



| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Document title | Outcome of RESPONSE 26-2019 |
| Code | 2-1 |
| Category | INF |
| Agenda Item | 2 – Matters arising from other HELCOM activities |
| Submission date | 3.2.2020 |
| Submitted by | Secretariat |
| Reference | |

Background

The 26th Meeting of the HELCOM Response Working Group (RESPONSE 26-2019) was held on 3-5 June 2019 in Warsaw, Poland. The full [Outcome](#) of the Meeting is set out in the attachment to this document but matters of specific interest to the SHORE Network are also outlined below.

- 8.1. The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the Third meeting of the HELCOM SHORE Network (SHORE NETWORK 3-2019) which was held on 22 May 2019 in Tallinn, Estonia (document 8-4).
- 8.2. The Meeting discussed whether shore response equipment should be listed in CECIS Marine Pollution or CECIS Civil Protection (c.f. Outcome of SHORE Network 3-2019, paragraph 5.5) and noted information provided by the EU that they should be in CECIS Marine Pollution. The Meeting agreed that communication between national authorities using CECIS Marine Pollution and CECIS Civil Protection is important in order to coordinate such reporting.
- 8.3. The Meeting welcomed the offer by the EU, regarding the possibility to organize training on CECIS Marine Pollution, upon request by EU Member States.
- 8.4. The Meeting agreed with the proposal by SHORE Network 3-2019 that HELCOM Recommendations 33/2 and 31E/6 should be revised and agreed to invite the SHORE Network to draft revisions for both Recommendations.
- 8.5. The Meeting agreed on the updated work plan of the SHORE Network for 2020-2021, as set out in Annex 2 of the Outcome of SHORE Network 3-2019, for approval by HOD 56-2019.
- 13.3. The Meeting agreed that Recommendations 33/2 on *Co-operation in response to spillages of oil and other harmful substances on the shore* should be revised and tasked the SHORE Network to develop a proposed revision, under the lead by Germany and Sweden, as agreed by SHORE Network 3-2019.
- 13.4. The Meeting agreed to invite EWG OWR, in consultation with SHORE Network to revise Recommendation 31E/6 on *Integrated wildlife response planning in the Baltic Sea area* with a view to simplifying the Guidelines set out in the annex of the Recommendation.
- 13.6. The Meeting further noted that SHORE Network 3-2019 had invited RESPONSE 26-2019 to involve the SHORE Network if it is decided that HELCOM Recommendation 28E/12 should be revised. The Meeting agreed to do so, in case RESPONSE 27-2020 decides to revise Recommendation 28E/12.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information and make use of it as appropriate.



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Response Working Group
Warsaw, Poland, 3-5 June 2019

RESPONSE 26-2019

Outcome of the 26th Meeting of the Response Working Group (RESPONSE 26-2019)

Table of Contents

| | | |
|---------------------|---|----|
| Introduction | | 2 |
| Agenda Item 1 | Adoption of the Agenda | 2 |
| Agenda Item 2 | Matters arising from HELCOM meetings..... | 2 |
| Agenda Item 3 | Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan..... | 2 |
| Agenda Item 4 | Risk assessments, OPENRISK and Safety of Navigation..... | 3 |
| Agenda Item 5 | Matters related to recent response operations..... | 4 |
| Agenda Item 6 | National preparedness at sea and on shore..... | 4 |
| Agenda Item 7 | Sub-regional co-operation..... | 5 |
| Agenda Item 8 | Response on the shore and wildlife response..... | 6 |
| Agenda Item 9 | Wrecks and other submerged hazardous objects..... | 6 |
| Agenda Item 10 | Remote Sensing..... | 7 |
| Agenda Item 11 | Other developments in response strategies and equipment | 8 |
| Agenda Item 12 | Exercises | 9 |
| Agenda Item 13 | HELCOM Recommendations and Response Manual..... | 11 |
| Agenda Item 14 | Activities within other organizations and initiatives | 12 |
| Agenda Item 15 | Any other business | 12 |
| Agenda Item 16 | Future work and meetings | 13 |
| Agenda Item 17 | Outcome of the Meeting..... | 13 |
| Annex 1 | List of participants | 14 |
| Annex 2. | Concretization of actions in the Baltic Sea Action Plan..... | 15 |
| Annex 3 | Work Plan for the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR), 2019-2021 | 21 |
| Annex 4 | Terms of Reference for the steering group of the HREP project managed by Sweden | 22 |

