



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 28-2020, HOD 60-2021

Background

The 29th Meeting of the HELCOM Response Working Group (RESPONSE 29-2021) will be held on 28-30 September 2021. In light of the COVID-19 situation the Meeting will be held as an online meeting using Zoom.

The Meeting will be opened on Tuesday, 28 September, at 9:00 CEST/10:00 EEST and it is expected to terminate on Thursday, 30 September by 12:00 CEST/13:00 EEST.

The Meeting will be chaired by Mr. Bernt Stedt, Chair of the Response Working Group.

Documents for the Meeting will be made available on the RESPONSE 29-2021 [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 28th Meeting of the Response Working Group (RESPONSE 28-2021) and the 60th Meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation (HOD 60-2021) 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.

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 42-2021, held on 17-18 March 2021 and the outcome of HOD 60-2021, held on 3-4 June 2021 (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 7), SUBMERGED (Agenda Item 8) and IWGAS (Agenda Item 9).

Other HELCOM groups

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

Agenda Item 3 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 12-2021) held on 9 June 2021 (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the Outcome of the 32nd Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Working Group for Mutual Exchange and Deliveries of AIS & Data (AIS EWG 32-2021) held on 26-27 May 2021 (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to discuss and plan the way forward for a new project on risk analysis in the Baltic Sea in line with the new action on a feasibility study and a risk assessment to be conducted by 2022 and 2025, respectively, which was approved by HOD 60-2021 for inclusion in the updated HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) (document to be submitted). The updated BSAP is expected to be adopted by the HELCOM 2021 Ministerial Meeting on 20 October 2021.

The Meeting is invited to consider information to be provided by the Secretariat regarding the possibilities for HELCOM Contracting Parties to make use of the Norwegian Coastal Administration's AISyRisk tool.

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

Agenda Item 4 Matters related to recent response operations

The Meeting is invited to take note of the draft HELCOM report on shipping accidents during 2019 in the Baltic Sea region (document to be submitted). Information on significant response operations in 2019 has been included as discussed by RESPONSE 28-2020.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the draft HELCOM report on shipping accidents during 2020 in the Baltic Sea region, which also contains reported data on significant response operations in 2020 reported by the Contracting Parties by the deadline 31 May 2021 (document to be submitted) The Meeting is invited to discuss lessons learnt from the response operations (document to be submitted).

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

Agenda Item 5 National preparedness at sea and on shore

The Meeting is invited to discuss any national developments since RESPONSE 28-2021 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 Meeting is invited to consider information regarding the Seed Money Project UROSCO regarding the update and recalculation of national oil spill contingency plans in the Baltic Sea (document to be submitted). The Meeting is invited to discuss possible participation by Contracting Parties in a proposal for a full project, the need for HELCOM to potentially join as an associate partner, and to decide as appropriate.

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

Agenda Item 6 Sub-regional co-operation

The Meeting is invited to update, if needed, the overview list and map of bi- and trilateral agreements on joint response operations and response plans in response regions in the Baltic Sea included in Annex 3 of the [HELCOM Response Manual](#). The Contracting Parties are invited to send this information prior the meeting as information documents.

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

Agenda Item 7 Response on the shore and wildlife response

The Meeting is invited to take note of the Outcome of the 17th and 18th Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (document to be submitted). EWG OWR 17-2020 was held on 9 February 2021 and EWG OWR 18-2021 will be held on 14 September 2021 as online meeting.

The Meeting is invited to consider and approve the Terms of reference of EWG OWR for the period 2022-2023 with the view to their subsequent adoption by HOD 62-2021 in December 2021 (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the report of the online seminar on euthanasia which was held on 20 April 2021 organized by Sea Alarm (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcome of the Fifth Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Coordination Network on Response on the Shore (SHORE Network 5-2021) held on 27 January 2021 (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to consider and approve the Work Plan for the SHORE Network for 2022-2023 (document to be submitted).

Agenda Item 8 Wrecks and other submerged hazardous objects

The Meeting is invited to consider and approve the Terms of Reference for the Expert Network on Environmental Risks of Submerged Munitions with a view to their subsequent adoption by HOD 61-2021 in December 2021 (EN-SUBMERGED) (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to discuss other matters related to submerged hazardous objects and the Submerged Assessment under development.

Agenda Item 9 Remote Sensing

9.1 Aerial surveillance

The Meeting is invited to take note of the Outcome of the Annual Meeting of the HELCOM Informal Working Group on Aerial Surveillance (IWAGS 2021) held on 8 June 2021 as an online meeting (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to approve the draft HELCOM Annual report on discharges observed during aerial surveillance in the Baltic Sea 2020 (document to be submitted).

