



Document title	Outline for a programme of the Marine Litter Stakeholder Conference
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Agenda Item	5 - Implementation of the RAP on Marine Litter
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Submitted by	Secretariat
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Background

HELCOM will organize a stakeholder conference to promote implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter.

The Conference will take place on 9 March 2016 in Helsinki, back-to-back with the 37th Meeting of the Helsinki Commission (10-11 March 2016).

The success of the RAP ML implementation will rest in the Contracting Parties offering leadership and in effective coordination and follow-up to be organized within HELCOM.

Furthermore, other actors and stakeholders in the region need to be engaged and take pro-active role as the number and scope of regional actions exceed the capacity of a single organization to accomplish the tasks. The implementation process needs to encourage ownership of the Action Plan among the regional players as well as combining efforts, e.g. with other Regional Seas Conventions, for actions best implemented on a European scale.

Other policy cooperation frameworks such as the Nordic Council of Ministers, EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region could potentially be utilized to support the implementation. Different financing sources for marine litter actions could be investigated or mapped.

There are already a number of marine litter initiatives being undertaken or planned by different stakeholders, to build knowledge and mitigate impacts. They represent an opportunity for sharing efforts and supporting HELCOM's work in the implementation of the Action Plan.

This document contains a proposal for an outline for a programme of the Marine Litter Stakeholder Conference.

Action required

The Meeting is invited to discuss the aims and desired outcomes of the Conference and provide feedback regarding the programme for the Conference.

Outline for a programme of the Marine Litter Stakeholder Conference

The Marine Litter Stakeholder Conference will be organized in Helsinki on 9 March 2016.

Purpose of the Stakeholder Conference

- Awareness raising on marine litter casuistic
- The Baltic Sea as a case study
- Identification of synergies among stakeholders
- Foster cooperation between stakeholders

Possible focus

- Political support: national commitments
- Contribution from the industry: waste prevention, producer responsibility, eco-design products, waste management, fishing for litter
- The role of NGOs: raising awareness, cleaning campaigns
- Mobilizing regional policy frameworks: EUSBSR, NCM,
- General public responsibility: small daily habits with a big impact

Participants

- For each of the key topics identified relevant stakeholders will be addressed.

Promotional material

- Background material to serve the purpose of the Stakeholder Conference will be prepared
- Flyer programme of the Stakeholder Conference will be drafted

Outcome

- Remarks from the Stakeholder Conference will be drafted and submitted to HELCOM 37-2016