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<b>Document title</b>	Proposal to update text of the HELCOM nutrient input reduction scheme
<b>Code</b>	3-7
<b>Category</b>	CMNT
<b>Agenda Item</b>	3 - Nutrient loads to the Baltic Sea ecosystem
<b>Submission date</b>	31.3.2020
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<b>Reference</b>	

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### Background

PRESSURE 11-2019 considered and in general welcomed the proposal to update text of the HELCOM nutrient input reduction scheme and provided recommendations for its further development. The Meeting also recommended to integrate provisional values for nutrient input ceilings to the document and submit it to HOD 57-2019.

The document was welcomed in general by HOD 57-2019, nonetheless, HODs provided some practical recommendation and committed Pressure working group to elaborate the document further in line with the overall drafting of the updated BSAP with subsequent incorporation to the final BSAP.

The text of the HELCOM nutrient input reduction scheme was further developed by PLC-7 implementation group incorporating recommendations given by PRESSURE 11-2019 and HOD 57-2019. The document also contains the latest update of values for nutrient input ceilings (NIC) from the document 3-6 submitted to this meeting.

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to consider and further advance the text of the draft HELCOM nutrient input reduction scheme and agree on provisional target years and assessment frequency.

The Meeting is also invited to propose the way to incorporate the revised text of the HELCOM nutrient input reduction scheme in the updated BSAP e.g. as a chapter in the eutrophication section, as separate chapter or supplementary document.

**Requirements for nutrient input reduction to reach the goal towards a Baltic Sea unaffected by eutrophication (HELCOM nutrient input reduction scheme)**

**WE ACKNOWLEDGE** the progress in reduction of input nutrients to the Baltic Sea achieved by all countries in the last decades which resulted in the total reduction of nitrogen and phosphorus input to the Baltic Sea by 14 and 24 percent respectively, but **WE ALSO RECOGNIZE** that eutrophication remains one of the major environmental problems of the Baltic Sea and that the required reduction of environmental pressure on the marine ecosystem caused by nutrient load has not been reached,

**WE RE-ITERATE** that the maximum allowable inputs of nutrients - indicating the maximal level of inputs of water- and airborne nitrogen and phosphorus to Baltic Sea sub-basins – remain the regional targets to reach good environmental status of the Baltic Sea,

**WE ALSO AGREE** that national nutrient input targets should correspond to the input targets set for the Baltic Sea sub-basins, reflecting fair share of the contribution of all Baltic Sea countries and other sources of nutrients to the total nutrient load and assuring the good environmental status of the Sea in terms of eutrophication,

**BEARING IN MIND** that the figures in the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme are based on the best available scientific information, **WE STRESS** that the Scheme is the subject for reviewing as necessary using a harmonised approach and the best available scientific knowledge.

**WE ACKNOWLEDGE** that the maximum nutrient input to the Baltic Sea that can be allowed and still reach good environmental status with regard to eutrophication is 792,209 tons of nitrogen and 21,716 tons of phosphorus,

**WE STRESS** that the achievement of good environmental status in relation to eutrophication in the Baltic Sea also relies on additional reduction efforts by non-Contracting Parties as follows: [18720] tons of airborne nitrogen from non-Contracting Parties assuming full implementation of the Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone of the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution until 2020; [3230] tons of waterborne nitrogen and [800] tons of waterborne phosphorus from non-Contracting Parties assuming that they take the same responsibility to reduce nutrients input as the Contracting Parties,

**RECALLING** the decision of the IMO to establish NECA in the Baltic Sea and North Sea on reduction of airborne nitrogen pollution from shipping which will lead to the reduction of [6930] tons of nitrogen,

**WE FURTHERMORE AGREE** that, based on the currently available data on nutrient fluxes in the Baltic Sea marine ecosystem, the maximum allowable inputs of nutrients for the Baltic Sea sub-basins to reach good environmental status are as follows:

Baltic Sea Sub-basin	Maximum Allowable Inputs (MAI)	
	TN, tonnes	TP, tonnes
Kattegat	74,000	1,687
Danish Straits	65,998	1,601
Baltic Proper	325,000	7,360
Bothnian Sea	79,372	2,773
Bothnian Bay	57,622	2,675
Gulf of Riga	88,417	2,020
Gulf of Finland	101,800	3,600
<b>Baltic Sea</b>	<b>792,209</b>	<b>21,716</b>

**RECOGNIZING** the delay between action in the catchment and their effect on reduction of nutrient inputs **WE AGREE** to take all possible actions [by 2027]\*) to achieve national nutrient input ceilings for each sub-basin by 20XX. **WE ALSO AGREE** that nutrient input ceilings define maximum inputs via water and air to achieve GES for Baltic Sea sub-basins.

**AKNOWLEDGING** that almost half of the waterborne input of nutrients enters the Baltic Sea via transboundary rivers **WE AGREE** to set nutrient input ceilings for 9 major transboundary rivers, addressing inputs from the whole river catchment areas, separately from the remaining territory of countries.

