



## Outcome of the 57th Meeting of the Heads of Delegation (HOD 57-2019)

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## Outcome of the 57th Meeting of the Heads of Delegation (HOD 57-2019)

### Introduction

- 0.1 The 57th Meeting of the Heads of Delegation was held in Helsinki, Finland, on 10-11 December 2019.
- 0.2 The Meeting was attended by participants from all Contracting Parties and by Observers from Baltic Farmers' Forum on Environment (BFFE), Baltic Pilotage Authorities Commission (BPAC), Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC) and CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP), Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO), and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The List of Participants is contained in **Annex 1** to this Outcome.
- 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 with the addition to discuss the issue of construction of the waterway connecting the Vistula Lagoon with the Gulf of Gdansk and failure of the wastewater transmission system to the WWTP "Czajka" in August 2019 under Agenda Item 6.

### Agenda Item 2 Preparations for HELCOM 41-2020 including the stakeholder conference and high-level segment

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

- 2.1 The Meeting took note of the Provisional Agenda for the 41st Meeting of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM 41-2020) to be held on 4-5 March 2020 in Helsinki, Finland (document 2-4).
- 2.2 The Meeting took note of the preparations for the HELCOM Stakeholder Conference 2020 on the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) to be held on 3 March 2020 in Helsinki, Finland, back-to-back with HELCOM 41-2020 (document 2-1) and endorsed in principle the provisional programme and the format of the Stakeholder Conference.
- 2.3 The Meeting also took note of the remark by Denmark seeking clarification on the expected role of and feedback by stakeholders during the event.
- 2.4 The Meeting further took note of comments by Germany to ensure a good balance between the segments addressed in the breakout sessions.
- 2.5 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to circulate an updated programme as soon as available.
- 2.6 The Meeting took note that Finland will organize a national event for stakeholders on the BSAP update on 19 December 2019, with the aim to inform about and contribute to the BSAP update.
- 2.7 The Meeting considered the outline for the high-level segment of HELCOM 41-2020, to take place on 4 March 2020, on the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and HELCOM global outreach including voluntary commitments to UN Ocean Conference 2020 (document 2-2) and agreed in principle on the outline, while taking into account the limited allocated time for that segment.
- 2.8 The Meeting considered the initial proposals for the outcome of the high-level segment (document 2-3) and supported the proposal by Denmark to add an additional commitment on strong support for global efforts to address the marine litter problem on a global level (document 2-6).

- 2.9 The Meeting agreed to prioritize the BSAP update during the high-level segment.
- 2.10 The Meeting further took note of the proposal by Sweden to present the work on sufficiency of measures analysis done by the HELCOM SOM Platform at the high-level segment, noting nonetheless the information by the Secretariat that results will only be available after the high-level segment.
- 2.11 The Meeting underscored that the adoption of the updated BSAP and the target year should take place at the Ministerial Meeting in 2021.
- 2.12 The Meeting agreed to have a presentation during the high-level segment on the status of implementation of already existing actions under the current BSAP, Ministerial Declarations and Recommendations as well as on the implementation gaps of current actions.
- 2.13 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to clarify the language of document 2-3, notably replacing “sister organizations” with “other organizations”.
- 2.14 The Meeting took note of the request by the European Union to also encompass “regional fisheries organization” in the third voluntary commitment in document 2-3, recalling prior HELCOM commitments on collaboration with fisheries. The Meeting further invited the HELCOM community to look into increased collaboration and experience sharing with OSPAR that is facing similar challenges as HELCOM.
- 2.15 The Meeting took note of the comment by FEAP on the benefits of collaboration between OSPAR and HELCOM, notably in the Kattegat area.
- 2.16 The Meeting agreed to establish a drafting group tasked with the further elaboration of HELCOM voluntary commitments to the UN Ocean Conference 2020 and the draft outcome of the high-level segment. The Meeting encouraged the Contracting Parties to inform the Secretariat ([dominik.littfass@helcom.fi](mailto:dominik.littfass@helcom.fi)) **by 20 December 2019** on nominations to the drafting group. The drafting group will tentatively have its first meeting on 13 January 2020, possibly online.
- 2.17 The Meeting considered and supported the Swedish proposal to organize a joint workshop that would bring together policy, management and science with a view to strengthen ecosystem-based management in the Baltic Sea and to include it under commitments to the UN Ocean Conference coordinated by Sweden (document 2-5).
- 2.18 The Meeting took note of the comments by WWF, stressing the importance of public-private partnerships and collaboration between regional seas conventions, and further inviting HELCOM to share its experiences on monitoring and evaluation as well as suggest voluntary commitments in prominence of the ocean-climate nexus in ocean-related actions that build on the resilience to ocean ecosystems by achieving global biodiversity targets on MPAs according to IUCN recommendations which call for at least 30% effective protection of the oceans by 2030.

### **Agenda Item 3 Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan**

Documents: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-3-Add.1, 3-4, 3-4-Rev.1, 3-5, 3-6, 3-7, 3-8, 3-9, 3-10, 3-10-Rev.1

- 3.1 The Meeting took note of the ongoing work to implement the Strategic Plan and Work Plan for the BSAP update (document 3-1).
- 3.2 The Meeting agreed on the proposals from HELCOM Working Groups on actions to be considered as accomplished or that are proposed to be omitted from future implementation and follow-up, as contained in section 2 of document 3-1.
- 3.3 The Meeting welcomed the proposals from PRESSURE 11-2019 on how to follow-up on the Ministerial Declaration 2018, as contained in section 3.3.1 of document 3-1, and encouraged the Group to work further on the implementation of activities that can be completed by end of 2020.
- 3.4 The Meeting took note of the ongoing work by HELCOM Working Groups to review existing HELCOM actions (section 4, document 3-1). The Meeting made the following comments to guide the further

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review and tentative rephrasing of existing actions and follow-up of the HELCOM 2018 Ministerial Declaration:

- formulate actions as concretely as possible;
- propose target years for the implementation of actions;
- consider merging of actions and proposing actions to be left out if not found relevant.

3.5 For the update of the BSAP in general, the Meeting underlined the importance of proposing a limited number of focused and readily conveyable actions of political interest.

3.6 The Meeting recalled that proposals on new actions for the updated BSAP will be available by end of 2019 through the call for synopses that has been extended to HELCOM subsidiary bodies, HELCOM observers and international projects, and that the spring meetings of Working Groups will review the proposals.

3.7 The Meeting took note of the reporting on implementation of HELCOM Recommendations (document 3-10 and 3-10-Rev.1). The Meeting recalled that the reporting will be used as an input to the SOM analysis.

3.8 The Meeting pointed out the need for further work to further clarify why there are difficulties in implementing some of the Recommendations. The Meeting suggested that a short summary on the implementation of Recommendations could be presented to the high-level segment in HELCOM 41-2020.

3.9 The Meeting took note of the fact that Finland can endorse their national reporting as presented in document 3-10.

3.10 The Meeting took note of the update of the HELCOM Explorer, supported its further development as outlined in Annex 2 of document 3-2, and agreed to include the recently reported HELCOM Recommendations in the updated HELCOM Explorer.

3.11 The Meeting proposed that the implementation gaps, both for recommendations, the current BSAP and Ministerial Declarations, should be further analysed by HELCOM Working Groups.

3.12 The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the 2nd Meeting of the SOM Platform (SOM Platform 2-2018) held on 16-17 September 2019 in Helsinki, Finland (document 3-4-Rev.1) and the ongoing work to implement the analysis of sufficiency of measures (SOM).

3.13 The Meeting recalled the agreement to convene thematic BSAP UP workshops in spring 2020 to discuss and evaluate the outcome of different ongoing activities that are contributing to the BSAP update, including the ongoing review of existing HELCOM actions by Working Groups, the first results of the SOM analysis, and the proposals on new actions. The workshops are aimed at making initial proposals on new actions for the updated BSAP

3.14 The Meeting agreed on themes and the dates for thematic BSAP UP workshops as contained in document 3-4-Rev.1 and mandated the Secretariat to update the work plan for the BSAP update accordingly. The Meeting took note of the comment by Estonia that it may be difficult to send experts to all workshops considering the overall number of meetings and workshops in the framework of HELCOM.

3.15 The Meeting took note of the ongoing development of criteria to support the evaluation of proposed new actions at the BSAP UP workshops, taking place through the SOM Platform with Latvia and Sweden as lead countries. The Meeting agreed that the criteria should be endorsed by the Gear group via correspondence before implementation at the workshops.

3.16 The Meeting agreed to convene the next meeting of the SOM Platform (SOM Platform 3-2020) on 24-26 March 2020.

3.17 The Meeting discussed the SOM approach in general and the importance of considering how the results could be used to support the BSAP update. The Meeting noted that the data and information that will

be used in the analysis will be validated by HELCOM Working Groups and the results will in a first step be discussed at the 3rd Meeting of the SOM Platform. The Meeting agreed to consider the results of the SOM analysis and use them as guidance in the update of the BSAP and that the SOM approach should also be given special attention at HOD 58-2020.

3.18 The Meeting noted that some countries are sceptical of the survey-based approach that is used to assess effectiveness of measures and to evaluate how pressure reductions can be linked to improvements in the state of the environments. The Meeting noted that the comments from national experts received at workshops and meetings in autumn 2019 have been considered by the Secretariat and HELCOM ACTION project and that the surveys have been revised accordingly.

3.19 The Meeting took note of the view of Germany that the aim to quantify the different steps in the SOM approach may not be feasible for all cases and that a more pragmatic approach would have been preferred.

3.20 The Meeting considered the proposed revisions to the goals on the BSAP segments on sea-based activities and biodiversity (document 3-3) and provisionally agreed to formulate them as 'Environmentally sustainable sea-based activities' and 'Baltic Sea ecosystem is healthy and resilient'. The Meeting furthermore provisionally agreed to replace the term 'undisturbed' in the goal on hazardous substance and litter to 'unaffected' to better harmonize with the goal on eutrophication.

