



Outcome of the Seventh Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (HELCOM PRESSURE 7-2017)

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Introduction

0.1 In accordance with the decisions by PRESSURE 6-2017 (Outcome, paragraph 11.1) and HOD 52-2017 (Outcome, paragraph 3.16), the Seventh Meeting of the HELCOM Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (PRESSURE 7-2017) was held by invitation from the Ministry of Environment of Lithuania at the premises of the of the Ministry on 24-26 October 2017.

0.2 All the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention, except Latvia, attended the Meeting. Observers from Baltic Farmers' Forum on Environment (BFFE), Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB), the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) and WWF as well as invited guests Chair of Agri group, EUSBSR PA Hazards and PA Nutri attended the Meeting. The Data Consultants EMEP MSC-W and MSC-E also attended the Meeting. The List of Participants is contained in **Annex 1**.

0.3 At its opening, the Meeting was welcomed by Ms Aldona Margeriene, Director of Environment Protection Agency.

0.4 The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Lars Sonesten, Chair of the Pressure Group. Mr. Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky, assisted by Ms. Marta Ruiz, Ms. Laura Meski and Ms. Leena Heikkilä, from the HELCOM Secretariat acted as secretary of the Meeting.

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

1.1 The Meeting adopted the Agenda of the Meeting as contained in document 1-1.

Agenda Item 2 Matters arising from other HELCOM work

2.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the outcomes of other HELCOM meetings of relevance to Pressure Group (document 2-1) and decided to make use of it as appropriate.

2.2 The Secretariat informed the Meeting briefly about the ongoing preparations by the Heads of Delegation (HOD) for the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting, to be held on 6 March 2018.

2.3 The Meeting noted that EU considers the Ministerial Meeting as an important event to elaborate the political agenda for further efforts toward healthy Baltic Sea environment and encouraged countries to contribute to the Ministerial Meeting.

2.4 The Meeting took note of the correction by Sweden regarding the dates of the HELCOM-EUSBSR Workshop on internal nutrient reserves, which will be held in Gothenburg, Sweden, on 28-29 November 2017.

Agenda Item 3 Marine litter

3.1 The Meeting noted that the Workshop on implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (WS RAP ML 2-2017) was held on 23 October 2017.

3.2 The Meeting took note of the recommendations from the Workshop as contained in the outcome of the workshop ([Outcome of WS RAP ML 2-2017](#)). The Contracting Parties were invited to use these recommendations when considering related documents at the Meeting.

3.3 The Meeting noted the information on the scoping study on International and European Processes that are relevant to and contribute to the implementation of OSPAR's and HELCOM's Regional

Action Plans on Marine Litter (document 3-1). The Contracting Parties are invited to use the findings of the scoping study to facilitate the implementation of the HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter.

3.4 The Meeting took note that the document is to be updated in the frame of OSPAR and encouraged HELCOM EN-Marine Litter to contribute to it.

3.5 The Meeting took note of the information on the EU Plastic Strategy, which will be published by the end of the year as a part of the circular economy package.

3.6 The Meeting thanked Sweden and The Netherlands for the work done and took note that Germany found the study of use for national consultations and suggested to include an overview and time line of key policy or scientific developments to allow for strategic network planning as well as priority setting where the two Regional Action Plans can best contribute to other ongoing processes and concrete results in due time.

3.7 The Meeting noted the information on the contribution of riverine litter to the marine environment as contained in document 3-2.

3.8 The Meeting noted that EU suggested to include the link to the EU Plastic Strategy into the further updates of the overview.

3.9 The Meeting took note that Denmark supported the development of a harmonized methodology for monitoring microplastics in freshwater and marine water environment.

3.10 The Meeting took note of the position of Germany that a harmonized methodology for monitoring plastic in freshwater and marine environment is necessary to build a knowledge base that is used for an evidence-based policy integrating all sources and pathways.

3.11 The Meeting took note of the invitation to provide information on the current activities on monitoring of litter in rivers to the Secretariat (marta.ruiz@helcom.fi) by **24 November 2017**.

3.12 The Meeting considered the overview of HELCOM Recommendations on waste water management proposed for amendment to address microlitter (document 3-3).

3.13 The Meeting noted the conclusion from the WS RAP ML 2-2017, that currently there is no reliable knowledge base to substantiate measures to prevent input of microlitter into the marine environment from urban and other storm waters, thus the proposed amendment of Recommendations is premature. The Workshop had also recommended to continue building reliable knowledge base on monitoring of microlitter in storm water in line with action RL4 of the RAP on ML.

3.14 The Meeting agreed with the conclusion of the Workshop and suggested to come back to the discussion when the more reliable knowledge base is available.

3.15 The Meeting noted the initial draft for a HELCOM Recommendation on abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) (document 3-4).

3.16 The Meeting noted that the Workshop supported the initiative to elaborate the Recommendation. The participants pointed out that many aspects of the Recommendation are under mandates of national fisheries and maritime authorities. Thus, the work will require national coordination with these authorities. It also requires coordination with HELCOM groups Fish, Maritime and State & Conservation. The participants also invited Germany to consider contribution to the clarification of the terminology, particularly in relation to best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practice (BEP).