Outcome of the 26th Meeting of the
Response Working Group (RESPONSE 26-2019)

Introduction

- 0.1. The 26th Meeting of the HELCOM Response Working Group (RESPONSE 26-2019) was held on 3-5 June 2019 in Warsaw, Poland, upon invitation by the Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation of Poland
- 0.2. The Meeting was attended by all HELCOM Contracting Parties, an Observer from Sea Alarm and two invited guests from the Swedish Coast Guard. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex 1**.
- 0.3. The Meeting was welcomed by Ms. Ewa Makowska, Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation of Poland.
- 0.4. The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Heli Haapasaari, Chair of the Response Working Group.
- 0.5. Mr. Markus Helavuori, HELCOM Professional Secretary, and Mr. Alexey Bakhtov, HELCOM Assisting Professional Secretary, acted as Secretaries of the Meeting.

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

Documents: 1-1

- 1.1. The Meeting agreed to a proposal by the EU, to include a discussion on available funding for maritime related projects under Agenda Item 15 (Any other business). The Meeting adopted the agenda as contained in document 1-1.

Agenda Item 2 Matters arising from HELCOM meetings

Document: 2-1

- 2.1. The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the 55th Meeting of the Heads of Delegation (Helsinki, Finland, on 4-5 December 2018) and the Outcome of the 40th Meeting of the Helsinki Commission (Helsinki, Finland, on 6-7 March 2019) and in particular the matters related to the HELCOM Response Working Group.
- 2.2. The Meeting noted that outcomes of subsidiary bodies to the Response Working Group will be dealt with under the relevant agenda items below.

Agenda Item 3 Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

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

- 3.1. The Meeting considered actions related to activities under the mandate of the Response Working Group included in the current Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP), which have not yet been accomplished (document 3-1).
- 3.2. The Meeting discussed the existing HELCOM actions to be considered for further development and uptake in the proposed Baltic Sea Action Plan and considered the proposals for concretized actions provided by the Secretariat in Annex 1 of document 3-1. Following discussion, the Meeting agreed as detailed further in **Annex 2**. A drafting group was established in order to develop concretized actions, as set out in the column entitled "New action" in tables 1 and 2 of Annex 2.
- 3.3. The meeting discussed how to finalize the tasks before the end of 2019 and agreed that the need for an intersessional workshop in the autumn 2019 should be confirmed by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair after HOD 56-2019, taking into account any instructions possibly to be provided by that Meeting.

