



Document title	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda
Code	1-2
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
Submission date	5.11.2020
Submitted by	Executive Secretary
Reference	Outcome of HOD 58-2020

The 59th Meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation (HOD 59-2020) will be held on 7-8 December 2020. In light of the COVID-19 situation the Meeting will be held as an online meeting.

The Meeting will be opened on Monday, 7 December at 8:30 CET/9:30 EET and is expected to terminate on Tuesday, 8 December by 17:00 CET/18:00 EET.

The Meeting will be opened by the Chair of the Helsinki Commission, Ms. Lilian Busse, Germany.

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda as contained in document 1-1-Rev.1.

Agenda Item 2 Work Plan of the German Chairmanship of HELCOM

The Meeting is invited to endorse the Work Plan to implement the priorities of the German Chairmanship of HELCOM (document to be submitted).

Agenda Item 3 Preparations for HELCOM 42-2021

The Meeting is invited to discuss the Provisional Agenda for the 42nd Meeting of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM 42-2021) to be held on 17-18 March 2021 and decide as appropriate (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is further invited to decide if the Meeting will be held in person or as an online meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic (paragraph 3.1 of the Rule of Procedure).

Agenda Item 4 Preparations for HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2021

The Meeting is invited to recall that HOD 58-2019 confirmed the decision to arrange the next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in 2021. Germany, as the chairing country of HELCOM for 2020-2022, is planning to hold the Ministerial Meeting in Lübeck on one of the days between 19-21 October 2021. Germany might wish to inform on organisational and other relevant matters related to the Ministerial Meeting.

The updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) and related documents are envisaged to be adopted by the Ministerial Meeting. The Meeting will be invited to continue planning the possible outcomes of the Ministerial Meeting.

The Meeting is invited to consider the need for additional preparatory meetings prior to the Ministerial Meeting.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the Communication Strategy for the updated BSAP to be launched at the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2021.

Agenda Item 5

Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

The Meeting is invited to take note of the first draft of the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) noting that the drafting will continue in the Ad hoc Drafting Group for the Updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (DG BSAP) in spring 2021 based on the comments by HOD 59-2020 (document to be submitted).

5.1 Overarching preamble

As agreed by HOD 58-2020, the first version of the overarching preamble for the updated BSAP has been drafted by DG BSAP and reviewed by the Gear Group. The Meeting is invited to take note of and comment the draft overarching preamble, noting that the drafting will continue in DG BSAP in spring 2021 based on the comments by HOD 59-2020.

5.2 Segment introductions

HOD 57-2019 requested the Secretariat to prepare a first draft of the introductory text for the BSAP segments on biodiversity, eutrophication, hazardous substances and litter, and sea-based activities. HOD 58-2020 agreed that the first drafts of the segment introductions will be reviewed by HELCOM Working Groups and DG BSAP in autumn 2020. The Meeting is invited to take note of and comment the draft segment introductions, noting that the drafting will continue in the DG BSAP segment teams in spring 2021 based on the comments by HOD 59-2020.

HOD 58-2020 supported the inclusion of an additional segment focusing on horizontal actions in the updated BSAP, to be divided by subheadings representing the various identified horizontal topics (climate change, monitoring, MSP, Economic and social analysis, and financing) and invited the DG BSAP to develop a proposed structure for the segment. DG BSAP 3-2020 made a proposal for the structure and invited the Secretariat, in cooperation with the relevant HELCOM groups, to draft the introductory texts for topics of the horizontal actions segment. HOD 58A-2020 agreed in general on the proposed outline for the financing section that is a part of the horizontal actions segment, and invited Finland and Sweden, with the help of the Secretariat, to submit the first draft of the financing section to HOD 59-2020. The Meeting is invited to take note of and comment the preamble and introductory parts to the horizontal actions segment, noting that the drafting will continue in DG BSAP in spring 2021 based on the comments by HOD 59-2020.

*5.3 Operative sections**Existing HELCOM actions*

The Meeting is invited to recall that HOD 58-2020 agreed in principle on the rephrased and concretized existing HELCOM actions to be transferred to the updated BSAP with the understanding that further drafting based on the written comments will take place at a later stage. HOD 58-2020 acknowledged that the final formulation of actions may need to be modified to account for overlap or links to new actions. According to the agreed Work Plan, the final approval of formulations will take place in HOD 60-2020 when all actions are in place.

