



## Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

*Ad hoc* Seal Expert Group

Hel, Poland, 5-7 October, 2016

SEAL 10-2016

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<b>Document title</b>	Terms of Reference for SEAL 10-2016
<b>Code</b>	2-1
<b>Category</b>	INF
<b>Agenda Item</b>	2 – Information by the Chair, the Secretariat and the Contracting Parties
<b>Submission date</b>	31.8.2016
<b>Submitted by</b>	Secretariat
<b>Reference</b>	SEAL 9-2015, paragraph 10.5 in the outcome STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016, paragraph 4J.35 in the outcome

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### Background

This document contains the Terms of Reference for the tenth meeting of the HELCOM *ad hoc* Seal expert group, which were prepared and agreed by SEAL 9-2016 and endorsed by STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016.

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information and act according to the ToR.

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## Terms of Reference for SEAL 10-2016 (Poland, 5-7 October 2016)

The Seal EG will during its tenth meeting, and in the intersessional period leading up to the meeting;

1. Review Recommendation 27-28/2:
  - a. Lead Country Sweden to prepare a draft assessment of the effectiveness of the Recommendation 27-28/2 by [30 days in advance of SEAL 10-2016].
  - b. Distribution team to provide background information to support the assessment of paragraph 5 of Recommendation 27-28/2 **by 29 April 2016**.
  
2. Indicators:
  - a. Seal EG expert teams to review the indicator report intersessionally and support Lead Countries in the development of HELCOM core and candidate indicators on seals and harbour porpoise, through written consultations or meetings as needed,
  - b. The Contracting Parties to provide 2015 data, including for abundance, in advance of SEAL 10-2016, and carry out updates of the relevant core indicator evaluations at the meeting with the view to provide updates by early 2017 at the latest, or as otherwise agreed in the HOLAS II project,
  - c. Health team to propose indicators to assess the health status of mammals.
  
3. Harbour seal LRL related to population structure:
  - a. Tero Härkönen, Sweden, and Morten Olsen, Denmark, to report to the SEAL 10-2016 meeting.
  
4. Management plans:
  - a. Review new and updated national management plans, to be circulated for discussion at SEAL 10-2016.
  
5. Databases:
  - a. Intersessional development through the BalticBOOST project to be presented at SEAL 10-2016.
  
6. Monitoring:
  - a. Transfer the existing monitoring guidelines for abundance of seals to the new template (Anders Galatius), prepare guidelines for distribution of seals (Anders Galatius, Tero Härkönen) and guidelines for offshore distribution of seals (Mart and Ivar Jussi) as agreed by SEAL 9-2015.
  - b. Health team to support Lead Country Sweden in the development of monitoring guidelines on nutritional and reproductive status of marine mammals as proposed by STATE & CONSERVATION 3-2015.
  
7. Mitigation measures for seal fisheries interaction:
  - a. Pending out of the Fish Group meeting in May 2016, Finn Larsen, Denmark, to consider making a review of studies on seal-safe fishing gears.