.

2.20 The Meeting recalled that the BSAP structure is not directly linked to the HELCOM Working Group structure and that there could be several Working Groups involved in the implementation of each segment.

2.21 The Meeting reaffirmed that the BSAP structure should continue to be used as a tool for communicating HELCOM goals and objectives with the wider community.

2.22 The Meeting recalled the agreement at HOD 55-2018 that climate will be addressed as a key component of the pre-ambule of the updated BSAP and furthermore proposed that climate change could be addressed as a cross-cutting issue and be reflected in the respective segment as relevant.

2.23 The Meeting agreed to use the provisional 'BSAP structure' as a basis for ongoing work of HELCOM Working Groups on the BSAP update and supported the proposed outline of a BSAP segment as presented in document 2-4 and the use of ecological objectives, management objectives and action areas to structure the segments. The Meeting took note of the following detailed comments on document 2-4:

- the view by Finland to highlight the biodiversity segment as representing the state components that are accumulating the impacts of human activities, the proposal to address actions for different ecosystem components separately, and to also map pressures vs ecosystem components. When making reference to UN SDGs it was proposed to address them after references to the Helsinki Convention as well as to consider adding them as footnotes, in case the reference becomes too extensive;
- the view of Germany that combining hazardous substances and litter in one segment is not preferred but acceptable if objectives and actions are clearly separated, and the proposal to also make the BSAP available as a database to make it possible to extract information of interest;
- the view by Russia that the activity-pressure mapping needs further elaboration, including for seabed loss and disturbance, underlining that windfarms should be considered in terms of causing loss to the seabed, and to clarify that airborne pollution is included when referring to input of nutrients and hazardous substances;
- the view by Sweden that climate change could be addressed in terms of adaption of HELCOM actions to compensate for future changes in climate;
- the view by Latvia that maritime activities should continue to be highlighted as an important area of work in HELCOM.

2.24 The Meeting recalled that the HELCOM Explorer, i.e. the web-based tool on the implementation of HELCOM actions, will be revised as part of the update process. The updated HELCOM Explorer will increase the possibility of visualization and extraction of customized information. A proposal on the further developed Explorer will be presented to HOD in December 2019.

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

- 2.26 The Meeting noted the view by CCB on the importance of highlighting biodiversity as a controlling element of the BSAP and the support for considering climate change as a cross-cutting issue and to strengthen the reference to airborne pollutants. CCB furthermore pointed out the need to clarify under which segment migratory fish and associated actions will be considered.
- 2.27 The Meeting noted the proposals by Finland and Sweden to address financing of the implementation of the BSAP as a part of updating the action plan and suggested to consider this topic in further detail at the next HOD meeting.
- 2.28 The Meeting considered a target year for the updated BSAP, including options ranging from 2030 to 2035. The Meeting agreed to revisit the matter at the next meeting.
- 2.29 The Meeting took note of the reporting on implementation of HELCOM Recommendations aimed for use in the sufficiency of measures analysis as part of the BSAP update (document 2-7) and noted that the Heads of Delegation will be requested to approve the results of the reporting intersessionally when the reporting is completed.
- 2.30 The Meeting took note of the presentation by Ms. Anna Jöborn, member of the Executive Planning Group for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for sustainable development (**Presentation 2**) and the invitation for HELCOM to contribute to the Decade of Ocean Science.
- 2.31 The Meeting thanked Ms. Jöborn for the presentation and considered the Decade of Ocean Science as a valuable opportunity coinciding with the elaboration of a HELCOM Science Agenda.
- 2.32 The Meeting took note of the proposed plan for the development of the HELCOM Science Agenda (document 2-6). The Meeting noted that the Secretariat will compile an overview report based on the input from HELCOM subsidiary bodies when the survey has been completed in autumn 2019. The Meeting agreed on the draft time-table for work and agreed to establish a Task Group to prepare the Science Agenda. The Contracting Parties are invited to nominate 1-2 representatives to the Task Group **by 30 August 2019** (ullali.zweifel@helcom.fi).
- 2.33 The Meeting agreed to prepare a HELCOM voluntary commitment to the UN 2020 Ocean Conference on HELCOM contribution to UN Decade of Ocean Science and the Task Group is assigned to develop a proposal.
- 2.34 The Meeting considered the topics for the High-Level Segment of HELCOM 41-2020 (document 2-5) and, taking into account the limited time reserved for the segment, suggested to focus on two main topics: update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and HELCOM global outreach including voluntary commitments to UN Ocean Conference 2020 (on the update of the BSAP, on the UN Decade of Ocean Science, and on sharing experiences with other Regional Seas Conventions). Regarding BSAP update, the Meeting discussed that the work on sufficiency of measures analysis would be interesting to present. The Meeting also took note of suggestions that working towards a global agreement on marine litter and the impact of climate change on oceans could be interesting topics for debate.
- 2.35 The Meeting took note of the suggestion by CCB that ecosystem-based management and the status of the East Baltic cod could be discussed in the High-Level Segment.
- 2.36 The Meeting invited the Secretariat to further elaborate on the topics to produce a general outline for autumn 2019 and a proposal for the agenda for HOD 57-2019.
- 2.37 The Meeting agreed that the HELCOM Stakeholder Conference to be organized on 3 March 2020 back-to-back with HELCOM 41-2020 will focus on the update of the BSAP and should have an engaging format to attract a variety of stakeholders.

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, 3-12, 3-13, 3-13-Rev.1, 3-14, 3-14-Rev.1, 3-15, 3-16, 3-17, 3-18, 3-19, 3-20, 3-21, 3-22, 3-23, 3-24, 3-25, 3-26-W.P.

Response Group

- 3.1 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the 26th Meeting of the HELCOM Response Working Group (RESPONSE 26-2019) held on 3-5 June 2019 in Warsaw, Poland (document 3-23).
- 3.2 The Meeting noted the view of RESPONSE 26-2019 that the BSAP management objective “Efficient emergency and response capabilities” should remain in the updated BSAP.
- 3.3 The Meeting took note of the progress regarding concretization of BSAP actions agreed by RESPONSE 26-2019.
- 3.4 The Meeting instructed the Secretariat to draft a letter addressed to relevant authorities in Russia, using the text set out in the appendix of Annex 2 of the Outcome of RESPONSE 26-2019, inviting them to formally request access to CECIS Marine Pollution and use it for response purposes.
- 3.5 The Meeting approved the updated work plan of the HELCOM Expert Coordination Network on Response on the Shore (SHORE Network) for 2020-2021 as set out in Annex 2 of the Outcome of SHORE Network 3-2019.
- 3.6 The Meeting approved the updated work plan of the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR) for 2020-2021, as set out in Annex 3 of the Outcome of RESPONSE 26-2019.
- 3.7 The Meeting endorsed the proposal to revoke HELCOM Recommendation 24/7 on Further development and use of drift forecasting for oils and other harmful substances in the Baltic and agreed to submit the proposal to HELCOM 41-2020 for approval.
- 3.8 The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to confirm willingness to take the lead in developing proposals for revisions to HELCOM Recommendations 12/7 on *Special Cooperation in Case of a Chemical Tanker Accident in the Baltic Sea* and 17/12 on *Measures to Abate Pollution by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Grounding, Collision, Sinking of a Ship or other Maritime Casualty*. Interested Contracting Parties are invited to contact the Secretariat (markus.helavuori@helcom.fi).
- 3.9 The Meeting considered the proposal by RESPONSE 26-2019 to review all valid HELCOM Recommendations before the 50th anniversary of the signing of the 1974 Helsinki Convention in 2024. The Meeting recognized that keeping HELCOM Recommendations updated is important and invited the Secretariat to provide an overview of the ongoing and completed updates of HELCOM Recommendations with a view to further plan the work.

3.10 The Meeting took note of the information about the ongoing work related to the update of the HELCOM Response Manual and encouraged the Contracting Parties to consider the possibility of providing further financial contributions to facilitate finalization of the work.

3.11 The Meeting approved that RESPONSE 27-2020 will be held in Vejle, Denmark on 26-28 February 2020.

Maritime Group

3.12 The Meeting considered the draft Technical Guidance for the handling of wastewater in Ports of the Baltic Sea Special Area under MARPOL Annex IV (document 3-9) as well as additions proposed by Estonia and Germany (document 3-21).

3.13 The Meeting approved the publication of the Technical Guidance for the handling of wastewater in Ports of the Baltic Sea Special Area under MARPOL Annex IV, including the changes proposed in document 3-21.

3.14 The Meeting considered the draft revised HELCOM Recommendation 28E/13 on Introducing Economic Incentives as a Complement to Existing Regulations to Reduce Emissions from Ships (document 3-

18) as well the comments by Russia (document 3-19) and the comments and amendments by Finland (document 3-25). Following discussion and agreement on further amendments to the draft text as included in document 3-26-W.P., the Meeting, as mandated by HELCOM 40-2019, adopted the revised HELCOM Recommendation 28E/13 as set out in **Annex 3**.

Pressure Group

3.15 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the Tenth Meeting of the HELCOM Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (PRESSURE 10-2019) held on 9-12 April 2019 in Tallinn, Estonia (document 3-3).

3.16 The Meeting agreed that the report “Survey of polystyrene foam (EPS and XPS) in the Baltic Sea” will be published on the HELCOM website.

3.17 The Meeting took note that Sweden lifted their study reservation on the report and thanked Denmark for the great progress achieved in implementation of the corresponding action of the HELCOM Marine Litter Action Plan.

3.18 The Meeting noted that the corrections of national data have already been received and incorporated into three remaining PLC-6 supplementary reports and that the reports will be published on the HELCOM website.

3.19 The Meeting approved the submission of the consolidated report with the data on depositing of dredged material at sea as agreed at PRESSURE 10-2019 for submission to the London Convention.

