



Outcome of the Eleventh Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (HELCOM PRESSURE 11-2019)

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Introduction

0.1 In accordance with the decisions by PRESSURE 10-2019 (Outcome, Paragraph 11.1) and of HOD 56-2019 (Outcome, Paragraph 3.20) the Eleventh Meeting of the HELCOM Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (PRESSURE 11-2019) was held by invitation from the European Commission at the premises of MCE in Brussels, Belgium, on 23-25 October 2019.

0.2 All the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention, except Latvia and Russia, attended the Meeting. Observers from Coalition Clean Baltic (on-line), the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP), European Federation of National Associations of Water and Wastewater Services (EUREAU), John Nurminen Foundation, as well as invited guests from Baltic Nest Institute (BNI). The Data Consultant EMEP MSC-E also attended the Meeting. The List of Participants is contained in **Annex 1**.

0.3 The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Lars Sonesten, Chair of the Pressure Group. Mr. Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky, assisted by Ms. Marta Ruiz and Ms Susanna Kaasinen, from the HELCOM Secretariat acted as secretary of the Meeting.

0.4 The Meeting took note that the Contracting Parties cannot decide on some of the late documents, but countries were ready to discuss them. Nonetheless, an additional correspondence procedure will be needed for final decision on these documents.

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

1.1 The Meeting adopted the Agenda of the Meeting as contained in document 1-1.

Agenda Item 2 Matters arising from other HELCOM work

2.1 The Meeting took note of the extracts from the outcomes of meetings of relevance to the work of Pressure Working Group as presented by the Secretariat and contained in document 2-2.

2.2 Information on the Outcomes of Agri and State & Conservation Groups as well as the outputs of the work of the groups subordinated to Pressure Group (EN-Marine litter, EN-Noise, CG PHARMA, EN DREDS and RedCore DG) are considered under relevant agenda items. Also, the outcomes of the SOM Platform meeting and ACTION Workshop 2.1 are presented at the BSAP-update dedicated session.

Agenda Item 3 Marine litter

3.1 The Meeting took note that the Fourth Workshop on implementation of the HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (WS RAP ML 4-2019) was held on 22 October, preceding the Pressure group meeting.

3.2 The Meeting took note that the Workshop discussed the revision of the recommendation on urban storm-water management; progress in regional work to mitigate environmental impact of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear; and measures to minimize littering of the marine environment by expended and extruded polystyrene (the "Survey of polystyrene foam (EPS and XPS) in the Baltic Sea" is available on the [HELCOM website](#) after Sweden lifted its study reservation).

3.3 The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the Workshop as contained in document 3-8.

3.4 The Meeting agreed to arrange a written procedure to comment the proposed new actions as contained in Annexes 2, 3 and 4 of the Outcome of the Workshop by **6 November 2019** (Marta.Ruiz@helcom.fi). Based on the comments, the work will continue and will be further discussed at PRESSURE 12-2020.

3.5 The Meeting took note and welcomed the draft “Review of existing policies and research related to microplastics” conducted as part of the project “FanpLESStic-sea project – Initiatives to remove microplastics before they enter the sea” (document 3-1).

3.6 The Meeting took note of the following initial comments:

- the report is to be complemented on measures, e.g. addressing microplastics in textiles, eco-design and microparticles emission from industrial laundries;
- pathways and sources could be better addressed, e.g. fragmentation of plastics in the aquatic environment;
- to indicate that the IUCN assessment referred to on p. 51 of the Report uses different kinds of categorizations of microplastics which is of relevance when its conclusions are considered;
- to add information on projects to be launched in 2020 in the frame of JPI Oceans;
- to add a section on the status of development of the HELCOM microlitter indicator.

3.7 The Meeting discussed the accomplishment of action RL6 of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter: “Establish an overview of the importance of the different sources of primary and secondary microplastics. Evaluate products and processes that include both primary and secondary micro plastics, such as fibres from clothing, assess if they are covered or not by legislation, and act, if appropriate, to influence the legal framework, or identify other necessary measures”.

3.8 The Meeting agreed that with the revision of the report to address the input provided by the Meeting and its subsequent publication the first part of action RL6 (“Establish an overview of the importance of the different sources of primary and secondary microplastics”) is accomplished and that the second part (“Evaluate products and processes that include both primary and secondary micro plastics, such as fibers from clothing, assess if they are covered or not by legislation, and act, if appropriate, to influence the legal framework, or identify other necessary measures”) is to remain in the revised RAP on ML.

3.9 The Meeting considered and welcomed the draft summary for policy makers (document 3-1 Add. 1), agreed to provide written comments by **1 November 2019** to the Secretariat (marta.ruiz@helcom.fi and aaron.vuola@helcom.fi) and to publish the summary on the HELCOM Website once the input provided is addressed.

3.10 The Meeting recalled that PRESSURE 10-2019 considered action RL14 - landfills or dumpsites which may eventually pose a risk to the marine environment and recommended the needed steps to accomplish the action (Outcome of PRESSURE 10-2019, paras 3.35-3.38).

3.11 The Meeting took note of the current status of the implementation of the recommended steps as contained in document 3-2.

3.12 The Meeting discussed the data on landfills compiled via questionnaire and pointed out the disbalance in the amounts of points reported by different countries. The Meeting expressed its concern that the disbalance is caused by different interpretation of the definition of a “risk posed to the marine environment”, which might require clarification as well as criteria to select landfills for reporting.

3.13 The Meeting noted that Denmark is not in the position to provide information of the landfills, but that they are all well managed and do not pose any risk to the marine environment.

3.14 The Meeting took note that Lithuania and Poland will verify national data and provide updated information.

- 3.15 The Meeting agreed that the table of the landfills is to be verified by national data reporters including re-evaluation of the risk posed by the sites and to provide the updated information to the Secretariat (marta.ruiz@helcom.fi) together with missing landfills' coordinates in WGS 84 decimal degrees coordinate system by **1 December 2019**.
- 3.16 The Meeting took note that the available information on six landfills selected for study in the Leningrad region as part of the BALTHAZAR project could be included in the map layer, as it is already in use for HELCOM purposes.
- 3.17 The Meeting concluded on the accomplishment of the action, once the decisions made by the Meeting are implemented.
- 3.18 The Meeting considered document 3-3 - a summary page containing the most important reasons and conclusions to be used to communicate the report on the contribution of upstream waste flows to the marine environment (RL8) with river basin management authorities.
- 3.19 The Meeting discussed means to communicate the report with river basin authorities and concluded that the summary should contain facts which would highlight the importance of the problem and serve as an introduction for the main report. The report is intended to help addressing the problem of marine litter in river basin management plans and national programmes of measures under the EU WFD. The summary page should contain more facts on the significance of the rivers as pathways for marine litter and also proposals on measure to abate the problem.
- 3.20 The Meeting took note that Poland will investigate a possibility to update the background report and produce the updated summary page with the assistance of the Secretariat to communicate the findings of the report with the authorities responsible for the development of national EU WFD programmes of measures to address the problem in the river basin management plans.
- 3.21 The Meeting invited Poland to present the updated report and summary page to PRESSUR 12-2020.
- 3.22 The Meeting also proposed that the summary could be translated to national languages for internal communication.
- 3.23 The Meeting took note of an update of the compiled information on activities and economic incentives aimed at appropriate disposal of End of Life Boats (ELB) to include additional information provided by Sweden, from OSPAR and Barcelona Secretariats as well as activities at international level (e.g. IMO London Convention) (document 3-4).
- 3.24 The Meeting took note of the information on a Danish report on recycling of fiberglass into traffic shield products (available [here](#)).
- 3.25 The Meeting took note that Sweden is aware of the aspects of the problems, which are to be addressed either at national or at EU level, and that Sweden is very keen to see the added value of HELCOM role in the problem.
- 3.26 The Meeting took note that utilization of pleasure boats in Estonia is not currently a problem, but it can emerge in the nearest future, as the amount of these boats is constantly growing.
- 3.27 The Meeting in general supported the development of a regional approach which would assist countries to handle the problem.
- 3.28 The Meeting pointed out that since the situation of ELB differs in the countries, the starting point to develop the regional approach would be a policy message based on the Report on the development of best practice on the disposal of old pleasure boats ([document 3-6](#) to PRESSURE 10-2019) and the overview of activities and economic incentives (document 3-4 to this Meeting), among other issues identifying roles of HELCOM, the EU and national governments in tackling the problem.
- 3.29 The Meeting invited Finland with the assistance of Sweden to produce a policy document based on the existing material.