3.17 The Meeting took note of the information from WWF Poland that the MARELITT project is developing BATs and BEPs for the lost gear retrieval and is ready to contribute into the development of the Recommendation.

3.18 The Meeting agreed that the Contracting Parties will organize national consultations and inform the Secretariat (marta.ruiz@helcom.fi) by **17 November 2017** on their coordination position regarding the initiative to elaborate the HELCOM Recommendation. The Meeting pointed out that no technical information on the substance of the Recommendation will be provided.

3.19 The Meeting noted the analysis of the degree of the marine environment pollution by wastes flowing down the rivers to the sea, including sanitary waste - Summary of RL8 (document 3-5).

3.20 The Meeting noted that the RAP ML Workshop had agreed that the assessment of the importance of sewage-related waste coming from the upstream waste flow is to be considered accomplished, once Poland adds conclusions to the summary report. Further work is needed to accomplish the whole action: "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." For the first part of this remaining work to be conducted, the Secretariat will contact the River and River Basin Commissions to share the conducted assessment.

3.21 The Meeting agreed with the conclusions of the Workshop in relation to the accomplishment of the action ([Outcome of WS RAP ML 2-2017](#)).

3.22 The Meeting noted the information on ongoing European and global processes with regard to marine litter as contained in document 3-6.

3.23 The Meeting took note of the updates and agreed on the status of implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter as included in the follow-up table (Outcome of WS RAP ML 2-2017, Annex 2 and [document 3-7](#)).

3.24 The Meeting invited national experts to communicate their input to preparation of the Ministerial declaration 2018 with the heads of national delegations to make it of use at the HOD 52B-2017 meeting to be held on 13 November 2017.

Agenda Item 4 Underwater noise

4.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the current activities of the HELCOM EN-Noise as contained in document 4-1.

4.2 The Meeting welcomed the clarification provided by the EU on the role of the Regional Seas Conventions (RSCs) in the establishment of threshold values on underwater noise in view of the Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848. EU encouraged the RSCs' to contribute to the establishment of regionally appropriate thresholds for underwater noise in cooperation with the EU MSFD TG Noise. The Meeting also took note that Denmark still has not lifted the study reservation on the Terms of Reference of EN-Noise regarding development of threshold values.

4.3 The Meeting noted that the next meeting of the EU MSFD TG Noise will be held on 8-9 November in Madrid, Spain, and that the development of advice to EU Member States on GES, future assessment and target-settings and threshold values is included in the draft agenda of the meeting.

Agenda Item 5 Assessment of input of nutrients and selected hazardous substances (PLC-6 project outcomes)

5.1 The Meeting took note of the Notes of the Workshop on CART Assessment (CART WS 1-2017), held on 23 October 2017 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

5.2 The Meeting took note of the presentation by the PLC-6 Project Manager, Mr. Lars M. Svendsen, on the possible methods to be used to identify the progress: 5 years, 3 years and trend-based estimate (Presentation 1).

5.3 The Meeting thanked the PLC-6 Project group and the Project Manager personally for the great work done in evaluating the effectiveness of the methods for producing a scientifically sound assessment of the evaluation of HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme.

5.4 The Meeting pointed out that the scientific results of the PLC-6 project require further policy communication.

5.5 The Meeting in principle agreed that the trend-based method is to be used for the evaluation of the progress towards national reduction targets and input ceilings to Baltic Sea sub-basins.

