



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

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

PRESSURE 9-2018

Riga, Latvia, 10-12 October 2018

Document title	Matters arising from other HELCOM meetings
Code	2-3
Category	INF
Agenda Item	2 - Matters arising from other HELCOM work
Submission date	01.10.2018
Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	

Background

This document contains extracts from the outcomes of [HOD 54-2018](#) (14-15 June 2018, Helsinki, Finland) and other HELCOM working groups of relevance for Pressure Group ([Agri](#) and [Maritime](#)). Joint activities of Pressure and State&Conservation are reflected in the relevant documents on: hazardous substances, indicators, climate change, underwater noise and marine litter. They are not included into this document to optimize the Group's work.

The information on the outputs of the work of the groups subordinated to Pressure Group is submitted as separate documents and will be considered under relevant agenda items. Currently, five expert groups are reporting to Pressure Group: EN-Marine litter, EN-Noise, CG PHARMA, EN DREDS and RedCore DG.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note and make use of the information in the PRESSURE 9-2018 work.

Outcome of the Sixth Meeting of the Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices

HELCOM Recommendation 24/3 “Measures aimed at the reduction of emissions and discharges from agriculture”

AGRI group continues the activity aimed at mitigation of ammonia emissions, initiated by the fact of ammonia emissions growth reported by EMEP.

4.10 The Meeting decided that an overview of the ongoing activities in the countries will be made as a first step of the revision. Meeting agreed that answers to the questionnaire will be supplied to the Secretariat (susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi) by 15 February 2019 and a compilation will be submitted to AGRI 7-2019 to be used as background for the revision.

Nutrient recycling

7.2 The Meeting took note that the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2018 committed to elaborating by 2020 a Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy.

7.4 The Meeting further took note that HELCOM PRESSURE 2018 supported the plan proposed by Finland (document 7-1).

7.5 The Meeting agreed to the plan as suggested in document 7-1.

7.11 The Meeting agreed to establish a drafting group led by Finland consisting of Denmark, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Poland and PA NUTRI. The Meeting invited Pressure Working group to inform about the participants for the drafting group. The Meeting took note that Sweden will inform later of their participation in the drafting group.

7.12 The Meeting agreed that Finland will specify the work plan after the current version has been agreed by HOD 54-2018 and present it at that the first online meeting of the drafting group in September 2018. Finland also agreed to present draft vision to the Strategy at the Workshop in November 2018.

Outcome of the 54th Meeting of the Heads of Delegation

Outgoing and incoming chairmanship in HELCOM

2.1 The Meeting recalled that the EU chairmanship of HELCOM is coming to an end on 30 June 2018 and took note of the account by EU on accomplishing the chairmanship priorities.

2.2 The Meeting acknowledged the accomplishments of the EU chairmanship, especially the excellent organization and good outcome of the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in Brussels on 6 March 2018. The Meeting took note that progress has been made regarding the priorities by completing the second holistic assessment (HOLAS II) and Pollution Load Compilation products, promoting sustainable agriculture and advancing port reception facilities as well as improving regional cooperation with fisheries bodies. Further development of core indicators related to seafloor integrity and marine litter continue to be important priorities for HELCOM. Work still remains on improving the coherence of the MPA network. The Meeting thanked EU for the successful chairmanship.

2.3 The Meeting took note of and welcomed the following priorities of the Finnish chairmanship (document 2-1): updating the Baltic Sea Action Plan, reduction of nutrient inputs and nutrient recycling, Baltic Sea and climate change and synergy between Agenda 2030 and HELCOM work.

2.4 The Meeting welcomed the Finnish chairmanship team, Ms. Saara Bäck, Chair of HELCOM, and Ms. Tarja Haaranen, Vice-Chair, from the Ministry of the Environment of Finland.

Outcome of the 2018 HELCOM Brussels Ministerial Meeting – follow-up

3.4 The Meeting considered the renewed Roadmap of HELCOM activities on ecosystem approach, including perspectives beyond 2021, based on the outcome of the Brussels Ministerial Meeting (document 3-5), took note of the proposal by Russia for amendments and agreed to amend the Roadmap as included in document 3-5-Rev.1.

3.5 The Meeting recognized that the Roadmap is a living document to be kept updated.

3.6 The Meeting agreed on endorsement of the amended Roadmap via correspondence with the following procedure: any additional suggestions or comments to be submitted to the Secretariat (monika.stankiewicz@helcom.fi) by 19 June 2018, the Secretariat to circulate the draft Roadmap to HODs on 21 June 2018 for a tacit approval of the Roadmap by 28 June 2018.

Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

3.9 The Meeting welcomed that the update of the BSAP will be based on the existing expertise in the HELCOM working structure according to the mandates of the working groups and will be overseen by the Heads of Delegation.

3.10 The Meeting took note that a work plan for the BSAP update will be prepared by the Secretariat for HOD 55-2018, in which the involvement of the HELCOM groups will be specified and any associated timelines will be detailed

3.12 The Meeting recognized that the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan should be a priority for the HELCOM working groups and requested the HELCOM groups to plan their work accordingly, including any putting in place of needed additional arrangements, e.g. correspondence work and possible additional workshops.

