



Document title	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda
Code	1-2
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
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Submitted by	Executive Secretary
Reference	

The 61st Meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation (HOD 61-2021) will be held as an online meeting on 8- 9 December 2021.

The Meeting will be opened on **Wednesday, 8 December at 8:30 CET/9:30 EET** and is expected to terminate on **Thursday, 9 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.

Agenda Item 2 Outcome of and follow-up to the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2021

The HELCOM Ministerial Meeting held on 20 October 2021 adopted the updated HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) and a number of documents along with the updated BSAP as well as the Ministerial Statement. The Meeting is invited to reflect in general on the outcome of the Ministerial Meeting.

The Meeting is invited to discuss the implementation of the BSAP and provide guidance for the Working Groups to plan their future work (c.f. Agenda Item 7) (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to discuss the timing of the next Ministerial Meeting(s) (document to be submitted).

The Meeting might wish to discuss any other matters related to the outcome of the Ministerial Meeting as needed.

Agenda Item 3 German Chairmanship of HELCOM

Germany might wish to inform of any initiatives taken or planned by Germany under the German chairmanship of HELCOM.

Agenda Item 4 Preparation for HELCOM 43-2022 including the Stakeholder Conference

The Meeting is invited to discuss the Provisional Agenda for the 43rd Meeting of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM 43-2022) to be held on 3-4 March 2022 and decide as appropriate (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to recall that HOD 60-2021 approved in principle the organization of an online HELCOM Stakeholder Conference on climate change in the Baltic Sea region in cooperation with Baltic Earth and Germany. The Meeting is invited to comment on the outline of the Conference to be held on 9-10 March 2022 (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcome of the online HELCOM Workshop on “Blue Carbon Potential in the Baltic Sea region”, which will be held on 17-18 November 2021 co-hosted by Germany (document to be submitted). The results of the Workshop will be presented at the joint HELCOM/Baltic Earth Stakeholder Conference on Climate Change.

Agenda Item 5 Preparatory work for HOLAS III assessment

The Meeting is invited to take note of the further elaborate workplan for the HOLAS III assessment as well as the current list of nominations for CG HOLAS III.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the further specified timeline of the third HELCOM holistic assessment of the Baltic Sea environment (HOLAS III) and approve the arranging of Targeted Assessment Methodology Workshops and Data Helpdesk sessions in Spring 2022. The Meeting is further invited to agree on the amended timeline proposed for the eutrophication indicator evaluations in 2022 (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the latest update of the HOLAS III resources overview and approve any changes (document to be submitted)

The Meeting is invited to take note of the latest information on the status of indicator work (document 5-2) and approve any new or amended threshold values/threshold value setting methodologies proposed for application in HOLAS III (document 5-1).

The Meeting is invited to approve the revised assessment units proposed for the eutrophication evaluations and assessment and their implementation in the HELCOM Assessment unit datasets available from HELCOM Map and Data Service as well as documented in the HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy for use in HOLAS III and beyond (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to take note of and endorse the approached and the proposed way forward for the assessments to be included in HOLAS III, and agree that STATE&CONSERVATION 16-2022 can approve any consequent changes introduced to the methodologies based on the Targeted Assessment Workshops in Spring 2022 (document to be submitted)

The Meeting is invited to take note of and approve any proposed amendments to the approval processes related to HOLAS III methodologies or threshold values.

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 61-2021 (documents to be submitted):

- RESPONSE 29-2021 (29th Meeting of the Response Working Group), 28-30 September 2021, online;
- STATE & CONSERVATION 15-2021 (15th Meeting of the Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation); 4-8 October 2021, online;
- MARITIME 21-2021 (21st Meeting of the Maritime Working Group), 27-29 October 2021, online;
- PRESSURE 15-2021 (15th Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area), 2-4 November 2021, online;
- GEAR 25-2021 (25th Meeting of the Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach), 8-10 November 2021, online;
- AGRI 12-2021 (Twelfth Meeting of the Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices), 10-11 November 2021, online;
- HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 23-2021 (23rd Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group), 16-17 November 2021, 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):