3.21 The Meeting considered the proposed revisions to existing HELCOM objectives, new ecological and management objectives, and outstanding issues identified by GEAR 21E-2019 as contained in document 3-3 Add.1. The Meeting agreed on the following:

- Ecological objectives on sea-based activities: to maintain the proposed ecological objectives by Working Groups on loss and disturbance to the seabed and underwater noise and to add an additional objective to cover also other aspects, expressed as 'No or minimal disturbance to biodiversity and ecosystem from sea-based activities' and to place this objective first.
- Management objectives on underwater noise: to keep the objective 'Ensure noise levels do not adversely affect [noise sensitive species and do not injure] sea life', noting the general support for deleting the words in brackets and the proposals to consider replacing the word 'ensure'.
- New management objectives for sea-based activities: to include 'Ensure sustainable use of marine resources', noting the comment by Sweden that the objective may possibly need reconsideration at a later stage.

3.22 The Meeting discussed whether Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) should be addressed in a management objective. Most participants were of the view that as a tool, MSP should not be addressed in an objective but that the role and application of MSP in HELCOM could instead be covered in the text of a segment of the updated BSAP. The Meeting proposed to keep the objective for the time being and mandated the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG to elaborate a proposal regarding integration of the MSP into the updated BSAP, taking into account deliberations of HOD 57-2019.

3.23 The Meeting discussed the proposed revisions of objectives by the Gear group that has the aim of maintaining brevity and focus of the objectives (document 3-3 Add.1). The Meeting supported in general the shorter form of the objectives and made the following comments to support the further adjustment of these objectives:

- regarding the proposed management objectives for biodiversity on 'Human induced mortality...' the Meeting proposed to still consider keeping the specification of the main activities of concern, i.e. to possibly not to shorten this particular objective.
- regarding the objectives on litter, the Meeting supported the merging of the management objectives related to production and input of litter but proposed that the shortened objective should be adjusted to read 'Prevent generation of waste and input of litter to the sea'. The Meeting

furthermore proposed to add the term microplastics to the second management objectives on litter so that it reads: 'Significantly reduce amounts of litter and *microplastics* on shorelines and in the sea'.

- text in brackets should be kept in the objectives until they have been translated into action points.

3.24 The Meeting took note of the following additional proposals by the Meeting to be considered in further adjustment of the objectives:

- by Russia to consider revising the proposed ecological objective on underwater noise by inserting the word significant a that it reads 'No *significant* harm to sea life from manmade noise.'
- by Finland to revise ecological objectives on eutrophication so that they read 'Level of algal blooms close to natural level', 'Distribution and occurrence of plants and animals close to natural, 'Oxygen levels close to natural. Finland furthermore proposed to address MAI in the management objectives on eutrophication so that it reads' Minimize input of nutrients from human activities to have levels at or below MAI input ceilings'.
- by Germany to refer to e.g. halting the loss of biodiversity in one of the objectives under the biodiversity segment.
- by Denmark to clarify how the segments are related to each other, for example with regard to eutrophication and hazardous substances that are addressed in objectives also under the segments on sea-based activities, and to consider reducing the number of objectives under the segment on sea-based activities.
- to continue the discussion on possible replacement of the term 'sea life'.

3.25 The Meeting agreed in principle on the revised and proposed new ecological and management objectives as part of the provisional framework for the update of the BSAP (**Annex 2**), while keeping it open for adjustments to individual objectives or proposals on additional objectives as found relevant in the further BSAP update process. The Meeting agreed on the following next steps:

- Chairs of the relevant Working Groups and Secretariat to follow-up of HOD 57-2019 through correspondence and through an online-meeting in January 2020.
- Updated proposals on objectives to be submitted for consideration by HOD by end of January 2020 for a short period of commenting, aiming at submitting a proposal for endorsement at HELCOM 41-2020. A proposal for consideration by HELCOM 41 will still include the caveat of keeping it open for adjustments as found needed in the further updated process.

3.26 In considering the goal of a Baltic Sea unaffected by hazardous substances and litter, the Meeting discussed the relevance of submerged hazardous objects, including warfare materials like chemical weapon, munition and wrecks, which may affect the environment and other activities in the Baltic Sea. In this context, the Meeting noted the view by Poland that the updated BSAP should include actions addressing this problem and the position of Russia that the above-stated matters on chemical weapons and munitions are under umbrella of the other international conventions.

3.27 The Meeting considered document 3-5 on how to draft the updated BSAP (**Presentation 1**). The Meeting supported in general that the updated BSAP should be a relatively short and easy to read document. The Meeting furthermore supported the proposal on the style of writing, including having a layered preamble with segment-specific introductory text.

3.28 The Meeting agreed to write the operative sections on each segment in a more straightforward way, as outlined in document 3-5, and to include more detailed information on actions as supplementary information to the main BSAP document. The Meeting noted that at this stage it may however be difficult to identify the Working Groups that will implement the actions as proposed in document 3-5.

3.29 The Meeting supported differentiating actions to improve the Baltic Sea from activities that support the implementation of such actions, however noting that it may not always be clear how such a differentiation should be made and that it will be necessary to consider this from case to case.

3.30 The Meeting discussed how Regional Action Plans on specific topics, i.e. litter and noise, could be linked to the updated BSAP. The Meeting agreed that these RAPs should remain as separate documents and that the updated BSAP should include strategic decisions and central points from the RAPs and they could be adopted in the revised RAP on marine litter and the new RAP on underwater noise, which is under development. The Meeting underlined that the follow-up of the RAPs should also be established when they are adopted.

3.31 The Meeting discussed how to draft the updated BSAP, with the aim of having a first full draft available at HOD in December 2020 and noted that proposals on the formulation of actions will be provided by the HELCOM Working Groups, based on ongoing activities to review existing actions and proposals on new actions to be considered in spring 2020 and further worked on at autumn meetings in 2020.

3.32 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to prepare a first drafts of the pre-ambule and the introductory text for the respective segment with regards to state of the environment. The Meeting agreed that lead countries should be identified for development of each segment of the BSAP update and that the Secretariat will support the drafting of these segments.

3.33 The Meeting agreed that Contracting Parties should inform the Secretariat ([ullali.zweifel@helcom.fi](mailto:ullali.zweifel@helcom.fi)) **by 15 January 2020** of their willingness to take lead of the work on BSAP segments or otherwise contribute to the development of specific segments. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to prepare an outline of how the updated BSAP will be structured to facilitate the drafting process. An online drafting meeting, initiated by the Secretariat, could be held in March/April 2020.

3.34 The Meeting considered the document by Sweden on a dedicated financing mechanism for the updated BSAP (document 3-8). The Meeting welcomed the proposal, recognised that financing of implementation of the BSAP in general and possible financing mechanisms will require further consideration both nationally and in HELCOM. The Meeting supported that the issue should be further considered in the BSAP update process, and was of the view that a mapping of existing international financing tools and mechanisms would be useful. NEFCO informed the Meeting that the current BSAP fund, which it manages together with the Nordic Investment Bank, is currently undergoing an external evaluation, providing an opportunity to build on lessons learned. It was also explained that one of the benefits with such funds is the possibility of public and private co-financing.

3.35 The Meeting took note of the proposal to update the HELCOM nutrient input reduction scheme (document 3-6).

3.36 The Meeting in general supported the proposed approach to update the scheme and integration of the national input ceilings, including input ceilings for transboundary rivers and national shares within transboundary basins but the Meeting also took note of the study reservation on the proposal placed by Estonia and Lithuania.

3.37 The Meeting acknowledged that the proposed values for national input ceilings are of preliminary character and will be further specified based on the most recent available scientific data.

3.38 The Meeting requested that the proposed values as well as methodology for their calculation are to be further discussed at the expert level and approved organizing of the thematic workshop on the proposed nutrient input ceilings on 20 April 2020 back-to-back with PRESSURE 12-2020.

3.39 The Meeting discussed further use of the text of the document 3-8 and concluded that the text is to be further elaborated by the Pressure working group in line with the overall drafting of the updated BSAP with subsequent incorporation to the final BSAP document (cf. para 3.28).

3.40 The Meeting took note of the specific comments by Sweden:

- to change text “we commit to not increasing nutrient input or to even” to “we commit to not increasing nutrient input until MAI and GES have been reached”;
- to remove brackets from the text “annual for MAI and every 2 years for input ceilings”.

3.41 The Meeting took note of the information by the EU about the on-going freshwater and marine waters modelling work from the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre in cooperation with different institutes around the Baltic Sea (“Blue2”) and interest in cooperation with the PLC Project Implementation Group.

3.42 The Meeting considered the note regarding matters of competency in the context of the BSAP update (document 3-7) and agreed that a preambular paragraph similar to the one in the 2007 BSAP beginning with “WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO...”, should be included in the updated BSAP, but updated to cover all Contracting Parties as well as other obligations and responsibilities in addition to EU legislation. The Meeting noted that the exact wording still needs further refinement and it was consequently agreed that the matter should be revisited at a later stage when the drafting of the updated BSAP has commenced.

3.43 The Meeting took note of the preliminary results of the survey on knowledge and research needs to initiate the development of a HELCOM science agenda (document 3-9) and of the start-up meeting of the science agenda Task Group, which will take place on 17 December 2019.

#### **Agenda Item 4 Matters arising from the HELCOM Groups**

Documents: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 5-7, 4-8, 4-9, 4-10, 4-11, 4-12, 4-12-Rev.1, 4-13, 4-14, 4-14-Rev.1, 4-15, 4-16, 4-17, 4-18, 4-18-Rev.1, 4-19, 4-14-Rev.1, 4-20, 4-21, 4-22

##### *Agri group*

4.1 The Meeting took note of Outcome of the Eighth Meeting of the Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (AGRI 8-2019) held on 5-6 November 2019 in Berlin, Germany (document 4-6).

