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<b>Document title</b>	Information on the outcomes of recent HELCOM meetings
<b>Code</b>	2-5
<b>Category</b>	INF
<b>Agenda Item</b>	2 – Matters arising from HELCOM meetings
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## Background

Information on the outcomes of the following meetings within the framework of HELCOM held in the intersessional period is available in the [HELCOM Meeting Portal](#):

- 36th Meeting of the Helsinki Commission ([HELCOM 36-2015](#)), Helsinki, Finland, 3-4 March 2015,
- 47th Meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation ([HOD 47-2014](#)), Helsinki, Finland, 9-10 December 2014,
- 48th Meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation ([HOD 48-2015](#)), Tallinn, Estonia, 10-11 June 2015,
- Fifth Meeting of the HELCOM Group of Experts on Safety of Navigation ([SAFE NAV 5-2014](#)), Copenhagen, Denmark, 3 December 2014,
- Sixth Meeting of the HELCOM Group of Experts on Safety of Navigation ([SAFE NAV 6-2015](#)), Stockholm-Arlanda, Sweden, 1 October 2015,
- 26th Meeting of the Expert Working Group for Mutual Exchange and Deliveries of AIS & Data ([AIS EWG 26-2015](#)), Gdynia, Poland, 19-20 May 2015,
- Fifth Meeting of the Joint HELCOM-OSPAR Task Group on Ballast Water Management Convention Exemptions ([HELCOM-OSPAR TG BALLAST 5-2014](#)), Madrid, Spain, 1-2 December 2014,
- HELCOM Workshop on IMO BWMC target species, criteria and revision process ([HELCOM WS TS 1-2015](#)) Tallinn, Estonia, 26 August 2015
- Sixth Meeting of the Joint HELCOM-OSPAR Task Group on Ballast Water Management Convention Exemptions ([HELCOM-OSPAR TG BALLAST 6-2015](#)), Gdansk, Poland, 16-17 September 2015,
- 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the HELCOM Response Group ([RESPONSE 19-2014](#)), Tallinn, Estonia, 25-27 November 2014,
- 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the HELCOM Response Group ([RESPONSE 20-2015](#)), Brussels, Belgium, 1-3 June 2015,
- Tenth Meeting of the Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group ([HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 10-2015](#)), Gothenburg, Sweden, 29-30 January 2015,
- Eleventh Meeting of the Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group ([HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 11-2015](#)), Riga, Latvia, 30 September – 1 October 2015.

## Action required

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcomes and to discuss issues of relevance to HELCOM MARITIME under relevant Agenda Items.

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## [RESPONSE 19-2014 \(November 2014\)](#)

### [Updating of HELCOM MARITIME & RESPONSE Recs.](#)

(...)

2.8 The Meeting took note that HELCOM MARITIME 14-2014 initiated a review process of outdated MARITIME and RESPONSE related HELCOM Recommendations based on preferences of the Contracting Parties. The Contracting Parties are requested to reply to a survey on the revision needs, circulated to RESPONSE contacts on 25 November 2014, by 13 December 2014.

2.9 The Meeting took note that the ice class correspondence table included as an annex to HELCOM Recommendation 25/7 on safety of winter navigation in the Baltic Sea Area has been updated by MARITIME, to cover amendments of ice class notations of classification societies since 2004, and that the corresponding revision of the Recommendation has been submitted to HELCOM HOD 47-2014 and is expected to be submitted to HELCOM 36-2015 (March 2015) for adoption.

(...)

### [Accident reports](#)

(...)

3.1 The Meeting took note of the HELCOM annual report on shipping accidents in the Baltic Sea area in 2012 (document 3-1) as well as the presentation by the Secretariat on the report on shipping accidents in 2013 (document 3-2, Presentation 1), which was approved for publishing on the HELCOM web page by MARITIME 14-2014 (4-6 November 2014).

3.2 The Meeting took note of the suggestion raised by EWG SHORE 9-2014 to expand the chapter on pollution accidents and also include response measures.

3.3 The Meeting noted that the HELCOM SAFE NAV sub-group has the expertise to consider in general the reasons behind the patterns in the annual accident data, as well as issues like the comparability of the data over time and across other accident datasets. The Meeting requested the MARITIME and SAFE NAV to consider reflecting on the contents of the accident report.

3.4 The Meeting noted that currently the HELCOM accident report is clearly a compilation of statistics focusing on the safety of navigation, but that it could be developed to provide more material also on the follow-up of accidents (response operations), both at sea as well as on the shore.

3.5 The Meeting noted that the reporting format, to be found on the last pages of the accident report (see Annex 1, document 3-2), includes a request to provide information on response actions/consequences of the reported accidents but that this information is rarely submitted by the countries. The Meeting requested the Contracting Parties to submit this information on response actions when reporting accidents to the HELCOM Secretariat.

3.6 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to consider adding a new chapter to the HELCOM accident report, containing information on response measures related to accidents.

3.7 The Meeting requested further that RESPONSE will be involved in finalising such a new chapter on response measures in the report.

3.8 The Meeting noted the comment by EMSA that the results of the BRISK project are divided into a large number of reports, and that it is difficult to find the concrete conclusions in terms of recommended measures.

3.9 The Meeting noted that recently implemented preparedness measures as well as recent changes in traffic and accident patterns might benefit of a new regional risk assessment initiative comparable to BRISK and that a focused project submitted to e.g. the DG ECHO call could be one way to address the issue.

(...)

### Places of Refuge

(...)

5.15 The Meeting was informed by EMSA that the Correspondence Group on Places of Refuge has finalised the work of drafting EU Operational Guidelines on Places of Refuge. The final draft of the Guidelines was sent to the European Commission and Member States in October 2014 for review. A meeting of the Cooperation Group on Places of Refuge consisting of the European Commission and all Member States is planned for end of 2014/beginning 2015. It is also envisaged to have consultation with other stakeholders, e.g. the industry. The Guidelines are expected to be adopted in the course of 2015.

5.16 The Meeting invited EMSA to present the key points of the Guidance to the Response Group after adoption.

5.17 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to circulate the list of contacts for the HELCOM correspondence group on place of refuge for information to the Contracting Parties.

(...)

### STS transfers

(...)

