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Background

Referring to the Outcome of HOD 50-2015 ([paragraph 4.66](#)) the Workshop on implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (WS RAP ML 1-2016) was held on 24 October 2016 at the premises of the National Water Management Authority of Poland in Warsaw. The Workshop was held back to back with the Fifth Meeting of the HELCOM Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (PRESSURE 5-2016) 25-27 October.

The workshop aimed to set up a regional dialog especially for the lead and co-lead countries of the different actions to follow up the implementation of the RAP ML and address the issues to the relevant audience, e.g. HELCOM Working Groups and stakeholders outside the immediate HELCOM structure ([Outcome of PRESSURE 4-2016](#), para. 3.4).

This document contains the Outcome of the Workshop.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- take note of the outcome of the Workshop;
- take note of the progress in implementing of the RAP ML (Annex 3 of the Outcome of WS RAP ML 1-2016);
- consider the suggestions regarding further steps to inforce implementation of the actions.



Outcome of the HELCOM Workshop on implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (WS RAP ML 1-2016)

Introduction

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The workshop aimed to set up a regional dialog especially for the lead and co-lead countries of the different actions to follow up the implementation of the RAP ML and address the issues to the relevant audience, e.g. HELCOM Working Groups and stakeholders outside the immediate HELCOM structure ([Outcome of PRESSURE 4-2016](#), para. 3.4).

National coordinators, experts from the HELCOM Expert Network on Marine Litter, leaders and co-leaders of actions as well as representatives of national authorities were invited to discuss practical aspects of the RAP ML implementation (i.e. progress achieved in the implementation of the particular actions as well as further steps and needs to fulfill the commitments of the [HELCOM Recommendation 36/1](#)). The workshop also discussed and identified fora to follow up the implementation of the particular actions ([Outcome of PRESSURE 4-2016](#), para. 3.6). The agenda of the Workshop is contained in **Annex 1**.

The Workshop was attended by representatives of all HELCOM Contracting Parties except for Latvia, Lithuania and Russia, and Observers from CCB and WWF Poland. The list of Workshop Participants is contained in **Annex 2**.

Ms. Adriana Dembowska, from the National Water Management Authority, welcomed participants to the Workshop wishing them a successful meeting.

Mr. Mikhail Durkin welcomed participants to the Workshop wishing them a successful meeting and thanking Poland for hosting the Workshop.

The Workshop was moderated by Mr. Mikhail Durkin, Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB) and Mr. Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky, assisted by Ms. Marta Ruiz, from the HELCOM Secretariat acted as secretary of the Workshop.

Mr. Mikhail Durkin, CCB, gave an introduction to the structure of the workshop: the status of the implementation of the regional actions within the RAP of ML was to be presented, updated as needed by the workshop participants and next steps to improve the implementation of the RAP were to be discussed through an improved coordination between (i) countries, (ii) HELCOM subsidiary bodies; and (iii) external contributions (e.g. projects and NGO activities).

Current status of the implementation of the regional actions of the RAP ML will be presented by lead and co-lead countries (progress, obstacles, etc.)

1. The Secretariat introduced the 'Current status of the actions of the RAP ML Lead & Co-Lead countries on-going activities' (**background document, Presentation 1**), which was amended in October to include updated information provided by the EU, Finland and Germany.
2. Estonia indicated that the status of implementation of the regional actions under their leadership: Action RL11 on the establishment of deposit refund systems; and Action RL14 on landfills as a risk to the marine environment has not changed since last reported to PRESSURE 4-2016, i.a. Estonia prepared a questionnaire on landfills situated in a distance of 20 km from the Baltic Sea or 10 km from the rivers connected to the Baltic Sea. Information has been provided by all HELCOM members except Germany, Lithuania and Russia. The received feedback indicated that all the landfills are under control in the region and cannot be considered as sources of marine litter (Outcome of PRESSURE 4-2016, para. 3.9) (**Presentation 2**).
Regarding RL11, functioning deposit refund systems for bottles containers and cans (e.g. glass, plastics and aluminium) are currently in place in Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Lithuania and Sweden. In Poland, Latvia and Russia the system is not in place at the moment.
3. The Workshop discussed further steps on these actions and whether these actions should be considered as accomplished.
4. The Workshop noted that lack of harmonisation on refunding systems between countries creates disincentive and may lead to littering behaviour. Germany indicated that there is a need to find a link to the circular economy package.
5. The Workshop agreed that Estonia will provide a summary report on the action on landfills, which will be published in the HELCOM website.
6. Germany provided information on the current status of implementation of the regional actions under their leadership: Action RL3 on best practice on waste management; Action RL5 on a dialogue with business on design improvements and reduction of over-packaging; and Action RS2 on best practice in relation to inspections for MARPOL Annex V. Additional contribution to RL6, RS3, RS5-RS7 and RS12 was provided. Furthermore Germany introduced the draft report on analysis of penalties and fines issued by OSPAR and HELCOM members for waste disposal offences at sea (**Presentation 3, document 4**). Feedback to document 4 is welcomed to Stefanie Werner (Stefanie.Werner@uba.de) by **25 November**.
7. The Workshop recalled that HELCOM has an explicit mandate on shipping and a targeted working group dealing with MARPOL implementation in the Baltic Sea, the HELCOM MARITIME working group.
8. The Workshop discussed how to proceed with action RL6, on the establishment of an overview of the importance of the different sources of primary and secondary microplastics and proposed that it may be needed to prepare a report for the Baltic Sea.
9. The Workshop noted the views from CCB that some cosmetic companies involved in the voluntary agreement of phasing out microplastics are not implementing it.
10. Poland provided information on the current status of implementation of the regional actions under their leadership: Action RL8 on upstream waste flows; Action RS 6 on best practice in relation to ALDFG and derelict fishing gear and their removal; Action RS 7 on best practices to reduce the input of ALDFG from commercial and recreational fishing; and Action RS 12 on partnership with organizations to encourage implementation of passive Fishing for Litter schemes (**Presentation 4**).
The feedback provided by countries on action RL8 is being currently analysed. Preliminary conclusions are as follows:
 - Coordination should be strengthened;
 - There is a lack of knowledge and/or a lack of appropriate methods to collect information;
 - There is a lack of coherent approach to the structure and division of responsibilities;
 - Attempts of monitoring of drifting sanitary waste in the seas have not been successful.

