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Background

This document contains the Outcome of the 24th Meeting of the HELCOM Response Working Group (RESPONSE 24-2018) held from 10 to 12 April 2018 in Klaipeda, Lithuania. The full Outcome is set out in the annex, but matters of specific interest to the SHORE Network are also outlined below.

[Extract of the Outcome of RESPONSE 24-2018](#)

Agenda item 5 National preparedness at sea and on shore

5.1. The Meeting recalled that the Contracting Parties decided in RESPONSE 21-2016 to use a reporting template suggested by EWG SHORE 12-2016 for reporting national developments including on shore, at sea and oiled wildlife response. Only one such report was submitted by the deadline of 3 April 2018. The Meeting discussed further use of the template (document 5-1) and agreed that the template is good but lack of time has been preventing its wider usage, and decided to use it also when preparing for RESPONSE 25-2018.

5.2. The Meeting took note of the information on national developments regarding response at sea, on shore and for oiled wildlife response as follows:

- Denmark: No changes have occurred since the last meeting.
- Estonia: A new surveillance aircraft will be delivered in May and a ceremony will be organized in June before mid-summer. A new ship will be delivered in August 2018 but it will probably not participate in the BALEX DELTA 2018.
- European Union: The procurement for a replacement vessel for the northern Baltic Sea failed due to the lack of suitable offers. EMSA is planning to establish a new EAS depot in the northern Baltic Sea area. Training sessions on the operational use of the equipment, provided by the equipment manufacturer representatives, were held in 2017 in two locations (North Sea: Aberdeen, UK and the Baltic Sea: Gdansk, Poland). In 2018 “hands-on” training sessions for MS operators will be held in the existing Baltic Sea, North Sea and Adriatic Sea EAS stockpiles respectively in weeks 23, 24 and 37. An e-learning module dedicated to the new EAS service was developed and published on EMSA Extranet in 2017 (document 13-1).
- Finland (document 5-3): The government has given a proposition to the parliament in March 2018 on transferring the responsibility for response to environmental disasters to the Ministry of the Interior from the Ministry of the Environment. The responsibility for the

operational response would be transferred from The Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) to the Border Guard. The Rescue Service responsibility for the operative response on land, on shore and coastal waters would remain as before but the Rescue Service would be administered from regional centers instead of the communities. If the Parliament gives its decision before the summer holidays the new legislation would come into force from the beginning of 2019. A national strategy for oil spill response has been prepared in cooperation with the stakeholders and authorities. It is now waiting for a final political decision.

- Germany: Planning to acquire two new multi-purpose vessels using pure LNG as fuel. Delivery in 2022 is estimated. The plan is to operate them in the North Sea so the current vessel "Neuwerk" from the North Sea will be moved to the Baltic Sea. The vessel "Scharhörn" in the Baltic Sea would no longer be operational. Process to replace aircraft is ongoing.
- Latvia: No changes to legal or organizational matters. Exercise planned with Estonia on the last week of June 2018. No news for open sea equipment but there are on-going purchases of shoreline equipment.
- Lithuania: No changes in the legislation. Future changes in response capacity are foreseen as Ministry of Defence in cooperation with Ministry of the Environment has approved a procurement plan for a new multi-purpose vessel. Tender process is to be started in September 2018. Ship is to be applicable for difficult weather conditions, response, fire-fighting, rescue, emergency towing and work in hazardous and noxious area. The agreement is to be signed in 2019. There is an ongoing project with EMSA regarding remotely piloted aircraft system (RPAS). Main tasks for the RPAS include oil spill detection as well as search and rescue.
- Poland: National contingency plan for crisis management is being revised and shoreline response is to be included. There is an agreement to secure financing for a new response vessel with a budget of 65 million Euros of which 85 % is financed by EU. Vessel is estimated to be operational in 2022. Poland is a partner in the Swedish-led BALEX DELTA 2018 project and responsible for conducting the pre-exercise.
- Sweden: Re-organization of the Coast Guard took place two years ago and some adjustments are still made. There will be only one command centre in Gothenburg as of 1 June so the centre in Stockholm will cease to exist. National response manual has been updated and it will be decided upon on 28 April. Agreement with local fire brigades to help maritime emergency groups is ending and discussion on the continuation is ongoing. There are ongoing investigations into preparing for major crisis in the society. Sweden is also looking into prolonging the lifetime of some response vessels.

Agenda Item 7 Response on the shore and wildlife response

7.1. The Meeting took note of the activities of HELCOM SHORE Network (document 7-4) and endorsed the Work Plan 2018-2019 (**Annex 3**) for the SHORE Network for approval by HOD 54-2018. The Meeting took note that the next SHORE Network meeting will take place on 30 August 2018 in Karlskrona, Sweden, in conjunction with the BALEX DELTA 2018.

7.2. The Meeting further invited Contracting Parties to nominate candidates for Vice-Chair and the Contracting Parties who have not yet nominated contacts to the SHORE Network to do so **by end of May 2018** by informing the HELCOM Secretariat (Alexey.bakhtov@helcom.fi).

Nomination of Vice-Chair

With reference to paragraph 7.2 of the Outcome of RESPONSE 24.2018, it may be noted that no nominations for Vice-Chair were received by the deadline. A Vice-Chair for the SHORE Network for the period 2018-2019 should therefore be elected by the Meeting.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information and consider it as appropriate. The Meeting is further invited to elect a Vice-Chair for 2018-2019.



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Response Working Group
Klaipeda, Lithuania, 10-12 April 2018

RESPONSE 24-2018

Outcome of the 24th Meeting of the Response Working Group (RESPONSE 24-2018)

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Outcome of the 24th Meeting of the
Response Working Group (RESPONSE 24-2018)

Introduction

- 0.1. The 24th Meeting of the HELCOM Response Working Group (RESPONSE 24-2018) was held on 10-12 April 2018 in Klaipeda, Lithuania, upon invitation by the MRCC of the Lithuanian NAVY.
- 0.2. The Meeting was attended by all HELCOM Contracting Parties as well as by an Observer from Sea Alarm and an invited guest representing the ChemSAR project. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex 1**.
- 0.3. The Meeting was welcomed by Mr. Igor Kuzmenko, Deputy Head for Environmental Protection of MRCC of the Lithuanian NAVY.
- 0.4. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Heli Haapasaari, Chair of the Response Working Group.
- 0.5. Ms. Susanna Kaasinen, Project manager of HELCOM, and Mr. Alexey Bakhtov, Project Researcher of HELCOM, acted as Secretaries of the Meeting.