Pressure Working Group

- adopt the updated Terms of Reference of the Expert Group on Marine Litter (EG Marine Litter);
- adopt the updated Terms of Reference of the Expert Group on Underwater Noise (EG Noise);
- adopt the updated Terms of Reference of the Expert Group on dredging/depositing operations at sea (EG DREDS);
- approve HELCOM's participation in the EU Regional Seas Conventions joint event to be organised in conjunction with the 2022 MARLICE international forum, on 20 May 2022 in Seville, Spain, pending a study reservation by Denmark to be clarified by 22 November 2021;
- approve the updated draft report on micropollutants in WWTPs' effluents to be published in the HELCOM Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings (BSEP) series and approve the related draft policy briefs to be published as HELCOM policy messages;
- approve the PLC-7 project's report on the effectiveness of measures to reduce the input of nutrients to be published in the HELCOM BSEP series after editorial check and layouting;
- approve the updated HELCOM MAI core indicator and the updated indicator report;
- consider and approve the proposal of organising a PLC workshop on the effectiveness of measures and the analysis of implementation obstacles/best practice in 2022.

Response Working Group

- adopt the Terms of Reference of the renamed Wildlife Response Group (WILDLIFE);
- adopt the Terms of Reference of the Expert Network on Environmental Risks of Submerged Objects (EN SUBMERGED)

State and Conservation Working Group

- adopt the updated Terms of Reference and workplan of the Expert Group on Hazardous Substances (EG HAZ);
- adopt the Terms of References of the Expert Group on Bird Migration (EG MIGRATION);
- adopt the Terms of Reference of the Zooplankton Expert Group (ZEG);
- adopt the Terms of Reference of the Joint HELCOM-OSPAR Expert Group on Non-Indigenous Species (JEG NIS);
- approve the extension of the PEG project as a consequence of COVID-19;
- approve the HELCOM RED LIST II project based on the further elaborated project description.

The Meeting is invited to endorse the following HELCOM recommendations with view of their adoption by HELCOM 43-2022 (documents to be submitted):

- draft revised Recommendation 12/7 on special cooperation in case of a chemical tanker accident in the Baltic Sea;
- draft revised Recommendation 33/1 on the unified interpretation in relation to access to and use of HELCOM AIS data;
- draft revised HELCOM Recommendations 37-38/1 on waterborne pollution input assessment (PLC-WATER) and 37-38/2 on monitoring of airborne pollution input;
- draft HELCOM Recommendation on reduction of EPS and XPS emissions.

The Meeting is invited to endorse the proposal to withdraw HELCOM Recommendation 21/3 on sustainable and environmentally friendly tourism in the Coastal Zones of the Baltic Sea Area.

The Meeting is invited to consider the proposal on extension of resources and competence within the Secretariat to coordinate regional work on hazardous substances (document to be submitted).

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 2020 to 30 June 2021 as well as of the explanatory memorandum (document to be submitted), and to advise the Executive Secretary to submit them to HELCOM 43-2022 in order to have the accountables officially discharged from responsibility.

The Meeting is invited to consider the draft budget for the financial period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 and a draft budget estimate for 2023–2024 (document to be submitted), and advise the Executive Secretary to submit the draft budget to HELCOM 43-2022 for official adoption.

The Meeting is invited to consider whether there is a need to renew the HELCOM structure to support the implementation of the 2021 Baltic Sea Action Plan.

The Meeting is invited to recall that HOD 61-2021 agreed on the renewal of the HELCOM Meeting Portal. The Meeting is invited to consider the budget and timetable on the renewal and decide as appropriate (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information on the application by the Baltic Salmon Fund for observer status to HELCOM.

Agenda Item 8 Any other business

Russia might wish to submit further information about the XXII International Environmental Forum “Baltic Sea Day” to be held in St. Petersburg on 22-23 March 2022.

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 60A-2021 decided on the dates for HOD 62-2022 to be on 14-15 June to be held in Helsinki, Finland and that HOD 60-2021 tentatively decided that HOD 63-2022 will be held on 30 November-1 December as an online event. The Meeting is invited to confirm the date and location for HOD 63-2022 and set a tentative date for HOD 64-2023.

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.