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<b>Document title</b>	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda
<b>Code</b>	1-2
<b>Category</b>	CMNT
<b>Agenda Item</b>	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
<b>Submission date</b>	18.8.2014
<b>Submitted by</b>	Secretariat
<b>Reference</b>	Outcome of PRESSURE 2-2015 (paras 6.3 & 6.5); Outcome of HOD 48-2015 (para 3.28)

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## Background

In accordance with paragraphs 6.3 and 6.5 of the Outcome of PRESSURE 2-2015 and paragraph 3.28 of the Outcome of HOD 48-2015, the third Meeting of the HELCOM Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area, WG Pressure (PRESSURE 3-2015) will be held on 7-9 October 2015 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The Meeting will start at **9:00 on Wednesday, 7 October 2015** and is expected to terminate by **14:00 on Friday, 9 October 2015**. The Meeting venue will be held at the Danish Nature Agency (Haraldsgade 53, 2100 Copenhagen).

The Meeting will mainly focus on issues related to hazardous substances that fall under the Terms of Reference of the Pressure Working Group. The Meeting will also address marine litter and underwater noise in a dedicated session. Other topics to be covered are the draft HELCOM Recommendation on sewage sludge handling, data on anthropogenic pressure, including data on dredging activities and a report of the RedCore Drafting Group on progress related to nutrients.

A detailed timetable for the Meeting will be submitted shortly to facilitate participation of national experts dealing with individual issues.

The Delegations are requested to note that according to Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Helsinki Commission **basic documents and documents requiring action or a decision** by the Meeting should be submitted in electronic form to the Secretariat ([Dmitry.Frank-Kamenetsky@helcom.fi](mailto:Dmitry.Frank-Kamenetsky@helcom.fi)) by **16 September 2015**. Bulky documents should include abstracts embodying the essence of the proposals and action requested from the Meeting. **Documents containing comments to the basic documents as well as information documents** should be provided to the Secretariat by **30 September 2015**.

Documents for the Meeting will be made available in the [HELCOM Meeting Portal](#) in a restricted document library on the [PRESSURE 3-2015 Meeting Site](#). Please find here [instructions](#) for signing up as a *first time user* of the new Meeting Portal.

Participants are kindly requested to register to the Meeting by answering the [Participation Survey](#) not later than **30 September 2015**.

## Provisional Annotated Agenda

### Agenda Item 1                      Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting is invited to adopt the agenda of the meeting (document 1-1-Rev.1 and 1-2).

### Agenda Item 2                      Matters arising from other HELCOM work

The Secretariat will inform the Meeting of the outcome of HOD 48-2014, GEAR 11-2015 and other relevant recent meetings (document to be submitted).

### Agenda Item 3                      Thematic session on hazardous substances

The second holistic assessment of the ecosystem health of the Baltic Sea has been launched in the end of 2014 as HOLAS II project. The assessment within the HOLAS II project will be based on a set of regionally agreed HELCOM core indicators. The set of the indicators includes also a number of hazardous substances. In addition to three heavy metals and dioxins, which are regularly reported by EMEP, the list includes a number of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) which inputs are not assessed regularly. Including medical substances from the EU watch-list, such as diclofenac and estrogens, into the set of indicators for the assessment is currently under consideration.

The Meeting is invited to discuss and agree on the needs for information on pressures on the Baltic Sea environment originated from input of synthetic substances and heavy metals included into the holistic assessment and opportunities of its obtaining.

#### Emission and deposition of heavy metals and organic pollutants – inputs and measures

The data on three heavy metals and one POP deposition on the Baltic Sea area are annually provided by EMEP on the contract base. The annual report includes data on emissions from HELCOM countries and countries outside the HELCOM area and deposition of the selected pollutants on the Baltic Sea sub-basins. The data are delivered in tabulated format, indicator fact sheets report containing brief analysis of the current trends, and a summary report. The annual report by EMEP on airborne input of the selected pollutants into the Baltic Sea area in 2013 will be presented to the Meeting (document to be submitted later).

According to the Protocol to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution on persistent organic pollutants, the list of the POPs under consideration includes a number of compounds from the set of HELCOM indicators of the ecosystem health of the Baltic Sea. The Meeting will be informed by EMEP about the availability of reliable data on emission of these compounds and consequently their airborne input to the Baltic Sea environment (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to consider and decide on a set of pollutants, which airborne inputs have to be assessed in order to complement the holistic assessment of the health of the Baltic Sea with data on environmental pressure. The relevance of the data to the indicators of the state of the environment, significance of the airborne input of the particular compounds as well as quality of available data should be taken into account.