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

Documents: 1-1

- 1.1. The Meeting adopted the agenda as contained in document 1-1 with the addition of item 10.7 on non-traditional oil types. The Meeting agreed that 10.7 will be a standing Agenda Item in the coming HELCOM Response meetings.

Agenda Item 2 Matters arising from HELCOM meetings

Document: 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4

- 2.1. The Meeting took note of the information about the report 'Implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan 2018 – three years left to reach good environmental status' (document 2-1). The Meeting noted that the work on the remaining RESPONSE related regional action on HELCOM Response Manual Vol II will be discussed under agenda item 10.1.
- 2.2. The Meeting encouraged the countries to nominate representatives and take actively part in the work of the EWG OWR and SHORE Network. This cooperation will support the implementation of the remaining national response related actions and thus contribute to fulfilling the goals set in the Baltic Sea Action Plan and in subsequent HELCOM Ministerial Meetings.
- 2.3. The Meeting took note that HELCOM 39-2018 considered and adopted the proposal for the update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (document 2-2). HELCOM working groups and expert groups will be engaged in the process of updating BSAP to provide input and utilize the existing HELCOM expertise.
- 2.4. The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting held on 6 March 2018, in Brussels, Belgium (document 2-3).
- 2.5. The Meeting took note of the Outcomes of the 52nd Meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation (HOD 52-2017), the 53rd Meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation (HOD 53-2017) and the 39th Meeting of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM 39-2018) (document 2-4) and the following response-related decisions:
- HOD 53-2017 agreed on HELCOM engagement in a joint project application on updating regional response manuals on chemical spills (for HELCOM: Response Manual volume II) to the DG ECHO together with, Mediterranean (REMPEC), North Sea (BONN) as well as possibly also other regional secretariats as well as member state institutions as project partners.
 - HOD 53-2017 approved the prolongation of the mandate of the RESPONSE Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR) until end of 2018.

- HELCOM 39-2018 adopted the revised HELCOM Recommendation 36/3 Marine pollution incident reporting and requests for assistance between Contracting Parties in the Baltic Sea area.

Agenda Item 3 Risk assessments, OPENRISK and Safety of Navigation

Documents: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4

- 3.1. The Meeting took note of the HELCOM Maritime Assessment, which was released in March 2018 and covers a wide range of human activities at sea including operational and accidental pollution from maritime traffic, fisheries, aquaculture, offshore energy production, cables and pipelines, submerged hazardous objects, and leisure boating (document 3-1). The Meeting encouraged the Contracting Parties to utilize the assessment in their work.
- 3.2. The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the 28th Meeting of the Expert Working Group for Mutual Exchange and Deliveries of AIS & Data (HELCOM AIS EWG) - AIS EWG 28-2017 held on 7-8 June 2017 in Stockholm, Sweden (document 3-2).
- 3.3. The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the Eighth Meeting of the HELCOM Group of Experts on Safety of Navigation (SAFE NAV 8-2017) held on 28 September 2017 in Stockholm/Arlanda, Sweden (document 3-3).
- 3.4. The Meeting took note of the information on the First draft of the OPENRISK Guideline for Regional Risk Management to Improve European Preparedness and Response at Sea and the presentation by the Chair on behalf of the Project Manager Valtteri Laine (document 3-4, **Presentation 1**). The Meeting discussed further improvement of the OPENRISK Guideline and considered joint HELCOM Response messages to the third OPENRISK project workshop to be held on 24-25 April 2018 in Malta.
- 3.5. The Meeting pointed out that the report is referring to an ISO 31000:2009 standard from 2009 in its first two chapters although a new version of the ISO 31000:2018 standard is available. The Meeting tasked the Project Manager to check the use of the updated version of the ISO standard and make changes to the report accordingly.
- 3.6. The Meeting welcomed the information that the third OPENRISK project workshop in Malta will be more hands-on and oriented to the needs of the end-users.
- 3.7. The Meeting agreed that there is a need to discuss the outcomes of the OPENRISK project and their future utilization during RESPONSE 25-2018. The Meeting further considered that the proposal by RESPONSE 25-2018 should be submitted to the Heads of delegation or the HELCOM Annual Meeting.
- 3.8. The Meeting discussed the idea of launching an expert working group or network on risk assessment and encouraged the contacts of the Response Working group to contact the national Maritime Working Group experts and highlighted the importance of also their participation in the last workshops of the OPENRISK project.
- 3.9. The Meeting supported the involvement of NGOs as well as the response planning and risk assessment research community in the work of such a network. The Meeting also noted the importance of including elements of on shore as well as wildlife response to risk assessments.
- 3.10. The Meeting took note of the information about the project proposal “Open tools for risk management of maritime accidents and spills – bridging the software gap” (document 3-5). The Meeting expressed varied views on the need of the new tool. The Meeting highlighted that there should be a clear need and aim if such a tool would be developed by a new project. The Meeting was also of the opinion that the software developers and end-users should exchange views already before the application phase to ensure proper project outcomes. The Meeting noted that if a new tool should be developed, the objective should not be to replace the national risk assessment tools or the in-depth risk analysis of maritime or pollution incidents but to have a simplified tool that covers all European waters thus enabling comparison of risks in different areas. The Meeting also discussed that it is important for the stakeholders to know what parameters are included in risk assessment.

- 3.11. The Meeting took note that the Secretariat sent out a request for maritime accident data during 2016 and 2017. The deadline for submitting information is 31 May 2018. At the same time a request was sent out regarding response operations of spills of significant character (c.f. Agenda Item 4, document 4-1).
- 3.12. The Meeting took note of the information on the outcome of the workshop co-organised by EMSA and DG ECHO on “Risk Assessment and Response Planning in Europe”, held on 14 March 2018 in London (document 13-1). The Meeting noted the following issues that were highlighted from the outcome: the need to look for sustainable funding mechanisms for risk assessments which could be a task for the Regional agreements; the need for clearly defined and less complex risk assessment procedures and open source tools; the importance of identifying the purpose of the assessments before conducting them; suggestion of introducing data standards for input to make it comparable among the regions; the importance to engage all relevant stakeholders throughout the process; the need for guidance to move from risk assessment to pollution response management and reassessing the effectiveness of response assets.
- 3.13. The Meeting took note that an EPPR scoping workshop on risk assessment methods and metadata was held within the framework of the Arctic Council from 30 October to 1 November 2017 in Ålesund, Norway and that the discussion topics in the workshop included dealing with incidents in different countries, communication, liaison officers and information sharing.
- 3.14. The Meeting took note that MARITIME 17-2017 agreed to discontinue the work on the Correspondence Group to revise HELCOM Recommendation 28/3 on “Guidelines on bunkering operations and ship to ship cargo transfer of oils, subject to Annex I of MARPOL 73/78, in the Baltic Sea Area” (CG STS) and that further work to consider the environmental effects/risks of bunkering operations and ship to ship transfers in the Baltic Sea, and also the revision of HELCOM Recommendation 28/3 should take place as part of the HELCOM Green Team (sub-group of MARITIME).
- 3.15. The Meeting took note that Lithuania had sent out a questionnaire on bunkering and received answers from most countries. The Meeting welcomed the intention to submit the results to HELCOM Secretariat to be shared with the HELCOM Green Team as well as with the Response working group.
- 3.16. The Meeting took note that Finland has defined two areas where ship to ship cargo transfers are allowed.