A summary report will be available by the end of the year, which will enable to achieve the target of the action.

11. The Workshop noted that in Russia there is a gap between responsibilities of regional and federal authorities related to the cleanup of the banks of the rivers and collection of floating litter upstream.
12. The Workshop discussed and agreed on the need to cooperate with river basin commissions.
13. WWF Poland presented updated information on the MARELITT Baltic project which would cover actions: RS6, RS7, RS12 and partly RS10 and RS11 (**Presentation 5**). There is ongoing work on the methodology for designating DFG hot spot areas which will produce a map on the potential locations of underwater objects, shipwrecks and hooks, and will also include surveys to be conducted among fishermen on the designation of the DGF. This methodology will be used by fishermen involved in the project in two months' time. The methodology on retrieval of fishing gear has also been developed. Regarding waste management and processing on fishing gear, forty ports have been visited and surveyed. There is also a pilot action on sampling and preparation of DFG for processing. There is a proposal to create the capacity building group and invite HELCOM experts to participate.
14. The Workshop noted that increasing the participation on the fishing for litter scheme will come later on the lifetime of the project as part of the removal of fishing gear.
15. The Workshop appreciated the invitation from WWF Poland to participate in the first international stakeholder conference of the MARELITT project to place in Malmö (Sweden) on 1 December 2016, and emphasized the need for a closer cooperation (**document 5**).
16. Sweden provided information on the current status of implementation of the regional actions under their leadership: Action RL7 on compilation of available techniques in waste water treatment plants to prevent micro particles entering the marine environment; and Action RS 5 on best practice of waste management within the fishing sector (**Presentation 6**).
Regarding action RL7, Sweden has produced a report for the OSPAR area concerning techniques to reduce litter in wastewater and stormwater (not yet official). Swedish national report on technical solutions for advanced treatment of waste water in order to reduce pharmaceutical residues and micro plastics is envisaged for June 2017. Envisaged working process for this action: 2017 compilation of what has been done so far, including a review of the status in HELCOM area in order to build a basis for discussion with relevant stakeholders on how to proceed.
Regarding action RS5, a report for the OSPAR area is to come by the end of the year, providing an overview and assessment of existing forms of measures/best practices. There has not been contact with the stakeholders involved yet. Envisaged working process for this action: Swedish report on management onboard and in harbours (any day now); make use of the OSPAR work and drawn experiences and feed it into a HELCOM setting.
17. The Workshop noted two projects dealing with stormwater flows: FP7 '[Baltic Flows](#)' (finished project) and '[IWater](#)', a project which has just started and is run by Union of Baltic Cities.

Next steps towards RAP ML implementation

18. The Workshop discussed how to improve cooperation between lead countries of the actions of the RAP ML and the other HELCOM countries.
19. The Workshop discussed ways for collaboration with other HELCOM subsidiary bodies which are potentially contributing to the implementation of the RAP ML (e.g. MARITIME and FISH), based on an introduction on the links of the actions in the RAP ML with the work conducted by HELCOM subsidiary bodies (**Presentation 7**).
20. The Workshop discussed how to proceed with those actions lacking a lead country taking into account that products are already defined and that for some of them, HELCOM members have evidenced their willingness to contribute.
21. The Workshop discussed 'Next steps' for each of the regional actions. The Workshop agreed on the proposed 'Next steps' indicated for some of the actions as reflected in the updated table on the current status of the implementation of the actions contained in **Annex 3**.

22. Germany introduced the OSPAR experience on the identification of the possible steps to follow when implementing actions within the OSPAR RAP on ML (**Presentation 8**).
23. The Workshop considered the information provided useful for initiating activities.