The Meeting is also invited to discuss the main sources of airborne input of the pollutants into the Baltic sea environment and suggest regional measures for its further reduction with a view to contribute to the development of a Joint document of regional coordination of Programmes of Measures in the Baltic Sea area.

#### Waterborne inputs of heavy metals –inputs and measures

The last assessment of waterborne input of heavy metals into the Baltic Sea was carried out by the PLC-5. Thus, the latest information on riverine input of heavy metals included into the PLC-5 report is dated by 2008.

The updated guidelines for PLC-6 prescribes reporting of seven major heavy metals including the three from the list of core indicators. The assessment of riverine input of heavy metals by 2014 is one of the activities of PLC-6 project. The RedCore Drafting Group prepared and circulated the questionnaire to specify the technical peculiarities of national monitoring of heavy metal in rivers. The Meeting will be informed by the RedCore DG about the availability of the data on riverine input of heavy metals to the Baltic Sea, gaps in data sets and further steps for data compilation (document to be submitted). The Contracting Parties are invited to provide relevant information about national programs of heavy metals monitoring in rivers, as well as on existing practices of estimation of heavy metal inputs from unmonitored rivers and coastal areas. The countries are also invited to inform about the major sources of the selected heavy metals releases into the water and the measures which are planned to implement to reduce input of heavy metals to the Baltic Sea aquatic environment.

The Meeting is invited to consider an overview of the data on riverine input of heavy metal into the Baltic Sea and decide on how to improve the quality of reported data and fill gaps in datasets. The Meeting is also invited to discuss the main sources of heavy metals releases and suggest the regional measure to reduce their input to the Baltic Sea with a view to contribute to the development of a Joint document of regional coordination of Programmes of Measures in the Baltic Sea area.

#### Pharmaceuticals - "Status report on pharmaceuticals in the Baltic Sea region" state of the art

Implementing the commitment of the Ministerial Declaration 2013 regarding collection of more information and assessment of the state of contamination with pharmaceuticals and their degradation products of the aquatic environment, the HOD 48-2015 meeting supported an initiative to prepare a regional status report on pharmaceuticals in the Baltic Sea environment. According to the tentative working plan a final report on the state of contamination of the Baltic Sea environment with pharmaceutical substances, their input sources and pathways should be finalized in February 2016.

A data-gathering campaign was launched in May 2015 after relevant decisions of the Pressure and State & Conservation groups. The first stage of data gathering was aimed at compiling information on data availability and elaboration of a guideline and templates for national data reporting. The information regarding availability of data on concentration of pharmaceuticals in the Baltic Sea environment, consumption of pharmaceuticals in human medicine and veterinary, concentration in rivers, ground water and soils, as well as in waste water, sludge and manure was submitted by Finland, Germany, Russia and Sweden. Partly, relevant information was submitted by representatives of Denmark and Poland through HELCOM Agri group. The reporting guideline and templates for tabulated data were elaborated using submitted information and open data sources.

The Meeting will be informed about the progress in elaboration of the regional status report, in particular, about the results of national reporting on the required data. The Meeting will be invited to take note of the state of progress in preparation of the status report and decide on particular contribution of each Contracting Party to the elaboration of comprehensive and scientifically sound final document in due time.

#### Agenda Item 4 HELCOM Recommendation on sewage sludge handling

In accordance with the working plan of development of the HELCOM Recommendation on sewage sludge handling, the new draft version of the document was circulated to the Pressure group members and observers in early June 2015 for commenting. Comments were received from Estonia, Finland, Germany, Russia and EurEau. All comments were integrated into the draft document and circulated to the national contacts and observers.

The Meeting is invited to consider the draft document, discuss in detail the text of the document and agree on the changes proposed to the text of the document with the view to submit the final version of the Recommendation to HOD 49-2015 for endorsement. In case any aspects of the draft document require detailed discussion for elaboration of the weighted consensus, a drafting group will be established.

## Agenda Item 5 Implementation of the RAP on Marine Litter

HOD 48-2015 endorsed the concrete regional actions and voluntary national actions to reduce the input and presence of marine litter in the Baltic Sea as part of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (HELCOM Recommendation 36/1 and its Annex as contained in document 5-1).

The Secretariat has developed [HELCOM marine litter workspace](#) to facilitate the work on the implementation of the RAP on Marine Litter. Instructions to guide users through the workspace are displayed in the workspace.