Agenda Item 4 Matters related to recent response operations

Documents: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3

- 4.1. The Meeting took note that Contracting Parties have been invited to report recent (2017-2018) significant response operations at sea and on the shore, and lessons learnt from these operations using a template (document 4-1), and two documents were received on the subject. The same information has also been requested as part of the data request on shipping accidents 2016-2017, circulated by the Secretariat on 29 March 2018. The deadline for information submissions to HELCOM (markus.helavuori@helcom.fi), using the provided template, is 31 May 2018.
- 4.2. The Meeting took note of the information by Finland about the recent response operations (**Presentation 2**). Fewer illegal oil discharges in sea areas were reported to the Finnish authorities in 2017 than in the previous year. There were 44 oil discharges in 2017, compared to 48 in 2016 (document 4-2).
- 4.3. The Meeting took note of the information by Sweden on “Operation Atlantic” (document 4-3). The operation was challenging because due to the grounding the water depth was too low for the response vessel.
- 4.4. The Meeting took note that Finland has developed a temporary storage concept called “Valas” that is suitable also for shallow water conditions. These floating storages are available in sizes from 50 to 200 m³.

4.5. The Meeting took note of the information by Denmark on a recent accident where it was noted that in SafeSeaNet actual voyage information does not match if the ship is delayed.

4.6. The Meeting took note of the information regarding an accident where the vessel “Ocean Crown” had grounded by the Lithuanian coastline near Klaipeda on 24 December 2017. There were several problematic issues as the vessel was in anchorage area and the captain did not report problems with the engine. High wind speed made the operation difficult. Eventually the vessel started drifting to the shore. No pollution was detected. After the incident, the need for emergency towing capacity in Lithuania was discussed. Since the incident, financing for a new multi-purpose vessel has been secured. Lithuania will have emergency towing capacity once the new vessel is on duty 2022.

Agenda Item 5 National preparedness at sea and on shore

Documents: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3

5.1. The Meeting recalled that the Contracting Parties decided in RESPONSE 21-2016 to use a reporting template suggested by EWG SHORE 12-2016 for reporting national developments including on shore, at sea and oiled wildlife response. Only one such report was submitted by the deadline of 3 April 2018. The Meeting discussed further use of the template (document 5-1) and agreed that the template is good but lack of time has been preventing its wider usage, and decided to use it also when preparing for RESPONSE 25-2018.

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- Sweden: Re-organization of the Coast Guard took place two years ago and some adjustments are still made. There will be only one command centre in Gothenburg as of 1 June so the centre in Stockholm will cease to exist. National response manual has been updated and it will be decided upon on 28 April. Agreement with local fire brigades to help maritime emergency groups is ending and discussion on the continuation is ongoing. There are ongoing investigations into preparing for major crisis in the society. Sweden is also looking into prolonging the lifetime of some response vessels.

5.3. The Meeting took note that regarding the EMSA plan to establish a new EAS depot in the northern Baltic Sea area, the HELCOM Secretariat was contacted in January 2018 with the request to consult the HELCOM Response group regarding desirable stand-alone response equipment. The Meeting further took note that an ad hoc Correspondence Group was established and the group delivered to EMSA a list of proposal for equipment. The Meeting took note also that the list delivered to EMSA includes equipment that EMSA already has due to earlier procurements and those that EMSA has a framework contract for as well as equipment that EMSA does not currently have. The Meeting noted that EMSA finances and procurement rules will define which of these proposed equipment will be available in the new stockpile. The Meeting also noted that EMSA does not have a mandate for shoreline response which means that no shoreline response equipment can be included in the depot. The Meeting thanked EMSA for consulting the regional authorities in the process of defining the equipment for the new depot.

5.4. The Meeting took note of the clarification by EMSA that the equipment listed in the currently open "Procurement Procedure No EMSA/CPNEG/2/2018 - Service Contract for Equipment Assistance Service (EAS) Northern Baltic Sea" is indicative and lists equipment which is in other depots or to which EMSA has a framework contract.

5.5. The Meeting took note of the information from Finland on a new three-year long R&D project, APP4SEA (Arctic Preparedness Platform for Oil Spill and other Environmental Accidents), financed by the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme was started in the early summer 2017 in coordination of the University of Oulu, Finland (document 5-2).

Agenda Item 6 Sub-regional co-operation

Documents: 6-1

6.1. The Meeting took note of the information by Denmark, the Lead Country of the intersessional Correspondence Group on revision of [HELCOM Recommendation 28E/12](#), on the progress for mutual understanding and definition of target spill and other progress in revision of the Recommendation. The Meeting noted that Denmark has sent out a questionnaire asking national definitions for target spills and received answers from some countries but not from all. The Meeting further took note that from the replies

received so far it is clear that the approaches to definition of target spill are varied. The Meeting invited Denmark to send a reminder to the countries that have not answered.

6.2. The Meeting discussed sub-regional target spills and took note that many Contracting Parties preferred national target spills to sub-regional targets. The Meeting also considered target spill for the whole Baltic Sea as an option.

6.3. The Meeting invited the Correspondence Group to report to RESPONSE 25-2018 and requested the Secretariat to set up a workspace in the HELCOM Meeting Portal including information from the previous HELCOM RESPONSE workshop on capacity building in the Baltic Sea region held on 23 February 2016, in Helsinki, Finland.

6.4. The Meeting noted that the Recommendation 28E/12 could be developed to include a description of the tiered response rather than a fixed sub-regional target values.