External contribution to the implementation of the regional actions of the RAP ML

24. Keep Sweden Tidy presented updated information on the 'Blastic project – plastic pathways from land to sea' in relation to actions RL1, RL2, RL3, RL4, RL6, RL8, RL9 and RL10 (**Presentation 9**). There are two background reports under progress, one on marine litter sources and one on available methods to monitor marine plastic litter, as well as an identification list of marine litter sources. The project is to test the identification list of marine litter sources before publishing the reports. There will be a questionnaire for pilot municipalities to be filled in with the list of marine litter sources, which will be tested next year. Subsequently, draft measures for municipalities will be drafted.
25. SYKE presented the "[Knowledge base](#)" section of the BLASTIC website. The website is currently under construction, and at the moment there is material under the introductory part, FAQs, and impacts. Experts are invited to provide feedback on the website (Outi Setälä, outi.setala@ymparisto.fi).
26. Coalition Clean Baltic made a proposal on concrete ways to reduce microplastics in stormwater and sewage which would contribute to Actions RL4, RL7 and RL8 (**Presentation 10**). The proposal is based on expert inputs from Swedish academia and water consultants' team and represents a compilation of conclusions of a research project addressing the efficiency of wetlands as final stage in treatment of both storm- and sewage water flows in trapping microplastics particles, along with other contaminants. Simultaneously, CCB stresses the priority of source-reduction measures before any, even cost-efficient end-of-pipe solutions are applied. It is proposed that HELCOM updates the following HELCOM Recommendations: 18/4, 23/5, 28E/5 and 28E/6.
27. The Workshop noted that measures within the national Programmes of Measures (PoMs) may serve the purposes of the implementation of the RAP.
28. The Workshop noted that the HELCOM work on marine litter indicators is being developed through lead and co-lead countries in the frame of the HELCOM EN-Marine Litter. Beach litter pre-core indicator and litter on the seafloor candidate indicator reports proposals have been submitted to STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016 for their consideration. A progress report on the microlitter in the watercolumn candidate indicator report is to be submitted as an information document (tbc).

Recommendations from the Workshop

The workshop made the following recommendations for further consideration by relevant HELCOM bodies:

29. To agree on the updated table on the current status of the implementation of the actions contained in **Annex 3**, including proposed 'Next steps' indicated for some of the actions.
30. That HELCOM considers updating the HELCOM Recommendations: 18/4, 23/5, 28E/5 and 28E/6.
31. Based on the 'Next steps' proposed, to suggest including particular tasks related to the implementation of the actions of the RAP on ML to be included in the PRESSURE working plan for 2017-2019, e.g. status reports, guidelines, HELCOM recommendations or any other regional documents.
32. The Secretariat to facilitate the coordination between HELCOM working groups.
33. The contact list of the HELCOM EN-Marine Litter should be used for communication related to the implementation of specific actions within the RAP ML.
34. The Workshop expressed the wish to set up on line meetings for further work.

Any other business

35. The workshop thanked Poland for hosting the workshop.

Annex 1 Annotations to the Provisional Agenda

1 Current status of the implementation of the regional actions of the RAP ML will be presented by lead and co-lead countries (progress, obstacles, etc.)

HELCOM leaders of the actions within the RAP ML are invited to provide updated and new information on the current status of implementation of the regional actions under their leadership (e.g. progress made, obstacles encountered, envisaged working process), including:

- Estonia to inform on:
 - Action RL11 on the establishment of deposit refund systems;
 - Action RL14 on landfills as a risk to the marine environment;
- Germany to inform on:
 - Action RL3 on best practice on waste management;
 - Action RL5 on a dialogue with business on design improvements and reduction of over-packaging;
 - Action RS2 on best practice in relation to inspections for MARPOL Annex V;
- Poland to inform on:
 - Action RL8 on upstream waste flows;
- Poland to inform on:
 - Action RS 6 on best practice in relation to ALDFG and derelict fishing gear and their removal;
 - Action RS 7 on best practices to reduce the input of ALDFG from commercial and recreational fishing;
 - Action RS 12 on partnership with organizations to encourage implementation of passive Fishing for Litter schemes;
- Sweden to inform on:
 - Action RL7 on compilation of available techniques in waste water treatment plants to prevent micro particles entering the marine environment;
 - Action RS 5 on best practice of waste management within the fishing sector;

HELCOM co-leaders as well as contributors of the actions within the RAP ML may also wish to inform on the current or foreseen status of their contribution, including:

- Finland may wish to inform on their contribution as co-lead to action RL7;
- Germany may wish to inform on their contribution to actions RL6, RS3, RS5, RS6, RS7, RS12;
- Sweden may wish to inform on their contribution to actions RL1, RL4.

2 Next steps towards RAP ML implementation

Further work to achieve RAP ML targets by lead and co-lead countries

Germany may wish to share the OSPAR experience on the identification of the steps to follow when implementing actions within the OSPAR RAP on ML.

Workshop participants are invited to share their views on how to improve cooperation between lead countries of the actions of the RAP ML and the other HELCOM countries.

Workshop participants are invited to share their views on appropriate ways for collaboration with other HELCOM subsidiary bodies which are potentially contributing to the implementation of the RAP ML (e.g. MARITIME and FISH).

Seeking a leadership for the rest of the regional actions

The Workshop is invited to discuss how to proceed with those actions lacking a lead country taking into account that products are already defined and for some of them HELCOM members have evidenced their willingness to contribute.

3 External contribution to the implementation of the regional actions of the RAP ML

Workshop participants are invited to inform on external contribution to the implementation of the regional actions of the RAP ML, for example:

- WWF Poland to provide updated information on the removal of derelict fishing gear, lost or discarded by fishermen in the Baltic Sea through the 'MARELITT Baltic project – Reducing the impact of marine litter in the form of derelict fishing gear on the Baltic Sea environment' in relation to actions RS6, RS7, RS11 and RS 12 since PRESSURE 3-2015 ([document 5-11](#));
- Keep Sweden Tidy to provide updated information on the 'Blastic project – plastic pathways from land to sea' in relation to actions RL1, RL2, RL3, RL4, RL6, RL8, RL9 and RL10 since PRESSURE 3-2015 ([document 5-12](#)).

