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Agenda Item	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
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Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	Minutes of MARITIME 14-2014, Paragraph 13.2

Background

The 15th Meeting of the HELCOM Maritime Group will be **opened on Monday, 23 November 2015, at 10:00** and it is expected to **close on Wednesday, 25 November 2015 by 14:00**. The Meeting will take place at the Europa City Aurora hotel, Conference hall, Nemuno str. 51, in Klaipėda, Lithuania.

The Meeting will be chaired by the Chair of HELCOM MARITIME, Ms. Anna Petersson. A Steering Committee meeting of the Policy Area on Clean Shipping of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR PA Ship) will be held back-to-back with MARITIME 15-2015 on 26 November 2015 in Klaipeda.

Background

This updated Preliminary Annotated Agenda includes additions by the Secretariat based on the status of documents and information received by 18 November 2015.

Meeting documents for HELCOM MARITIME 15-2015 are available via the HELCOM Meeting Portal.

Preliminary Annotated Agenda

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

The Preliminary Annotated Agenda has been prepared on the basis of the following documents:

- a) Minutes of the 14th Meeting of the Maritime Group (MARITIME 14-2014);
- b) Minutes of the 36th Meeting of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM 36-2015) and the 47th and 48th meetings of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation (HOD 47-2014 and 48-2015);
- c) Input from working groups and initiatives related to HELCOM MARITIME

and consultations between the Chair, Ms. Anna Petersson, and the Vice-Chairs, Mr. Jorma Kämäräinen and Ms. Natalia Kutaeva, of the HELCOM Maritime Group and the Secretariat.

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda as contained in this document.

This updated version of the Preliminary Annotated Agenda includes annotations by the Secretariat based on the status of documents and information received by 16 November 2015.

Agenda Item 2 Matters arising from HELCOM meetings

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the outcomes of meetings within the framework of HELCOM held in the intersessional period, and to discuss issues of relevance to HELCOM MARITIME under relevant Agenda Items (document 2-5).

HELCOM and HELCOM HOD

The Meeting is invited to take note of the decisions on issues related to Maritime Group (document 2-5) of:

- HOD 47-2014 (Helsinki, Finland, 9-10 December 2014): i.a. NECA Roadmap, MARPOL VI and Helsinki Convention, Green technology & Alternative fuels, Rec. 25/7 winter navigation, MARPOL IV sewage Special Area.
- HELCOM 36-2015 (Helsinki, Finland, 3-4 March 2015): i.a. Rec. 25/7 winter navigation (adoption of revised Rec), Ballast Water including target species, MARPOL IV sewage Special Area.
- HOD 48-2015 (Tallinn, Estonia, 10-11 June 2015): i.a. Marine litter, Underwater Noise road-map, Ballast Water (adoption of revisions to the HELCOM/OSPAR A-4 JHP) including target species (initial list).

The Meeting is also invited to take note that HOD 48-2015 considered a proposal for a work plan on preparing a roadmap to building a knowledge base on underwater noise. HOD 48-2015 requested the roadmap to be presented to Pressure, Maritime and State&Conservation groups with a view of endorsing it at the HOD 49-2015 meeting in December 2015.

The Meeting is invited to consider the draft Regional Baltic Underwater Noise Roadmap and provide further feedback, if appropriate (document 2-2).

The Meeting is invited to consider, discuss and agree on the implementation status of ministerial commitments and other information included in the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan follow-up (Maritime Segment) (document 2-4).

The Meeting is invited to take note that the 49th Meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation (HOD 49-2015) will be held in Helsinki, Finland, 10-11 December 2015.

Sub-groups of HELCOM MARITIME

HELCOM SAFE-NAV

The Fifth Meeting of the HELCOM Group of Experts on Safety of Navigation (SAFE NAV 5-2014) was held in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 3 December 2014 and SAFE NAV 6-2015 was held on 1 October 2015 in Gothenburg, Sweden. A key focus of these last two meetings was to develop information material on Under Keel Clearance in the Baltic Sea which has been submitted to this Meeting (c.f. documents 9-1, 10-1).