3.20 The Meeting approved that the Eleventh Meeting of the Group (PRESSURE 11-2019) will be held on 23-25 October 2019 in Brussels.

3.21 The Meeting approved the organization of the Fourth Workshop on Implementation of RAP ML on 22 October 2019 (back-to-back with PRESSURE 11-2019).

3.22 The Meeting approved that PRESSURE 12-2020 will be tentatively held during the week 20-25 April 2020 in Finland.

3.23 The Meeting approved the deletion of Hot Spot No. 67 - Kaliningrad Wastewater Treatment Plant from the HELCOM hot spot list (document 3-6). The Meeting took note that the whole population of the city of Kaliningrad is connected to the new Kaliningrad wastewater treatment plant.

3.24 The Meeting approved the deletion of Hot Spot No. 69 - the pulp and paper mill «Cepress» from the HELCOM hot spot list (document 3-7).

3.25 The Meeting congratulated Russia of the progress achieved in the elimination of the sources of negative impact on the Baltic Sea environment and the deletion of the two hot spots.

3.26 The Meeting considered and approved HELCOM principles of the methodology to reallocate extra reduction of nutrient input (document 3-4).

3.27 The Meeting agreed that the wording of the principles will be adjusted once the 2018 Ministerial decision to focus the follow-up of the nutrient reduction requirements of the BSAP on national commitments based on Maximum Allowable Inputs has been implemented.

3.28 The Meeting took note of the remark by Poland that the national CART has indicative character and invitation to the HELCOM community to work further to improve the methodology to identify and assess nutrient loads on the Baltic Sea.

3.29 The Meeting considered and agreed on the proposed advancement of the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme and its follow up system and approved the concrete actions (document 3-16).

3.30 The Meeting took note that the transboundary data from the past are not always available and encouraged countries to provide as good data as available to set firm background for future assessments.

3.31 The Meeting took note that Finland considers the potential reduction achieved through river basin management plans (3.1) and advancement of the HELCOM core indicator on nutrient inputs, including

into the indicator the information on nutrient loads (2.7) as the most significant elements of the proposed advancement of the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme (document 3-16).

3.32 The Meeting took note of the document on marine fish farming in Estonia (document 3-24), appreciated the information and reiterated that HELCOM MAI is seen as a regionally coordinated threshold for nutrient load on the Baltic Sea sub-basins.

3.33 The Meeting expressed concern over the growing demand for fish farming, which may pose an additional challenge to meet HELCOM nutrient reduction targets and noted that the countries are interested in exchanging information within HELCOM on the permitting systems for the new sea-based fish farms including scientifically proved effect of compensatory measures.

3.34 The Meeting took note of the information by Denmark and Finland that HELCOM nutrient ceilings have been implemented in their national marine strategy as environmental targets. Denmark further informed that national legislation was amended with the aim to allow compensatory tools for discharge of nutrients which are based on scientific knowledge and appropriately scaled to ensure efficiency as well as mandatory passing an evaluation of the potential environmental impact of the compensatory instrument itself.

3.35 The Meeting also took note that there is very limited room for Sweden to issue new permits for marine aquaculture due to eutrophication and that Sweden is instead looking into closed aquaculture systems.

3.36 The Meeting took note of the position of FEAP that fish farming is the most efficient way to produce food and mitigate climate change.

3.37 The Meeting also took note of the CCB's position that only land-locked recirculating farms is the sustainable type of aquaculture in the Baltic Sea region while suggested compensation measures have not proved to be efficient for the main part of the Baltic Sea according to the [policy brief](#) by the Baltic Eye.

3.38 The Meeting considered the provisional programme of the HELCOM Workshop with River Basin Management Authorities, to be held on 18-20 September 2019 in Riga (document 3-17) and highlighted the importance of the section dedicated to sufficiency of measures at the Workshop.

3.39 The Meeting noted that CCB will make effort to attract Belarusian and Ukrainian authorities to the Workshop and bring some cases related to the transboundary cooperation.

3.40 The Meeting took note of document 3-22 by FEAP concerning the subdivision of the Baltic Sea. The Meeting took note that Germany in general agrees that the finer resolution serves for better management and of the relevant research project in Germany. The Meeting also pointed out the need to harmonize the models used for the assessment of eutrophication and nutrient load.

3.41 The Meeting also took note that in regard with the update of the Baltic Sea nutrient load model Denmark refers to their previous statement at HELCOM 40-2019.

3.42 The Meeting recognized that this task is challenging and resource demanding and for this reason proposed to be included into the HELCOM science needs.

Agri Group

3.43 The Meeting took note of the outcomes of the Seventh Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (AGRI 7-2019) held in St. Petersburg, Russia, on 19-20 March 2019 and the Dedicated Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (AGRI 7a-2019) held online on 4 April 2019 (document 3-1).

3.44 The Meeting approved the organization of AGRI 8-2019 in the week 4-8 November 2019 and welcomed the offer by Germany to host the meeting.

3.45 The Meeting considered and endorsed the draft vision and objectives for the Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy (document 3-5).

- 3.46 The Meeting took note of the position of Poland that future actions to reduce ammonia emissions should not extend beyond the EU NEC Directive.
- 3.47 The Meeting also took note of the remark by Russia that the strategy should cater for the needs of all Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention and not be limited to EU regulations.
- 3.48 The Meeting approved the organization of a workshop on nutrient recycling measures in Finland in January 2020.
- 3.49 The Meeting took note of the progress report on the revision of Annex III, part II of the Helsinki Convention (document 3-15).
- 3.50 The Meeting noted the progress achieved by the Agri group in the revision of the Annex and the remaining open issues. The Meeting emphasized that in line with the HELCOM Ministerial Declaration 2018 and the agreed ToR for the work, the provisions of the Annex should not be weakened. The Meeting pointed out that the revised Annex should provide precise and clear regulations regarding, e.g., storage capacity, incorporations of manure, fertilization practices, etc.
- 3.51 A number of Contracting Parties expressed the view that the revised Annex should not be limited to serving only for adaptation to current needs but take a progressive approach.
- 3.52 The Meeting took note of the view of Poland on the progress made so far for the revision of Annex III part II (**Presentation 3**).
- 3.53 The Meeting took note of the positions of BSAG, CCB and WWF that the revision of the Annex should be based on innovative progressive approach considering such challenges as climate change and shortage of nutrient resources, facilitating recycling of nutrients and sustainable use of agricultural land as well as preventing contamination of the environment resulting from agricultural production (e.g. antibiotics) and thus, possible revision of other provisions is needed.
- 3.54 The Meeting noted that WWF has many examples of farmers applying innovative and progressive measures to reduce nutrient runoff underscoring that the Annex III part II should align with the progressive agriculture practices already applied in the region.
- 3.55 The Meeting noted that CCB raises the issue of not using general terms in the text of the revised Annex, particularly the term “environmentally friendly” which, in the CCB’s opinion, requires specification.
- 3.56 The Meeting encouraged the Contracting Parties to continue the discussion and cooperation on the important issue of the Annex revision in order to reach a compromise and requested the HELCOM Agri group to continue the work in accordance with the work plan with guidance from HODs when needed. The Meeting also encouraged the Contracting Parties to engage and contribute to the work of the Agri group.
- 3.57 The Meeting recalled that the revision is to be finished by the end of 2020 and took note that the EU and Germany will provide technical comments to the document.
- 3.58 The Meeting invited all Contracting Parties to provide further input to document 3-15 to the Secretariat as soon as they are available and well in advance of the next Agri meeting for consideration by the Agri group.

State and Conservation Group

- 3.59 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the Tenth Meeting of the Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation (STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019) held on 6-10 May 2019 in Hamina, Finland (document 3-8).
- 3.60 The Meeting approved the arranging of the following meetings:
- second HELCOM MPA Management Workshop tentatively on 9-12 September 2019;
 - one-day joint HELCOM-ICES online workshop focused on improving reporting and usability of data for the HELCOM COMBINE database in autumn 2019;

- one-day extra session of State and Conservation Monitoring focusing on the reporting on and update of the monitoring programmes in early fall, possibly back-to-back with a joint BONUS FUMARI-SEAM workshop; and
- STATE&CONSERVATION 12-2020 on 11-15 May 2020, tentatively to be hosted by Estonia.

3.61 The Meeting welcomed the information that Germany can provide the additional funding needed to take the project work for further development of HELCOM eutrophication test assessment forward. A project proposal outlining the planned work will be provided to HOD intersessionally for approval, with the intention to enable the work to commence in autumn 2019.

3.62 The Meeting took note of the comment by the EU that the update of the monitoring manual should consider the ongoing work of EU WG DIKE which will affect the Contracting Parties who are also EU Members States. The Meeting took note of the comment by the EU that it would be preferable if, in the future, automated reporting of monitoring data from the Contracting Parties to the EU via HELCOM could be further established.

3.63 The Meeting approved the revised project proposal for Quality assurance of phytoplankton monitoring in the Baltic Sea (HELCOM PEG QA) 2020-2022 (document 3-11).

3.64 The Meeting considered the draft Terms of Reference for the HELCOM Expert Group on Sturgeon Remediation (EG STUR) (document 3-12) and approved the establishment of the HELCOM Sturgeon EG (**Annex 4**).

3.65 The Meeting took note of the Terms of Reference for the HELCOM Network for Marine Protected Area Management (EN MPA MANET) (document 3-13). The Meeting took note of the comments received by the EU, considered the amendments and approved the amended Terms of Reference (document 3-13-Rev.1) as contained in **Annex 5**.

3.66 The Meeting took note of the information by WWF on an upcoming report on MPA management, which will become available in September.

3.67 The Meeting took note of the comment by Estonia and Finland that it would be useful to hold a strategic discussion on the number, coverage and requirement for the Expert Groups. The Meeting welcomed the information that this was touched upon in STATE&CONSERVATION 10-2019 and invited the State and Conservation group to elaborate the discussion in STATE&CONSERVATION 11-2019.

