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Background

The strategic plan for the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) (cf. document 2-1, Annex 1) includes the step to review and adjust the overall structure the BSAP (activity 2.2) to reflect current work in HELCOM. A review of the existing HELCOM ecological objectives and management objectives is to be carried out by HELCOM Working Groups and Expert Groups as part of this activity. The aim of the review of existing objectives is to ensure that they are up to date and reflect the current topics and approach of addressing environmental status and pressures in HELCOM. It was also agreed by HOD 55-2018 to develop new objectives for marine litter, underwater noise, and loss and disturbance of the seabed. The aim is to prepare initial proposals of new and revised objectives for consideration by HOD in June 2019 and finalize and agree on an updated set of objectives by end of 2019.

STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 (6-10 May 2019) took note of the review and revision of HELCOM existing ecological objectives, as presented by the Secretariat ([document 8J-6](#), presentation 13). The Meeting took note that PRESSURE 10-2019 initiated the review of existing and development of new objectives on topics under the mandate of the Group. The Meeting was divided to two groups to discuss:

- Ecological objectives and management objectives for biodiversity and loss and disturbance to the seabed
- Further elaborate on the proposals from Pressure 10-2019 in terms of Ecological objectives and management objectives for eutrophication, hazardous substances, marine litter, underwater noise.

The outcome of group discussions is included in Working Paper 1 to the Meeting ([8J-WP1](#)).

The Group supported to keep the objective on radioactive substances but to ask the MORS Expert group if some if it is still relevant to mention Chernobyl or whether the objectives should be formulated more general. Pending a conclusion on the objective on radioactivity, the tentative list of ecological objectives for hazardous substances is thus:

- **Concentrations of hazardous substances close to natural levels**
- **All seafood safe to eat**
- **Healthy wildlife and food webs**
- **Radioactivity at the pre-Chernobyl level** [to be considered by MORS]

Action

The Meeting is invited to consider whether the objective on radioactive substances should be kept as currently formulated or be rephrased in a more general way.