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

9.2 Use of satellites for detecting illegal discharges

The EU 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.

9.3 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.

9.4 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 10 Other developments in response strategies and equipment

10.1 HNS response

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.

10.2 Response to oil in ice

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

10.3 Places of Refuge

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

10.4 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.

10.5 Emergency towing

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

10.6 Use of dispersants

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

10.7 Non-traditional fuel types

The Contracting Parties 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 11 Exercises

11.1 BALEX

The Meeting is invited to take note of, and use in forward planning, the current schedule of HELCOM BALEX exercises up to 2026, as agreed by RESPONSE 23-2017 (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.

Finland, as the Exercise Project Lead Country, is invited to inform about HELCOM BALEX 2021, to be held on 24-26 August 2021 in Kotka, Finland.

Germany, as the Exercise Project Lead Country, is invited to inform about the preparations for HELCOM BALEX 2022.

Latvia, as the Exercise Project Lead Country is invited to inform about any preliminary plans for HELCOM BALEX 2023.

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.

11.2 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.

11.3 HELCOM Response Exercise Plan (HREP)

The Meeting is invited to recall that RESPONSE 28-2020 approved the HELCOM Response Exercise Plan (HREP) and agreed that implementation of it should start for BALEX 2021. The HREP outlines the exercise projects to be conducted. The HREP is updated annually by the Response Working Group following the process outlined in Annex 11 of the HELCOM Response Manual.

The Meeting is invited to consider implementation and continued development of the HREP.

11.4 HELCOM Response Exercise Development and Monitoring Team (HEDMOT)

The Meeting is invited to recall that RESPONSE 28-2021 established the HELCOM Response Exercise Development and Monitoring Team (HEDMOT) to support a long-term approach to exercises under the HELCOM response framework. RESPONSE 28-2021 agreed that HEDMOT should be gradually implemented, with a focus on overall aims for future exercises and thus BALEX 2021-2023 exercises will only be marginally affected.

The HEDMOT of HELCOM BALEX 2021 (24-25 August 2021, Kotka, Finland), consisting of Estonia, Finland, Germany and Latvia supported by Sweden, is invited to inform on the observations during the exercise, with the aim to submit a report using the evaluation template as found in RESPONSE 21-2016 document 11-4 (RESPONSE 21-2016 paragraph 11.18) to the Response Working Group at the latest two months after the exercise, as per the Terms of Reference of the HEDMOT.

The HEDMOT is invited to inform on any development needs, list prioritized exercise aims based on the list of development needs and if necessary and appropriate, propose updates to the HELCOM Response Manual, Practical Guide for HELCOM Response Exercise Projects and the HREP.

Agenda Item 12 HELCOM Recommendations and Response Manuals

The Meeting is invited to recall that HELCOM 42-2021 adopted the revised HELCOM Response Manual and the multi-regional Marine HNS Response Manual (Bonn Agreement, HELCOM, REMPEC).

Contracting Parties are urged to check with care national contact information and web links included in Chapter 1 of the HELCOM Response Manual (at sea, on shore, oiled wildlife and aerial surveillance), and to update, if needed, as changes have an influence on providing and requesting assistance and exchanging information.

The Meeting is invited to recall that RESPONSE 28-2020 considered the proposal by Finland on the revised HELCOM Recommendation 12/7 on *Special Cooperation in Case of a Chemical Tanker Accident in the Baltic Sea* but could not come to a conclusion and thus agreed that the matter should be revisited at RESPONSE 29-2021 (document to be submitted).

The Meeting is invited to recall that RESPONSE 28-2020 invited Russia to provide information on comparing the requirements of the national legislation with HELCOM Recommendation 20/5 on *Minimum ability to respond to oil spillages in oil terminals* to RESPONSE 29-2021 in order to make a future decision on the continued need for the Recommendation based on the provided information. Russia is consequently invited to provide such information and the Meeting is invited to decide on the continued need for the Recommendation based on the information provided.

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 13 Activities within other organizations and initiatives

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

Agenda Item 14 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 15 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Due to the retirement of the Chair of the Response Working Group, Mr. Bernt Stedt, in the end of the year 2021 the Meeting is invited to elect the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Response Working Group for the next two-year period (2022-2023).

Agenda Item 16 Future work and meetings

The Meeting is invited to discuss and agree on the time and place of RESPONSE 30-2022.

The Meeting is invited to consider and update a preliminary list of HELCOM and other meetings in 2021-2022 of relevance to Response Working Group (document to be submitted).

Agenda Item 17 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.