3.15 The Meeting in general supported the idea of carrying out the analysis via an interdisciplinary platform. It would be to focus on analysis of sufficiency of measures which so far has not been carried out in HELCOM and is an additional major task.

3.18 The Meeting approved the amended strategic plan for the BSAP update (document 3-4-Rev.2, as contained in Annex 2), and more specifically:

- the Meeting agreed to set up the BSAP update project, while taking note of the clarification by the Secretariat that the project is to be understood in a broad sense and as resource to support the BSAP update according to the strategic plan (BSAP 2030 project; cf. Annex 2);
- the Meeting agreed on having a dedicated project manager at the Secretariat to support the tasks of the Secretariat in the BSAP update process, to be (part-) funded from the HELCOM budget (cf. Annex 2).

HELCOM contribution to global processes

3.32 The Meeting took note of the information by Finland that the UN Environment Assembly has made resolutions regarding marine litter and has established an expert group on marine litter and microplastics. The Meeting took note that there is an interest in work on these topics by the Regional Seas Conventions and that HELCOM will be approached by UN Environment regarding the HELCOM work on this matter.

3.36 The Meeting pointed out that the Regional Seas Conventions have an important role to contribute to the implementation of SDGs as agreed in HELCOM.

3.37 The Meeting highlighted that HELCOM work on indicators is unique in the global scale and invited the Secretariat to draft a document on lessons learnt from HELCOM indicators,

3.41 The Meeting recalled the OSPAR contribution to the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting. The Meeting considered and agreed on the response by HELCOM to be submitted to OSPAR for the annual meeting in June 2018 (document 3-6).

3.42 The Meeting took note of a study on the 'European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region after 2020'.

3.43 The Meeting expressed appreciation for the cooperation between the EUSBSR and HELCOM and the positive approach by the EUSBSR in considering HELCOM in their work.

3.47 The Meeting considered the concept of the XX Anniversary International Environmental Forum «Baltic Sea Day» on 21-22 March 2019 and invited the HELCOM working groups to provide practical suggestions for the agenda of the XX Anniversary Baltic Sea Day Forum.

Matters arising from the HELCOM Groups

4.5 The Meeting pointed out the importance of the reporting by the Contracting Parties on the status of phosphogypsum stacks initiated under the Pressure Group in order to follow up on their potential contribution on the nutrient load on the Baltic Sea.

4.6 The Meeting emphasized the importance of the work on elaboration of a regional legal framework for the management of internal phosphorus reserves at sea and welcomed the report on the matter recently published by Finland (Speeding up the ecological recovery of the Baltic Sea).

4.8 The Meeting welcomed the idea to organize a workshop with River Basin Commissions on nutrient reduction targets in spring 2019 tentatively back-to-back with PRESSURE 10-2019.

4.11 The Meeting took note of the outcome of STATE & CONSERVATION 8-2018 in general (document 4-19) and specifically: approved the new regional monitoring sub-program of continuous noise (Appendix 1 to document 4-19).

4.18 The Meeting approved the HELCOM core indicator on input of nutrients, 1995-2015 (document 4-11) and thanked the Pressure Group for the progress achieved.

4.21 The Meeting approved the draft 'State of the Baltic Sea' report and agreed on its publication, planned for the end of June 2018 (document 4-16), following final editorial and layout work.

4.25 The Meeting endorsed the proposed work plan for indicators (document 4-5), welcomed the forward looking planning on indicator work and decided on allocating resources from the HELCOM budget for the indicator manager in the Secretariat to continue the work from July 2019 until autumn 2021, and tentatively extending into 2022.

4.26 The Meeting supported the arranging of a workshop under step 4 of the work plan for indicators in the second half of March 2019 and requested the Secretariat to elaborate the aim and intended deliverables of the workshop to enable the Contracting Parties to plan the work and possible nominations for the workshop. The Meeting further supported the finalization of the second work phase in autumn 2021.

4.29 The Meeting noted the open issue of hosting indicator data for continuous noise (document 4-27 and Presentation 3),

4.30 The Meeting reconsidered the document on HELCOM input to the process of establishing environmental targets for underwater noise and agreed on the final version of the document as included in document 4-12-Rev.1.

4.32 The Meeting considered document 4-20 on proposed HELCOM work on climate change and emphasized the importance of the practical nature of the work and linking the work on climate change to that on indicators and measures and especially updating of the BSAP.

4.38 The Meeting approved the following reports and agreed on their publication in Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings series:

- PLC-6 Report on nutrients input by seven biggest rivers (taking into account the request by Germany to include five-year average concentrations into Table 2) (document 4-14);
- PLC-6 Report on input of selected hazardous substances into the Baltic Sea (document 4-15).

4.39 The Meeting approved the draft ENRIRED Report on Reduction of Atmospheric Nitrogen Deposition (document 4-21-Rev.1) to be published on the HELCOM webpage taking into account some minor clarification comments by Finland.