Agenda Item 7 Response on the shore and wildlife response

Documents: 7-1, 7-2, 7-3, 7-3-add1, 7-4

7.1. The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the Ninth Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR 9-2017), held on 19 October 2017 in Helsinki, Finland, and the two-day seminar and training event (wildlife managers' course by Sea Alarm) held prior to the meeting on 17-18 October 2017, and the Outcome of EWG OWR 10-2018, held on 8 February 2018 as an online meeting (document 7-1) as well as the presentation by the Chair of EWG OWR (**Presentation 3**).

7.2. The Meeting took note and discussed the Report on OWR activities in 2017 (document 7-3, 7-3-add1) and took note that EWG OWR will most likely apply for extension of its mandate at RESPONSE 25-2018.

7.3. The Meeting invited the EWG OWR to make a list of the equipment for oiled wildlife response in the Baltic Sea region and encouraged the Contracting Parties that are EU Member States and have oiled wildlife response resources that can be mobilized for international assistance to add them to CECIS Marine Pollution (CECIS MP) database.

7.4. The Meeting welcomed the offer by Sweden, Lithuania and Russia to make efforts to coordinate with relevant national organizations to nominate contacts and actively take part in the work of EWG OWR.

7.5. The Meeting took note of the update on OWR developments outside of the Baltic (document 7-2, **Presentation 4**).

7.6. The Meeting took note that Finland is planning to organize an OWR exercise in autumn 2018.

7.7. The Meeting took note of the activities of HELCOM SHORE Network (document 7-4) and endorsed the Work Plan 2018-2019 (**Annex 3**) for the SHORE Network for approval by HOD 54-2018. The Meeting took note that the next SHORE Network meeting will take place on 30 August 2018 in Karlskrona, Sweden, in conjunction with the BALEX DELTA 2018.

7.8. The Meeting further invited Contracting Parties to nominate candidates for Vice-Chair and the Contracting Parties who have not yet nominated contacts to the SHORE Network to do so **by end of May 2018** by informing the HELCOM Secretariat (Alexey.bakhtov@helcom.fi).

Agenda Item 8 Wrecks and other submerged hazardous objects

Documents: 8-1, 8-2

8.1. The Meeting took note of SUBMERGED activities and progress presented by Mr. Jens Rauterberg on behalf of the co-chair of SUBMERGED (munitions) Mr. Jens Sternheim (**Presentation 5**).

- 8.2. The Meeting took note of the information on the outcome of the seminar “Wrecks as Environmental Risks: The Legal Framework” held on 29-30 November 2017 in Helsinki, Finland as presented by Mr. Jorma Rytkönen co-chair of SUBMERGED (wrecks) (document 8-1, **Presentation 2**).
- 8.3. The Meeting took note that SUBMERGED is planning to request for a prolongation for the group’s mandate beyond 2018 and invited the group to submit the request as a document to RESPONSE 25-2018.
- 8.4. The Meeting took note of an EU-funded project “Expanded underwater robotics ready for oil spill” (e-URready4OS) that could have synergies with SUBMERGED.
- 8.5. The Meeting took note of the information by Denmark that the Danish HELCOM MARITIME contact could be contacted for nomination of a Danish point of contact for HELCOM SUBMERGED and engagement in the panel work.
- 8.6. The Meeting noted that in some countries responsibility for the wrecks lies with other authorities than the pollution response responsibility and thus requested one of the co-chairs of SUBMERGED to take part in the next HELCOM MARITIME meeting to inform about SUBMERGED information request.
- 8.7. The Meeting took note of the information provided by Sweden about the removal of oil from the wreck Thetis (document 8-2).

Agenda Item 9 Remote Sensing

Documents: 9-2, 9-2, 9-3, 9-4

9.1 Aerial surveillance

- 9.1. The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the Informal Working Group on Aerial Surveillance (IWGAS 2018) held on 22-23 March 2018 at Stockholm/Skavsta airport, Sweden (document 9-3).
- 9.2. The Meeting approved the draft HELCOM Annual report on discharges observed during aerial surveillance in the Baltic Sea 2017 for publishing on the HELCOM web page (document 9-1 **Presentation 6**) pending confirmation on the Danish flight hours during darkness and correcting the information into the report.
- 9.3. The Meeting agreed to update section 7.5.3 of the HELCOM Response Manual Volume I Chapter 7 as proposed in paragraph 3.10 of the outcome of IWGAS 2018:
Regular surveillance operations in darkness are recommended, but the share of flights flown in darkness (according to the aviation definition) is recommended to be 15-25% on average, to be decided by the responsible authorities in the Contracting Parties based on operational assessment.
- 9.4. The Meeting instructed the Secretariat to undertake the changes regarding contact lists as described in paragraph 6.2 of the Outcome.
- 9.5. The Meeting considered the proposal to amend section 7.4.2 of the HELCOM Response Manual Volume I to state that Super CEPCOs should be organized once every four years under HELCOM and once every four years under the Bonn Agreement which means that there would be a Super CEPCO in either the Baltic Sea or the North Sea every second year. During years when no Super CEPCOs are organized, the HELCOM Contracting Parties should organize CEPCOs or Mini CEPCOs (c.f. paragraph 4.6).
- 9.6. The Meeting agreed on the way forward in seeking concurrence by the Bonn Agreement to the proposed changes. The Meeting invited the Secretariat to raise the proposed changes to the frequency with the Bonn Agreement followed by consideration by HELCOM HODs.
- 9.7. The Meeting took note that IWGAS suggested a change in operational needs for satellite coverage provided through the CleanSeaNet Service, as described in paragraphs 5.4-5.5 of the Outcome. However, EMSA informed that there is no technical possibility to such change.

- 9.8. The Meeting took note of the consideration of a possible need for co-organizing a seminar on collecting evidences in maritime environmental crimes together with the Network of Prosecutors on Environmental Crime in the Baltic Sea Region (ENPRO) and noted the intention to discuss the matter further at IWGAS 2019 under a dedicated agenda item (c.f. paragraphs 2.6 and 2.7).
- 9.9. The Meeting took note of the intention to include a separate section with data from other types of aerial surveillance, such as helicopters and drones in future HELCOM Annual reports on discharges observed during aerial surveillance in the Baltic Sea.
- 9.10. The Meeting considered the clear trend of increased detections of operational spills of other substances than oil (potentially MARPOL Annex II substances) (c.f. paragraph 3.12).
- 9.11. The Meeting considered the possibility of including provisions on Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) in Chapter 7 of the HELCOM Response Manual Volume I (c.f. paragraph 6.1) and agreed that the new text could be added as part of the revision of the Manual.
- 9.12. The Meeting welcomed the confirmation by Estonia to be the chairing country for IWGAS 2019-2020.