4.2 The Meeting approved the Work plan for the Agri group for 2020-2022 as contained in **Annex 3** to this Outcome.

4.3 The Meeting supported the revision of HELCOM Recommendation 24/3 on measures aimed at the reduction of emissions and discharges from agriculture. As a first step, an overview of measures to mitigate ammonia emissions to support reaching the targets to reduce ammonia emissions should be elaborated.

4.4 The Meeting congratulated Ms. Sari Luostarinen, Finland, for being elected as the Chair of the Agri group for the next two-year period (2020-2021).

4.5 The Meeting agreed to convene the next meeting of the Agri group (AGRI 9-2020) on 30-31 March 2020.

4.6 The Meeting welcomed the offer by Denmark to consider hosting AGRI 9-2020 and invited Denmark to confirm this offer, informing the Secretariat accordingly as soon as possible.

4.7 The Meeting took note of the fact that Germany supports the work which is being carried out by the Agri group to revise facilitate work on Annex, especially related to phosphorus application rate and pointed out that update of the Recommendation 24/3 is to be considered in connection with on-going work on revision of Annex III part 2.

4.8 The Meeting took note of the overview of the national manure standards in the Baltic Sea Region (document 4-22).

4.9 The Meeting considered draft HELCOM Recommendation on the use of national manure standards (document 4-13) and took note of the information that Finland has lifted their study reservation.

4.10 The Meeting took note that Germany welcomes the draft Recommendation and encourages HELCOM community to work further to develop regional nutrient standards in manure.

4.11 The Meeting noted that Poland considers this Recommendation as an important part of the work to advance smart nutrient management in agriculture. That is why Poland has organized national consultation on the proposed draft Recommendation and received several comments on the draft. The Meeting also noted that Poland would give their consent to the draft Recommendation provided that comments are considered before adoption of the final draft by HELCOM 41-2020.

4.12 The Meeting in general approved the draft Recommendation on the use of national manure standards and mandated the Ari group to consider the comments of Polish experts and update the draft Recommendation accordingly before submission it to HELCOM 41-2020 for adoption.

4.13 The Meeting noted the position of WWF welcoming the draft Recommendation and the work done but pointing out that more specific recommendations on the use of nutrient standards in manure could be considered by the HELCOM community in the future.

#### *Pressure working group*

4.14 The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the Eleventh Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (PRESSURE 11-2019) held on 23-25 October 2019 in Brussels, Belgium (document 4-9). The Meeting was preceded by two workshops on 22 October 2019, i.e. the fourth HELCOM workshop on implementation of RAP ML (WS RAP ML 4-2019) and the HELCOM Workshop on the analysis of sufficiency of measures for hazardous substances.

4.15 The Meeting supported organizing of a joint meeting with the OSPAR Intersessional Correspondence Group on Underwater Noise (ICG-Noise) in coordination with EU Technical Group on Underwater Noise (TG Noise) to advance underwater noise indicators in connection with the Ocean Noise Conference to be held on 25-29 May 2020 in Barcelona, Spain.

4.16 The Meeting agreed to continue cooperation with the European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (EMEP) on estimation of airborne inputs of N and selected hazardous substances in the next three-year cycle.

4.17 The Meeting supported the development of a strategic regional policy document on hazardous substances, pointing out the need of extensive involvement of all Contracting Parties in the work on the document.

4.18 The Meeting took note of and in general supported the proposal by Denmark to consider a more extensive list of hazardous substances in the HELCOM Pollution Load Compilation work or propose another instrument to make data on inputs of hazardous substances to the Baltic Sea available for the HELCOM community.

4.19 The Meeting agreed to convene the next meeting of the Pressure working group (PRESSURE 12-2020) on 21-24 April 2020 in Finland, including a back-to-back workshop on nutrient input ceilings (NIC) on 20 April 2020 and tentatively PRESSURE 13-2020 on the week 12-16 October 2020 in Sweden.

4.20 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the workshop with river basin management authorities (RBMA) held on 18-20 September 2019 in Riga, Latvia (document 4-8) and thanked Latvia for hosting the workshop.

4.21 The Meeting considered and supported organizing regular meetings with representatives of the river basin authorities with the main aim to consolidate effort to reduce input of nutrients and achieve the BSAP target but also to address other issues related to land-based sources of impact on the Baltic Sea.

4.22 The Meeting took note of the proposal by Russia to launch a HELCOM project to harmonize methodologies to estimate natural background losses. Russia also proposed to identify contact points from

national river basin management authorities and transboundary river basin commissions as well as representatives of upstream countries to be involved in the continuous dialog with HELCOM expert groups on implementation of the BSAP goals. Russia also informed that dedicated round table will be organized in the Baltic Sea Say (BSD) XXI.

4.23 The Meeting further considered tools for involvement of upstream non-HELCOM countries into the joint effort to reduce nutrient load on the Baltic Sea taking note of study reservation by Sweden on final decision regarding the exact mechanism to involve representatives of upstream countries to HELCOM work.

4.24 The Meeting considered the report on HELCOM core indicator on inputs of nutrients for the period 1995-2017 (document 4-11) and approved its publication pending the study reservation by Estonia with expected clarification in three weeks' time but not later than the second week of January 2020.

4.25 The Meeting agreed on the proposed timeframe for the PLC-8 project (document 4-10) and further agreed to change the deadline for periodic PLC water data reporting and deadlines for the following assessment work and related deliverables.

4.26 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to prepare a PLC-8 project proposal specifying project deliverables, working methods and deadlines and to submit the proposal to HELCOM 41-2020 for approval.

4.27 The Meeting considered the draft revised HELCOM Recommendation 36/2 and HELCOM Guidelines on management of dredged material at sea (document 4-12), took note of the proposal by Germany to update some paragraphs in the proposed draft as given in the document 4-12-Rev.1 and agreed to submit it to HELCOM 41-2020 for adoption reflecting opinions of all DREDS experts on the cover page.

4.28 The Meeting noted of the position of WWF that there is a number of contaminants in the Baltic Sea bottom sediments which are not consider in the HELCOM Guidelines on management of dredged material at sea and that these contaminants might be considered in future revision.

4.29 The Meeting considered and in general supported the draft HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Underwater Noise (document 4-17).

4.30 The Meeting also took note of specific comments by the Contracting Parties on the document such as:

- Finland proposed to further develop wording in action 2 "habitats and biologically sensitive areas and periods in the Baltic Sea";
- Sweden proposed to pay attention to the issues related to bottom habitats and noise sensitive periods for those habitats and to consider their integration into the document;
- Russia expressed concern regarding the paragraph 24 in action 2.4 and proposed the clarification rewording as follows "establish a discussion with IMO about possible actions related to the use of noise reducing technologies and operating practices for ships in the Baltic, based on the outcome of HELCOM Maritime meetings".

4.31 The Meeting in general was of the opinion that the Action Plan should be more ambitious, and action oriented, and further work is to be done in close cooperation EN-Noise and Maritime working group also noting the agreement for how to address RAPs in the updated BSAP based on document 3-5, cf. para 3.30.

4.32 The Meeting took note of the joint positions of WWF and CCB welcoming in general the development of the Action Plan but pointing out that there are ad hoc measures that could be put in placed already now, such as ship speed reduction in certain areas. Setting a Baltic wide threshold value on impulsive noise is also needed, as well as implementing a regional network real-time on monitoring stations to raise awareness on underwater noise and determination of sources and consequently set up efficient measures.

*Gear group*

- 4.33 The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the 21st Meeting of the Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (GEAR 21-2019) held on 6-8 November 2019 in Helsinki, Finland (document 4-15).
- 4.34 The Meeting agreed to convene the next meeting of the Gear group (GEAR 22-2020) on 27-29 April 2020 in Brussels, Belgium, with a half day dedicated to an informal session on the regional coordination on the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) implementation on the 27 April and the 23rd meeting of the Gear group (GEAR 23-2020) on 9-11 November 2020 in Berlin, Germany.
- 4.35 The Meeting took note of the information that the proposed dates for the workshop on Cumulative Impacts Assessment and Ecosystem Analysis in the Baltic Sea Region (23-24 April 2020) overlap with the dates for PRESSURE 12-2020. The Meeting invited the Secretariat and the Gear group to consider alternative dates for the workshop, possibly back-to-back with an MSP workshop on cumulative impacts assessment currently being planned for autumn 2020.
- 4.36 The Meeting took note of the comment by Denmark that it would be beneficial if the meetings of the Gear group were planned to take place after the meetings of the other respective working groups, to facilitate the horizontal coordinating role of the Gear group.
- 4.37 The Meeting welcomed the proposed provisional timeline and preliminary plan for HOLAS III, acknowledged that the plan is a living document and that changes might occur as the process is further refined (document 4-19, **Presentation 2**).
- 4.38 The Meeting acknowledge the long-standing history of environmental assessment in the Baltic and the role of HOLAS in following up on the progress towards achieving the goals and objective set out in the Baltic Sea Action Plan and under other international commitments, as well as the role of the State of the Baltic Sea as a tool to support decision makers and guide regional policy.
- 4.39 The Meeting acknowledged that 2021 data might not be readily available for all relevant assessment data strands, however agreed to aim to include a full six years of data wherever possible and encouraged all data rapporteurs to consider the need for shortened data reporting timelines in 2021.
- 4.40 The Meeting took note that, while Poland in general supports the plan, they retain their study reservation on the proposed assessment period (2016-2021). The Meeting invited Poland to clarify their position by the end of January 2020.
- 4.41 The Meeting took note of the information that the assessment period 2016-2020 is also used in the OSPAR status assessment.
- 4.42 The Meeting took note of the information of the European Union that from the perspective of the MSFD no significant issue is foreseen with regard to the use of 2016 also for the HOLAS III assessment, as long as it is clearly documented and any possible effects explored and accounted for over a six-year assessment period.
- 4.43 The Meeting took note that Russia placed a study reservation on the preliminary plan.
- 4.44 The Meeting invited the Secretariat to be in direct contact with the respective Contracting Parties to find a constructive way forward, and for Russia and Poland to clarify their positions by end of January 2020, with the aim to submit the preliminary plan and associated documents for approval to HELCOM 41-2020, thus enabling the work to continue
- 4.45 The Meeting invited the Secretariat to, should the preliminary plan be approved at HELCOM 41-2020, prepare a more elaborate workflow for the assessment phase, outlining the timing of approval for the respective work strands as well as proposals for at what organizational level the approval is to take place.
- 4.46 The Meeting took note of document 4-20 on future work on HELCOM Indicators.

