



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Third Meeting of the Seventh Baltic Sea Pollution Load
Compilation (PLC-7) Project Implementation Group

PLC-7 IG 3-2018

Silkeborg, Denmark, 23-25 May 2018

Document title	Outcomes of recent HELCOM meetings
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Background

The document contains major outcomes of HELCOM 39-2018 and PRESSURE 8-2018 meetings, relevant to PLC-7 IG 8-2018.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcomes of the recent HELCOM meetings and utilize them in the project implementation.

Decisions relevant to the RedCore DG work were taken by HELCOM 39-2018 and the following information provided

BSAP update

2.6 The Meeting considered the proposal for the update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (document 2-6) and adopted the proposal as contained in document 2-6 Rev.1. The Meeting noted that the establishment of the BSAP Task Force was hereby agreed and that its Terms of Reference will be proposed and considered at the next HOD meeting.

Nutrient reduction targets

3.9 The Meeting considered the policy message on progress towards nutrient reduction targets (document 3-3).

3.10 The Meeting took note of the information by Germany and Denmark that no solution has been found regarding the formulation of principle 8 of the methodology to reallocate extra nutrient reduction between neighboring sub-basins. The principle 8 states that based on the precautionary approach, extra reductions cannot be used to purposely increase inputs to a sub-basin. The Meeting took note of the position of Denmark that the decision on reallocation of extra reduction is to be taken by each country nationally, thus Denmark keeps reservation on principle 8. The Meeting took note that Germany is of the view that reallocation should be allowed in some instance but that this should not affect the nutrient input ceiling to the sub-basins and could only be realized based on the package of principles, including principle 8.

3.11 The Meeting recalled that, based on the 2013 HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration, the re-allocation of extra nutrient reduction is an opportunity and not an obligation and that it is up to the countries if they wish to apply re-allocation. The Meeting agreed that further re-allocation should only be used in the CART follow-up if based on commonly agreed methodology and principles.

3.12 The Meeting agreed to publish the policy message with no re-allocation included and decided that the discussion on principles for re-allocation of extra nutrient reduction will continue in the Pressure Working Group with the aim to resolve the principles during the update of the BSAP at the latest.

Priorities of Finnish Chairmanship.

5.5 The Meeting took note of the draft priorities of the Finnish HELCOM Chairmanship 2018-2020 (document 5-4) including the focus on leading the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, development of a follow-up system for the reduction of nutrient inputs, formulating a regional nutrient recycling strategy, understanding the role of the Baltic Sea in the global carbon cycle, and creating strong links between the UN Agenda 2030 process and HELCOM work.

Danish data on nitrogen and phosphorus

6.4 The Meeting took note of the information by Denmark on errors revealed in measurements of concentrations of nitrogen and phosphorus in Danish waters. Aarhus University and the Ministry of Environment and Food are currently evaluating the magnitude of the erroneous data and the report will be published in the coming months. The Meeting took note that the relevant HELCOM bodies will be informed of the results of the evaluation.

PRESSURE 8-2018**Agenda Item 6****PLC-6 scientific report**

- 6.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the PLC-6 scientific report presented by the PLC Project Manager (document 7-8).
- 6.3 The Meeting suggested to include into the scientific report: (i) a brief background information on the BALTSEM model and on calculation of the nutrient reduction targets; (ii) information on the uncertainty of the raw data; (iii) separate figures for airborne and waterborne inputs and also data on input by major rivers.
- 6.4 The Meeting invited the PLC-7 team to submit the draft scientific report a month before PRESSURE 9-2018.
- 6.13 Document 7-5, introduced by the BNI representative, contains a description of the public interface providing access to the PLC-water data reported by countries and the link to this web-based interface.
- 6.14 The Meeting provided feedback on the functionality of the interface and endorsed its use for public access to the raw data reported by countries to the PLC-water database by 31 of May 2018.
- 6.16 The Meeting thanked BNI for the work done and suggested to provide the link to the interface from the HELCOM Map and Data Service.
- 6.17 The Meeting considered document 7-4, which contains a description of the HELCOM Map and Data Service and structure of its section devoted to the land-based pollution sources (Table 1). Table 1 of the document contains also links to all the maps which have already been agreed for publication and links to metadata records describing the data used for visualization.
- 6.19 The Meeting suggested to update the maps based on annually reported data in relation with the update of the HELCOM Core indicator. Periodic PLC data will be updated after the endorsement of the related PLC-7 products.
- 6.20 The Meeting endorsed the publication of the suggested maps at the HELCOM Map and Data Service.