9.1 The Meeting considered the information on bunkering operations and ship-to-ship cargo transfer as contained in document 9-1 and noted that Estonia did not reply to the questionnaire as it was apparently focused on ship-to-ship cargo transfers and as only bunkering operations take place in Estonian waters.

9.2 The Meeting welcomed the establishment the Correspondence Group on Ship-to-Ship and Bunkering Transfer Operations, took note of the Terms of Reference for the Group as contained in document 9.1-Add.1 and requested the Contracting Parties to send information on nominations for the Group to Finland (anita.makinen@trafi.fi) and Secretariat ([hermanni.backer@helcom.fi](mailto:hermanni.backer@helcom.fi)). The Meeting requested the Correspondence Group to report to RESPONSE 20-2015.

9.3 The Meeting took note of the results of the questionnaire for sanctions on violations (document 9-2) and that HELCOM Recommendation 19/14 on a harmonized system of fines in case a ship violates anti-pollution regulations will be revised under the lead of Denmark as decided by MARITIME 14-2014, and requested the interested Contracting Parties to contact Denmark (sipra@nst.dk) and Secretariat ([hermanni.backer@helcom.fi](mailto:hermanni.backer@helcom.fi)).

9.4 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the meeting of the Network of Prosecutors on Environmental Crime in the Baltic Sea Region – ENPRO, which took place in Riga, Latvia, on 4-5 September 2014, and that Mr. Ojars Gerke, Latvia, represented HELCOM at the event.

9.5 The Meeting highlighted the importance for a close cooperation with ENPRO during updating of the Recommendation 19/14 and requested Denmark and the Secretariat to consult ENPRO as appropriate.

(...)

## POLREP Message Exchange on incidents

(...)

10.16. The Meeting considered the draft for a new HELCOM Recommendation on marine pollution incident reporting and requests for assistance between Contracting Parties in the Baltic Sea area as a result of the considerations of TG POLREP on modernizing exchange of HELCOM POLREP messages on incident reporting and request for assistance (document 10-1).

10.17. The Meeting highlighted that it is a shared responsibility of the Contracting Parties to ensure efficient two-way communication channels between all coastal countries and the EU in order to enable regional marine pollution incident reporting and requests for assistance, with a minimum delay.

10.18. The Meeting recalled that according to the Helsinki Convention Article 13, whenever a pollution incident in the territory of a Contracting Party is likely to cause pollution to the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area outside its territory and adjacent maritime area in which it exercises sovereign rights and jurisdiction according to international law, this Contracting Party shall notify without delay such Contracting Parties whose interests are affected or likely to be affected.

10.19. The Meeting recalled that this and other related rules of the Helsinki Convention (Article 14, Annex VII) are, besides international law, also part of the EU aquis as the 1992 Helsinki Convention is a treaty which has been ratified by the EU.

10.20. The Meeting took note that the POLREP Recommendation included in document 10-1 is on the agenda of HOD 47-2014 and will be presented to the Contracting Parties in connection to the RESPONSE 19-2014 outcome.

10.21. The Meeting highlighted that a Russian Federation position on the preferred communication channel for POLREP BALTIC messages, as included in the draft Recommendation, would be crucial for any further progress.

10.22. The Meeting took note that the Secretariat has been in contact with national RESPONSE contacts of the Russian Federation who have indicated they will consider RESPONSE 19-2014 outcome and come back at HOD 47-2014.

10.23. The Meeting welcomed the offer by EU to send an illustration of the information flows between CECIS and SSN concerning POLREP messages to be added to the draft recommendation as an appendix.

10.24. The Meeting did not have any comments to the text of the draft recommendation as included in document 10-1, and agreed to forward it to the HOD 47-2014 for Russian comments, amendments and if possible, adoption.

(...)

## Election of new RESPONSE Chairs -2016

(...)

13.1 The Meeting elected Ms. Heli Haapasaari, Finland, as the Chair and Ms. Sonja Dobo, Sweden, and Mr. Ojars Gerke, Latvia, as the Vice-Chairs of the Response Working Group for the next two years (2015-2016).

(...)

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## HELCOM-OSPAR TG BALLAST 5-2014 (December 2014)

(...)

### HELCOM/OSPAR Joint Harmonised Procedure Revision (BWMC A-4)

2.6 The Meeting agreed on a final draft of the Joint Harmonised Procedure main text, as included in Annex 3 to forward to OSPAR EIHA and HELCOM MARITIME for approval, following a further round of consultation by the Joint Task Group to be completed by 19 December.

(...)

## SAFE NAV 5-2014 (December 2014)

### Accident reports

(...)

3.1 The Meeting took note of the HELCOM Report on shipping accidents in the Baltic Sea in 2012 (document 3-1).

3.2 The Meeting took note and considered the contents of the draft annual report on shipping accidents in the Baltic Sea area in 2013 (document 3-2).

3.3 The Meeting found the reports important and agreed that the next meeting could provide input to the content (e.g. general comments on the statistics) before approval by HELCOM MARITIME in November 2015.

3.4 The Meeting considered further development of the HELCOM accident reports and agreed on the procedure to gather information for the 2014 report as a response to a questionnaire to be circulated by the Secretariat during spring 2015.

(...)

### Under Keel Clearance

(...)

4.1 The Meeting considered the draft for a new HELCOM Recommendation on Under Keel Clearance in the Baltic Sea region (document 4-1-Rev.1).

4.2 The Meeting agreed that the document should not at this stage be a formal HELCOM Recommendation, but more an information publication, comparable to HELCOM Clean Seas Guide series.

4.3 The Meeting noted that there are examples of groundings caused by missing under keel clearance calculations, outside the Baltic Sea.

4.4 The Meeting noted that the topic of UKC is poorly covered in literature easily accessible for mariners.

4.5 The Meeting agreed to that the HELCOM UKC document should at this stage concentrate on providing information only (not regulatory) and focus on information directed for mariners.

4.6 The Meeting redrafted the document as included in Annex 2.

4.7 The Meeting agreed to continue work intersessionally under the lead of Finland, and that a final document should be completed by the group in June 2015 and be available on the HELCOM website by the end of August 2015. The final approval by HELCOM MARITIME Working Group will be done by correspondence.

4.8 The Meeting took note that Denmark and the Secretariat will investigate if the material could be combined by routeing related material, currently included in the Clean Seas Guide.

(...)