- 3.30 The Meeting took note of the information on beach clean-up campaigns organized in 2019 in Russia and welcomed beach litter monitoring data, as contained in document 3-5.
- 3.31 The Meeting took note of the request by Russia to seek for opportunities to join the Baltic Sea “Clean Beach Campaign 2020” with national events and to consider possibilities for information support of the Campaign to distribute information to potential target groups and organize information exchange across the region.
- 3.32 The Meeting invited Russia to inform HELCOM on the planned actions in 2020 and pointed out that there might be a need for coordination with the EU beach cleaning campaigns.
- 3.33 The Meeting took note of the report on the results of the questionnaire on waste management in the Baltic Sea conducted by Germany (document 3-7), which gathers input from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Poland, Russia, Sweden as well as KIMO and WWF Poland, as well as five additional responses from municipalities and one from a port operator.
- 3.34 The Meeting took note of the planned discussions related to the identification of useful elements linking marine litter to national waste prevention and management plans envisaged by the revised EU Waste Framework Directive.
- 3.35 The Meeting invited Germany to provide additional information on these discussions once available.
- 3.36 The Meeting took note that some countries are ready to nominate representatives to participate in such discussions and encouraged all Contracting Parties to inform Germany (stefanie.werner@uba.de) and the Secretariat (marta.ruiz@helcom.fi) about their nominations by the **end of November 2019**.
- 3.37 The Meeting took note that Russian waste management legislation has been under the reform during last few years including implementation on national project “Ecology” (2019-2024) which contains a wide range of changes in waste management on federal, regional and local levels. No local expert is expected to be nominated at this point.
- 3.38 The Meeting took note of the information on on-going European and global processes with regard to marine litter as contained in document 3-6.
- 3.39 The Meeting agreed that the RAP ML follow-up table will be updated via correspondence after PRESSURE 11-2019. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to update the table with the input from the WS RAP ML 4-2019 and this Meeting by **15 November** and circulate it to Contracting Parties for verification. Corrections are to be supplied to the Secretariat (marta.ruiz@helcom.fi) by **4 December 2019** when the table will be made available on the HELCOM website.
- 3.40 The Meeting recalled that the HELCOM RAP ML is to be reviewed and, if necessary, updated by 2021.
- 3.41 The Meeting took note of the following initial ideas on the revision of the HELCOM RAP ML:
- Sweden drew attention to the similar process going on in OSPAR where the distribution of actions between a strategic document and operational one is being discussed. In line with OSPAR, HELCOM can consider including more general objectives with long-term deadlines into the BSAP update, while actions with short-term deadlines, specific output and criteria to evaluate accomplishment can be included into the revised RAP ML;
 - Estonia was of the opinion that at the current stage the differentiation of actions and measures between the BSAP update and the revised RAP ML is very difficult, pointing out that in general the updated BSAP should include more general measures/objectives which can be further specified in an operational document such as the revised RAP ML. Practically, proposals on actions are to be compiled at this stage. They can be further generalized for inclusion into the BSAP update.
 - Finland in general supported the proposed approach to proceed with the BSAP update and revision of the RAP ML.

Agenda Item 4 Underwater noise

- 4.1 The Meeting considered the revised draft Regional Action Plan on Underwater Noise based on the feedback provided by PRESSURE 10-2019 and MARITIME 19-2019, as well as additional input provided by Germany (document 4-1-Rev.1).
- 4.2 The Meeting took note that the document was also submitted to STATE & CONSERVATION 11-2019 for information.
- 4.3 The Meeting took note that EU welcomes the draft Action Plan, in particular in reference to its mentioning of the cooperation with the EU TG Noise.
- 4.4 The Meeting took note of a general consideration by Sweden that the Action Plan might include also criteria to evaluate implementation of actions, and that in its current version is mainly focused on research needs and improving knowledge rather than on proposing measures to reduce noise.
- 4.5 The Meeting took note that Russia does not have objections on the redrafted action 24.
- 4.6 The Meeting also took note of the proposal by BSAP UP Project Manager that the measures compiled in the BSAP update process could also be included in the Action Plan.
- 4.7 The Meeting discussed the need to compile available information on technical features of equipment to help the operators address HELCOM best practice guidelines.
- 4.8 The Meeting agreed on the revised draft Action Plan as contained in document 4-1-Rev. 2, and further agreed on the need to provide additional written comments to the document by **6 November 2019** to the Secretariat (marta.ruiz@helcom.fi).
- 4.9 The Meeting agreed to submit the draft Action Plan on underwater noise to HOD 57-2019 to guide its further development in relation with the BSAP update process to align measures in the revised BSAP and in the Action Plan.
- 4.10 The Meeting took note of the information on ongoing work of the HELCOM EN-Noise as contained in document 4-2.
- 4.11 The Meeting took note that as a follow up of the PRESSURE 10a-2019 proposal to organize a follow-up meeting (following the one organized in 2017) with the OSPAR ICG Noise and in coordination with EU TG Noise to advance on the assessment of underwater noise indicators, the EN-Noise 2-2019 was of the view that the [Ocean Noise conference](#) to be held on 25-29 May 2020 would be a good opportunity for an adjacent joint meeting. The meeting invited Sweden and the Secretariat to further investigate this possibility. After EN-Noise 2-2019 meeting Sweden approached the organizers and confirmed the possibility to do so. Also, the Secretariat contacted OSPAR Secretariat who after consulting with ICG Noise indicated their support to arranging such meeting together.
- 4.12 The Meeting took note of the reservation by Sweden on the joint meeting with OSPAR which is intended to be clarified by **1 November 2019** and agreed that all countries can use this time to provide additional clarifications.
- 4.13 The Meeting agreed to arrange the joint meeting with OSPAR ICG Noise and in coordination with EU TG Noise in connection with the Ocean Noise conference to be held on 25-29 May 2020, pending on the reservation and additional clarifications by 1 November 2019.
- 4.14 The Meeting took note of the non-technical summary of a comprehensive field study on the progress and efficacy of noise-mitigation measures for pile-driving, using sound measurements from German offshore construction projects up to the end of 2018 (document 4-3). Germany will provide a link to the report as soon as published.
- 4.15 The Meeting took note of the program in the Northwest of Canada, that could act as an example of ad-hoc mitigation measures for underwater noise from ships for the whole Baltic Sea region as contained in document 4-4.

4.16 The Meeting took note of the information by Germany that in relation to the report on 'Inclusion of noise-mitigation measures in reporting to the impulsive noise registry' still awaits further minor updates within the ongoing work on the review of the Monitoring Guidance of the EU TG Noise, which continues in 2020. EU TG Noise was informed about the comments on the report received by PRESSURE 10-2019 at the previous meeting. The Meeting took note that Germany will provide information to the PRESSURE 12-2020 meeting.

Agenda Item 5 Physical damage to the sea floor

5.1 The Meeting took note of the positive feedback from London Convention and Protocol (LC/LP) Secretariat on the first trial consolidated reporting of 2017 data (document 5-1).

5.2 The Secretariat presented the proposal on institutionalizing the reporting to London Convention and Protocol as well as the proposal by EN DREDS 8-2019 to amend HELCOM Recommendation 36/2 and Guidelines for Management of Dredged Material at Sea to mandate HELCOM to report to LC/LP on behalf of the HELCOM Contracting Parties and describing the procedure to produce the consolidated report.

5.3 The Meeting took note of the proposal by the EU to include additional parameters to the HELCOM reporting relevant for the EU MSFD data requirements.

5.4 The Meeting invited the EU to supply a proposal on the additional parameters to the Secretariat (Dmitry.Frank-Kamenetsky@helcom.fi) in order to consider their integration to the reporting requirement of the Guidelines at the upcoming meeting of EN DREDS.

5.5 The Meeting supported the proposed revision of HELCOM Recommendation 36/2 and the Guidelines and mandated EN DREDS to prepare the draft version of the updated Recommendation for submission to HOD 57-2019 pending the proposal by the EU on inclusion of the additional parameters to the HELCOM reporting.

5.6 The Meeting considered the BSEFS (Baltic Sea Environmental Fact Sheet) on depositing of dredged material in the Baltic Sea in 2017 (document 5-2) and agreed on its publication on the HELCOM website.

5.7 The Meeting took note of the status of 2018 data reporting under HELCOM Recommendation 36/2 (document 5-3) and invited those Contracting Parties, which have not yet reported the data, to report or at least inform on the anticipated date for reporting, bearing in mind the work required to prepare the consolidated report to LC/LP.

5.8 The Meeting took note that Russia is planning to report data for 2018 by **15 of November 2019**.

Agenda Item 6 Hazardous substances

6.1 The Data Consultant EMEP MSC-E presented document 6-1, Airborne input of hazardous substances – EMEP report, containing indicator reports as a part of the annual report by EMEP on airborne input of three heavy metals and POPs in the period from 1990 to 2017 (documents 6-1, and 6-1-Atts. 1-4).

6.2 The Meeting took note of the proposal by RedCore DG Chair to change the visualization of time series in the BSEFS avoiding maps as it has been performed in the factsheet for nitrogen deposition.

6.3 The Meeting pointed out significant variations in the emission time series for some substances and got clarifications of possible reasons for some of them (e.g. the use of unleaded fuel in Russia), but the others require a dedicated study.

6.4 The Meeting took note that Finland and Germany provided written editorial comments on the Fact Sheets and requested to incorporate them before publication.

6.5 The Meeting acknowledged the increase of deposition levels for some of the substances and took note of the clarification that these are minor changes mainly resulting from data deviation which do not require any immediate reaction.

