

Draft [ToRs] for joint
ICES/OSPAR/HELCOM
sub-group on bird migration
under JWGBIRD

Migratory Bird Workshop
8-9 September 2021

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Background for furthering work on migratory birds in marine areas

- Increasing use of marine areas creates pressures for birds
- Migration over seas differs from that over land
- HELCOM recommendation 34E/1 (**Safeguarding important bird habitats and migration routes in the Baltic Sea from negative effects of wind and wave energy**)
- Updating of the Baltic Sea Action Plan – several actions related to bird migration
- Bird and Habitats Directive
- WS on migratory birds, held in November 2018

Need for a sub-group under JWGBIRD

While many aspects of related to bird migration are dealt within JWGBIRD, specific expertise on topics relating to the active flight stage of migratory birds has been lacking.

To support the group's work on migratory birds, it was agreed that a designated sub-group will be established for this purpose under JWGBIRD.

The overarching aim of the sub-group is to incorporate further expertise on bird migration to the main group in order to support **improved conservation of migratory birds in marine areas.**

Focus of the subgroup

Focus on active flight stage of migratory birds

From HELCOM side, focus on risks from wind energy and other infrastructure development that creates obstacles for bird migration over sea areas

Potential application in Marine Spatial Planning (support HELCOM VASAB working group)

Terms of Reference

The overall purpose of the group is to **facilitate regional cooperation in relation to bird migration** with respect to **safeguarding critical migration routes** over marine areas from **negative effects of wind and wave energy production at sea**, in close cooperation with **other existing relevant frameworks and programmes** working on bird migration

Terms of Reference

- Drawing on recommendations and outcomes of the bird migration WS held in 2018 (“wish list”)
- The draft ToRs were reviewed by HELCOM STATE&CONSERVATION 14-2021 in May 2021 and the updated draft ToR will be considered by STATE&CONSERVATION 15-2021 (4-8 October 2021).
- Further review by OSPAR and ICES may result in some changes.
- Once the group has been established, the experts are to be invited to **review the draft workplan** and **prioritization of tasks**, estimate timelines and agree on workflows for taking the work forward.

The principal benefits of the sub-group

- a) Enhanced use of existing data and improved dataflows through agreed data hosting for data specific for migration, such as telemetry and tracking data, and migration count data, with a focus on encouraging data sharing.
- b) Improved access to information on migratory waterbird behaviour.
- c) Improved monitoring practices for migratory waterbirds.
- d) Improved map products and appropriate use** of data and map products in spatial planning.
- e) Improved **transfer of research results** and products between planners and to the policy level.
- f) Improved advice on necessary actions and measures and on how regional policies could be adapted to better account for bird migration in spatial planning.

Objectives

- a) **Map the overall knowledge level of bird migration in the Baltic and North Sea regions** based on existing data and expert knowledge, including **gaps and recommendations for the relevant species**
- b) Improve joint data management on a trans-regional level.
- c) Produce detailed recommendations on how to conduct monitoring of birds migrating over sea areas to support the existing monitoring guidelines, possibly producing best-practice guideline and harmonizing monitoring practices for e.g., citizen science observations and visual migration counts.
- d) **Produce more specific species and sensitivity maps** of a given area to e.g. renewable energy installations, in a way that allows regular updating of the map products and inclusion of multiple types of data sources.
- e) Cooperate with other initiatives to find synergies.
- f) Cooperate closer with the planners, e.g., through scoping workshops to share information, challenges and needs.
- g) Complement the list of species information with a non-exclusive list of non-waterbird priority species and identify species that are clear broad-front migrants vs. those for which tracking would yield good results.
- h) Identify funding possibilities for a dedicated project to support further work on bird migration and look into possibility to form a consortium to prepare and submit an application.

Key considerations for the subgroup

Further defining scope of the work in terms of species and geographical areas

Revise workplan for technical details and implementation of the tasks

Prioritization of the tasks in the workplan?

Thank you for your attention!