



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Sixth Meeting of the Eight Baltic Sea Pollution Load
Compilation (PLC-8) Project Implementation Group

PLC-8 IG 6-2021

Online, 15-17 December 2021

Document title	Provisional Annotated Agenda
Code	1-1
Category	DEC
Agenda Item	1- Adoption of the Agenda
Submission date	25.11.2021
Submitted by	Project Manager and Secretariat
Reference	

Background

The Sixth Meeting of the PLC-8 Project Implementation Group (PLC-8 IG 6-2021) will be held online 15-17 December 2021. The Meeting will start at 10:00 EET on Wednesday, 15 December 2021 and is expected to terminate at 13:00 EET on Friday, 17 December 2021.

Documents for the Meeting, which are restricted until after the Meeting has ended, will be made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal, on the restricted [PLC-8 IG 6-2021 Meeting Site](#).

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Agenda.

Provisional Annotated Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda.

2. Matters arising from other HELCOM work

The Meeting will be informed of the recent HELCOM activities related to the Group's work.

The HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2021 held on 20 October 2021 in Lübeck, Germany, adopted the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan and a number of associated action documents and supporting documents. The Meeting is invited to take note of the actions of relevance for PLC-8 IG.

The Meeting is invited to take note that PRESSURE 15-2021 agreed on the continuation of the cooperation on the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol based on the proposed methodological approach. BNI and EMEP will present the status of the developed provisional CAIs (critical atmospheric inputs).

The Meeting is invited to take note that PRESSURE 15-2021 adopted the updated PLC-Water Guidelines, which were submitted to HOD 61-2021 for information. The Meeting is also invited to take note that PRESSURE 15-2021 endorsed the draft revised HELCOM Recommendations 37-38/1 and 37-38/2 that were submitted to HOD 61-2021 for endorsement with a subsequent adoption by HELCOM 43-2021.

The Meeting is invited to take note that the PLC-7 effectiveness of measures report was endorsed by PRESSURE 15-2021 and recommended that HOD 61-2021 approves its publication in the HELCOM BSEP series.

The Meeting is invited to take note that PRESSURE 15-2021 endorsed in principle the MAI core indicator on inputs of nutrients and after additional comments the revised document was submitted to HOD 61-2021 for approval. The Project Manager will make a presentation of the main results of the indicator.

The Meeting is also invited to take note that PRESSURE 15-2021 in principle approved the publication of both the Baltic Sea Environment Fact Sheets on the airborne input of selected hazardous substances and nitrogen emissions and deposition, pending revisions presented and a written procedure for suggesting updates, and invited EMEP to provide the revised Fact Sheets to the Secretariat by 30 November 2021.

The Meeting is invited to take note that PRESSURE 15-2021 considered the draft Terms of Reference for the Expert Group on Hazardous Substances, welcomed the updated ToR and supported the proposal for the expansion of responsibilities and the transformation to being an Expert Group jointly guided by State and Conservation and Pressure Working Groups. In HOD 61-2021 there is also a work plan included to the draft ToR.

The Meeting is invited to take note that PRESSURE 15-2021 discussed that PLC project plan could be expanded to support the work on in developing criteria for designating new hot spots for nutrient inputs.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the status of HOLAS III assessment and any data needs from the project (document to be submitted).

The Project Manager and other group members will inform the meeting of national and international activities of relevance for PLC-8 IG.

3. PLC-8 activities

Reporting annual data 2020 on waterborne input of nutrients and selected hazardous substances

In accordance with the strategy for PLC products delivery adopted by HOD 50-2016, prefilled templates for annual data reporting are to be prepared by the data manager and circulated to national data reporters. National data reporters review and update the reporting templates and forward them to the data manager for making respective updates in the HELCOM PLC water database. PLC-8 implementation group also agreed that any updates of PLC geographical data are made annually simultaneously to the annual data reporting.

According to the "Updated procedures to report PLC data and release PL products" agreed by PRESSURE 15-2021 Contracting Parties have to report the annual 2020 data at the latest by 15 December 2021.

The Meeting is invited to consider information on the state of the annual data reporting presented by the Secretariat, inform about any issues which may cause a delay in the data reporting and discuss how these issues can be resolved, assuring timely delivery of related PLC assessment products.

Furthermore, the Meeting is invited to discuss and agree on a proposal presented by the Project Manager on together with reporting annual data submitting a very short standardized written report on some main events (as weather, change of monitoring sites/methods) that should be taken into account when assessing the data for that particular year.

PLC workshop on the effectiveness of measures and the analysis of implementation obstacles/best practice

PRESSURE 15-2021 agreed on the proposed scope of the PLC workshop on the effectiveness of measures and the analysis of implementation obstacles/best practice and invited the Secretariat to prepare a proposal on the workshop for HOD 61-2021 based on the document. The Meeting is invited to further elaborate on the scope and content and discuss the timing of the workshop.