- 3.4. The Meeting recalled that HOD 55-2018 had agreed that a number of recommendations under the Response Working Group suggested by the Secretariat should be reported by the Contracting Parties to support the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (document 3-2).
- 3.5. The Meeting noted that an overview of the reporting by Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Poland and Sweden is set out in the Annex of document 3-2 Rev.1. The Meeting considered the reporting results and discussed the need to clarify remaining uncertainties in evaluation of implementation. In this respect Poland informed the Meeting that they had sent clarifications to the Secretariat on Friday 31 May 2019 and that remaining open issues are being clarified very soon.
- 3.6. The Meeting invited Contracting Parties that have not yet reported on the Recommendations to send the filled in reporting form to the Secretariat (susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi) as soon as possible. Any missing information or clarifications was also encouraged to be submitted to the Secretariat as soon as possible by the Contracting Parties that have already reported.
- 3.7. The Meeting agreed on the evaluation of implementation of the HELCOM Recommendations as set out in document 3-2 Rev.1.
- 3.8. The Meeting discussed the possibility to implement remaining actions in Recommendations related to the Response Working Group by 2021. Following discussion, the Meeting agreed that Contracting Parties should submit updated reports on the implementation of Recommendations for consideration by each Meeting of the Response Working Group until the BSAP has been updated. The Meeting agreed that the Excel attachment (document 3-2 Att.1) should be used as the template and agreed that all Response related Recommendations could be included in the template. In addition, the Meeting agreed that the template should also clarify which national authority is responsible for the implementation of each Recommendation, as they are not all solely under the responsibility of response authorities in all Contracting Parties.
- 3.9. The Meeting recalled that the Strategic plan for the BSAP update identifies the phases and activities in the BSAP update and the main responsible bodies. The Work plan for the BSAP update, approved by HOD 55-2018, clarifies the timing and more detailed steps of activities from the Strategic Plan (document 3-3).
- 3.10. The Meeting considered management objectives related to the Response Working Group and agreed that the current management objective “Efficient emergency and response capabilities” should remain in the updated BSAP. In this context, the Meeting noted that new types of oils are a challenge and should be included in the updated BSAP as a new action.
- 3.11. The Meeting noted activity 2.6 of the work plan and discussed the timeline and procedure for proposing new actions. The Meeting noted that such proposals could be submitted either by Working Groups or subsidiary bodies for consideration by HOD, or directly by Contracting Parties, observers or international projects, recalling the [invitation to prepare synopses](#) on potential new HELCOM actions which was circulated to contacts and observers of Response and its subsidiary bodies by the Secretariat on 24 May 2019. The synopses should be submitted by end of 2019 at latest but earlier submission is encouraged.
- 3.12. The Meeting recalled that according to the [Strategic plan](#) for the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, agreed by HOD 54-2018, analyses of sufficiency of measures to reach HELCOM goals and objectives should be carried out to support the selection of new and strengthened HELCOM actions for the updated BSAP (document 3-4).

Agenda Item 4 Risk assessments, OPENRISK and Safety of Navigation

Documents: 4-1

- 4.1. The Meeting took note of the Outcome the 30th Meeting of the Expert Working Group for Mutual Exchange and Deliveries of AIS & Data (AIS EWG 30-2019) which was held on 28-29 May 2019 in Helsinki, Finland (document 4-1).

4.2. The Meeting recalled that RESPONSE 25-2018 had agreed to invite the Secretariat to request access to the AISyRisk risk assessment tool from the Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA), which can be applied also in the Baltic Sea, as long as AIS data and other Baltic Sea parameters (e.g. bathymetry) are fed into the system. RESPONSE 25-2018 had also invited the Secretariat to clarify with the NCA the conditions and technical requirements for using the tool. The Secretariat informed the Meeting, that the NCA have agreed to make the AISyRisk tool available for all HELCOM and Bonn Agreement Contracting Parties. The Meeting noted, however, that the Secretariat is still awaiting confirmation regarding the formalities and technical details in this regard.

4.3. The Meeting took note of the Baltic Sea case study – A Practical Demonstration on the Use of the OpenRisk Guideline, published as [Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings No. 165](#).

4.4. The Meeting noted that Lithuania will send the results of the questionnaire on bunkering activities to the Secretariat for circulation as soon as possible (c.f. Outcome of RESPONSE 25-2018 paragraph 4.7).

Agenda Item 5 Matters related to recent response operations

Documents: 5-1, 5-2 Rev.1

5.1. The Meeting recalled that MARITIME 18-2018 had decided that the European Marine Casualty Information Platform (EMCIP) should be used as the primary source for accident data in future annual reports and requested the Secretariat to liaise with EMSA regarding obtaining access to EMCIP, and that the Contracting Parties were invited to report on accidents data, as well as significant response operations in 2018 at sea and on the shore (document 5-1).

5.2. The Meeting took note of the data on Response operations of 2018 submitted by the Contracting Parties to the HELCOM Secretariat (document 5-2 Rev.1) which will be included in the upcoming annual report on shipping accidents in the Baltic Sea during 2018, and discussed lessons learnt from response operations.

5.3. The Meeting noted information by Estonia regarding a response operation in the Gulf of Finland in April 2019, in which 3m³ crude oil was recovered.