**WE AGREE** on the following nutrient input ceilings:

*Net nutrient input ceilings for nitrogen for HELCOM countries, transboundary rivers and other sources:*

	BOB	BOS	BAP	GUF	GUR	DS	KAT	BAS
DE	946	3923	32281	1645	1747	23647	4662	68852
DK	281	1149	9026	420	463	28067	28525	67931
EE	113	404	1478	11330	13099	22	24	26471
FI	35086	28677	1827	15627	295	76	89	81677
LT	108	495	3620	305	462	65	80	5135
LV	74	330	2789	246	12223	31	34	15727
PL	668	3127	35486	1406	1595	1481	1444	45206
RU	839	1994	7321	22875	662	238	246	34175
SE	17718	32651	30691	625	525	6056	32810	121076
OC	1375	5008	26947	2985	2188	4933	4502	47938
BSS	284	1141	5180	675	345	651	701	8978
NOS	131	475	2427	196	150	729	884	4992
NEMUNAS			29338					29338
BARTA			957					957
VENTA			6033					6033
LIELUPE					15864			15864
DAUGAVA					38801			38801
ODER			49298					49298
VISTULA			74808					74808
PREGOLYA			5494					5494
NEVA				43462				43462
<b>MAI</b>	<b>57622</b>	<b>79372</b>	<b>325000</b>	<b>101800</b>	<b>88417</b>	<b>65998</b>	<b>74000</b>	<b>792209</b>

\*) Proposal by Germany at PRESSURE 11-2019

*Waterborne nitrogen input ceilings for HELCOM and non-HELCOM countries within transboundary river basins:*

River	NIC	DE	FI	LT	LV	PL	RU	BY	CZ	UA
NEMUNAS	29338			18934				10404		
BARTA	957			377	581					
VENTA	6033			3730	2303					
LIELUPE	15864			5867	9996					
DAUGAVA	38801			897	22450		2634	12820		
ODER	49298	1796				43951			3551	
VISTULA	74808					70063		3052		1693
PREGOLYA	5494					2498	2995			
NEVA	43462		4855				38607			

*Net nutrient input ceilings for phosphorus for HELCOM countries, transboundary rivers and other sources:*

	BOB	BOS	BAP	GUF	GUR	DS	KAT	BAS
DE			71			401		472
DK			21			979	815	1815
EE			9	225	185			418
FI	1683	1245		297				3224
LT			50					50
LV			62		499			560
PL			543					543
RU			146	1531				1677
SE	811	1134	318			116	754	3133
OC	181	394	1046	150	93	105	118	2087
NEMUNAS			914					914
BARTA			25					25
VENTA			106					106
LIELUPE					302			302
DAUGAVA					942			942
ODER			1554					1554
VISTULA			2350					2350
PREGOLYA			147					147
NEVA				1398				1398
<b>MAI</b>	<b>2675</b>	<b>2773</b>	<b>7360</b>	<b>3600</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>1601</b>	<b>1687</b>	<b>21716</b>

\*Sources of atmospheric deposition of phosphorus cannot be allocated to countries.

*Waterborne phosphorus input ceilings for HELCOM and non-HELCOM countries within transboundary river basins:*

RIVER	NIC	DE	FI	LT	LV	PL	RU	BY	CZ	UA
NEMUNAS	914			628				286		
BARTA	25			5	20					
VENTA	106			26	80					
LIELUPE	302			109	193					
DAUGAVA	942			33	403		99	407		
ODER	1554	38				1459			57	
VISTULA	2350					2240		63		47
PREGOLYA	147					51	96			
NEVA	1398		20				1378			

**RECOGNIZING** that the input ceilings for nitrogen and phosphorus are based on current scientific knowledge and are subject to uncertainties and following the precautionary principle **WE COMMIT** to not increase nutrient input until MAI and GES have been reached and further implement nutrient reductions in basins where nutrient inputs are already below the nutrient ceilings.

**WE AGREE** to organize regular assessment annual for MAI and every 2 years for input ceilings to follow up implementation of regional and national targets for inputs of nutrients based on the most recent monitoring data of riverine nutrient loads, the data on air deposition of nutrients, transboundary loads and national data on inputs from direct point sources including sea-based aquaculture. **WE COMMIT** to maintain up-to-date national monitoring networks and regionally harmonized models of input from unmonitored areas and to provide timely sufficient and consistent data on nutrient loads to the Baltic Sea (HELCOM Recommendations 37-38/1 and 37-38/2) in order to ensure reliability of the follow-up system.

**RECOGNIZING** that reductions in nutrient inputs in sub-basins may have wide-spread effects, **WE AGREE** that extra reduction – reduction of nutrient input below national input ceiling for a sub-basin - can be accounted for, in proportion to the effect on a neighbouring basin, by the countries in reaching their nutrient input ceilings. The reallocation of the extra reduction to the neighbouring basins is to be based on the following principles:

1. Accounting should be based on countries individually.
2. Countries could claim accounting for missing reductions to reach national input ceilings, even in cases when MAI is exceeded due to inputs from other countries.
3. Any relocation of measures should lead to at least the same environmental improvement as if the reduction needed to reach national nutrient input ceilings were implemented.
4. The effect of extra reductions on neighbouring basins with missing reductions should be estimated given that these are minor deviations from maximum allowable inputs.
5. Accounting for extra reductions in the HELCOM nutrient input reduction scheme follow-up assessments are to be performed in a uniform way using methodology harmonized across the region and based on the best available scientific knowledge.
6. The Archipelago Sea phosphorus input reductions should be accounted in the reduction needs of Finland for the Gulf of Finland.
7. In the context of extra reduction accounting, reductions of phosphorus to Baltic Proper could be accounted as input reduction to the Gulf of Finland.
8. Following the precautionary principle, re-allocation of extra reductions cannot be used to purposely increase inputs to a neighbouring basin.

**RECOGNIZING** that input from catchment is of utmost importance **WE COMMIT** to further enhance cooperation with River Basin Management Authorities to align nutrient reduction requirements for individual river basins and environmental targets set by the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan and, thus, assure sufficiency of measures undertaken under different policy to achieving the environmental targets of the BSAP. **WE ALSO ENCOURAGE** contracting parties to the Helsinki Convention to enhance cooperation with river basin management authorities of non-HELCOM countries to institutionalize cooperation on river basin management through signing official agreement with relevant authorities, to establish regular exchange of information on transboundary loads and to coordinate measures aimed at reduction of nutrient loads.