



Outcome of the 21st Meeting of the Response Working Group (RESPONSE 21-2016)

Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda	2
Agenda Item 2 Matters arising from HELCOM meetings.....	2
Agenda Item 3 Maritime traffic	3
Agenda Item 4 Matters related to recent response operations.....	4
Agenda Item 5 National preparedness at sea and on shore.....	4
Agenda Item 6 Sub-regional co-operation.....	5
Agenda Item 7 Response on the shore and wildlife response.....	7
Agenda Item 8 Wrecks and other submerged hazardous objects.....	9
Agenda Item 9 Remote Sensing.....	10
9.1 Aerial surveillance	10
9.2 Use of satellites for detecting illegal discharges.....	11
9.3 STW/AIS/SAT model.....	11
9.4 Investigation and prosecution of offenders of anti-pollution regulations	11
Agenda Item 10 Other developments in response strategies and equipment.....	12
10.1 HNS Response	12
10.2 Response to oil in ice	12
10.3 Places of Refuge.....	12
10.4 Response operations at night/in bad visibility.....	13
10.5 Emergency towing	13
10.6 Use of dispersants.....	13
Agenda Item 11 Exercises	13
Agenda Item 12 HELCOM Recommendations and Response Manual.....	15
Agenda Item 13 Activities within other organizations.....	15
Agenda Item 14 Any other business	15
Agenda Item 15 Future work and meetings	16
Agenda Item 16 Outcome of the Meeting.....	16
Annex 1 List of Participants	17
Annex 2 HELCOM reporting form for pollution response	19
Annex 3 Draft revised Terms of Reference for EWG OWR 2014-2017	20
Annex 4 Contact addresses and Observers of HELCOM Response Working Group	22
Annex 5 Work Plan of Response Working Group 2014-2016	25

Agenda Item 3**Maritime traffic**

Documents: 3-1, 3-2

3.1 The Meeting took note of the outline of the HELCOM Assessment on Maritime Activities 2016 (Maritime Assessment)(document 3-2) including the timeline of production:

- first draft to be circulated by the Secretariat in June 2016
- further elaborated draft later in the autumn
- final version ready by the end of 2016

3.2 The Meeting recalled that the Maritime Assessment will provide an overview of long-term developments in maritime activities in the Baltic Sea as well as future prospects and possible policy developments and that it will also use as an information source 10-year of AIS data collected in the HELCOM AIS server.

3.3 The Meeting requested the Contracting Parties and Observers to provide feedback on the Assessment outline and suggestions for the content to the Secretariat (hermanni.backer@helcom.fi) **by 15 April**.

3.4 The Meeting recalled that the data collected and used for the Assessment will also be used in updating the GIS data available via the HELCOM map and data service.

3.5 The Meeting took note that the publishing of accident data for 2014 has been delayed due to the development of the Maritime Assessment, that the data will be published in 2016 as part of the Maritime Assessment process, and that a request for 2015 accident data will be issued shortly by the Secretariat.

3.6 The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the Sixth Meeting of the HELCOM Group of Experts on Safety of Navigation (SAFE NAV 6-2015) held on 1 October 2015 at Stockholm-Arlanda, Sweden. The next meeting of the group (SAFE NAV 7-2016) will be held on 29 October 2016 in Denmark.

3.7 The Meeting took note that the main topic of SAFE NAV 6-2015 was draft Baltic Sea information on Under Keel Clearance, which has resulted in a new chapter in the updated HELCOM Clean Seas Guide 2016 to be published in due time after some pending comments on MARPOL Annex II have been clarified.

3.8 The Meeting took note of the presentation by Mr. Robert Aps, University of Tartu, Estonian Marine Institute, on the BONUS STORMWINDS (Strategic and operational risk management for wintertime maritime transportation system) project (**Presentation 1**).

3.9 The Meeting took note of the presentation by Mr. Ojars Gerke, Latvia (Latvian Coast Guard is one of the end users of the project), on the GEOILWATCH (Geopositional early warning system integration for disaster prevention in the Baltic Sea) project (**Presentation 2**).

3.10 The Meeting took note of the information by the Secretariat that it has together with three partners prepared a proposal with the aim to provide tools for risk assessments for regional cooperation structures on preparedness and response to the DG ECHO call.

3.11 The Meeting took note of the information by Finland that the work of the Correspondence Group under the HELCOM Maritime Working Group (WG) led by Finland on ship-to-ship (STS) and bunkering activities needs more input from some Contracting Parties.

3.12 The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties who have not provided answers to the STS questionnaire to do so in order to make it possible for Finland to provide good input to MARITIME 16-2016 (5-9 September 2016).

3.13 The Meeting took note that Finland is preparing legislation on STS and is interested to learn about STS experiences in neighbouring countries.

- Latvia: National spill contingency plans will be updated by the end of 2016. A navy maritime incident response group has been established, with national responsibility on oil spill response at sea. Installation of over-the-bow oil skimmers on Latvian navy patrol vessels is planned for 2017.
- Lithuania: Work is ongoing to replace “Sakiai” with a new multipurpose vessel. Requests for information have been sent out to shipyards, information of which is being used for ongoing planning for a tender to be sent out, possibly by end of 2016.
- Poland: There have been no major equipment purchases lately but Poland is considering a new vessel and how to fund it. The State Fire Service is still considering a more formal role in on-shore response. The national contingency plan is being updated but will take more than one year.
- Russia: (Presentation 4). “Baltica” the Russian multipurpose ice breaker, which was taken into use in 2015, is currently carrying out operations in Kara Sea/ Bay of river Ob as a base but will return to the Baltic Sea in the long run.
- Sweden: (document 5-1) The Swedish Coast Guard is being reorganized and the new structure should be in place in September 2016 with one year for implementing. One of the bigger vessels in the Bay of Bothnia will be modernized and possibly equipped with a sternmax ice recovery system. A minibagger is being tested for on-shore response and a procurement for more high sea booms is ongoing. Purchasing process has started for new helmet systems for response diver work in polluted waters. Pumping capacity has been offered for the EU voluntary pool. The new national strategy and action plan identifies as priority topics coordination (roles and responsibilities), education, exercises and development projects as well as communication and information. Any interested party is welcome to participate in the 2-day annual national response conference in Helsingborg in November 2016.

5.2 The Meeting took note of the information by Sea-Alarm that work on the EUROWA module is ongoing and Netherlands is planning to organise in October 2016 a big wildlife exercise with a large cleaning facility (observers might be allowed to participate).

5.3 The Meeting took note of the information by WWF that it is also working with the EUROWA module and is also carrying out a study on volunteer involvement in cooperation with state rescue services.

5.4 The Meeting took note that Kaliningrad Branch on MRCC organised recently a big exercise near the platform near “Architsiskaya” platform with the research vessels Yasni, welcomed that Russia will provide more information on the exercise at a later stage.

5.5 The Meeting considered the reporting template suggested by EWG SHORE 12-2016 to be used for reporting national developments including on shore, at sea and oiled wildlife response (document 4-2-Rev.1), agreed to update the reporting template according to the suggestions in document 5-1, recalled that in some cases reporting orally may be more convenient for the Contracting Parties and decided to use the template for reporting to RESPONSE 22-2016 and decided to make the decision on further use at that meeting.

