



Document title	IWGAS tasks considered by correspondence
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Background

The 2020 annual meeting of the HELCOM Informal Working Group on Aerial Surveillance (IWGAS 2020) was cancelled due to COVID-19 and the following parts of the agenda were considered by correspondence during spring 2020 in order not to delay important ongoing processes.

Aerial and satellite surveillance reports

A request to report on discharges observed during aerial and satellite surveillance in the Baltic Sea in 2019 was sent to the Contracting Parties on 16 January 2020 with the deadline for reporting by 15 February 2020. The Baltic Sea countries were further requested to send a compilation of spills detected in other Contracting Parties' EEZs to the Contracting Party in question by end of January. The deadlines were set according to the joint standard annual reporting format for HELCOM and Bonn Agreement (cf. Chapter 7 of the HELCOM Response Manual, Volume I). After some delays all Contracting Parties provided data except for Russia and the draft HELCOM Annual report on discharges observed during aerial surveillance in the Baltic Sea 2019 has been circulated to contacts of IWGAS for possible corrections and approval by 18 October 2020 and will be submitted to RESPONSE 28-2020 for final approval.

CEPCO operations

Estonia was invited to inform on the Mini CEPCO planned for 2020. Contracting Parties were invited to consider organizing a Super CEPCO in the Baltic Sea in 2021.

Use of satellite images

IWGAS contacts were further invited to comment on the operational needs for satellite surveillance coverage in the Baltic Sea. The following proposed changes to the coverage needs were received:

- the number of satellite images in Area 3 Baltic Proper and Gulf of Finland should be changed from 0 in January and February to 0-10 (proposed by Finland) or 10-15 (proposed by Estonia), dependent on the ice coverage in this area during the mentioned months; and
- the number of satellite images in Area 3 Bay of Bothnia should be changed from 0 to 0-10 pictures in April and December, depending on ice coverage (proposed by Finland).

These proposed changes are still to be agreed by IWGAS and it is proposed that this could be done by correspondence or at IWGAS 2021.

Draft revised HELCOM Response Manual

Comments were requested by correspondence on the draft revised HELCOM Response Manual. Comments received were taken into account in preparing the final draft for RESPONSE 28-2020 (c.f. document 13-1).

IWGAS contacts were also invited to note that RESPONSE 27-2020 had agreed to use the proposed amendments to the Bonn Agreement/HELCOM annual surveillance reporting, as proposed by the Bonn Agreement and as previously agreed by IWGAS via correspondence.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- discuss the way forward with regard to agreement by IWGAS on the proposed changes to operational needs for satellite surveillance coverage;
- take note of the updated list of contact persons for IWGAS, as attached; and
- decide on the dates for IWGAS 2021 to be held in spring 2021 hosted by Estonia.

Contact persons for the HELCOM Informal Working Group on Aerial Surveillance (IWGAS)

REPRESENTING	NAME	ORGANIZATION	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Chair	Marit Mätik	Ministry of the Interior	marit.matik@siseministeerium.ee
Denmark		Defence Command Denmark	fko-ktp-o-j3-air@mil.dk
Estonia	Eero Oja	Police and Border Guard	eero.oja@politsei.ee
Estonia	Priit Pajusaar	Police and Border Guard	priit.pajusaar@politsei.ee
European Union	Ricardo Vicente	European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)	ricardo.vicente@emsa.europa.eu
Finland	Jukka-Pekka Lumilahti	The Finnish Border Guard	jukka-pekka.lumilahti@raja.fi
Finland	Pekka Parkkali	The Finnish Border Guard	pekka.parkkali@raja.fi
Germany	Dirk Reichenbach	Havariekommando - Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (CCME)	dreichenbach@havariekommando.de
Latvia	Laura Mazmaca	State Environmental Service	laura.mazmaca@vvd.gov.lv
Lithuania	Igor Kuzmenko	Lithuanian Navy	igor.kuzmenko@mil.lt
Poland	Jaroslav Bomba	Maritime Office in Gdynia	jaroslav.bomba@umgdy.gov.pl
Poland	Wojciech Wasowski	Maritime Office in Gdynia	wojciech.wasowski@umgdy.gov.pl
Russia	Sergey Victorov	Russian Academy of Sciences St. Petersburg Scientific Research Center for Ecological Safety	s1941vic@yahoo.com
Sweden	Thomas Bark	Swedish Coast Guard	thomas.bark@kustbevakningen.se