- 6.6 The Meeting pointed out that deposition time series are already 25 years long and proposed to incorporate trend analysis into time series, including break points to illustrate changes in various periods.
- 6.7 The Meeting took note that the largest uncertainties are in identification of emission values, while the modelling uncertainty in general is within 30%.
- 6.8 The Meeting requested to include trend analyses and also an evaluation of uncertainties into the renewed EMEP contract.
- 6.9 The Meeting also took note that 17 dioxins are used in the assessment of dioxin deposition.
- 6.10 The Meeting endorsed the fact sheets for publication on the EMEP and HELCOM websites after incorporating received comments.
- 6.11 PRESSURE 3-2015 proposed rotation of the substances to be assessed in annual EMEP reports. A new contract between HELCOM and EMEP regarding estimation of airborne inputs of N and selected hazardous substances was signed for the 3-year period 2018-2020. The Meeting agreed with the list of substances for assessment in the last year of the current 3-year contract, as given in the annex to document 6-1.
- 6.12 The Meeting discussed the format of the contract and agreed on a continuation of cooperation with EMEP in the next 3-year cycle.
- 6.13 The Secretariat presented document 6-2 on improved exchange and utilization of data on hazardous substances between EU legal frameworks and HELCOM, submitted by HAZBREF project and the Secretariat, and the Meeting took note of the findings and recommendations of the HAZBREF project report, in particular:
- Identified interactions and synergies between HELCOM and EU BAT-process;
 - Proposals on how HELCOM data could be used for EU BREFs; and
 - Proposals on how HELCOM could benefit from use of data in EU BREFs (and HAZBREF project).
- 6.14 The Meeting welcomed the document and pointed out that the information on the timetable for planned BREFs revisions would be valuable.
- 6.15 The Meeting took note of the suggestion by the EU to take into account the ongoing work in JRC on the contaminants relevant for the marine environment.
- 6.16 Meeting took note of the information on the results of the two questionnaires contained in document 6-3, i.e. overview of the data on pharmaceutical waste handling and use of pharmaceuticals in veterinary, submitted by CWPharma and the Secretariat.
- 6.17 The first preliminary overview of the data compiled through questionnaires initiated by Pressure group, with the support of the Interreg CWPharma project, were presented to PRESSURE 10-2019. The meeting agreed that additional information could be provided by the countries to improve data coverage. Some additional information was reported during the summer period 2019. Denmark, Germany, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, and Finland responded to both questionnaires. No information was received from Sweden and Russia.
- 6.18 The Meeting took note that Sweden is still working on compilation of the data and willing to report the data.
- 6.19 The Meeting re-iterated that the term “pharmaceutical waste” should be used instead of “medical waste”.
- 6.20 The Meeting took note that Lithuanian data have been provided but not reflected in some of the tables in the document.
- 6.21 The Meeting took note of the question by CCB whether there are any regulations/voluntary take-back schemes in the BSR countries addressing pharmaceuticals purchased from online pharmacies.

- 6.22 The Meeting noted that in Germany pharmaceuticals are a part of the general waste stream, so the origin does not matter.
- 6.23 The Meeting acknowledged that the mechanisms to take back unused pharmaceuticals purchased from online pharmacies are not well developed in many countries and look specifically challenging when pharmaceuticals are purchased in third countries.
- 6.24 The Meeting took note of the information on the major outputs of the BONUS CLEANWATER Project (document 6-6) and that the results of the project will contribute to the accomplishment of the HELCOM action on “micropollutants in the WWTP effluents” in terms of technics to mitigate emission of micropollutants to the marine environment.
- 6.25 The Meeting considered the results of compilation and analysis of data on micropollutants in WWTP (documents 6-5 and 6-5-Att.1 and Att.2), submitted by BSR Water and CW PHARMA projects.
- 6.26 The Meeting welcomed the result of the work and recommended also to discuss the results with HELCOM EN Hazards and CG PHARMA.
- 6.27 The Meeting discussed the quality of the compiled data and, in particular the sufficiency of the data for any statistical analysis, particularly pointing out high variation of observed concentrations which hinder proper averaging, so the results are of indicative character.
- 6.28 The Meeting took note of the comment by EUREAU that some WWTPs perform monitoring using 24-hours composite samples and proposed to reflect this information in the report.
- 6.29 The Meeting pointed out that the results are also relevant for HELCOM indicator work to incorporate data on sources and pathways in indicator reports.
- 6.30 The Meeting took note of the comment by CCB that best available technologies to prevent pollution by micropollutants from WWTPs are to be taken into account, and that there is a need to think about revision of relevant HELCOM Recommendations or develop a new one.
- 6.31 The Meeting pointed out that the technology recommendations are not clearly described in the submitted documents. The Meeting requested to compile collected information into one document and submit it to PRESSURE 12-2020 to decide on the accomplishment of the action.
- 6.32 The Meeting discussed proposal to develop a strategic regional policy document on modernizing of HELCOM hazardous substances framework (document 6-4), submitted by the Secretariat. Further, the Meeting agreed on the proposed approach to update HELCOM framework on hazardous substances including the relevant segment of BSAP.
- 6.33 The Meeting discussed the proposed document, agreed on the need to revise HELCOM framework on hazardous substances and supported the development of the strategic regional policy document on hazardous substances.
- 6.34 The Meeting recommended to include into the HELCOM monitoring program on hazardous substances, the work on prioritization of hazardous substances and indicator work into the scope of the policy document.
- 6.35 The Meeting also noted the ongoing EU work on monitoring of hazardous substances in the environment and recommended to interact with the EU WG Chemical.
- 6.36 The Meeting proposed to arrange a 3-week written procedure to express nationally coordinated positions regarding the proposed strategic regional policy document. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to circulate invitation to the group members.
- 6.37 The Meeting was encouraged to consider national co-leadership of the development of the strategic policy document to ensure its relevance to global, regional, and national policy demands and expectations and also to ensure its relevance to the update of the BSAP.
- 6.38 The Meeting noted the comment of CCB that HELCOM Recommendation on implementing HELCOM Objectives on hazardous substances should be taken into account.

Agenda Item 7 First results of the extended reporting on sewage sludge handling in the BS region

7.1 The Meeting took note that the HELCOM Workshop on nutrient recycling measures will be organized in Helsinki on 5-6 February 2020 and of the draft concept of the Workshop, contained in document 7-1. The Workshop will be organized by the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland, HELCOM, European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, Policy Area Nutri as well as SuMaNu and BSR Water project platforms.

7.2 The Meeting supported the concept of the workshop and encouraged the Contracting Parties to attend it.

7.3 The Meeting took note of the comment by Germany that, when discussing the measures to improve recycling of nutrients, the workshop will take into account specific national conditions and practices as well as obstacles and drivers.

7.4 The Meeting took note of the current status of the reporting on HELCOM Recommendation 38/1, contained in the Overview of the reporting on sewage sludge handling (document 7-2).

7.5 The Meeting took note that the Secretariat is planning to apply for a small-scale research project on mapping nutrient flows in the Baltic Sea region, and that the reporting data on sewage sludge handling is a significant part of the input data for the research. The result of the research will be utilized as background information for the nutrient recycling strategy.

7.6 The Meeting took note of the clarification by the Secretariat that reporting of the information on the amounts of generated sewage sludge, its handling, national limit values, and concentration of hazardous substances in sludge is the most crucial for the research.

7.7 The Meeting encouraged the Contracting Parties which have not yet reported the information to provide the requested data by the end of the year at latest.

Agenda Item 8 Update of the Baltic sea Action Plan and associated activities

8.1 The Meeting took note of the ongoing work to update the Baltic Sea Action Plan and ongoing activities to support the analysis of sufficiency of measures (document 8-5, **Presentation 1**).

8.2 The Meeting took note of the planned technical review of synopses on potential new HELCOM actions to take place at PRESSURE 12-2020, and that guidance for the review will be prepared in advance of the meeting.

8.3 The Meeting took note of the proposed dates for thematic BSAP UP workshops, and that a workshop related to hazardous substances, litter, and eutrophication is to take place during the week 11-15 May 2020 (dates to be confirmed), and that cross-cutting workshops with topics of relevance for Pressure's representatives are to take place 18-20 May 2020 (including e.g. underwater noise; dates to be confirmed), and during the week 25-29 May 2020 (including e.g. disturbance to the seabed; dates to be confirmed).

8.4 The Meeting underlined that there are also cross-cutting aspects between the workshop themes and underlined also the importance of information flow between the workshops.

8.5 The Meeting discussed the development of synopses on new measures for the BSAP. The Meeting noted that a proposal on new actions should preferentially be supported by quantitative information on effect and costs of actions but that if such data is missing qualitative estimates can also be provided.

8.6 The Meeting took note of the approach for the analysis of sufficiency of measures (SOM) (**Presentation 2**) and that expert-based surveys have been developed to provide information on contribution of activities to pressures, effectiveness of measures, and to identify the response on the state of the environment as a result of a reduction in pressure.

8.7 The Meeting took note of the summary presentation on the outcome of the HELCOM SOM workshop on hazardous substances, held on 22 October 2019 (HELCOM SOM-HZ WS 1-2019) (Presentation 2). The Meeting noted that the Workshop participants tested and proposed revisions to the planned surveys on hazardous substances and that Notes from the Workshop will be prepared shortly.

