



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Fifth Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area

PRESSURE 5-2016

Warsaw, Poland, 25-27 October 2016

Document title	Proposal for Agenda and Timetable for MAI/CART Workshop
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Agenda Item	8 – Pollution Load Compilation
Submission date	3.10.2016
Submitted by	RedCore DG
Reference	Outcomes of HOD 50-2016 (para 4.70) and PLC-6 12-2016 (para 7.3)

Background

PRESSURE 4-2016 requested the RedCore DG to prepare the agenda for the MAI/CART workshop and invited the Contracting Parties to provide input to the agenda of the workshop. HOD 50-2016 agreed that a HELCOM workshop dedicated to MAI/CART assessment methodologies will be organized (in February 2017) when the recent assessment results are as ready as possible (para 4.70).

PLC-6 12-2016 underlined that due to late reporting of national data, the assessment data will be available earliest on 10 February 2017. Consequently, the meeting agreed to postpone the workshop till early March 2017, i.e. a 1,5- day meeting on 6-7 March 2017.

Experts involved into national or regional (including HELCOM) work on assessment of progress in reduction of nutrient inputs into the Baltic Sea, representatives of national authorities in HELCOM Pressure Group and other groups as well as observers are kindly invited to discuss methodological and technical aspects of the follow-up of the implementation of the HELCOM BSAP nutrient inputs reduction scheme.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to approve the Draft Provisional Agenda for the Workshop as well as to agree on the Draft Timetable for the Workshop.

MAI/CART Workshop on assessment methodologies

6-7 March 2017 at BNI in Stockholm, Sweden

Follow-up of the implementation of the HELCOM BSAP nutrient inputs reduction scheme is one of the HELCOM assessment processes which demands allocation of significant resources by HELCOM members in combination with strong international scientific background and technical assistance. The process integrates continuous national monitoring in accordance with HELCOM Recommendations 37-38/1 and 37-38/2 and regularly updated regional guidelines, regular data reporting, compilation and processing of the reported data and scientifically based evaluation of progress towards environmental targets defined by the Scheme. PRESSURE 4-2016 discussed the methodological aspects of the MAI and CART assessments and agreed to arrange a workshop dedicated to assessment methodologies. The workshop is organized when the assessment results integrating data 2014 to a 1995-2014 data assessment time series on air- and waterborne nutrient inputs are as ready as possible in order to use its outcomes for e.g. MSFD reporting. The workshop is also intended to discuss and elaborate clear policy-relevant messages on the implementation of the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme.

Provisional Agenda of the workshop will include the following themes.

1. Establishing the nutrient input dataset to the Baltic Sea used for the MAI/CART follow-up assessment (assessment dataset)

- What is reported by Contracting Parties on waterborne inputs in the period from 1995-2014 (riverine, diffuse, direct, transboundary, retention and flows, etc.).
- Quality assurance on reported waterborne data.
- Data verification: filling in data gaps, corrections of suspicious data and approval by Contracting Parties of waterborne input data for the assessments.
- Transboundary inputs: how are data obtained, how inputs are divided between countries and how net inputs to the Baltic Sea are calculated. Discuss unresolved challenges with transboundary nutrient input data.
- Airborne inputs (atmospheric deposition of nitrogen) from EMEP, and estimation of phosphorus deposition.
- How is water- and airborne inputs divided by country and Baltic Sea sub-basins (net input pr. Country) and divided in riverine, direct, atmospheric and total nutrient inputs to Baltic Sea sub-basins
- What is the difference between actual nutrient inputs and normalized inputs – and why and how do we normalized water- and airborne inputs?
- What is the uncertainty on nutrient inputs and flow data and how is it estimated/calculated?
- How can we take into account that updated data on water- and airborne inputs also will change nutrient inputs in the references period 1997-2003 as compared with Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration 2013 which have been the basis for MAI and CART calculation?

2. HELCOM Core indicator on input of nutrients 1995-2014: MAI fulfilment follow-up

- Assessment of fulfilment of MAI and the use of actual data versus normalized ones.
- Nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea sub-basins in 2014.
- Evaluation of trends in nutrient inputs to sub-basins and estimation of changes in inputs – including introducing evaluation of breakpoints in time series.
- Results of assessment of progress towards fulfilling MAI and their visualization.
- Accounting for uncertainties in nutrient inputs in the assessment.

3. Assessment of the progress towards Country-wise Allocated Reduction Targets (CART) based on inputs data from 1995-2014

- How were national input ceilings derived from MAI and CART and accounting of transboundary inputs in their identification?

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- How to assess progress toward fulfilment of CART. Present and discuss different methodological aspects such as:
 - The use of statistical analysis of time series
 - Average of x years or latest inputs
 - Taking into account uncertainties in inputs
 - Use of normalized data
 - Which reference inputs (1997-2003) should be used, etc.
 - Methodology for and results of trend analysis and changes in inputs from countries to sub-basins during 1995-2014.
 - Presentation and evaluation of progress toward fulfilling CART - country wise by sub-basins.
 - Accounting of an extra reduction in some sub-basins in evaluating fulfilment of CART and how to present these results.
- 4. Estimation of input of nutrients via selected big rivers**
- Introducing the big rivers as e.g.: Daugava, Götaälv, Kemijoki, Oder, Nemunas, Neva and Vistula.
 - Nutrient inputs from the big rivers in 2014.
 - Trend and changes in inputs from the big rivers during 1995-2014?
- 5. Outlining of the CART policy messages. What are the main messages to present, and how can we present the main results for policymakers unambiguously?**
- Level of the assessment data aggregation - results shown country per Baltic Sea sub-basin.
 - Whether the reduction target is achieved?
 - What is the distance from the target, e.g. in tons, percentages, years before fulfilment with present trends etc.?
 - What is the trend and changes in inputs?

Draft Timetable

The Workshop starts at 13.00 Monday, 6 March 2017 and is expected to be closed at 16.00 on Tuesday, 7 March 2017. The meeting will be hosted by Baltic Nest Institute (BNI), Stockholm University.

Outcome of the Workshop will be reported to the Pressure Group and utilized for the PLC-6 project report, update of Core Pressure nutrient input indicator, scientific and policy CART follow-up assessment reporting.