3.68 The Meeting considered the HELCOM monitoring sub-programme on beach litter (document 3-14). The Meeting took note of the comments received by the EU (document 3-14-Rev.1), considered the amendments and agreed to include them in the monitoring sub-programme.

3.69 The Meeting took note of the information that Russia can participate in the programme on a case by case basis.

3.70 The Meeting took note of further comments provided by Finland and Germany and agreed that any further amendments can be provided and invited the Contracting Parties to send proposed amendments to the Secretariat (marta.ruiz@helcom.fi) by **28 June 2019**.

3.71 The Meeting took note of the comment by the EU that efforts should continue to optimize synergies with the EU level work and ensure that duplication is avoided.

3.72 The Meeting in principle approved the HELCOM monitoring sub-programme on beach litter as contained in document 3-14-Rev.1, taking into account that editorial amendments may still be included.

Gear Group

3.73 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the 20th Meeting of the Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (GEAR 20-2019) held on 15-17 May 2019 in Berlin, Germany (document 3-10).

3.74 The Meeting approved the arranging of the next meeting of GEAR (GEAR 21-2019) on 6-8 November in Helsinki, Finland.

- 3.75 The Meeting supported that HELCOM will co-host the joint workshop on marine ecosystem accounting to be held on 10 October 2019 in Helsinki, Finland.
- 3.76 The Meeting took note of the election of Ms. Andrea Weiss, Germany, as Chair for the GEAR Group, as well as Asker Juul Aagren, Denmark, as Vice-Chair for the period 2019-2021 and congratulated the Chair and Vice-Chair for their election.
- 3.77 The Meeting took note of the progress and planned future work on HELCOM indicators (document 3-20).
- 3.78 The Meeting took note of the comments by Denmark regarding the provisional timetable of the workshop and that it could be explored whether expert participation could be limited to day 1 and 2, in order to limit resource use. However, such a change should not result in limiting the scope from that presented in the plan. With regards to the indicator spreadsheet for the hazardous substances Denmark would like to see all elements and substances in the spreadsheet and would like to see the secondary threshold values included as well.
- 3.79 The Meeting endorsed the arranging of the Second HELCOM indicator Workshop, proposed to take place 16-18 October 2019, as well as endorsed the Terms of Reference for the Workshop.

HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG

- 3.80 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the 18th Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 18-2019) held on 27-28 March 2019 in Hamburg, Germany (document 3-2).
- 3.81 The Meeting approved organizing the next meeting (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 19-2019) on 28-29 October 2019.

Agenda Item 4 HELCOM institutional and organisational matters

Documents: 4-1, 4-2

- 4.1 The Meeting considered and discussed the budget proposal for the financial year 2020-2021 and a long-term budget framework prepared on the basis on guidance provided by HELCOM 40-2019 (document 4-2). The Meeting thanked the Secretariat for preparing the proposal that reflects the further information needs raised by the Contracting Parties during HELCOM 40-2019, including to demonstrate cost-efficiency in the HELCOM work. The Meeting welcomed that the proposal includes a plan for paying equal shares for the HELCOM budget.
- 4.2 The Meeting welcomed the information that Finland made a positive decision to increase the annual HQ contribution with 30.000 €, summing up to 322.000 euro starting from the financial year 2020-2021. The Meeting also took note of the information that as a result of the bilateral discussions between the Secretariat and Finland regarding the HQ contribution, the Secretariat may come up with a proposal for modernizing the budget lines.
- 4.3 The Meeting welcomed the information by Germany, European Union, Denmark and Finland stating that they are in principle in a position to agree with the budget proposal for the financial year 2020-2021 to increase their contributions by 3 %.
- 4.4 The Meeting also took note of the information that the remaining countries are ready to consider the proposal for the financial year 2020-2021, however, they are not in the position to decide on this at HOD 56-2019.
- 4.5 The Meeting took note of the information by Estonia that the increase of the HELCOM budget should be based on the needs of the Contracting Parties and of the proposal to differentiate the budget lines that are not affected by the inflation (project budget lines) when considering the proposal. Furthermore, Estonia will submit a letter to the Secretariat requesting further information regarding the budget.

- 4.6 The Meeting took note of the information provided by the Executive Secretary that all the budget lines within the HELCOM budget are to a different degree affected by inflation and this will be stated in the budget proposal document to be provided for HOD 57-2019.
- 4.7 The Meeting took note of the position by Russia, that HELCOM core activities and project based activities overlap and therefore, it is preferable to demonstrate in the budget proposal the operational and project activities together.
- 4.8 The Meeting took note of the clarification by the Executive Secretary that the Contracting Parties do pay their annual contributions to the HELCOM budget according to the agreed income budget.
- 4.9 The Meeting took note of the request by the European Union to reflect the EU additional funding in Attachment 4.
- 4.10 The Meeting recognized that the compensation for the inflation amounting to 1,5 % should be included in the budget proposals following the budget year 2020-2021. The Meeting provided further guidance for the Secretariat regarding how to present the annual 1,5 % compensation that is to be decided on annual basis.
- 4.11 The Meeting requested the Executive Secretary to re-submit the proposal for the budget as included in document 4-1 and further refined as needed to HOD 57-2019 with the aim to endorse the budget for the financial year 2020-2021 and the budget estimate for the following years.
- 4.12 The Meeting considered, commented and approved the updated post description, vacancy announcement and the timetable for the recruitment of Professional Secretary for the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (Pressure), the Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (Agri) and the HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (MSP WG) (document 4-1) as well as advised the Executive Secretary on further actions as outlined on the cover page of document 4-2.
- 4.13 The Meeting nominated the following three members Russia, Germany, and Estonia (in addition to the ex officio members, i.e., the Chair and the Executive Secretary of the Commission) to the Recruitment Panel to conduct the selection procedure of the Professional Secretary for Pressure, Agri and Maritime Spatial Planning groups.

Agenda Item 5 Any other business

Documents: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3

- 5.1 The Meeting took note of the presentations by representatives of the investor on the Polish project “Construction of a waterway connecting the Vistula Lagoon with the Gulf of Gdansk” (**Presentations 4 and 5**).
- 5.2 The presentations were followed by questions from Finland, Lithuania and Russia regarding the effects on water quality, assessment of changes of hydrological regimes of the Vistula Lagoon and Gulf of Gdansk, monitoring of oxygen levels, compensation measures for cutting forest, underwater noise, seabed disturbance, expected ship traffic, changes in ecosystem as a whole, public hearings, difference between the definition of waterway and channel, environmental impact assessment and transboundary effects.
- 5.3 The Meeting took note of the clarification by Poland and information that the environmental impact assessment for the project has been completed before first instance body, the Polish regional directorate for environmental protection, and according to the assessment the project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and there will be no transboundary effects.
- 5.4 The Meeting took note that with a reference to Article 3, paragraph 2 and Annex VI, regulation 9 to the Helsinki Convention, Russia and CCB requested Poland and the EU to submit additional written information on the project and its effects to HOD 57-2019.

- 5.5 The Meeting took note of the comment by Poland that information and results of environmental studies on the project is available on the website of the Maritime Office of Gdynia.
- 5.6 The Meeting took note of the main results of the Jubilee XX International Environmental Forum "Baltic Sea Day" held on 21-22 March 2019 in St. Petersburg, Russia (document 5-1). The Meeting took note that more than 700 participants from the Baltic Sea states and other countries took part in the forum and welcomed the contribution of the forum discussions to the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and elaboration of the Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy. The Meeting considered the concept note for the XXI International Environmental Forum «Baltic Sea Day» to be held on 19-20 March 2020 in St. Petersburg, Russia and took note that the preliminary topics for discussion include the implementation of BSAP and sufficiency of measures to reach a good environmental status. The Meeting encouraged the HELCOM Working Groups to provide practical suggestions for the agenda of the next Baltic Sea Day Forum
- 5.7 The Meeting took note of the information by CCB and WWF on the conference 'Greener Agriculture for Sustainable Sea' to be held on 25-26 September 2019 in Warsaw, Poland (document 5-3).
- 5.8 The Meeting took note of the overview on planned meetings and exercises within HELCOM and other forums in the second half of 2019 and in 2020 (document 5-2) and requested the Contracting Parties to check their possibility of hosting and propose venue/date for meetings that have not yet been confirmed.
- 5.9 The Meeting took note that Germany will host the [8th International Nitrogen Conference](#) on 3-7 May 2020.
- 5.10 The Meeting took note that BSAC is planning a meeting to focus on fisheries in the updated BSAP, scheduled tentatively for September 2019 in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 5.11 The Meeting took note of the Finnish Presidency Event: European Days for Sustainable Circular Economy on 30 September -1 October and the side event "[Circular economy in agriculture – how to advance nutrient circulation, soil quality and healthy environment](#)" organized by the SuMaNu platform on 30 September 2019 focusing on the Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy.
- 5.12 The Meeting took note of the statement by the European Union on financing and legislation as included in **Annex 6**.
- 5.13 The Meeting thanked the outgoing Executive Secretary Monika Stankiewicz for her excellent work and contribution to HELCOM and welcomed the incoming Executive Secretary Rüdiger Stempel who will take up the post on 1 August 2019.

Agenda Item 6 Next meeting(s)

Documents:

- 6.1 The Meeting decided that the next meeting (HOD 57-2019) will be held on 10-11 December 2019 in Helsinki. The Meeting decided that HOD 58-2020 will be held tentatively on 8-9 June 2020.

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, has been prepared by the Secretariat and made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal.

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Annex 2. Updated work plan for the BSAP update

Submitted to HOD 56-2019. Significant changes since the work plan approved at HOD 55-2018 are indicated by *Add HOD 56-2019*. Already completed tasks are marked with a diagonal strike-out. A tracked change version is available as Attachment 1.