- 8.8 The Meeting noted that background documents are being prepared by the SOM topic team on hazardous substances for each of the four substances under analysis (PFOS, TBT, mercury, diclofenac) and that those documents will be distributed to Pressure Contacts to provide an opportunity to comment or contribute national data to the work.
- 8.9 The Meeting noted the view of the Workshop participants that the surveys likely cannot be answered by one expert and that countries are encouraged to identify experts to contribute to the surveys with knowledge on the substances addressed as well as knowledge on different type of measures applied to reduce hazardous substances, i.e. related to waste treatment, global conventions, etc.
- 8.10 The Meeting noted that the revised surveys will be distributed in November 2019. The Meeting supported that the surveys will be distributed to the participants of the HELCOM SOM-HZ Workshop, EN Hazardous substances (EN-HZ), and furthermore agreed to nominate additional experts to take part in the survey.
- 8.11 The Meeting took note that nomination of additional experts will be needed also for other topics, e.g. noise, litter, nutrients (effectiveness of agricultural measures), and the evaluation on loss and disturbance of seabed habitats (effectiveness of measures). The Meeting agreed that the Secretariat will send out on invitation on what kind of experts that are needed and that nominations will be requested two weeks after the invitation has been submitted to the Contracting Parties.
- 8.12 The Meeting took note that MARITIME 19-2019 was requested to nominate experts to support the analysis related to non-indigenous species.
- 8.13 The Meeting noted that the validation of input to the SOM analysis with regard estimating loss and disturbance to the seabed from human activities is proposed to use the same data and approach as in the HOLAS II project (document 8-12). The Meeting noted that STATE & CONSERVATION 11-2019, which considered the same document, was not in position to decide on the proposal, due to late submission and therefore had agreed to submit comments to the Secretariat by 6 November 2019. The Meeting agreed to provide one consolidated response per country through the State and Conservation Contacts by the agreed date.
- 8.14 The Meeting considered the available input and approach for processing activity-pressure data on marine litter and underwater noise to be included in the SOM analysis (document 8-13). The Meeting agreed to request national experts in EN Marine Litter and EN Noise, that have not yet done so, to contribute to the survey to improve the reliability of results.
- 8.15 The Meeting agreed to validate the input to the SOM analysis via correspondence and requested the Secretariat to arrange for online meetings in case of deviating comments from the countries.
- 8.16 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to convene a webinar to introduce the SOM model to the Pressure Group in more detail to get a better understanding on how the data will be used before being requested to validate the data. The Secretariat will propose dates for such webinar at a later stage. It was noted that a test run of model would be helpful to understand how the data will be used.
- 8.17 The Meeting recalled the task to review existing HELCOM objectives and develop new ones for a set of additional topics as outline in the work plan for the BSAP update (activity 2.2) (document 8-3; **Presentation 3**). Proposals on revised and new objectives are to be presented for endorsement at HOD 57-2019.
- 8.18 The Meeting took note of the adjustment of segments and goals of the Baltic Sea Action Plan to be used as a basis for Working Groups as provisionally agreed by HOD 56-2019 (document 8-3).
- 8.19 The Meeting took note that the proposals made at PRESSURE 10-2019 have been further amended by the State and Conservation and Fish Groups.
- 8.20 The Meeting underlined the importance of harmonizing the objectives across segments and to avoid that overlapping issues are addressed in the segments.
- 8.21 The Meeting took note of the proposal by State and Conservation to replace the term 'wild-life' as used in some objectives with the term 'Baltic Sea life' or 'Baltic Sea biodiversity'. The Meeting did not

support the use of the term biodiversity, since the aim of the objectives that currently use the term wild-life is to protect species, not diversity. It was also not felt necessary to refer to the Baltic. The Meeting therefore proposed to use the term 'sea life'.

8.22 The Meeting agreed that with regard to management objectives they should be overarching and not pinpointing specific activities.

8.23 The Meeting discussed and agreed on the ecological and management objectives as given in **Annex 2**.

8.24 The Meeting considered the proposed revised objectives related to non-indigenous species under the segments on sea-based activities to simply read "No introduction of non-indigenous species", thereby embracing shipping, aquaculture, and other activities that are contributing to the input of NIS

8.25 The Meeting took note of the input received by 13 October 2019 from subsidiary bodies to the HELCOM Science Agenda (documents 8-4-Rev 1, (8-4 Att1-Rrev.1). The Meeting took note that a Task Group has been established to work further on the science agenda based on the input from the subsidiary bodies (**Presentation 4**).

8.26 The Meeting encouraged the submission of more comprehensive proposals noting that longer text proposals may exist, e.g. from IN Eutrophication that has contributed to the survey.

8.27 The Meeting underlined the importance of communicating the results of the science agenda to e.g. national funding agencies, the BANOS project that is developing a science and innovation agenda for a tentative new programme to fund research in the Baltic and North Sea, and the EU MSFD process.

8.28 The Meeting requested RedCore DG to clarify the proposal titled 'Alignment of nutrient input reduction targets for individual river basins with related targets of BSAP' and how it differs from ongoing work under the ACTION project WP4.

8.29 The Meeting noted that the poor coverage of proposals related to food webs and pelagic habitats may be due to those areas not represented in expert groups or networks.

8.30 The Meeting agreed to submit additional proposals on knowledge and research needs including requested clarifications to the Secretariat **by 15 November 2019** (ullali.zweifel@helcom.fi). The Secretariat will prepare an updated version to circulate to the Pressure Group **by 30 November 2019** and thereafter submit to the first meeting of the Task Group for the Science Agenda.

8.31 The Meeting recalled the task for Working Groups to develop concrete actions to follow up the HELCOM 2018 Ministerial Declaration according to the workplan for the BSAP update (activity 2.4) (document 8-1). The Meeting discussed and revised the proposals as contained in **Annex 3** and agreed to submit the document, annotated as 'agreed at the working group level', to HOD 57-2019. The Meeting noted that most of the proposals are likely to be implemented before 2021 through joint activities in HELCOM.

8.32 The Meeting recalled the task for Working Group to consider tentative needs for rephrasing of existing HELCOM actions that are not likely implemented by 2021 according to the workplan for the BSAP update (activity 1.1, document 8-10). The Meeting recalled that in accordance with the workplan for the BSAP update, proposals on rephrased actions should be finalized by PRESSURE 12-2020.

8.33 The Meeting discussed and revised the existing proposals as contained in **Annex 4** and agreed to submit them for information to HOD 57-2019, annotated as 'work in progress'.

8.34 The Meeting invited lead countries for re-phrasing of individual actions to provide their input to the Secretariat (Dmitry.Frank-Kamenetsky@helcom.fi; Susanna.Kaasinen@helcom.fi) by **31 January 2020**. The Meeting will further discuss proposed drafts at the online meeting (see para 8.37).

8.35 The Meeting recalled the task to consider development of concrete actions based on previous commitments that were proposed to set aside of the follow-up system due to: too general character, lack of targets, overlapping with other actions and specification in later HELCOM documents (activities 1.1 and 2.4 of the workplan for the BSAP update) (document 8-9). The Meeting took note of the proposals from the

Secretariat on how these actions could be pursued or omitted from further work and agreed to provide response to the proposals through correspondence.

8.36 The Meeting agreed to further advance the implementation of the task according to the following timeline:

- The Secretariat will provide guidance for the commenting round including clarification of the final goal and anticipated results of the work and circulate it to the Pressure group members **by 29 October 2019**;
- Contracting Parties to provide comments to the proposals contained in document 8-9 to the Secretariat **by 22 November 2019** (Dmitry.Frank-Kamenetsky@helcom.fi; Susanna.Kaasinen@helcom.fi);
- Contracting Parties and RedCore DG are also invited to take the lead on concretization of the actions where this is missing. Secretariat will consolidate the comments and circulate a revised version of the document **by the end of November 2019**.
- Lead countries are invited to submit proposals on rephrased actions, including target years as relevant, based on document 8-9, **by 31 January 2020** (Dmitry.Frank-Kamenetsky@helcom.fi; Susanna.Kaasinen@helcom.fi).

8.37 The Meeting agreed to convene an online meeting to discuss the proposals related to documents 8-9 and 8-10 on 26 February 2020, at 09.00-12.00 CET.

8.38 The Meeting took note of the reporting on Recommendations adopted before 2007 (documents 8-6 and 6-6-Att.1) and invited the countries that have not yet reported to do so as soon as possible.

8.39 The Meeting took note that Lithuania will send an update on their reporting.

8.40 The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the HELCOM Workshop with River Basin Management Authorities (document 8-29) in general and considered the proposals of the Workshop on practical measures to engage with the relevant river basin authorities to enhance implementation of the BSAP.

8.41 The Meeting suggested to follow up the recommendation to further develop harmonized methods for estimation of natural background losses of nutrients. The Meeting also noted that the Workshop highlighted the challenge to gain information on the effectiveness of measures.

8.42 The Meeting suggested to utilize the Outcome of the Workshop for rephrasing of actions (c.f. document 8-10).

8.43 The Meeting acknowledged the recommendation that the Secretariat and Chairs could take part in events in non-Contracting Parties might cause too much work load for the Secretariat and Chairs.

8.44 The Meeting took note that the participants of the Workshop had proposed regular organization of similar workshops to maintain dialog with river basin management authorities.

8.45 The Meeting proposed a correction of the text of the outcome: - "... good environmental status of offshore areas is unlikely be achieved unless GES is also reached in the coastal waters".

8.46 The Meeting pointed out the importance of involvement of upstream non-HELCOM countries into the joint effort to reduce nutrient load on the Baltic Sea and consider a tool to involve representatives of these countries to PLC-8 project.

8.47 The Meeting took note of the progress in ACTION project WP4 (document 8-7) and of the approach for nutrient inputs in the SOM analysis, including the expert-based survey on the efficiency of agricultural measures planned for November 2019, and encouraged experts to take part in the expert-based survey.

8.48 The Meeting took note of the information in document 8-14, Preliminary outcome of the ACTION project WP4 activity on compatibility of targets under different marine policies.

8.49 The Meeting took note of the information by Finland on the progress in implementation of the task on point sources. The Meeting invited Poland to report the required periodic data 2017 to the PLC-water data base. Poland informed that data was reported, but due to a problem with point-source coding there is a need for consistency check. It will be done as soon as possible.

- 8.50 The Meeting welcomed the progress in WP4 highlighting the important results which have already been achieved.
- 8.51 The Meeting took note of the concern of Germany on availability of information on effects of agricultural measures and recommended to communicate the matter with HELCOM Agri group.
- 8.52 The Meeting took note of the information in document 8-14, Preliminary outcome of the ACTION project WP4 activity on compatibility of targets under different marine policies.
- 8.53 The Meeting requested the ACTION project to circulate the draft to Pressure group Contacts for checking before publishing.
- 8.54 The Meeting took note of document 8-8, Update of the progress in ACTION project WP2, on the ongoing work in general.
- 8.55 When taking note of document 8-8-Add.1, Progress and draft structure for report on Impacts on the seabed, the Meeting noted that WP2.1, Identification of major pressures in Baltic Sea sub-basins, is of main interest for the Pressure group. A draft of the report will be sent to HELCOM EN BENTHIC, EN DREDS, State and Conservation and Pressure groups, once it is completed and comments and input from these groups will be welcomed at that stage.

