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<b>Document title</b>	HELCOM-OSPAR Joint Harmonized Procedure for BWMC A-4 exemptions
<b>Code</b>	3-1
<b>Category</b>	INF
<b>Agenda Item</b>	3 – Ballast water
<b>Submission date</b>	15.09.2015
<b>Submitted by</b>	Secretariat
<b>Reference</b>	Outcome of HOD 48-2015, Paras 3.80-3.84 and doc. 3-19

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## Background

HOD 48-2015 considered the revisions of the HELCOM-OSPAR Joint Harmonized Procedure for BWMC A-4 exemptions as carried out within the HELCOM-OSPAR TG BALLAST.

HOD 48-2015 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.

HOD 48-2015 recalled also that the joint HELCOM-OSPAR document was revised during the last HELCOM-OSPAR TG BALLAST 5-2014 meeting, based on experiences within the Contracting Parties and projects such as BALSAM and HELCOM ALIENS 2 & 3.

HOD 48-2015 noted that the same document has been submitted for adoption by the OSPAR Commission without amendments.

HOD 48-2015 endorsed the revisions of the HELCOM-OSPAR Joint Harmonized Procedure for BWMC A-4 exemptions.

## Action required

The Meeting is invited to take note of the attached revised HELCOM-OSPAR Joint Harmonized Procedure for BWMC A-4 exemptions.