4.47 The Meeting considered the indicators identified to be of high priority by the first indicator workshop (outlined in table 2 with dark grey color), considered the topic specific workplans and associated resource requirements (also outlined in table 2), and agreed on the areas of priority where development work is to be carried out for HOLAS III.

4.48 The Meeting took note of technical comments to the documents and invited CPs to provide the comments to the Indicator Manager ([owen.rowe@helcom.fi](mailto:owen.rowe@helcom.fi)) for inclusion in the respective workplans.

4.49 The Meeting approved the arranging of a technical workshop by EN BENTHIC to further the work on assessing impacts to the seabed and welcomed the offer by Denmark to host the event.

4.50 The Meeting took note of the point raised by Germany that in the work on indicators leading up to HOLAS III focus should also be put on crosscutting issues and how the indicators function across themes, using the crosscutting workplans developed during the second indicator workshop as a basis.

4.51 The Meeting approved the work outlined in Step 5 of the future work on HELCOM indicators process, in line with the agreed prioritization and plans outlined under each topic.

4.52 The Meeting reviewed the project proposal for HELCOM Data Flow project prepared to fulfill the planned work under the second step of the HOLAS III preparatory phase (document 4-21).

4.53 The Meeting took note of the clarification by the Secretariat that the work under the Data Flow project does not entail changes in the monitoring to include any new data.

4.54 The Meeting took note of the comments by Denmark that effort should be expended to ensure that the data resulting from improving the dataflows are also accessible to other organizations such as OSPAR, and that improving dataflows by developing data harvesting from national data sources would be beneficial for alleviating the overall workload of national experts.

4.55 The Meeting welcomed the offer by Denmark to provide co-financing for the work, should the remaining funding be found from other sources and should other Contracting Parties also decide to provide co-financing.

4.56 The Meeting took note of the comment by Germany that once the gap-analysis has been made it might be useful to focus the efforts on specific dataflows which are likely to provide direct benefit for HOLAS III.

4.57 The Meeting in principle approved the project, pending securing of funding to cover the work.

4.58 The Meeting recognized the overall need for ensuring budgetary and human resources to support the work on HOLAS III and that there is currently no readily available external funding opportunities to support the development phase of the HOLAS III work.

4.59 The Meeting invited the Secretariat to elaborate a more detailed plan outlining the magnitude and temporal distribution of the foreseen resource needs for the various work strands under HOLAS III.

4.60 The Meeting noted that in the current plan for funding the successful implementation of work related to HOLAS III is dependent on the approval of the HELCOM budget as proposed to HOD 57-2019.

4.61 The Meeting supported that, should the budget be approved, resources from the HELCOM budget can be used to support the work towards HOLAS III.

#### *State and Conservation working group*

4.62 The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the Eleventh Meeting of the Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation (STATE & CONSERVATION 11-2019) held on 21-25 October 2019 in Riga, Latvia (document 4-5).

4.63 The Meeting further took note of the outcome of the intersessional Meeting of the State and Conservation working group (STATE & CONSERVATION 11A-2019) held as an online meeting on 8 November 2019 (document 4-16).

4.64 The Meeting approved the arranging of an intersessional meeting of the State and Conservation working group Conservation Session to further develop the proposed MPA (Marine Protected Areas) project application.

4.65 The Meeting agreed to convene the next meeting of the State and Conservation working group (STATE&CONSERVATION 12-2020) on 5-9 October 2020 in Sweden.

4.66 The Meeting reviewed the revised HELCOM Recommendation 17/2 on protection of harbour porpoise (document 4-4).

4.67 The Meeting took note of the comment by Sweden that a consortium led by Swedish experts is working on an application for a SAMBAH II project on monitoring of harbor porpoise.

4.68 The Meeting took note of comments to the Recommendation provided by WWF and invited WWF to provide the amendments directly to the Secretariat. The Meeting agreed that the Secretariat will incorporate the changes and send the amended Recommendation for intersessional consideration by the experts by 31 January 2020, with the intention to submit it for HELCOM 41-2020 for adoption.

#### *Fish group*

4.69 The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the Tenth Meeting of the Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (FISH 10-2019) held on 25-26 June 2019 in Copenhagen, Denmark (document 4-1).

4.70 The Meeting approved the Work Plan for the HELCOM Fish Group for 2020-2021 as contained in **Annex 4** to this Outcome.

4.71 The Meeting congratulated Ms. Marianne Goffeng Raakil, Sweden, and Ms. Katarzyna Kamińska, Poland, for their re-elections as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of the HELCOM Fish Group for the next two-year period (2020-2021).

4.72 The Meeting noted that FISH 11-2020 is tentatively scheduled for 11-12 March 2020 in Gothenburg, Sweden.

4.73 In considering the draft Roadmap on fisheries data in order to assess incidental bycatches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes in the Baltic Sea (document 4-18), the Meeting agreed to a minor amendment by splitting the bullet point in the beginning of page 12 of the document into two separate bullet points.

4.74 The Meeting approved the draft Roadmap, as set out in document 4-18-Rev.1 and agreed to submit it to HELCOM 41-2020 for adoption. The Meeting further agreed that initial follow up on the implementation of the Roadmap should be reported to HOD 59-2020.

#### *Maritime working group*

4.75 The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the 19th Meeting of the Maritime Working Group (MARITIME 19-2019) held on 23-26 September 2019 in Lisbon, Portugal (document 4-2).

4.76 The Meeting took note of the Terms of Reference of a Correspondence Group on BSAP update set up under the Maritime working group, as set out in Annex 4 of the Outcome of MARITIME 19-2019.

4.77 The Meeting approved the revised Terms of Reference for HELCOM-OSPAR TG BALLAST for 2020-2024 as contained in **Annex 5** to this Outcome, noting that they are still pending approval by OSPAR.

4.78 The Meeting took note of the updated Work Plan of GREEN TEAM for 2020-2021, as set out in Annex 6 of the Outcome of MARITIME 19-2019.

4.79 The Meeting approved the proposal to revoke HELCOM Recommendation 23/1 on Notification of ship's wastes.

4.80 The Meeting agreed to convene the next meeting of the Maritime working group (MARITIME 20-2020) in Norrköping, Sweden, in autumn 2020, with the exact dates to be agreed at a later stage through consultation between Sweden and the Secretariat.

4.81 The Meeting congratulated Ms. Susanne Heitmüller, Germany, for being elected as Chair and Ms. Natalia Kutaeva, Russia, and Mr. Jorma Kämäräinen, Finland, for being re-elected as Vice-Chairs of the Maritime working group for the next two-year period (2020-2021).

4.82 The Meeting considered and approved the revised HELCOM Recommendation 23/3 on enhancing the use of pilots in route T and the Sound (document 4-3) and agreed to submit it for adoption by HELCOM 41-2020.

4.83 The Meeting considered the draft HELCOM Recommendation on Deep-Sea Pilotage in the Baltic Sea (document 4-14) and corrected an error related to Polish contact details in Attachment 1 of the draft. The Meeting approved the draft Recommendation as set out in document 4-14-Rev.1 and agreed to submit it for adoption by HELCOM 41-2020.

4.84 The Meeting noted the following additional meetings related to the Maritime working group:

- Interessional Meeting of the Maritime Working Group, Helsinki, Finland, tentatively on 16-17 March 2020; and
- SOM workshop on sea-based activities, 18-19 May 2020 in Helsinki, Finland.

#### *HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG*

4.85 The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the 19th Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 19-2019) held on 28-29 October 2019 in St. Petersburg, Russia (document 4-7).

4.86 The Meeting approved the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Work Plan for the period 2020-2021 as contained in **Annex 6** to this Outcome noting that the Work Plan is still pending approval by VASAB CSPD/BSR.

4.87 The Meeting agreed to convene the next meeting of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 20-2020) in Poland on 1-2 April 2020.

#### **Agenda Item 5 HELCOM institutional and organisational matters**

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

5.1 The Meeting took note of the Audit Report and the Financial Statement of the Helsinki Commission for the financial period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019, as well as of the explanatory memorandum (document 5-1), and advised the Executive Secretary to submit them to HELCOM 41-2020 in order to have the accountables officially discharged from responsibility.

5.2 The Meeting considered and discussed the draft budget for the financial period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 (document 5-2), which was prepared based on guidance provided by HELCOM 40-2019 (document 4-2) and HOD 56-2019 (document 4-2).

5.3 The Meeting welcomed the information by Denmark, the European Union, Finland, Germany, Poland, The Russian Federation and Sweden stating that they are in a position to agree with the budget

proposal for the financial year 2020-2021 to increase their contributions by 3 % and noted the view of Russia that its agreement to increase the contribution by 3% for the financial year 2020-2021 is a subject of the package deal to keep the HELCOM budget line of Meeting support (document 5-2). Further, the Meeting thanked Finland for increasing the HQ contribution starting the financial year 2020-2021.

5.4 The Meeting took note of the information that the remaining countries are ready to consider the proposal for the financial year 2020-2021 after the issues raised by Estonia in the document 5-3 have been clarified.

5.5 Estonia was of the view that there are no countries in transition among HELCOM Contracting Parties. Furthermore, Estonia recalled a HELCOM decision from early 1990s where such derogation was established and asked the Secretariat to circulate this decision to the Heads of Delegation.