### **HOD 47-2014 (December 2014)**

(...)

3.1 The Meeting took note of the outcome of MARITIME 14-2014 (Riga, Latvia, 4-6 November 2014) (doc. 3-6) in general and furthermore:

- agreed to support with a letter the application of the FAMOS project “Finalising Surveys for the Baltic Motorways of the Sea” for funding within EU CEF Transport;
- approved organizing MARITIME 15-2015 on 23-25 November 2015 in Lithuania.

(...)

### **NECA**

(...)

3.2 The Meeting agreed that a draft roadmap regarding the future work on the Baltic Sea NECA application should be developed and welcomed the offer by Denmark to lead the work.

3.3 The Meeting requested Denmark to start the work on the draft roadmap as soon as possible and as a first step propose a timetable for the work to be consulted via correspondence, and report on the progress to HELCOM 36-2015.

3.4 The Meeting supported that a dialogue meeting on a NOx ECA between the Baltic Sea and North Sea countries should be organised during 2015 as a part of the draft roadmap process, and that it could also consider the experiences from the North American MARPOL Annex VI ECA.

(...)

### **MARPOL VI and Helsinki Convention**

(...)

3.5 The Meeting recalled the views expressed at MARITIME 14-2014 that the German interpretation of the revised Annex VI of the MARPOL Convention is that it supersedes the rules of the Helsinki Convention (Annex IV, Regulation 7) regarding incineration on board ships, while the interpretation of Sweden and Finland is that they consider Article 10 (Prohibition of incineration) and Annex IV, Regulation 7 of the Helsinki Convention valid despite the revision of Annex VI of the MARPOL Convention.

(...)

### **Green technology & Alternative fuels**

(...)

3.6 The Meeting decided to establish a targeted 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” (doc. 3-3) to be led by Sweden and Finland and approved the Draft Terms of Reference for the sub-group as amended in the Meeting and as contained in Annex 3.

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## Rec. 25/7 winter navigation

(...)

3.7 The Meeting endorsed the revised HELCOM Recommendation 25/7 “Safety of winter navigation in the Baltic Sea Area” (doc. 3-7) and decided to submit the revised Recommendation to HELCOM 36-2015 for adoption.

(...)

## MARPOL IV sewage

(...)

3.8 The Meeting considered the Interim report from the Correspondence Group concerning effective dates of the Special Area requirements under Annex IV of MARPOL (doc. 3-20-Rev.1) and recalled the discussion on the notification on the adequacy of the sewage Port Reception Facilities (PRF) in the Baltic Sea.

3.9 The Meeting noted the good progress made to address sewage from passenger ships and highlighted that the remaining issue at IMO for the Baltic Sea special area under MARPOL Annex IV to take effect is the receipt of sufficient notifications on the availability of adequate reception facilities from Parties to MARPOL Annex IV whose coastlines border the relevant special area.

3.10 The Meeting took note of the awareness of the Russian Federation regarding the two to three-fold increase in load for reception facilities, the lack of information from shipping companies’ policy, whether they have plans in place to install new or upgrade existing sewage treatment plans on their passenger ships. The Russian Federation stressed that adequate port reception facilities for sewage could not be considered separately from the shipping activities in the area.

3.11 The Meeting recalled the information provided by Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Sweden during MARITIME 14-2014 that their sewage port reception facilities in the Baltic Sea are adequate. The Meeting welcomed updates from Germany and Poland on their deliberations including the issue of adequacy of the sewage port reception facilities in their Baltic Sea ports.

3.12 The Meeting recalled that the 2014 HELCOM Overview on Sewage Port Reception Facilities in the Baltic Sea Region will be circulated on 16 December 2014 for a second round of commenting and will be finalized by the end of January 2015.

3.13 The Meeting welcomed the information that the Port of Stockholm is finalizing a report on sewage quality to be available by the end of 2014 and that it will be made available in English to interested countries, observers and the wider public.

3.14 The Meeting took note that the information from the Port of Stockholm is crucial for the further work plan in Poland to finish the technical part.

3.15 The Meeting recalled that there is no requirement to propose dates for IMO regarding the enforcement of MARPOL Annex IV, as IMO will make the decision on the effective dates. However, the Meeting recalled further that effective dates can be proposed to IMO if the coastal countries so wish. The Meeting recommended that countries who have not done so are invited to consider proposing effective dates to be inserted in a future notification to IMO.

3.16 The Meeting took note that with regard to the effective dates the Russian Federation raised the concern that provisions of MARPOL Annex IV do not provide the Parties the possibility to indicate the date of entry into force of the status of “special area” besides the notification about the adequacy of the port reception facilities in the area.

3.17 The Meeting took note that Germany does its best to have a position regarding an effective date by mid-January 2015.

3.18 The Meeting agreed to come back to the adequacy of PRF notification via correspondence, namely after the receiving the final report of the Correspondence Group on addressing the effective dates for the special area regulations under Annex IV of MARPOL, established by MARITIME 14-2014, by 15 January 2015, and finalize evaluating it by 31 January 2015.

3.19 The Meeting noted that notifications regarding availability of adequate port reception facilities can also be submitted to IMO MEPC 68 individually by the countries.

(...)

#### RESPONSE overall work and new Chairs

(...)

3.20 The Meeting took note of the outcome of RESPONSE 19-2014 (Tallinn, Estonia, 25-27 November 2014) (doc. 23) presented by Ms. Heli Haapasaari, incoming Chair of the Response WG, both in general, and particularly:

- congratulated Ms. Heli Haapasaari, Finland, and Ms. Sonja Dobo, Sweden, and Mr. Ojars Gerke, Latvia, for their election as Chair and the Vice-Chairs of the Group, respectively, for 2015-2016,
- supported CHEMARE project application, the use of the Response group as the reference group of the planned project and approved HELCOM participation in the project, i.a., to support the revision of HELCOM Response Manual Volume 2,
- welcomed the offer by Finland to lead intersessional consultations on national calculations of response capacity and to organize a HELCOM workshop, if considered needed, on risk evaluations and related capacity calculations before RESPONSE 20-2015,
- approved arranging the next meeting of the Response Working Group (RESPONSE 20-2015) on 1-3 June 2015 in Brussels, Belgium.

