

Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Task Group on
Ballast Water Management Convention (BWMC) and Biofouling
Online, 2-3 December 2021

Document title	Provisional Annotated Agenda
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Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	Adoption of the Agenda
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Submitted by	The Chairs and the Secretariats
Reference	

Provisional Annotated Agenda

The Meeting will start at 10:00 EET (9:00 CET) on 2 December 2021 and is expected to close by 14:00 EET (13:00 CET) on 3 December 2021.

Meeting documents for JTG BALLAST & BIOFOULING 1-2021 will be submitted by the Secretariats via the [OSPAR](#) and [HELCOM](#) websites. The Secretariats have prepared a document template and recommends using the template when submitting documents to the Secretariats. The Secretariats kindly requests the Contracting Parties and Observer Organizations to observe a two weeks deadline for submission of documents to JTG BALLAST & BIOFOULING 1-2021. Documents should be submitted in electronic form to the HELCOM Professional Secretary, Mr. Markus Helavuori (Markus.Helavuori@helcom.fi) or the OSPAR Deputy Secretary Mr. Philip Stamp (Philip.Stamp@ospar.org) by **18 November 2021**. Documents should include abstracts embodying the essence of the proposals and action requested from the Meeting.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting is invited to adopt the provisional Agenda (document 1-1) developed by the Secretariats in consultation with the Co-Chairs.

2. Feedback from Relevant Bodies, including HELCOM, OSPAR and IMO MEPC

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcomes of relevant OSPAR meetings during the intersessional period (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcomes of relevant HELCOM meetings during the intersessional period, in particular HELCOM MARITIME 21-2021 and the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2021 (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to take note of actions in the 2021 Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP), as adopted by the 2021 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting, with particular relevance to the Joint Task Group, and exchange views on how to contribute to their implementation in alignment with the Terms of Reference of the Group (document to be submitted).

Following discussions at HELCOM/OSPAR TG BALLAST 11-2020 ([Outcome of TG BALLAST 11-2020](#), paragraphs 2.2-2.3), the Meeting will be informed on the status of development of a HELCOM indicator assessing copper (document to be submitted).

The Meeting will be informed of the process of the establishment of a Join OSPAR HELCOM Expert Group on Non-Indigenous Species (JEG NIS) (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to take note that the Terms of Reference of the JEG NIS, expected to be approved by HELCOM HOD 61-2021 (8-9 December 2021) include contributing towards OSPAR's

Quality Status Report 2023 and its thematic assessment on non-indigenous species, e.g., on shipping as a vector for spread of NIS.

The Meeting is requested to share and consider any developments at the International Maritime Organization (IMO), including MEPC 77, relevant for the Meeting.

3. Updates to the Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Harmonized Procedure (JHP) on the Granting of BWM Convention Exemptions

The Meeting is invited to take note that the revised HELCOM OSPAR Joint Harmonised Procedure on the Granting of BMW Convention Exemptions (JHP) was adopted at HOD 59-2020 and that the revised JHP is available on the [HELCOM](#) and [OSPAR websites](#) as well as on the [Risk Assessment tool website](#).

The Meeting is invited to take note that following discussions at TG BALLAST 11-2020 on an update of the development of the regionally harmonized early warning system (EWS) for timely communication of findings of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens (HAOP) ([Outcome of TG BALLAST 11-2020](#), paragraphs. 3.2-3-9), a further developed EWS was submitted to MARITIME 21-2021 for consideration ([document 3-5](#)). MARITIME 21-2021 discussed the proposed EWS, welcomed the proposal, noting that not all Contracting Parties were in a position to approve the EWS before further consideration at the expert level by JTG BALLAST & BIOFOULING and agreed that, as a first step, interested Contracting Parties can commence a pilot implementation of the EWS ([Outcome of MARITIME 21-2021](#), paragraphs. 3.5-3.12). The Meeting is invited to consider the draft EWS and to further plan its pilot implementation (document to be submitted).

Recalling the [Outcome of TG BALLAST 11-2020](#) (paragraphs 3.10-3-13), Poland and interested parties may wish to provide the Meeting with a revised proposal to include nekton in the Port Survey Protocol, taking into consideration the comments made at TG BALLAST 11-2020.

Interested parties may wish to provide proposals on the use of eDNA as part of port sampling for future revisions of the JHP.

4. Port Sampling

The Meeting is invited to recall that MARITIME 20-2020 instructed the Secretariat to request updates and data for new ports e.g. once per year, including for ports surveyed in accordance with other protocols than the survey protocol of the JHP, in order to ensure that sufficient and up to date data is available ([Outcome of MARITIME 20-2020](#), paragraphs 4.11-4.12).

Contracting Parties were invited to provide updates on port surveys conducted to the Secretariat by 13 October 2021, so that an information document could be submitted to MARITIME 21-2021 for consideration. Thus, MARITIME 21-2021 took note of an updated list of surveyed ports ([document 3-8](#)). In addition, the MARITIME 21-2021 noted that surveys will be conducted on two additional Estonian ports (Tallinna Vanasadam and Paldiski Lõunasadam) in 2022 ([Outcome of MARITIME 21-2021](#), paragraph 3.1).

Participants are invited to inform on sampling activities in North East Atlantic or Baltic Sea ports during 2021 or any such activities planned for 2022.