The Meeting is invited to take note that the next meeting of SAFE NAV will be held on 29 September 2016 hosted by Denmark.

HELCOM AIS EWG

The 26th Meeting of the Expert Working Group for Mutual Exchange and Deliveries of AIS & Data (AIS EWG 26-2015) was held on 19-20 May 2015 in Gdynia, Poland. The [outcome](#) is available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal.

The Meeting is invited to take note that AIS EWG 27-2016 will be held in the second half of May 2016 in Russia.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the HELCOM Secretariat activities on AIS data, e.g. within the [Baltic SCOPE](#) project (documents 2-3 and 2-3-Add.1).

HELCOM-OSPAR TG BALLAST

The Fifth Meeting of the Joint HELCOM-OSPAR Task Group on Ballast Water Management Convention Exemptions (HELCOM-OSPAR TG BALLAST 5-2014) was held in Madrid, Spain, on 1-2 December 2014. The meeting carried out a major revision of the A-4 JHP.

HELCOM-OSPAR TG BALLAST 6-2015 was held on 16-17 September 2015 in Gdansk, Poland.

The Meeting is invited to take note that the HELCOM-OSPAR TG BALLAST will consider further revisions to the joint A-4 procedure at its next meeting to be held early summer 2016 or 14-15 September 2016 hosted by a OSPAR Contracting Party.

The Meeting is invited to endorse the draft Terms of Reference of HELCOM-OSPAR TG BALLAST for 2015-2016 (document 2-1).

HELCOM RESPONSE

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcomes of RESPONSE 19-2014 (Tallinn, Estonia 25-27 November 2014) and RESPONSE 20-2015 (1-3 June 2015 Brussels, Belgium) meetings, especially discussions on Places of Refuge, STS transfers, SeaTrackWeb model, POLREP Message exchanges on incidents in the Baltic (implementation of new HELCOM Rec. 36/3 adopted by HELCOM 36-2015) (c.f. document 2-5).

HELCOM-VASAB MSP

The Tenth Meeting of the Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 10-2015) was held on 29-30 January 2015 in Gothenburg, Sweden and the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 11-2015 was held on 30 September – 1 October 2015 in Riga, Latvia. The [outcomes](#) are available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal.

Agenda Item 3

Ballast water

BWM Convention ratification progress

The remaining Contracting Parties (Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland) are invited to inform on the national progress in ratification of the IMO Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the final report of the HELCOM MARITIME ad hoc Correspondence Group on Ballast Water Management and consider to re-establish an ad hoc Correspondence Group on Ballast Water Management (document 3-2).

The Meeting is invited to identify remaining regional tasks in preparing for the entry into force of the BWM Convention (c.f. Paras 3.4 and 3.13 of MARITIME 14-2014 Outcome), based on a documents 3-3 and 3-4.

The Meeting is invited to consider the questionnaire and the initial list of the remaining actions needed for a Regional Baltic Sea plan for harmonized implementation and ratification for the 2004 BWMC and decide as appropriate (c.f. document 3-3).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the summary of the answers to the short questionnaire on the ratification and implementation status of the IMO Ballast Water Management Convention (2004) among the HELCOM Contracting Parties (c.f. document 3-4), i.a. when considering the initial list of the remaining actions in document 3-3.

Ballast water exchange guidance

The Meeting is invited to take note that an interim report of the ad hoc Correspondence Group on Ballast Water Management (CG BALLAST) was submitted to HOD 48-2015, and that the ad hoc Correspondence Group has come to an agreement on the interpretation of the IMO Resolution A.1088(28) and accordingly, no additional measures are needed in the Baltic Sea area before the D-2 regulations will be enforced and there is no need to establish ballast water exchange areas in the Baltic Sea (see also document 3-2).

The Meeting is invited to share experiences in following-up the IMO Voluntary Guidances (BWM.2 Cir. 14 2008, BWM.2 Cir. 22 2009 & BWM.2 Cir. 39 2012) on Ballast Water exchange developed within HELCOM MARITIME.