Background

The Strategic plan for the BSAP update identifies the phases and activities in the BSAP update and the main responsible bodies. The Work plan for the BSAP update as contained in this document clarifies the timing and more detailed steps of activities from the Strategic Plan.

The work plan will be updated by the Secretariat as more agreements come in to place, e.g. timing workshop, timing of reporting by Contracting Parties, agreement on approaches etc.

The titles of activities refer to adopted activities of the Strategic plan for the BSAP update.

'Tasks' are short version of tasks adopted through Strategic plan for the BSAP update – for full text, see the Strategic plan.

'SOM Platform' refers to an ad hoc interdisciplinary platform on analyses of sufficiency of measures, as agreed by HOD 55-2018. This group would replace the 'Task Force' as agreed by HELCOM 39-2018 ([Outcome of HELCOM 39-2018](#), para 2.6).

Strike-out text denotes steps that have already been considered.

Tables at end of the work plan provides a timeline for involvement of HELCOM groups.

Work plan

I. Strengthening the implementation of the BSAP by 2021

Activity 1:1. Discussion on reasons for not yet accomplishing BSAP actions (autumn 2018 - mid 2020)

2018		2019				2020				2021
3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
/	/	As needed								

Tasks according to the Strategic plan: The working groups are requested to identify the reasons for lagging behind with the implementation of BSAP. For joint actions forward planning or stock taking to be carried out with the aim of accomplishing of the actions by 2021. The discussion aims at supporting the strengthening of efforts to implement BSAP by 2021 and beyond.

Add HOD 56-2019: The task has been extended to mid-2020 to also cover the need of rephrasing of actions that tentatively will be transferred to the updated BSAP. Such rephrasing may concern addition of a new target year but also more substantial rewrites to be in line with recent developments in HELCOM. The spring meetings of Working Groups 2019 have initiated this task. The aim is to have concrete proposal on tentatively rephrased actions ready for presentation at HOD in June 2020.

<p><u>Autumn 2018</u></p> <p>Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prepare compilation of not accomplished HELCOM actions for each WG autumn/spring* meeting 2018 (*end of full meeting cycle of HELCOM WGs is March 2019). <p>Working Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify if some additional joint actions can be assessed as accomplished. ○ Discuss if all 'not accomplished' actions are still valid. If actions are found redundant or no longer relevant they could be proposed for deletion. ○ Propose how valid joint actions not yet accomplished can be fulfilled (e.g. type of process such as project or lead country approach, type of product e.g. guideline, assessment report etc., and proposed timeline – as a matter of priority by 2021 but otherwise as proposed by the WG). ○ Initial discussion on reasons for not achieving national actions and what would be the most important national actions to achieve for improving the state of the Baltic Sea by 2021. <p>HOD 55-2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider compilation of proposals from autumn 2018 WG meetings.
<p><u>Spring 2019</u></p> <p>Working Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Remaining Working Groups (Fish, Agri) to complete the request. ○ Categorize actions not accomplished yet to identify need of rephrasing in case of transfer to the updated BSAP. <p>HOD June 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider compilation of proposals on the implementation of existing actions from remaining WGs.
<p><u>Autumn 2019</u></p> <p>Working Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Initiate rephrasing of existing actions as relevant
<p><u>Spring 2020</u></p> <p>Working Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proposal to HOD on actions to be transferred to updated BSAP <p>HOD June 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proposal on tentatively rephrasing of actions to be transferred to the updated BSAP

Activity 1:2. Preparing information for the Ministerial Meeting 2021 (spring 2019 - end 2020)

2018		2019				2020				2021
3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q

Tasks according to the Strategic plan: Technical update of the HELCOM Explorer and organizing the reporting by CPs in 2020.

Autumn 2019

Secretariat:

- Prepare a proposal for an overall update of the information in the BSAP follow-up system (HELCOM Explorer) and how to organize the reporting by CPs on national actions.

Autumn 2019

GEAR:

- Review the proposed update to the BSAP follow-up system e.g. taking into account similar work CPs might have undertaken on national level.

HOD Dec 2019:

- Agreement on update of the BSAP follow-up system, including on presentation of results.

- Agreement on the scope of the reporting by Contracting Parties to the BSAP follow-up system (reporting to take place in 4Q of 2020).

Spring 2020

Secretariat:

- Prepare reporting forms for the BSAP follow-up on national actions.
- Implement technical solutions for update of the BSAP follow-up system (Jan-Sept).

HOD June 2020:

- Preview of the reporting forms to the BSAP follow-up system.

Autumn 2020

Secretariat:

- Organize the reporting of the BSAP follow-up on national actions.

Contracting Parties:

- Reporting on the implementation of HELCOM national actions to the BSAP follow-up system (Oct-Dec 2020).

II. Mandate to update the BSAP**Activity 2:1. BSAP update Work Plan Overview (autumn 2018 – HOD 55-2018)**

2018		2019				2020				2021
3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q

Tasks according to the Strategic plan: Development and agreement on the first version of this document.

Autumn 2018

Secretariat:

- Prepare work plan proposal by first WG meeting in autumn 2018: the work plan preparation will be advancing with time, leading to a first full draft at the GEAR meeting, which is just before HOD 55-2018, and utilizing input from WGs.

Workings Groups (MARITIME 18-2018, PRESSURE 9 -2018, STATE&CONSERVATION 9-2018, and GEAR 19-2018):

- Review draft proposal prepared by the Secretariat, and consider how to best arrange the work requested by the Working Group (e.g. through sessions during ordinary WGs meetings, workshops, intersessional activities etc.).
- Propose EGs and networks to be engaged in the work.

HOD 55-2018:

- Work plan proposal for agreement

Activity 2:2. Adjustment to the overall structure of BSAP (autumn 2018 – early 2020)

2018		2019				2020				2021
3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q

Tasks according to the Strategic plan: a) create a nested system of the BSAP strategic goals and objectives mapped against the SDGs and other policy goals and objectives, b) reviewing the existing HELCOM ecological objectives and proposing possible amendments, to be carried out via working/expert groups, c) proposing new ecological objectives for marine litter, underwater noise and seabed damage and disturbance, to be carried out via working/expert groups, and d) identifying other possible additional issues of relevance to the overall BSAP structure.

Autumn 2018

Secretariat:

- Prepare document with potential alignment/gaps of current BSAP structure with SDG goals, Aichi targets and MSFD descriptors.

GEAR 19-2018:

- Provide feedback on a proposal on new BSAP segments and goals (and possible revision of existing ones).
- Guidance for Working Groups on possible new ecological objectives i.e. the narrative description of desired state (e.g. clear water) (level of detail, relation to other policies).

HOD 55-2018:

- Proposal on new overarching structure (level of segments and goals) for agreement.

Spring 2019

Working Groups:

- Intersessional preparatory step for the review of ecological objectives at spring meetings 2019
- Review and potentially propose revised and new ecological objectives at spring meetings 2019.

GEAR 20-2019:

- Provide feedback on a proposal new BSAP structure based on mapping of activities and pressure to be considered under the segment

HOD June 2019:

- Draft proposals on revised and new ecological objectives.
- Further consideration of structure of the updated BSAP

Autumn 2019

Working Groups:

- Further elaboration of revised and new ecological objectives

HOD Dec 2019:

- Endorsement of overall structure, including ecological objectives, of BSAP UP.

March 2020 (HELCOM Meeting)

- Adoption of overall structure of BSAP update at HELCOM 2020 (at High-level Segment of HELCOM).
- Stakeholder conference.

Activity 2:3. Status of implementation of the current measures and agreements (autumn 2018 - mid-2019)

2018		2019				2020				2021
3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q

Tasks according to the Strategic plan: a) identifying HELCOM agreements, not covered by the current BSAP follow-up system, for which additional reporting by CPs will be needed, b) organizing additional reporting by CPs on main agreements - focusing on measures - not covered by the current BSAP follow up; [tentatively early 2019]; c) proposing a collection of information on other (than HELCOM) existing measures in the countries and their level of implementation-

Autumn 2018

Secretariat:

- Make list/proposal of recommendations or other commitments, (e.g. part of the Convention) that could be reported by Contracting Parties to support the assessment of implementation of HELCOM agreements. Focus is primarily on recommendations related to measures.
- Arrange for reporting by Contracting Parties on recommendations and other relevant HELCOM commitments.

Workings Groups:

- Identify other HELCOM commitments that could be relevant to support the assessment of HELCOM agreements, e.g. recommendations or part of the Convention. Meeting to agree on how the follow-up of the recommendation should be carried out e.g. questions, reporting forms, based on proposal by Secretariat.

Spring 2019 1Q

Contracting Parties:

- Reporting on recommendations and main agreements [via Working Groups or national contact point to be agreed]

SOM Platform (first meeting):

- Identif how to collect other existing measures in the countries (other than HELCOM commitments) to support analysis of sufficiency of measures

Secretariat:

- Arrange for collection and search of additional information on measures (other than HELCOM commitments)

Spring 2019 2Q

Working Groups:

- Consider the reports by Contracting Parties on main agreements/recommendations not covered by the current BSAP follow up as identified and agreed at autumn meeting 2018.

Contracting Parties:

- Review the collected information on other existing measures in the countries.

HOD June 2019:

- Results from additional reporting on HELCOM commitments (e.g. recommendations) endorsed

Activity 2:4. Review of the current BSAP (early- end 2019)

2018		2019				2020				2021
3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q

Tasks according to the Strategic plan: As agreed in the BSAP update guidance (HELCOM 39-2018), the actions that do not have measurable and clear targets will be identified, with the aim to develop them into a more specific actions or set of actions for the updated BSAP. The most recent 2018 Ministerial commitments will be integrated into the work.