5. On-line decision support tool

Following the input received at TG BALLAST 11-2020 on the improved JHP Decision Support Tool ([Outcome of TG BALLAST 11-2020](#), paragraphs 5.3-5.6), the Meeting will be informed of the status of implementation of the suggestions provided (document to be submitted).

6. Target Species

The Meeting is invited to recall that TG BALLAST 11-2020 took note of information provided by Finland on the funding granted to COMPLETE-PLUS and that within its framework the Target Species (TS) list in the Baltic Sea will be updated with the criteria previously agreed by TG Ballast. The Meeting is invited to consider and agree on the updated TS list in the Baltic Sea (document to be submitted).

Participants are invited to inform the Meeting on updates on developments related to updating the OSPAR TS list.

The Meeting is invited to discuss cooperation on updating the target species lists between HELCOM and OSPAR.

7. Biofouling

The Meeting is invited to take note of an update on the progress and process in reviewing the IMO Biofouling Guidelines.

Following discussions at TG BALLAST 11-2020 on a proposal by the Netherlands for a pilot study serving as input for the development of a baseline research protocol for the general assessment of biofouling on commercial vessels in the European regional seas ([document 7-1](#), [Presentation 6](#), and [Outcome of TG BALLAS 11-2020](#), paragraphs 7.2-7.7), the Netherlands may wish to provide an update of the work conducted.

The Meeting is invited to recall that MARITIME 20-2020 had agreed to the draft Regional Baltic Biofouling Management Roadmap in principle and mandated TG BALLAST 11-2020 to finalize and agree to it, followed by direct submission by TG BALLAST 11-2020 to HOD 59-2020 for approval and subsequent adoption by HELCOM 42-2021. TG BALLAST 11-2020, however agreed that the proposed Roadmap should not be approved as an official HELCOM instrument but should instead serve as a basis for future work on harmonizing biofouling management in the Baltic Sea and contributing to the review of the IMO Biofouling Guidelines ([Outcome of TG BALLAS 11-2020](#), paragraphs 7.8-7.13).

The Meeting is invited to take note that HOD 59-2020 invited the DG BSAP Segment Team for sea-based activities to take this into account when considering proposed new BSAP actions, making reference to the proposed Biofouling Roadmap ([Outcome of HOD 59-2020](#), paragraphs 6.22-6.23).

The Meeting is invited to take note that MARITIME 21-2021 considered four draft guidance documents on biofouling management developed within the COMPLETE PLUS project, discussed and supported them in general and provided some views ([document 3-1](#), [document 3-2](#), [document 3-3](#) and [document 3-4](#) and [Outcome of MARITIME 21-2021](#), paragraphs 3.17-3.19).

Following the request by MARITIME 21-2021, the Meeting is invited to consider the four draft guidance documents in more detail, taking into account the comments provided by the MARITIME 21-2021 (documents to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to take note that MARITIME 21-2021 also invited Contracting Parties and observers to provide further comments and input to the draft biofouling guidance documents to the Secretariat by 10 November 2021 and the Secretariat to compile them for submission to JTG BALLAST & BIOFOULING 1-2021. The Meeting is invited to consider the input provided (document to be submitted).

8. Open Issues

Contracting Parties may wish to share information related to the designation of Same Risk Areas (SRA).

Contracting Parties may wish to share information related to audits of port reception facilities for ballast tank sediments.

9. Any other business

The Meeting is invited to recall that TG BALLAST 11-2020 had considered the links between ballast water tools and biofouling risk assessment tools and the possibilities to utilize e.g. the JHP decision support tool for biofouling purposes, and to consider the matter in more detail, as agreed by TG BALLAST 11-2020 ([Outcome of TG BALLAST 11-2020](#), paragraph 9.2).

Contracting Parties may wish to submit proposals on this matter, as appropriate.

The Meeting may wish to consider any other matters raised by the delegations and observers at the Meeting.

10. Work plan and future meetings

The Meeting is invited to take note that MARITIME 21-2021 considered the draft Work Plan 2021-2022 for the Joint HELCOM/OSPAR TG Ballast Water Management Convention (BWMC) and Biofouling (JTG BALLAST & BIOFOULING) ([document 2-1 Corr.1](#)) noting that the Work Plan was already endorsed by the OSPAR Environmental Impact of Human Activities (EIHA) Committee meeting on 15-18 March 2021 subject to improving the level of precision on timing and lead countries, which will need to be taken up at the next meeting of JTG BALLAST & BIOFOULING.

The Meeting is invited to take note that MARITIME 21-2021 agreed that JTG BALLAST & BIOFOULING 1-2021 should endeavour to identify lead countries for certain items in the Work Plan, but that there is no need to revise the Work Plan itself for this reason and that the work item on evaluating the IMO Biofouling Guidelines has already been completed and should therefore be removed from the next Work Plan, which is to be revised by JTG BALLAST & BIOFOULING 2-2022.

Finally, the Meeting is invited to take note that MARITIME 21-2021 approved the Work Plan 2021-2022 for JTG BALLAST & BIOFOULING as contained in [document 2-1 Corr.1](#) ([Outcome of MARITIME 21-2021](#), paragraphs 2.7-2.11).

The Meeting is invited to elect a Co-Chair of the Group for the remaining period of the mandate (end of 2024).

The Meeting is invited to update the contact list for both HELCOM and OSPAR (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to update the list of official contact points for BWMC A-4 Exemptions (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to propose and agree on the place and date of the next Meeting.

11. Outcome of the Meeting

The Meeting will be provided with the draft Outcome of the Meeting for adoption.