Agenda Item 6

Sub-regional co-operation

Documents: 6-1, 6-2, 6-2-Add.1, 6-2-Rev.1, 6-2-Rev.1-Add.1

6.1 The Meeting recalled that during the last decades HELCOM has made efforts to strengthen response cooperation in smaller sub-areas of the Baltic Sea in addition to Baltic-wide response, and as a result many bi-and trilateral agreements have been agreed.

6.2 The Meeting recalled the discussion at RESPONSE 20-2015 on the revision of HELCOM [Recommendations 28E/12](#) and [31/1](#), including the conclusion that concrete definitions of response sub-regions would be needed in order to conclude on revised minimum response capacity targets as implied by Recommendation 28E/12.

6.3 The Meeting took note of the HELCOM response sub-regions, based on the original proposal by RESPONSE 20-2015, for the purposes of revising Recommendation 28E/12 as presented in document 6-1.

6.4 The Meeting confirmed the borders of the response sub-regions depicted in document 6-1 and requested the Secretariat to include the map and the definitions to HELCOM Response Manual after the following changes: adding a legend to the map as well as adding a text that the response region borders are indicative, and replace the description of the line with concrete coordinates.

6.5 The Meeting highlighted that the terminology in the Response Manual should be clarified so that the response sub-regions depicted in document 6-1 should not be confused with the areas where bilateral and sub-regional agreements are in place.

6.6 The Meeting recalled that Finland has been tasked to lead the work and in this capacity organised a workshop on capacity building in the Baltic Sea region, which took place on 23 February 2016 in Helsinki, Finland (document 6-2-Rev.1 and 6-2-Rev.1-Add.1), where Contracting Parties presented how they have calculated their national capacity targets.

6.7 The Meeting invited the remaining countries (Lithuania and Russia) to fill in and the other Contracting Parties to complement their answers, to the questionnaire (6-2-Rev.1-Add.1) and to send it to Finland (heli.haapasaari@ymparisto.fi) **by 15 April 2016**.

6.8 The Meeting took note that Lithuania is able to provide the information as soon as possible after the conclusion of national discussions.

6.9 The Meeting discussed the concept of a quantitative target/minimum capacity in general as follows:

- quantitative capacity targets using various definitions has been included in e.g. HELCOM Recommendations 28E/12 and 31/1,
- weather and other dynamic features naturally affect available capacity but that this fact can be solved by mentioning that the minimum capacity figure apply in "favourable conditions",
- deployments to a foreign country are naturally slower than within a country,
- not only capacity, but also risk factors change with dynamic features (like weather, ice, visibility) as such features affect traffic patterns -which in turn change the risks,
- capacity might be limited by its draught (no access to shallow areas) or not suited for offshore use,
- adequacy of capacity in terms of shoreline resources has taken place within EWG SHORE, with difficulties in agreeing on concrete figures,
- surveillance has also capacity targets as specified in the HELCOM Response Manual Volume I.

6.10 The Meeting considered also whether explicit response capacity targets could as an option be included in the HELCOM Response Manual, which would be a convenient option due to the ease of updating.

6.11 The Meeting further noted that shared response capacity targets for a given region imply close cooperation between the coastal countries.

6.12 The Meeting recalled that the workshop on capacity building (c.f. document 6.2-Rev.1) recommended that the revisions should focus on Recommendation 28E/12 with a view to submit a revision proposal to RESPONSE 22-2016 for adoption.

6.13 The Meeting agreed to start the revision of the Recommendation 28E/12 with streamlining terminology and wordings and take concrete capacity figures in the response regions as a second step.

6.14 The Meeting established a Response WG Correspondence Group on the revision of Recommendation 28E/12 under the coordination of Finland with the task to provide a draft of a revised Recommendation 28E/12 to RESPONSE 22-2016.

Agenda Item 7**Response on the shore and wildlife response**

Documents: 7-1, 7-1-Add.1, 7-2, 7-3, 7-4, 7-5, 7-6, 7-7, 7-8

7.1 The Meeting took note of the report on EWG OWR including the outcomes of the Third and Fourth online meetings of the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR 3-2015 and EWG OWR 4-2016) held on 25 September 2015 and 26 January 2016, respectively (document 7-3, **Presentation 5**) as presented by, Mr. Hugo Nijkamp Sea Alarm and Chair of EWG OWR. The next meeting of the Group is planned to be held as an online meeting in summer 2016 (dates to be decided at a later stage).

7.2 The Meeting took note that based on the information exchange on national OWR planning and preparedness it has been noted that by the end of 2016 some countries will have adopted OWR plans, others might have draft plans in place and some might still be developing their plans. This will not fully meet the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting commitment to develop and adopt national wildlife response plans by 2016.

7.3 The Meeting supported the prolongation of the Terms of Reference for EWG OWR until the end of 2017, decided to suggest it to the HELCOM Heads of Delegation (HODs) for adoption and encouraged all Contracting Parties to participate in the work of EWG OWR and to ensure correct contact points for the Group. The draft revised ToRs for EWG OWR can be found in **Annex 3**.

7.4 The Meeting took note of the information by Poland that the OWR procedures are being prepared under the lead of the Ministry of the Environment and an information campaign will start shortly. The maritime administration will support those actions.

7.5 The Meeting considered the oiled wildlife preparedness self-assessment tool which has been suggested to be used as the basis for the report on OWR preparedness in the Baltic Sea to be prepared by EWG OWR according to the ToRs (document 7-1, **Presentation 5**). The diagram (Figure 1) helps in visualizing where the country is concerning OWR preparedness (strengths/ weaknesses, focus areas/ areas that require more focus) and to compare the situation in different countries. The level of preparedness that the country wants to achieve is dependent of the national aims.

7.6 The Meeting further took note of the self-assessment tool as filled in by Finland (document 7-1-Add.1). Finland considered the tool easy to fill in and valuable to internally evaluate the status of OWR while Sweden expressed some difficulties in filling in the tool due to its decentralized OWR system.

7.7 The Meeting approved the self-assessment tool to be used as the basis for the EWG OWR report and requested the Contracting Parties to send the filled in self-assessment to the Chair of EWG OWR (hugo.nijkamp@sea-alarm.org) and the Secretariat (laura.meski@helcom.fi) at the latest **by the 31 May 2016**.

7.8 The Meeting requested the EWG OWR to provide a summary material on OWR response in the Baltic Sea to the HELCOM Maritime Assessment **by 31 May 2016** including an easy to understand illustration/schematic of an oiled wildlife operation (cleaning unit etc.), an overview (figures etc.) of strategies in OWR from the Baltic Sea countries as well as a short one page text and if possible a fact box with an explanation why OWR is important.

7.9 The Meeting took note of the compilation of OWR components of HELCOM BALEX DELTA exercises in 2012-2015 and especially the recommendations and conclusions (document 7-4), noted that only few countries have included OWR in BALEX DELTA and appreciated the compilation and in general the work of the EWG OWR.

7.10 The Meeting considered the reporting template for reporting on OWR in BALEX DELTAs as it has been suggested to be used for updating the compilation (Annex 4 of document 7-4) and decided not to make the reporting format mandatory but considered it useful material for the countries for planning an OWR exercise.

7.11 The Meeting made the general reflections that BALEX DELTA means operational exercise and has traditionally been exercises with vessels at sea but that on-shore response and OWR can also be exercised but should not be an obligatory part of a BALEX DELTA designed for operations at sea. The Meeting further took note of good experiences from the state of California on arranging separate exercises but contributing to a fully functional joint framework. The Meeting further considered it useful to conduct other types of BALEX exercises (table tops, alarming etc.) (c.f. further discussion under Agenda Item 11).