Add HOD 56-2019: This task has been extended to end of 2019.

Spring meeting 2019

Working Groups:

- Review HELCOM actions where targets were previously evaluated as too general to follow up and propose measurable targets for those actions found relevant for possible uptake in the BSAP update – to be concluded at autumn meetings 2019 (see 2.6).
- Agree on how to propose actions and define targets for MD 2018 commitments; this could take place intersessionally e.g. through proposal by Lead countries – to be concluded at autumn meetings 2019 (see 2.6).

Activity 2:5. Analysing sufficiency of measures to reach HELCOM objectives and targets (2019-mid-2020)

2018		2019				2020				2021
3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q

Tasks according to the Strategic plan: The guidance document on the BSAP update (cf. document 2-6/REV, HELCOM 39-2018) states HELCOM will carry out an analysis of sufficiency of measures to reach HELCOM objectives and targets, to support selection of new actions. In order to estimate whether current actions (HELCOM actions and measures implemented under other policies) are sufficient to reach good status, information on the impact of the actions is required. This is particularly relevant for those actions aimed at reducing pressures to a level that is consistent with good environmental status. The activity will involve substantial work and will be organized topic by topic. In addition to identifying tentative gaps in measures the activity will also identify knowledge and data needs for effective implementation of measures. This work is to be based on newest scientific findings and knowledge, including from BONUS projects and related to climate change.

Add HOD 56-2019: Time-table and steps for work under the SOM Platform has been updated as proposed by HELCOM SOM Platform 1-2019.

Planning: Main responsible for planning the work: GEAR 19-2018. Additional working arrangement might be necessary to carry out the task e.g. via the thematic workshops and jointly with the working groups. Such an additional working arrangement proposed is a new interdisciplinary platform on sufficiency of measures (SOM Platform). The HELCOM ACTION project (pending the final approval as of 13.11.2018) will carry out analysis of sufficiency of measures for a number of topics.

Autumn 2018

Secretariat:

- Come up with initial proposal for areas for synthesis of existing knowledge and for sufficiency of measures; liaison with experts/lead countries to be appointed for work of the SOM Platform.
- Estimate expert and resource needs for sufficiency of measures analyses.

<p>GEAR 19-2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Propose focal areas for synthesis of existing knowledge to support the analysis of sufficiency of measures and identification of potential new measures (priority areas). ○ Propose focal areas for analyses of sufficiency of measures (priority areas). ○ Consider the experts needs for sufficiency of measures analyses and development of business-as-usual (BAU) scenarios.
<p>Analyses: To estimate whether current actions (HELCOM actions and measures implemented under other policies) are sufficient to reach good status. The activity will be organized topic by topic as outlined in the organization of work for SOM analyses, HOD 56-2019, document 2.2).</p>
<p>Secretariat: Support, e.g. arrangement of SOM Platform meetings, HELCOM thematic workshops</p>
<p><u>Spring 2019 1Q</u></p> <p>SOM Platform (first meeting – February 2019):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plan for how to structure syntheses of existing knowledge to support the BSAP update. ○ Plan for regional analysis of sufficiency of measures and development of BAU scenarios according to priority areas agreed by HOD. Plans for the assessment of effectiveness of measures by OSPAR to be considered. ○ Work on syntheses started (to be carried out by appointed experts/lead country by end of 2019). <p>Contracting Parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assignment of resources, identification of lead countries and appointment of experts to carry out syntheses and analyses - by early 2019.
<p><u>Autumn 2019</u></p> <p>SOM Platform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Second meeting 16-17 September 2019 ○ Prepare regional “business as usual” scenario. ○ Analysis of sufficiency of measures initiated by lead countries and Topic teams under the SOM Platform and by partners of the ACTION project <p>Workings Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Validation of input to the SOM analyses, contribution to expert based evaluations ○ Initiate eview of ongoing work on synopses
<p><u>Spring 2020</u></p> <p>SOM Platform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BAU scenario ready in early 2020 (March at the latest) ○ Prepare material for meetings/workshops to discuss results of BAU and proposals on new measures from synopses.

Activity 2:6. Proposing new actions and improvement of the existing actions (end 2019- end 2020)

2018		2019				2020				2021
3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q

Tasks according to the Strategic plan: The analysis of sufficiency of measures will be utilized for identifying gaps between the current measures and the measures needed to reach GES. Proposals for new measures and actions will emerge via the regular work of HELCOM and its WGs and as an outcome of some of the other activities within this strategic plan, in particular the assessment of the sufficiency of measures. A full draft of the updated BSAP to be available last quarter 2020.

Comment: Proposal on new measures is expected to be put forward at various meetings and thematic workshops during the course of the BSAP update process, including also from stakeholders. Climate change will be considered in the analyses leading up to proposed measures. The Secretariat will compile

and distribute the proposals to HELCOM meetings. It is expected that knowledge needs for effective implementation of measures will be identified throughout the work and will also be part of proposed new HELCOM actions.

Add HOD 56-2019: Expansion on how the process to consider results of SOM analyses and proposals on new actions for the updated BSAP will take place based on outcome of HELCOM SOM Platform 1-2019. Further elaboration and proposal for this step will take place at second meeting of the SOM Platform.

Autumn 2019

Working Groups:

- Prepare proposals on uptake of HELCOM actions in the updated BSAP that were previously evaluated as too general to follow up and on measurable targets for those actions.
- Prepare proposals of actions and measurable targets to follow-up on the MD 2018 commitments and open discussion on potential new measures.

HOD Dec 2019:

- Based on outcome Activity 1:1, 2:3, 2:4 and 2:6 of previous WG meetings, consider proposals on:
 - not yet implemented existing HELCOM actions to be considered for uptake in the updated BSAP,
 - actions and measurable targets for MD 2018 commitments (draft proposals).

Spring 2020

SOM Platform:

- Prepare material for HELCOM meetings/workshops on new actions based on analyses of sufficiency of measures, the submission of synopses on potential new HELCOM actions, proposals from ACTIOIN projects, proposals based on reviewing the list of measures implemented in the countries.

Working Groups:

- At dedicated meetings/workshops, develop and consider proposals on new measures and actions based on results of analyses of sufficiency of measures and potential new measures and actions (e.g. based on existing reports or synopses prepared)
- Make initial proposals to HOD on new actions and measures for the updated BSAP

HOD June 2020:

- Discuss initial results from analyses of sufficiency of measures and proposals from Working Groups and agree on topics for which new HELCOM actions are needed.

Autumn 2020

SOM Platform:

- Re-run analyses of sufficiency of measures including proposed new HELCOM actions
- Prepare analyses of cost-effectiveness of potential new HELCOM actions

Working Groups:

- Further elaboration of possible actions, including an evaluation of effect of proposed new measures (at WG meetings or HELCOM workshops to be decided).

HOD Dec 2020:

- Further consideration of measures (first complete draft of the updated BSAP presented).

Timetable for Tasks at Working Group meetings

Task	Activity	2018 3Q	2018 4Q	2019 1Q	2019 2Q	2019 3Q	2019 4Q	2020 1Q	2020 2Q	2020 3Q	2020 4Q	2021 1Q
Propose how existing joint actions can be accomplished	1:1			As needed								
Discuss reasons for not achieving current BSAP commitments	1:1			As needed								
Propose rephrasing of existing HELCOM actions in case not implemented by 2021	1:1											
Review draft work plan for BSAP update	2:1											
Preparatory step for the review of ecological objectives	2:2											
Propose revised and new ecological objectives	2:2											
Further elaboration of revised and new ecological objectives	2:2											
Identify additional HELCOM commitments to be reported (e.g. recommendations)	2:3			As needed								
Consider reporting on additional HELCOM commitments as per above [via WGs or national contact points to be agreed]	2:3					As needed *						
Review HELCOM actions previously assigned as "too general"	2:4											
Agree on how to propose actions and define targets for MD 2018 commitments	2:4											
Guidance and review of synopses on potential new HELCOM actions	2:5											
Guidance and review of analyses of sufficiency of measures by SOM Platform	2:5											
Propose measurable targets for relevant existing HELCOM actions previously assigned as "too general"	2:6											
Prepare proposals on actions and targets for MD 2018 commitments	2:6											

Timetable for Tasks of the SOM Platform (as of HELCOM SOM Platform 1-2019)

YEAR	2019				2020			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Approach	ACTION/ SOM proposal 2nd version end of March	GEAR agreement 15-17 May 2019						
Collation of data and information input to analyses		SOM Platform/ ACTION End of June						
Synopses on potential new measures		Lead countries, international projects, NGOs	Lead countries, international projects, NGOs	Lead countries, international projects, NGOs				
2 nd meeting SOM Platform			16-17 September 2019					
Expert-based input to SOM analyses. review of synopses			WGs, EGs, (SOM Platform, ACTION project)	WGs, EGs (SOM Platform, ACTION project)				
Running BAU on existing measures				SOM Platform/ ACTION	SOM Platform/ ACTION			
3 rd SOM Platform meeting					March 2020 (joint meeting ACTION WP6)			
Thematic workshops, to discuss results and propose potential new actions						WGs, EGs, experts May/June 2019		
Assess status with potential new HELCOM actions							SOM Platform/ ACTION	
Cost-effectiveness analyses							SOM Platform/ ACTION	
4 th SOM Platform meeting							September 2020	
Continued elaboration and endorsement of new/strengthened HELCOM actions							WGs	WGs
[Benefits of the BSAP as a whole]							SOM Platform	SOM Platform