The Lead Parties for specific actions within the RAP on Marine Litter (Outcome of HOD 48-2015, para. 3.4) as well as other Contracting Parties and Observers are invited to present their on-going activities related to the actions and plans for future activities:

- Sweden and Poland on actions RL7 – “Investigate and promote best available techniques as well as research and develop additional techniques in waste water treatment plants to prevent micro particles entering the marine environment” and RS5 – “Promote and disseminate best practice in relation to all relevant aspects of waste management within the fishing sector (including e.g. waste management on board, waste management at harbors and operational losses/net cuttings”, and RL8 – “Assess the importance of the contribution of upstream waste flows to the marine environment and, if needed, identify suitable actions”, respectively; Denmark might wish to further inform on their national investigation regarding microplastics;
- Poland and WWF Poland on retrieval of the ghost nets from the Baltic Sea;
- Estonia to consider how they could contribute to actions RL11 – “Cooperate on the establishment and/or further development of deposit refund systems for bottles, containers and cans (e.g. glass, plastics and aluminum) in the HELCOM Contracting Parties in accordance with national law as appropriate. . Investigate and strive for bilateral and multilateral solutions between the countries for establishment of such systems in relation to passenger ships” and RL14 – “Address landfills or dumpsites including historic ones which may eventually pose a risk to the marine environment due to factors such as coastal erosion and vicinity to rivers”.

“Follow-up summary” templates are provided in the workspace to serve Lead Parties when informing about their activities. Lead Parties are invited to upload the filled-in templates in the workspace prior to the Meeting.

HOD 48-2015 (Outcome of HOD 48-2015, para. 3.5) encouraged the Contracting Parties to consider leading additional actions in the Annex to the RAP on Marine Litter. The Contracting Parties are invited to offer such leadership.

The Meeting will be informed of the outcome of an informal meeting on cooperation between Regional Seas Conventions regarding Regional Action Plans on Marine Litter, to take place on 18 September 2015.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the Final Report for the European Commission DG Environment “Identification and Assessment of Riverine Input of (Marine) Litter” (document to be submitted later). The Meeting is invited to initiate discussion on possibilities for riverine litter monitoring in the frame of PLC.

The Meeting is invited to check and update the List of Contacts of the HELCOM Expert Network on Marine Litter (document to be submitted later).

The Meeting will be invited to discuss and agree on further work on marine litter, based on initial proposal to be prepared by the Secretariat.

## Agenda Item 6 Underwater noise

HELCOM Expert Network on Underwater Noise (HELCOM EN-Noise) has been established to function as a joint network under Pressure Working Group and State and Conservation Working Group. The Contracting Parties who have not done so yet are invited to nominate their experts to EN-Noise (the latest list of nominated experts is included in document 6-1).

HOD 48-2015 considered a proposal for a work plan on preparing a roadmap to building a knowledge base on underwater noise and agreed on the slightly amended work plan (document 6-2).

A first draft of the roadmap will be submitted for consideration by the Meeting. The Meeting is invited to consider the draft roadmap and develop it further with intention to present the draft roadmap at the 1st Workshop of the HELCOM Intersessional Group for Programmes of Measures (28 October 2015, Warsaw) and to develop it further at STATE&CONSERVATION 3-2015 (9-13 November 2015). The final draft is to be submitted to HOD 49-2015 (10-11 December 2015) for approval.

The European Commission has recently informed that funding has been made available for the HELCOM project proposal BalticBOOST (Baltic Sea project to boost regional coherence of marine strategies through improved data flow, assessments, and knowledge base for development of measures). The project is expected to start in September 2015 pending clarification of some outstanding issues. The Meeting will be informed of the planned activities on underwater noise under BalticBOOST to support the work of the Expert Network.

The Secretariat has circulated a request to the Contracting Parties to contribute to a global overview on measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate the potential significant adverse impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity, being prepared under the Convention on Biological Diversity (document 6-3). The overview will provide a useful update also for HELCOM purposes. The Secretariat will present information received from the Contracting Parties together with an introductory section on such measures at regional level elaborated by the Secretariat (document to be submitted at a later stage).

The Contracting Parties and Observers may wish to inform of any additional activities related to underwater noise.

One of the aims of the roadmap is to propose how to mutually benefit from expertise, knowledge and technical solutions existing or proposed in the HELCOM and OSPAR area, including possible common reporting formats and joint database. OSPAR ICG-Noise meeting will be held on 29 September -1 October 2015 in conjunction with the EU TG Noise and BIAS project meetings. The Secretariat will inform members of the EN-Noise of a possibility for a joint ICG-Noise/EN-Noise meeting on 29 September -1 October 2015.

#### Ambient noise

Finland and Sweden, co-leading the development of the pre-core indicator “Continuous low frequency anthropogenic sound”, are invited to report on the status of work on the indicator and present plans and timetable for its further development, including based on BIAS project outcomes.