5.4. The Meeting noted information provided by Sweden (**Presentation 1**) about an operation to recover oil from a leaking wreck between Öland and Gotland.

Agenda Item 6 National preparedness at sea and on shore

Documents: 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 Rev.2

6.1. The Meeting took note on the information on use of the Template for compiling information on national developments regarding response at sea, on shore and for oiled wildlife response (document 6-1). The Meeting recalled that RESPONSE 25-2018 had discussed further use of the template and agreed that using it is a very good way of sharing information instead of providing oral information during meetings of the Response Working Group. RESPONSE 25-2018 had consequently encouraged the Contracting Parties to make use of the template when reporting on enhancements of national preparedness on shore, including oiled wildlife response, covering new equipment and development projects of national interest.

6.2. The Meeting took note that Denmark, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Poland and Sweden reported on national developments in each of the reporting topics using the Template (document 6-4 Rev.2).

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

- Denmark: (c.f. document 6-4 Rev.2). In addition, Denmark informed the Meeting that in general the prices of shallow water response vessels have decreased during the last decades.
- Estonia: The Meeting was informed of new Estonian emergency plans being developed. One of those will be an emergency plan for large oil spills at sea, replacing the current contingency plan. The lead

for developing the large oil spill at sea emergency plan is the Estonian Police and Border Guard Board and it is expected that the plan can be presented at RESPONSE 27-2020. Estonia further informed that an oil spill took place on 20 April 2019, “Kindral Kurvits” was the responding vessel. Two bi-lateral exercises have been conducted in 2019, between Estonia and Latvia in the beginning of May and the “Clean Sea 2019” exercise between Finland and Estonia, which was held back-to-back with SHORE Network 3-2019. A number of smaller exercises are also being planned this year.

- Finland: (c.f. document 6-4 Rev.2).
- Germany: (c.f. document 6-4 Rev. 2). In addition, Germany informed on the process of replacing two multipurpose vessels (MPV) in Germany, which is still ongoing. The Waterways and Shipping Administration expects to sign the contract with a dockyard by the end of 2019. The first ship is expected to be in operation approximately in the end of 2022. The next vessel will follow about half a year later. According to actual planning the new ships will be based in the North Sea. One will replace MPV MELLUM. The other one will replace MPV NEUWERK. MELLUM and SCHARHÖRN will be taken out of operation. NEUWERK will be moved to the Baltic Sea instead of SCHARHÖRN and stationed there. Finally, there will be two new MPV stationed in the North Sea and MPV ARKONA and MPV NEUWERK in the Baltic Sea.
- Latvia: (c.f. document 6-4 Rev.2). In addition, the Meeting noted that with regard to the changes in SafeSeaNet responsibility, the responsibility to distribute POLREP using SafeSeaNet is yet to be designated in Latvia.
- Lithuania: The Meeting noted that there are no changes in Lithuanian legislation related to response matters. A tender for a new multi purpose vessel was started, but temporarily suspended to improve tender documents..
- Poland: (c.f. document 6-4 Rev. 2).
- Sweden: (c.f. document 6-4 Rev.2).

6.4. The Meeting took note of the information provided by Finland on the project OILART (document 6-2).

6.5. The Meeting took note of the information provided by Finland on the project OIL SPILL (document 6-3). The Meeting noted that very few participants were aware of the project and emphasized the importance for national response authorities learning about relevant projects already at the application stage. The Meeting noted that one solution would be that project applications would be required to include a letter of support from the national competent authority. The Meeting further agreed that Contracting Parties and observers should submit information documents to meetings of the Response Working Group related to upcoming projects of relevance to the Response Working Group.

6.6. The Meeting agreed that Estonia will keep the Response Working Group informed about the developments in the OIL SPILL project, as the Estonian Ministry of the Environment is a project partner.

Agenda Item 7 Sub-regional co-operation

Documents: 7-1

7.1. The Meeting recalled that RESPONSE 25-2018 had agreed to discontinue the work of the intersessional Correspondence Group on revision of [HELCOM Recommendation 28E/12](#) but had agreed that cooperation among the Contracting Parties should be improved. The Meeting agreed to consider the matter further under Agenda Item 13.