Timetable for reviews and decisions at HOD meetings

Task	Activity	2018 3Q	2018 4Q	2019 1Q	2019 2Q	2019 3Q	2019 4Q	2020 1Q	2020 2Q	2020 3Q	2020 4Q	2021 1Q
Proposals from WGs on how to achieve current BSAP	1:1											
Proposal on tentatively rephrasing of actions to be transferred to the updated BSAP	1:1											
Agreement on update of the BSAP follow-up system, including presentation of results, agreement on the scope of the reporting by CPs	1:2											
Preview of the reporting forms the reporting to the BSAP follow-up system to be carried out by CPs end of 2020	1:2											
Agreement on workplan for BSAP update	2:1											
Consider overarching structure (segments and goals) for BSAP UP	2:2											
Draft proposal on revised and new ecological objectives	2:2											
Endorse structure for BSAP UP (segments, goals and objectives)	2:2											
Endorse results on reporting of additional commitments (e.g. recommendations) reported via WGs	2:3											
Discuss initial results from analyses of sufficiency of measures; agree on topics for which new HELCOM actions are needed	2:5											
Agreement on measurable targets for existing relevant HELCOM actions and consider first proposal for new actions and targets for commitments from MD 2018	2:6											
Review of further developed list of actions	2:6											
Agreement on new HELCOM actions	2:6											

Time-table for preparation of documents to HELCOM meetings (Secretariat)

Task	Activity	2018 3Q	2018 4Q	2019 1Q	2019 2Q	2019 3Q	2019 4Q	2020 1Q	2020 2Q	2020 3Q	2020 4Q	2021 1Q
Prepare for WGs to discuss implementation of current BSAP	1:1											
Prepare proposal for update of HELCOM Explorer	1:2				ongoing							
Developing report forms reporting	1:2											
Technical update of HELCOM Explorer	1:2											
Organizing reporting and updating the Explorer	1:2											
Prepare work plan for BSAP update	2:1											
Prepare background document for how BSAP can be aligned with SDGs, Aichi targets and MSFD	2:2											
Prepare list/proposal of HELCOM recommendations (or other HELCOM agreements) to be reported	2:3											
Prepare reporting forms for HELCOM recommendations as per above	2:3											
Support analyses of sufficiency of measures	2.5											
Prepare list of proposals on actions for BSAP UP	2:6											

Annex 3 Revised HELCOM Recommendation 28E/13

Adopted 15 November 2007 and amended 19 June 2019,
having regard to Article 20, Paragraph 1 b) and Annex II
of the Helsinki Convention

INTRODUCING ECONOMIC INCENTIVES AS A COMPLEMENT TO EXISTING REGULATIONS TO REDUCE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS

THE COMMISSION,

BEING AWARE that potential pollution from shipping has negative impacts on the sensitive marine environment of the Baltic Sea,

ACKNOWLEDGING that, although there has been general substantial progress achieved in improving the protection of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea, as well as strengthening of regulatory measures to reduce pollution from shipping there is still a need for further reduction of airborne emissions from ships as well as illegal discharges,

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of MARPOL Convention and other international measures to reduce pollution from ships,

STRESSING the need for introducing economic incentives to curb airborne emissions from ships as well as other pollutants and discharges, especially for those which are not regulated,

RECOGNISING the need to evaluate and implement additional alternatives to the existing regulatory measures to reduce pollution from shipping,

RECALLING Annex II to the Helsinki Convention **AND NOTING** that the promotion and use of Best Environmental Practice and Best Available Technology can be triggered by the application of economic instruments to activities, products and emissions in the Baltic Sea Area and may constitute an effective means to reduce airborne emissions from ships as well as other pollutants and discharges,

NOTING FURTHER that economic incentives can serve as complements to regulatory measures i.e. encouraging use of voluntary measures and thereby may lead to a larger reduction of pollution compared to that achieved by traditional regulations and can stimulate technological improvements and innovations as well as achievement of environmental results at lower costs,

BEING CONVINCED that sub-regional co-operation is of crucial importance also when the desire is to effectively use economic instruments,

RECOMMENDS that the Contracting Parties investigate and, when appropriate, introduce feasible and effective economic instruments as a complement to existing regulations to further reduce pollution from shipping,

RECOMMENDS FURTHER that the Contracting Parties take into consideration the attached Guidelines when introducing economic incentives schemes to reduce airborne emissions from ships as well as other pollutants and illegal discharges.

Attachment

Guidelines for introducing economic incentive schemes as a possible complement to existing regulations to reduce pollution from ships in the Baltic Sea Area

These guidelines are intended to give advice to the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention regarding introduction of incentive schemes to reduce emissions and other pollutants from ships calling upon Baltic Sea ports.

1. Introduction

As one of the most important means of transportation of passengers and goods, shipping should take its responsibility in a manner equal to society at large when it comes to take action to protect the environment. According to several projections, emissions from shipping, such as NO_x and CO₂, continue to be a concern for human health and the environment. HELCOM and its Contracting Parties have already made significant progress, most notably through the adoption of new international regulations at IMO and the HELCOM Maritime Working Group was awarded the Baltic Sea Fund Prize for its work to reduce pollution from maritime traffic in the Baltic Sea. While national and regional efforts are important, due to the international nature of shipping, it is important to continue taking active part in global actions initiated within the IMO to reduce pollution from ships. These measures form the international baseline, but there often is room for regions, nations or other actors, to introduce non-discriminatory economic incentives which provides an important means to further reduce pollution from ships within their jurisdiction. Pollution may include both emissions to the atmosphere, discharges from ships as well as other pollutants.

2. Definitions of Economic Incentives

Economic incentives defined broadly are instruments that use financial means to motivate actors to reduce health and environmental risks posed by their facilities, processes, or products. These incentives provide monetary rewards for those polluting less and impose costs of various types for those polluting more, thus supplying the necessary motivation of change to polluters. This approach provides an opportunity to address sources of pollution as well as providing a reason for polluters to improve their performance in addition to existing regulatory requirements.

3. Existing financial instruments

Economic instruments to support environmentally friendly shipping beyond the existing legislation have been introduced in some countries and ports to encourage ship owners to reduce their pollution. These include e.g. differentiated port fees and fairway dues, differentiated taxation of marine fuels and on-shore power supply. Environmentally differentiated port fees are often based on the environmental ship indexes. Additionally, EU and national level co-funding instruments exist to support environmental investments and port infrastructure investments.

4. Proposed financial structure for introducing economic incentives

All countries around the Baltic Sea have some kind of financial system that enables provision of services to shipping, infrastructure investments, dredging, lighthouse and fairway maintenance, icebreaking, hydrological surveys, etc. Taking into consideration the diversity of financial systems applied in the Baltic Sea countries and to allow some flexibility in introducing economic incentives, this proposal allows the Contracting Parties to consider the introduction of economic incentives to reduce emissions and other pollutants from shipping in addition to local financial systems. There may be various options for introducing economic incentives that Contracting Parties may choose between, such as:

- to introduce a system of environmentally differentiated fairway dues; and
- to modify an existing charging system to allow environmental differentiation of dues.

There are, however, some requirements that could be followed regardless of which incentive scheme is considered or subject to be implemented. An incentive scheme may have the following prerequisites:

- It should support actions that are taken in addition to existing regulations;
- It should support the best possible protection of the environment, including the reception and the treatment of the waste until the moment it is not considered to be waste anymore;
- It should provide no encouragement for ships to discharge their waste at sea;
- It should cover all important aspects (management, design/equipment, ship operation);
- Emission charges are suitable for ships of all flags, 400 GT and above, visiting Baltic ports;
- The system should support measures to protect the environment and be reliable and easy to implement;
- Evidence of compliance should be simple;
- Expenses for the operators of the system should be low;
- When appropriate, an incentive scheme should make use of existing and accepted databases and calculation methods, including IMO instruments and other market and legislative systems;
- Ports and other stakeholders, including authorities should support the shipping industry improving the environmental performance, including providing adequate PRFs for those waste streams included in an incentive scheme (when in their remit), and facilitating proper recycling of waste; and
- It should be coordinated with the users and communicated to the maritime sector, for instance via local/regional stakeholder consultations and the appropriate groups within HELCOM.

When introducing an incentive scheme, the following measures may be considered:

- Which pollutants should be included in the incentive scheme, either already regulated ones or those with a voluntary basis. Examples are NO_x, CO₂, PM, SO_x, garbage, sewage and any types of wash/waste water produced on board for different purposes, including grey water, chemicals, oils and oily waters. Incentives for each pollutant should go beyond the existing regulations for both new and existing ships. Port states should ensure that ports provide adequate Port Reception Facilities, if required;
- Establishing criteria for each pollutant that will be included in the incentive scheme. The criteria could be developed by the responsible part/parties of the incentive or by using an existing index;
- Incentives, including tax exemptions for on shore power supply for vessels as well as on-shore power investments and charging battery-powered vessels in a port, depending on national legislation;
- A revenue-neutrality resulting in higher dues for more polluting ships and rebates depending on environmental performance, investments in emission abatement technologies and/or other reduction measures;
- A minimum fee based on gross tonnage or installed engine power (might differ for different categories of ships);
- By what means the ship that applies for revenues should prove its environmental performance, and if validation by a third party is needed; and
- Number of calls subject to dues.

Annex 4 Terms of Reference for HELCOM Expert Group on Sturgeon Remediation (EG STUR)

Adopted by HELCOM Heads of Delegation 56-2019

Background:

The development of a Baltic Sea Sturgeon Action Plan (BSSAP) was part of the HELCOM PROJECT “HELCOM STURGEON REMEDIATION” approved by the HELCOM Heads of Delegation 39th Meeting (HOD 39/2012). The Baltic Sea Action Plan states that Contracting Parties should join and/or support Poland and Germany in re-introducing Baltic sturgeon to its potential spawning rivers, and “By 2015, to have the re-introduction program for Baltic sturgeon in place, and - as a long term goal, after their successful re-introduction has been attained - to have best natural reproduction, and populations within safe genetic limits in each potential river”. Poland and Germany informed HELCOM State & Conservation regularly about their progress in re-introducing the species into the historic spawning rivers (in particular Odra- and Vistula river systems).

