



Intersessional Meeting of the Maritime Working Group (HELCOM MARITIME 19A-2020), 14-15 April 2020 to be held as an on-line meeting

In line with [HELCOM policy on COVID-19](#), arrangements for the Intersessional Meeting of the Maritime Working Group (HELCOM MARITIME 19A-2020), have been changed and it will be held on-line. The decision of not cancelling the Meeting is being made on the grounds that the output of the Meeting is needed for consideration at e.g. the upcoming BSAP UP workshop on Maritime activities, underwater noise, non-indigenous species and response actions to be held on 18-20 May 2020 and HOD 58-2020 in June.

However, due to the short notice of this change some delegates are facing technical difficulties to make the necessary arrangements. In addition, due to my participation this week in two HELCOM meetings in an area with an officially declared high risk of infection, I and other colleagues have been instructed to work from home for a period of 14 days as a safety precaution. Thus, it has been decided, in consultation with the Chair of Maritime, to postpone the Meeting to be held as an on-line meeting on **14 – 15 April 2020, from 10:00h to 16:00h EET (9:00h to 15:00h CET) each day.**

Please be informed that, in the meantime, an additional document will be submitted to the Meeting with further instructions on how to conduct the technical review in view of the challenges that an on-line meeting may raise to conduct this task. In addition, the Secretariat will be exploring better technical solutions than Skype for business, which may not be available for all participants.

Yours sincerely,

For Markus Helavuori
Professional Secretary

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