7.2. The Meeting took note that Contracting Parties have been requested to provide updates on bi- and multilateral agreements on joint response operations and response plans in response regions in the Baltic Sea (HELCOM Response Manual, Volume 1, Chapter 2) preferably prior the meeting as information documents, but no such updates were received prior to the Meeting (document 7-1).

7.3. The Meeting noted that Latvia invited the Secretariat to delete the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on the mutual support in the event of natural disasters and other large-scale accidents signed on 31 May 2001 (as further detailed in document 6-4) from Chapter 2 of the Response Manual.

7.4. The Meeting noted information provided by the Chair regarding questions on what guidelines (HELCOM Response Manual, Copenhagen Agreement Manual or other sub-regional guidelines) to follow when planning sub-regional exercises. It was noted by the Meeting that clarity in this regard is needed within such sub-regional arrangements.

Agenda Item 8 Response on the shore and wildlife response

Documents: 8-1, 8-2, 8-3, 8-4

8.1. The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the Third meeting of the HELCOM SHORE Network (SHORE NETWORK 3-2019) which was held on 22 May 2019 in Tallinn, Estonia (document 8-4).

8.2. The Meeting discussed whether shore response equipment should be listed in CECIS Marine Pollution or CECIS Civil Protection (c.f. Outcome of SHORE Network 3-2019, paragraph 5.5) and noted information provided by the EU that they should be in CECIS Marine Pollution. The Meeting agreed that communication between national authorities using CECIS Marine Pollution and CECIS Civil Protection is important in order to coordinate such reporting.

8.3. The Meeting welcomed the offer by the EU, regarding the possibility to organize training on CECIS Marine Pollution, upon request by EU Member States.

8.4. The Meeting agreed with the proposal by SHORE Network 3-2019 that HELCOM Recommendations 33/2 and 31E/6 should be revised and agreed to invite the SHORE Network to draft revisions for both Recommendations.

8.5. The Meeting agreed on the updated work plan of the SHORE Network for 2020-2021, as set out in Annex 2 of the Outcome of SHORE Network 3-2019, for approval by HOD 56-2019.

8.6. The Meeting took note of the [Outcome](#) of the Thirteenth Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR 13-2019) (document 8-1).

8.7. The Meeting discussed and agreed on prolongation of the EWG OWR mandate for an additional three-year period 2019-2021.

8.8. The Meeting considered and agreed on the Work plan for EWG OWR for the period 2019-2021 (document 8-3), subject to editorial revision by the Secretariat in order to align its formatting with that of the work plans of other HELCOM groups, not including past years as set out in document 3-3. The revised Work Plan, as agreed by the Meeting is set out in **Annex 3** for approval by HOD 56-2019.

8.9. The Meeting encouraged all Contracting Parties to participate in the work of EWG OWR, noting that not all have done so to date.

8.10. The Meeting took note of the information provided by Sea Alarm on the ongoing program "Mutual assistance framework for oiled wildlife response" and discussed the potential benefit of the programme to the Baltic Region, the work of the HELCOM RESPONSE and the EWG-OWR in particular (document 8-2 and **Presentation 2**). The Meeting agreed that this is valuable work, particularly well suited for cross border cooperation, as oiled wildlife response operations typically occur very rarely in any given country.

Agenda Item 9 Wrecks and other submerged hazardous objects

Documents: 9-1

9.1. The Meeting took note that no meetings of the HELCOM Expert Group on environmental risks of hazardous submerged objects (SUBMERGED) have taken place since RESPONSE 25-2018. However, an

informal meeting is scheduled back to back with RESPONSE 26-2019, to be attended by co-chairs and members of drafting groups for the development of the Submerged Assessment. The Meeting stressed the importance of making progress on the Submerged Assessment, and invited the Submerged Expert Group to submit a draft Submerged Assessment to RESPONSE 27-2020 for consideration, with a view to finalizing the work by RESPONSE 28-2020.