Starting in 2013, partners from Germany, Poland, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia began work compiling a draft HELCOM Action Plan on Sturgeon.

The 40th Meeting of the Helsinki Commission March 6th and 7th 2019 adopted the Baltic Sea Sturgeon Action Plan.

The implementation of the Baltic Sea Sturgeon Action Plan requires specific activities from the Contracting Parties that need to be followed up and monitored in the frame of the annual reporting obligations. Furthermore, the national activities require some harmonization and cooperation efforts to become effective. State and Conservation 9-2018 took note of the information that there is active cross-border work ongoing within a group of Baltic Sturgeon experts and considered the possibility to link the groups work with that of HELCOM State and Conservation, probably through the establishment of a sturgeon expert network.

It is for this purpose that the project group is to be established as an official HELCOM Expert Group.

Purpose:

The purpose of the EG STUR is to contribute to the implementation of the BSSAP and to give scientific advice to relevant HELCOM bodies. This includes the support of the coordination effort and the outline of best practice technologies for the relevant implementation steps. The EG is intended to be a platform for all matters related to sturgeon conservation and management. It will provide expertise on activities and scientific knowledge related to sturgeon to HELCOM and facilitate collaboration between scientists to prepare scientific publications.

Scope:

The overall scope of the network is to facilitate Baltic Sea regional cooperation for all activities related to sturgeon recovery as outlined in the BSSAP. The BSSAP covers a period of 10 years (2019 – 2029).

Objectives:

The network will strive to ensure that the recovery measures in the Contracting Parties are based on common principles and state of knowledge, pursue the same targets and utilize harmonized methodology to allow the comparison of results.

Further, the network serves as a platform for the exchange of experiences as well as the development of guidelines for the major implementation steps of the BSSAP. The network through the national contact points is to intensify awareness-raising among the public, authorities, NGOs and fishermen as well as their stakeholders by using different media including the Internet and social media.

The network provides and exchanges relevant scientific findings to support the implementation of the BSSAP through coordinated research, the development of harmonized restoration practices, agreed upon methodological approaches for reproduction, rearing, release, and monitoring, common information material for stakeholder and public outreach.

Tasks:

- to support the implementation of the Sturgeon Action Plan and to help reaching the targets of the BSAP.
- to work towards the harmonization of the guidelines (in accordance with the Pan-European Sturgeon Action Plan) with similar approaches in other Macro Regional strategies (Danube, OSPAR, Ionian-Pannonian Strategy) for different sturgeon species.
- to support the Contracting Parties in genetic optimization of broodstock establishment, the development of a multilateral breeding plan and a respective data bank.
- to facilitate the exchange of gametes and fish to secure diverse and functional broodstocks and will provide a common broodstock development guideline.
- to cooperate with all Contact Points and interested HELCOM observers.
- to contribute to HELCOM assessments (such as HOLAS III).
- to, where needed, contribute to the update of the BSAP.
- to provide annual progress reports to HELCOM State&Conservation WG.
- to jointly publish scientific papers and make them available for HELCOM.
- to inform and report on its activities at relevant scientific fora.

These overall tasks provide the framework to guide the work of the network on implementation which depends on availability of resources. If possible the network might be a platform to develop and apply for external funded projects in order to accomplish its objectives (e.g. EUSBSR or Interreg).

Membership

The network will consist of experts nominated by Contracting Parties, including those experts already involved in the project group for the sturgeon Action Plan, and will be open to Observers according to HELCOM procedures. Collaboration with other organizations (such as OSPAR) will also be sought.

Reporting:

The Chair(s) will report to State and Conservation and FISH Working Groups once a year. The report should consist of information on activities, data and developments, a list of links to the meeting sites of previous

meetings or workspaces containing documents, and a list of aspects on which decisions or guidance from those working groups are required. A template for the reporting will be provided by the Secretariat.

Work plan:

A work plan for 2019-2021 will be prepared for and elaborated at the first meeting of the network, after which the workplan will be reviewed and updated in the EG STUR meetings prior to the end date of the workplan, to be presented for approval by State and Conservation WG.

Validity of ToRs

The work of the group is open ended. The Terms of Reference are to be subjected to review and, as appropriate, revision by the expert network, endorsement by the HELCOM State and Conservation Working Group and approval by HELCOM Heads of Delegations.

Organization of work

The expert network will function under and receive guidance from the HELCOM State and Conservation Working Group, and will provide support to other groups, in particular to HELCOM FISH Working Group.

The EG can request input from the State and Conservation WG and FISH WG as appropriate.

The mode of work for the expert group will include correspondence and online meetings facilitated by the HELCOM Secretariat, with a physical meeting taking place annually or less frequently as needed. Sub groups might be defined in order to work more thematically. Chair(s) will be elected by the members of EG STUR. The products will be handled at HELCOM Meeting Portal workspaces dedicated to this purpose. The HELCOM Secretariat will provide administrative support to the network.

Annex 5 HELCOM Network for Marine Protected Area Management (EN MPA MANET) Terms of Reference (ToR)

Adopted by HELCOM Heads of Delegation 56-2019

Background:

The HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2010:

WE AGREE to develop and apply by 2015, management plans and/or measures for already existing BSPAs; and that every new BSPA designation should within five years be followed by the establishment of a management plan and/or measures;

The HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2013 stated:

WE DECIDE to re-enforce action to achieve by 2020 an ecologically coherent network of well-managed marine protected areas for the Baltic Sea as decided in the BSAP and the Moscow Ministerial Declaration.

WE AGREE to strengthen the efforts to implement the decision made at the HELCOM 2010 Moscow Ministerial Meeting to develop and apply by 2015, management plans and/or measures for already existing Baltic Sea Protected Areas; and to follow every new BSPA designation by the establishment of a management plan and/or measures within five years;

The HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2018 concluded the following:

WE WELCOME the significant progress made towards increasing the geographical coverage of the HELCOM marine protected areas (HELCOM MPAs) network. **WE RECALL** the HELCOM commitment to step up efforts to establish an ecologically coherent and effectively managed network of HELCOM MPAs in accordance with HELCOM Recommendation 35/1. **WE ALSO COMMIT** to improving the 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;

The focus of the group is mainly HELCOM Recommendations **35/1: System of coastal and marine Baltic Sea protected areas (HELCOM MPAs)** directly deals with management of MPAs. Further recommendations are relevant to the work of the network (see Annex 1).

Implementation of commitments and initiatives with regards to marine conservation are still in progress in the region. Although the HELCOM region is a global leader when it comes to MPA coverage, MPA management and management effectiveness has been identified as an area where significant progress is still needed.

To this end the first HELCOM MPA management workshop was held in September 2018. The workshop sparked closer cooperation between managers in the HELCOM region, and provided them with a platform to discuss experiences, exchange best practices and identify gaps and challenges related to marine protected areas management. A recommendation for a permanent MPA management network to be established under the auspice of HELCOM arose from the workshop. State and Conservation 9-2018 in turn endorsed the establishment of a regional MPA management network and requested the Secretariat to present the proposal to HOD 55-2018 for consideration. HOD 55-2018 in principle supported the proposal.

Identified challenges

The Baltic Sea marine protected areas (MPA) network consist of areas protected purely under national legislation, Natura 2000 areas with a marine component and HELCOM MPAs. The two latter overlap to a significant degree. Although the Baltic Sea region has an extensive network and coverage of MPAs, MPA management and management effectiveness has been identified as an area where significant progress is needed. MPA managers often face similar challenges across the region, and management efforts in one protected area can directly affect the effectiveness of another, yet there currently exists little transboundary infrastructure or regional level capacity building to address this. MPA managers have expressed that there is a general lack of overview on methods, best practices and guidelines best suited for the region.

MPA management has to take into account a several commitments as well as possible overlapping legislation which needs to be fulfilled in any given Baltic Sea MPA. Ensuring that these commitments are all accounted for has been identified as one of the main impediments in the work of MPA managers in the Baltic Sea region.

These challenges all indicate that there is a need for a more unified regional approach to MPA management, from communication and sharing practical experiences to use of vocabulary, setting of target and objectives to monitoring, and cross border management.

Purpose of the Network

At the regional level the MPA management network supports the implementation of international agreements and marine policies, fostering partnerships with relevant marine conservation actors and key regional or international organizations and initiatives (e.g. ASCOBANS, EU Biogeographical process etc.).

The network will provide expert input to HELCOM work related to MPA management, as well as conservation of habitats, biotopes and species in general, the relevant Ecological Objectives in the Baltic Sea Action Plan and specifically on the activities identified in these ToR's.

The principal benefits of EN MPA MANET are to have the opportunity for:

- a) stronger links between managers working with MPAs in the region,
- b) improved transfer of valuable information, best practices and experiences
- c) an improved transfer of research results and products between partners and to the policy level.
- d) improved advice and information on necessary actions and measures and on how HELCOM's policies could be adapted in order to support MPA management.
- e) a clear mechanism for demonstrating organizational commitment to addressing MPA management related challenges.
- f) stronger MPA knowledge, capacities and awareness of decision-makers, relevant economic sectors stakeholders and the general public to ensure better policy implementation at national regional and international levels.

Scope:

The overall scope of the group is to enhance the management of Baltic Sea MPAs, on an individual, national and regional level, accounting for both management of individual areas and the network.

The work supports the implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP), relevant HELCOM Recommendations and subsequent commitments.

Objectives:

The network will work to facilitate regional cooperation and exchange of experiences, facilitate mutual understanding and foster the development of, and actively contribute to achieve, an efficient, representative, connected, integrated and effectively managed network of Baltic Sea MPAs.

This will include strong and active networking of MPA managers and other actors, knowledge and capacity building, and to strengthen MPA policy implementation. This work includes, but is not limited, the needs of the BSAP and subsequent commitments.