Agenda Item 9 Nutrient loads to the Baltic Sea ecosystem

- 9.1 The Meeting considered the updated version of the HELCOM Core Indicator on inputs of nutrients for the period 1995-2017 (document 9-5) for further submission to HOD 57-2019 and also noting the correction in Table 1b presented in document 9-5-Att.-Corr.1.
- 9.2 The Meeting welcomed the updated indicator and pointed out a great progress achieved since reference period in reduction of nutrient inputs. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to communicate the information on achieved progress to stakeholders also indicating that, despite the achievements, a lot is still to be done.
- 9.3 The Meeting proposed to correct the legends of the diagrams on sources and to split waterborne input in riverine and direct inputs.
- 9.4 The Meeting agreed with the proposal by Sweden to revise the text in the key message to following: "Nitrogen (Phosphorus) input into the Bothnian Bay is below MAI but within statistical uncertainty, as no reduction requirements were considered necessary in the BSAP nutrient reduction scheme".
- 9.5 The Meeting pointed out the need of editing the text and proposed that the editorial remarks will be provided **by 8 November 2019** to the Secretariat (Dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi).
- 9.6 The Meeting endorsed the updated version of the HELCOM Core Indicator on inputs of nutrients for the period 1995-2017 (document 9-5) for further submission to HOD 57-2019, pending proposed editing.
- 9.7 Based on discussions at RedCore DG and PLC-7 Project Implementation Group (IG), document 9-1 Timeframe for PLC-8 deliverables, gives different scenarios for the PLC-8 assessment work. The proposed PLC-8 timeframe implies division of the project activities into two phases, both running from summer 2020 to the first quarter 2025 enabling the alignment of the assessment products' delivery with national reporting needs, e.g. in relation to WFD and MFSD. Document 9-1-Att.1, Timeframe for PLC-8, illustrates three different scenarios of PLC-8 project implementation.
- 9.8 After considering the above documents, the Meeting decided to propose to HELCOM HOD 57-2019 in general to follow scenario one of PLC-8 implementation.
- 9.9 The Meeting proposed to make NIC (nutrient input ceilings) assessment available in late 2022 and to use 1995-2020 data and a periodical assessment based on 2021 data according to scenario one.
- 9.10 The Meeting took note that there might be a need for a mid-term evaluation of the updated BSAP, which would require an additional assessment of progress towards NIC, and that resources for that might be considered in PLC-8.

- 9.11 The Meeting took note that Germany will probably only be able to provide data on sources from 2020 for PLC-8 assessment.
- 9.12 The Meeting took note of the difficulties to report periodic data in the autumn of the year following the monitoring year. The Meeting agreed on the revision of the deadline for periodical data reporting and other subsequent assessment work by postponing them with four months compared to the existing ones, with a corresponding revision of HELCOM Recommendation 37-38/1.
- 9.13 The Meeting considered document 9-2, Proposal to update the textual part of the HELCOM nutrient input reduction scheme, and in general welcomed the document pointing out that this is a valuable contribution to the BSAP update.
- 9.14 The Meeting provided the following comments and suggestions on further improvement of the text:
- to account for the anticipated increase of ship traffic and the direct emissions to water from ship scrubbers when updating the estimate of the anticipated reduction from shipping due to the implementation of the NECA.;
 - to reflect information on the achieved progress to reduce nutrient input;
 - update the last paragraph of the text in line with the proposal of the WS with RBMA;
 - include years for updating NIC assessment
- The Meeting took note that Germany proposed the target year 2027 as the latest to take all possible actions in line with WFD.
- 9.15 The Meeting took note that Finland was of the opinion that the consideration of the proposed text is to be further continued together with the update of the other parts of the BSAP.
- 9.16 The Meeting specifically discussed the statement in the proposed text regarding not increasing input after achieving input ceilings based on the precautionary principles and took note of the position of Germany that the statement is important and should remain in the document.
- 9.17 When considering the proposal to update nutrient input ceilings (NIC) for the HELCOM Nutrient Input Reduction Scheme (document 9-6; **Presentation 5**) the Meeting agreed in general on the proposed approach to update the values for input ceilings. The Meeting also took note that the presented values are of indicative character, and they will be further improved utilising the best available information.
- 9.18 The Meeting took note of the study reservation by Lithuania on the proposed nutrient input ceilings for further investigation of the calculations behind the proposed values and proposed to continue discussion in expert groups.
- 9.19 The Meeting took note that Germany sees the document as a valuable and transparent and proposes also to consider the effect of NECA and potential discharges to water from scrubbers. Germany proposes to present the results of relevant study on scrubbers at the next PRESSURE meeting.
- 9.20 The Meeting proposed to convene a workshop back-to-back with PRESSURE 12-2020 to discuss all aspects of the calculation and also use the workshop for consideration of the assessment work done by PLC-7 project.
- 9.21 The Meeting took note of the clarification that the values presented in the tables for countries' contribution to individual rivers are computed taking into account retention and reflect input from upstream countries to the sea.
- 9.22 The Meeting noted the comment by FEAP on the changes in nutrient input ceilings for Danish Straits and Kattegat and also that FEAP supports arranging the workshop.
- 9.23 The Meeting took note that JNF and CCB support the proposed approach which transparently addresses eutrophication-related reduction targets including also upstream counties.
- 9.24 The Meeting requested to continue the discussion on the details of calculations with national experts in the PLC Project Implementation Group.

- 9.25 The Meeting further proposed to communicate the proposal for the updated nutrient reduction scheme with Heads of Delegation, integrating the nutrient ceiling values with the textual part of the revised scheme and submitting the integrated proposal for commenting to HOD 57-2019 meeting. The proposal is to include the tables with all ceilings and also tables with splitting of national inputs to the rivers.
- 9.26 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to make all information available at HELCOM website and discuss the update of the structure of the relevant WEB pages at the next PLC-7 Project IG meeting.
- 9.27 The Meeting considered the BSEFS of atmospheric nitrogen emissions and deposition provided by EMEP (document 9-7).
- 9.28 The Meeting took note of the RedCore DG expert opinion on BSEFS on nitrogen emission and deposition including the proposed requests considering EMEP report (document 9-9).
- 9.29 The Meeting took note that Finland provided written comments on the presented BSEFS which are taken into account. The Meeting took note that a revised version of the document has been received and requested the Secretariat to circulate the revised document for the additional commenting round. The Meeting invited PRESSURE group Contacts to provide comments to the Secretariat (Dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi) **by 8 November 2019**.
- 9.30 The Meeting agreed on publication of the BSEFS after incorporation of the comments.
- 9.31 The Meeting supported the proposals by RedCore DG to improve the assessment of BSEFS.
- 9.32 The Meeting took note of the conclusions regarding atmospheric phosphorus deposition (document 9-10) and considered the publication of the compilation (document 9-10-Att.) as a standalone document.
- 9.33 The Meeting agreed to include study of P deposition in the HELCOM science agenda.
- 9.34 The Meeting took note that Germany has recently finished a research project on P deposition and would like the project results to be included in the publication.
- 9.35 The Meeting agreed to publish the compilation of the available information on P deposition after incorporating the results of the German project.
- FEAP presented document 9-3, Mussels to combat eutrophication, in which mussel-farming is introduced as a method to reduce eutrophication and the Meeting took note of the information.
- 9.36 The Meeting took note of the position of Germany that mussel farming is not considered as a viable measure to compensate the input from fish farming and is not seen as a viable measure to combat eutrophication. The Meeting also took note of the proposal by Germany to present information on the BONUS OPTIMUS project at Pressure group and also at CG Aquaculture expert group which is currently developing BAP and BEP for aquaculture including mussel farming.
- 9.37 The Meeting noted that JNF investigated mussel farming in relation to uptake-P. The study revealed that this not a cost-efficient solution. JNF is ready to share this information with HELCOM community.
- 9.38 The Meeting noted the information by CCB on the Baltic Eye paper on mussel farming and that according to CCB there are new aquaculture farms established or receiving permits in the Baltic Sea region that should be reported to PLC as new sources of nutrient input by the Contracting Parties.
- 9.39 FEAP further developed its earlier proposal on subdivision of Danish Straits (document 9-4).
- 9.40 The Meeting thanked FEAP for the contribution to the Group's work.
- 9.41 The Meeting took note that Sweden is not in favour of combining the Kattegat and Great Belt in a single assessment unit, as this would imply enlarging the assessment unit and end up with losing of valuable information on nutrient loads.

9.42 The Meeting also took note that calculating the reduction requirements for the proposed new basin divisions based on the total nutrient concentration is not a valid approach, since it does not take into account other eutrophication-related indicators, as does the current HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme.

9.43 The Meeting also took note of the information that Germany and Denmark are both carrying out or will carry out modelling exercises for the Western Baltic Sea, which might be further discussed. The Meeting also noted that the matter has been proposed for inclusion into the HELCOM science agenda.

9.44 The Secretariat introduced the state of the reporting on phosphogypsum waste sites (document 9-8) as well as the and the Meeting took note of the information. Additionally, Attachment 1 (separate 9-8-Att.1) to the document contains Excel spread sheet with reported parameters of phosphogypsum stacks. Attachment 2 (separate 9-8-Att.2) is a compilation of textual parts of the reports. Both attachments contain only not-validated reports.