The Meeting is invited to consider the presented plans and discuss and agree on further steps to advance the indicator, including in order to make the (preliminary) results available for HOLAS II assessment.

#### Impulsive noise

Contracting Parties are invited to consider leading the development of the candidate indicator “Distribution in time and place of loud and mid frequency anthropogenic impulsive sounds”. The Meeting will be invited to plan the further development of the indicator.

In 2013, the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting agreed that as soon as possible and by the end of 2016, using mainly already on-going activities, to set up a register of the occurrence of impulsive sounds.

The Secretariat will inform on the OSPAR’s work on a registry for impulsive noise and how HELCOM could benefit from this development.

Contracting Parties having any experience in setting up impulsive noise registry are invited to share their experience.

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The Meeting is invited to discuss and agree on the way forward for setting up the Baltic Sea registry.

#### Agenda Item 7                      Data sets on the anthropogenic pressure on the environment

HOLAS II will include an assessment of pressures and impacts from human activities on the Baltic Sea in the form of Baltic Sea Pressure Index and Baltic Sea Impact Index. The first overview of datasets on human activities and their pressures available in HELCOM and potential development of new map layers was considered by HOLAS II core team. The core team supported that the HELCOM working groups should be involved in preparing data on anthropogenic pressure and in the case new information need to be compiled, it was proposed that this is done in a structured way, with the use of a common reporting format.

The HOLAS II list of human activities and pressures that are relevant in the Baltic Sea, including information on the data will be submitted to the Meeting. The Meeting is invited to review the information on the existing data sets and provide feedback regarding collection of missing data (within the expertise of the WG).

HELCOM 36-2015 adopted HELCOM Recommendation 36/2 on Management of Dredged Material and Revised HELCOM Guidelines for Management of Dredged Material at Sea. Recommendation 36/2 ordains annual reporting of national data on management of dredged material according to the Reporting Format of the HELCOM Guidelines by 1 October of the year following the dredging activity. The reports submitted by the Contracting Parties will serve as one of the information sources on pressures for the HELCOM pre-core indicator "Cumulative impact on benthic biotopes".

The Meeting will be informed of the reported dredging activities and deposition of the dredged material in the Baltic Sea by 2013 (document 7-1). Further, the Meeting will be informed of the first overview of the data on dredging activities and depositing of dredged material in 2014 based on the most recent national reports (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to consider the presented information and decide on further steps to achieve good quality reporting in accordance with the requirements of the Guidelines.

#### Agenda Item 8                      Nutrient input assessment

The Meeting will be invited to take note of a report by RedCore Drafting Group on progress in relation to nutrients since PRESSURE 2-2015, in particular:

- status of clarifications on the assessment of the progress towards fulfillment of CART requested by the Contracting Parties at, and following HOD 48-2015, with a view to seek approval of the CART assessment for publishing by HOD via correspondence;
- progress in implementation of the PLC-6 project ;
- planned activities, and their timetable within the project on operationalization of the nutrient reduction scheme follow up agreed by HOD 48-2015.

PRESSURE 2-2015 requested the RedCore DG to update HELCOM Recommendation 24/1, Monitoring of airborne pollution load, and agreed that the DG could also assist in revising Recommendation 26/2, Compilation of waterborne pollution load. No lead for updating the latter Recommendation could be confirmed.

PRESSURE 2-2015 agreed that the updated draft Recommendation should be forwarded to PRESSURE 3-2015 for further elaboration and endorsement, so that it could subsequently be forwarded to HOD 49-2015 in December 2015 for endorsement and to HELCOM 37-2015 in March 2016 for final adoption.

The Meeting will be invited to consider a proposal for the revised Recommendations.

The RedCore DG is invited to present to the Meeting a tentative work plan of the Drafting Group for the next half year (until PRESSURE 4-2016).

Agenda Item 9                      Any other business

Contracting Parties and Observer Organizations might wish to discuss any other business related to the mandate of WG Pressure. The Meeting is invited to consider the information presented and act as appropriate.

The Meeting is invited to check and update the List of Contact Addresses and Observers of the Working Group (document 9-1).

Agenda Item 10                      Future work and meetings

A list of the upcoming meetings within HELCOM and other relevant meetings will be submitted to the Meeting.

The Meeting is invited to agree on the exact dates and the main issues to be dealt with in the next meeting of the group (PRESSURE 4-2016) to take place on 18-21 April 2016 (in Sweden) as well as to agree on a tentative date of the fifth meeting.

The Contracting Parties are invited to consider the possibility to host future meetings of WG PRESSURE.

Agenda Item 11                      Outcome and closing of the Meeting

The draft Outcome will be prepared by the Secretariat for consideration and approval by the Meeting.