



Document title	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda
Code	1-2
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
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Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	RESPONSE 27-2020, HOD 58-2020

Background

The 28th Meeting of the HELCOM Response Working Group (RESPONSE 28-2020) will be held on 3-5 November 2020. In light of the COVID-19 situation the Meeting will be held as an online meeting.

The Meeting will be opened on Tuesday, 3 November, at 9:00 CET/10:00 EET and it is expected to terminate on Thursday, 5 November by 12:00 CET/13:00 EET.

The Meeting will be chaired by Ms. Heli Haapasaari, Chair of the Response Working Group.

Documents for the Meeting will be made available on the RESPONSE 28-2020 [meeting site](#) in the HELCOM Meeting Portal.

Annotations to the Provisional Agenda

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

The Annotations to the Provisional Agenda have been prepared on the basis of the 27th Meeting of the Response Working Group (RESPONSE 27-2020) and the 58th Meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation (HOD 58-2020) input from the working groups and initiatives related to the Response Working Group as well as consultations between the Chair of the Response Working Group and the Secretariat.

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda as contained in document 1-1 Rev.1.

Agenda Item 2 Matters arising from HELCOM meetings

Decisions at HELCOM annual meeting and HODs

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcome of HELCOM 41-2020, held on 4-5 March 2020 and the outcome of HOD 58-2020, held on 9-10 June 2020 (documents to be submitted).

Sub-groups to HELCOM Response Working Group

The sub-groups and related activities will be handled under relevant agenda items as follows: SHORE Network and EWG OWR (Agenda Item 8), SUBMERGED (Agenda Item 9), IWGAS (Agenda Item 10), CG HNS MANUAL (Agenda Item 11).

Other HELCOM groups

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcomes of other relevant HELCOM Meetings.

Agenda Item 3 Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

General

The Meeting is invited to take note of the updated Work Plan for the update of the BSAP, endorsed by HOD 58-2020 (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to take note that HOD 58-2020 agreed on the year 2030 as the target year for implementing the BSAP. With regard to the target year for achieving good environmental status for the Baltic Sea, the meeting further agreed to include in the updated BSAP a reference to the 2007 BSAP and the HELCOM assessments.

Drafting of the updated BSAP

The Meeting is invited to take note of the detailed plan for drafting of the updated BSAP and the preliminary timetable (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to review the segment specific preamble text for the sea-based activities segment, in line with the guidance provided, and endorse it for submission to GEAR 23-2020 and to HOD 59-2020 for review, noting that the drafting will continue in the DG BSAP in spring 2021 (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to consider the content of the draft Annex for the sea-based activities segment of the updated BSAP and agree on how to take the work forward in order to ensure that the work is finalized prior to HOD 60-2021 (document to be submitted).

Sufficiency of measures

The Meeting is invited to consider the results of the analysis of sufficiency of measures (SOM) (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the progress of the cost-effectiveness analysis (document to be submitted).

Actions to be included in the updated BSAP

Finalizing existing actions

The Meeting is invited to note that HOD 58-2020 agreed in principle on the rephrased and concretized existing HELCOM actions to be transferred to the updated BSAP with the understanding that further drafting based on the written comments will take place. HOD 58-2020 invited DG BSAP and HELCOM Working Groups to continue work on those actions where the need for further work has been identified.

Proposed new actions

The Meeting is invited to consider the outcome of the BSAP UP workshop on maritime activities, including underwater noise, non-indigenous species and response actions (BSAP UP WS-SEA), held on 2-4 September 2020. The Meeting is also invited to consider the outcome of the BSAP UP workshop on hazardous substances and litter for the consideration of proposed new actions (BSAP UP WS-HZ) held on 24-25 August 2020 (documents to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to further elaborate and endorse for submission to HOD 59-2020 possible new actions based on the outcome of the BSAP UP workshops.

The Meeting is invited to identify possible gaps in the set of measures for the updated BSAP and propose measures to fill the gaps, as well as agree on a process for assessing the proposed measures in a similar manner to those submitted through the synopses.