HOD 58-2020 invited DG BSAP and HELCOM Working Groups to continue work on those existing actions where the need for further work was identified. The Meeting is invited to agree in principle on the remaining rephrased and concretized existing HELCOM actions to be transferred to the updated BSAP.

HOD 58-2020 agreed to retain actions related to ongoing Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) processes in brackets until they can be aligned with CBD targets, and invited DG BSAP to consider formulation of final actions. STATE&CONSERVATION 13-2020 and DG BSAP BIO 1-2020 noted that CBD COP 15 will be held in the second quarter of 2021 due to the delays resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. It is thus unlikely the new CBD targets can be used as direct input to the BSAP update. STATE&CONSERVATION 13-2020 and DG BSAP BIO 1-2020 emphasised that the rephrased and concretized actions proposed for the updated BSAP which have been directly linked to the CBD process, and thus not considered for provisional approval in HOD 58-2020, will likely need to be uncoupled from the CBD process.

The Meeting is invited to consider how to take the work forward on open actions related to CBD processes and provide guidance for further drafting.

Proposed new actions

To support the selection of new measures and actions for the updated BSAP, an invitation to submit synopses on potential new HELCOM actions was put forward in spring 2019 to the Contracting Parties, HELCOM subsidiary bodies, international projects and HELCOM Observers. As a first step, the HELCOM Working Groups conducted a technical review on the proposals for new actions, as noted by HOD 58-2020. As a second step, the proposed new actions were evaluated at the four HELCOM BSAP UP workshops that were organized online in the last week of August and first week of September. The outcomes of the BSAP UP workshops were considered by the HELCOM Working Groups, which further elaborated the actions and endorsed the actions that should be included in the updated BSAP.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the new actions endorsed by the Working Groups, agree in principle on the actions to be included in the updated BSAP and provide guidance on the actions for DG BSAP that will continue drafting in spring 2021 based on the comments by HOD 59-2020.

5.4 Annexes

As outlined in the detailed plan for drafting the updated BSAP, each segment in the updated BSAP will have a corresponding annex, which will contain detailed supplementary information on each action under the segment in question, to guide future assessment of implementation and provide context for the actions. This includes e.g. target year, rationale (including linkage to other actions), estimated effect, responsible for implementation etc. The supplementary information will be provided by the Working Groups that discussed the task in the autumn meetings.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the proposed structure of the annexes as well as the comments by the Working Groups, noting that the drafting of the Annexes will continue in the Working Groups in spring 2021.

5.5. Supporting documents

A number of supporting documents are to be adopted alongside the updated BSAP to support its implementation, e.g. roadmaps, topic specific action plans, strategies. Also, there is additional material that can be published as background information for the BSAP update process.

The Meeting is invited to take note of and comment the list of supporting documents that are expected to be adopted alongside the BSAP as well as information on the possible other background documents (document to be submitted).

5.6 Analysis of sufficiency of measures

The Meeting is invited to recall that HOD 58-2020 considered the proposed presentation of the SOM results and noted the importance of presenting the uncertainties related to the results. The methodology for the SOM analysis was endorsed by GEAR 22-2020. The first interim results of the analysis were presented to the BSAP UP workshops, and have been considered by SOM topic teams, SOM Platform 4-2020 and Working Group meetings. The results of the SOM analysis were finalized in October 2020 and will be made available to HOD 59-2020. The outputs include a methodology report, a main report summarizing the results, and nine topic-specific reports. An example of the presentation of the results is prepared for review by the Gear Group before HOD 59-2020, as proposed by HOD 58-2020.

The Meeting is invited to consider the results of the SOM analysis and their use in the BSAP update (documents to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the Notes from the Fourth Meeting of the HELCOM SOM Platform (SOM Platform 4-2020) and Fifth Meeting of the HELCOM SOM Platform (SOM Platform 5-2020) (document to be submitted).

