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Agenda Item	2 - Matters arising from HELCOM meetings
Submission date	13.09.2018
Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	Outcome of HELCOM 39-2018, Paragraphs 2.7-2.8; Outcome of GEAR 18-2018, Paragraphs 3.8-3.13

Background

HELCOM 39-2018 (5 March 2018) considered the contribution provided by OSPAR to the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2018 and the proposal for further collaboration between OSPAR and HELCOM, *inter alia*, in the field of biodiversity, underwater noise, invasive species and marine litter as well as for emerging issues such as climate change and contamination by pharmaceuticals.

HELCOM 39-2018 welcomed the presentation by the OSPAR Commission and highlighted in particular the cooperation in the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. The Meeting further pointed out the collection of fisheries data from ICES and assessing potential impacts of fisheries on the marine environment as other examples of collaboration

GEAR 18-2018 took note of the OSPAR contribution to the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting and possible areas of cooperation and welcomed the opportunity for closer cooperation with OSPAR and supported further exchanges on prioritizing and identifying topics cooperation would provide added value.

GEAR 18-2018 agreed to initiate a process of engaging HELCOM groups to further detail the practical way forward for cooperation with OSPAR on the issues mentioned in the OSPAR letter under the overall guidance by GEAR.

GEAR 18-2018 agreed that a letter thanking OSPAR for their contribution to the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting, expressing HELCOMs willingness to cooperate and providing information on steps taken within HELCOM towards future cooperation should be presented at the OSPAR Commission meeting taking place 25-29 June 2018.

HOD 54-2018 agreed on the response by HELCOM and the letter was submitted to OSPAR for their annual meeting in June 2018.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the letter by OSPAR (**Attachment 1**) and the reply by HELCOM (**Attachment 2**) and to discuss the need and possibilities for new areas of cooperation.