Regionally harmonised A-4 exemptions and related risk assessments

The Meeting is invited to take note that HELCOM HOD 48-2015 and OSPAR 2015 endorsed the revisions of the HELCOM-OSPAR Joint Harmonized Procedure for BWMC A-4 exemptions (including the port sampling protocol) based on a proposal and drafting by TG BALLAST 5-2014 (document 3-1).

The Meeting is invited to take note that a revised list of Baltic Sea target species drafted intersessionally within the BALSAM project and the intersessional Correspondence Group (CG BALLAST) (document 3-1-Add.1) was submitted to HOD 48-2015 and has since been uploaded to the joint HELCOM-OSPAR A-4 exemption website/tool (c.f. HOD 48-2015, [document 3-20](#)).

The Meeting is invited to take note that a HELCOM Workshop on target species and their criteria (Tallinn, Estonia, 26 August 2015) discussed further proposals for revisions which were submitted to TG BALLAST 6-2015 and will be considered during the next meeting of the TG (c.f. document 2-5).

Other BWM related activities

The Contracting Parties are invited to inform on any other activities to facilitate the implementation of the BWM Convention.

Agenda Item 4 Airborne emissions from ships and related measures

Airborne emissions from ships-General

The Meeting is invited to consider the report on emissions from Baltic Sea shipping in 2014 (document 4-4).

The Meeting is invited to take note of oral information from the Secretariat on the nutrient pollution Country Allocated Reduction Target (CART) follow-up system, including airborne pollution from ships.

The Contracting Parties are invited to share any developments in the field of economic incentives introduced to reduce airborne emissions from ships.

Alternative Fuels and Green Technology

The Meeting is invited to take note of the work by the sub-group under the Maritime Working Group to enhance the co-operation between the public and private stakeholders in the framework of the “Green Technology and Alternative Fuels Platform for Shipping”, including the results of the replies to the questionnaire on Public & Private Cooperation for Sustainable Baltic Sea Shipping (document 4-3).

The Contracting Parties are invited to share information on any other relevant developments in the use of alternative fuels for ships in the Baltic Sea region, including the development of port infrastructure.

SECA

The Meeting is invited to consider information on the work of the HELCOM Correspondence Group concerning enforcement of the new limits for SO_x emissions entering into force in the Baltic Sea from 1 January 2015 (CG SECA), including preliminary results regarding scrubbing technology and associated legislation (i.a. national practices regarding releases of scrubber water) (document 4-2).

The Contracting Parties are invited to submit information on ongoing regional projects on SECA enforcement.

Denmark is invited to inform about the ongoing Sulphur Enforcement Information Campaign.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the ECSA request to Baltic States for long term position in regard of scrubber wash water to define a clear and long term position in regard of scrubber wash water (document 6-2).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the CLIA Paper on Operation of Exhaust Gas Cleaning Systems (EGCS) in Open Loop Mode in EU Waters (document 4-5).

NECA

The Meeting is invited to recall that a technical meeting to discuss the roadmap for the North Sea NECA and Baltic Sea NECA was held on 30 June 2015, in Helsinki, Finland. The Meeting is invited to take note of the Minutes of the technical meeting (document 4-6).

Following a proposal by the North Sea countries, the Meeting is invited to consider, discuss and agree on the roadmap for designating a NO_x emission control area (NECA) in the Baltic Sea in parallel with the North Sea, including the date of submission of the parallel applications to the IMO and the date of compliance for new ships in both NECAs, based on document 4-1.

Agenda Item 5 Sewage discharges from ships and port reception facilities

MARPOL Annex IV Special Area process

The Meeting is invited to recall that an agreement regarding joint notification of the adequacy of port reception facilities for sewage by all Baltic Sea countries to IMO MEPC 68 was not reached at HELCOM 36-2015, that eight of the nine Contracting Parties submitted such notifications to MEPC 68 and that MEPC 68 confirmed that it had agreed on the definition of the applicable area and on the sufficiency of the received notifications of that area, whereas the legal implications would be further considered at MEPC 69, following submission of proposals for amendments to MARPOL Annex IV (c.f. Report of MEPC 68, §§ 10.14-10.23).