- 5.6 The Meeting further agreed that the trend analysis should include identification of change points (break points) and that the break points are to be evidenced and approved by national representatives in the PLC Project group.
- 5.7 The Meeting agreed to have a *tacit approval* procedure for approving the use of trend analyses method **by 10 November 2017**. The Meeting welcomed the offer of the Project Manager to make an overview of the break points, to be found in **Annex 2** to the outcome. The Meeting also agreed that the Contracting Parties would explicitly approve the break points identified in the trends and inform the PLC-6 Project Manager Lars Svendsen (lms@dce.au.dk) with copy to the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi) **by 10 November 2017**.
- 5.8 The Meeting considered document 5-2 on the preliminary results, obtained by the PLC-6 project, applying the methodology to account extra reductions in the assessment of progress towards national reduction targets.
- 5.9 The Meeting clarified that the uncertainty of the input evaluation will be applied for both the assessment of progress towards input ceilings and the fulfilment of implementation of CARTs.
- 5.10 The Meeting took note of the position by the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) on the extra reductions (document 5-4).
- 5.11 The Meeting took note of the position of Germany that the method to reallocate extra reduction can be applied for the assessment only when all principles, including principle 8 (c.f. document 5-2) have been agreed by all Contracting Parties.
- 5.12 The Meeting also took note that Denmark is not in the position to lift the study reservation on principle 8.
- 5.13 The Meeting agreed that, due to the positions of Germany and Denmark, reallocation of the extra reductions cannot be applied for the final products of the PLC-6 project. In order to enable the PLC-6 project to finalize the project deliverables, which also includes the CART policy message, the Meeting suggested that the PLC-6 Project group will prepare two policy messages, one with and another without reallocation of extra reduction, for submission to HOD 53-2017.
- 5.14 The Meeting took note of the response by the Danish Minister of Environment and Food on a Parliamentary question concerning the state of marine environment in Kattegat (document 5-3) submitted by FEAP.
- 5.15 The Meeting considered the draft chapter on sources and pathways of nutrient inputs (source apportionment) for PLC-6 (document 5-7).
- 5.16 The Meeting took note of the position of Germany that the nutrient input values used for national MSFD report do not include natural background, which makes them different from what has been presented in document 5-7. Germany requested the PLC-6 Project group to provide new figures for the source apportionment of German nitrogen and phosphorus inputs, based on data to be re-reported by Germany, that are in accordance with the MSFD reporting for inclusion in the chapter on sources and pathways of nutrient inputs.
- 5.17 The Meeting took note of the position of Germany that evaluation of the natural background should be discussed within the PLC-7 project. The Meeting also noted that the evaluation of the natural background is a vital part of the assessment, and this is prescribed in the PLC Guidelines agreed by all the Contracting Parties, and it allows to evaluate anthropogenic loads.
- 5.18 The Meeting endorsed in principle the document for submission to HOD 53-2017 after editing and making a layout and agreed on a written procedure for commenting on the results within two weeks after the updated version has been circulated.
- 5.19 The Meeting considered the draft Summary on the evaluation of effectiveness of measures, implemented in the period 1995-2014 and expected effect of measures implemented or planned for implementation after 2015 (document 5-5).

5.20 The Meeting took note that Germany is currently not in the position to quantify the effect of future measures and to approve the draft without proper quantification. The Meeting also took note of the position of Poland that the graphs reflected mainly availability of quantified information rather than the effect of implemented measures.

5.21 The Meeting took note that Estonia, Lithuania and Russia are ready to report additional information on the applied and planned measures and their effects.

5.22 The Meeting agreed to change the product into a narrative description of the compiled information on applied and planned measures with quantification where possible. The Meeting also pointed out that compiled information on applied measures can be useful for the countries, as a regional compilation of practices to reduce nutrient inputs. The product also may include recommendations how to improve national data on planned actions including quantification.

5.23 The Meeting agreed on the submission of the final product to PRESSURE 8-2018. The countries are invited to provide additional information to improve the product quality **by 20 December 2017** to the PLC-6 Project Manager (lms@dce.au.dk), with copy to the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi).

5.24 The Meeting took note of the presentation by the PLC-6 Project team on the draft chapter on the evaluation of the nutrient input to the Baltic Sea by the seven big rivers in the Baltic Sea catchment area (document 5-6 and Presentation 2)

5.25 The Meeting agreed that the document requires minor updates and is then ready for submission to HOD 53-2017. In order to finalize the document, the Meeting agreed on the following procedures:

- Area-specific loads, population per catchment and flow-rated concentrations for the seven rivers will be added;
- the Contracting Parties are invited to provide written comments to the document **by 3 November 2017** to the PLC-6 project team (antti.raike@ymparisto.fi), with copy to the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi);
- the document will be updated by the PLC-6 Project group together with the Secretariat by **10 November 2017**;
- the updated document will be circulated to the Pressure group contacts for reviewing with *tacit approval procedure* **by 17 November 2017**.

5.26 The Meeting took note of document 5-8 providing an overview on the PLC-6 information sources, which are planned to be made publicly available.

5.27 The Meeting decided that data used for the maps and methods of visualisation (e.g. for the transboundary rivers) are to be verified by the Contracting Parties. The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to provide comments on the maps, presented in document 5-8, **by 20 December 2017** to the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi).

5.28 The Meeting in principle agreed to open public access to the quality-assured data on monitored and unmonitored areas in the PLC-6 database. The Meeting pointed out that the access page of the public web service should contain a disclaimer indicating that the assessment dataset has been manually corrected, thus it might differ from the data reported by the countries to the database. The Meeting also suggested to make a user tool providing aggregated data on the countries' inputs to sub-basins.

5.29 The Meeting considered the draft policy message on implementation of the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme as contained in document 5-9.

5.30 The Meeting acknowledged that the new scientific data on the input time series since 1994 substantially differ from previous assessments of nutrient inputs, which includes also values for the reference period 1997-2003. Hence reporting against these, the CARTs set by the Ministerial Declaration 2013 is challenging.

5.31 The Meeting agreed that the policy message should be focused on the achievement of the GES for the Baltic Sea, which is reflected by the national input ceilings.