7.12 The Secretariat informed that a HELCOM Recommendation on conservation of Baltic Sea species categorized as threatened was adopted by HELCOM 37-2016 which should also be considered relevant in the response work related to OWR.

7.13 The Meeting took note of the outcomes of the Eleventh and Twelfth Meetings of the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Response on the Shore (EWG SHORE 11-2015 and EWG SHORE 12-2016) held on 8 September 2016 and 3 February, respectively (document 7-5) and the status report from EWG SHORE (document 7-8, **Presentation 6**) as presented by Ms, Sonja Dobo, Sweden and Chair of EWG SHORE. All EWG SHORE task have been finalised except the revision on HELCOM Response Manual Volume III.

7.14 The Meeting took note that the preliminary dates for the next and final meeting of the Group (EWG SHORE 13-2016) are 20-22 September 2016 and that the meeting is planned to be held on board M/S Viking Grace hosted by Sweden and will focus on finalizing the revision of HELCOM response Manual Volume III for submission to RESPONSE 22-2016. The Meeting stressed the importance of participation of all the Contracting Parties at this meeting.

7.15 The Chair of EWG SHORE pointed out that the Baltic Sea Region is a forerunner regarding on-shore response and a lot of good work has been done even though not all tasks as defined in the Terms of Reference of EWG SHORE will be completed. The work will end with the mandate (end of 2016).

7.16 The Meeting discussed the future of EWG SHORE, appreciated the work done by the Group, and took note that Denmark and Finland highlighted the need for continuing HELCOM work on on-shore response.

7.17 The Meeting agreed that continued work should take place within HELCOM in some forum, reporting to Response WG.

7.18 However, the Chair of EWG SHORE stressed that for the work to continue in its current format, the Contracting Parties will need to commit to the work and ensure participation in the Group and the tasks need to be clearly defined. The Meeting noted that this also concerns EWG OWR.

7.19 The Meeting agreed to circulate an evaluation questionnaire to the Contracting Parties to get input regarding the EWG SHORE mandate period 2013-2016 with the aim to develop the working process and identify future tasks related to on-shore response. The Secretariat will circulate the questionnaire by end of March 2016 and with a request for response **by 1 June 2016**.

7.20 The Meeting agreed that Sweden will further develop the results of the questionnaire as an overall evaluation of EWG SHORE in its national evaluation of the activities of the group as material for further development of HELCOM cooperation in on-shore response.

7.21 The Meeting agreed that a decision document regarding the future on-shore related work will be developed for RESPONSE 22-2016 based on the evaluation results and recommendations.

7.22 The Meeting took note of the information from Poland that on-shore response is still under consultation within relevant institutions.

7.23 The Meeting took note of the status of revision of the HELCOM Response Manual Volume III (document 7-2) and established a drafting group consisting of representatives of European Union, Finland, Latvia, Poland, Sweden and the Secretariat to further guide EWG SHORE in the revision process as follows:

- to remove Chapter 2 on adequacy at this stage as it will require further work (e.g. sensitivity mapping)

- to remove Chapter 5 on OWR but to ensure that OWR is reflected correctly in the other parts of the Volume III,
- see paragraphs 11.11-11.12 related to Chapter 6 on exercises,
- to look at the wording on POLREP and what is said in the HELCOM POLREP recommendations,
- to remove Annex 1 on sub-regional agreements on on-shore response,
- to remove Annex 2 on the organization structure for on-shore response but to amend Annex 4 (country fact sheets) so that after the static part (Items 1-7) accident specific information will be included in item 8 also including the national disaster response structure. Include a more specific explanation on when the country fact sheets are to be used.
- Annex 3 on specialized shore equipment that can be sent to assist other Contracting Parties. The Meeting requested Contracting parties to provide missing information by EWG SHORE 13-2016. A template will be circulated by the Secretariat
- to keep Annex 5 on nomenclature as a starting point for common terminology however noting that the nomenclature needs to be developed further.
- Response Manual Volume III is aimed to be adopted at RESPONSE 22-2016.

7.24 The Meeting took note of the information by Sweden on the finalised EWG SHORE Task 4 on Baltic Sea Region sensitivity mapping (document 7-6). Some concrete suggestions for a project application and funding sources can be found in the report.

7.25 The Meeting took note that a directly relevant activity in the field of sensitivity mapping is the ongoing initiative to assess the vulnerability of Baltic Sea areas to oil spills within the HELCOM HOLAS II initiative, that a nomination to an expert panel to create such maps will be launched in June and that the interested Contracting Parties should submit expert nominations to the Secretariat (ulla.li.zweifel@helcom.fi) as soon as possible. The Meeting highlighted that even this material is intended as input for a Baltic Sea “index” which aims to synthesise all different pressures on the Baltic Sea outcome of this work could provide useful material for a regional spill sensitivity map.

7.26 The Meeting took note of the presentation by Sweden on the [Report on Mapping of the institutional architecture for protection from oil spills in the Baltic Sea Region](#) (document 7-7, **Presentation 6**). The study highlights the differences in how shore response issues are dealt with in the countries, the various actors and procedures.

Agenda Item 8

Wrecks and other submerged hazardous objects

Documents: 8-1, 8-2, 8-3, 8-4, 8-5

8.1 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the Third Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Group on Environmental Risks of Hazardous Submerged Objects (SUBMERGED 3-2015), which was held on 14-15 October 2015 in Gothenburg, Sweden (document 8-4), back-to-back with the conference “Wrecks of the World III”. The next meeting of the group (SUBMERGED 5-2016) will be held on 12-13 April 2016 in Tallinn, Estonia.

8.2 The Meeting recalled that according to the [Terms of Reference](#) the mandate for SUBMERGED is for three years until end of 2016 for producing a one-off HELCOM thematic assessment on environmental risks of hazardous submerged objects covering contaminated wrecks, lost or dumped dangerous goods (e.g. containers), chemical munitions and other objects based on the information and data compiled and assessed.

8.3 The Meeting took note of the SUBMERGED activities as presented in document 8-2 (**Presentation 8**).

8.4 The Meeting supported of the SUBMERGED work until the end of 2018, requested the SUBMERGED Group to provide short chapters on the three SUBMERGED topics to the Secretariat

(hermanni.backer@helcom.fi) for the Maritime Assessment **by end of May 2016**, requested that for clarity the Group moves from standing Chairs to rotating chairmanship depending on the topic -using the currently identified topic leads as rotating Chairs (Chemical munitions: Mr. Jens Sternheim&Jacek Beldowski, Wrecks: Jorma Rytönen and Other Matters: Mr. Gunnar Möller) and urged Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia to engage in the work of SUBMERGED.

8.5

8.6 The Meeting took note of the presentation by Finland on the two-year BONUS SWERA (Sunken Wreck Environmental Risk Assessment) project, which will terminate in April 2016 (document 8-1, **Presentation 8**).

8.7 The Meeting took note of the information that Finland and Sweden have conducted wreck surveys to assess slicks from wrecks with potential risks and by Poland that new wrecks are being checked for the same reason. Sweden will start looking into environmentally dangerous wrecks, Poland is working on a national waste management plan and tackling of high risk wrecks has also been included in the national program of measures and Estonia is preparing ratification of the Nairobi Convention.

8.8 The Meeting took note of the information by Sweden on the three year Interreg DiveSMART Baltic project (kick-off 14 March 2016) (document 8-3). The project has focus on mapping diving competences and resources in the Baltic Sea region (database), common training and exercises, common guidelines and procedures, research and general exchange of experiences.

8.9 The Meeting recalled that the intensive passenger traffic in the Baltic Sea makes an accident like Costa Concordia possible, while national diving capacity could clearly not handle such an incident, and welcomed Sweden to keep the Response WG updated on the project.

8.10 The Meeting took note of the information on the Interreg DAIMON project (document 8-5, **Presentation 8**).

Agenda Item 9

Remote Sensing

9.1 Aerial surveillance

Documents: 9.1-1, 9.1-2, 9.1-3, 9.1-4

9.1 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the Annual Meeting of the HELCOM Informal Working Group on Aerial Surveillance (IWGAS 2016), which was held in Sopot, Poland on 7-8 March 2016 (document 9.1-2). The next meeting of IWGAS (IWGAS 2017) is tentatively planned for week 10 (6-10 March 2017) but exact date and place will be decided in due time.

9.2 The Meeting welcomed the offer by Sweden to take over the chairmanship of IWGAS 2017-2018 after which Russia will consider hosting IWGAS.

9.3 The Meeting took note of the information by Poland that the project proposal related to techniques for identification of MARPOL Annex II substances in aerial surveillance and aerial surveillance in the enforcement of the SECA regulations, which was also discussed by RESPONSE 20-2015 (c.f. paragraphs 9.3-9.4 of the Outcome), has come to halt and that Poland is not able to lead the project development any further.

9.4 The Meeting took note of the presentation by the Secretariat on the draft HELCOM Annual report on discharges observed during aerial surveillance in the Baltic Sea 2015 (document 9.1-3, **Presentation 9**) and approved the report for publishing on the HELCOM web page.

9.5 The Meeting took note of the information by Poland on the plans for CEPCO South 2016 to be held in May 2016. The invitation was circulated by the Secretariat on 17 February 2016. Based on preliminary information, the number of aircraft in the operation will be low and Poland will thus need to consider changing the operation into a Mini CEPCO. Poland invited the Contracting Parties to confirm their participation **by 31 March 2016**.

9.6 The Meeting recalled that Finland has informed that they are not in the position to organize CEPCO North 2016 as planned due to shortage of personnel (information circulated by the Secretariat on 25 January 2016).

9.7 The Meeting took note that a Super CEPCO will be organized by the Netherlands in autumn 2016, which the Baltic Sea countries will be invited to join.

9.8 The Meeting welcomed the offer by Sweden to organize a Baltic Sea Super CEPCO in 2017 however pending the decision by the Swedish Government on missions abroad and thus availability of Swedish aircraft in the Baltic Sea.

9.9 The Meeting took note that HOD 49-2015 (10-11 December 2016) adopted the core indicator on oil spills affecting the marine environment with some changes to figure 1 and that the indicator will be updated with 2011-2015 data. The updated core indicator will be submitted to RESPONSE 22-2016 for approval to meet the timeline for preparing the second holistic assessment of ecosystem health in the Baltic Sea (HOLAS II) (document 9.1-4).

9.10 The Chair invited IWGAS to still consider the name of the indicator (operational spills).

9.11 The Meeting took note of the research and development activities in Finland related to Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), also known as Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) (document 9.1-1, **Presentation 8**).

9.2 Use of satellites for detecting illegal discharges

Documents: 9.2-1

9.12 The Meeting took note of the EMSA CleanSeaNet Service statistics for HELCOM region covering the period 1 January 2015-31 December 2015 (document 9.2-1, **Presentation 3**).

9.3 STW/AIS/SAT model

Documents: 9.3-1

9.13 The Meeting took note of the proposal for financing SeaTrackWeb (STW) it will be up to each country to agree with SMHI (document 9.3-1).

9.14 The Meeting encouraged the Contracting Parties to pay their share as STW has been acknowledged as the HELCOM system for drift modelling concerning oil pollution at sea and countries which are not paying cannot access the system.

9.15 The Meeting thanked SMHI for keeping up the system and decided to keep the issue on the agenda for Response WG.

9.16 The Meeting recalled that the choice of the open source platform is a cost efficient solution and recommended the Contracting Parties to test the 2nd generation STW model and to communicate any open questions on STW directly to SMHI and among the involved countries.

9.4 Investigation and prosecution of offenders of anti-pollution regulations

Documents: 9.4-1

9.17 The Meeting took note of the information on the progress of revising HELCOM [Recommendation 19/14](#) under the lead of Denmark which will be discussed at MARITIME 16-2016 (5-9 September 2016).

Agenda Item 10**Other developments in response strategies and equipment****10.1 HNS Response**

Documents: 10.1-1

10.1 The Meeting took note of the information by the lead country Germany on the activities by the HELCOM Task Group HNS MANUAL with the task to revise the HELCOM Response Manual Volume II on response to accidents at sea, involving spills of hazardous substances and loss of packaged dangerous goods.

10.2 The Meeting took note that a draft by the Chair of TG HNS MANUAL will be presented to the Task Group members in May 2016 and recalled that the document shall use as a basis the manual on spill response by W. Koops. The Response WG contacts shall be informed separately on the status of the revision of the Response Manual Volume II by the Chair.

10.3 The Meeting took note that all members of TG HNS MANUAL should contribute to the new version and requested that all members of the Task Group should offer their help to the lead country.

10.4 The Meeting took note the comment by Sweden that they have revised their national contingency plan and a national manual on HNS response which can be used in the process.

10.5 The Meeting took note that the ChemSAR project (document 10.1) is focused on SAR operations involving HNS.

10.6 The Meeting welcomed that the Response Manual Volume II is discussed also at the ChemSAR meetings and that the results of the project will be presented to the Response WG when available.

10.7 The Meeting requested the Chair of TG HNS MANUAL to submit a draft version to RESPONSE 22-2016.

10.2 Response to oil in ice

Documents: 10.2-1

10.8 The Meeting took note of the information by Finland on the "GRACE" project to be launched in March 2016 (5Me, 3.5-year) for development of Arctic oil spill response methods and the evaluation of their environmental effects (document 10.2-1, **Presentation 8**).

10.9 The Meeting took note that this project, led by Finland, will be a major regional activity in the field of response in ice and will cover all different types of response measures. The Meeting took note that the project will focus on all aspects of response in ice.

10.10 The Meeting took note that the equipment from Kontio will be transferred to the EMSA Equipment Assistance Service deposit in Poland.

10.3 Places of Refuge

Documents: 10.3-1

10.11 The Meeting took note of the EU Operational Guidelines on Places of Refuge, which were approved on 13 November 2015 (document 10.3-1).

10.12 The Meeting took note that the guidelines have a background in the "Flaminia" incident when the ship had big difficulties in finding a Place of Refuge and the incident triggered a process in order to develop an operational guideline on Places of Refuge.

10.13 The Meeting took note that Sweden is looking for ways to implement the guidelines nationally.

10.4 Response at night/in bad visibility

Documents: none

10.14 The Meeting did not discuss any issues under this agenda item.

10.5 Emergency towing

Documents: none

10.15 The Meeting did not discuss any issues under this agenda item.

10.6 Use of dispersants

Documents: none

10.16 The Meeting took note that EMSA has developed a new version of its Dispersant Usage Evaluation Tool (DUET) the new version will include also “non-traditional” types of incidents. The model will be distributed on CD.

10.17 The Meeting took note that EMSA has been asked by CTG MPPR to develop a training course on HNS response and is currently working with a correspondence group to develop a programme for the course, which will be finalised by the end of the year.

10.18 The Meeting took note that a MAR-ICE has been extended through 2017.

10.19 The Meeting took further note of the developments around the EMSA MAR-CIS database and the future links to the SSN as well as a smartphone app.

Agenda Item 11 Exercises

Documents: 11-1, 11-2, 11-3, 11-4, 11-5

11.1 The Meeting took note of the presentation by Mr. Pär Eriksson, Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI), on the [Report on HELCOM BALEX DELTA Exercises 2004-2014](#) (document 11-3, **Presentation 10**), which has been prepared as part of the EWG SHORE Task 5 led by Sweden, noted that the recommendations have been made primarily for exercises on shore but that the recommendations are also relevant for exercises at sea and OWR and thanked Sweden and Mr. Eriksson for the valuable report.

11.2 The Meeting recalled the different types of BALEX exercises defined in the HELCOM Response Manual Volume I Chapter 10.1 and agreed that also other types of exercises than Delta (operational) can be very useful and should be better utilised to optimise the usefulness of HELCOM exercising, especially for relatively new topics for regional exercises like on shore and OWR.

11.3 The Meeting agreed that shore response/OWR components should not be mandatory in conjunction with BALEX DELTA sea exercises and agreed that it is up to the organiser to decide whether such elements will be included.

11.4 The Meeting agreed that besides other exercise types included in the Response Manual Volume I HELCOM could also arrange smaller exercises (thematically very focused such as diving exercises, as well as exercises within a given sub-region) as a tool to get more out of HELCOM response exercises.

11.5 The Meeting recalled that large new response vessels could cost up to 30.000 euro per day and that exercises requires even more resources from the organiser and for this reason the exercises should be planned, and evaluated in accordance to a common exercise framework. The Meeting recognised that BALEX exercises could contribute more to the development of regional response capacity and with this in mind, considered the proposal for a strategic exercise plan for HELCOM included in document 11-4.

11.6 The Meeting recalled that the Response Manual Chapter 10 includes in the chapeau text that *“Decisions on the yearly exercise programme including the types of exercises, aims and goals for the exercises, time for the execution and appointment of Lead Countries are taken during the meetings of the Response Group (cf. HELCOM SEA 1/2000, 5/3, Paragraph 4.48)”*.

11.7 The Meeting, recalled, however that the procedure described in the above para has not been the practice and so far the topic of the exercise have been freely decided by the exercise host nation.

-
- 11.8 The Meeting agreed that it is a good thing to have such a plan, but it should be quite light consisting of the list of planned exercises and including priority topics that could be exercised.
- 11.9 The Meeting noted that such a priority list could be also used for EU DG ECHO funding programming.
- 11.10 The Meeting agreed that a list of topics could be included in the Working Programme of the Response Working Group.
- 11.11 The Meeting discussed the revised exercise chapter on response to pollution on shore for the HELCOM Response Manual Volume III (document 11-4).
- 11.12 The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to provide further comments on the revised exercise chapter on response to pollution on shore for the HELCOM Response Manual Volume III and to send them to the Chair of EWG SHORE (sonja.dobo@msb.se), Chair of RESPONSE (heli.haapasaari@environment.fi) and the Secretariat (laura.meski@helcom.fi) at the latest **by 1 May 2016**.
- 11.13 The Meeting took note of the report on BALEX DELTA 2015, which conducted on 9-11 September 2015 in Swinouscie and the Bay of Pomerania (document 11-2) . The exercise was organized by the Maritime Search and Rescue Service in Gdynia together with the State Fire Service which was responsible for the national on-shore response component of the exercise. A video of the exercise has been produced and made available via the HELCOM web page.
- 11.14 The Meeting thanked Poland for hosting the successful exercise.
- 11.15 The Meeting took note that only CECIS and SSN were used for POLREPs, which worked smoothly in the exercise.
- 11.16 The Meeting took note of the information by Lithuania on the plans for BALEX DELTA, which will be held on 21-22 June 2016 in Klaipeda. A open seminar (topics: on-shore and OWR response and aerial surveillance) will be held on 20 June 2016 for observers and national representatives. Additional information will be provided in due time. Vessels will arrive on 21 June directly to the exercise area. A shore clean-up exercise will be organized with participation from Lithuanian and Latvian firefighting teams. Registrations are requested at the latest by 31 March 2016 for vessels and by 20 May 2016 from observers and participants of the seminar.
- 11.17 The Meeting took note of the EU request to include an element in the exercise so that request for assistance comes from both civil protection and marine pollution response contacts via CECIS.
- 11.18 The Meeting proposed that the Exercise Evaluation team (EET), consisting of Poland, Lithuania and Russia, will try out the evaluation template as found in document 11-4.
- 11.19 The Meeting noted that Russia will start planning BALEX DELTA 2017 and that additional information will be provided in due time.
- 11.20 The Meeting took note of the information by Sweden that planning has started for BALEX DELTA 2018 and that Sweden is looking into funding options for the exercise. BALEX DELTA 2018 will be a combined sea-on-shore exercise most likely close to Karlskrona and that Sweden will try out the new exercise framework for on-shore response.
- 11.21 The Meeting considered the list of response vessels in the HELCOM Fleet and the HELCOM flag rules (document 11-5), noted that updates to the list will be needed and invited the Contracting Parties to send updates to the Secretariat (hermanni.backer@helcom.fi) **by 15 April 2016**.
- 11.22 The Meeting invited the Secretariat in cooperation with the Chair to circulate a revised proposal for the HELCOM flag rules as the Meeting considered that all vessels attending BALEX DELTA should receive and use the flag.
- 11.23 The Meeting took note of the summary on main oil combating exercises in Finland in 2015 and planned exercises for 2016 (document 11-1, **Presentation 8**).
-

11.24 The Meeting took note of information on recent exercises with the involvement of the Russian Federation including a Russian-Finnish exercise (30. June 2015, Vyborg Gulf in the area of oil terminal «Vysotsk «LUKOIL-II»), a trilateral RU-PL-LT exercise “Spill-2015” (July 28, 2015, waters outside Kaliningrad) and the bilateral Russia Norway exercise «Barents 2015» (June 3, 2015 Barents Sea, Varanger Fjord) (c.f. presentation).

Agenda Item 12 HELCOM Recommendations and Response Manual

Documents: 12-1, 12-2

12.1 The Meeting checked the national contact information included in Chapter 1 of HELCOM Response Manual Volume I (document 12-1) and requested the Secretariat to revise the Chapter accordingly (document 12-1).

12.2 The Meeting took note of the information on the progress by the Chair of TG POLREP including a proposal from the TG POLREP Chair on how an electronic POLREP system could be generated based on the Latvian national Safe Sea Net.

12.3 The Meeting took note that Russian Federation uses POLREPs in all its sea areas and needs to choose a way how to make submissions of HELCOM messages convenient.

12.4 The Meeting took note that sending information from the EU systems CECIS and SSN to the Russian Federation could be explored.

12.5 The Meeting requested that the Chair of TG POLREP will send the concept paper to Response WG contacts, that TG POLREP organises a meeting to prepare a proposal timely for RESPONSE 22-2016 and that Contracting Parties, especially Russian Federation, contribute actively to the work.

12.6 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to examine the possibility to organise the TG POLREP meeting back to back with MARITIME 16-2016.

12.7 The Meeting took note of the currently valid HELCOM Recommendations in the field of Maritime and Response Working Group and the ongoing process to update them (document 12-2) and highlighted that Recommendation 18/2 on offshore activities and 20/5 on oil terminals are in need of revision.

12.8 The Meeting agreed that there is a need to take a look at the HELCOM Response Manual Volume I as a whole to streamline the contents and requested the Secretariat to submit Manual Volume I as a meeting document to RESPONSE 22-2016, with the request to provide input for a revision process.

Agenda Item 13 Activities within other organizations

Documents: 13-1

13.1 The Meeting took note of the information by Finland on activities related to volunteers (document 13-1). Responsibility of pollution response should be at the authorities but good will by trained volunteers should be welcomed.

13.2 The Meeting took note that the 12th Inter-Secretariat Meeting between Regional Agreements, DG ECHO and EMSA was held in London, UK, on 12 February 2016. The outcome of the meeting can be circulated to interested Contracting Parties when available.

Agenda Item 14 Any other business

Documents: 14-1, 14-2, 14-3

14.1 The Meeting updated the list of contact addresses and Observers of the Response Working Group (document 14-1) as contained in **Annex 4**.

14.2 The Meeting took note of the information on the Crisis Communications Network (CCN) and the planned training in crisis communication and media training planned to be held in autumn 2016 (document 14-2). The invitation will be circulated to Contracting Parties and Sweden requested the information to be circulated further.

14.3 The Meeting took note of the possibility to nominate candidates for the 2016 IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea (document 14-3).

14.4 The Meeting took note of the suggestion by EU to better follow up how project outcomes end up in national processes.

14.5 The Meeting sent its best regards to Mr. Alex Jensen for his retirement and thanked him for all years of good cooperation.

14.6 The Meeting thanked Mr. Michael Akkermann for his valuable contribution to the group for many years and wished him all the best with his new tasks.

14.7 The Meeting thanked Sweden for excellent hosting the meeting and the kind hospitality.

Agenda Item 15 **Future work and meetings**

Documents: 15-1

15.1 The Meeting mandated the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair to update the Work Plan of the Response Working Group 2014-2016 (document 15-1) as contained in **Annex 5**.

15.2 The Meeting decided that the next meeting of the Group (RESPONE 22-2016) will be held on 8-10 November 2016 and welcomed the kind offer by Latvia to host the meeting in Riga.

15.3 The Meeting welcomed the offer by Finland to host RESPONSE 23-2017.

Agenda Item 16 **Outcome of the Meeting**

Documents: 16-1

16.1 The Meeting adopted the draft Outcome of the Meeting as contained in document 16-1.

16.2 The final Outcome of the Meeting has been finalized by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair and made available on the HELCOM Meeting Portal together with the documents and presentation given during the Meeting.

Annex 1 List of Participants

Representing	Name	Organisation	Email address
Chair	Heli Haapasaari	Chair of the RESPONSE	heli.haapasaari@environment.fi
Denmark	Torben Ivarsen	Naval Staff, Defence Command Denmark	pol.con.den@mil.dk
Estonia	Triin Vokk	Ministry of the Environment	triin.vokk@envir.ee
European Union	Asta Mackeviciute	European Commission DG ECHO	asta.mackeviciute@ec.europa.eu
European Union	Walter Nordhausen	European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)	walter.nordhausen@emsa.europa.eu
Finland	Magnus Nyström	Ministry of the Environment	magnus.nystrom@environment.fi
Finland	Jorma Rytönen	Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)	jorma.rytonen@ymparisto.fi
Finland	Pekka Parkkali	Finnish Border Guard	pekka.parkkali@raja.fi
Germany	Michael Akkermann	Central Command for Maritime Emergencies	makkermann@havariekommando.de
Latvia	Laura Mazmaca	State Environmental Service	laura.mazmaca@vvd.gov.lv
Latvia	Ojārs Gerke	Latvian Coast Guard Service	ojars.gerke@mrcc.lv
Lithuania	Igor Kuzmenko	Lithuanian NAVY	igor.kuzmenko@mil.lt
Poland	Joanna Ignasiak	Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation	joanna.ignasiak@mgm.gov.pl
Poland	Maciej Grzonka	Maritime Search and Rescue Service	maciej.grzonka@sar.gov.pl
Poland	Wojciech Wasowski	Maritime Office Gdynia	wojciech.wasowski@umgdy.gov.pl
Poland	Magdalena Wesolowska	Maritime Office in Szczecin	mwesolowska@ums.gov.pl
Russia	Andrey Bryksin	FBI "Marine Rescue Service of Rosmorrechflot"	briksinay@morspas.com
Sweden	Bernt Stedt	Swedish Coast Guard	bernt.stedt@coastguard.se
Sweden	Sonja Dobo	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)	sonja.dobo@msb.se
Sweden	Eleonor Glad	Swedish Environment Protection Agency	eleonor.glad@naturvardsverket.se
Sweden	Fredrika Lindholm	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)	fredrika.lindholm@msb.se
Sweden	Alexander von Buxhoeveden	Swedish Coast Guard	alexander.von.buxhoeveden@kustbevakningen.se
Observer	Hugo Nijkamp	Sea Alarm	hugo.nijkamp@sea-alarm.org
Observer	Vanessa Ryan	WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature)	vanessa.ryan@wwf.fi
Invited guest	Robert Aps	STORMWINDS project University of Tartu, Estonian Marine Institute	robert.aps@ut.ee
Invited guest	Pär Eriksson	Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI)	par.eriksson@foi.se

HELCOM Secretariat	Hermann Backer	Professional Secretary	hermanni.backer@helcom.fi
HELCOM Secretariat	Laura Meski	Assisting Professional Secretary	laura.meski@helcom.fi

Annex 2 HELCOM reporting form for pollution response

Instructions for filling-in the HELCOM reporting form for pollution response

All response operations of spills of significant character (severity, size, actual or potential impact), should be reported to the HELCOM Secretariat using the agreed reporting format.

The reporting format is provided as an excel file and includes the following information entries. The predefined entries should be used!

Country	Where the incident took place
Year	Year of incident
Date (dd.mm.yyyy)	
Time (hh:mm)	When (local time) the incident happened
Place	Name of place
Latitude (DD)	Please provide latitude in decimal degrees, e.g. 57.123
Longitude (DD)	Please provide longitude in decimal degrees, e.g. 18.456
Source	Please provide e.g. factory, installation, ship
Type of pollution	Please, specify e.g. fuel oil, chemical, paraffin
Amount of pollution	m ³
Amount recovered at sea	m ³
Amount of recovered on shore	m ³
Amount of polluted coastline	km
Amount and state of affected wildlife	
Affected species	
Action taken for collection and/or treatment of wildlife.	
Number of days spent to recovery operation at sea	
Number of days spent to recovery operation on shore	Categories 1-10 days, 10-300 days, over 300 days
Responsible organization	Name of organization and contact details for further information
Further details about incident	Any other relevant information, e.g. needed to evaluate the limitation of data, links to web pages or report etc.

Annex 3 Draft revised Terms of Reference for EWG OWR 2014-2017

[Draft revised] Terms of Reference for HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR) 2014-2017

1. Background

In 2010 the Contracting Parties adopted HELCOM Recommendation 31E/6 on integrated wildlife response planning in the Baltic Sea Area. It recommends the Contracting States to apply Guidelines for their wildlife response planning attached to the Recommendation, and requests the Contracting States to develop a wildlife response plan integrated into oil pollution contingency plans either on a national or sub-national/local level and exchange the details about its contents with other Contracting Parties.

The 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting agreed to develop and adopt national wildlife response plans by 2016 and agreed to strengthen the work on OWR under HELCOM Response Working Group (WG) through a targeted expert working group and by enhancing co-operation with NGOs and the private sector, inter alia in order to accommodate the involvement of volunteers.

2. Tasks and working mode of the expert working group

The oiled wildlife response expert working group will aim to strengthen the cooperation between HELCOM Contracting Parties in the field of oiled wildlife response. It will act as a forum for the exchange of information on progress and best practices, and facilitate the creation of joint standards and cross-border cooperation in oiled wildlife response. It will also, where possible, facilitate the training of national experts and exchange of training materials.

As a sub-group reporting to HELCOM Response WG, the expert working group on OWR (EWG OWR) has the following tasks:

1. To facilitate the development of national oiled wildlife response plans in cooperation with other authorities and NGOs;
2. To arrange regular (at least once a year) meetings involving all members of the group, allowing for training and information sessions that would provide added value to the national processes;
3. To facilitate the implementation of the Response WG Work Programme on Oiled Wildlife Response and Preparedness for 2014-2017;
4. To produce, in 2016, and in 2017, a report on the finalized and developing integrated oiled wildlife response plans (A HELCOM assessment of oiled wildlife response preparedness in the Baltic region) and based on the results from the reports provide necessary support and encouragement to countries still in the process of developing their plans.

Working mode:

To ensure resource efficiency, the group will arrange online meetings and work via the HELCOM Workspace. These meetings shall take place at least once a year but can be arranged more often if necessary. When necessary, face-to-face meetings shall be organized back-to-back with other HELCOM Response WG related events.

The group (chair) will report to HELCOM Response WG on progress made.

3. Members of the expert working group

Each Contracting Party shall nominate at least one (1) representative of the appropriate state body (government or agency) to the Group. The Contracting Parties may choose to nominate further members as they see fit.

Annex 4 Contact addresses and Observers of HELCOM Response Working Group

Contact addresses of the HELCOM Response Working Group in the Contracting Parties

*) Head of Delegation

Representing	Name	Organization	E-mail address
Chair	Heli Haapasaari	Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)	heli.haapasaari@environment.fi
Denmark	Torben Iversen*)	Naval Staff, Defence Command Denmark	pol.con.den@mil.dk
Estonia	Marit Mätik *)	Ministry of the Interior	marit.matik@siseministeerium.ee
Estonia	Triin Vokk *)	Ministry of the Environment	triin.vokk@envir.ee
Estonia	Martin Lambing	Ministry of the Interior	martin.lambing@siseministeerium.ee
Estonia	Priit Saar	Police and Border Guard Board	priit.saar@politsei.ee
European Union	Asta Mackeviciute *)	European Commission, DG ECHO	asta.mackeviciute@ec.europa.eu
European Union	Walter Nordhausen	European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)	walter.nordhausen@emsa.europa.eu
European Union	Sandro Nuccio	European Commission, DG MOVE	sandro.nuccio@ec.europa.eu
Finland	Magnus Nyström *)	Ministry of the Environment	magnus.nystrom@environment.fi
Finland	Niklas Karlman	Government of Åland	niklas.karlman@regeringen.ax
Finland	Jorma Rytönen	Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)	jorma.rytkonen@ymparisto.fi
Germany	Michael Akkermann *)	Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (CCME)	makkermann@havariekommando.de
Germany	Jens Rauterberg	Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (CCME)	jrauterberg@havariekommando.de
Latvia	Evija Smite *)	State Environmental Service	evija.smite@vvd.gov.lv
Latvia/Vice-chair	Ojars Gerke	Latvian Coast Guard Service	ojars.gerke@mrcc.lv
Latvia	Laura Mazmaca	State Environmental Service	laura.mazmaca@vvd.gov.lv
Lithuania	Igor Kuzmenko *)	MRCC of the Lithuanian Navy	igor.kuzmenko@mil.lt
Poland	Maciej Grzonka*)	Maritime Research and Rescue Service	maciej.grzonka@sar.gov.pl
Poland	Joanna Ignasiak	Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation	joanna.ignasiak@mir.gov.pl
Poland	Wojciech Wasowski	Maritime Office in Gdynia	wojciech.wasowski@umgdy.gov.pl
Poland	Magdalena Wesolowska	Maritime Office in Szczecin	mwesolowska@ums.gov.pl

Russia	Natalia Kutaeva *)	FBI "Marine Rescue Service of Rosmorrechflot"	kutaevang@morspas.com
Russia	Andrey Bryksin	FBI "Marine Rescue Service of Rosmorrechflot"	briksinay@morspas.com
Sweden	Bernt Stedt *)	Swedish Coast Guard	bernt.stedt@coastguard.se
Sweden	Alexander von Buxhoeveden	Swedish Coast Guard	alexander.von.buxhoeveden@coastguard.se
Sweden/Vice-chair	Sonja Dobo	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)	sonja.dobo@msb.se
Sweden	Mikael Wolfbrandt	Ministry of Defence	mikael.wolfbrandt@regeringskansliet.se

Contact addresses of HELCOM Response Working Group in the Observer organizations

Representing	Name	Organization	E-mail address
Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)	Martina Kramer	Landtag Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	europaausschuss@landtag-mv.de
Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB)	Mikhail Durkin	Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB)	mikhail.durkin@ccb.se
European Boating Association (EBA)	Emma Barton	European Boating Association (EBA)	emma.barton@rya.org.uk
European Sea Ports Organisation (ESPO)	Kirsti Tarnanen-Sariola	Finnish Port Association	kirsti.tarnanen-sariola@satamaliitto.fi
European Community Shipowners' Association (ECSA)	Benoit Loicq	European Community Shipowners' Association (ECSA)	Loicq@ecsa.eu
European Network of Freshwater Research Organizations (EurAqua)	Mona Olsson Öberg	IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute	mona.olsson.oberg@ivl.se
KIMO International	Arabelle Bentley	KIMO International Secretariat	Arabelle.Bentley@shetland.gov.uk
KIMO International	Camilla Witt	KIMO Baltic Sea	camilla.witt@kimobaltic.eu
OSPAR	OSPAR Secretariat	OSPAR Secretariat	secretariat@ospar.org
OSPAR/Bonn Agreement	John Mouat	OSPAR Secretariat	john.mouat@ospar.org
Bonn Agreement	Alexander von Buxhoeveden	Chair of BONN OTSOPA Swedish Coast Guard	alexander.von.buxhoeveden@coastguard.se
IMO/ Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)	Gabino Gonzalez	REMPEC	rempec@rempec.org
Sea Alarm	Hugo Nijkamp	Sea Alarm Foundation	nijkamp@sea-alarm.org

WWF	Katarzyna Pietrasik	WWF Poland	Kpietrasik@wwf.pl
WWF	Mattias Rust	WWF Sweden	mattias.rust@wwf.se
WWF	Vanessa Ryan	WWF Finland	vanessa.ryan@wwf.fi

Annex 5 Work Plan of Response Working Group 2014-2016

(approved by HOD 41-2013 and updated by RESPONSE 19-2014 and RESPONSE 20-2015)

ACTION	INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES/ RESPONSIBLE	RESULTS/ TIME FRAME
Maintain and further develop the standing operational network for trans-national response in case of incidents		
Keep HELCOM Response Manual up to date including current Volume I (oil) as well as the new Volume III (response on the shore)	Contracting Parties/Secretariat EWG SHORE	Continuously Scrutiny at HELCOM RESPONSE
Improve the usability and ease of updating of HELCOM Response Manuals by exploring new electronic means of publishing including i.a. smartphone apps.	Secretariat	Continuously Scrutiny at HELCOM RESPONSE
Consider complete revision of the HELCOM Response Manual (all Volumes)	Contracting Parties	First considerations at RESPONSE 22-2016
Carry out a major revision of Volume II (chemicals)	Contracting Parties/Secretariat TG HNS MANUAL	Report by HELCOM RESPONSE 22-2016 (possibly need for extension of the deadline)
Carry out operational and other kinds of exercises in order to train the following topics (suggested issues to be considered by the host): topics to be discussed at RESPONSE 22-2016 and to be added to the work plan 2016-2018	Lead Countries/Contracting Parties BALEX DELTA 2016: Lead Country Lithuania EET (Poland, Lithuania, Russia) to inform on the applicability of the evaluation framework developed for shore exercises in BALEX DELTA 2016 Russia to inform on BALEX DELTA 2017 Other HELCOM and sub-regional exercises On shore response exercises and OWR exercises, which can be combined with other exercises, as appropriate.	Annual activities EET of BALEX DELTA 2016 RESPONSE 22-2016
Build and follow up new knowledge on dispersants' use and applicability in the Baltic Sea	Contracting Parties	Continuously

Implement a three-tier approach to ensure adequate response to incidents in the Baltic Sea Area, with a special focus on the second tier (sub-regional level)		
Based upon national and regional risk assessments on oil and chemical pollution prepare concrete sub-regional and regional targets for the response preparedness	Contracting Parties Correspondence Group on HELCOM Rec 28E/12 and 31/1 led by Finland	Continuously CG to provide for adoption to RESPONSE 22-2016
Develop tools and methodology for regular regional assessments of maritime risks	Contracting Parties RESPONSE MARITIME (SAFE NAV) (including wider cooperation with e.g. other regional seas conventions)	
Conclude/implement sub-regional agreements	Contracting Parties	Continuously
Co-operate by conducting trainings and organizing exchange programmes to ensure swift and adequate response capacity to shoreline pollution and to develop best practices	Contracting Parties EWG SHORE	Continuously
Further develop and implement Response Manual Volume III (response on the shore) Ensure that adequate equipment and capacities for response on the shore are in place Ensure that response on the shore is integrated with overall contingency planning Make proposals on how to improve access to national and regional information on sensitive areas and sensitive coasts Provide annual cross-border or international exercises Follow up the outcome of relevant projects Ensure wide participation	Contracting Parties EWG SHORE to finalize its tasks by 2016	Continuously Reports to RESPONSE
Carry out Baltic wide mapping of prioritised coastal areas (sensitivity mapping).	Contracting Parties EWG SHORE (Lead Sweden) Other HELCOM Groups	-

Integrate oiled wildlife response (OWR) into existing contingency plans Exchange of information on development of national OWR plans, authority-NGO cooperation, national trainings and exercises Develop OWR protocols and facilities Develop OWR preparedness and response Ensure wide participation	Contracting Parties, Sea Alarm, WWF Finland and other stakeholders. Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR) 2013-2016 [2017]	Reports to RESPONSE
Enhance co-operation with regard to places of refuge according to HELCOM Recommendation 31E/5		
Make the Mutual Plan for Places of Refuge operational and implemented within/through sub-regional agreements	Contracting Parties	Continuously Reports to RESPONSE and MARITIME
Ratify the relevant compensation and liability conventions according to HELCOM Rec 31E/5	Contracting Parties Secretariat to provide update of the ratification status of relevant conventions at each RESPONSE meeting	Reports to RESPONSE and MARITIME
Detection, investigation and prosecution of anti-pollution regulations		
Co-ordinate aerial surveillance flights and harmonize aerial surveillance with satellite surveillance	IWGAS (Lead Country 2015-2016: Poland) In co-operation with EMSA (CleanSeaNet)	Meetings of IWGAS and RESPONSE
Identify operational needs for satellite surveillance in each sub-region of the Baltic	IWGAS	Continuously
Carry out CEPCO and other flights:	Lead Countries/Contracting Parties CEPCO South/Mini CEPComay2016 hosted by Poland Super CEPCO September 2016 hosted by Netherlands	Annual activities
Harmonize aerial surveillance reporting systems with Bonn Agreement area	IWGAS	Continuously
Maintain Seatrack Web/AIS/SAT for improved identification of possible polluters	STW/AIS/SAT partnership	Continuously
Co-operate/assist and exchange experience in investigations	Contracting Parties	Continuously
Co-operate with the Network of the Prosecutors on Environmental Crime (ENPRO)	Contracting Parties/Secretariat	Continuously

Carry out information exchange about offshore activities to be able to respond to accidental spills from such installations		
Report on ongoing/planned offshore activities (exploration/exploitation)	Contracting Parties	When applicable
Collect information/exchange experience/promote development and use of new technology and best practices		
Collect and publish information on shipping accidents and response operations in the Baltic and their impact on marine environment	Secretariat/ Contracting Parties in cooperation with HELCOM MARITIME Data flows from EMSA's EMCIP to be established	Annual report on shipping accidents in the Baltic Thematic Assessment on Maritime Activities by 2016
Developing response related indicators such as the indicator on illegal spills	RESPONSE and IWGAS	Consider at RESPONSE 22-2016
Keep track of studies on effects of and response to oil spills on the seabed (sunken oil).	RESPONSE	Meetings of RESPONSE
National and sub-regional reports on response operations and lessons learned	Contracting Parties	Meetings of RESPONSE
Collect, compile and publish regional summaries of response operations and lessons learned using the format agreed at RESPONSE 21-2016	Secretariat/ Contracting Parties EWG SHORE	Meetings of RESPONSE Thematic Assessment on Maritime Activities 2016 New chapter to be added to the Annual report on shipping accidents in the Baltic
Collect information on observed deliberate, illegal oil discharges, other substances and unknown substances and related statistics	Secretariat/ Contracting Parties	Annual report on discharges observed during aerial surveillance Thematic Assessment on Maritime Activities by 2016 Indicator on oil spills
Update HELCOM map and data service with RESPONSE related information Further develop regional preparedness and response related services including HELCOM SeaTrackWeb, HELCOM AIS, HELCOM POLREP, HELCOM GIS towards a second generation HELCOM oil response information system	Secretariat/ Contracting Parties	Annually

Operational and technical solution transmitting HELCOM POLREPs linking CECIS and SSN and regional systems	Secretariat/ Contracting Parties CG POLREP	Latest by June 2017 and continuously, as appropriate
Exchange information with other regional agreements	Chair/Secretariat	Meetings between regional agreements, EMSA and DG ECHO
Enhance use and development of technology to respond to accidents at night, in bad visibility, in bad weather, oil on ice, accidents involving heavy oil, chemical incidents	Contracting Parties	Meetings of RESPONSE
Collect and assess information on submerged hazardous objects including contaminated and potentially polluting wrecks and maintain work on dumped chemical munitions	HELCOM Expert Group on Environmental Risks of Hazardous Submerged Objects (HELCOM SUBMERGED) 2014-2016 [2018]	Meetings of RESPONSE Thematic Assessment publication by 2016