The Meeting is invited to take note that further work on the proposed new actions will take place in DG BSAP and HOD meetings, in line with the BSAP updated workplan.

HELCOM Explorer

The Meeting is invited to take note that the reporting on the implementation status of the national actions will take place via nominated national contact points in autumn 2020.

The Meeting is invited to report on the status of the joint actions of relevance for the Response Working Group (document to be submitted).

Agenda Item 4 Risk assessments and Safety of Navigation

The Meeting is invited to take note of the Outcome of the 11th Meeting of the HELCOM Group of Experts on Safety of Navigation (SAFE NAV 11-2020) held on 13 May 2020 as an online meeting (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the Outcome of the 31st Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Working Group for Mutual Exchange and Deliveries of AIS & Data (AIS EWG 31-2020) held on 9-10 June 2020 as an online meeting (document to be submitted).

Contracting Parties and Observers are invited to present studies on risk assessments and maritime safety relevant to the Working Group.

Agenda Item 5 Matters related to recent response operations

The Meeting is invited to note that the [HELCOM report on shipping accidents during 2018 in the Baltic Sea region](#) has been published on the HELCOM website.

The Meeting is invited to recall that, as decided by MARITIME 18-2018, the European Marine Casualty Information Platform (EMCIP) will be used as the primary source for accident data starting with the reporting of accidents that occurred in 2019. The Meeting is further invited to note that the Secretariat will continue requesting Russia directly to provide their accident data in order to compile the annual accident reports for the Baltic Sea area.

The Meeting is invited to note that a request to the Response Working Group for reporting of significant response operations at sea and on the shore in 2019 was sent by the Secretariat on 30 January 2020 with the reporting deadline on 3 April 2020. The reported data will be included in the HELCOM report on shipping accidents during 2019. The Meeting is invited to take note of the information and discuss lessons learnt from response operations (document to be submitted).

Contracting Parties are invited to report on lessons learnt from response operations.

Agenda Item 6 National preparedness at sea and on shore

The Meeting is invited to discuss any national developments since RESPONSE 27-2020 regarding response at sea, on the shore and oiled wildlife response as seen relevant based on information reported by the Contracting Parties. The Meeting is invited to note that the next request to provide a thorough update using the agreed template to be filled in by Contracting Parties will be circulated in due course before RESPONSE 29-2021.

According to the template the national developments should be reported on the following topics as applicable:

Legislation

The Contracting Parties are invited to report on changes in the legislation or contingency plans.

At sea response

The Contracting Parties are invited to report on enhancements of national preparedness in dealing with response to pollution at sea including new vessels, equipment and projects.

On shore response

The Contracting Parties are invited to report on enhancements of national preparedness on shore, including oiled wildlife response, covering new equipment and development projects of national interest.

The Contracting Parties are invited to report on upcoming projects of relevance to the Response Working Group.

Agenda Item 7 Sub-regional co-operation

The Meeting is invited to update, if needed, the overview list and map of bi- and multilateral agreements on joint response operations and response plans in response regions in the Baltic Sea included in Chapter 2 of the [HELCOM Response Manual Volume 1](#). The Contracting Parties are invited to send this information prior to the meeting as information documents.

The Meeting may wish to discuss any other issues related to bi- and multilateral agreements and plans.

Agenda Item 8 Response on the shore and wildlife response

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcome of the 15th and 16th Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR 15-2020 and EWG OWR 16-2020) held as online meetings on 26 May 2020 and 22 September 2020, respectively (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to consider and adopt the annual EWG OWR report (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcome of the EWG OWR online seminar on early incident response for cross-border wildlife incidents held on 15 September 2020 (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to decide on the dates for the next meeting of the HELCOM Expert Coordination Network on Response on the Shore (SHORE Network 5-2020), which is tentatively planned to be held in January 2021 in Helsinki, Finland, back to back with the Main Planning Conference of BALEX DELTA 2021.

Agenda Item 9 Wrecks and other submerged hazardous objects

The Meeting is invited to approve the draft Submerged Assessment consisting of two separate volumes (Volume 1: warfare materials and Volume 2: wrecks) (document to be submitted).

The Contracting Parties are invited to provide information on new experiences from operations involving hazardous underwater objects, including wrecks.

Agenda Item 10 Remote Sensing

10.1 Aerial surveillance

The Meeting is invited to approve the draft HELCOM Annual report on discharges observed during aerial surveillance in the Baltic Sea 2019 (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to take note that the 2020 annual meeting of the HELCOM Informal Working Group on Aerial Surveillance (IWGAS 2020) was cancelled due to COVID-19, but part of the agenda was considered by correspondence during spring 2020. The Meeting is invited to decide on the dates for IWGAS 2021.

The Contracting Parties are invited to inform of any plans for CEPCO flights in the Baltic Sea.

10.2 Use of satellites for detecting illegal discharges

EMSA is invited to present any new developments regarding the CleanSeaNet service.

The Meeting is invited to discuss further co-operation in relation to the use of satellites for detecting illegal discharges.

10.3 STW/AIS/SAT model

Sweden is invited to inform on any recent developments with regard to the SeaTrack Web (STW) including statistics on contracts with organisations of HELCOM Contracting Parties.

10.4 Investigation and prosecution of offenders of anti-pollution regulations

The Meeting might wish to discuss any other issues of relevance to this Agenda Item.

Agenda item 11 Other developments in response strategies and equipment

11.1 HNS Response

The Meeting is invited to consider and approve the final Joint Inter-Regional Marine HNS Response Manual, which is envisaged to replace the HELCOM Response Manual Volume 2 (document to be submitted)

The Meeting is invited to take note of any intersessional project initiatives.

The Contracting Parties are invited to submit information documents on progress in drafting national HNS response manuals.

11.2 Response to oil in ice

The Contracting Parties and Observers might wish to present information related to response to oil in ice.

11.3 Places of Refuge

The Contracting Parties are invited to present information related to Places of Refuge.

11.4 Response at night/in bad visibility

The Contracting Parties are invited to present their new experience and activities related to response operations at night/in bad visibility as well as regarding equipment used in bad visibility conditions.

11.5 Emergency towing

The Contracting Parties might wish to present any information on emergency towing capacity and emergency towing exercises.

11.6 Use of dispersants

The Contracting Parties/EMSA may wish to present recent information related to the use of dispersants.

11.7 Non-traditional fuel types

The Contracting Parties/EMSA may wish to present recent information related to the use of non-traditional fuel types.

Contracting Parties and Observers are invited to inform the Meeting of any information or projects related to the use of non-traditional fuel types.

Agenda Item 12 Exercises

12.1 BALEX DELTA

The Meeting is invited to take note of, and use in forward planning, the current schedule of HELCOM BALEX DELTA exercises up to 2025, as agreed by RESPONSE 15-2012, 17-2013 and 23-2017 (2021 Finland, 2022 Germany, 2023 Latvia, 2024 Lithuania, 2025 Poland and 2026 Russia) and recall the decision by RESPONSE 20-2015 that starting from BALEX DELTA 2017 the exercises will be held in the last week of August (c.f. paragraph 11.3 of the Outcome of the Meeting).

The Exercise Evaluation team (EET) of HELCOM BALEX DELTA, (26 August 2020 off the coast of Tallinn, Estonia), consisting of Denmark, Estonia and Finland, is invited to submit a report of the exercise using the evaluation template as found in RESPONSE 21-2016 document 11-4 (RESPONSE 21-2016 paragraph 11.18) (document to be submitted).

Finland is invited to inform the Meeting about the preparations for HELCOM BALEX DELTA 2021, which will take place near Kotka during week 34 in 2021.

Germany is invited to is invited to inform about any preliminary plans for HELCOM BALEX DELTA 2022.

Contracting Parties and Observers are invited to inform the Meeting of other international exercises held during the inter-sessional period or plans for future exercises.

12.2 National exercises

The Contracting Parties and Observers are invited to inform the Meeting of other national exercises held during the inter-sessional period or plans for future exercises.

12.3 HELCOM Response Exercise Plan (HREP)

The Meeting is invited to recall that RESPONSE 27-2020 agreed on a continued project approach for implementing the proposed exercise process and finalizing the HELCOM Response Exercise Plan (HREP). The Meeting is invited to take note of the status of the project under the lead of Sweden.

Agenda Item 13 HELCOM Recommendations and Response Manual

Response Manual

The Meeting is invited to recall that HELCOM RESPONSE 25-2018 agreed on thoroughly revising and updating the HELCOM Response Manual to make it more user friendly. The Meeting is invited to consider the draft revised HELCOM Response Manual (document to be submitted) and to:

- ensure that country-specific information is correct and up to date;
- discuss and agree on any outstanding issues in the draft revised Manual, in particular noting comments and questions included in the margin;
- discuss and agree whether Annex 4. Form for Requesting Assistance from Another Contracting Party and Annex 5. Form for Offering Assistance for Another Contracting Party will be left in the Manual.
- approve the draft revised Manual with the view to have it submitted to HOD 59-2020 and HELCOM 42-2021 for adoption.

The Meeting is invited to consider proposals on including mutual assistance arrangements for wildlife response in Chapter 7. Co-operation in Oiled Wildlife Response in the Manual.

HELCOM Recommendations

The Meeting is invited to consider the proposal by Finland on revising HELCOM Recommendation 12/7 on *Special Cooperation in Case of a Chemical Tanker Accident in the Baltic Sea* (document to be submitted).

Contracting Parties are invited to inform on their willingness to develop a draft revision of HELCOM Recommendation 17/12 on *Measures to Abate Pollution by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Grounding, Collision, Sinking of a Ship or other Maritime Casualty*.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information provided by Russia on comparing the requirements of the national legislation with HELCOM Recommendation 20/5 on *minimum ability to respond to oil spillages in oil terminals* and based on the information provided decide on the continued need for the Recommendation.

The Meeting is invited to consider the draft revised HELCOM Recommendation 31E/6 on *integrated wildlife response planning in the Baltic Sea Area* by EWG OWR 15-2020, with the view to have it submitted to HOD 59-2020 and HELCOM 42-2021 for adoption (document to be submitted).

Contracting Parties are invited to consider the needs to revise or withdraw other HELCOM Recommendations related to the Response Working Group and to submit proposals as part of a process in which HELCOM Recommendations are revisited and updated.

The Meeting may wish to discuss any other issues of relevance to this Agenda Item.

Agenda Item 14 Activities within other organizations and initiatives

The Meeting is invited to take note of information from EMSA on any outstanding issues not covered by the other agenda items.

The Meeting might wish to discuss any other issues of relevance to this Agenda Item.

Agenda Item 15 Any other business

The Meeting is invited to check and update the contact addresses of the Response Working Group (document to be submitted).

The Meeting might wish to discuss any other issues of relevance to this Agenda Item.

Agenda Item 16 Election of Chair and Vice-Chairs

RESPONSE 25-2018 re-elected Ms. Heli Haapasaari as the Chair of the Response Working Group and Mr. Ojars Gerke and Mr. Alexander von Buxhoeveden, as Vice-Chairs of the Response Working Group for 2019-2020. Ms. Haapasaari has acted as the Chair of the Response Working Group since 2015 but will not be available for re-election.

The Meeting is invited to elect the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the response Working Group for the next two-year period (2021-2022).

Agenda Item 17 Future work and meetings

The Meeting is invited to discuss and agree on the time and place of RESPONSE 29-2021.

The Meeting is invited to consider and update a preliminary list of HELCOM and other meetings in 2020-2021 of relevance to Response Working Group (document to be submitted).

Agenda Item 18 Outcome of the Meeting

A draft Outcome of the Meeting will be prepared at the end of the Meeting and presented for consideration and adoption.

The Outcome, incorporating corrections by the Meeting, will be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Meeting and will be made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal.