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Agenda Item	7 – Other ship-generated wastes and port reception facilities (including marine litter)
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Background

This document is a follow-up of the summary overview of HELCOM activities to tackle marine litter pollution in the Baltic Sea presented to MARITIME 18-2018 ([document 6-1](#)). Special emphasis is made again on those sea-based actions within the Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter in the Baltic Sea (adopted in 2015) within the scope of the MARITIME Working Group.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information on HELCOM activities to tackle marine litter pollution in relation to the work of the MARITIME Working Group including those that would benefit from input from the Meeting. In particular, the Meeting is invited to consider and suggest how to initiate the work on action RS3 on the implementation and harmonization of the no-special-fee system in ports of the Baltic Sea countries, addressing:

- gaps in existing regulations,
- enforcement and practices concerning shipping,
- port reception facilities auditing to assess adequacy of garbage collection,
- fair waste burden sharing between ports.

with the aim of evaluating the implementation of HELCOM Recommendation 28E/10 as further specified in the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter.

HELCOM activities to tackle marine litter pollution

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Marine litter monitoring

The HELCOM monitoring sub-programme on beach litter was in principle approved by HOD 56-2019 ([document 3-14-Rev.1](#)), taking into account that editorial amendments may still be included ([Outcome of HOD 56-2019](#), para. 3.68-3.72). Additional comments were provided by Germany and Lithuania.

There are no specific advances to share in relation to the further development on marine litter indicators. However, this will be linked to the upcoming second HELCOM workshop on indicators to be held on 16-18 October 2019.

MARITIME and the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter

The [follow up table of implementation of the Action Plan](#) identifies those actions where a potential contribution from HELCOM subsidiary bodies is envisaged. Actions linked to the work of the Maritime Group which have progressed since the last Maritime meeting are listed below together with a summary of their status development.

RL11 - On the establishment and/or further development of deposit refund systems in the HELCOM Contracting Parties

There is on-going work between Estonia and Latvia aiming at developing a joint packaging deposit system between these two countries ([document 3-7](#) to PRESSURE 10-2019), which countries are invited to join to share national experience to set respective systems with a view to catch an outstanding potential where Baltic Sea countries are united into a common deposit system.

PRESSURE 10-2019 pointed out that intensive ferry traffic transporting numerous amounts of canned drinks is one of the peculiarities of the Baltic Sea region, and thus the deposit system requires regional coordination, and agreed to keep the issue in the agenda and welcomed the offer by Estonia to inform on the progress of the bilateral project with Latvia ([Outcome of PRESSURE 10-2019](#), para. 3.27-3.32).

RS1 - Development of best practice on the disposal of old pleasure boats

The report on the “Development of best practice on the disposal of old pleasure boats” is available and ready for dissemination to relevant national stakeholders ([document 3-6](#) and [Presentation 1](#) to PRESSURE 10-2019). A possible way forward on how to further address the problem within HELCOM was discussed and it was agreed to keep the topic active and as a part of the agenda of Pressure group meetings. Furthermore, the Secretariat was requested to raise the issue at the informal meeting between Regional Seas Conventions on the implementation of the respective action plans on marine litter. Also, countries were invited to inform the Secretariat on national activities and economic incentives aimed at appropriate disposal of ELB by 6 September 2019. A compilation of the information supplied by countries and the results of the discussions with RSC will be submitted to PRESSURE 11-2019 as background for discussion on further actions on the disposal of old pleasure boats ([Outcome of PRESSURE 10-2019](#), para. 3.22-3.26).

In relation to this topic it is worth mentioning the on-going work in the frame of the London Convention, whose governing bodies endorsed in 2018 the Scientific Groups' adoption of the statement of concern on the disposal of fibre-reinforced plastic (FRP) vessels and instructed the Secretariat to finalize and share the draft report ([LC/SG 41/2](#)) by the consultant on end-of-life management of FRP vessels and on alternatives to disposal at sea (LC 40/16, paragraphs 9.26.1.1 and 9.26.3).

Furthermore, the governing bodies instructed the Secretariat to issue a circular to gather more information from Contracting Parties and other relevant bodies on current operating procedures and best practices associated with the end-of-life management of FRP vessels and on alternatives to disposal at sea, with the aim of collecting information before the next meeting of the Scientific Groups in 2019 (LC 40/16, paragraph 9.26.1.2).