9.2 Use of satellites for detecting illegal discharges

- 9.13. The Meeting took note of document 9-2 “2017 CleanSeaNet Statistics within HELCOM region” which summarizes the results of CleanSeaNet service deliveries, CleanSeaNet detections and the verification activities carried out by the Coastal States and the presentation by EMSA (**Presentation 7**).

9.3 STW/AIS/SAT model

- 9.14. The Meeting did not discuss the STW/AIS/SAT model.

9.4 Investigation and prosecution of offenders of anti-pollution regulations

- 9.15. The Meeting took note that MARITIME 17-2017 decided to discontinue the Correspondence Group on updating of [HELCOM Recommendation 19/14](#) on a harmonized system of fines in case a ship violates anti-pollution regulations (CG FINES) due to lack of progress and agreed to return to the revision in the future if needed.

Agenda Item 10 Other developments in response strategies and equipment

Documents: 10-1, 10-2

10.1 HNS Response

- 10.1. The Meeting recalled that RESPONSE 23-2017 decided to close the TG HNS MANUAL and thanked all the countries which contributed to the work, recalling that the latest outcome of the TG is available (document 11.1-2 of RESPONSE 23-2017) and supported the idea of a joint project with other regional organizations as a possible opportunity to continue the work which was initiated in the TG.
- 10.2. The Meeting took note that HOD 53-2017 agreed on HELCOM engagement in a joint project application (cf. paragraph 2.5).
- 10.3. The Meeting also took note that a project application is being prepared for submission by REMPEC to DG ECHO before the end of April. It is envisaged that ITOPF and Cedre draft an inter-regional HNS response manual, while HELCOM would participate in overseeing the work, reviewing drafts etc. The intention is also to consider the manual within the context of HELCOM RESPONSE. The Meeting supported the joint project proposal.
- 10.4. The Meeting took note that Sweden is working on a project to raise the level of competence of response vessels in chemical response which will be finalized by the end of the year and welcomed the offer to share the outcome for other Contracting Parties to learn from.
- 10.5. The Meeting took note of the information on progress within the CHEMSAR project presented by Mr. Teemu Niemelä (**Presentation 8**).

10.6. The Meeting took note that Estonia is hosting an exercise as part of the CHEMSAR project on 13 September 2018 and that interested participants are invited to contact Ms. Marit Mätik (marit.matik@siseministerium.ee) **by end of May 2018**.

10.7. The Meeting took note of the information provided by EMSA on progress within the MAR-CIS and MAR-ICE service (document 13-1). The Meeting noted that the MAR-ICE service has been extended and the current contract is in force till October 2022. EMSA also informed that the correspondence group under the umbrella of the Consultative Technical Group for Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response (CTG MPPR) to develop an HNS training course will continue its work now that the MARINER project has ended.

10.2 Response to oil in ice

10.8. The Meeting took note of the information provided by Finland on the international arctic event in the northern city of Oulu 6-8 March 2018, run under the Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic (MOSPA) and the Copenhagen Agreement as well as the presentation by Mr. Jorma Rytkönen (document 10-2, **Presentation 2**).

10.9. The Meeting took note of the information provided by Finland on recent efforts to develop Mechanical Oil Recovery Brushes for Cold Conditions (document 10-1).

10.10. The Meeting took note of the information provided by Finland on the SYKE R&D project to define the impact of the bristle material to the oil recovery capability of skimmers in cold condition.

10.3 Places of Refuge

10.11. The Meeting took note that Sweden is starting work regarding places of refuge and will inform of the progress in RESPONSE 25-2018.

10.12. The Meeting took note that Finland has planned to change Border Guard as the response authority regarding places of refuge.

10.13. The Meeting took note that EMSA has recently published guidelines on Places of refuge.

10.4 Response at night/in bad visibility

10.14. The Meeting took note of the information on the meeting on the “benchmarking of on-board oil slick detection systems” draft report. The Meeting invited EMSA to submit the updated report to RESPONSE 25-2018 if available.

10.15. The Meeting took note that Germany is finalizing planning for two new multi-purpose vessels with on-board oil slick detection system and eventually has the aim to equip all vessels with it. Germany is interested to include a combination radar and other detection systems.

10.5 Emergency towing

10.16. The Meeting did not discuss emergency towing.

10.6 Use of dispersants

10.17. The Meeting did not discuss use of dispersants.

10.7 Non-traditional fuel types

10.18. The Meeting took note of the information provided by Denmark on response involving non-traditional fuel types, such as low sulphur fuel. The Meeting noted that hybrid oil refers to a group of fuels and that it has not been properly tested how harmful these fuels are to the environment or how effective the current response equipment is in operations including hybrid oils. The Meeting further took note that in preliminary test by Norway in 2016 there were difficulties to pick up the hybrid oil with mechanical response tools. The in-situ burning and dispersants did not work towards one of the oil types tested either.

10.19. The Meeting agreed that the topic is important to follow as hybrid oils will be widely used in the future.

10.20. The Meeting took note of an intended Norwegian project on testing how to respond to hybrid oil in test facility seeking EU co-financing and that the project proposal is to be submitted in 2019.

10.21. The Meeting supported learning more of this topic and inviting experts to present the latest results of the project. The Meeting agreed to set up a workspace for knowledge sharing. The Meeting welcomed the offer by Denmark to share updates from the planned Norwegian project and noted that it would be useful to have a partner in the project testing response to hybrid oils in brackish water conditions.

10.22. The Meeting also took note that Norway has been invited to share results of the work already conducted on hybrid oils in CTG MPPR and that CECIS MP has a forum function that can be used to form a workspace.

10.23. The Meeting took note that Finland has prior activities related to this topic including testing skimmers in cold conditions and testing pyrolysis oil, which is a side product of forest industry, in lake conditions. The Meeting further noted that Finland will start a new project in spring 2018 testing biofuels in laboratory conditions and welcomed the offer to report on the results in the next meeting of the Response group.

Agenda Item 11 Exercises

Documents 11-1, 11-2, 11-3

11.1. The Meeting took note of the information provided by Sweden on detailed plans of the HELCOM BALEX DELTA 2018 as well as the BALEX DELTA 2018 project funded by DG ECHO (document 11-3). The Meeting took note that planning conferences have taken place and that there are different groups working on topics such as evaluation, observers, scenarios and communication.