Workshop participants are invited to inform on other on-going external activities of relevance for the implementation of the RAP ML.

4 Report and closing of the Workshop

The draft Report will be prepared by the Secretariat for consideration and approval by the Workshop. The Report of the Workshop will be submitted to PRESSURE 5-2016 for consideration.

Annex 2 List of Participants

Representing	Name	Organisation	Email address
Moderator			
	Mikhail Durkin	CCB	mikhail.durkin@ccb.se
Contracting Parties			
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Annex 3 Updated table on the current status of the implementation of the actions

SOURCE OF LITTER ADDRESSED	SUB-CATEGORY	ACTION BY	ACTION CODE	REGIONAL ACTION	FURTHER SPECIFICATION	LEAD STATUS	ONGOING ACTIVITIES INCLUDING NATIONAL ONES	POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION FROM HELCOM SUBSIDIARY BODIES	NEXT STEPS PROPOSALS
Land-based	General improved waste prevention and management	2017	RL1	Prepare and agree on HELCOM guidelines on marine litter references to be included in national and local waste prevention and waste management plans, i.a. an element highlighting the impacts of marine litter.	Guidelines by 2017	Sweden is willing to contribute to if a lead country for this action could be identified (PRESSURE 3-2015). Sweden will not be able to lead this action, but to contribute to it (PRESSURE 4-2016).	Sweden informed on two measures that are planned nationally related to RL1 on the inclusion of marine litter references in national and local waste prevention and waste management plans (PRESSURE 3-2015) Potential contribution from 'Blastic project – plastic pathways from land to sea', funded by the Central Baltic Programme, which will run 2016-2018 (PRESSURE 3-2015, doc. 5-12) Sweden proposed to change the deadline to 2019 in order to be able to benefit from the guidelines produced by the BLASTIC project in 2018 (PRESSURE 4-2016). There are two background reports under progress, one on marine litter sources and one on available methods to monitor marine plastic litter, as well as an identification list of marine litter sources. There will be a questionnaire for pilot municipalities to be filled in with the list of marine litter sources, which will be tested next year. Subsequently, draft measures for municipalities will be drafted. The website is currently under construction, and at the moment there is material under the introductory part, FAQs, and impacts. Experts are invited to provide feedback on the website.	PRESSURE	DE to provide updated information on their national PoMs. Propose to change deadline to 2019 in order to benefit from the guidelines produced by the Blastic project. CPs are invited to consider leadership.
Land-based	General improved waste prevention and management	2017	RL2	Provide HELCOM guidelines on best practice routines with regard to cleaning and collection systems to prevent litter from land entering the aquatic environment.	Guidelines by 2017	–	Potential contribution from Blastic project (see RL1).	PRESSURE	Propose to change deadline to 2019 in order to benefit from the guidelines produced by the Blastic project and also in the view of the HOLAS II assessment. To consider ongoing work on Nordic Council of Ministries, the European Prevention Litter Association (DE to provide contact details), and the Baltic Sea Accelerator. CPs are invited to consider leadership.
Land-based	General improved waste prevention and management	2016	RL3	Share best practice on waste management in order to identify and address loopholes that makes waste turn into marine litter, including the issue of landfills, regulations and enforcement.	–	Germany to lead (e-mail notification)	Potential contribution from Blastic project (see RL1) Germany informed at PRESSURE 4-2016 that one study will be carried out in 2016 to establish an overview on best waste management practices and potential loopholes. Update provided at the WS RAP ML 1-2016: • Upcoming European Conference on Plastics (Rotterdam, December 8-9, 2016) –close the loop on plastics products •Three round tables connected to marine litter: Waste management and marine litter, Recycling fishing gear on a large scale and Scaling up the clean river initiative •Chance to involve HELCOM and pave the road to get this action started • http://www.euconferenceonplastics.com/registration •Best practice study moved to 2017 •Report on sources published by TG ML in Dec 2016 (WG GES) addresses pathways that makes waste turn into marine litter •EPA-Network: new IG Plastics established, one potential focus on littering and link to Circular Economy Package	PRESSURE	

Land-based	General improved waste prevention and management	2018	RL4	Improvement of stormwater management in order to prevent litter, including microlitter, to enter the marine environment from heavy weather events.	By 2018 at the latest HELCOM has compiled information to give guidance on improvements of stormwater management on a local level to prevent and reduce stormwater related waste (including micro litter) entering the marine environment, taking into consideration similar action within OSPAR. If appropriate according to findings of the activity and other relevant information, amend HELCOM Recommendation 28E/5 on municipal wastewater treatment.	Sweden is willing to contribute to if a lead country for this action could be identified (PRESSURE 3-2015). CCB is willing to contribute (WS RAP ML 1-2016)	Potential contribution from Blastic project (see RL1). Potential contribution from the FP7 'Baltic Flows' (finished project, http://www.balticflows.eu/) and 'iWater' (http://www.integratedstormwater.eu/), a project which has just started and is run by Union of Baltic Cities. CCB made a proposal on concrete ways to reduce microplastics in stormwater and sewage which would contribute to Actions RL4, RL7 and RL8 (WS RAP ML 1-2016).	PRESSURE	To be included in the Work Plan of PRESSURE WG. PRESSURE to provide feedback on this action. DE to contribute with information. CPs are invited to consider leadership.
Land-based	General improved waste prevention and management	No deadline specified	RL5	Establish a dialogue and negotiate on solutions with business and industry to (i) develop design improvements that reduce the negative impacts of products entering the marine environment, and (ii) reduce over-packaging and promote wise packaging	Initiatives taken by the private sector.	Germany to lead (e-mail notification)	Germany informed at PRESSURE 4-2016 that one study will be carried out in 2016 on the development of possible design improvements to reduce the negative impacts of products on the marine environment. Update provided at the WS RAP ML 1-2016: • National Round Table on Marine Litter: a) Evaluation of findings in the marine environment b) r&d-project will be commissioned by Stiftung Grünes Bauhaus (2017-2020) which will evaluate national measures and regulations for the improvement of a sustainable product and packaging design (focus multiple use, long levity) – concept put together by end 2016, could be enlarged to other HELCOM CPs c) Overview and requirements within legal framework • + OSPAR action on instruments and incentives to reduce the use of single use and other items which impact the marine environment (leads: IR/DE) could also be of use	PRESSURE	