It is foreseen that the progress made by the Scientific Groups and any submissions from the Secretariat and Contracting Parties on this issue is reviewed in the upcoming LC 41 to be held on 7-11 October 2019 in London, UK.

RS10 - Mapping of snagging sites or historic dumping grounds and a risk assessment for identifying where accumulation of ghost nets pose a threat to the environment and should be removed

The outcome of the regional questionnaire to compile information on national activities regarding abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) is available (document 3-3 to PRESSURE 10-2019). Further, PRESSURE 10-2019 considered the list of preliminary proposed actions to address ALDFG in the Baltic Sea (document 3-5) and recommended that:

- the final decision on the regional actions will take into account the European processes related to the revision of the Directive 2000/59/EC on Port Reception Facilities and the proposal for the European Directive on the reduction of impact of certain plastic products on the environment, as well as the recommendations by the MARELITT Baltic Project (“Baltic Sea Blueprint”);
- a preliminary analysis of costs and benefits of retrieving fishing gear is performed;
- the ongoing EU process on labelling fishing gear is taken into account.

Poland commented that actions regarding recreational fishing gear might not be suitable for the countries where fishing nets are forbidden for recreational fishing, and countries were invited to provide additional comments to the preliminary proposed actions by 7 May 2019 ([Outcome of PRESSURE 10-2019](#), para. 3.6-3.10).

No additional feedback has been provided in addition to the support expressed by Denmark, as well as the information shared that at this point there are no plans for setting up a system for ghost net reporting for recreational fishers.

PRESSURE 10-2019 agreed to discuss the proposed actions, including social and economic aspects, at a workshop dedicated to the follow up of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter to be organized back-to-back with PRESSURE 11-2019. Further agreed that the Workshop is to be focused on a limited number of issues, not the whole Action Plan except a general follow up, e.g.:

- ALDFG (including socioeconomic effect of lost fishing gear) and where FISH contacts are invited to participate to discuss further steps on the topic;
- update of Recommendation on storm water management;
- possible measures to reduce releases of EPS and XPS to the environment.

To ensure the involvement of all expertise available in the HELCOM frame, FISH 10-2019 was informed of mentioned Workshop since one of the topics to be discussed is ALDFG. Contacts and observers of the Fish Group will be invited and are encouraged to attend. In this context, the meeting requested that the Fish Group would be provided the opportunity to comment on the draft agenda of the Workshop ([Outcome of FISH 10-2019](#), para. 8.2).

The Fourth Workshop on the Implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter will be held on 22 October in Brussels, Belgium. Additional information of the Workshop can be found in the [HELCOM Meeting Portal](#).

Actions with no progress since MARITIME 18-2018

No progress has been made on the following actions, which MARITIME 18-2018 was also invited to provide input to:

- RS2 - Develop best practice in relation to inspections for MARPOL Annex V, including harmonized management of data. Support regional coordination of IMO regulations in accordance with EU requirements for those HELCOM countries which are EU members;
- RS3 – Further work on implementation and harmonization of the no-special-fee system in ports of the Baltic Sea countries, addressing:
 - gaps in existing regulations,
 - enforcement and practices concerning shipping,
 - port reception facilities auditing to assess adequacy of garbage collection,
 - fair waste burden sharing between ports.
- RS4 - Implementation of the ISO standard (ISO 201070:2013) in relation to port reception facilities. Differentiate according to the size of the port. Promote the development of regional statistics on waste collected in ports based on existing information as far as possible.
- RS5 - Promote and disseminate best practice in relation to all relevant aspects of waste management within the fishing sector (including e.g. waste management on board, waste management at harbours and operational losses/net cuttings).
- RS11 - Based on the risk assessment conducted in RS10 and identification of accumulation areas, initiate removal of ghost nets and their safe management on land.
- RS12 - Enter into the partnership with international and regional organizations (e.g. KIMO, NABU, OSPAR Commission) as well as port authorities, to encourage implementation of passive Fishing for Litter schemes, to collect litter caught in fishing nets during normal fishing activities.
- RE1 - To prepare information sheets to assist Contracting Parties in developing material for education programs, especially for professional seafarers including fishermen, highlighting the marine litter problem and including codes of practice in cooperation with relevant organisations including IMO.