11.2. The Meeting took note of the information provided by Sweden on use of SafeSeaNet and CECIS MP in BALEX DELTA 2018 (document 11-1) and discussed the proposal to use the operational modes of SafeSeaNet and CECIS MP to create an understanding of how the two systems work in the operational modes. The Meeting invited Sweden to send a question to EMSA and DG ECHO to find out if the operational modes can be used within BALEX DELTA 2018. The Meeting took note the view by DG Echo that the differences in the training mode and operational mode should be specified to explain the request and that the exercise mode is useful to avoid confusion especially with countries that do not take part in the exercise but are still receiving the first alert.

11.3. The Meeting took note of the information by Poland regarding the BALEX DELTA 2018 pre-exercise in two phases. The first phase took place on 22-23 March 2018 and involved exchange of POLREPs via emails using information on the national contact points listed in HELCOM Response Manual Volume I. Almost all countries participated and exchanged messages. The second phase took place on 4-6 April 2018 using SafeSeaNet and CECIS MP for requesting and accepting assistance. One of the aims was also to see how many stages the alarm would trigger in the countries.

11.4. The Meeting took note that the organizers thought that it was much easier to manage SafeSeaNet and CECIS MP than only standards emails and that it was convenient to use CECIS MP to keep track of the flow of the exercise as well as the suggestion to focus on these two methods in the future. The Meeting also noted that the Russian contacts in Kaliningrad had informed that they have no access to SafeSeaNet and CECIS MP and can only take part via email.

11.5. The Meeting requested all Contracting Parties that are planning to send vessels to BALEX DELTA 2018 and have not registered to inform Sweden (Balaxdelta2018@coastguard.se), with a copy to HELCOM Secretariat (alexey.bakhtov@helcom.fi) **by 13 April 2018**.

11.6. The Meeting recalled that RESPONSE 23-2017 decided to test the new EET in BALEX DELTA 2018 with the members consisting of Russia, Sweden, Denmark and Estonia and that the chair of the EET group in 2018 will be Denmark, deviating from the general rule in the EET ToRs (RESPONSE 23-2017 Outcome Annex 3).

- 11.7. The Meeting took note of the information provided by Denmark on systematic approach in pollution prevention exercises and the presentation by Mr. Torben Iversen (**Presentation 9**).
- 11.8. The Meeting noted that Denmark will ask for feedback first from Copenhagen Agreement and provide a document on evaluation considerations by end of June which will be submitted to the BALEX DELTA evaluation team.
- 11.9. The Meeting recalled the current schedule of HELCOM BALEX DELTA exercises up to 2025, as agreed by RESPONSE 15-2012, 17-2013 and 23-2017: 2018 Sweden, 2019 Denmark, 2020 Estonia, 2021 Finland, 2022 Germany, 2023 Latvia, 2024 Lithuania, 2025 Poland and 2026 Russia and the decision by RESPONSE 20-2015 that starting from BALEX DELTA 2017 the exercises will be held in August (c.f. § 11.3 of the Outcome of the Meeting).
- 11.10. The Meeting took note of the information provided by the Exercise Evaluation team (EET) of BALEX DELTA 2017 (Kaliningrad, Russia 8-10 August 2017), consisting of Lithuania, Russia and Sweden, on the status of the report of the exercise, and noted that that the EET will submit the report using the evaluation template as found in RESPONSE 21-2016 document 11-4 (RESPONSE 21-2016 §11.18).
- 11.11. The Meeting took note of the remarks by the EET of BALEX DELTA 2017 that it would be useful to have more people involved in the EET and that the briefing on the day before the exercise was informative but could had been organized with a more limited number of participants, mostly captains of the participating vessels.
- 11.12. The Meeting noted the view by the EET that the at-sea exercise was difficult to evaluate and there was a problem with translation from Russian to English in the observer vessel.
- 11.13. The Meeting took note that the EET deemed the shoreline exercise successful including good logistical support, multiple equipment and ample human resource as well as responders from local authorities, private companies and government organizations working well together. The shoreline exercise was lacking information regarding oil drifting forecast but air surveillance information via helicopters was available.
- 11.14. The Meeting took note that the final report of BALEX DELTA 2017 has been submitted to the HELCOM Secretariat.
- 11.15. The Meeting agreed that exercise evaluation should be discussed in a structured manner in RESPONSE 25-2018 based on the experiences of the new EET.
- 11.16. The Meeting took note of the information provided by Finland on main exercises in 2017 and planned exercises in 2018 (document 11-2). Finland informed about several exercises and training sessions conducted by the Finnish Environmental Institute (SYKE) in 2017. Altogether SYKE arranged or participated in close to 20 exercises and training opportunities. Additionally several trainings were arranged to use the Situational Awareness Tool "BORIS" in 2017.
- 11.17. The Meeting took note of a presentation by Finland on lessons learned from a national test and training event to EMSA's Speed Sweep 1500 in Finland (**Presentation 2**).

Agenda Item 12 HELCOM Recommendations and Response Manual

Documents: 12-1rev.1, 12-1-att1, 12-1-att2, 12-2, 12-3, 12-4

- 12.1. The Meeting recalled that RESPONSE 23-2017 took note that it is technically possible and relatively easy for EMSA to extract data on Baltic Sea coastal states response resources from the CECIS MP database as an Excel sheet and agreed that EMSA extracts this data from CECIS MP and forwards it to the Secretariat to be considered as an update of the HELCOM Response Manual. An extract of coastal states response resources from EMSA was received by the Secretariat in September 2017 (document 12-1 Rev.1, 12-1 Att.1, 12-1 Att.2).