- 5.32 The Meeting agreed on the draft structure of the policy message as prepared by the drafting group, contained in **Annex 3**.
- 5.33 The Meeting also agreed on the initial suggestion of the drafting group for supplementary document as contained in **Annex 4**.
- 5.34 The Meeting requested the RedCore DG, together with the Secretariat, to elaborate further the supplementary report and policy message **by 8 November 2017** and circulate it to the Contacts of Pressure group for a commenting round. The comments should be provided to the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi) **by 15 November 2017**.
- 5.35 The Meeting considered the draft Assessment of input of selected hazardous substances into the Baltic Sea (document 5-1).
- 5.36 The Meeting thanked the PLC Project group for the work done to prepare a detailed analysis of the data on input of hazardous substances into the Baltic Sea and suggested to add a table reflecting LOD and LOQ in the chapter and the data coverage for the catchment area and point sources.
- 5.37 The Meeting took note that some countries would like to update the data on input of hazardous substances.
- 5.38 The Meeting agreed on that the comments on the chapter and additional data will be provided by countries **by 8 December 2017** to the PLC-6 Project group (lars.sonesten@slu.se), with copy to the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi).
- 5.39 The Meeting took note of the information on the status and contents of the PLC-6 project and scientific report (Presentations 3 and 4).
- 5.40 The Meeting noted the suggestion of Germany to reflect separately in the scientific report the input data on German inputs via Odra River as well as inputs via airborne and waterborne pathways (as was already the case in the first scientific background report), since these inputs need to be followed up separately due to the fact that they concern different pollutants.

Agenda Item 6 Nutrients recycling and follow-up of HELCOM Recommendation on sewage sludge handling

- 6.1 The Meeting considered and in principle endorsed the overview on nutrient recycling in the Baltic Sea countries (document 6-1).
- 6.2 The Meeting also agreed that the latest updates to the overview can be sent to the Secretariat (susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi) **by 3 November 2017** to make the updated document available for consideration by the HELCOM Agri group at its meeting on 8-9 November 2017.
- 6.3 The Meeting took note of the presentation by the Chair of Agri group, Ms. Tarja Haaranen, and document 6-2 with background information to support the development of a Ministerial decision on a HELCOM nutrient recycling strategy (Presentation 5).
- 6.4 The Meeting supported the suggested background document for the regional nutrient reduction strategy.
- 6.5 The Meeting took note of the position of Germany and EU that the strategy should be focused on recycling of nutrients upstream but not on end of pipe solutions (large-scale technical measures to remove nutrients from the Baltic Sea).
- 6.6 The Meeting also took note of the positions of Lithuania, Sweden and Finland that the strategy should reflect opportunities to use nutrients from eutrophic water, which includes small-scale measures to remove nutrients e.g. from bays, fjords or lagoons.
- 6.7 The Meeting further took note of a suggestion of Sweden to take losses of nutrients from aquaculture into account. Sweden also suggested to include into the strategy a section with follow-up indicators.

- 6.8 The Meeting discussed the draft reporting format for reporting sewage sludge quality for HELCOM [Recommendation 38/1](#) as presented by Sweden (document 6-3).
- 6.9 The Meeting took note that Denmark will probably not be in the position to report data on the concentration of pollutants in sewage sludge.
- 6.10 The Meeting suggested to include microplastic to the list of voluntary reported parameters, taking into account that there are no harmonized methods to monitor microplastics in MWWTP.
- 6.11 The Meeting took note of the clarification by the Secretariat that the extended reporting format was elaborated implementing the decision of PRESSURE 6-2017 to develop a regional palette of solutions for recycling of nutrients from sewage sludge. The palette of solutions will serve as a supporting material for the elaboration of regional nutrient recycling strategy as well as to follow up its indicators. The extended reporting format does not substitute the reporting format enacted by HELCOM Recommendation 36/1 on sewage sludge handling, but extends it with a number of additional parameters. The results of reporting would be further used for a possible update of the reporting format of HELCOM Recommendation 36/1.
- 6.12 The Meeting in principle agreed with the proposed extended reporting format but suggested an additional *tacit approval* procedure **by 10 November 2017**, informing the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi) on any updates.
- 6.13 The Meeting also agreed that reporting using the extended format will be organized in the timeframe established by HELCOM Recommendation 36/1 in 2019, utilizing 2018 data.
- 6.14 The Meeting thanked Sweden for the effort to prepare the draft of an extended reporting format.