Agenda Item 7**Measures to reduce nutrient loads**

- 7.1 The first draft of the new PLC product - Report on the overall evaluation on effectiveness of measures – was presented to PRESSURE 7-2017 for consideration.
- 7.2 The Meeting took note of the information on the progress in elaboration of the PLC-6 report on effectiveness of measures by PLC Project Manager (document 7-12) and on the revised outline focussing on country-wise approach to evaluate measures together with a plan to finalize the report, including the source-oriented quantification of sources. The Meeting also took note that almost no additional information has been provided
- 7.3 The Meeting took note of the information that Russia is still planning to provide more national information for the report.
- 7.4 The Meeting pointed out that the task on an overall evaluation of the effects of implemented measures may be possible to fulfil with available information, even though not all Contracting Parties have provided the requested information. The assessment of reduction potential in future is more challenging. The estimations might utilize information from the EMEP report on “Reduction of Atmospheric Nitrogen Deposition” and other additional public information sources.

- 7.5 The Meeting took note that the collection of relevant data is challenging for all countries, and that one of the main message of this PLC product would be a suggestion to improve national procedures to enable the collection of relevant data, to report back to HOD the challenges encountered, and to evaluate at a later stage whether another report of the same format should be elaborated by PLC-7.
- 7.6 The Meeting was of the opinion that all countries should currently be able to compile and supply the information on reduction potential in point sources, which would help to estimate the remaining burden on diffuse sources. But then again, the proportion of nutrient load from point sources is relatively small compared to diffuse ones in some Contracting Parties.
- 7.7 The Meeting recognized that only a draft assessment, still requiring further consideration, will be submitted to PRESSURE 9-2018.
- 7.8 The Meeting agreed to postpone the delivery of this PLC-6 project product and to consider it at PRESSURE 9-2018.
- 7.9 The Meeting invited all Contracting Parties to provide available additional information for the assessment of effectiveness of measures no later than 15 May 2018 (lms@dce.au.dk and Seppo.knuuttilla@ymparisto.fi). The Meeting requested the Secretariat to circulate a reminder to the Contracting Parties with a request to respond clarifying the questions from document 5-5 submitted to PRESSURE 7-2017.
- 7.10 The Meeting discussed the EMEP report “Reduction of Atmospheric Nitrogen Deposition” on evaluation of N-emission reduction for publication on the HELCOM website (document 7-1).
- 7.11 The Meeting took note that some countries had clarification questions and agreed that these questions will be delivered to the Secretariat by 11 May 2018 (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi). The Meeting requested the Secretariat to compile the questions and make all required clarifications with EMEP, including whether the country’s requests correspond to the Terms of Reference of the project, and report the results to HOD 54-2018.
- 7.12 The Meeting discussed how to use the EMEP report and agreed that the information on input reduction should be included in the assessment of effectiveness of measures by PLC-7 project. The Meeting invited BNI together with EMEP to evaluate the estimated reduction in 2020 in nitrogen deposition with the corresponding reduction assumed in the 2013 Ministerial Declaration.
- 7.13 The Meeting noted also that the project could assist long-term model evaluations and requested the data to be made available at the EMEP website.
- 7.14 The Meeting acknowledged that in case the data was split to country per basin, the project result would serve better for the evaluation of effectiveness of measures. The Meeting suggested to use the lump amount of the emissions or the assessment without specification of emission sources.
- 7.15 The Meeting also addressed EMEP with the question on possibility to produce a similar evaluation for input of hazardous substances and acidification processes for the Baltic Sea.
- 7.16 The Meeting took note of the current phosphorus load estimates of the two Finnish phosphogypsum sites, i.e. Yara Uusikaupunki and Yara Siilinjärvi (document 7-3) and the wish of Finland to encourage other Contracting Parties to inform of their corresponding development and progress of measures at their phosphogypsum waste sites in the catchment area.
- 7.19 The Meeting suggested to include information on the locations of phosphogypsum stacks into the HELCOM Map and Data Service.
- 7.20 The Meeting supported the organizing of a specific reporting procedure for these specific sources of phosphorus input to the Baltic Sea.

- 7.21 The Meeting invited Finland to prepare a template for reporting information on the phosphogypsum stacks by 25 May 2018. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to circulate the template to the Contracting Parties by the end of May. The Contracting Parties are invited to report in accordance with the template by 24 August 2018. The information on year 2017 is to be reported in order to make the results comparable with other PLC-7 reporting. The data will be assessed by the PLC-7 team and presented to Pressure group. The results may be published as BSEFs (Baltic Sea Environmental Fact Sheet) or even as a BSEP, depending on the available data.
- 7.22 The Meeting took note of a presentation by Malte Pallentin from IOW, Germany, on a project for measuring airborne P-input to the Baltic Sea (Presentation 1) and thanked Germany for the valuable information. First results from coastal station show that the atmospheric deposition varies seasonally and is higher than the assumed 5 kg /m² which is currently used for HELCOM assessment of input of phosphorus.
- 7.23 The Meeting discussed the use for the data in HELCOM PLC assessment and follow-up of the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme and concluded that the obtained information is very useful for estimation of phosphorus input to the Baltic Sea and invited all countries to provide available information.
- 7.24 The Meeting recommended to the PLC-7 project team to update the information on P-deposition on the Baltic Sea utilizing the most up-to-date data.
- 7.25 Evaluation of the nutrient input to the Baltic Sea by the seven big rivers is a new PLC-6 product, included into the project deliverables in 2015. A first draft of the chapter was presented to PRESSURE 7-2017. The meeting provided feedback and agreed on the submission of the product to HOD 53-2017 for final endorsement after a commenting round. HOD 53-2017 considered the updated draft chapter and decided to set an additional commenting round and requested the PLC-6 project group to elaborate the document further and submit it for consideration by PRESSURE 8-2018, with a subsequent approval by HOD 54-2018.
- 7.26 Document 7-10 contains an updated draft of the report on evaluation of the nutrient input to the Baltic Sea by the seven big rivers, taking into account comments received after HOD 53-2017.
- 7.27 The Meeting considered the document and endorsed it, with minor corrections, for submission to HOD 54-2018 for final approval for publication.
- 7.28 The Meeting proposed to add a short summary to the report.
- 7.29 The Meeting agreed that written comments should be sent by 27 April 2018 (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi) and antti.raike@ymparisto.fi). The report will be amended by 11 May 2018 and circulated to the group for tacit approval by 18 May 2018.
- 7.30 The Meeting took note of the assessment results of the German indicator “Nutrient concentrations at the limnic-marine transition point” and agreed to use the information, as appropriate, in the further discussion on aligning nutrient reduction requirements for rivers and coastal waters with those of the Baltic Sea Action Plan.
- 7.31 The Meeting welcomed the approach to communicate environmental targets with river basin authorities, as proposed by Germany.
- 7.33 The Meeting took note of the information and appreciated CCB’s proposal to arrange an international workshop on the role of integrated river basin management in reducing nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea, with the participation of river basin management bodies, transboundary river commissions and UNECE Water Convention Secretariat.