9.2. The Meeting took note of the information from Finland on the new three year long project to enhance the water quality issues in Finland, with one of the topics focusing on wrecks (document 9-1).

Agenda Item 10 Remote Sensing

Documents: 10-1, 10-2, 10-3

10.1 Aerial surveillance

10.1. The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the HELCOM Informal Working Group on Aerial Surveillance (IWGAS 2019) held 20-21 March 2019 in Tallinn, Estonia (document 10-1).

10.2. The Meeting considered and approved the draft HELCOM Annual report on discharges observed during aerial surveillance in the Baltic Sea 2018 for publishing, as contained in document 10-2. In considering the draft Annual report, the Meeting also considered Figure 1 which IWGAS 2019 had invited RESPONSE 26-2019 to clarify. The Meeting agreed to change the colour of the graph for Swedish flight hours and the colour of the right vertical axis to the same bright colour, in order to make it clear that the scale for Sweden differs compared to that of the other Contracting Parties.

10.3. The Meeting noted with appreciation that the number of detected spills per flight hour is continuously decreasing in the Baltic Sea.

10.4. The Meeting encouraged all Contracting Parties to attend the IWGAS meetings.

10.5. The Meeting noted that IWGAS 2019 considered HELCOM Recommendation 34E/4 on Airborne surveillance with remote sensing equipment in the Baltic Sea area to be up to date and should remain valid (paragraph 2.2 of the Outcome).

10.6. The Meeting noted the proposal by EMSA, that they could provide optical satellite images of the exercise area for future BALEX DELTA exercises, which may be useful in detecting popcorn released to simulate oil (paragraph 2.6 of the Outcome).

10.7. The Meeting noted the view of IWGAS 2019 that discussion on possible new indicators related to chemical spills or other substances should not be reopened in the context of updating the BSAP, as it would not be possible to obtain reliable data to support such indicators due to the lack of appropriate sensor systems available to identify such spills (paragraph 2.9 of the Outcome).

10.8. The Meeting noted that Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia had been invited by IWGAS 2019 to inform RESPONSE about national surveillance activities, as they did not attend IWGAS. The Meeting noted information as follows:

- Lithuania informed that they plan to use drones for aerial surveillance in national waters from 2021.
- Latvia informed the meeting that their only available aerial surveillance aircraft is currently deployed in the Mediterranean.
- Denmark are in the third year of a five-year contract with a Norwegian company which handles aerial surveillance for Denmark. The same company will also start handling the aerial surveillance for the Netherlands. Denmark also informed about a video produced by the EnviSuM project with MARPOL Annex VI "surveillance activities", available on [YouTube](#).

10.9. The Meeting noted the offer from Germany to organize a Super CEPCO in the North Sea, depending on availability of 24-hour open airfields and participating aircraft. The planned timing is 9 to 13 September 2019 (paragraph 4.4 of the Outcome).

10.10. The Meeting noted that IWGAS 2019 updated the coverage requirements in the Baltic Sea, including revision of the numbers of monthly satellite images requested for HELCOM Area 3 (paragraphs 5.7-5.9 of the Outcome).

10.11. The Meeting noted the conclusion by the IWGAS that there is no need for further updates to Chapter 7 of the HELCOM Response Manual 1 at this stage (paragraph 6.3 of the Outcome).

10.2 Use of satellites for detecting illegal discharges

10.12. The Meeting took note of the information provided by EMSA on 2018 CleanSeaNet Statistics within the HELCOM region (document 10-3 and **Presentation 3**). The Meeting invited Contracting Parties to send any corrections to the data the HELCOM Secretariat (alexey.bakhtov@helcom.fi) for forwarding to EMSA at the latest by 19 June 2019.

10.13. The Meeting discussed challenges related to a recent change from CleanSeaNet version 3 to version 4, which may have led to some errors in the statistics.

10.3 STW/AIS/SAT model

10.13. Recalling the discussion under Agenda Item 3 on the BSAP action “Further develop regional preparedness and response related services including HELCOM SeaTrackWeb...”, the Meeting welcomed the offer by Estonia to liaise with the Baltic Operational Oceanographic System (Baltic BOOS) project to find out if there is a live feed to SeaTrackWeb, taking into account data collected through the network on stations currently in place in the Baltic Sea.