9.45 The Meeting took note that Poland and Russia approved the provided information.

9.46 The Meeting took note that Lithuania will verify and update the information by 8 November and inform the Secretariat (Dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi).

9.47 The Meeting took note that Sweden approves the reported information and can provide additional information on monitoring in the vicinity to the site.

9.48 The Meeting noted the information by JNF on the risk which these stacks pose to the Baltic Sea environment as the sites' continuing vast volume of phosphorus and that JNF calls HELCOM community to exchange regularly information on the state of the stacks based on regular monitoring of the sites.

9.49 The Meeting took note of the information by CCB about the current status of the work on fertilizer handling in ports and that this has been discussed at MARITIME 19-2019 and that the problem is bigger than previously estimated. MARITIME 19-2019 agreed that the matter may be considered in the updated BSAP.

9.50 The Meeting noted that Germany encourages JNF to provide a synopsis of the measures to prevent risks from stacks and also CCB regarding handling fertilizers in ports.

Agenda Item 10 Development of the regional framework for internal nutrients reserves measurements

10.1 PRESSURE 9-2018 agreed on Terms of Reference for the Group to draft the regional principles and risk assessment framework for management of internal nutrient reserves (*ad hoc* Group MINUTS). The MINUTS Group has since held three meetings.

10.2 The group had proposed that the framework would consist of a guideline, recommendation and glossary of terms and definitions. The core of the framework is the guideline classifying measures to manage nutrient reserves, setting regional and national risk assessment procedures, providing guidance for national permitting authorities, etc. The HELCOM Recommendation is foreseen as a binding element of the framework identifying the basic principles to manage internal nutrient reserves, enforcing implementation of the guideline and establishing required policy links as well as reporting and other procedures.

10.3 Two documents out of three proposed ones have been drafted by the MINUTS group (document 10-1). These documents are draft HELCOM Recommendation with a short list of definitions (Att. 1) and draft initial ideas for the content of the regional guidelines (Att. 2).

10.4 The Meeting considered the proposed structure of the risk assessment framework as well as the contents of the drafts (Attachments 1 and 2) and comments provided by Finland on the proposals on the structure of the risk assessment framework for internal nutrient management (document 10-2)

10.5 Denmark, Lithuania and Sweden supported the comments provided by Finland and recommended to use them as a guidance.

10.6 The Meeting took note that Germany is in favour of having an Annex to the Helsinki Convention but agreed on the recommendation as a compromise. Germany is in favour of granting HELCOM a permitting

role, not to prevent research but to reduce potential risks of the measures to manage internal nutrient reserves.

10.7 The Meeting noted that CCB strongly supports the position of Germany and that current leaning towards quick fixes instead of persistent continuation of already-agreed measures is only weakening the BSAP implementation process and takes away the attention from more urgent actions that still can be implemented on land, e.g. nutrient-balanced fertilisation, losses from fertiliser handling in ports, stopping discharge of hold-washing waters into the sea. The Meeting also noted CCB's position that sea-based measures addressing internal loading are against precautionary principle of the Helsinki Convention (1992).

10.8 The Meeting also noted the view of JNF that the key point is to ensure sustainability of the measures and highlighted the difficulties in regulation of measures to manage nutrient reserves.

10.9 The Meeting noted that addressing sea-based measures is not to divert HELCOM community from reduction of nutrient input from land-based and other important sources.

10.10 The Meeting pointed out that comments by Finland well reflect the current state of the discussion on the risk assessment framework.

10.11 The Meeting took note of the position of Germany that the challenge concerning the work of the MINUTS group has been the different starting points of the involved Contracting Parties. Most Contracting Parties participating in the group are already conducting research on the management of internal nutrient reserves on small scales in coastal waters, and their main interest is to ensure sustainable project planning and permitting as well as information exchange. Germany has no current or planned research projects, and for Germany the main aim of this work is to establish, as was agreed in the HELCOM Ministerial Declaration of 2018, a risk assessment framework for measures to manage internal nutrient reserves conducted in the open Baltic Sea waters. Such a framework is not intended to prevent research but to adequately manage the risk that might arise from such measures. One added benefit of giving HELCOM a permitting role is that it would provide insurance for researchers and institutions conducting such experiments to not be made liable for any adverse environmental impacts. Germany supports to include also biological manipulation measures (mussel farming, management fishery) in the current framework, but how to do this has not yet been satisfactorily solved by the MINUTS group.

Agenda Item 11 Remaining HELCOM hot spots and follow-up of their deletion

11.1 The Meeting noted that no new information was provided on the remaining hot spots.

Agenda Item 12 Any other business

12.1 The Delegations checked and updated the Contacts of Pressure Working Group (document 12-1). Any further changes should be sent directly to the Secretariat (leena.heikkila@helcom.fi).

12.2 The Meeting took note of the information provided by Poland on the progress in abatement of the consequences of the incident on the WWTP in Warsaw which happened on 27 August 2019. A bypass to conduct sewage water to the WWTP has been fully operational on 14 September and there was no untreated wastewater released into the Vistula river since that time. Currently, the repairing of the damaged pipes is progressing, and the reconstructed pipes are to be committed into operation by mid-November 2109. The city of Warsaw is planning to construct an additional emergency pipeline next to the existing one.

12.3 The Meeting took note of the planned workshop in the frame of PA Hazards Pharmaceuticals Platform on 10-11 December 2109 and encouraged national experts to attend the workshop.

12.4 The Meeting noted that LIFE Platform meeting on chemicals will take place on 27-28 November 2019 in Vilnius and that this event could be relevant for the BSAP update

Agenda Item 13 Future work and meetings

13.1 The Meeting recalled the offer of Finland to host the Twelfth Meeting of the Pressures Group, (PRESSURE 12-2020) during week 21-24 April 2020 and agreed that the PRESSURE 12-2020 will be held on 21-24 April 2020 in Finland, including the back-to-back workshop on NIC on 20 April 2020.

13.2 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to arrange the next meeting the most efficient way to enable participation of the relevant national experts.

13.3 The Meeting agreed tentatively that PRESSURE 13-2020 will be held during the week 12-16 October 2020 and welcomed the offer by Sweden to host the meeting.

Agenda Item 14 Outcome of the Meeting

14.1 The Meeting adopted the draft Outcome of the Meeting (document 14-1).

14.2 The Outcome of the Meeting will be finalized by the Secretariat in cooperation with the Chair and made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal together with all documents and presentations given during the Meeting.

Annex 1 List of Participants

Name	Organization	Email address
Chair of Pressure WG		
Lars Sonesten	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences	Lars.Sonesten@slu.se
Denmark		
Lasse Tor Nielsen	Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark	latni@mfvm.dk
Lars M. Svendsen	DCE - Danish Centre for Environment and Energy, Aarhus University	lms@dce.au.dk
Estonia		
Rene Reisner	Ministry of the Environment	rene.reisner@envir.ee
Raul Ilisson	Ministry of the Environment	raul.ilisson@envir.ee
Inga Lips	Tallinn University of Technology	inga.lips@taltech.ee
European Union		
Maud Casier	European Commission	maud.casier@ec.europa.eu
Jacques Delsalle	European Commission - DG Environment	jacques.delsalle@ec.europa.eu
Jeanne Boughaba	European Commission - DG Environment	jeanne.boughaba@ec.europa.eu
Finland		
Ari Kangas	Ministry of the Environment	ari.kangas@ym.fi
Laura Saijonmaa	Ministry of the Environment	laura.saijonmaa@ym.fi
Sanna Suikkanen	Finnish Environment Institute	sanna.suikkanen@ymparisto.fi
Antti Räike	Finnish Environment Institute	antti.raike@ymparisto.fi
Emmi Vähä	Finnish Environment Institute	emmi.vaha@ymparisto.fi
Germany		
Wera Leujak	German Environment Agency	wera.leujak@uba.de
Clemens Engelke	State Agency for Environment, Nature Conservation and Geology, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany	clemens.engelke@lung.mv-regierung.de
Ulrike Pirntke	German Environment Agency	ulrike.pirntke@uba.de
Lithuania		
Aldona Margeriene	Environmental Protection Agency	aldona.margeriene@aaa.am.lt
Poland		
Damian Bojanowski	State Water Holding Polish Waters	damian.bojanowski@wody.gov.pl
Przemysław Gruszecki	State Water Holding Polish Waters	przemyslaw.gruszecki@wody.gov.pl
Agata Świącka	Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation	agata.swiecka@mgm.gov.pl
Sweden		
Philip Axe	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	philip.axe@havochvatten.se
Cecilia Jörgensen	Environment Protection Agency	cecilia.jorgensen@naturvardsverket.se
Johanna Eriksson	The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water management	johanna.eriksson@havochvatten.se
Lars Åkesson	Swedish Agency for Water and Marine Management	lars.akesson@havochvatten.se

Observers		
Mikhail Durkin *)	Coalition Clean Baltic	mikhail.durkin@ccb.se
Kathryn Stack	Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP)	kathryn@feap.info
Torben Wallach	Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP)	torben@danskakvakultur.dk
Marjukka Porvari	John Nurminen Foundation (JNF)	marjukka.porvari@jnffoundation.fi
Paula Lindell	European Federation of National Associations of Water Services (EurEau)	paula.lindell@hsy.fi
Invited Guests		
Bo Gustafsson	Baltic Nest Institute (BNI)	bo.gustafsson@su.se
Emma Undeman	Baltic Nest Institute, Baltic Sea Centre, Stockholm University	emma.undeman@su.se
Alexey Gusev	Meteorological Synthesizing Centre East of EMEP (EMEP)	alexey.gusev@msceast.org
HELCOM		
Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky	HELCOM Secretariat	dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi
Ulla Li Zweifel	HELCOM Secretariat	ullali.zweifel@helcom.fi
Susanna Kaasinen	HELCOM Secretariat	susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi
Marta Ruiz	HELCOM Secretariat	marta.ruiz@helcom.fi
Luke Dodd	HELCOM Secretariat	luke.dodd@helcom.fi
Aaron Vuola	HELCOM Secretariat	aaron.vuola@helcom.fi