5.7 Analysis of cost-effectiveness of new measures

The Meeting is invited to recall that HOD 58-2020 took note that the cost estimates and results of the cost-effectiveness analysis for new measures will likely be available in October-November 2020. Data on the costs and effectiveness of potential new measures have been compiled from synopses, literature reviews and data for the SOM analysis, and EN ESA has supported the data collection by providing national cost estimates.

Estimates of the effectiveness of proposed new measures collected by the ACTION project were provided to the BSAP UP workshops. The Meeting is invited to consider the cost-effectiveness analysis of proposed new measures (document to be submitted).

5.8 HELCOM Explorer

HOD 57-2019 supported the further development of the HELCOM Explorer, the web-based tool to follow-up on the implementation of HELCOM actions. The Meeting is invited to take note that the Secretariat has completed the development of the database and web interface for the Explorer, and the updated HELCOM Explorer has been launched.

HOD 58-2020 agreed that the reporting on the implementation status of the existing national actions will take place via nominated national contact points in autumn 2020 and also agreed that the implementation status of the joint HELCOM actions will be reported by the HELCOM Working Groups in their autumn 2020 meetings. The Meeting is invited to endorse the reporting on the joint actions by the Working Groups to be included to the HELCOM Explorer and take note of the status of reporting on the implementation of the national actions (document to be submitted).

5.9 HELCOM Science Agenda

HELCOM 40-2019 agreed to develop a HELCOM Science Agenda, concomitantly with the update of the BSAP. The Science Agenda is to outline existing and foreseen HELCOM regional knowledge and science needs and will serve the development of activities in HELCOM and to inform external funding mechanisms on the research needs of HELCOM.

The Science Agenda report has been prepared by national representatives in the Science Agenda Task Group. The work was initiated in 2019 through the gathering of views on knowledge and science needs among HELCOM subsidiary bodies. The results were presented to HELCOM Working Groups in 2019 with the possibility to amend the survey. Some issues will remain open until spring 2021 due to the ongoing development of the BSAP and associated documents (e.g. the MSP roadmap). Annexes will be completed once the actions for the updated BSAP have been agreed.

The Meeting is invited to consider the final draft of the Science Agenda and provisionally approve the content, noting that for a few key topics processes in spring 2021 may provide additional input (document to be submitted). The Meeting is invited to note that the final Agenda is intended to be approved together with the updated BSAP.

5.10 BSAP Fund

HOD 58A-2020 noted that the BSAP Fund set up in 2010 with financing from Finland and Sweden has supported implementing the BSAP commitments by financing projects in the Baltic Sea catchment area, e.g. the upgrading of wastewater treatment plants. HOD 58A-2020 also took note of the invitation by Finland and Sweden for the other Contracting Parties to organize a separate meeting of those parties interested in taking part in modifying and contributing to the BSAP Fund for 2021/2022 onward and agreed to address this issue in HOD 59-2020. The Meeting is invited to discuss organizing a separate meeting on contributing to the BSAP Fund for 2021/2022 onwards.

5.11 HELCOM Stakeholder Conference

The Meeting is invited to approve the organizing of an online HELCOM Stakeholder Conference on the Ecosystem Approach and Ecosystem-Based Management tentatively on 11 March 2021 which is expected to provide additional input on ecosystem approach for the BSAP update process (document to be submitted).

Agenda Item 6 Matters arising from the HELCOM Groups

The Meeting is invited to take note of and consider the outcomes of the following meetings that have been held or will be held by the time of HOD 59-2020 (documents to be submitted):

- STATE & CONSERVATION 13-2020 (13th Meeting of the Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation), 5-9 October 2020, online;

- MARITIME 20-2020 (20th Meeting of the Maritime Working Group), 5-8 October 2020, online;
- PRESSURE 13-2020 (13th Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area) 13-16 October 2020, online;
- RESPONSE 28-2020 (28th Meeting of the Response Working Group), 3-5 November 2020, online;
- AGRI 10-2020 (10th Meeting of the Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices), 4-5 November 2020, online;
- GEAR 23-2020 (23rd Meeting of the Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach), 9-11 November 2020, online;
- FISH 12-2020 (12th Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries), online 11-12 November 2020, online;
- HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 21-2020 (21st Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group), 12-13 November 2020, online.