Thematic report on effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea

PLC-8 IG 5 discussed the scope of the thematic report on effectiveness of measures in the frame of PLC-8 and PRESSURE 15-2021 also considered the planned outline for the work. The Meeting is invited to consider e.g. recommendations given in the PLC-7 thematic report on the assessment of effectiveness of selected measures to reduce input of nutrients to the Baltic Sea (chapter 7) and that Germany at PRESSURE 15-2021 highlighted that the future work on the effectiveness of measures in PLC-8 needs to align with action E1 in the updated BSAP in order to support Contracting Parties in their fulfilment of this action and to avoid double work (document to be submitted by SYKE).

4. Finalizing the PLC-7 products

Statistical methodology report

PRESSURE 15-2021 took note of the final draft report "Statistical aspects in relation to Baltic Sea Pollution Load Compilation" under PLC-8 project and welcomed the report as a very useful document also for national statistical analyses and the work with river basin management authorities. The final report will be presented for the PLC-8 IG 6-2021 meeting, with a short overview of changes done since PLC-8 5-2021 meeting based on comments and a proposal from Sweden.

Thematic report on main sources and pathways of waterborne nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea

The thematic report on main sources and pathways of waterborne nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea is one of the key PLC products. The report has not been produced in time due to the delay in the periodic data reporting.

PRESSURE 15-2021 discussed the proposed content of the report and agreed that to finalize the product the draft source apportionment report will be delivered to PLC-8 IG **by 1 December 2021** for discussion in PLC-8 IG 6 and the final draft source apportionment report will be circulated **by mid-January 2022** to the Pressure WG for endorsement via correspondence **by 1 February 2022**. If necessary, an extra PLC-8 IG meeting will be arranged **in February** for finalizing the two remaining PLC-7 products which will be submitted for approval to HELCOM 43-2022 in **March 2022**.

PRESSURE 15-2021 also invited the PLC implementation group to consider substitution of pie charts by tables with absolute values of inputs from different sources or stacked bar charts, or using pie charts reflecting areal proportional inputs for illustrating changes in the contribution of different sources.

The Meeting is invited to consider the draft source apportionment report to be submitted latest by **8 December 2021** by the Project Manager.

PLC-7 executive summary

The executive summary is the final PLC-7 project product which can be finalized after all thematic reports are drafted and authors of thematic reports have provided input. PLC-8 IG 4-2021 discussed and commented on

the executive summary reflecting PLC-7 products which had been available by the meeting. PLC-8 IG 5-2021 took note that since the thematic report on effectiveness of measures was submitted on the eve of PLC-8 5-2021 and thematic report on sources and pathways of nutrients had not been yet produced no changes had been made to the executive summary since PLC-8 IG 4-2021.

PRESSURE 15-2021 agreed that the draft executive summary will be circulated **by mid-January 2022** to the Pressure WG for endorsement via correspondence **by 1 February 2022**. If necessary, an extra PLC-8 IG meeting will be arranged **in February** for finalizing the two remaining PLC-7 products which will be submitted for approval to HELCOM 43-2022 in **March 2022**.

The Meeting is invited to consider an updated version of the executive summary.

5. Any other business

PRESSURE 15-2021 highlighted that it would be important to have follow-up results of new NIC's available (NIC assessment) as soon as possible, and the meeting invited the RedCore DG to find a solution to have draft product, based on the latest NIC assessment, indicating possible changes due to the new NIC values already available for PRESSURE 16-2022. RedCore DG 34-2021 discussed how to update the NIC 2017 assessment. One open question is how to handle the changed proportion of TN and TP for German Oder load in the NIC assessment. The PLC-8 IG 6-2021 is invited to discuss this issue and agree on how to solve it.

The Meeting is invited to consider the information presented for PRESSURE 15-2021 from MARITIME 21-2021 regarding volumes of various substances discharged from ships ([document 11-4](#) to MARITIME 21-2021) and metal and PAH loads from ships and boats in the Baltic Sea ([document 11-6](#) to MARITIME 21-2021) for addressing the total loads of hazardous substances to the Baltic Sea in the Group's work.

The Meeting is invited to consider and agree on the form and schedule of cooperation with the BalticAIMS project (decided in the PLC-8 IG-5), for tracing the effect of big rivers on the Baltic Sea, visualizing the impact on coastal areas, spotting some specific sources of nutrients not included in the PLC reporting, using the most up to date information in the PLC background report e.g. the data on land use in the Baltic Sea catchment area, and for information on key regional sources of nutrients.

PLC-8 IG 5-2021 was informed about BNI looking on dissolved nutrient fractions reporting to HELCOM PLUS. PLC-8 IG 6-2021 is invited to discuss how dissolved nutrient fraction could be used in PLC-8 assessments, and on the completeness of the reported dissolved nutrient fraction data, and possibilities to get more complete datasets from all Contracting Parties.

The Meeting may wish to discuss any other issues of relevance for the work of the group.

6. Future work

The Meeting is invited to discuss and update detailed timetable for PLC-8 project (to be presented by the Project Manager).

The Meeting is invited to discuss the agenda of the PLC-8 IG 7-2021 and consider hosting the meeting.

7. Closing of the Meeting

The Secretariat will prepare a draft outcome of the Meeting for consideration and approval by the Meeting via correspondence.