*) online participation

Annex 2 Ecological and Management Objectives

Topic	Ecological objective	Management objectives
Eutrophication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concentrations of nutrients close to natural levels - Clear water - Natural level of algal blooms - Natural distribution and occurrence of plants and animals - Natural oxygen levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimize input of nutrients from human activities
Hazardous substances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concentrations of hazardous substances close to natural levels - All seafood safe to eat - Healthy sea life and food webs - Minimal risk to humans and environment from radioactivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimize input and impact of hazardous substances from human activities by elimination, substitution, and source management
Litter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No harm to sea life from marine litter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Products are designed, produced, used and reused, recycled and disposed by applying principles of circular economy to prevent marine litter - Amounts of litter are significantly reduced on shorelines and in the sea, - Prevent input of litter
Underwater noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No harm to sea life from manmade noise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure noise levels support good conservation status, do not adversely affect stocks of noise sensitive species and do not injure or significantly disturb sea life
Loss and disturbance to seabed habitats (based on proposal from STATE & CONSERVATION 11-2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Activities affecting seabed habitats do not threaten the viability of species and communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce, prevent and mitigate pressures and impacts from activities that are causing loss and disturbance to seabed habitats

Annex 3 Concrete actions to follow-up the HELCOM 2018 Ministerial Declaration

Theme: Eutrophication

General

Paragraph from Ministerial Declaration 2018	Initial evaluation
21. WE RECALL the Country-Allocated Reduction Targets for nutrients, which will lower nutrient inputs as specified by the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting, including through implementation of measures taken under relevant EU legislation for Contracting Parties being EU Member States and under relevant national legislation in the Russian Federation;	General
24. RECOGNIZING with concern that large amounts of nutrients have accumulated in the Baltic Sea during the past decades due to anthropogenic activities, resulting in an enhanced internal flux of nutrients between sediments and sea water thereby exacerbating eutrophication	General
25. WE ENCOURAGE , as a first step, further improving the knowledge base regarding the nature and dynamics of internal nutrient reserves.	General

Actions likely to be accomplished by end of 2020

Paragraph from Ministerial Declaration 2018	Initial evaluation
22. WE ACKNOWLEDGE that due to improved data on nutrient inputs in the reference period ¹ , the Country-Allocated Reduction Targets for nutrients are no longer always sufficient to achieve GES of the Baltic Sea with regard to eutrophication and that, therefore, the follow-up of the nutrient reduction requirements of the BSAP should focus on national commitments based on Maximum Allowable Inputs and that this should be taken into consideration when updating the BSAP;	Proposal for concrete action: to utilize national input ceilings to assess progress and to discuss the possibilities of incorporating nutrient input ceilings in the BSAP update (see suggestion in the document 6-1 , item 2.2).
23. WE DECIDE, as well as to engage with the relevant river basin authorities to better align national and international nutrient reduction requirements of the BSAP with those of coastal waters, whilst seeking synergies between relevant regimes	Proposal for concrete action: to organize a workshop with river basin management authorities; to make a trail calculation of the indicative reduction needs for individual river basins and discuss at the Workshop with river basin management authorities (see suggestion in the document 6-1 , item 3.2).
26. WE ENCOURAGE , as a second step, undertaking research on the potential of measures to manage internal nutrient reserves that have accumulated in the sediments due to anthropogenic activities in the last decades; WE EMPHASIZE that the risks to ecosystem and human health stemming from measures to manage internal nutrient reserves, as well as the long-term	Proposal for concrete action: to elaborate the regional principles and the risk assessment framework to manage internal nutrient reserves and incorporated into the HELCOM acquis

¹ Pre-BSAP period (1997-2003).

sustainability of their effects, need to be considered and thoroughly evaluated; WE ALSO ENCOURAGE in parallel developing and applying a risk assessment framework in HELCOM to meet the necessary environmental requirements for measures planned for the open sea and any other measures having potentially significant transboundary effects; WE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE the need to elaborate in line with the Helsinki Convention commonly agreed regional principles as guidance for internal nutrient reserves management.	
27. WE COMMIT to elaborating by 2020 a Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy that aims for reduced nutrient inputs to and eutrophication of the Baltic Sea	The work on the strategy is ongoing jointly with AGRI group.
28. WE DECIDE to also develop, as a follow-up to the Strategy, possible nutrient recycling measures to be included in the updated BSAP	PRESSURE contributes to the work with regard to nutrient recycling in waste water sector.

Theme: Marine Litter

General

Paragraph from Ministerial Declaration 2018	Initial evaluation
29. BEING CONCERNED that marine litter, and in particular plastic waste, continues to be a problem in the Baltic Sea, WE STRESS the importance of eliminating discharges of litter from land and sea-based sources to the Baltic Sea;	General
30. WE ARE DETERMINED to combat marine litter through coordinated implementation of the Regional Marine Litter Action Plan;	Aspiration to implement RAP ML
33. WE SUPPORT measures aimed at preventing plastics, including micro-plastics, from contaminating the marine and coastal environment, at addressing the entire lifecycle of products, and at examining efficient and cost-effective options to reduce plastic and micro-plastic releases from products and processes into the environment;	aspiration to implement HELCOM RAP ML

Actions likely to be accomplished by end of 2020

Paragraph from Ministerial Declaration 2018	Initial evaluation
32. WE ALSO COMMIT to strengthening regional research and developing harmonised monitoring methods on the sources, distribution, amounts and impacts of marine litter including micro-plastics, in coherence with similar work undertaken by Contracting Parties in other relevant fora, and to improving assessment of the effectiveness of measures ;	<p>“developing harmonised monitoring methods” is to be considered by State and Conservation.</p> <p>Proposal on concrete action: a method to quantify effectiveness of measures to prevent littering of the marine environment will be developed by SOM platform.</p>
31. WE RE-COMMIT to preventing and reducing marine litter from land and sea-based sources and to achieving a significant quantitative reduction by 2025. To that end WE COMMIT to regional work on developing baselines and threshold values for maximum levels of marine litter in the Baltic Sea, in close coordination with work undertaken by Contracting Parties in	<p>“developing baselines and threshold values for maximum levels” is to be considered by State and Conservation.</p> <p>A concrete action could be formulated as it is stated in the Recommendation</p>

<p>other relevant fora. If additional efforts are needed to achieve those levels, WE COMMIT to developing ambitious, regionally coordinated, quantitative targets to reduce input of litter;</p>	<p>36/1: The Contracting Parties review and, if necessary, update this Recommendation and its action plan in 2021.</p> <p>The results of SOM could be utilized for quantification of potential reduction by 20XX.</p>
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Theme: Hazardous substances

Actions likely to be accomplished by end of 2020

Paragraph from Ministerial Declaration 2018	Initial evaluation
<p>35. WE AGREE to re-examine the effectiveness of measures and recommendations for legacy pollutants and to identify the scale of problems of contaminants of emerging concern, including micro-pollutants in coastal and marine waters and, based on this knowledge, to consider possible cost-effective mitigation measures. WE WELCOME the joint HELCOM-UNESCO-EUSBSR status report on pharmaceuticals in the aquatic environment in the Baltic Sea Region as the information basis for developing measures, as appropriate, to prevent pharmaceuticals from reaching the Baltic Sea, and also WELCOME the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) regional cooperation platform to reduce pharmaceuticals in the Baltic Sea;</p>	<p>Proposed concrete action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to revise the regional priority pollutants; to advance the HELCOM indicators including information on sources and pathways of pollutants to identify emerging pollutants; to develop measures to prevent pharmaceuticals from reaching marine environment, including source control measures; to develop a framework for responding to the emergent/alarming pollutants. to make use of analyses of cost-effectiveness on mitigation measures to reduce hazardous substances carried out under the SOM Platform
<p>36. WE ALSO AGREE to identify and assess further hazardous substances and contaminants from offshore sources, which may give rise to pollution effects, and develop appropriate mitigation measures.</p>	<p>Proposed concrete action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to identify sources of offshore legacy pollutants; to make a regional inventory of substances from offshore sources and identify priority contaminants from offshore sources. to update HELCOM Recommendation 20/4 on antifouling systems. (depending on cooperation with Maritime Working Group)

Theme: Underwater noise

Actions likely to be accomplished by end of 2020/Actions to be included in the updated BSAP

Paragraph from Ministerial Declaration 2018	Initial evaluation
39. WE AGREE to develop an action plan, preferably by 2021, and regionally coordinated actions on underwater noise, aiming, in the long-term, at addressing adverse effects of underwater noise on marine species identified as sensitive to noise, whilst safeguarding the potential of the Baltic Sea for sustainable human activities;	Ongoing and anticipated to be adopted before or as part of the updated BSAP.