The Meeting thanked Mr. Bernt Stedt for his valuable work in chairing the Response Working Group during the years 2011-2014 as well as Mr. Kalervo Jolma and Mr. Marek Reszko for their long-term work for the Group acting as the Vice-Chairs for the Group during the years 2009-2014 and 2002-2014, respectively.

(...)

#### Assessment of hazardous submerged objects

(...)

3.21 The Meeting urged all Contracting Parties to participate in the work of HELCOM SUBMERGED and recalled that the next meeting to take place in Bonn, Germany was originally planned for 17-19 March 2015 but the dates will now be revisited upon request of one of the Contracting Parties.

#### POLREP Message Exchange on incidents

3.22 The Meeting considered the draft HELCOM Recommendation on marine pollution incident reporting and requests for assistance between Contracting Parties in the Baltic Sea area (doc. 3-2) and took note of the additional background to the draft Recommendation provided in the presentation by the Response Chair (Presentation 1).

3.23 The Meeting agreed that HELCOM should use e-mails instead of fax in communication of POLREP BALTIC messages between Contracting Parties.

3.24 The Meeting took note of the position by Russia that the regional HELCOM communication channels should be maintained, but modern technological solutions could replace the existing basic system. The Meeting agreed that in order to move forward:

- the Response Chair will lead the work in the HELCOM TG POLREP on drafting the Recommendation on marine pollution incident reporting,
- Russian Federation will provide the Chair with initial input in writing on their preferred solution regarding the exchange of POLREP BALTIC messages and to the text of the draft Recommendation by the end of January 2015,
- a new draft should be available by HELCOM 36-2015,
- all Contracting Parties are invited to contribute to the work.

### Seatrack Web (STW)

3.25 The Meeting highlighted that the Seatrack Web (STW) has been a central tool for the regional HELCOM cooperation on spill response for three decades and agreed that it should be considered as the official HELCOM spill modelling tool.

3.26 The Meeting requested that a proposal on financing STW is prepared by the host country Sweden in cooperation with the Secretariat to HELCOM 36-2015.

### Aerial Surveillance

3.27 The Meeting considered the draft revised HELCOM Recommendation 34E/4 “Airborne surveillance with remote sensing equipment in the Baltic Sea area” (doc. 3-22) and decided to forward it to HELCOM 36-2015 for adoption pending the study reservations by Estonia and Russian Federation, to be clarified by 6 February 2014.

(...)

## HELCOM 36-2015 (March 2015)

### Rec. 25/7 winter navigation

(...)

2.29 The Meeting considered the revised HELCOM Recommendation 25/7 on Safety of winter navigation in the Baltic Sea Area (document 2-1) and adopted it as revised HELCOM Recommendation 25/7, as contained in Annex 5 to this Outcome.

### Ballast Water including target species

2.30 The Meeting took note of the report by the Chair of the Correspondence Group on Ballast Water, Ms. Anita Mäkinen, Finland, on the ongoing work within CG BALLAST including that a conclusion had not yet been reached on the target species list or ballast water exchange areas in the Baltic Sea.

2.31 The Meeting agreed to extend the mandate of the CG to continue working according to its Terms of Reference until MARITIME 15-2015 (November 2015), including to organize a meeting during spring 2015 in order to solve the open issues related to the Baltic Sea target species list.

2.32 The Meeting encouraged all Contracting Parties to provide the necessary expertise to the work of the CG and welcomed the information from Estonia that they will join the group. The Meeting also agreed that the HELCOM State & Conservation Group should be consulted in this overall process.

2.33 The Meeting thanked Mr. Manfred Rolke, Germany, Co-Chair of HELCOM/OSPAR TG BALLAST, who will retire from his work at the BSH this spring, for his longstanding work for a number of HELCOM

processes, beginning with revision of the COMBINE monitoring programme during 1990s and lately with regional Ballast Water Management exemptions.

### MARPOL IV sewage

2.34 The Meeting took note of the information by the Chair of HELCOM, who recalled the process to notify IMO on the adequacy of sewage Port Reception Facilities in the Baltic Sea to enable MARPOL Annex IV special area in the Baltic Sea to take effect (Annex 6 to this Outcome). The Heads of Delegations considered this issue during two working sessions in the course of this Meeting.

2.35 The Chair further recalled that the submission deadline to IMO MEPC 68 (non-bulky documents) is Friday 6 March 2015 and that for the moment it seems to be difficult to reach an agreement regarding joint notification to IMO MEPC 68. He noted that discussions and negotiations will continue in the context of the IMO framework, and HELCOM will naturally follow these developments and HELCOM will also continue the technical cooperation within the Port Reception Facilities (PRF) Cooperation Platform on sewage delivery between the administrations, industry stakeholders and the civil society.

2.36 The Meeting took note that Sweden is prepared to lead the process of drafting and finalizing of the notification to MEPC 68 with the interested Contracting Parties.

2.37 The Meeting took note that Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden confirmed the position that they are ready to co-sponsor the notification being prepared by Sweden.

2.38 The Meeting took note of the statement of the Russian Federation that regretted that the Contacting Parties to the Helsinki Convention can't reach a consensus. The Russian Federation has once more informed about the adequate sewage reception facilities in its ports in the Baltic Sea area. The Russian Federation mentioned that it is paramount to be aware of the shipping companies' policy regarding the implementation of more stringent standards for sewage treatment, whether they have plans in place to install new or upgrade existing sewage treatment plants on their passenger ships. The Russian Federation urged the necessity to conduct a complex economic assessment of the consequences emanating from the more stringent standards for sewage treatment on board passenger ships, including the relevant costs incurred both by ports and shipping companies. In this connection the Russian Federation has the opinion that it is premature to make a joint submission to MEPC 68.

2.39 The Meeting took note of the statement of the European Union who noted for the record the following: "by virtue of existing EU legislation on port reception facilities (Directive 2000/59/EC) such a notification falls within exclusive EU competence and that, therefore, the proper EU internal procedures for such a submission should be respected". The EU called on EU Member States to ensure this in their subsequent activities concerning this notification.

2.40 The Meeting took note of the statement by the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) on implementation of IMO resolution MEPC.200 (62) on amendments to Annex IV (document 2-20).

(...)

### Seatrack Web (STW)

2.41 The Meeting agreed to give the Seatrack Web (STW) official status as HELCOM drift modeling tool for regional response.

