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<b>Document title</b>	Provisional Agenda
<b>Code</b>	1-1-Rev.1
<b>Category</b>	DEC
<b>Agenda Item</b>	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
<b>Submission date</b>	15.3.2019.2019
<b>Submitted by</b>	Secretariat
<b>Reference</b>	

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The Meeting is invited to adopt the Agenda.

***Day 1 (Tuesday, 9 April) starts at 12.00.***

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Matters arising from other HELCOM work
3. Marine litter

***Day 2 (Wednesday, 10 April)***

Continuation of the session on marine litter (Agenda Item 3), if needed.

4. Underwater noise
5. Physical damage to the sea floor

***Dedicated session on implementation of HELCOM agreements starts approximately at 13.00. Programme is submitted as attachment to the Provisional Agenda.***

***Day 3 (Thursday, 11 April)***

6. Following up the progress towards HELCOM targets to reduce nutrient loads
7. Measures to reduce nutrient loads

***Day 4 (Friday, 12 April)***

8. Hazardous substances
9. Remaining HELCOM hot spots and follow up of their deletion
10. Any other business
11. Future work and meetings
12. Outcome and closing of the Meeting

## Dedicated session on implementation of HELCOM agreements

### Background

HOD 54-2018 Meeting agreed that the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) will be based on the existing expertise in the HELCOM working structure according to the mandates of the working groups and will be overseen by the Heads of Delegation. The Heads of Delegation also pointed out that the update of BSAP should be a priority for the HELCOM working groups and requested the HELCOM groups to plan their work accordingly.

The Strategic Plan for the BSAP update, approved by HOD 54-2018, requests working groups to identify the reasons for lagging with the implementation of BSAP, for both regional and national actions as the first step. The work plan for the BSAP update, where the timing and more detailed steps of activities from the Strategic Plan have been specified, was approved by HOD 55-2018 ([Annex 4 to the Outcome](#)). Working Groups are now requested to follow up on the work plan.

PRESSURE 9-2018 identified HELCOM Recommendations relevant to the group's mandate that will be reported to support the BSAP update. Information on the implementation of the HELCOM agreements originating from the BSAP and Ministerial Declarations was collated in 2016 and national reports were also verified in 2018.

Analysis of sufficiency of measures to reach the BSAP goals is one of the key activities of the work plan to update the Baltic Sea Action Plan and two specific work strands will support this work: the HELCOM coordinated ACTION project which is co-financed by the EU, and the *ad hoc* HELCOM platform for analysing sufficiency of measures to reach good environmental status in the Baltic Sea (SOM Platform) as established by HOD 55-2018. Together the two activities will cover the relevant topics addressed by HELCOM (document to be submitted later). The HELCOM ACTION project will address the topics by-catch, impacts on the seabed, marine protected areas, and eutrophication. The major topics of the Platform will be hazardous substances, non-indigenous species, marine litter, underwater noise, and elements of biodiversity not covered by the HELCOM ACTION project.

### Goals of the session

The dedicated session will be aimed at discussing the ongoing reporting on the HELCOM Recommendations to compile sufficient and consistent information; evaluate implementation of HELCOM agreements and progress which potentially can be achieved by 2021; and present the planned work to analyze sufficiency of measures.

### Themes to be discussed

- Implementation of existing regional HELCOM agreements (Annex 3 to the Outcome of PRESSURE 9-2018) progress achieved, reasons of lagging behind and tools to facilitate implementation by 2021 ([workplan activity 1.1](#));
- Implementation of existing national HELCOM agreements (Annex 2 to the Outcome of PRESSURE 9-2018) progress achieved, reasons of lagging behind and tools to facilitate implementation by 2021 ([workplan activity 1.1](#));
- Reporting on the HELCOM Recommendations ([workplan activity 2.3](#)):
  - technical and procedural aspects of reporting – clarifications and updates;
  - preliminary analyses of the implementation;
- Concretisation of Pressure-related commitments from MD 2018, e.g. to specify measurable aims and target years ([workplan activity 2.4](#));
- Provide feed-back to the plans for Pressure relevant topics of the ACTION project and the SOM Platform (outcomes of kick off meetings) ([workplan activity 2.5](#));

- Other themes falling under PRESSURE group mandate - e.g. related to marine litter, underwater noise, loss and disturbance to seabed – can be proposed by participants for thorough discussion.