



# COMPLETE PLUS



## Proposal for amendments on the target species selection criteria and update of the Baltic Sea target species list

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## Background

- BWMC, Regulation A-4 (exemptions):

*A Party or Parties, in waters under their jurisdiction, may grant exemptions from ballast water management based on a risk assessment (RA) using the G7 Guidelines*

- MEPC.289(71) (Revised G7 Guidelines) RA methods:

1. Environmental matching RA
2. Species' biogeographical RA
3. Species-specific RA

- *“In order to undertake a species-specific RA, species of concern that may impair or damage the environment, human health, property or resources need to be identified. These are known as the target species (TS). TS should be selected for a specific port, State, or geographical region, and should be identified and agreed on in consultation with affected States” (IMO, 2017).*



Joint Harmonised Procedure for the Contracting Parties of HELCOM and OSPAR on the granting of exemptions under International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, Regulation A-4

Adopted as OSPAR Agreement 2013-09 and by HELCOM Ministerial Meeting Copenhagen 3 October 2013

Amended by HELCOM HOD 48-2015 (June) and OSPAR Agreement 2015-01 and HELCOM HOD 59-2020 and OSPAR Agreement 2020-01



TS selection criteria was agreed in 2019 (the [Outcome of TG BALLAST 10-2019](#), para. 6.1-6.8) (HELCOM & OSPAR, 2020, based on Gollasch et al., 2020);

At least **all** of the following criteria need to be considered;

1. Species already found in a ballast tank or if the life cycle of the species includes a larval phase or planktonic adult which makes a ballast water transport likely;
2. impact on human health, economy and/or environment and its severeness;
3. evidence of prior introduction(s), i.e., the species showed its capability to become introduced outside its native range; and
4. current distribution within the native biogeographic region and in other biogeographic regions.



[Outcome of TG BALLAST 10-2019](#), HELCOM & OSPAR, 2020; *“In summary, TS are species that*

- *have a relationship with ballast water; and*
- *have been assessed to cause human health impact, measurable economic impact or unacceptable environmental impact.*
- *Criteria 3 and 4 are supporting criteria for the impact assessment in 2”.*
- [Outcome of TG BALLAST 10-2019](#), (page 25, section 3.4);
- *There are two main general questions which should be considered before a species is considered for inclusion in the TS list:*
  - a) *is there a potential for a species to be primarily introduced or secondarily spread via ballast water or sediments as the major vector,*
  - b) *is the species present only in part(s) of the region but not the entire region?***





## Proposal for amendments on the TS selection criteria;

At least **all** of the following criteria need to be considered;

1. Species already found in a ballast tank or if the life cycle of the species includes a larval phase or planktonic adult which makes a ballast water transport likely;
2. the species is present only in part(s) of the region but not in the entire region;
3. impact on human health, economy and/or environment and its severeness;
4. evidence of prior introduction(s), i.e., the species showed its capability to become introduced outside its native range; and
5. current distribution within the native biogeographic region and in other biogeographic regions.



In summary, TS are species that

- have a relationship with ballast water; and
- are not already widespread in the Baltic Sea (present in all level 2 HELCOM sub-basins [17], where suitable habitats and environmental conditions occur); and
- have been assessed to cause human health impact, measurable economic impact or unacceptable environmental impact.
- Criteria 4 and 5 are supporting criteria for the impact assessment in 3”.



## The assessment to update the Baltic Sea TS list

- 101 species were selected for pre-screening, where they were compared against the criteria;
  - a) All 62 species from the current HELCOM/OSPAR JHP TS list
  - b) All 11 species from the current JHP watch list
  - c) 25 additional species that have been introduced to the Baltic Sea since last TS update (2012-2021) according to AquaNIS search
  - d) 3 additional expert-added species (*Marenzelleria arctia*, *Proterorhinus marmoratus* and *Proterorhinus nasalis*)



## Results

- 82 of the 101 species included into the TS list
- 11 species eliminated from the list based on 'lack of impact evidence'
- 7 species eliminated from the list based on the new criterion 'considered widespread in the Baltic Sea'
- 1 species eliminated from the list based on being clearly related to aquarium releases





## Proposal for the procedure to continuously update the TS list

- HELCOM Contracting Parties may utilise the TS selection criteria and conduct the pre-screening procedure for species they wish to be added to the TS list.
- The pre-screened species can be proposed to be added to the Baltic Sea TS list in the annual JTG B&B meeting.
- TS evaluation template can be provided for this purpose, and it shall be discussed whether the criteria and template can be integrated into the AquaNIS database

## Meeting is invited to;

- Discuss and agree on the proposed modifications of the TS selection criteria;
- Discuss and agree on the TS list to be used in risk assessments concerning exemptions from ballast water management within and to the Baltic Sea; and
- Discuss and agree on the procedure to continuously update the TS list.



## Partners:





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**THANK YOU!**