4.41 The Meeting agreed that information on potential reduction of nitrogen deposition specified by countries is of high demand for the update of the BSAP and PLC-7 work. The Meeting decided to postpone the decision on the new EMEP project by the next meeting (HOD 55-2018). Meanwhile the Meeting requested the Secretariat to investigate an opportunity to reduce the cost of the project and discuss it with EMEP bearing in mind that EMEP is a prominent contractor for HELCOM offering multiple services to the HELCOM countries.

4.42 The Meeting decided to delete the hot spot no 6. Dalälven River from the HELCOM hot spot list (document 4-4) and thanked Sweden for the work done. The Meeting requested the Pressure Group to follow up the status of the Dalälven River and invited Sweden to inform the group on the results of environmental monitoring on the river.

4.43 The Meeting expressed the concern that the principles to delete hot spots reflecting areal sources of environmental pressure are not clearly formulated in the HELCOM documentation, which hampers making justified decision regarding deletion of hot spots of this type. The Meeting requested the Pressure Group to evaluate and clarify criteria for deletion of these hot spots from the HELCOM list.

4.47 The Meeting approved the proposal for the time frame and working method to elaborate the Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy (document 4-7). The Meeting emphasized the need for close cooperation between Agri and Pressure Working Groups on the strategy development.

4.48 The Meeting took note of the position by Germany that the connection to Water Framework Directive should be taken into account when elaborating the strategy and that nutrient compensation and recycling of sludge as fertilizer need to be observed.

4.49 The Meeting approved the updated Work Plan for HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices 2018-2019 (document 4-10).

Outcome of the 18th Meeting of the HELCOM Maritime Working Group

Other ship-generated wastes and port reception facilities (including marine litter)

Marine Litter and MARPOL Annex V

6.8 The Meeting took note of the information on HELCOM activities to tackle marine litter pollution (document 6-1).

6.9 The Meeting considered possible contribution to the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, in particular with regard to the following actions:

- RS2 on the development of best practice in relation to inspections for MARPOL Annex V, including harmonized management of data;
- RS3 on further work on implementation and harmonization of the no-special-fee system in Baltic Sea ports, addressing gaps in existing regulations, enforcement and practices concerning shipping, PRF auditing to assess adequacy of garbage collection and fair waste burden sharing between ports; and

- RS4 on the implementation of the ISO standard on “Arrangement and management of port reception facilities” (ISO 21070:2013) in relation to PRF.

6.10 The Meeting agreed that marine litter is an important issue. The Meeting agreed to postpone further contribution to this work from the Maritime Group, and that it should be aligned with the work to be conducted in IMO.

Anti-fouling systems

7.1 The Meeting noted that PRESSURE 8-2018 discussed the possible update of HELCOM Recommendation 20/4 on Antifouling paints containing organotin compounds and welcomed the offer of Finland to intersessionally prepare an initial suggestion to update the Recommendation for consideration by PRESSURE 9-2018 (10-12 October 2018) in order to initiate the update procedure in cooperation with the Maritime Group.

7.2 The Meeting noted that the proposed update of HELCOM Recommendation 20/4 relates to concerns regarding the use of copper compounds as biocides in AFS and that Finland has submitted a document to PRESSURE 9-2018 for further consideration.

7.3 The EU informed the Meeting on the state of the preparation of a comprehensive proposal for an amendment to Annex 1 to the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships, 2001, regarding cybutryne (CAS No 28159-98-0), and asked HELCOM Contracting Parties for their support in IMO at PPR 6 in February 2019.

Any other business

Underwater noise

12.2 The Meeting took note of the information on update on HELCOM activities on underwater noise (document 12-2) and decided to make use of it in its future work when considering proposals on work regarding underwater noise.

12.3 The Meeting took note of the information by Finland on underwater noise emissions from Baltic Sea Shipping in 2017 (document 12-5 and presentation 9). The Meeting noted that this is the first time modelled underwater noise emissions from Baltic Sea shipping are reported to HELCOM Maritime and that Finland intends to continue this reporting to HELCOM Maritime meetings on an annual basis.

12.4 The Meeting welcomed the report and discussed several aspects of how the noise emissions were modelled, technical options to reducing noise as well as current underwater noise monitoring activities in the Baltic Sea. The Meeting noted that ISO is developing a standard on underwater noise measuring.

12.5 The Meeting noted a statement made, that the Russian Federation appreciates the project of Finland, however, in the future we need to note the difference in terms “real measurements” as the primary source of information and “modeling” as secondary source to use it for outcomes of still not scientifically proven impact of underwater noise on water species to avoid premature decisions and further actions.

12.6 The Meeting took note of the information by Finland on further activities at IMO related to underwater noise caused by shipping (document 12-6).

12.7 The Meeting took note of the information by the Secretariat on the Project on anthropogenic underwater acoustic pollution from maritime transport (document 12-3). In this context, the Meeting agreed on the circulation of the quantitative survey to contacts and observers of Maritime for their contribution on a voluntary basis.