2.42 The Meeting considered the proposed way to divide and cover the costs related to the STW maintenance as proposed by Sweden (document 2-4) and recalled that institutions in several Baltic Sea countries either pay for STW licenses or contribute to the STW development work.

2.43 The Meeting took note of the information by the EU that they are not in the position to provide a special contribution to the HELCOM budget to finance the STW.

2.44 The Meeting agreed, including upon request of Germany, to return to the issue of financing the maintenance of HELCOM STW at HOD 48-2015 and invited Sweden to amend the scheme for financing taking into account the discussion at the Meeting.

### Aerial Surveillance

2.45 The Meeting considered the draft revised HELCOM Recommendation 34E/4 "Airborne surveillance with remote sensing equipment in the Baltic Sea area" (document 2-7) and adopted it as revised HELCOM Recommendation 34E/4, as contained in Annex 7 to this Outcome.

### POLREP Message Exchange on incidents

2.46 The Meeting considered the draft HELCOM Recommendation on Marine pollution incident reporting and requests for assistance between Contracting Parties in the Baltic Sea area (document 2-8), and took note of the position of the Russian Federation that it is not possible to reject the existing HELCOM POLREP system and that a technical solution needs to be developed allowing to combine the European systems and the current HELCOM system.

2.47 The Meeting revised and adopted the draft Recommendation on Marine pollution incident reporting and requests for assistance between Contracting Parties in the Baltic Sea area (document 2-8-Rev.2) as HELCOM Recommendation 36/3, as contained in Annex 8 to this Outcome.

(...)

## AIS EWG 26-2015 (May 2015)

### AIS data analysis best practices

(...)

4.1 The Meeting took note of the presentation by the HELCOM Secretariat on the SCOPE project and the HELCOM Secretariat efforts to provide better AIS data products to the region via the project (Presentation 9).

4.2 The Meeting took note of the presentation by Sweden on best practices for AIS data analysis (Presentation 10).

4.3 The Meeting agreed that it is important to share best practices in data handling as well as definitions of certain AIS data products such as density plots and welcomed that the HELCOM Secretariat can take the lead and that Sweden can contribute to the work for a guidance on these issues, to be available for consideration by the next meeting of the EWG in 2016.

4.4 The Meeting noted that there is a difference between the density of fast ships and slow ships, as fast ships might involve higher risks.

### AIS databases harmonised data model

4.5 The Meeting took note of document 5-1 submitted by Finland, on the need to harmonise data model for historic data.

4.6 The Meeting noted that this idea of a data model for historic data is important and welcomed that Finland agreed to take the task to lead the correspondence and that Denmark, Poland and the Secretariat would be interested to contribute to the work, to be available for consideration by the next meeting of the EWG in 2016.

4.7 The Meeting noted that today something like this is in use in Poland for coastal waters where the three regional data loggers are connected machine-to-machine which could be seen as a kind of demo of the initiative.

### Rec. 33/1 AIS data access revision

4.8 The Meeting considered the revision of HELCOM Recommendation 33/1 (document 4-3) and agreed that Maritime Spatial Planning should be added to the list of legitimate uses, and that in general the conditions on data access could be relaxed a bit and welcomed that the Chair and Secretariat will develop a draft version for circulation and agreement by the AIS EWG by autumn 2015.

(...)

## **RESPONSE 20-2015 (June 2015)**

### BSAP Follow-up system

(...)

2.5 The Meeting considered the request from the Gear group to suggest how the response-related commitments in HELCOM (Helsinki Convention, Baltic Sea Action Plan, Ministerial Declarations and recommendations) can be followed up as part of the new HELCOM BSAP follow-up system (document 2-2) and noted that once the system is developed, a reporting by the Contracting Parties will be initiated in third quarter of 2015.

2.6 The Meeting established a drafting group to further review the commitments. The Meeting agreed, as a starting point, on the commitments to be followed up as contained in document 2-2-Rev.1, noting that some commitments, especially those emerging from HELCOM Recommendations, should be further developed by the Secretariat in consultation with the Group during summer-early autumn 2015.

2.7 The Meeting took note that the outcomes of RESPONSE WG and MARITIME WG related sub-groups will be considered under corresponding agenda items.

(...)

3.3 The Meeting took note of the HELCOM activities in the Baltic SCOPE project (Towards coherence and cross-border solutions in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans) in which HELCOM is participating as a partner (document 3-3). The project started in March 2016 and will go on until September 2016. As an outcome of the project and the HELCOM activities, AIS data products on maritime traffic will be developed, which will support regional work on preparedness and response.

3.8 The Meeting requested Finland to report to the next meeting of the Response Working Group on the activities related to ship-to-ship and bunkering activities and the Correspondence Group on Ship-to-Ship Operations under the Maritime Working Group led by Finland.

(...)

### Accident reports

(...)

4.2 The Meeting took note that all Contracting Parties have by end of April 2015 responded to the request circulated by the Secretariat (February 2015) on shipping accident data 2014. The HELCOM report will be compiled by the Secretariat during the summer. The maritime traffic part of the report will be revised as a result of the ongoing activities on AIS data (cf. paragraph 3.3). A final version of the report is expected in autumn 2015.

(...)

## Aerial surveillance

(...)

9.5 The Meeting took note of the report of the Seminar on Remote Sensing, Legal Regulation and Initiating Proceedings in Middelburg, which was held on 14-16 April 2015 in the Netherlands (document 9.1-3). The Meeting requested IWGAS to further look into the conclusions and recommendations and suggested to also circulate the report to MARITIME 15-2015 (23-25 November 2015).

9.6 The Meeting welcomed especially the initiative by the seminar to consider the establishment of the European waters as MARPOL Annex II Special Area and, recalled that the Baltic Sea used to be an Annex II Special Area but that the designation was revoked with the entry into force of the revised MARPOL Annex II in 1 January 2007.

9.7 The Meeting took note of the presentation by the Secretariat on the draft annual HELCOM report on discharges observed during aerial surveillance in the Baltic Sea 2014 (Presentation 3, document 9.1-2) and approved the report for publishing on the HELCOM web page with some minor corrections.

9.8 The Secretariat suggested that some further scientific analysis of the correlation between flight hours and detected spills could be made for the HELCOM Assessment on Maritime Activities, which is under development (cf. paragraph 14.1), and invited the Contracting Parties to consider providing input to the assessment on the issue.