The Meeting is expected to be invited to consider inter alia the following essential issues stemming from these meetings and decide as appropriate (documents to be submitted):

- Revised Work Plans for Maritime, Pressure, Response and State and Conservation Working Groups;

Gear Group

- Project proposal for HELCOM Holistic Assessment Methodology Development Project (HELCOM MetDev), 2021;
- Draft updated Roadmap on HELCOM activities on ecosystem approach;

Maritime Working Group

- Draft Regional Baltic Biofouling Management Roadmap;
- Revised HELCOM OSPAR Joint Harmonised Procedure on the granting of exemptions under International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments;

Pressure Working Group

- Draft HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Underwater Noise;
- New soundscape maps for the development of the continuous noise section in HOLAS III;
- Draft HELCOM policy message on End of Life Boats (ELB);
- Progress in the development of the risk assessment framework for internal nutrient reserve management – remaining open issues and accomplishment;
- Changes to the Guideline for Management of Dredged Material at Sea;
- Draft updated HELCOM core indicator on input of nutrients;
- Proposal to delete hot spot No. 42 Rīga wastewater treatment plant from the HELCOM list;
- Proposal for regional wide-scope screening of hazardous substances;

Response Working Group

- Joint Inter-Regional Marine HNS Response Manual;
- Draft revised HELCOM Response Manual;

State and Conservation Working Group

- HELCOM Indicator Manual;
- Proposal for HOLAS III assessment phase working structure;
- HELCOM data call for HOLAS III;
- HELCOM Checklist of Baltic Sea Macro-species 2.0;

Agri group

- Draft HELCOM Nutrient Recycling Strategy;
- Results of the revision of the Annex III Part II of the Helsinki Convention;

HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group

- Draft Regional MSP Roadmap 2021-2027.

The Meeting is invited to endorse the following HELCOM recommendations with view of their adoption by HELCOM 42-2021 (documents to be submitted):

- Update of HELCOM Recommendation 23-5 on storm water management;
- Draft revised HELCOM Recommendation 31E/6 on integrated wildlife response planning in the Baltic Sea area.

The Meeting is invited to endorse the proposal to withdraw HELCOM Recommendation 17/12 on special cooperation in case of a chemical tanker accident in the Baltic Sea.

Agenda Item 7 HELCOM institutional and organisational matters

The Meeting is invited to take note of the report of the Auditors and the Financial Statement of the Helsinki Commission for the financial period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 as well as of the explanatory memorandum (document to be submitted), and to advise the Executive Secretary to submit them to HELCOM 42-2021 in order to have the accountables officially discharged from responsibility.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the required budget transfers for the current financial year 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to consider the draft budget for the financial period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 and a draft budget estimate for 2022–2023 (document to be submitted), and advise the Executive Secretary to submit the draft budget to HELCOM 42-2021 for official adoption.

The Meeting is invited to endorse new working arrangements for meetings of HELCOM groups (document to be submitted).

Agenda Item 8 Any other business

The Meeting is invited to approve the 2020 HELCOM activities report for publishing pending layout under the Baltic Sea Environment Procedures (BSEP) series. The report has been prepared having regard to Rule 11.4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Helsinki Commission.

Russia might wish to submit further information about the XXI International Environmental Forum “Baltic Sea Day” to be held in St. Petersburg on 23-24 March 2021.

The Meeting is invited to take note of a list of HELCOM projects and forthcoming meetings within HELCOM and other forums (documents to be submitted).

The Contracting Parties and Observers might wish to discuss any other issues under this Agenda Item.

Agenda Item 9 Next meeting(s)

The Meeting is invited to recall that HOD 58-2020 decided on the dates for HOD 60-2021 tentatively for 3-4 June 2021 in Germany. The Meeting is invited to confirm the date and location for HOD 60-2021 and set a tentative date for HOD 61-2021.

Agenda Item 10 Outcome of the Meeting

With reference to Rule 11.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Helsinki Commission, the Outcome of the Meeting, reflecting decisions taken will be prepared at the end of the Meeting and presented for consideration and adoption.