Agenda Item 7 Hazardous substances

- 7.1 The Meeting took note of the presentation by the EMEP MSC-W Consultant on the results of the assessment of emissions of nitrogen in the region and its deposition on the Baltic Sea water area (document 7-5 and Presentations 6, 7 and 8).
- 7.2 The Meeting took note of the suggestion by Germany to reflect on the increased ship emissions in the supplementary paper for the CART policy message.
- 7.3 The Meeting noted that seawater scrubbers used to reduce NO_x ship emissions might be a source of nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea, but the magnitude of input via this source has never been evaluated.
- 7.4 The Meeting also pointed out an increasing proportion of nitrogen emissions from agriculture and invited the Agri group to address the issue in line with the ongoing process of revision of Annex III, Part 2 of the Helsinki Convention. The Meeting also took note of the suggestion of CCB to consider updating of HELCOM Recommendation 24/3.
- 7.5 The Meeting welcomed the suggestion by Germany to utilize a project started by OSPAR to evaluate the effects of the nitrogen emissions' reductions due to the implementation of the Gothenburg Protocol and the new EU NEC Directive (DIRECTIVE (EU) 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2016 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants, amending Directive 2003/35/EC and repealing Directive 2001/81/EC), to obtain estimates of potential reduction in atmospheric nitrogen deposition also for the Baltic Sea
- 7.6 The Meeting invited EMEP to deliver the 2005 (used as a reference data) data quality-check file to the Secretariat for circulation to the Pressure group contacts **by 3 November 2017**. The Meeting further invited those Contracting Parties who are not OSPAR members to verify the data and to provide possible corrections to EMEP (jerzy.bartnicki@met.no) **by 10 November 2017** to enable EMEP running the model in November 2017. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to investigate the opportunity to finance the work by EMEP to estimate the nitrogen reductions by 2030.

- 7.7 The Meeting took note of the presentation by the EMEP MSC-E Consultant on the indicator reports as a part of the annual report by EMEP on airborne input of cadmium, mercury, lead and dioxins as well as nitrogen into the Baltic Sea area in the period from 1990 to 2015 (attachments 1-6 of document 7-5 and Presentation 9).
- 7.8 The Meeting approved in principle the EMEP Technical report and indicator fact sheets and invited the Contracting Parties to provide additional comments on the Report and fact sheets **by 17 November 2017** to EMEP (jerzy.bartnicki@met.no and alexey.gusev@msceast.org), with a copy to the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi). EMEP will send the corrected Report and indicator fact sheets to the Secretariat for publication at the latest **by 15 December 2017**.
- 7.9 Since a new contract between HELCOM and EMEP regarding estimation of airborne inputs of N and selected hazardous substances is to be signed for the next 3-year period 2018-2020, the Meeting decided to include the following substances for the assessment in 2018-2020, as it is stated in document 5-5, namely: nitrogen, cadmium, mercury, PCB-153 and PAH.
- 7.10 The Meeting also took note of the suggestion by Sweden to consider an opportunity to assess airborne input of hexachlorobenzene (HCB). The Meeting invited countries to inform the Secretariat **by 15 November 2017** whether this is a common need for all the countries.
- 7.11 The Meeting took note of the information on airborne input of Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) to the Baltic Sea by EMEP (document 7-6). The Meeting took note that EMEP does not currently have consistent data on the PFAS emissions, and that PFOA have much more potential for air transportation due to its higher volatility.
- 7.12 The Meeting took note of the inventory of awareness, actions, and strategies related to highly fluorinated substances (PFAS) (document 7-7) performed by the Policy Area (PA) Hazards of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) and presented by the PA Hazards coordinator, Ms. Jenny Hedman.
- 7.13 The Meeting noted that the results of the inventory can serve as a good basis for future work in the Baltic Region to increase knowledge of environmental levels of PFAS, better control of discharges and limit human exposure.
- 7.14 The Meeting thanked the PA Hazards coordinator for the work done and welcomed the recent effort by PA Hazards to coordinate further work towards prevention of pollution of the marine environment by PFAS.
- 7.15 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the second Meeting of the HELCOM Correspondence Group on Pharmaceuticals, CG PHARMA, which was held as an online meeting on 14 September 2017 (document 7-1).
- 7.16 The Meeting considered the updated report on the HELCOM indicator Diclofenac (document 7-2) and appreciated the work done on updating the indicator under the auspices of CG PHARMA.
- 7.17 The Meeting took note of the comment by CCB that the data coverage should be improved and that WWT should be considered as pathway of Diclofenac.
- 7.18 The Meeting recommended to remove older data with lower detection limit when new data becomes available.
- 7.19 The Meeting endorsed in principle the Diclofenac indicator as a pre-core test indicator for inclusion in the descriptive part of the second version of the State of the Baltic Sea report to be ready by mid-2018.
- 7.20 The Meeting also invited the Contracting Parties to provide specific comments on the Diclofenac pre-core indicator to the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi) **by 17 November 2017**.
- 7.21 The Meeting took note of the CCB report on pharmaceutical pollution in the Baltic Sea Region (document 7-9) which has been updated since PRESSURE 6-2017. CCB welcomed comments by the Contracting Parties by end of November 2017 to be sent to (mikhail.durkin@ccb.se and ces.info@tut.by). The final report is expected to be published by end of 2017.