10.4 Investigation and prosecution of offenders of anti-pollution regulations

10.14. The Meeting noted information provided by EMSA regarding an upcoming second DG MOVE workshop on ship-source pollution to be organized by EMSA in the autumn 2019.

10.15. The Meeting noted information on a meeting by the OSPAR Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Litter, in which HELCOM is also involved, focusing on marine litter and where possible involvement of EMSA will also be discussed. The Meeting noted that Germany leads this work both in HELCOM and in OSPAR.

Agenda Item 11 Other developments in response strategies and equipment

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

11.1 HNS Response

11.1. The Meeting took note of the information on the progress of the West MOPoCo Project provided by the Secretariat (document 11-1).

11.2. The Meeting recalled that RESPONSE 25-2019 had agreed to establish a correspondence group CG HNS MANUAL in order for the Response Working Group to get involved and provide input to West MOPoCo related to the Joint Inter-Regional HNS Response manual (document 11-2). The Meeting discussed the work of the Correspondence Group on revising the HELCOM Response Manual Volume 2, emphasized the importance of contributing to this work and invited interested experts to join the Group.

11.3. The Meeting noted that the Secretariat had sent to the CG HNS Manual a first draft outline for the Joint Inter-Regional HNS Manual (document FPM 2019 WG 45-12-3), which will be considered at the Thirteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (11-13 June 2019, Malta) to be attended by the HELCOM Secretariat. The Meeting encouraged the members of the Correspondence Group and other interested parties to comment on the draft at the latest on Monday 10 June 2019.

11.4. The Meeting agreed that it would be important to communicate to the meeting in Malta the views of the Response Working Group regarding how the Joint Inter-Regional HNS Manual should be structured. The Meeting consequently considered the draft outline prepared by consultants from ITOPF and

Cedre (FPM 2019 WG 45-12-3), as well as the outline of a draft revision of the HECOM Response Manual Volume 2 from 2015 (the work on this revision has not been continued since then).

11.5. The Meeting supported the outline for the HNS Manual set out in document FPM 2019 WG 45-12-3 and commented that it would be important to have a user-friendly manual. The need for a checklist for response personnel was also highlighted.

11.6. The Meeting supported option 2 of the suggested names in document FPM 2019 WG 45-12-3: “Marine HNS response manual with subtitle multi-regional indicating REMPEC, HELCOM and OSPAR logos”.

11.7. The Meeting took note of the information from Finland regarding the ChemSAR project (Operational Plans and Procedures for Maritime Search and Rescue in HNS Incidents), which ended in April 2019 (document 11-3). The Meeting noted that the results of the ChemSAR project have been found to be useful by a number of countries and stakeholders, and that it is also mentioned in the draft outline of the Joint Inter-Regional HNS Response Manual.

11.2 Response to oil in ice

11.8. No comments were made regarding response to oil in ice.

11.3 Places of Refuge

11.9. The Meeting discussed relevant information related to Places of Refuge and noted information provided by EMSA regarding a Table Top Exercise on Places of Refuge in Las Palmas, Spain, on 1-2 October 2019.

11.4 Response at night/in bad visibility

11.10. No comments were made regarding response operations at night/in bad visibility.

11.5 Emergency towing

11.11. The Meeting noted information by Germany regarding the Waterways and Shipping Administration changing the stand-by positions of two emergency towing vessels (ETV) in the German Baltic Sea waters in January 2019 as follows:

- ETV BALTIC: stand-by position below wind force 8 bft: 5 nm north of Heiligendamm (northwest of Warnemünde), storm stand-by position above wind force 8 bft: 5 nm north of Heiligendamm (northwest of Warnemünde)
- ETV FAIRPLAY 25: stand-by position below wind force 8 bft: inside Port of Sassnitz (isle of Rügen), storm stand-by position above wind force 8 bft: 5 nm north of Dornbusch (isle of Hiddensee)

In addition, the two multipurpose vessels ARKONA and SCHARHÖRN are ready for emergency towing in the German Baltic waters.