- 12.2. The Meeting noted that the Excel file extracted from CECIS MP provided to the Secretariat does not include shoreline response equipment as this data is not available to EMSA and therefore CPs are asked to add this information to CECIS MP.
- 12.3. The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties that are EU members to update the equipment data in CECIS MP **by 10 August 2018** to ensure updated information in the HELCOM Response Manual Volume I to be used in BALEX DELTA 2018. The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to inform the Secretariat when the update is done.
- 12.4. The Meeting took note of the information on CECIS Marine one-day training event at the end of May 2018. The Meeting also noted that further trainings can be organized but no travel costs can be covered and that there is a possibility to include 12 participants per training session.
- 12.5. The Meeting checked national contact information and web links included in Chapter 1 of the [HELCOM Response Manual Volume I](#) (at sea, on shore and oiled wildlife) (document 12-2) and invited all Contracting Parties to send a message to the HELCOM Secretariat (alexey.bakhtov@helcom.fi) ensuring that the information has been checked and is up-to-date.
- 12.6. The Meeting recalled that up-to date contact information is very important as according to [HELCOM Recommendation 36/3](#) POLREP messages should be sent via SafeSeaNet, Marine Pollution CECIS or any available communication means.
- 12.7. The Meeting took note that HELCOM 39-2018 adopted the Revised HELCOM Recommendation 36/3 (document 12-3).
- 12.8. The Meeting took note of the list of RESPONSE related HELCOM recommendations and invited Contracting Parties to submit any proposals regarding deletion or revision as well as suggestions for merging Recommendations dealing with the same topic to HELCOM RESPONSE 25-2018 **by 24 October 2018**.
- 12.9. The Meeting took note of the information by Chair on the informal meeting on 8 August 2017 in conjunction with BALEX DELTA 2017 in Kaliningrad aiming to identify needs for update and to scope the amount of work, to streamline the contents of currently valid Manual Volume I in order to make it more user friendly. The Meeting invited the Chair to circulate the notes of the informal meeting updated based on the discussion in RESPONSE 24-2018 **by end of April 2018**. The Meeting requested the agreed chapter leaders to make proposals on updating the chapters **by 1 August 2018**.

Agenda Item 13 Activities within other organizations and initiatives

Documents: 13-1

- 13.1. The Meeting took note of the information provided by EMSA on main achievements during the year 2017 and proposed new projects with focus on the Baltic Sea region (document 13-1, **Presentation 10**).
- 13.2. The Meeting took note of the information regarding future events organized by EMSA as follows: 6th Surveillance training workshop 15-17 May 2018 (invitations have been sent out); 1st Oil Spill sampling (OSInet) 19-20 September, Spain; 13th CTG-MPPR meeting 17 October 2018; 8th PRS User Group meeting 18 October 2017; and EAS training in Gdansk, Poland, week 23.
- 13.3. The Meeting took note of the information on the Civil protection forum organized by DG ECHO on 5-6 March 2018 in Brussels including a breakout session on a multi-hazard event which could also be considered as a scenario for one of the upcoming BALEX DELTA exercises.
- 13.4. The Meeting took note of a publication "[Pollutions accidentelles des eaux par des substances nocives et potentiellement dangereuses](#)" by Cedre and Transport Canada on HNS response.

Agenda Item 14 Any other business

Documents: 14-1

14.1. The Meeting checked and updated the list of contact addresses and Observers of the Response Working Group (document 14-1) as contained in **Annex 2**.

Agenda Item 15 Future work and meetings

Documents: 15-1

15.1. The Meeting considered and updated the Work Plan of the Response Working Group 2017-2018 as contained in **Annex 4**.

15.2. The Meeting took note that RESPONSE 25-2018 will be organised in Germany (Rostock-Warnemunde) on 14-16 November 2018, back-to-back with the BALEX DELTA lessons learned conference on 13 November.

15.3. The Meeting welcomed the offer by Poland to host RESPONSE 26-2019 tentatively in spring 2019 and the offer by Denmark to host a Response meeting in 2020.

15.4. The Meeting thanked Lithuania for hosting the meeting and for the kind hospitality

Agenda item 16 Outcome of the Meeting

Documents: 16-1

16.1. The Meeting adopted the draft Outcome of the Meeting as contained in document 16-1.

16.2. The final Outcome of the Meeting has been finalized by the Secretariat and made available on the HELCOM Meeting Portal together with the documents and presentation given during the Meeting.

Annex 1 List of participants

Name	Representing	Organisation	Email address
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Annex 2 Contact addresses of the HELCOM Response Working Group in the Contracting Parties

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Annex 3 SHORE Network Work Plan 2018-2019

Action	Responsible	Milestone
1. Share knowledge and experiences regarding national developments	SHORE Network	Continuous Meetings of SHORE network Meetings of RESPONSE
2. Proposals for updating of the relevant parts of the HELCOM Response Manual	Contacts of SHORE network	Continuous
Update information in the Annex I and II in the Manual Volume III	Contacts of SHORE network	Meetings of SHORE network
Combine the chapters on exercise in Volumes I and III	Chair of SHORE network in co-operation with the person responsible for the exercise chapter in Volume I Chair of EWG OWR to check the OWR parts	Evaluation report of BALEX DELTA 2018
Consider the need and make proposal to merge other material in Volumes I and III	Contacts of SHORE network	Meetings of SHORE network Meetings of RESPONSE
3. Other proposals concerning best/good practices regarding on shore response	SHORE network	continuous
Identifying best/good practices related to response on shore	SHORE network Invited guests	continuous
Create and update a list of links to relevant internationally published material in HELCOM Meeting Portal	SHORE network	Meeting of SHORE network 2-2018
4. Proposals for prioritization of on shore exercise themes	SHORE network	International exercises Response meetings
Expert exchange	Contacts of SHORE network	International exercises
Make proposals to the Response group for the use of identified best/good practices in upcoming exercises (e.g. in topics such as use of drones for shoreline mapping, use of volunteers, use of satellite images)	SHORE network (in consultation with EWG OWR if necessary)	BALEX DELTA and other international exercises

Annex 4 Work Plan for HELCOM Response Working Group 2017-2018

Approved by HOD 51-2016 and revised by HELCOM RESPONSE 23-2017 and 24-2018

ACTION	INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES/ RESPONSIBLE	RESULTS/ TIME FRAME
Maintain and further develop the standing operational network for trans-national response in case of incidents		
Keep HELCOM Response Manual up to date including current Volume I (oil) as well as the new Volume III (response on the shore)	Contracting Parties/Secretariat Intersessional work	Continuously Scrutiny at HELCOM RESPONSE
Improve the usability and ease of updating of HELCOM Response Manuals by exploring new electronic means of publishing including i.e. smartphone apps.	Secretariat	Continuously Scrutiny at HELCOM RESPONSE
Consider complete revision of the HELCOM Response Manual (all Volumes)	Contracting Parties, Expert working groups	Follow up at RESPONSE 25 2018
Carry out a major revision of Volume II (chemicals) via a joint European project.	Contracting Parties/Secretariat	Project proposal coordinated by REMPEC, to be submitted by 25 April 2018 HELCOM RESPONSE 25-2018
Implement HELCOM Response Exercise Plan	Contracting Parties EET	BALEX DELTA 2018 Draft to be considered at RESPONSE 25-2018
Carry out operational and other kinds of exercises in order to train the topics included in the HELCOM Response Exercise Plan	Lead Countries/Contracting Parties BALEX DELTA 2018: Lead Country Sweden EETs to inform about the applicability of the evaluation framework developed for shore exercises Denmark to inform about BALEX DELTA 2019 Other HELCOM and sub-regional exercises On shore response exercises and OWR exercises, which can be combined with other exercises, as appropriate.	Annual activities EET of BALEX DELTA 2018 RESPONSE 25-2018
Build and follow up new knowledge on dispersants' use and applicability in the Baltic Sea	Contracting Parties	Continuously
Implement a three-tier approach to ensure adequate response to incidents in the Baltic Sea Area, with a special focus on the second tier (sub-regional level)		