Theme: Loss and disturbance to the seabed

Actions likely to be accomplished by end of 2020

Paragraph from Ministerial Declaration 2018	Initial evaluation
41. WE AGREE to do regional work on developing threshold values for the adverse effects of anthropogenic physical disturbance and, based on the best available scientific information in close coordination with other relevant fora, if needed to achieve GES, to develop the necessary regionally coordinated quantitative targets for the reduction of physical disturbance caused by human activities and habitat loss;	<p>“developing threshold values for the adverse effects” is to be considered by State and Conservation</p> <p>Proposal on concrete action: to develop a method to evaluate losses and disturbance caused by handling dredged material at sea and thus, contribute to regional quantitative targets, however awaiting cross-cutting discussion in HELCOM on how to address the agreements.</p> <p>to develop the targets a contribution of HELCOM FISH group is vital.</p>
42. WE AGREE , based on best available scientific advice, to work together to elaborate regional and national actions aiming at delivering the necessary reductions in adverse effects of physical disturbance caused by human activities.	Proposal on concrete action: to propose actions to avoid and reduce adverse effect dredging and handling of dredged material at sea.

Theme: Ocean Governance

General

Paragraph from Ministerial Declaration 2018	Initial evaluation
54. WE DECIDE to continue the concrete cooperation on HELCOM Hotspots with the aim to eliminate the remaining hotspots WE WELCOME recent efforts made so far in addressing those hotspots via multi-stakeholder cooperation, such as for the Krasnyi Bor landfill involving NEFCO;	This is an inspirational paragraph. Concrete actions are in the HELCOM hot spot list.
56. WE STRIVE for joint approaches and synergies among HELCOM and relevant multilateral environmental agreements including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Migratory Species and the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas.	<p>The first part “WE STRIVE..” of the paragraph is mainly for S&C to consider.</p> <p>The “WE STRESS...” is of inspirational character as the relevant regulations</p>

<p>WE STRESS the importance of transboundary cooperation, transparency, and information-sharing among Contracting Parties in order to assess, prevent, mitigate, and compensate the impacts arising from human activities such as nuclear energy projects, offshore projects of oil drilling and construction of gas pipelines, in line with international legislation;</p>	<p>are in the Article 7 of the Helsinki Convention or Espoo Convention etc.</p>
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Actions likely to be accomplished by end of 2020

Paragraph from Ministerial Declaration 2018	Initial evaluation
<p>59. WE AGREE to strengthen the fruitful cooperation with OSPAR on transboundary issues and common challenges to gain efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of SDGs such as ballast water management and introduction of invasive alien species, the issue of underwater noise, micro-plastic, migratory birds, MPA network and management, and threatened and endangered species;</p>	<p>Proposal on concrete action: To organise a workshop with OSPAR on the development of a microliter indicator on sediments in coordination with EU TG Litter. (It is now a candidate indicator in OSPAR, and the HELCOM network indicated that it would be good to cooperate with them on this, and maybe not to advance on microlitter in the water column). To organise a follow up meeting (following the one organised in 2017) with the OSPAR ICG Noise and in coordination with EU TG Noise to advance on the assessment of underwater noise indicators. To work together with OSPAR and Arctic Council especially related to hazardous substances</p>

Annex 4 Rephrasing of existing HELCOM actions

Categories:

- 1) The actions can remain with current formulation,
- 2) Specification is needed e.g. smaller changes, adding deadline, but the action will basically remain the same
- 3) Major changes might be needed. In this regard it should be noted that the updated BSAP should maintain the ambition level of agreed objectives and actions (HELCOM Ministerial Declaration, paragraph 20).

Joint actions:

Categorization and initial suggestions for rephrasing of joint actions identified as likely to remain in the updated BSAP by PRESSURE 9-2018

Action (origin)	Comments from Pressure 9-2018	Categorization/Need for rephrasing	Initial suggestion for rephrasing
Partly accomplished			
Collect more information and assess the state of contamination with pharmaceuticals and their degradation products of the aquatic environment and to develop measures, as appropriate, to prevent pharmaceuticals from reaching the Baltic Sea (MD 2013)	The implementation will be significantly advanced, but the action should remain in the new BSAP. May be specified based on new knowledge.	3 (based on the ongoing projects further recommendations can be given on collection of data as well as specific measures could be proposed) Lead country: Germany with CG PHARMA	
Develop common indicators and associated targets related to quantities, composition, of marine litter, including riverine inputs, in order to gain information on long-term trends (MD 2013)	The implementation will be significantly advanced, but the action should remain in the new BSAP. May be specified based on new knowledge.	2 Lead: EN-Marine litter	
Initiate joint activities to address transboundary nutrient inputs from non-Contracting Parties according to the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme (MD 2013) (Implementation by 3/9 countries)	Evaluation can be done by PLC and RedCore DG, move to regional actions.	2 (specification of possible joint activities could be added) Lead: PLC and Red Core DG	Establish permanent cooperation agreements within river basins addressing transboundary waterborne nutrient inputs from non-Contracting Parties according to the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme Not agreed. To be further discussed at RedCore

National actions:

Categorization and initial suggestions for rephrasing of national actions with regard to need for rephrasing in case of transfer to the updated BSAP

Action (origin)	Comment from Pressure 9-2018	Categorization/Need for rephrasing	Initial suggestion for rephrasing
Not accomplished			
Progress towards reaching of country-wise allocated nutrient reduction targets (CARTs) to diminish nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea to the maximum allowable level: Phosphorus (BSAP)	No need to report; Assessment is done by PLC and RedCore.	2 (adjust the wording based on the 2018 Ministerial Meeting re. ceilings) Lead: RedCore	The proposal to update the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme in line with MD2018 commitments is submitted to PRESSURE 11-2019 (documents 9-2 and 9-6)
Partly accomplished			
National programmes to achieve nutrient reductions (BSAP) (Implementation by 5/9 countries)	Should be specified in the updated BSAP.	3 (amended based on the common interpretation) Co-Lead countries Germany and Sweden	
Evaluation of effectiveness of national programmes for reduction of nutrients and need for additional measures, in order to reach the country-wise reduction targets (BSAP) (Implementation by 4/9 countries)	Should be also specified in the updated BSAP and probably merged with the previous one.	2 (update of wording needed e.g. reference to ceilings) Co-Lead countries Germany and Sweden Consider keeping as two actions to facilitate the reporting since countries may have implemented national programmes but not necessarily fully evaluated their effectiveness.	
Progress towards reaching of country-wise allocated nutrient reduction targets (CARTs) to diminish nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea to the maximum allowable level: Nitrogen (BSAP) (Implementation by 1/9 countries)	No need to report; Assessment is done by PLC and RedCore.	2 (adjust the wording based on the 2018 Ministerial Meeting re. ceilings) Lead: RedCore DG	The proposal to update the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme in line with MD2018 commitments is submitted to PRESSURE 11-2019 (documents 9-2 and 9-6)

Action (origin)	Comment from Pressure 9-2018	Categorization/Need for rephrasing	Initial suggestion for rephrasing
Target the elimination of phosphorus in laundry detergents for consumer use as soon as possible, but not later than by 2015 (MD 2010) (Implementation by 8/9 countries)	To follow up. It can be further developed including other users of detergents e.g. industrial users or dishwashers for the updated BSAP.	- accomplishment of the action is pending the implementation by Russia; 3 (possible development of the action) Lead country: not confirmed, potentially Germany	
Enhance the recycling of phosphorus (especially in agriculture and wastewater treatment) and to promote development of appropriate methodology (MD 2013) (Implementation by 3/9 countries)	Put on hold pending elaboration of the regional strategy on P- recycling.	3 (the action will be specified by a future Baltic Sea nutrient recycling strategy) Lead country: Finland	
Establishment of chemical product registers to be built upon e.g. the EU REACH (EC1907/2006) framework (2010) (BSAP) (Implementation by 6/9 countries)	To follow up.	(1) To be discussed at PRESSURE 11.	
Ratification of the UNEP 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury (BSAP) (Implementation by 7/9 countries)	To follow up. It can remain in the updated BSAP in a new wording.	1 (no changes if it is not implemented)	
Agree to develop in 2008 specific efficiency requirements and emission limit values for small scale combustion appliances in relation to HELCOM Recommendation 28E-8 (BSAP) (Implementation by 3/9 countries)	To follow-up and keep as it is.	3 Lead country: Finland to be discussed at PRESSURE 11	[In order to decrease dioxin emissions, we] agree to develop specific efficiency requirements for small scale combustion appliances and emission limit values for dioxins or relevant indicator substance(s).

Action (origin)	Comment from Pressure 9-2018	Categorization/Need for rephrasing	Initial suggestion for rephrasing
National programmes to eliminate hazardous substances (BSAP) (Implemented by 6/9 countries)		3 Lead country: Germany, provisionally co-lead by Sweden	
Evaluation of effectiveness of national programmes to eliminate hazardous substance (BSAP) (Implementation by 5/9)	Should be specified in the updated BSAP.	3 Lead country: Germany, provisionally co-lead by Sweden	
Elimination of remaining hot spots from the JCP List (municipal and industrial) (MD 2013)		2 (e.g. decision on deadlines needed) Lead: Secretariat	41 out of 162 hot spots remain in the HELCOM list, among which: 6 agricultural, 15 municipal, 17 industrial and 3 coastal. "Establish national tools programmes to eliminate remaining hot spots from HELCOM list or include the hot spots into existing investment programmes with target year: municipal [2025] industrial [20XX] coastal [20XX] agricultural [20XX]"
Implementation of the UNEP 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury (MD 2013)	The implementation has not been assessed	2 or 3 (if there is a need for regional support of the implementation, e.g. identify specific actions of the Minamata Convention that are of particular relevance for the Baltic Sea; could possibly be re-iterated in the updated BSAP.) Lead: Secretariat	Mercury has been selected as an example for SOM analysis. Specification of the actions required to facilitate implementation of the Minamata Convention will be given based on the results of this analysis.