



## Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Workshop on methodologies to assess the implementation  
of the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme  
(MAI/CART assessment)  
Stockholm, Sweden, 6-7 March 2017

MAI-CART WS 1-2017

### Provisional Agenda for the Workshop

Follow-up of the implementation of the HELCOM BSAP nutrient inputs reduction scheme is one of the HELCOM assessment processes which demands allocation of significant resources by HELCOM members in combination with strong international scientific background and technical assistance. The process integrates continuous national monitoring in accordance with HELCOM Recommendations 37-38/1 and 37-38/2 and regularly updated regional guidelines, regular data reporting, compilation and processing of the reported data and scientifically based evaluation of progress towards environmental targets defined by the Scheme. PRESSURE 4-2016 discussed the methodological aspects of the MAI and CART assessments and agreed to arrange a workshop dedicated to assessment methodologies. PRESSURE 4-2016 also decided that the Workshop should be organized when the assessment results integrating data 2014 to a 1995-2014 data assessment time series on air- and waterborne nutrient inputs are as ready as possible in order to use its outcomes for e.g. MSFD reporting.

A draft agenda of the Workshop was discussed in in general agreed by PRESSURE 5-2016. The Meeting also agreed that the Workshop will be held in 2 days and cover as technical/scientific aspects of the assessment as policy related issues of its interpretation. The first day will be focused on technical and scientific issues related to compiling, quality assuring and assessing data on water and airborne inputs of nitrogen and phosphorus. The second day will be devoted to the discussion on issues related to the CART follow-up assessment, including assessment methods to evaluate progress in fulfilling CART and an overall content of the policy message on the CART follow-up assessment.

The workshop is relevant for national experts in monitoring and assessment of inputs of nutrients from the countries members to the Helsinki Convention and observers to the Convention as well as for representative of national authorities, participants of the relevant HELCOM groups and policy makers.

## Day 1

1. Establishing the nutrient input dataset to the Baltic Sea used for the MAI/CART follow-up assessment (assessment dataset)
  - What is reported by Contracting Parties on waterborne inputs in the period from 1995-2014 (riverine, diffuse, direct, transboundary, retention and flows, etc.).
  - Quality assurance on reported waterborne data.
  - Data verification: filling in data gaps, corrections of suspicious data and approval by Contracting Parties of waterborne input data for the assessments.
  - Transboundary inputs: how are data obtained, how are inputs divided between countries, estimating retention to quantify net inputs to the Baltic Sea. Discuss unresolved challenges with transboundary nutrient input data, and possible initiatives to obtain improved estimates of transboundary inputs.
  - Airborne inputs (atmospheric deposition of nitrogen) from EMEP, and estimation of phosphorus deposition.
  - How is water- and airborne inputs divided by country and Baltic Sea sub-basins (net input pr. Country) and divided in riverine, direct, atmospheric and total nutrient inputs to Baltic Sea sub- basins
  - What is the difference between actual nutrient inputs and normalized inputs – and why and how do we normalized water- and airborne inputs?
  - What is the uncertainty on nutrient inputs and flow data and how is it estimated/calculated?
  - How can we take into account that updated data on water- and airborne inputs also will change nutrient inputs in the references period 1997-2003 as compared with Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration 2013 which have been the basis for MAI and CART calculation?
2. HELCOM Core indicator on input of nutrients 1995-2014: MAI fulfilment follow-up
  - Assessment of fulfilment of MAI and the use of actual data versus normalized ones.
  - Nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea sub-basins in 2014.
  - Evaluation of trends in nutrient inputs to sub-basins and estimation of changes in inputs – including introducing evaluation of breakpoints in time series.
  - Results of assessment of progress towards fulfilling MAI and their visualization.
  - Accounting for uncertainties in nutrient inputs in the assessment.
3. Estimation of input of nutrients via selected big rivers
  - Introducing the big rivers as e.g.: Daugava, Göta älv, Kemijoki, Oder, Nemunas, Neva and Vistula.
  - Nutrient inputs from the big rivers in 2014.
  - Trend and changes in inputs from the big rivers during 1995-2014.

## Day 2

4. Assessment of the progress towards Country-wise Allocated Reduction Targets (CART) based on inputs data from 1995-2014
  - How were national input ceilings derived from MAI and CART and accounting of transboundary inputs in their identification?
  - How to assess progress toward fulfilment of CART. Present and discuss different methodological aspects such as:
    - The use of statistical analysis of time series
    - Average of x years or latest inputs
    - Taking into account uncertainties in inputs
    - Use of normalized data
    - Which reference inputs (1997-2003) should be used, etc.
  - Methodology for and results of trend analysis and changes in inputs from countries to sub-basins during 1995-2014.
  - Presentation and evaluation of progress toward fulfilling CART - country wise by sub-basins.
  - Accounting of an extra reduction in some sub-basins in evaluating fulfilment of CART and how to present these results.
5. Outlining of the CART policy messages. What are the main messages to present, and how can we present the main results for policymakers unambiguously?
  - Level of the assessment data aggregation - results shown country per Baltic Sea sub-basin.
  - Whether the reduction target is achieved?
  - What is the distance from the target, e.g. in tons, percentages, years before fulfilment with present trends etc.
  - What is the trend and changes in inputs?

Outcome of the Workshop will be reported to the Pressure Group and utilized for the PLC-6 project report, updates of the Core Pressure indicator of nutrients input, scientific and policy CART follow-up assessment reporting.