Based upon national and regional risk assessments on oil and chemical pollution prepare sub-regional and regional targets for the response preparedness	Contracting Parties Correspondence Group on HELCOM Rec 28E/12 led by Denmark	Continuously Further discussion at RESPONSE 25-2018
Develop tools and methodology for regular regional assessments of maritime risks	Contracting Parties RESPONSE MARITIME (SAFE NAV) OPENRISK project led by HELCOM (including wider cooperation with e.g. other regional seas conventions)	Continuously. Further discussion at RESPONSE 25 2018
Conclude/implement sub-regional agreements	Contracting Parties	Continuously
Co-operate by conducting trainings and organizing exchange programmes to ensure swift and adequate response capacity to shoreline pollution and to develop best practices	Contracting Parties RESPONSE Intersessional work	Continuously
Implement and update if needed Response Manual Volume III (response on the shore) Ensure that response on the shore is integrated with overall contingency planning Make proposals on how to improve access to national and regional information on sensitive areas and sensitive coasts Provide annual cross-border or international exercises Follow up the outcome of relevant projects Ensure wide participation	Contracting Parties RESPONSE Intersessional work SHORE Network	Continuously Working program of SHORE Network
Carry out Baltic wide mapping of prioritised coastal areas (sensitivity mapping).	Contracting Parties SHORE network [Possible new project]	-
Integrate oiled wildlife response (OWR) into existing contingency plans Exchange of information on development of national OWR plans, authority-NGO cooperation, national trainings and exercises	Contracting Parties, Sea Alarm, WWF Finland and other stakeholders. Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR) 2013-2018	Baltic Oiled Wildlife networking meeting 2018 Reports to RESPONSE

Develop OWR protocols and facilities		
Develop OWR preparedness and response		
Ensure wide participation		
Enhance co-operation with regard to places of refuge according to HELCOM Recommendation 31E/5		
Make the Mutual Plan for Places of Refuge operational and implemented within/through sub-regional agreements	Contracting Parties	Continuously Reports to RESPONSE and MARITIME
Ratify the relevant compensation and liability conventions according to HELCOM Rec 31E/5	Contracting Parties Secretariat to provide update of the ratification status of relevant conventions at each RESPONSE meeting	Reports to RESPONSE and MARITIME
Detection, investigation and prosecution of anti-pollution regulations		
Co-ordinate aerial surveillance flights and harmonize aerial surveillance with satellite surveillance	IWGAS (Lead Country 2019-2020: Estonia) In co-operation with EMSA (CleanSeaNet)	Meetings of IWGAS and RESPONSE
Identify operational needs for satellite surveillance in each sub-region of the Baltic	IWGAS	Continuously
Carry out CEPCO and other flights:	Lead Countries/Contracting Parties	Annual activities
Harmonize aerial surveillance reporting systems with Bonn Agreement area	IWGAS	Continuously
Maintain Seatrack Web/AIS/SAT for improved identification of possible polluters	STW/AIS/SAT partnership	Continuously
Co-operate/assist and exchange experience in investigations	Contracting Parties	Continuously
Co-operate with the Network of the Prosecutors on Environmental Crime (ENPRO)	Contracting Parties/Secretariat	Continuously
Carry out information exchange about offshore activities to be able to respond to accidental spills from such installations		
Report on ongoing/planned offshore activities (exploration/exploitation)	Contracting Parties	When applicable
Collect information/exchange experience/promote development and use of new technology and best practices		
Collect and publish information on shipping accidents and response operations in the Baltic and their impact on marine environment	Secretariat/ Contracting Parties in cooperation with HELCOM MARITIME Data flows from EMSA's EMCIP to be established	Annual report on shipping accidents in the Baltic
Developing response related indicators and update the existing core indicator on spills	RESPONSE and IWGAS	Meetings of RESPONSE

Keep track of studies on effects of and response to oil spills on the seabed (sunken oil).	RESPONSE	Meetings of RESPONSE
National and sub-regional reports on response operations and lessons learned	Contracting Parties	Meetings of RESPONSE
Collect, compile and publish regional summaries of response operations and lessons learned using the format agreed at RESPONSE 21-2016	Secretariat/ Contracting Parties	Meetings of RESPONSE New chapter to be added to the Annual report on shipping accidents in the Baltic
Collect information on observed deliberate, illegal oil discharges, other substances and unknown substances and related statistics	Secretariat/ Contracting Parties	Annual report on discharges observed during aerial surveillance Indicator on oil spills
Update HELCOM map and data service with RESPONSE related information Further develop regional preparedness and response related services including HELCOM SeaTrackWeb, HELCOM AIS, HELCOM POLREP, HELCOM GIS towards a second generation HELCOM oil response information system	Secretariat/ Contracting Parties	Annually Meetings of RESPONSE
Update of national equipment list in CECIS MP database	Contracting Parties	Continuously
Exchange information with other regional agreements	Chair/Secretariat	Meetings between regional agreements, EMSA and DG ECHO
Enhance use and development of technology to respond to accidents at night, in bad visibility, in bad weather, oil on ice, accidents involving heavy oil, chemical incidents	Contracting Parties	Meetings of RESPONSE
Sharing information on common workspace regarding non-traditional oils	Contracting Parties	Continuously Meetings of RESPONSE
Collect and assess information on submerged hazardous objects including contaminated and potentially polluting wrecks and maintain work on dumped chemical munitions	HELCOM Expert Group on Environmental Risks of Hazardous Submerged Objects (HELCOM SUBMERGED) 2014-2018	Meetings of RESPONSE Thematic Assessment publication by 2018