Developments in on-board sewage treatment technology

The Meeting is invited to share any new information and experience on on-board sewage treatment equipment meeting the MARPOL Annex IV Special Area standards.

The Meeting is invited to share information on the nutrient reduction capacity of the sewage treatment equipment in use by the cruise ships operating in the Baltic Sea.

Port reception

The Meeting is invited to take note of the updated edition of the HELCOM Overview on Baltic Sea Sewage Port Reception Facilities 2014 released in March 2015 (document 5-1).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information by CLIA on a comparative study on landside and shipboard sewage (document 5-3).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the study by NIRAS Sweden AB concerning quality of sewage from passenger ships (document 5-4).

Work within the PRF Cooperation Platform

The Meeting is invited to consider and revise the work plan of the HELCOM Cooperation Platform on Port Reception Facilities (PRF) (document 5-2).

Agenda Item 6 Other ship-generated wastes and port reception facilities (including marine litter)

The Meeting is invited to take note of the newly adopted [HELCOM Recommendation 36/1](#) on Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP ML), as well as of the Annex with regional actions and voluntary national actions as part of the Recommendation, endorsed by HOD 48-2015 (document 6-1).

The Meeting is invited to share any new information on implementation of the "no-special-fee" system in the Baltic Sea.

The European Union might wish to submit additional information on the evaluation of the Directive 2000/59/EC on port reception facilities and the Questionnaires distributed among the EU Member States (c.f. Para 6.5 of MARITIME 14-2014 Outcome).

The Contracting Parties are invited to inform on providing reception facilities for bulk ship cargo hold washwaters (c.f. Para 6.6 of MARITIME 14-2014 Outcome).

Agenda Item 7 Anti-fouling systems

The Meeting is invited to recall that Finland was invited to present information on a dedicated hull cleaning equipment, reducing the need of AFS, used on board passenger ferries in Finland (c.f. Para 7.1 of MARITIME 14-2014 Outcome) and take note of the preliminary results from an environment friendly cleaning system to remove biofouling organisms from underwater ship hull surfaces (document 7-1), submitted by Finland.

The Meeting is invited to share any new information on anti-fouling systems relevant to the Baltic Sea area.

Agenda Item 8 Detection, investigation and prosecution of offenders of anti-pollution regulations

The Meeting is invited to take note of the HELCOM report on illegal discharges observed during aerial surveillance in 2014 (document 8-2).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the report of the Bonn Agreement Seminar on Remote Sensing, Legal Regulation and Initiating Proceedings (document 8-1).

The Meeting is invited to consider and discuss the draft revised version of HELCOM Recommendation 19/14 "A harmonized system of fines in case a ship violates anti-pollution regulations" submitted by Denmark (document 8-3) and to decide as appropriate.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the work of the Correspondence Group on Ship-to-Ship and Bunkering Transfer Operations established by MARITIME 14-2014 and to consider the revision of HELCOM

Recommendation 28/3 on bunkering operations and ship-to-ship cargo transfer of oils in the Baltic Sea Area (c.f. document 8-4).

Agenda Item 9 Safety of navigation and related matters

Accidents in the Baltic Sea

The Meeting is invited to take note that the HELCOM report on shipping accidents during 2014 in the Baltic Sea region will be completed intersessionally and not submitted to the MARITIME 15 Meeting.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the proposal for a tool for regular Baltic Sea-wide risk assessments on ship traffic (document 9-4).

Under Keel Clearance

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information directed for mariners on under keel clearance (UKC) (document 9-1) and endorse the proposal to publish the UKC information material as a separate section in the “safety of navigation” chapter of the Clean Seas Guide (c.f. 10-1).

Routeing measures

The Meeting is invited to share information on plans for new, and operation of existing routeing measures for ships in the Baltic Sea region.

