Document title	Update of the HELCOM Guidelines for Management of Dredged Material at Sea
Code	6-7
Category	DEC
Agenda Item	6 - Matters arising from the HELCOM Groups
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Submitted by	Executive Secretary
Reference	

Background

The latest update of the HELCOM Guidelines for Management of Dredged Material at Sea was adopted by HELCOM 41-2020 in March 2020. At a later stage, Germany raised the issue of legally defined assessment areas used in the procedure of determining the dredged material management options in the Guidelines. The Ad-hoc Meeting of the Expert Network on dredging/depositing operations at sea (EN DREDS), convened upon the initiative by Germany on 26 May 2020, considered the proposal, developed it further and agreed on the sentence for inclusion in the HELCOM Guidelines. PRESSURE 13-2020 (Outcome, para 6.2) considered and endorsed the changes to the HELCOM Guidelines for submission to HOD 59-2020 for final approval.

The agreed formulation for Paragraph 7.1 of the Guideline including the proposed additional sentence highlighted in red is presented in this document.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to approve the proposed changes to the HELCOM Guidelines for Management of Dredged Material at Sea.

Suggested wording for the update of paragraph 7.1 of the HELCOM Guidelines for Management of Dredged Material at Sea, as agreed by EN DREDS and PRESSURE 13-2020

"7.1. Generally, it is the preferred option to keep the sediment in the aquatic, estuarine, or marine system, however the results of the physical/chemical/biological characterisation will determine the dredged material management options. The management options should consider legally defined assessment areas or geographical scales (e.g. Waterbodies under the WFD and/or marine reporting units under the MSFD for those CPs being EU-MS). Examples of management options include beneficial use, unrestricted, open-water deposit, confined aquatic deposit or confined deposit facilities. In some cases, the best option may be to leave the material in-situ. Additional information about beneficial uses of dredged material, including case studies, can be found at the Central Dredging Association's website. PIANC (2009) provides technical information on the assessment of options for beneficial use and recommendations on how to overcome constraints based on "lessons learned" from numerous cases studies in different situations in various countries."