Towards this end the objectives of the Network are:

1. to foster exchange of information, experiences and expertise in order to enhance MPA- and MPA management effectiveness, facilitate the work of MPA managers and support transboundary management efforts;
2. to identify and help fill gaps in terms of knowledge, capacity building, or communications and to support development of regional understanding and harmonization of methods and processes;
3. to identify and link national work with HELCOM work;
4. to support managers in their need to adapt to changing contexts by being adaptive and focus on a bottom-up approach;
5. to reinforce the link between local experience and decision-making processes in order to shorten the distance between MPA managers and policies;
6. to engage with other key stakeholders in order to improve effectiveness of MPAs and their management;
7. to support regional assessments of MPA management and link to relevant European Union directives, especially the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Habitats and Birds directive;
8. to provide a platform for applying for financial support for MPA management related work,

Activities and Tasks:

The activities of the group cover a wide range of aspects related to work with MPAs. Sub groups might be defined in order to work more thematically under the umbrella of the network, in order to facilitate intersessional work. The group's activities and tasks link to the following priority MPA-related topics:

- **Collaboration platform:** establishing and supporting collaboration platforms to facilitate dialogue and networking between managers, experts, stakeholders and scientists. This will allow better integration of the existing scientific and practical knowledge about key MPA issues
- **Capacity building:** incrementally developing and implementing a regionally coordinated capacity-building programme, together with possible partners, by integrating the different capacity-building activities formats (regional workshops, trainings, small exchange visits, etc.),
- **Improving awareness:** developing a "bottom-up" approach through ad hoc external communication to improve awareness, inform authorities, decision-makers, the general public, the key economic sectors about, but not limited to:
 - The value of MPAs (ecological and socio-economic),
 - The challenges, added value and success stories of MPA effective management
 - The benefits of strongly protected areas,
 - The value of a human network of MPA managers and actors.
- **Information sharing:** making available up-to-date the knowledge to MPA managers, informing them about developments in the fields of MPA management, policy and decision-making, funding opportunities

especially at regional, European, and international levels, as well as about technical and strategic activities of the network, and facilitate communication and direct support between members and possible partners.

- **Online platform:** maintaining a dedicated online platform for collaboration and distribution of documentary resources on MPAs.
- **MPA database:** continue to update the HELCOM MPA database with relevant information on the regions MPAs.
- **Monitoring:** supporting harmonized management and monitoring in MPAs across the region and the development and use of management guidelines and simple monitoring protocols that can be easily implemented by MPA managers in different parts of the region.
- **Identifying and filling gaps:** identifying and specifying data and knowledge needs. Wherever possible the network can address these needs through projects developed with national funding or joint research applications'

These overall tasks provide the framework to guide the work of the network, the implementation of which depends on the availability of resources. If possible the network might be a platform to develop and apply for external funded projects in order to accomplish the listed tasks and objectives

Reporting

The Chairs(s) will report on the group's activities to the State and Conservation WG as required. A template for the reporting will be provided by the Secretariat.

Work plan

The Network will, as part of their work, identify topics and challenges which would benefit from regional cooperation or a regional approach and these will form the core of the networks work. As such the network will not prepare a set workplan.

Validity of ToR's

The work of the network is open ended. These ToRs should be subjected to review and revision as needed and are to be presented for endorsement at the working group level and approval by Heads of Delegation.

Organisation of work

The network will consist of experts nominated by the Contracting Parties and will be open to Observers according to HELCOM procedures, including to any person with a contractual relationship with any MPA. The network will report to and receive guidance from the State and Conservation Working Group.

Some activities could be directly implemented by HELCOM and/or the network, or led by HELCOM Contracting Parties, with the support from the HELCOM Secretariat as facilitator/coordinator.

The mode of work for the expert network will be facilitated by the Secretariat, with a physical meetings or workshops taking place as needed. Sub groups might be defined in order to work more thematically. A Chair will be elected by the network. The products will be handled at HELCOM Meeting Portal workspaces dedicated for the aim. The HELCOM Secretariat will provide administrative support to the network

Annex 1 HELCOM Recommendations relevant for the work of the Network

40/1 Conservation and protection of marine and coastal biotopes, habitats and biotope complexes categorized as threatened according to the HELCOM Red Lists

37/2 Conservation of Baltic Sea species categorized as threatened according to the 2013 HELCOM red list

27/28-2 Conservation of seals in the Baltic Sea Area,

34E/1 Safeguarding important bird habitats and migration routes in the Baltic Sea from negative effects of wind and wave energy production at sea

17/2 Protection of Harbour Porpoise in the Baltic Sea Area

15/1R Protection of the coastal strip

Annex 6 Statements by the European Commission

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

Title	Category	Submitted by	Date
1-1 Provisional Agenda.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary	30.04.2019
1-2 Annotations to the Provisional Agenda.pdf	CMNT	Executive Secretary	30.04.2019
2-1 Progress of work and revised workplan for the BSAP update.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary	27.05.2019
2-2 Organization of work for the SOM analyses.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary	27.05.2019
2-3 Approach to analyse sufficiency of measures.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary	27.05.2019
2-4 Structure of the updated BSAP.pdf	CMNT	Executive Secretary	27.05.2019
2-5 High-Level Segment during HELCOM 41-2020.pdf	CMNT	Executive Secretary	28.05.2019
2-6 Development of a HELCOM science agenda.pdf	INF	Executive Secretary	03.06.2019
2-6-Att.1 HELCOM survey of knowledge and research needs template.xlsx	INF	Executive Secretary	03.06.2019
2-7 Reporting on implementation of HELCOM Recommendations.pdf	INF	Executive Secretary	11.06.2019
2-7-Att.1 Summary Recommendations reporting Pressure.xlsx	INF	Executive Secretary	11.06.2019
2-7-Att.2 Summary Recommendations reporting State and Conservation.xlsx	INF	Executive Secretary	11.06.2019
2-7-Att.3 Summary Recommendations reporting Response.xlsx	INF	Executive Secretary	11.06.2019
3-1 Outcomes of AGRI 7-2019 and AGRI 7a-2019.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary	30.04.2019
3-2 Outcome of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 18-2019.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary	30.04.2019
3-3 Outcome of PRESSURE 10-2019.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary	30.04.2019
3-4 HELCOM principles of the methodology to reallocate extra reduction of nutrient input.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary	30.04.2019
3-5 Draft vision and objectives for Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy.pdf	DEC	Finland and Secretariat	02.05.2019
3-6 Proposal to delete Hot Spot No. 67 - Kaliningrad Wastewater Treatment Plant.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary	06.05.2019
3-7 Proposal to delete Hot Spot No. 69 - the pulp and paper mill Cepruss.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary	06.05.2019
3-8 Outcome of State and Conservation 10-2019.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary	17.05.2019
3-9 Draft Technical Guidance for the handling of wastewater in Ports of the Baltic Sea Special Area under MARPOL Annex IV.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary	22.05.2019
3-10 Outcome of GEAR 20-2019.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary	23.05.2019
3-11 Revised project proposal for Quality assurance of phytoplankton monitoring in the Baltic Sea (HELCOM PEG QA) 2020-2022.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary	23.05.2019
3-12 Draft Terms of Reference for the HELCOM Expert Group on Sturgeon Remediation (EG STUR).pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary	23.05.2019
3-13 Draft HELCOM Network for Marine Protected Area Management (EN MPA MANET) Terms of Reference.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary	23.05.2019
3-13-Rev1 Draft HELCOM Network for Marine Protected Area Management (EN MPA MANET) Terms of Reference.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary	18.06.2019
3-14 Draft HELCOM monitoring sub-programme on beach litter.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary	23.05.2019
3-14-Rev.1 Draft HELCOM monitoring sub-programme on beach litter.pdf	DEC	European Union	14.06.2019
3-15 Revision of Annex III part 2 of the Helsinki Convention.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary	23.05.2019
3-16 Proposals to advance the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme and its follow up.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary	23.05.2019
3-17 Provisional Programme of HELCOM Workshop with River Basin Management Authorities.pdf	CMNT	Executive Secretary	27.05.2019
3-18 Draft revised HELCOM Recommendation 28E-13.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary	27.05.2019
3-19 Comments by Russia to the draft revised HELCOM Recommendation 28E-13.pdf	DEC	Russia	27.05.2019

3-20 Future work on HELCOM indicators – progress and planned work.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary	28.05.2019
3-20-ATT.1 HELCOM Indicator match and scoring tables.xlsx	DEC	Executive Secretary	28.05.2019
3-21 Additions to Draft Technical Guidance for handling of wastewater in Ports.pdf	DEC	Estonia and Germany	03.06.2019
3-22 Subdivision of the 7 HELCOM Seas.pdf	INF	FEAP	07.06.2019
3-23 Outcome of RESPONSE 26-2019.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary	10.06.2019
3-24 Marine fish farming in Estonia.pdf	INF	Estonia	11.06.2019
3-25 Comments by Finland on the Russian commenting document (3-19) to the draft revised HELCOM Recommendation 28E-13.pdf	CMNT	Finland	11.06.2019
3-26-WP Draft revised HELCOM Recommendation 28E-13.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary	18.06.2019
4-1 Recruitment of Professional Staff.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary	06.05.2019
4-2 Budget proposal for 2020-2021 and a long-term budget framework.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary	27.05.2019
5-1 Main results of XX BSD Forum and concept of XXI Forum.pdf	INF	Russia	07.06.2019
5-2 Upcoming meetings within HELCOM and other forums in 2019-2020.pdf	INF	Executive Secretary	10.06.2019
5-3 The Greener Agriculture for a Sustainable Sea Conference.pdf	INF	CCB and WWF	12.06.2019