(...)

## Places of Refuge

(...)

10.8 The Meeting took note of the list of members of the HELCOM Correspondence Group on Mutual Plan for Places of Refuge and the HELCOM Correspondence Group on Implementation of HELCOM Recommendation 31E/5 on Places of Refuge as requested to be circulated by RESPONSE 19-2014 (document 10.3-3).

10.9 The Meeting took note of non-mandatory operational guidelines on places of refuge, which have been developed by the 'Cooperation Group on Places of Refuge', comprising all Competent Authorities in the EU (document 10.3-1). The guidelines are being finalised and work is on-going in making the guidelines more user-friendly by the development of hyperlinked flowcharts. A table top exercise to 'test' the operational guidelines, assess outcomes and fine-tune as necessary is planned to take place in the course of 2015.

10.10 The Meeting took note that during spring 2015 EMSA has audited the status of the places of refuge in Finland and that the national plan for taking ships into places of refuge has been updated and sent to the EU for evaluation. Feedback is expected during the summer (document 10.3-2).

(...)

## POLREP Message Exchange on incidents

(...)

12.1 The Meeting took note of HELCOM Recommendation 36/3, which was adopted by HELCOM 36-2015 (document 12-1) and the fact that as a first step, appropriate steps are needed to migrate from use of telefax to e-mails, which involves checking email contacts in the HELCOM Response Manual Volume I.

12.2 The Meeting recalled the position of Russia at HELCOM 36-2015 that it is not possible to reject the existing HELCOM POLREP system and that a technical solution needs to be developed allowing to combine the European systems and the current HELCOM system.

12.3 The Meeting considered that the HELCOM system referred to in Recommendation 36/3 refers to agreed means of reliable two way communication for POLREP message exchange (until March 2015 telefax) covering all the of HELCOM Contracting Parties on an equal basis.

12.4 The Meeting took note that in the short term the region will likely remain to operate with two means of POLREP message exchange as long as Russia is not participating in the EU related networks Safe Sea Net (SSN) or the Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS) and as long as bridging technical solutions are not available.

12.5 The Meeting took note of the presentation by EMSA on the POLREP reporting via SSN (Presentation 6).

12.6 The Meeting took note that the SSN High Level Steering Group will on 5 June 2015 decide on a proposal to open up SSN POLREP message exchange also to non-EU countries, noted that this could provide one important tool in the efforts to combine EU and regional means of POLREP message exchange and called for the Contracting Parties to support the initiative at the meeting and requested the Secretariat to circulate the results of the discussion to the Contracting Parties.

12.7 The Meeting stressed that any technical means of implementing the Recommendation 36/3 requires resources and the involvement of the Russian Federation in more detailed discussions on their preferred technical solution is essential for meaningful progress.

12.8 The Meeting agreed to establish a correspondence group on technical solutions to implement Recommendation 36/3 under the chairmanship of Mr. Ojars Gerke, Latvian Coast Guard Service, with the terms of Reference as included in Annex 3.

12.9 The Meeting welcomed that the Secretariat can highlight the importance of the topic during HOD 48-2015, and that the Chair of the CG will consider and call for next steps in consultation with the Response Chair.

12.10 The Meeting agreed that June 2017 should be regarded as a deadline for a final proposal from the Correspondence Group and if no solution is proposed HELCOM POLREPS will be communicated through existing channels.

12.11 The Meeting agreed to contribute to the progress of adding an OWR related POLREP message explicitly to the SSN template by a letter from the Response Chair to the SSN High Level Steering Group in coordination with a similar letter to be issued by the OTSOPA chair shortly. The Meeting recalled that the OWR and other information is also possible to submit via the freetext message field.

12.12 The Meeting considered national contact information included in Chapter 1 of HELCOM Response Manual Volume I (document 12-2) and the updates provided by Finland (document 12-3). The Meeting stressed the importance to have the main alert contacts in Volume I up to date, and if possible also provide additional national level contacts for on-shore response and OWR, as well for aerial surveillance in Chapter 7. The Meeting requested the Contracting Parties to provide any outstanding updates on the alert information and web links to information on resources to the Secretariat (laura.meski@helcom.fi) by 15 June 2015.

(...)

## Maritime Assessment

(...)

14.1 The Meeting welcomed the ongoing process with drafting the HELCOM Assessment on Maritime Activities in the Baltic to be finalized by end of 2016 (document 14-2) as a product important for the work of the Response Working Group, noted that first drafts will be available by the MARITIME 15-2015

(23-25 November 2015), noted that the HELCOM Secretariat has recruited personnel capable of providing strong support for the process and requested the Contracting Parties interested in contributing to the assessment to get in touch with the Secretariat ([hermanni.backer@helcom.fi](mailto:hermanni.backer@helcom.fi)).(...)

## HOD 48-2015 (June 2015)

### Marine litter

(...)

3.1 The Meeting considered and endorsed the proposed Annex with regional actions and voluntary national actions as part of HELCOM Recommendation 36-1 “Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP ML)” (Attachment 1 of document 3-1), with the following amendments:

- in the first paragraph on page 3, to insert “Contracting Parties agreed to start implementation of actions....via a lead country/actor approach”;
- in the last paragraph on page 3, to remove the text in brackets and add the text “The action plan will be reviewed as necessary”;
- add to the action RL10 “taking into account the measures which are implemented nationally” as included in **Annex 2** to this Outcome.

3.2 The Meeting agreed on the reporting formats and definitions to the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (Attachment 2 of document 3-1).

3.3 The Meeting thanked Germany for leading, with the assistance of the Secretariat, the efforts to develop the Regional Action Plan.

3.4 The Meeting highlighted the importance of leadership in making the agreed actions operational and in implementation of the Annex in general, and

- welcomed that Sweden and Poland have already offered to lead actions RL7 and RS5, and RL8, respectively;
- welcomed the information by Poland and WWF Poland that they are ready to lead the action on retrieval of the ghost nets from the Baltic Sea;
- welcomed the offer by Estonia to consider how they could contribute to actions RL11 and RL14;
- took note of the information by Germany that they are not in the position to offer a lead for any specific activities at this moment in time, but Germany does its best to try providing general support for the implementation of the Action Plan;
- took note that Finland is still considering if they can offer the leadership for any of the actions;
- took note that Denmark will carry out national investigation regarding microplastics.