- 7.34 The Meeting supported the idea to organize an international workshop and took note of the information that at least the German representatives in Odra River Basin Commission support this initiative.
- 7.36 The Meeting requested the RedCore DG to start preparations for the workshop concept note in cooperation with the PLC-7 Project Implementation Group and CCB, with the assistance of the Secretariat, and present this concept note at PRESSURE 9-2018.
- 7.37 The PLC-6 Project Manager presented the progress of the Sixth Baltic Sea Pollution Load Compilation (PLC-6) project, summarizing the progress of the project (document 7-9), giving an overview of the delivered products and presenting a plan for finalizing the remaining foreseen products. The deadlines for finalizing the PLC-6 assessment have been revised several times, due to very late reporting and approval of national data, requests for making additional new products, and discussions on methodological aspects of assessment products.
- 7.39 RedCore DG 19-2018 suggested arranging a workshop to discuss e.g., (i) Scientific CART assessment report – lesson learned, (ii) Onward look of the nutrient reduction scheme and (iii) Potential to set reduction targets for river basins.
- 7.40 The Meeting thanked the Project Manager for the information, took note of the state of the PLC 6 deliverables and agreed on the plan for finalizing the remaining PLC-6 products proposed in the document.
- 7.41 The Meeting agreed to organize a workshop and invited the Contracting Parties to provide written suggestions regarding the contents of the workshop as well as contacts of experts and organizations to be invited by 15 May 2018 to the Secretariat (leena.heikkila@helcom.fi). A tentative agenda of the workshop will be elaborated by RedCore 20-2018 (23 May 2018) and reported to HOD 54-2018 in June.
- 7.42 The Meeting welcomed an offer by BNI to host a two-day workshop, tentatively during week 46/2018 in Stockholm.

Agenda Item 8 Nutrients recycling

- 8.1 The Meeting recalled that PRESSURE 7-2017 had supported the background document on nutrient recycling, which was further elaborated by the HELCOM Agri group and submitted to HOD 53-2017 to support the development of a Ministerial decision on the HELCOM nutrient recycling strategy (Outcome of PRESSURE 7-2017, paras 6.3-6.7). The Pressure group had also contributed to the HELCOM publication “Overview of nutrient recycling in the Baltic Sea countries” which provides background on nutrient recycling in the region and has been published on the HELCOM website. The HELCOM Ministerial Meeting, 6 March 2018, committed to elaborating by 2020 a Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy (HELCOM Ministerial Declaration, paras 27-28) (document 8-1).
- 8.2 The Meeting took note of the developments towards Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy.
- 8.3 Finland presented document 8-4, Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy – Proposal for the outline of the Work. The outline of the work plan is proposed by Finland as the Chair of HELCOM Agri group. The outline will be updated based on the discussions in PRESSURE 8 2018 and sent to the AGRI 6-2018 meeting (15-16 May 2018) for discussion and further development. Finland invited Pressure group to consider participation in the proposed drafting group and the participation of the observers having special expertise in the issue would also be appreciated.
- 8.4 The Meeting thanked Finland for the proposal and discussed the outline regarding the input of Pressure Group.

8.5 The Meeting supported the proposed plan to elaborate a Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy and the working methods and agreed to contribute to this work in accordance with the proposed timeline.

8.6 The Meeting took note that EUSBSR PA Nutri wishes to continue close cooperation with HELCOM and provide support for elaboration of the strategy.

8.7 The Meeting took note of the information by Sweden on recent work analysing nutrient flows in the society, which will contribute to the strategy.

8.8 The Meeting took note of the information on the call for proposals of project platforms by INTERREG programme. The project platforms are intended to summarise the outcomes of various EU projects in one thematic area into a policy messages.

8.9 The Meeting took note of the platform project proposals BSR WATER (document 8-2) and SUMANU (document 8-3) which are both aimed to support the elaboration of the Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy.

8.10 The Meeting took note that EurEau supports the initiatives and would like to contribute to the HELCOM work on the nutrient recycling strategy.

Agenda Item 9 Hazardous substances

9.1 The PLC-6 project group introduced document 9-2, Revised draft Assessment on input of selected hazardous substances, which is the revised version of the assessment integrating recommendations given by PRESSURE 7-2017 and comments by national experts after that meeting, some data updates of national data on hazardous substances, and graphics illustrating data coverage.

9.2 The Meeting considered the revised version of the Assessment on input of selected hazardous substances, discussed some details and endorsed it for submission to HOD 54-2018 for final approval, after minor editorial corrections.