5.6 The Meeting took note of the information provided by the Executive Secretary that in order to clarify the remaining questions of some Parties regarding the HELCOM budget and accounts, the Secretariat will organize a meeting in January or early February and invite all the Contracting Parties that are interested in obtaining such information to join the meeting.

5.7 The Meeting advised the Executive Secretary to submit the budget proposal for the financial period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 as included in document 5-2 and further refined as needed to HELCOM 41-2020 for official adoption.

5.8 The Meeting considered the draft income budget estimate for the financial period 2021–2022 and advised the Executive Secretary to submit it to HELCOM 41-2020 for further discussion and official endorsement.

5.9 The Meeting considered the long-term budget framework and agreed that the inflation compensation needs to be agreed annually on a case-by-case basis.

5.10 The Meeting took note that no comments were received on the observer status application by the European Manufacturers of Expanded Polystyrene (EUMEPS) and that the application will be submitted to HELCOM 41-2020 for decision.

## **Agenda Item 6 Any other business**

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

6.1 The Meeting took note of the provisional programme of the XXI International Environmental Forum “Baltic Sea Day” to be held in St. Petersburg on 19-20 March 2020 (document 6-3) and requested the Contracting Parties to contribute to the content of the agenda of the Forum and engage national representatives to attend the event. The registration to the Forum will be opened on 16 December 2019.

6.2 The Meeting took note of the [WWF brochure](#) that highlights and recognizes Baltic-friendly farmers and their practices (document 6-4). The Meeting welcomed the initiative by WWF, took note that the regional winner of 2019 is from Denmark and congratulated the winner.

6.3 The Meeting further took note that WWF will publish in January 2020 a report on circular nutrient flows in the food system in the Baltic Sea region and that WWF plan to contribute this work to the HELCOM Regional nutrient recycling strategy workshop in February 2020.

6.4 The Meeting took note of the WWF [report](#) “Protecting our Oceans – Europeans challenge to meet the 2020 deadlines” (document 6-5) of achieving the requirements outlined in CBD Aichi Target 11 of conserving at least 10% of coastal and marine areas. In reality MPAs across Europe including Baltic Sea are to date not effectively protecting biodiversity as they are consistently lacking long-term management plans in MPAs.

6.5 The Meeting took note of the information on contact management of HELCOM groups/expert networks (document 6-6), encouraged the Contracting Parties to coordinate nationally memberships of each

HELCOM group/expert network and urged each nominated contact to sign up to HELCOM Meeting Portal in order to be included in group contact lists and receive information by the Secretariat via email.

6.6 The Meeting took note of the list of on-going projects within HELCOM and with HELCOM involvement (document 6-1).

6.7 The Meeting took note of the overview of planned meetings and exercises within HELCOM and other forums and external projects in 2020 (document 6-2), requested the Secretariat to update the list based on the outcome of this meeting and further requested the Contracting Parties to check their possibility of hosting and propose venue/date for meetings that have not yet been confirmed.

6.8 The EU informed the Meeting about an upcoming high-level conference (25-26 March 2020, Brussels) on Protecting biodiversity in our seas and oceans, which will conclude the first cycle of EU-wide environmental protection of the marine environment.

6.9 The Meeting recalled the request to Poland and the EU (cf. para 5.4 of HOD 56-2019) to submit additional written information on the project 'Construction of the waterway connecting the Vistula Lagoon with the Gulf of Gdańsk' and its effects to HOD 57-2019 and took note that the information was sent by Poland on 6 December 2019 and the EU on 3 September 2019 to Heads of Delegation. The Meeting also took note of the Russian further concern on the lack of information 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.

6.10 The Meeting noted that Russia requests Poland to provide clarifications listed in paragraph 6.9 of this outcome and that Poland is ready to provide the information for consideration at HELCOM 41-2020.

6.11 The Meeting took note of the information by the EU that EU is waiting for the appeal procedure in Poland to be completed to see if the concerns raised have been taken into account.

6.12 The Meeting took note of the information provided by Poland that the failure of the wastewater transmission system to the WWTP "Czajka" that happened on 27 August 2019 has been fully removed. On 15-16 November 2019 the procedure of redirection from the emergency sewage pumping to the repaired sewage collector was carried out. The whole operation was completed on 24 November 2019 by dismantling the emergency installation.

6.13 The Meeting took note of the presentation by the HELCOM Communication Secretary, Mr. Dominik Littfass, on the HELCOM communication activities and an outlook for future activities (**Presentation 3**).

6.14 The Meeting took note of the statement by the European Union on financing and legislation as included in **Annex 7** to this Outcome.

#### **Agenda Item 7      Next meeting(s)**

Documents:

7.1 The Meeting decided that the next meeting of Heads of Delegation (HOD 58-2020) will be held on 8-9 June 2020 in Porvoo, Finland. The Meeting decided that HOD 59-2020 will be held tentatively on 9-10 December 2020.

#### **Agenda Item 8      Outcome of the Meeting**

Documents: 8-1, 8-1-Rev.1

8.1 The Meeting adopted the draft Outcome of the Meeting as contained in document 8-1-Rev.1 via correspondence. The final Outcome, incorporating the comments by the Meeting, has been prepared by the Secretariat and made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal.

## Annex 1 List of Participants

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## Annex 2 Proposal on HELCOM objectives for the updated BSAP as of HOD 57-2019

Objectives indicated with an asterisk (\*) received specific comments as outlined in the outcome HOD 57-2019 and will be considered in the further adjustment of objectives. Text in brackets includes text that is proposed to be deleted from the objectives and instead reflected through actions; it is kept for the time being until these aspects are reflected in the updated BSAP. The use of the term 'sea life' will be further considered for all objectives where it is used.

Goals	Baltic Sea unaffected by eutrophication	Baltic Sea unaffected by hazardous substances and litter	Environmentally sustainable sea-based activities	Baltic Sea ecosystem is healthy and resilient
Ecological objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concentrations of nutrients close to natural levels</li> <li>- Clear waters</li> <li>- Natural level of algal blooms*</li> <li>- Natural distribution and occurrence of plants and animals</li> <li>- Natural oxygen levels</li> </ul>	<p><b>Hazardous substances:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concentrations of hazardous substances close to natural levels</li> <li>- All seafood safe to eat</li> <li>- Healthy sea life</li> <li>- Minimal risk to humans and the environment from radioactivity</li> </ul> <p><b>Litter:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No harm to sea life from marine litter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No or minimal disturbance to biodiversity and ecosystem from sea-based activities</li> <li>- Activities affecting seabed habitats do not threaten the viability of species' populations and communities</li> <li>- No harm to sea life from manmade noise*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Viable populations of all native species</li> <li>- Natural distribution, occurrence and quality of habitats and associated communities</li> <li>- Functional, healthy and resilient food webs</li> </ul>
Management/conservation objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minimize input of nutrients from human activities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Hazardous substances:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minimize input and impact of hazardous substances from human activities [<i>by elimination, substitution, and source management</i>]</li> </ul> <p><b>Litter:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prevent generation of waste and its input to the sea</li> <li>- Significantly reduce amounts of litter and microplastics on shorelines and in the sea*</li> <li>- [<i>Products are designed, produced, used and reused, recycled and disposed by applying principles of circular economy to</i>]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minimize loss and disturbance to seabed habitats from sea-based activities [<i>by pressure reduction, prevention, and mitigation measures</i>]</li> <li>- Ensure noise levels do not adversely affect [<i>noise sensitive species and do not injure</i>] sea life*</li> <li>- No introductions of non-indigenous species</li> <li>- Minimize the contribution to eutrophication and hazardous substances and litter from sea-based activities</li> <li>- Enforce international regulations – no illegal discharges</li> <li>- Safe maritime traffic without accidental pollution</li> <li>- Effective emergency and response capabilities</li> <li>- Minimize harmful air emissions</li> <li>- Zero discharges from offshore platforms</li> <li>- Ensure sustainable use of the marine resources</li> <li>- Maritime Spatial Planning applying an ecosystem-based approach throughout the Baltic Sea*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Effectively manage an ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas</li> <li>- Minimize disturbance of species, their habitats and migration routes from human activities</li> <li>- Human induced mortality, [<i>including: hunting, fishing, and incidental bycatch</i>], does not threaten the viability of Baltic sea life*</li> <li>- Effective and coordinated conservation plans and measures for threatened species, habitats, biotopes, and biotope complexes</li> <li>- Reduce or prevent human pressures that lead to imbalance in the foodweb</li> </ul>

## Annex 3 Draft Work Plan for HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (Agri group) 2020-2022

Footnotes provide full text of the commitments from MD2013 and MD2018 justifying actions in the Work Plan. Some of them might require revision.