3.5 The Meeting encouraged the Contracting Parties to consider leading additional actions in the Annex and requested nomination of national contact points for different actions.

3.6 The Meeting emphasized the role of information exchange between OSPAR and HELCOM to coordinate activities on RAP ML implementation as well as took note of the information by EU regarding the relevant ongoing activities at the European level, including on microplastics.

3.7 The Meeting took note of the information by CCB on their activities related to marine litter.

3.8 The Meeting noted that PRESSURE 3-2015 is planned to devote part of its meeting to marine litter, among other topics, which will be an opportunity to look into the implementation plan for the RAP ML.

(...)

## Underwater Noise

(...)

3.44 The Meeting considered the proposed work plan on preparing a roadmap to building a knowledge base on underwater noise (doc. 3-6).

3.45 The Meeting took note of the information by Russia regarding consideration of the underwater noise issues by IMO, including adoption by MEPC 66 of non-mandatory voluntary guidelines to reduce noise from commercial shipping and that within IMO setting future targets for underwater sound levels emanating from ships was considered premature and difficult to evaluate at that time. The Meeting also took note of the information by Finland that in their view the Baltic Sea countries could in the future provide input to the IMO work through a joint regional approach.

3.46 The Meeting agreed on the work plan, however, decided that it should be amended so the focus should be given first to the work on monitoring, review of existing knowledge and investigating the significance of different sources of noise as well as HELCOM indicators, while the work on mitigation options and environmental targets should be started with preparing an overview of measures in IMO, OSPAR and other relevant forums. The Meeting 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.

3.47 The Meeting noted that for the time being the work on underwater noise will be carried out as a regular activity within working groups since no resources can be made available within the rejected Baltic BOOST application.

## Ballast Water including target species

3.80 The Meeting considered the revisions of the HELCOM-OSPAR Joint Harmonized Procedure for BWMC A-4 exemptions as carried out within the TG BALLAST (doc. 3-19) presented by the Secretariat.

3.81 The Meeting recalled that the HELCOM-OSPAR Joint Harmonized Procedure for BWMC A-4 exemptions (HELCOM-OSPAR JHP) was agreed by the nine Helsinki Convention Contracting Parties in 2013 at the Copenhagen Ministerial Meeting and that the fifteen OSPAR Convention Contracting Parties agreed on the same document at the 2013 OSPAR Commission Meeting. The HELCOM-OSPAR JHP adopted in 2013 included a risk assessment model (decision tree), common sampling procedure for alien species in ports, criteria for regional target species, an initial target species list, an administrative procedure for BWMC A-4 exemptions as well as an online database/decision support tool hosted by HELCOM and OSPAR.

3.82 The Meeting recalled also that the joint HELCOM-OSPAR document was revised during the last HELCOM-OSPAR TG BALLAST 5-2014 meeting (Madrid, December 2014), based on experiences within the Contracting Parties and projects such as BALSAM and HELCOM ALIENS 2 & 3.

3.83 The Meeting noted that the same document (3-19) has been submitted for adoption by the OSPAR Commission without amendments.

3.84 The Meeting endorsed the revisions of the HELCOM-OSPAR Joint Harmonized Procedure for BWMC A-4 exemptions (doc. 3-19).

3.85 The Meeting took note of the report of the HELCOM ad hoc Correspondence Group on Ballast Water Management (CG BALLAST) (doc. 3-30).

3.86 The Meeting took note 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.

- 3.87 The Meeting recalled that the initial list of the Baltic Sea target species for BWMC A-4 exemptions was adopted in 2013, that a draft revised list was provided under the lead of Finland according to the results TG BALLAST 5-2014 meeting in December 2014 and that after the HELCOM 36-2015 meeting the draft revised list was further amended within the Correspondence Group on Ballast Water Management (CG BALLAST).
- 3.88 The Meeting considered the current draft of the target species list as included in doc. 3-20.
- 3.89 The Meeting noted that Denmark, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Poland, Russian Federation and Sweden have expressed (in the CG BALLAST) that they are ready to use the updated target species list as included in doc. 3-20 to grant exemptions, taking into account that, like the entire HELCOM-OSPAR JHP, the list is a living document which need to be developed/updated together by all interested CPs.
- 3.90 The Meeting welcomed the offer by Lithuania and Estonia to contribute to the next round of HELCOM-OSPAR JHP revisions with new proposals regarding BWMC A-4 Risk assessment Target Species criteria and the Baltic Sea Target Species list.
- 3.91 The Meeting took note that the first opportunity to provide such input would be the next meeting of the joint HELCOM-OSPAR group (TG BALLAST 6-2015) which will take place during mid-September 2015 in Poland, and invited Estonia and Lithuania together with the Secretariat to consider practical arrangements for the work to be carried out prior to the meeting of TG BALLAST.
- 3.92 The Meeting took note that in the long run there is a need to formalize a procedure and responsibilities to update the A-4 target species list within HELCOM and OSPAR.
- 3.93 The Meeting took note of the invitation to a technical meeting between the Baltic Sea countries and the North Sea countries working towards parallel NECA applications, to be held in Helsinki, Finland, 30 June 2015 (doc. 3-24).
- 3.94 The Meeting regretted that a Life application on the issue of Ballast water management with the participation of HELCOM and OSPAR as well as more than 10 other partners covering relevant private and public sectors, was not funded. The Meeting agreed that other sources of funding should be found for this important topic and recommended that another suitable call for re-submitting the application, *mutatis mutandis*, should be sought for.
- 3.95 The Meeting took note of the offer by the project consortium ENVISUM (Environmental Impact of Low Emission Shipping: Measurements and Modelling Strategies) to involve HELCOM as a partner according to an email consultation on the ENVISUM project initiated by the Executive Secretary on 8 June, to be concluded by 17 June 2015.

(...)

## **[HELCOM WS Ballast water target species \(August 2015\)](#)**

### **[Ballast Water target species](#)**

(...)

Further revision of the HELCOM-OSPAR Joint Harmonized Procedure (JHP) for BWMC A-4 exemptions as endorsed by the 48th meeting of the Heads of Delegation (document 2) was conducted using the mentioned document with track changes included as agreed by the Workshop based on the input provided by Estonia and Lithuania. Discussion focused on Section 3 - Target Species Identification of the revised JHP, in view of the need for amending that section of the JHP.