Re-surveys

Sweden is invited to provide information on the FAMOS project– Finalising Surveys for the Baltic Motorways of the Sea (c.f. Para 9.8 of MARITIME 14-2014 Outcome).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information on the status report of HELCOM-BSHC Baltic Sea Re-survey Scheme (document 9-5-Rev.1).

E-navigation

The Meeting is invited to share new developments in the field of e-navigation.

Ice navigation

The Meeting is invited to take note that HELCOM 36-2015 adopted the revised [HELCOM Recommendation 25/7](#) on Safety of Winter Navigation in the Baltic Sea area, with the new Annex on Approximate correspondence between Ice Classes, published on the HELCOM website.

The Meeting is invited to consider the proposed amendments to the Annex on Approximate correspondence between Ice Classes of the Finnish-Swedish Ice Class Rules (Baltic Ice Classes) and the Ice Classes of other Classification Societies of the Attachment of HELCOM Recommendation 25/7 (document 9-3).

Dredging

The Meeting is invited to take note that HELCOM 36-2015 adopted [HELCOM Recommendation 36/2](#) on Management of Dredged Material (superseding HELCOM Recommendation 13/1) as well as adopted the revised [HELCOM Guidelines for Management of Dredged Material at Sea](#).

Submerged hazardous objects

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information on the HELCOM SUBMERGED Assessment (document 9-2).

Agenda Item 10 HELCOM publications, implementation and reporting

The Meeting is invited to consider the drafting of the HELCOM Assessment on Maritime Activities in the Baltic Sea region to be completed by 2016 (document 10-2).

The Meeting is invited to consider and approve for publishing an updated version of the HELCOM Clean Seas Guide (document 10-1).

The Meeting is invited to submit proposals for prioritized revisions, and proposals for obsolete HELCOM MARITIME and RESPONSE related Recommendations, based on document 10-3.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the publishing of the HELCOM Activities report 2014 ([BSEP No. 146](#)).

Agenda Item 11 Activities within other organizations and initiatives

The Meeting is invited to discuss any other matters related to discussions in international fora such as IMO, IHO and IALA.

EU activities

The European Commission is invited to inform on EU activities and co-operation within the field of clean shipping.

Denmark and Finland are invited to inform on the work within the Priority Area (PA) on Maritime Safety and Security (SAFE) of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. Denmark is also invited to inform on the work within the PA on Clean Shipping (SHIP), including on a Steering Committee meeting of PA SHIP likely to be held back-to-back with MARITIME 15-2015.

Boat recycling and disposal

The Meeting is invited to take note of the draft EBA Statement on End of Life Boats (document 11-1-Rev.1).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information on a Swedish nationwide recycling system for end of life boats (document 11-2).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information by WWF on a Sustainable Blue Economy in the Baltic Sea Region (document 11-3).

The Meeting is invited to consider and update a preliminary list of HELCOM and other meetings in 2015-2016 of relevance to HELCOM MARITIME (document 11-4).

Agenda Item 12 Any other business

The Delegations and Observers are invited to update the list of contact addresses and observers of HELCOM MARITIME (document 12-1).

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

Agenda Item 13 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

HELCOM MARITIME 13-2013 elected Ms. Anna Petersson, Sweden, as the Chair and re-elected Mr. Jorma Kämäräinen, Finland, and Ms. Natalia Kutaeva, Russia, as Vice-Chairs of the HELCOM Maritime Group for the two-year period 2014-2015.

The Meeting is invited to elect/re-elect the Chair and Vice-Chairs of HELCOM MARITIME for the next two-year period (2016-2017).

Agenda Item 14 Future work and meetings

The Meeting is invited to consider and update the Work Plan for HELCOM MARITIME 2014-2016 (document 14-1).

The Meeting is invited to agree on the date and venue of the next HELCOM MARITIME meeting (MARITIME 16-2016). The Meeting is also invited to consider the date and venue of MARITIME 17-2017.

Agenda Item 15 Outcome of the Meeting

The Meeting will be provided with draft Outcome of the Meeting for adoption. The final Outcome, incorporating corrections by the Meeting, will be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Meeting and made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal.