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<b>Document title</b>	Draft Submerged Assessment
<b>Code</b>	9-3
<b>Category</b>	DEC
<b>Agenda Item</b>	9 - Wrecks and other submerged hazardous objects
<b>Submission date</b>	29.10.2020
<b>Submitted by</b>	Germany
<b>Reference</b>	RESPONSE 28-2020 document 9-1, and SUBMERGED 8-2020

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*Note that this document was submitted after the established deadline. It will be decided by the Meeting whether the document can be discussed or is postponed to the next meeting.*

## Background

Due to several good reasons, Germany is of the opinion that even the updated draft of the SUBMERGED draft assessment, Volume 1 on warfare materials (annex of Document 9-1), does not achieve the desired quality level to publish it as HELCOM BSEP. On the other hand, there is no indication, that proceeding in the same way might lead to better results in foreseeable future. Furthermore, recent scientific results by the projects e.g. DAIMON, UDEMM, BASTA, ExploTec have provided us with new options to approach the intended aim of SUBMERGED Assessment, Vol. 1.

Considering all this, Germany proposes:

- The data on munitions in the Baltic Sea already collected by SUBMERGED should be made available to the general public via HELCOM DATA & MAPS, e.g. by improving the current layer(s)
- We share a continuously improved draft of the SUBMERGED Assessment, Vol. 1, only within HELCOM, to trigger National initiatives, to be initiated by representatives to HELCOM to
  - Establish / increase the cooperation of Navy/Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) responsible entities, national marine science and the Administration, responsible for MSFD aspects and / or the HELCOM Science Agenda,
  - close obvious knowledge gaps in common and to assess the national situation regarding munitions in the sea in territorial waters based on existing national inventories and data as well as complement those by recent scientific methodologies and by using up to date tools, e.g. DAIMON- Toolbox, UDEMM-Guideline and DAIMON-DSS, and
  - Encourage all CP to share available data and approaches to obtain new results with HELCOM RESPONSE within the next 12 months.
- Ask for an entity to volunteer as HELCOM point of contact for national authorities to collate data on encounters in the Baltic Sea and to provide CPs annually with a dataset, analogue to OSPAR (ODIMS)
- Finally draft an excerpt of the SUBMERGED assessment (Volume 1) “recent science on warfare materials” and to publish it as supporting document for the process mentioned above. This assessment should focus on recent scientific results and background information found crucial to initiate a comprehensive interdisciplinary discussion on national level.

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to

1. note that the challenges of underwater munition described so far are interdisciplinary
2. note that further work still remains to be done on a number of disciplines;
3. consider that having more options should result in revised plans

4. consider to establish a follow up structure to implement revised plans/ToR
5. agree on the proposed way ahead.