- 7.22 The Meeting further took note of the information by CCB that pilot projects on public awareness on pharmaceuticals will be launched in Belarus, Estonia, Latvia and possibly Ukraine; in Belarus a pilot on collecting spent pharmaceuticals from population will be possibly launched in cooperation with a healthcare institution
- 7.23 The Meeting discussed and endorsed in principle the templates for data collection on micropollutants and riverine inputs of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) (documents 7-3, Att.1 and Att.2).
- 7.24 Denmark, Finland and Sweden informed that comments on the reporting form have been/are to be provided.
- 7.25 Denmark informed that not all data is available for reporting by Denmark.
- 7.26 The Meeting agreed that reporting of available data on diclofenac will be organized separately from the other data to enable using the diclofenac data for the second version of the State of the Baltic Sea report.
- 7.27 The Meeting agreed on the following timeline for reporting: reporting request to be circulated to the Pressure group contacts during week 44 with the request to report on diclofenac **by 20 December 2017**. The deadline for reporting on other substances and micropollutants is by end of March 2018, in time for consideration by PRESSURE 8-2018.
- 7.28 The Meeting requested the Contracting Parties to inform the Secretariat as soon as possible on any difficulties encountered with the reporting format.
- 7.29 The Meeting considered the suggestions for cooperation between the Pressure group and PA Hazards as presented in document 7-4.
- 7.30 The Meeting pointed out that in future all data calls as well as the cooperation plans should be considered and agreed on by the Pressure group.
- 7.31 The Meeting endorsed the suggested cooperation plans with PA Hazards and its flagship project CW Pharma.
- 7.32 The Meeting took note of the information on the projects Hull Detox and CHANGE presented by Sweden (document 7-8). The aim of the projects is to reduce the use and presence of harmful antifouling systems on recreational craft. The Meeting noted the high concern of CCB regarding revealed high concentrations of TBT in the marine sediments, especially in old harbours.

Agenda Item 8 Physical damage to the sea floor

- 8.1 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the third meeting of the Expert Network on dredging/depositing operations at sea (EN DREDS 3-2017), which was held on 12 September 2017 and the suggestions on the method used for the first version of the HELCOM State of the Baltic Sea reports to evaluate effects of dredging and depositing of dredged material on the sea floor (document 8-1).
- 8.2 The Meeting requested EN DREDS to look into the definitions, especially on loss and disturbance effects for maintenance and capital dredging, as it now differs from those given in the related EU directive.
- 8.3 The Meeting took note of the overview of the data reported on dredged material (document 8-2). The analysis on the data will be submitted to PRESSURE 8-2018.
- 8.4 The Meeting took note of the suggestions by CCB to look into the dynamics of contaminants distributed to the sea and recommended Poland to carefully consider permitting procedures as the cadmium loads seem to be high.
- 8.5 The Meeting took note of the request by Russia to add a footnote to table 1 that data for 2015 has been reported on contaminant load. Possible updates are to be provided. Data for 2016 will be reported as soon as possible.
- 8.6 The Meeting requested those Contracting Parties who have not reported data to report **by 20 December 2017** at the latest to the Secretariat (juuso.haapaniemi@helcom.fi).

8.7 The Meeting took note of the clarification by the Secretariat, that Recommendation 36/1 contains a description of the exceptions from reporting of the contamination. The level of contamination of the other types of dredged materials has to be examined and reported.

Agenda Item 9 Follow-up of HELCOM Recommendations: implementation, reporting and revision

9.1 The Meeting took note of the status of the HELCOM Hot Spots (document 9-1) and further took note of the following information from the Contracting Parties on the possibilities to remove the remaining 44 hot spots in accordance with the 2013 Ministerial commitment:

- Estonia: A study has been initiated to be able to remove the remaining hot spot.
- Finland: Since 2012 Finland run the programme for nutrient load reduction in the catchment of the Archipelago Sea. However, it is not foreseen that the remaining agriculture hot spot can be removed in the near future.
- Lithuania: Lithuania will look into the remaining agriculture hot spot and will report to PRESSURE 8-2018.
- Poland: Poland will look into the remaining hot spots and will likely be able to report to PRESSURE 8-2018.
- Russia: The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation has initiated a study on the possibility to remove the remaining hot spots.
- Sweden: A lot of mitigation work has been done in the past decades on the remaining hot spot (a World Heritage Site). Sweden will be in contact with the Secretariat to see if the site still meets the requirements of being a HELCOM hot spot.

9.2 The Meeting welcomed the proposal of CCB to provide information on the status of hot spots in Belarus and Ukraine for PRESSURE 8-2018.

9.3 The Meeting reviewed the actions with different responses to the follow-up of national reporting under the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) (document 9-2). The Meeting was of the opinion that item 2 cannot be followed up, as the commitment formulation is unclear and might be interpreted ambiguously. The Meeting recommended to exclude it from the follow up system.

9.4 The Meeting took note that Estonia, Denmark, Finland and Sweden have recently ratified the Minamata Convention.

9.5 The Meeting took note of a comment by Poland pointing out that the ratification by EU does not automatically lead to ratification by all EU member states.

9.6 The Meeting took note that Russia does not have a unified nutrient reduction programme but conducts relevant activities under several different Federal and regional programmes.

9.7 The Meeting took note that Sweden will submit an updated report fixing the remaining reporting gaps and some apparent inconsistencies.

9.8 The Meeting took note that Denmark is of the opinion that programmes of measure under WFD and MSFD could be interpreted as national programmes to reduce nutrient loads.

9.9 The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to review the answers on the questions listed in document 9-2, except item 2, with specific attention on the answers “no” or “on-going” and to inform the Secretariat (leena.heikkila@helcom.fi) accordingly **by 17 November 2017**.

9.10 The Meeting considered and endorsed the overview of the status of reporting on HELCOM Recommendations under the mandate of the Pressure group, selected to be included in the BSAP follow-up (document 9-3 and 9-3Rev.1).

9.11 The Secretariat clarified the selection process and criteria for the Recommendations included in the BSAP follow-up: Recommendations 28E/5 and 28E/8 have been included in the HELCOM BSAP follow-up explorer and the overview is based on a self-assessment by the Contracting Parties.

- 9.12 Poland informed that information on Recommendation 29/1 on reduction of emissions from crematoria will need to be reviewed and the information will be provided by HOD due to the tight schedule.
- 9.13 The Meeting took note of the suggestion by CCB for the Pressure and Agri groups to look into the need to revise Recommendation 31E/3 on Cd in fertilizers and setting limit values.
- 9.14 The Meeting took note of the concern expressed by CCB on recommendations on storm water and wetlands being in the need of revision and welcomed the proposals by CCB to continue work on the matter.
- 9.15 The Meeting took note of the information by CCB in relation to implementation of HELCOM Recommendation 31E/4 regarding a case of improper management of a landfill in the coastal area of the Gulf of Riga, Latvia, in summer 2017.

Agenda Item 10 Any other business

- 10.1 The Meeting took note of the overview on involvement of municipalities in the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action plan (BSAP) (document 10-2).
- 10.2 The Meeting took note that Sweden supports initiatives to involve municipalities into the implementation of the BSAP, namely the Baltic City Accelerator, especially with regard of effective water management and calculation of reduction targets for municipalities. Germany informed of the recent seminar with municipalities aimed at development of coastal tourism where marine litter issues were of high priority.
- 10.3 The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to provide additional information on the involvement of municipalities to the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi).
- 10.4 The Meeting took note of the point raised by CCB, as a message from the ongoing IWAMA Water Forum by UBC, that HELCOM would need to be more visible at the municipality level as municipalities are in many cases the driving force for implementation of BSAP. The municipalities would need guidance on the priorities etc. and a revised recommendation on storm water would be useful.
- 10.5 Germany pointed out that the role and involvement of municipalities varies between countries.
- 10.6 The Meeting invited national HELCOM representatives to actively participate in events with involvement of municipalities in order to provide guidance on HELCOM priorities.
- 10.7 The Meeting checked and updated the Contact lists of the Group contained in document 10-1. The updated lists are contained in **Annex 5**.
- 10.8 The Meeting took note of the information by the Chair that a workshop will be organized in Stockholm, Sweden, on 6 November 2017 with participation of the representatives of BONUS projects, HELCOM Secretariat, Chairs of State & Conservation and Pressure groups to look into the results of the BONUS project, with potential direct relevance to the ongoing HELCOM processes.
- 10.9 The Meeting took note of the information by CCB regarding the Baltic Sea Future Congress where the climate change mitigation matters will be considered.
- 10.10 The Meeting took note of the information by CCB that a questionnaire is being developed by CCB and the Secretariat on fertilizer handling in ports to be circulated to the Maritime group contacts and that HOD 52-2017 invited the Pressure group to evaluate the magnitude of the input of nutrients from handling fertilizer cargo using the data compiled by the Maritime group. Results are expected to be presented to PRESSURE 8-2018

Agenda Item 11 Election of Vice-Chair(s)

- 11.1 The Meeting considered the election of Vice-Chair of Pressure group and agreed to return to the issue at PRESSURE 8-2018.

Agenda Item 12 Future work and meetings

12.1 The Meeting took note of the invitation by Germany to host the next meeting of the Pressure Group (PRESSURE 8-2017) on 18-20 April 2018, tentatively in Berlin.

12.2 The Meeting agreed to arrange PRESSURE 9-2018 during the week from 8-12 October 2018 and invited the Secretariat to approach Latvia regarding hosting. The Meeting welcomed the offer by Finland to consider hosting the meeting, if Latvia would not be in the position to host it.

Agenda Item 13 Outcome and closing of the Meeting

13.1 The Meeting adopted the draft Outcome of the Meeting (document 13-1).

13.2 The Outcome of the Meeting will be finalized by the Secretariat in cooperation with the Chair and made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal together with the documents and presentations given during the Meeting.

13.3 The Meeting thanked Lithuania for hosting the PRESSURE 7-2017 meeting as well as for the great hospitality and the excellent facilities.

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Annex 2 Overview of applied break points in the net input time series of nitrogen and phosphorus in the assessment of progress towards input ceilings/CARTs

The PLC-6 Project Manager was requested by PRESSURE 7-2017 to provide an overview of applied break points in the time series of normalized net input time series of total nitrogen and total phosphorus used for the evaluation of progress towards input ceilings and CARTS.

The tables below include an overview country pr. basin, pr. basin and pr. country of the applied break points for normalized net inputs of total nitrogen (Table 1) and total phosphorus (Table 2). The break points are indicated by the year they have been identified. For nitrogen in some occasions two break points are applied, and indicated with two years, e.g. LT GUT 2000 and 2006. The “-” indicates no break point and empty cell (Table 2) is for basin without input for the specific country.

Tabel 1: Total nitrogen

Country/basin	BOB	BOS	BAP	GUF	GUR	DS	KAT	Total
BSS	2005, 2009	2005, 2009	2005, 2009	2005, 2009	2005, 2009	2005, 2009	2005, 2009	2005, 2009
BY	-	-	2008	-	1999	-	-	-
CZ	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DE	2010	2010	1999	2010	2010	-	2012	-
DK	1999	1999	1999	1999	1999	2011	2012	2011
EE	-	-	2000	2011	2002	-	-	2011
EU20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FI	2006	-	2000	2003	2000	2000	2000	2003
LT	2000, 2006	2000, 2006	2001	2000, 2006	2008	2000, 2006	2000, 2006	2001
LV	1998	1998	2000	1998	-	1998	1998	-
OC	2000, 2006	2000, 2006	2000, 2006	2000, 2006	2000, 2006	2000, 2006	2000, 2006	2000, 2006
PL	2002, 2007	2002, 2007	1999	2002, 2007	2002, 2007	2002, 2007	2002, 2007	1999
RU	2000, 2006	2000, 2006	-	2004	1999	2000, 2006	2000, 2006	2004
SE	2005	2002	-	2012	2012	2003	2006	1998
UA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2006	2003	2000	2003	2004	-	-	-

Tabel 2: Total phosphorus

Country/basin	BOB	BOS	BAP	GUF	GUR	DS	KAT	Total
BSS								
BY			-		2006			2005
CZ			2011					2011
DE			1999			-		2001
DK			1999			2000	2003	2000
EE			-	2002	-			2004
EU20								
FI	-	-		-				-
LT			-		2000			1999
LV			2006		-			-
OC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PL			2002					-
RU			2002	2009	2006			2009
SE	2002	-	-			-	-	2002
UA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2002	2002	2012	2000	2009	2007	-	-

1. Introductory Text / Nutrient Input Ceilings Achieved

Table 1. Total Nitrogen. Evaluation of input ceilings fulfillment

Based on long term trend analysis (*scroll down for full legend*).

Country/basin	BOB	BOS	BAP	GUF	GUR	DS	KAT
Denmark	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Estonia	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Finland			↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Germany	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Latvia	↓	↓	↓				↓
Lithuania	↓	↓	↑				
Poland	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Russia		↓	↑		↓	↓	↓
Sweden	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Belarus			↓		↓		
Czech Republic							
Ukraine			↑				
Baltic Sea shipping	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Other countries	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
MAI	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

Table 2. Total Phosphorus. Evaluation of input ceilings fulfillment

Based on long term trend analysis

Country/basin	BOB	BOS	BAP	GUF	GUR	DS	KAT
Denmark			↓			↓	↓
Estonia			↓	↓	↓		
Finland	↓			↓			
Germany			↓			↓	
Latvia							
Lithuania			↓		↓		
Poland							
Russia			↑	↓	↑		
Sweden		↓	↓			↓	↓
Belarus					↑		
Czech Republic			↓				
Ukraine			↑				
Baltic Sea shipping							
Other countries							
MAI		↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

2. Discussion / Change in Baseline

Table shows progress relative to input ceilings, as this is easier to communicate than CART

Inputs during the reference period have been recalculated

This makes assessment against 2013 MD decided CART problematic as they no longer lead to the achievement of MAI

Future assessments shall be based on the progress towards the input ceilings alone.

See supplementary document → [Link to Supporting Document](#)

Annex 4 Supplementary Report to CART Policy Message

1. Introduction
2. MD 2013 targets
3. New data / EMEP

N		BOB	BOS	BAP	GUF	GUR	DS	KAT	BAS
DK	INPUT 1997 – 2003 (MD 2013)								
	CART MD 2013								
	INPUT 2014								
	Load ceiling								
	Estimate of achieved reduction relative to MD2013								
	Revised reference period load								
	Estimate of achieved reduction relative to new reference period load								
P		BOB	BOS	BAP	GUF	GUR	DS	KAT	BAS
DK	INPUT 1997 – 2003 (MD 2013)								
	CART MD 2013								
	INPUT 2014								
	Load ceiling								
	Estimate of achieved reduction relative to MD2013								
	Revised reference period load								
	Estimate of achieved reduction relative to new reference period load								

4. Changes in reference inputs
5. Discussion - Implications of changed reference inputs
 - a. Disconnect of CART from MAI, leads no longer to MAI
 - b. Changes proportion of loads between countries
 - c. Possible change in national reduction requirements will need to be assessed
6. Recommendations
 - a. Future assessments shall be based on the progress towards the input ceilings alone.
 - b. Changes to proportion of loads could be discussed in future revision of BSAP

Annex 5 Contacts and Observers of Pressure group

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