Land-based	Measures to tackle top items - Micro particles	2017	RL6	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.	By 2017 an overview on what products and processes contribute to the input of micro plastics to the Baltic Sea, taking into account similar action within OSPAR. By 2018 existing legislation is assessed and necessary measures identified together with relevant stakeholders.	Germany willing to contribute (e-mail notification)	<p>DK will carry out national investigation regarding microplastics (HOD 48-2015). Potential contribution from Blastic project (see RL1).</p> <p>The SE EPA has a commission to identify significant sources to micro plastics in Sweden and to act to reduce the origination and release of microplastics from these sources to the marine environment. The commission shall be reported on or before the 15 June 2017. As part of this commission a national investigation on sources to micro plastics has been carried out and reported, (http://www.naturvardsverket.se/upload/miljoarbete-i-samhallet/miljoarbete-i-sverige/regeringsuppdrag/2016/mikroplaster/swedish-sources-and-pathways-for-microplastics-to-marine%20environment-ivl-c183.pdf)</p> <p>Norway has released a report on measures to reduce microplastics that maybe can feed in to this action, see link below http://www.miljodirektoratet.no/no/Publikasjoner/2016/April-2016/Primary-microplastic-pollution-Measures-and-reduction-potentials-in-Norway/</p> <p>The SE Chemicals Agency have had an assignment from the Government to propose national measures for restricting the occurrence of microplastics in cosmetic products, and they presented it 15.1.2016 (http://www.kemi.se/nyheter-fran-kemikalieinspektionen/2016/kemikalieinspektionen-foreslar-begransningar-for-plastkorn-i-kosmetika/). The summary is available in English.</p> <p>DE informed at PRESSURE 4-2016 that the national report on sources of microplastics is already available.</p> <p>The EU has finalised a study on microplastics in cosmetics http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/good-environmental-status/descriptor-10/pdf/MSFD%20Measures%20to%20Combat%20Marine%20Litter.pdf and is considering follow-up activities on microplastics (e-mail communication after PRESSURE 4-2016).</p> <p>Finland informed on a Bachelor's Thesis on microplastics and harmful substances in urban runoffs and landfill leachates - Possible Emission Sources to Marine Environment (2016) (https://www.theseus.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/114539/Kilponen_Juho.pdf?sequence=1) (WS RAP ML 1-2016)</p> <p>Germany informed on a national study, prioritization exercise national round</p>	PRESSURE	To set up a working group to compile information on national activities. An open call will be made for all countries to provide summaries of these activities, aiming at the elaboration of an assessment report. Secretariat to investigate opportunities to conduct the work.
Land-based	Measures to tackle top items - Micro particles	2018	RL7	Compilation of available techniques as well as research and develop additional techniques in waste water treatment plants to prevent micro particles entering the marine environment.	By 2018 HELCOM has compiled information, and prepared a report on micro particles removal in waste water treatment plants taking into account similar action within OSPAR. If appropriate according to findings of the search and other relevant information, amend HELCOM Recommendation 28E/5 on municipal wastewater treatment.	Sweden offered to lead (HOD 48-2015). Finland offered to co-lead (PRESSURE 4-2016).	<p>Swedish and an OSPAR report on best available techniques to reduce and prevent sewage and storm-water related waste entering the marine environment, including micro particles to be ready during 2016 which could then be considered regarding the applicability in the Baltic Sea (PRESSURE 3-2015). The report is ready although it is not yet official (WS RAP ML 1-2016). Swedish national report on technical solutions for advanced treatment of waste water in order to reduce pharmaceutical residues and micro plastics is envisaged for June 2017. Envisaged working process for this action: 2017 compilation of what has been done so far, including a review of the status in HELCOM area in order to build a basis for discussion with relevant stakeholders on how to proceed (WS RAP ML 1-2016).</p> <p>FI informed (e-mail communication 10 October 2016) that the removal of microlitter from wastewater during different treatment steps of mechanical, chemical and biological treatment (activated sludge) and biologically active filter (BAF) in a large (population equivalent 800 000) advanced WWTP has been examined. This work is a part of a PhD study and the results of this work will be available by the end 2016/beginning 2017. This study will give valuable information on the removal of microlitter, Microlitter balance and distribution in the WWTP.</p> <p>CCB made a proposal on concrete ways to reduce microplastics in stormwater and sewage which would contribute to Actions RL4, RL7 and RL8 (WS RAP ML 1-2016).</p>	PRESSURE	