The agreed draft proposal to be submitted for further consideration to TG BALLAST 6-2015 on Section 3 - Target Species Identification is contained in Annex 3.

The workshop also agreed to submit document 1 of the workshop as information document to TG BALLAST 6-2015.

The Workshop also discussed how to formalize a procedure and responsibilities to update the A-4 target species list within HELCOM, and agreed that the ad hoc Correspondence Group on Ballast Water Management should invite HELCOM MARITIME 15-2015 to consider the issue. The work could be carried out via correspondence but HELCOM need to establish an experts group and appoint a coordinator or task an existing group to update the list. References to HELCOM STATE in paragraphs 3.6 and 3.8 of the JHP to be revised subsequently if appropriate.

(...)

## **HELCOM-OSPAR TG BALLAST 6-2015 (September 2015)**

### HELCOM/OSPAR Joint Harmonised Procedure Revision (BWMC A-4)

(...)

2.1 The Meeting took note that the revisions of the HELCOM-OSPAR Joint Harmonized Procedure (JHP) for BWMC A-4 exemptions proposed by HELCOM/OSPAR TG BALLAST 5/2014 were endorsed both by HELCOM HOD 48-2015 and the OSPAR Commission 2015.

2.2 The Meeting took note of the currently valid Joint Harmonized Procedure (document 2-1).

2.3 The Meeting noted that any proposed changes to the Joint Harmonized procedure should be submitted to the Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Task Group in track changes so they can be considered in detail before being submitted for approval by the appropriate bodies.

2.4 The Meeting agreed to conduct another round of revisions at the next meeting of the TG BALLAST.

2.5 The Meeting took note of the report of the HELCOM ad hoc Correspondence Group on Ballast Water Management (CG BALLAST) submitted to HELCOM HOD 48-2015 (document 2-2).

2.6 The Meeting took note that the HELCOM Correspondence Group on Ballast Water Management still had some outstanding tasks, including the development of a regional roadmap for ballast water management in the Baltic and that this should be submitted to HELCOM MARITIME in November.

2.7 The Meeting proposed and discussed further overall needs of amending the harmonized A-4 procedure as follows:

- References in the document might be reduced to a minimum to enable a stand alone document;
- The chapters of the JHP document could be reshuffled for easier reading (e.g. move sampling protocol towards the end).

(...)

### Ballast Water target species

(...)

5.1 The Meeting took note of the OSPAR Target Species List (document 5-1).

5.2 The Meeting took note of the Target Species List currently in use in the HELCOM area (document 5-2).

5.3 The Meeting appreciated these lists as the best available scientific information and agreed that for routes between HELCOM and OSPAR areas both lists should be applied.

5.4 The Meeting took note of the Estonian and Lithuanian proposal for revised Target Species selection criteria (document 5-3) considered at the HELCOM Workshop on IMO BWMC target species, criteria and

revision process (WS TS 1-2015) held in Tallinn, Estonia, 26 August 2015, which was outlined in a presentation by Sergej Olenin, Lithuania (**Presentation 2**).

5.5 The Meeting considered draft proposals to revise target species identification for BWMC A-4 exemptions and for formalizing a procedure and responsibilities to update the A-4 Target Species list within HELCOM and OSPAR and took note in general of the outcome of the HELCOM Workshop on target species, criteria and revision process (WS TS 1-2015) (document 5-4).

5.6 The Meeting agreed that the Chair in cooperation with the Secretariats revise the draft proposal included in Annex 3 of document 5-4, circulate the draft to the Group for further input/revision with a view of endorsing the revisions at the next meeting.

5.7 The Meeting agreed that the Chair and the Secretariats should incorporate the following comments when revising the draft for first circulation:

The reference to IMO G7 in 3.3 b) should be replaced with a direct quote from the G7 – which also covers point a), which can be subsequently removed;

When ballast water is a major vector of introduction of an alien species it should be considered as a potential target species;

Draft §3. 6 in document 5-4, Annex 3, should be replaced with “The decision on whether a species should be selected or removed for the target species list has to be based on the selection criteria supported by scientific data and/or expert judgement.”;

More detailed guidance on the application of the criteria (based on document 5-3 and the currently valid Target Species criteria) should be included as an annex to the JHP;

Justification for including a particular species to the list of A-4 target species according to the JHP should be documented and included in the target species lists;

Social and cultural aspects in the new table of criteria in Annex 3 should be integrated to the other criteria (including their guidance) and removed as a separate Target Species criteria. The issue on social and cultural aspects could be highlighted in chapter 5 (§5.7), i.e. in the final risk assessment.

5.8 The Meeting recalled that there is a new procedure in place at OSPAR to revise the list annually and that for HELCOM the procedure for such revisions will be considered by HELCOM MARITIME 15-2015 (November 2015).

(...)

## **SAFE NAV 6-2015**

(...)

### **Accident reports**

(...)

3.1 The Meeting took note that the HELCOM Report on shipping accidents in the Baltic Sea in 2013 is available on the HELCOM website.

3.2 The Meeting took note of the process so far regarding the need to revise the data and restructure the upcoming report on shipping accidents 2014 (document 3-1).

3.3 The Meeting requested the Contracting Parties to check the accident data included in document 3-1 and was of the opinion that the report would benefit if costs of accidents could be included in the report.

3.4 The Meeting took note that the draft accident report 2014 should be available for circulation to the Contracting Parties and the SAFE NAV contacts by the end of October 2015.

(...)

#### Under Keel Clearance

(...)

4.1 The Meeting considered the draft information on ship's safe Under Keel Clearance in the Baltic Sea (document 4-1), revised the document as included in Annex 2 and endorsed it for approval by HELCOM MARITIME as revised.

4.2 The Meeting agreed that the proper way to publish the UKC information material would be as a separate section in the "safety of navigation" chapter of the Clean Seas Guide and stressed that the entire Clean Seas Guide publication should be updated and agreed to provide corrections to the Secretariat regarding the safety of navigation section.

4.3 The Meeting encouraged the Contracting Parties to work further on the UKC issue and, as appropriate, submit material for further development and endorsement by other organizations such as IMO.

(...)

[No extracts provided for Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group Meetings 10 & 11 –see outcome links on cover page]