



## Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

*Ad hoc* Seal Expert Group

Gothenburg, Sweden, 4-7 October 2017

SEAL 11-2017

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<b>Document title</b>	Terms of reference for SEAL 11-2017
<b>Code</b>	2-2
<b>Category</b>	INF
<b>Agenda Item</b>	2 – Information by the Chair, Secretariat and Contracting Parties
<b>Submission date</b>	25.8.2017
<b>Submitted by</b>	Secretariat
<b>Reference</b>	Outcome of SEAL 10-2017 (Annex 3) and State & Conservation 5-2016 document 3J-2-Rev.1

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### Background

This document contains the Terms of Reference for the eleventh meeting of the HELCOM *ad hoc* Seal expert group, which were prepared and agreed by SEAL 10-2016 and amended and endorsed by STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016.

### Action requested

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

## Annex 3. Draft Terms of Reference for SEAL 11-2017

The Seal expert group will during its 11th meeting, and in the intersessional period leading up to the meeting, do the following:

1. Indicators:
  - a. Mr. Tero Härkönen, Sweden, in collaboration with Mr. Anders Galatius, Denmark, will carry out the data calculations for the indicators 'Population trends and abundance of seals' and 'Distribution of Baltic seals' and circulate the outcome of the calculations for an intersessional review to the contacts of the Seal expert group before submission for use in the HOLAS II project **by the end of 2016 and 2017.**
  - b. Ms. Karin Hårdin, Sweden, in collaboration with the health team, will report on the status of the indicators on Nutritional and Reproductive status of marine mammals to **SEAL 11-2017.**
  - c. The health team will [start developing](#) new indicators for the health status of seals and porpoises.
  - d. Mr. Sacha Viquerat and Ms. Helena Herr, Germany, in cooperation with Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Poland, will start the work on developing the indicator on 'Harbour porpoise distribution and abundance' and report to **SEAL 11-2017.**
  - e. Mr. Sven Koschinski, Germany, in collaboration with Poland and Sweden and supported by the bycatch subgroup, will continue the work on the development of the indicator 'Number of drowned mammals and waterbirds in fishing gears' and report to **SEAL 11-2017.**
2. HELCOM Recommendation 27/28-2:
  - a. Identify work still needed in order to support the full implementation of the Recommendation in advance of **SEAL 11-2017** [by using i.a. the State and Conservation 5-2016 evaluation of the Recommendation.](#)
3. Harbour seal LRL:
  - a. Review the discussion by STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016 on the suggestion by SEAL 10-2016, and act accordingly.
4. Management plans:
  - a. Review current national management plans and their implementation in light of the Recommendation 27-28/2 as well as the management plan guidelines developed by SEAL 8-2014.
  - b. Review new and updated national management plans, to be circulated for discussion at **SEAL 11-2017.**
  - c. Review the text under 'Additional information' of [document 3-1-Rev.1](#) and to provide possible updates **in advance of SEAL 11-2017.**
5. Database for abundance and distribution data:
  - a. Review the status of development of the database in **SEAL 11-2017.**
6. Monitoring guidelines:
  - a. Denmark will update the guidelines on abundance and distribution and will submit a new version to the contacts and observers of Seal **in advance of STATE & CONSERVATION 6-2017.**
  - b. Mr. Mart Jussi will submit a format for submitting telemetry data to the Secretariat **in advance of SEAL 11-2017.**
  - c. The guidelines for monitoring reproductive and nutritional status of marine mammals will be further improved in cooperation with Germany, Sweden and the health team **by February 2017.**
7. Additional work on Baltic Sea harbour porpoise:
  - a. The meta-database on acoustic monitoring will be reconsidered by **SEAL 11-2017.**
  - b. Comments on the suggestion on an east-west border for the high and low density areas of harbour porpoises for the harbour porpoise database are to be sent to Germany ([Michael.Daehne@meeresmuseum.de](mailto:Michael.Daehne@meeresmuseum.de)) and considered again in **SEAL 11-2017.**

- c. Information to the HELCOM/ASCOBANS database is to be updated by filling in the [reporting form](#) and sending it to the Secretariat ([petra.kaaria@helcom.fi](mailto:petra.kaaria@helcom.fi)/[minna.pyhala@helcom.fi](mailto:minna.pyhala@helcom.fi)) **in advance of SEAL 11-2017**.
  - d. Nomination of national contacts for updating the HELCOM/ASCOBANS harbour porpoise database to be submitted to the Secretariat ([petra.kaaria@helcom.fi](mailto:petra.kaaria@helcom.fi)/[minna.pyhala@helcom.fi](mailto:minna.pyhala@helcom.fi)).
  - e. Review the situation with the reporting form for Recommendation 17/2 in **SEAL 11-2017**.
9. Registered mortality of marine mammals
- a. Denmark will look into mortality data from previous years from Kattegat and will provide data for the year 2015 **in advance of SEAL 11-2017**.
  - b. All Contracting Parties to provide data on the mortality of marine mammals for year 2016 **in advance of SEAL 11-2017**.
  - c. **SEAL 11-2017** to consider the possible double reporting for harbour porpoise mortalities in the HELCOM/ASCOBANS database and document under the Agenda Item 'Human induced pressures and management of marine mammals' (document 7-1-Rev.1 of SEAL 10-2016).
10. Marine mammals - fisheries interaction:
- a. Continue discussion on the interactions between mammals and fisheries in cooperation with the HELCOM Fish group.