Land-based	Measures to tackle top items -Sewage related litter including sanitary waste	2017	RL8	Assess the importance of the contribution of upstream waste flows to the marine environment and, if needed, identify suitable actions.	By 2017 an assessment of the importance of sewage related waste coming from the upstream waste flow is produced. By 2018 share assessment with River and River Basin Commissions and identify measures including the implementation of related regulations; missing elements are identified and guidelines for improvement are presented.	Poland offered to lead (HOD 48-2015)	Questionnaire developed by Poland. The feedback provided by countries is being currently analysed (WS RAP ML 1-2016). CCB made a proposal on concrete ways to reduce microplastics in stormwater and sewage which would contribute to Actions RL4, RL7 and RL8 (WS RAP ML 1-2016).	PRESSURE	Poland prepared a questionnaire on the issue. A summary report of the feedback received will be available by the end of the year, which will enable to achieve the target of the action.
Land-based	Measures to tackle top items -Expanded Polystyrene (Polystyrene Foam)	2017	RL9	Compile information on the prevalence and sources of expanded polystyrene (EPS) in the marine environment, and engage with industry to make proposals for alternative solutions (e.g. use of other materials, establishment of deposits, return and restoration systems, overpackaging reduction).	By 2017 an overview of the most significant sources of EPS ending up in the marine environment is produced, in cooperation with OSPAR. Make recommendations to the Contracting Parties on voluntary agreements with the industry on changes in product design and applying best practices when handling EPS by 2019.	-	-	PRESSURE	The Secretariat to investigate available information.
Land-based	Measures to tackle top items -Plastic bags	2018	RL10	Define and implement appropriate instruments and incentives to reduce the use of plastic bags, including the illustration of the associated costs and environmental impacts (e.g. establishment of levies, deposit fees, taxes or bans on plastic bags). []. Support regional coordination in the Baltic Sea of the implementation of the future revised Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste to reduce the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags, for HELCOM Contracting Parties being EU members.	By 2018 HELCOM Contracting Parties start to coordinate and inform each other about consumption of plastic bags on an annual basis. By 2019 establish a reduction target of plastic bags, taking into account the measures which are implemented nationally.	CCB is willing to contribute (WS RAP ML 1-2016)	-	PRESSURE	To gather information on national proposals/instruments to implement the EU Directive, as well as develop guidance for those countries who have not initiated the process.
Land-based	Measures to tackle top items -Bottles and containers	2017	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.	CPs informing in 2017 on the status/plans regarding the deposit refund systems, including on possible solutions regarding passenger ships.	Estonia: to consider how they could contribute (HOD 48/2015). Estonia offered to lead (PRESSURE 3-2015).	A first possible step to start up these actions could be a survey to the Contracting Parties to be initiated by Estonia in cooperation with the HELCOM Secretariat. Survey circulated 26.02.2016. No updated information provided at PRESSURE 4-2016. Currently functioning deposit refund systems for bottles, containers and cans (e.g. glass, plastics and aluminum) are in place in DE, DK, SE, FI, EE and LT. In PL, LV and RU the system is not in place at the moment. There is no action regarding bilateral and multilateral solutions between the countries for establishment of such systems in relation to passenger ships (WS RAP ML 1-2016). Possible input: http://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:721027/FULLTEXT01.pdf	PRESSURE & MARITIME	
Land-based	Actions addressing third parties	2016	RL12	Encourage, based on existing labels such as the EU Ecolabel and the Nordic Ecolabel, exchange with international environmental certification schemes for information and inclusion of the management and prevention of marine litter in their lists of criteria.	By 2016 initiate an activity on what certification schemes could be addressed, which existing criteria could be promoted for potential inclusion in international certification systems together with ways and means how to help approving those.	-	-	PRESSURE	Germany to share national experiences.