No.	ACTION	LEAD/RESPONSIBLE	INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
<b>Action 1. Review and revise part II of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention and implementation of the provision<sup>1</sup></b>				
1	Review and revise part II of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention	Contracting parties Drafting Group Lead countries for specific sections	To use the input from activities below	2020
<b>Action 2. Annual accounting at farm level<sup>2</sup>:</b>				
2	The group will regularly follow up progress in integration of annual nutrient accounting at farm level in group meetings, discuss measures to facilitate implementation of the action and identify what kind of assistance is needed from the Contracting Parties  A Recommendation/Guideline based on the best regional practices to promote annual nutrient accounting at farm level will be developed	Germany to lead national experts	SuMaNU project platform Other CPs	2022  2022
<b>Action 3. Developing guidelines /recommendation to use of standards for nutrient content in manure<sup>3</sup></b>				
3	Develop HELCOM Guidelines/recommendations for the use of national manure standards	Secretariat to lead with the support by the Manure Standards project	Cooperation with PA Bioeconomy of the EUSBSR	In accordance with the project implementation plan, 2020  2022

<sup>1</sup> By 2016 review and an update part II of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention, in order to better serve the purposes of reaching Good Environmental Status, and implementation and enforcement of the provisions, in particular taking into account the following commitments of the Contracting Parties of the Copenhagen Ministerial Meeting

<sup>2</sup> To promote and advance towards applying by 2018 at the latest annual nutrient accounting at farm level taking into account soil and climate conditions giving the possibility to reach nutrient balanced fertilization and reduce nutrient losses at regional level in the countries, noting the positive examples of mandatory requirements on nutrient bookkeeping in some HELCOM countries and with an aim to apply it region-wide, as a first step, in areas critical to nutrient losses

<sup>3</sup> Support development by 2016 of national guidelines or standards for nutrient content in manure, and develop by 2018 guidelines/recommendation on the use of such standards

	Follow up implementation of the Recommendation through regular discussion of the practices to use standards for nutrient content in manure  Discuss measures to facilitate the use of standard			
Action 4. Promote development of appropriate methodology for phosphorus recycling (the action has been accomplished in the current context) Development of the Regional nutrient recycling strategy				
4	Elaborate a Baltic Sea Nutrient Recycling Strategy <sup>4</sup>  Follow up implementation of the Strategy starting from development of a regional mechanism to monitor the progress.	Finland Drafting group	In cooperation with PRESSURE PA Nutri, PA Bioeconomy and PA Hazard of EUSBSR Projects	2020  2022
Action 5. Enhance transfer of knowledge and technology and exchange of good examples				
5	With regard to application of innovative water management measures, to ensure that upgrading and renovation of the agricultural drainage systems aims at reducing nutrient loads taking into account climate change consequences  To start from compilation of practices on sustainable water management (including assessment of efficiency to reduce input of nutrient) in agriculture which can be further developed to a relevant regional document (Guidebook/Recommendation)	All Contracting Parties	In cooperation with PA Bioeconomy and Nutri of EUSBSR Projects WATERDRIVE project	Workshop 2021 continuous
5a	Address issues regarding BAT and BEP for cattle farms throughout the region taking into account its exclusion from BREF on intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. Launch an activity to collect information on national BREFS for cattle farming.  Consider a project application based on the results of the stock taking	Contracting Parties [lead country approach] project	EU activities regarding BREF for the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs	Workshop 2021 Continuous

<sup>4</sup> to initiate activity to identify/verify areas critical to N and P losses, utilizing the available data and as a starting point, to enable directing targeted and cost-effective measures where they can bring the greatest environment effect, e.g. compulsory measures on manure handling (storage and application) for installations of intensive rearing of cattle, poultry and pigs

	<p>Consider a HELCOM document providing guidance to develop BAT for cattle farming.</p> <p>Address issues related to handling of manure from horse, sheep etc. farming with the view to develop regional guidance.</p>			
5b	<p>Knowledge sharing on national measures to mitigate atmospheric emissions from agriculture</p> <p>Update of the HELCOM Recommendation 24/3 Measures aimed at the reduction of emissions and discharges from agriculture</p>	Lead country to be identified	Contribution by EMEP, HELCOM PLC IG and RedCore DG	Workshop 2021  2021
5c	<p>Discuss and share knowledge on the climate change impact on agricultural practices in the Baltic Sea, mitigation and adaptation measures</p> <p>Contribute to the fact sheets of secondary climate change parameters<sup>5</sup></p>	Contracting parties	EN CLIME CCB to contribute	Continuous  2021
Action 6. Exchange experiences and ideas for potential development of policy instruments voluntary, mandatory and incentivizing, and contribution to the update of the BSAP				
6	<p>Contribute to the BSAP update through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-evaluating of the assessment of effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient load from diffuse (agricultural) sources and</li> <li>-proposing of measures to reduce nutrient load from agriculture</li> </ul> <p>Exchange information on new measures to reduce nutrient load from agriculture</p> <p>Sharing knowledge on the effectiveness of agri-environmental measures</p>	Contracting Parties	EU CAP reform PA Nutri and PA Bioeconomy, Projects, Cooperation with observers HELCOM ACTION project HELCOM SOM platform GRASS (Conference)	2020  Continuous

<sup>5</sup> to increase HELCOM's preparedness to respond to climate change impacts by taking foreseen climate change impacts into account when updating the BSAP and by exploring the needs and possibilities to further adapt HELCOM's policies and recommendations

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	<p>Elaboration of suggestions to facilitate implementation of effective measures based on analysis of the factors driving and hampering practical implementation of various measures</p> <p>Exchange of experiences and analyses of development of CAP strategic plans and other policy instruments</p>			<p>2021</p>
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## Annex 4 Work Plan 2020-2021 for the HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (FISH)

**Follow-up, evaluation and revision:** Progress in implementation will be followed-up annually by FISH and reported to HOD, highlighting any underlying reasons for lack of progress in meeting targets and how these may be addressed. The work programme will be evaluated and reviewed by the end of 2021. Any revisions to the Work Plan during the implementation period need to be motivated and agreed by FISH and HOD.

Emerging issues not mentioned in this Work Plan, as well as sharing of experiences related to the Terms of Reference of the group, may be raised at meetings of the Fish Group if they are communicated to the Secretariat in advance of meetings (so that such a topic can be included in a draft agenda in advance). Such items may also be raised under Any Other Business, in connection with the adoption of the agenda at meetings of the Fish Group, to be included on the agenda of the meeting subject to agreement and time permitting.

It is to be noted that some of the tasks described in the Work Plan are based on actions from the 2007 HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan and relevant Ministerial Declarations.

No.	TASK	STEPS/LEAD/TIMING	INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	OUTCOME and TIME FRAME
<b>Implementation and follow-up of actions in BSAP and Ministerial Declarations concerning fish and fisheries</b>				
1.	Further development and implementation of common practices for breeding, rearing and releasing salmon and sea trout as reintroductions in potential salmonid rivers	2020 FISH-M workshop(s) /correspondence develop draft guidelines 2021 FISH review and agree 2021 HOD approve	WGBAST, WGTRUTTA, RETROUT, ongoing work with EU salmon plan	Common guidelines developed by 2021
2.	Further development and implementation of recommendations for riverine and estuarine management and conservation measures, such as fish ways for up and down migration, restoration and protection of spawning grounds, concerning fisheries within rivers and estuaries	2020 FISH to update recommendation 32/33-1, taking into account FISH-M 4-2017 and RETROUT outcomes 2021 FISH to review and agree 2021 HOD to approve Lead: Secretariat	RETROUT, FISH-M	Updated Recommendation 32/33-1 to be adopted in 2021
3.	Assess how far countries have come in implementing fisheries management measures in MPAs, how such measures are linked to other processes such as MSP, HOLAS, MSFD implementation and how information on impacts of fishing gear is used for management.	Dedicated session to be convened in 2020 Contracting Parties to report on development and implementation of fisheries management measures in MPAs. 2020- 2021 HELCOM MPA TG State&Conservation	Questionnaire on alternative fishing gears ( <a href="#">HELCOM Meeting portal workspace</a> ) <a href="#">ICES 2015 advice</a> on pressure from fishing activity in MPAs	Assessment of fisheries management measures in MPAs by 2021

4.	Further development and implementation of effective monitoring and reporting systems for by-caught birds and mammals inter alia by implementing the Roadmap on fisheries data.	2020-2021 EG Fishdata to follow up Roadmap on fisheries data Contracting Parties to implement monitoring and report to EG Fishdata Cooperation with EG MAMA on reporting of data on bycatch of mammals Lead:?	EG Fishdata ACTION Project	Results to be fed into relevant processes (e.g. State of the Baltic Sea Report and possible updates of the Roadmap) starting 2021
5.	Report on the development and implementation of fisheries management measures for fisheries inside marine protected areas	Secretariat to update the MPA Database to enable inclusion of data on measures (including fisheries management measures), subject to funding being available. Contracting Parties to report on measures inside MPAs already before update of MPA Database.	State & Conservation Working Group and the MPA Task Group to be involved.	Updated MPA database with reports from all Contracting Parties by 2021.
6.	Continue the efforts underway and enhance co-ordination of measures within the Baltic Sea as well as with other European countries, for the conservation of eel stocks, in line with national eel management plans.	2020-2021 FISH All Contracting Parties to implement national eel management plans by 2021	Outcome of Baltfish Workshop on eel 7-8 May 2019 (Gothenburg, Sweden), EU Eel Regulation, CMS	Implementation of eel management plans by all Contracting Parties by 2021
7.	Contribute to the update of the BSAP in accordance with the strategic plan and work plan for the update, as approved by HOD.	In accordance with Work Plan for the update of the BSAP	HELCOM SOM Platform ACTION Project	Updated BSAP by 2021
<b>Development, review, follow-up and implementation of HELCOM Recommendations concerning fish and fisheries</b>				
8.	Review and report on implementation of HELCOM Recommendations 32-33/1 and 19/2 on salmon and trout	2020 FISH-M workshop and correspondence to develop revise/merged draft 2021 FISH review and agree 2021 HOD adopt Contracting Parties to report by 2021 <u>Lead:</u> Secretariat to coordinate reporting	WGBAST, WGTRUTTA, RETROUT, ongoing work with an EU salmon plan	Report on implementation of HELCOM Recommendation 32-33/1 by 2021

Assessment of fish, cumulative impacts on fish and fisheries impacts on food webs				
9.	Review and contribute to the development and assessment of HELCOM indicators related to fish, cumulative impacts on fish, fisheries impacts on food webs, incidental bycatches and fisheries impacts on benthic biotopes	Communicate with relevant HELCOM Groups and projects regarding planning of development and assessment of indicators on fish (including threatened species), impacts on fish and fisheries impacts on foodwebs – and how FISH can contribute EG Fishdata to consider in follow up of Roadmap	Gear, State & Conservation, EG Fishdata, FISH-PRO, HELCOM Indicator Workshops, HOLAS III HOD ICES Fisheries Overviews	Contribution to updated HELCOM indicator catalogue by 2021
Cooperation between HELCOM and fisheries bodies				
10.	Improve cooperation, coordination and transparency with relevant fisheries bodies in the Baltic Sea (in particular BALTFISH, BSAC)	Steps: Communicate regularly with relevant fisheries bodies in the Baltic Sea (in particular BALTFISH and BSAC) on relevant HELCOM processes/meetings that might have an impact on or be impacted by fisheries and coordinate on issues of common concern. Consider at every FISH-meeting if relevant fisheries bodies should be invited or involved in upcoming HELCOM events or processes and how HELCOM can contribute to improved cooperation, coordination and transparency. Timing: Regularly by the Secretariat, and for consideration by FISH at every FISH meeting Lead: Secretariat	BALTFISH, BSAC	Improved cooperation, coordination and transparency as an ongoing activity.

Sustainable aquaculture				
11.	Develop and agree on BAT/BEP for Sustainable aquaculture	2020 CG Aquaculture to finalize 2020 FISH to agree 2020 HOD to approve Lead: Germany and Finland	CG Aquaculture	BAT/BEP descriptions for sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea by 2020
12.	Review and report on implementation of HELCOM recommendations 25/4 and 37-3 on sustainable aquaculture	Contracting Parties to report on implementation of Recommendation 25/4 2020 FISH to consider	CG Aquaculture	Reports on implementation of Recommendation 25/4 provided by all Contracting Parties by 2020.

## Annex 5 Draft Terms of Reference for the Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Task Group on Ballast Water Management Convention (BWMC) and Biofouling, 2020-2024

### Background and purpose

1. The transfer of harmful aquatic organisms with ships and recreational craft poses a threat to the North East Atlantic as well as to the Baltic Sea. OSPAR and HELCOM have co-operated successfully in the past to address this threat, e.g. by issuing the General Guidance on the voluntary interim application of the D-1 ballast water exchange standard in the North-East Atlantic and the Baltic Sea and the Joint Harmonised Procedure for the OSPAR and HELCOM regions on the issue of exemptions in accordance with Regulation A-4 1.4 BWMC.
2. At the same time, the North East Atlantic and the Baltic Sea are connected with a network of shipping lanes that are vital for the economic welfare of neighboring states. Ballast water management in accordance with the IMO's BWMC will result in financial impacts on the shipping industry.
3. The BWMC aims to reduce the risk of transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens. If careful evaluation shows that a specific voyage poses only a low risk of transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens, an exemption may be granted so that a ship does not have to treat or exchange ballast water. The Joint Harmonised Procedure for the OSPAR and HELCOM regions on the issue of exemptions in accordance with Regulation A-4 1.4 BWMC is an important common framework for the regional cooperation on this issue in the North East Atlantic and the Baltic Sea.
4. HELCOM Member States agreed the Regional Baltic Sea plan for harmonized ratification and implementation for the 2004 IMO Ballast Water Management Convention (BWMC) (i.e. HELCOM Ballast Water Road Map) in 2016. This Road Map includes, inter alia, supporting and exchanging of experiences on compliance control and enforcement of the BWMC and work towards further harmonization of implementing regulations of the BWMC.
5. OSPAR Environmental Impact of Human Activities Committee (EIHA 2018) and HELCOM MARITIME 18-2018 recognized the importance of minimizing the transfer of invasive aquatic species as ship's biofouling and application of the IMO biofouling guidelines in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea regions.
6. According to the *2011 Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species* (MEPC.207(62)) studies have shown that in addition to ship ballast water, biofouling can be a significant vector for the transfer of invasive aquatic species. Biofouling on ships entering the waters of the States may result in the establishment of invasive aquatic species, which in turn, may pose threats to human, animal and plant life, economic and cultural activities and the aquatic environment.

### Participants

7. The group shall be open to Contracting Parties and Observers of both OSPAR and HELCOM. Contracting Parties' members will be nominated to the group by Contracting Parties through OSPAR EIHA and HELCOM MARITIME Heads of Delegation.

### Scope of Work

8. The Joint Task group will oversee practical implementation of the Joint Harmonised Procedure for the OSPAR and HELCOM regions on the issue of exemptions in accordance with Regulation A-4 1.4 BWMC. The group will also consider the issues related to compliance control and enforcement of the BWMC and work toward further harmonization of implementing the BWMC. Finally, the group will consider the ships' and recreational crafts' biofouling issues at regional level. The group will take forward the work, using and building on current efforts at OSPAR and HELCOM in the following areas:
  - a. update of the Joint Harmonised Procedure if necessary;

- b. update of the port survey protocol if necessary,
- c. explore further synergies with other relevant monitoring, including especially EU MSFD monitoring for those countries which are also Members of the EU;
- d. consider issues related to the HELCOM and OSPAR target species lists;
- e. consider the issues related to early warning system;
- f. further development of the decision support tool including data management;
- g. consider the issues related to list of surveyed ports;
- h. consider issues related to Same Risk Area;
- i. support and exchange experiences on compliance control and enforcement of the BWMC;
- j. work towards further harmonization of implementing regulations of the BWMC;
- k. develop common interpretation of the IMO evaluation guidance and a uniform approach to the evaluation of the IMO Biofouling Guidelines for all ships (MEPC.207(62), including the evaluation of the Guidance for recreational craft (Resolution MEPC.1/Circ.792);
- l. align with and contribute to the process of evaluation of the guidelines within the IMO Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) and further steps that could be decided within the IMO - Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC);
- m. develop a common OSPAR/HELCOM biofouling management strategy for the implementation of the IMO Biofouling Guidelines;
- n. Collection and sharing of relevant data and information about:
  - i. Best practices: cleaning methods and waste management
  - ii. Research
  - iii. Regulations, legal aspects
  - iv. Risk assessment
  - v. Awareness and training;
- o. identify the knowledge gaps related to biofouling;
- p. identify the needed expertise and knowledge exchanges on biofouling; and
- q. facilitate the involvement of stakeholders in the biofouling process.

9. Based on the issues above, the joint task group will provide advice to OSPAR EIHA and HELCOM MARITIME on the further implementation of the harmonised procedure, BWMC and IMO biofouling guidelines.

### Working procedures

- 10. The mandate work of the group should be for the 2020-2024 intersessional period and the group should select a chair(s) for the period.
- 11. The HELCOM and OSPAR Secretariats will jointly work as Secretariat to the group.
- 12. The group will work by correspondence and through meetings and will develop a more detailed work plan for itself.
- 13. Meetings will include dedicated time frame for both ballast water and biofouling issues as appropriate.
- 14. The group will report to OSPAR EIHA and HELCOM MARITIME groups.
- 15. Any recommendations proposed by the group, or continuation of the mandate, will be decided upon by HELCOM Commission and OSPAR Commission Meetings, as appropriate.

## Annex 6 Work Plan for the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 2020 – 2021

Nr	Task description	Lead country/support	Timeframe	Deliverable/ concrete output
<b>Action 1. Follow up progress in regional MSP</b>				
1.1.	Continuously update of national information on MSP developments including implementation of the joint MSP principles	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG	Continuous	Updated Country Fiches on HELCOM and VASAB webpages.  Presentation by relevant authority of the recent MSP development at the WG with reflection on the discussion in the WG's outcomes.
1.2	Compile good practices on the application of the regional MSP related Guidelines (including relationship to practical implementation of the ESPOO Convention) and propose revision of the guidelines, if necessary.	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Projects (i.e. Capacity4MSP) Sweden	Continuous According to a workplan of projects	Reflection on the implementation of the Guidelines in the meeting outcomes.  An overview of the good practices to implement the guidelines with conclusions on possible needs to revise.
<b>Action 2. Intergovernmental cooperation on MSP</b>				
2.1	Exchange experiences, know-how and good practices (e.g. on multi-uses, socio-economic, cultural aspects), using the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG as a platform for regional dialog.	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Planning Forum Capacity4MSP and other projects	Continuous	Presentation of the good practices identified in projects (e.g. Seed money, flagship projects) and outcomes of the meetings. Planning forums, seminars, workshops, organized preferably back to back with HELCOM -VASAB MSP WG meetings.
2.2	Exchange experience in linking implementation of MSP and other legal and policy frameworks including e.g. the EU directives.	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG [and European Commission]	Continuous	Regularly update information in the outcomes of the meetings
2.3	Evaluation of approach on coherence of terrestrial and marine planning in MSP	Latvia / HELCOM Secretariat	2020	Discussion paper on practices in the countries (Land-Sea-Act project). Practical examples and workshop.
2.4	Exploring a possibility for long lasting mechanism for cooperation of MSP practitioners (e.g. planning forum)	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Capacity4MSP Pan Baltic Scope	2021	A concept of a long-lasting mechanism for cooperation with planning forum function and terms of reference for cooperation mechanism.

Nr	Task description	Lead country/support	Timeframe	Deliverable/ concrete output
<b>Action 3. Development of the regional MSP framework</b>				
3.1	Contribute to the update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan reflecting in the document the role of MSP in achieving regional environmental objectives.	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG	2020-2021	Input from the WG to the BSAP update process.
3.2	Update of the regional MSP Roadmap	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG	2020-2021	Regional MSP Roadmap 2021-20XX.
3.3	Update of the MSP Principles	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG	2020-2021	Updated Joint MSP Principles, linked with the update of HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan and MSP Roadmap.
3.4	Update of Regional MSP guidelines based on outputs of the task 1.2	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Projects (i.e. Capacity4MSP) Sweden	2020-2021	Updated MSP guidelines on EBA considering Pan Baltic Scope outcomes and other projects.
3.5	Develop a system to follow up implementation of the relevant goals set in the regional MSP framework.	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG other relevant HELCOM workgroup Capacity4MSP, other projects (DG MARE contract on follow up and indicators of MSP) Pan Baltic Scope	2021	A concept of the system to follow up implementation of the relevant goals set in the regional MSP framework (e.g. workshop on implementation/follow up).
3.6	Develop a common understanding of the cross-border coherence	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Task Force	2020	Report of the task force on cross-border coherence
3.7	Consider the practical use of socio-economic parameters including ecosystem services in MSP	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG	Continuous  2020	Regularly update information in the outcomes of the meetings and exchange information between countries.  Report from Pan Baltic Scope on Economic and Social Assessment for MSP.
3.8	Development of the practical means to integrate the marine green infrastructure concept into MSP	Sweden with contribution by Germany, Latvia and HELCOM and taking note of work being done by HELCOM State & Conservation	2021	Session during a HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG on Pan Baltic Scope activities and results on EBA and GI. Invite feedback from State & Conservation.

Nr	Task description	Lead country/support	Timeframe	Deliverable/ concrete output
	practices. Including data development, e.g. HOLAS III.	Working Group, HOLAS II, Baltic Scope and outputs from Pan Baltic Scope projects.		A draft of the regional concept of marine green infrastructure, based on the output from Pan Baltic Scope should be further developed (if needed).
<b>Action 4. Information and data for MSP</b>				
4.1	Development of guide for accessible and regularly updated regional MSP data	HELCOM via Capacity4MSP BSR MSP Data ESG	2021	Support tools and technical requirements to set use <a href="#">BASEMAPS</a> .  BSR data ESG would promote the use of BASEMAPS at national level.
4.2	Investigate and develop mechanisms for improving quality and availability of data required for development of coherent MSPs	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and BSR Data ESG as well as other HELCOM groups: FISH, State & Conservation, PRESSURE, MARITIME, SAFE NAVE and regional data holders e.g. ICES	Continuous	Proposals on communication and collaboration mechanisms between HELCOM Working Groups.
4.3	Ensure MSP output data sharing through regional distributed information systems utilizing existing information platforms	HELCOM-VASAB MSP Data ESG	Continuous	Adopted MSPs are available in BASEMAPS in accordance with the Guideline on transboundary MSP output data structure.

## Annex 7      Statements by the European Commission

### **Statement 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 decisions.

The responsibility for implementing EU legislation is solely with the EU Member States. The role of the European Commission in accordance with EU Treaties is, inter alia, to assess compliance with EU legislation, for instance once a Member State has submitted its report under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. 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 or by its contracting parties that are EU Member States is compliant with Union legislation.

## List of documents

Title	Category	Submitted by	Date
<a href="#">1-1 Provisional Agenda.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	10.10.2019
<a href="#">1-2 Annotations to the Provisional Agenda.pdf</a>	CMNT	Executive Secretary	11.11.2019
<a href="#">2-1 Preparations for HELCOM Stakeholder Conference 2020.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	19.11.2019
<a href="#">2-2 Outline for the high-level segment of HELCOM 41-2020.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	19.11.2019
<a href="#">2-3 Initial proposals for the outcome of the high-level segment of HELCOM 41-2020.pdf</a>	CMNT	Executive Secretary	19.11.2019
<a href="#">2-4 Provisional Agenda for HELCOM 41-2020.pdf</a>	INF	Chair and Executive Secretary	19.11.2019
<a href="#">2-5 Proposal on activity to support Ocean Science Decade.pdf</a>	INF	Sweden	03.12.2019
<a href="#">2-6 Danish proposal for a HELCOM voluntary commitment.pdf</a>	INF	Denmark	09.12.2019
<a href="#">3-1 Progress on the BSAP update.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	19.11.2019
<a href="#">3-2 Update of HELCOM Explorer.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	19.11.2019
<a href="#">3-2 Att 1. Update of HELCOM Explorer.xlsx</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	19.10.2019
<a href="#">3-3 Adjusting the BSAP structure and HELCOM objectives.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	19.11.2019
<a href="#">3-3 Add.1 Adjusting the BSAP structure and HELCOM objectives.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	25.11.2019
<a href="#">3-4-Rev.1 Outcome of HELCOM SOM Platform 2-2019.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	26.11.2019
<a href="#">3-5 How to draft the updated BSAP; style organization of work link to other agreements.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	19.11.2019
<a href="#">3-6 Proposal to update HELCOM nutrient input reduction scheme.pdf</a>	CMNT	Executive Secretary	19.11.2019
<a href="#">3-7 Note regarding competency in the context of the BSAP update.pdf</a>	CMNT	Executive Secretary	19.11.2019
<a href="#">3-8 Dedicated finance mechanism for the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP).pdf</a>	CMNT	Sweden	19.11.2019
<a href="#">3-9 Development of a HELCOM Science Agenda.pdf</a>	INF	Executive Secretary	02.12.2019
<a href="#">3-9 Att.1 Contributions HELCOM Science agenda 20.11.2019.xlsx</a>	INF	Executive Secretary	02.12.2019
<a href="#">3-10 Reporting on implementation of HELCOM Recommendations</a>	INF	Executive Secretary	04.12.2019
<a href="#">3-10-Rev.1 Reporting on implementation of HELCOM Recommendations.pdf</a>	INF	Executive Secretary	05.12.2019
<a href="#">3-10-Att.1 Reporting on implementation of HELCOM Recommendations.pdf</a>	INF	Executive Secretary	04.12.2019
<a href="#">3-10-Att.2 Recommendation reporting Pressure adopted before2007.xlsx</a>	INF	Executive Secretary	04.12.2019
<a href="#">3-10-Att.3 Recommendations reporting Pressure adopted after2007.xlsx</a>	INF	Executive Secretary	04.12.2019
<a href="#">3-10-Att.4 Recommendations reporting State and Conservation.xlsx</a>	INF	Executive Secretary	04.12.2019
<a href="#">3-10-Att.5 Recommendations reporting Response.xlsx</a>	INF	Executive Secretary	04.12.2019
<a href="#">3-10-Att.6 Recommendations reporting Fish.xlsx</a>	INF	Executive Secretary	04.12.2019
<a href="#">3-10-Att.7 Recommendations reporting Maritime.xlsx</a>	INF	Executive Secretary	04.12.2019
<a href="#">4-1 Outcome of FISH 10-2019.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	10.10.2019
<a href="#">4-2 Outcome of MARITIME 19-2019.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	10.10.2019
<a href="#">4-3 Draft revised HELCOM Recommendation 23-3 on enhancing the use of pilots in route T and the Sound.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	11.11.2019
<a href="#">4-4 Draft revised HELCOM Recommendation 17-2 on protection of harbor porpoise.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	11.11.2019
<a href="#">4-5 Outcome of STATE and CONSERVATION 11-2019.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	11.11.2019
<a href="#">4-6 Outcome of AGRI 8-2019.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	14.11.2019
<a href="#">4-7 Outcome of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 19-2019.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	14.11.2019
<a href="#">4-8 Outcome of the workshop with river basin management authorities.pdf</a>	CMNT	Executive Secretary	18.11.2019
<a href="#">4-9 Outcome of PRESSURE 11-2019.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	18.11.2019

<a href="#">4-10 Proposal for PLC-8 timeframe.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	18.11.2019
<a href="#">4-11 Draft HELCOM core indicator on inputs of nutrients for period 1995-2017.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	18.11.2019
<a href="#">4-12 Draft revised HELCOM Recommendation 36-2 and HELCOM Guidelines on management of dredged material at sea.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	19.11.2019
<a href="#">4-12-Rev.1 Draft revised HELCOM Recommendation 36-2 and HELCOM Guidelines on management of dredged material at sea.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	11.12.2019
<a href="#">4-13 Draft HELCOM Recommendation on the use of national manure standards.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	19.11.2019
<a href="#">4-14 Draft HELCOM Recommendation on Deep-Sea Pilotage in the Baltic Sea.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	19.11.2019
<a href="#">4-14-Rev.1 Draft HELCOM Recommendation on Deep-Sea Pilotage in the Baltic Sea.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	11.12.2019
<a href="#">4-15 Outcome of GEAR 21-2019.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	19.11.2019
<a href="#">4-16 Outcome of STATE and CONSERVATION 11A-2019.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	19.11.2019
<a href="#">4-17 Draft HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Underwater Noise.pdf</a>	CMNT	Executive Secretary	19.11.2019
<a href="#">4-18 Draft Roadmap on fisheries data.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	19.11.2019
<a href="#">4-18-Rev.1 Draft Roadmap on fisheries data.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	11.12.2019
<a href="#">4-19 Draft Provisional Timeline and Preliminary Plan for HOLAS III.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	19.11.2019
<a href="#">4-20 Future work on HELCOM Indicators.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	19.11.2019
<a href="#">4-21 Project proposal for HELCOM Data Flow project, in support of HOLAS III.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	19.11.2019
<a href="#">4-22 Overview of national manure standards in the Baltic Sea region.pdf</a>	INF	Executive Secretary	28.11.2019
<a href="#">5-1 Accounts of the Commission 2018-2019.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	11.11.2019
<a href="#">5-2 Draft budget for 2020-2021, budget estimate for 2021-2022 and a long-term budget framework.pdf</a>	DEC	Executive Secretary	19.11.2019
<a href="#">5-3 Estonian position in regards the HELCOM budget.pdf</a>	INF	Estonia	25.11.2019
<a href="#">6-1 List of on-going projects within HELCOM and with HELCOM involvement.pdf</a>	INF	Executive Secretary	28.11.2019
<a href="#">6-2 Upcoming meetings within HELCOM and other fora in 2020.pdf</a>	INF	Executive Secretary	28.11.2019
<a href="#">6-3 Draft programme of the BSD XXI.pdf</a>	INF	Russia	02.12.2019
<a href="#">6-4 WWF Baltic Sea Farmer of the Year 2019.pdf</a>	INF	WWF	03.12.2019
<a href="#">6-5 Protecting our Oceans – Europeans challenge to meet the 2020 deadlines.pdf</a>	INF	WWF	03.12.2019
<a href="#">6-6 Management of contacts and emailing to HELCOM Groups and Expert networks.pdf</a>	INF	Executive Secretary	03.12.2019