Land-based	Actions addressing third parties	No deadline specified	RL13	HELCOM Contracting Parties to seek cooperation with the River and River Basin Commissions, as appropriate, in order to include impacts of litter on the marine environment from riverine inputs, taking into account activities in the context of the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Bathing Water Directive, and beyond, when applicable. This cooperation should include the exchange of experience on best practice to prevent litter entering into water systems, in line with action RL8.	HELCOM Contracting Parties will continue cooperation with River and River basin Commissions, as appropriate, in order to integrate measures addressing the reduction of littering in river basins followed up by appropriate information exchange on the implementation of measures.	-	-	PRESSURE	The Secretariat to investigate how to contact River and River Basin Commissions. Poland to consider how to contribute. CCB to contribute. To consider the ongoing project Riverine and Marine floating macro litter Monitoring and Modelling of Environmental Loading (RIMMEL) (http://mcc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dev.py?N=simple&O=380&titre_page=RIMMEL)
Land-based	Remediation and removal measures	2020	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.	By 2020 a regional-wide map on landfills and dumpsites including historic ones which may eventually pose a risk to the marine environment is produced.	Estonia offered to lead (PRESSURE 3-2015)	A first possible step to start up these actions could be a survey to the Contracting Parties to be initiated by Estonia in cooperation with the HELCOM Secretariat. Questionnaire sent; deadline 4 March 2016. Feedback provided by all HELCOM members except Germany, Lithuania and Russia. The received feedback indicated that all the landfills are under control in the region and cannot be considered as sources of marine litter (Outcome of PRESSURE 4-2016, para. 3.9).	PRESSURE	
Land-based	Remediation and removal measures	No deadline specified	RL15	Establish an exchange platform for spreading experiences on good cleaning practices in beaches, including cleaning beaches actions by local communities, riverbanks, pelagic and surface sea areas, ports, marinas and inland waterways, in cooperation with relevant fora. Develop best practice on environmental friendly technologies and methods for cleaning.	Coordinate with other RSCs in order to set up an exchange platform for spreading experiences on good cleaning practices in the different marine compartments and rivers.	-	-	PRESSURE	The Secretariat to communicate with Russia to provide information.
Sea-based	Actions addressing shipping related waste	2018	RS1	Development of best practice on the disposal of old pleasure boats (i.e. intentional disposal of the boats at the ending of their lifetime in the sea and on shore).	Best practice developed by 2018	Finland to consider leading this action (WS RAP ML 1-2016)	Swedish national project on recycling of pleasure boats by Sweboat, Båtskroten Sverige AB and Stena Recycling AB (PRESSURE 3-2015, doc. 5-7)	MARITIME	
Sea-based	Actions addressing shipping related waste	2017	RS2	Develop best practice in relation to inspections for MARPOL Annex V, including harmonized management of data. Support regional coordination of IMO regulations in accordance with EU requirements for those HELCOM countries which are EU members.	Best practice developed in cooperation with Paris MoU by 2017	Germany to lead (e-mail notification). Questionnaire compiling available information sent 18/2/2016. Deadline for replies: 3/3/2016	Germany informed at PRESSURE 4-2016 that an advanced draft of a background document is available. A questionnaire has also been sent to Maritime Group but only three countries have provided their answers so far, with the deadline for replies by 6 May 2016. Update provided at the WS RAP ML 1-2016: draft report on analysis of penalties and fines issued by OSPAR and HELCOM members for waste disposal offences at sea.	MARITIME, CG FINES	
Sea-based	Actions addressing shipping related waste	2016	RS3	Further work on implementation and harmonization of the no-special-fee system in ports of the Baltic Sea countries, addressing: * gaps in existing regulations, * enforcement and practices concerning shipping, * port reception facilities auditing to assess adequacy of garbage collection, * fair waste burden sharing between ports.	Evaluate the implementation of HELCOM Recommendation (28E-10), starting 2016	Germany willing to contribute (e-mail notification)	The EU has finalised a study on microplastics in cosmetics, being its first part relevant for this action http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/good-environmental-status/descriptor-10/pdf/MSFD%20Measures%20to%20Combat%20Marine%20Litter.pdf (e-mail communication after PRESSURE 4-2016). Update provided at the WS RAP ML 1-2016 from Germany: member of ESSF-subgroup, data from HELCOM?	MARITIME, CG FINES	

Sea-based	Actions addressing waste delivery in ports/marinas	2017	RS4	Implementation of the ISO standard (ISO 201070:2013) in relation to port reception facilities. Differentiate according to the size of the port. Promote the development of regional statistics on waste collected in ports based on existing information as far as possible.	Assess how many ports are operating according to ISO standards and to propose action as appropriate by 2017.	-	-	MARITIME	To be addressed by MARITIME
Sea-based	Actions addressing waste related to fishing and aquaculture	2018	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).	By 2018, based on the OSPAR outcome, select best practices to be disseminated in the Baltic Sea.	Sweden offered to lead (HOD 48-2015). Germany willing to contribute (e-mail notification)	One Swedish and one OSPAR reports on best practices for waste management within the fishing sector to be ready during 2017 which could then be considered regarding the applicability in the Baltic Sea (PRESSURE 3-2015). The OSPAR report is to come by the end of the year, providing an overview and assessment of existing forms of measures/best practices. There has not been contact with the stakeholders involved yet. Envisaged working process for this action: Swedish report on management onboard and in harbours (any day now); make use of the OSPAR work and drawn experiences and feed it into a HELCOM setting (WS RAP ML 1-2016). Update provided at the WS RAP ML 1-2016 from Germany: Green deals (NL), shortfalls nat. RT	FISH & MARITIME	
Sea-based	Actions addressing waste related to fishing and aquaculture	2017	RS6	Through a multinational project, such as the MARELITT Baltic project, together with the fishing industry and other stakeholders, develop and promote best practice in relation to ALDFG and derelict fishing gear and their removal.	Best Practice developed by 2017, the issues is promoted within HELCOM-EUSBSR cooperation	Poland and WWF Poland offered to lead the action on retrieval of the ghost nets from the Baltic Sea (HOD 48-2015). Germany to co-lead (assisting) (e-mail notification)	'Removal of derelict fishing gear, lost or discarded by fishermen in the Baltic Sea' project presented by WWF Poland at PRESSURE 3-2015 (doc. 5-11). Sweden proposed to change the deadline to 2019 in view of the expected outcomes in the frame of the MARELITT Baltic project to be available in 2018 (PRESSURE 4-2016). Germany to conduct the environmental impact assessment as part of the MARELITT project, joined work with FAO in CBD, national r&d ghost net, mapping and removal (WS RAP ML 1-2016). WWF Poland informed at the WS RAP ML 1-2016: Methodology for designating DFG hot spot areas under development. A map on the potential locations of underwater objects, shipwrecks and hooks to be produced. Surveys to be conducted among fishermen on the designation of the DGF. Methodology on retrieval of fishing gear has been developed. Forty ports have been visited and surveyed for waste management and processing on fishing gear. A pilot action on sampling and preparation of DFG for processing is ongoing. A proposal to create the capacity building group and invite HELCOM experts to participate.	FISH	
Sea-based	Actions addressing waste related to fishing and aquaculture	2017	RS7	Compile information and elaborate guidelines on best practices to reduce the input of ALDFG from commercial and recreational fishing to the Baltic Sea taking into account geographical particularities; utilize UNEP RSC report and FAO on ALDFG as a starting point and focus on regional specifics	Guidelines developed by 2017 taking into account geographical particularities.	Poland and WWF Poland offered to lead the action on retrieval of the ghost nets from the Baltic Sea (HOD 48-2015). Germany to co-lead (assisting) (e-mail notification)	SE programme of measures (EU-PoM) includes a measure to reduce the input of ALDFG from commercial and recreational fishing in Swedish waters. MARELITT Baltic 2016-2018 can feed knowledge into this action; see action RS6. Sweden proposed to change the deadline to 2019 in view of the expected outcomes in the frame of the MARELITT Baltic project to be available in 2018 (PRESSURE 4-2016). Germany to conduct the environmental impact assessment as part of the MARELITT project, joined work with FAO in CBD, national r&d ghost net, mapping and removal (WS RAP ML 1-2016).	FISH	
Sea-based	Actions addressing waste related to fishing and aquaculture	2016	RS8	Identify the options to address key waste items from the fishing and aquaculture industry, which could contribute to marine litter, including deposit schemes and extended producer responsibility.	Late 2016 assess the use of OSPAR document and in consultation with the Baltic Sea Advisory Council consider and agree on the way forward to address key waste items from the fishing and aquaculture industries.	-	The EU has finalised a study on microplastics in cosmetics, being its first part relevant for this action http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/good-environmental-status/descriptor-10/pdf/MSFD%20Measures%20to%20Combat%20Marine%20Litter.pdf (e-mail communication after PRESSURE 4-2016).	FISH	

Sea-based	Actions addressing waste related to fishing and aquaculture	No deadline specified	RS9	Investigate the use and prevalence of dolly ropes (bunches of polyethylene threads used to protect the cod end of demersal trawl nets from abrasions; synthetic fibre) in the areas of the Baltic Sea where they are used and consider the need to act.	Consider the outcome of the study on the impact of dolly ropes currently under development by the Netherlands. Baltic Sea Advisory Council is to be invited to be involved in this activity.	-	-	FISH	To approach the Baltic Sea Advisory Council
Sea-based	Remediation and removal measures	2016	RS10	Mapping of snagging sites or historic dumping grounds and a risk assessment for identifying where accumulation of ghost nets pose a threat to the environment and should be removed.	As part of the assessment to be developed by HELCOM SUBMERGED by 2016. Mapping by 2017. Risk assessment by 2018.	-	There is a Swedish project conducted by one municipality, Trelleborgs kommun, working with this measure on a local scale. Marelitt Baltic 2016-2018 can feed knowledge into this action; see action RS6.	FISH & MARITIME	Denmark and WWF Poland to contribute on the identification of the hot spots.
Sea-based	Remediation and removal measures	No deadline specified	RS11	Based on the risk assessment conducted in RS10 and identification of accumulation areas, initiate removal of ghost nets and their safe management on land.	The aim is to increase the removal and disposal of the nets, and that statistics are available to confirm the increasing trend.	-	Marelitt Baltic 2016-2018 can feed knowledge into this action; see action RS6.	FISH & MARITIME	
Sea-based	Remediation and removal measures	No deadline specified	RS12	Enter into the partnership with international and regional organizations (e.g. KIMO, NABU, OSPAR Commission) as well as port authorities, to encourage implementation of passive Fishing for Litter schemes, to collect litter caught in fishing nets during normal fishing activities.	Increasing trends in the number of vessels from the fishing sector involved in the schemes.	Poland and WWF Poland offered to lead the action on retrieval of the ghost nets from the Baltic Sea (HOD 48-2015). Germany to co-lead	FFL applied area-wide in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Schleswig-Holstein, assessed in terms of amounts and composition, dual systems evaluates recycability (WS RAP ML 1-2016). MARELITT Baltic 2016-2018 can feed knowledge into this action; see action RS6.	FISH & MARITIME	
Education and outreach	Education and outreach	2016	RE1	To prepare information sheets to assist Contracting Parties in developing material for education programs, especially for professional seafarers including fishermen, highlighting the marine litter problem and including codes of practice in cooperation with relevant organisations including IMO.	Information sheets to be prepared by 2016	-	-	FISH & MARITIME	To be addressed by FISH & MARITIME
Education and outreach	Education and outreach	2015	RE2	HELCOM website to be updated periodically based on the input from Contracting Parties on marine litter management activities.	2015 initial information uploaded (simplified BSAP follow up system)	-	-	The Secretariat	The Secretariat to investigate the implementation of this action
Education and outreach	Education and outreach	2016	RE3	Develop a communication strategy for this Regional Action Plan linked in a coherent way with national initiatives/actions. This will include linking the HELCOM website to relevant projects and initiatives.	2016	-	-	The Secretariat	The Secretariat to investigate the implementation of this action