11.6 Use of dispersants

11.12. The Meeting took note of information provided by Germany, that they will present information of a project related to the use of dispersants at RESPONSE 27-2020.

11.7 Non-traditional fuel types

11.13. The Meeting noted information presented by Denmark regarding the application for a project with four work packages related to non-traditional fuel types. Among the project partners are Sweden, Malta, Belgium and Denmark and the announcement on possible funding is expected in September 2019.

Agenda Item 12 Exercises

Documents: 12-1, 12-2, 12-3, 12-4

12.1 BALEX DELTA

12.1. The Meeting took note of information presented by Sweden on the experiences with the BALEX DELTA 2018 exercise (**Presentation 4**).

- 12.2. The Meeting took note of the Main Exercise Evaluation prepared by the Project Evaluation Team (PET) led by the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) and supported by the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI) (document 12-1).
- 12.3. The Meeting considered the recommendations and identified lessons from the BALEX DELTA 2018 exercise as provided by Finland (document 12-2). The Meeting recommended that the proposals listed in document 12-2 should be reviewed and taken into account, if deemed appropriate, when revising the HELCOM Response Manual as well as in developing the HELCOM Response Exercise plan (HREP) (see also Agenda Item 12.3).
- 12.4. The Meeting noted a comment by the EU, that the DG ECHO exercise programme does not only include full scale exercises, but table top exercises can also be co-funded by DG ECHO.
- 12.5. The Meeting agreed that organizing a joint workshop on table-top exercises would be useful before any such exercises are implemented in the HELCOM framework. The EU suggested to raise this matter at the Consultative Technical Group for Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response (CTG MPPR) 2019 meeting.
- 12.6. The Meeting took note of the BALEX DELTA 2018 Pre-exercise evaluation presented by the Secretariat (document 12-4).
- 12.7. Denmark informed the Meeting about the preparations for HELCOM BALEX DELTA 2019, to be held on Bornholm 27 to 29 August 2019 (**Presentation 5**). A BALEX BRAVO exercise will also be organized in mid-August, using a scenario from the EMSA stress test.
- 12.8. The Meeting took note of information presented by Estonia regarding the preparations for HELCOM BALEX DELTA 2020 (**Presentation 6**), which will take place 25-27 August 2020 in Estonia near Tallinn. The exercise will be a scenario driven exercise with oil response at sea and shore, as well as search and rescue. The Main Planning Conference will be organized in January or February 2020. The Exercise Evaluation team consists of Denmark (lead), Estonia, Finland and Sweden.

12.2 National exercises

- 12.9. The Contracting Parties and Observers informed the Meeting of other national and international exercises held during the inter-sessional period or plans for future exercises.
- 12.10. The Meeting took note of information provided by Sweden of the recent SWEDENGER exercise (April 2019 outside Malmö), involving 10 vessels and 120 people. Sweden further informed about two upcoming exercises under the Copenhagen Agreement in September 2019 (**Presentation 7**).
- 12.11. The Meeting took note of information by Finland regarding an exercise in April 2019 involving units from the Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Russia, Sweden, Estonia and Norway (SAR, evacuation, icebreaker).
- 12.12. Germany informed the Meeting of 11 exercises being planned at the moment, including oil response, fire fighting etc.
- 12.13. Latvia informed that they had a bilateral exercise with Estonia in May 2019 as well as a smaller national exercise. A larger national exercise is planned for September 2019.
- 12.14. Estonia informed about the annual Clean Sea exercise held in May 2019, back to back with SHORE Network 3-2019.
- 12.15. Lithuania informed the Meeting about planned annual oil spill response exercise in July 2019, involving Poland and Russia.

12.3 HELCOM Response Exercise Plan (HREP)

- 12.16. The Meeting recalled that HELCOM RESPONSE 25-2018 reiterated the importance of developing a HELCOM Response Exercise Plan (HREP) as an important tool for improving the planning and execution of exercises. The Meeting considered document 12-3 (Sweden) containing a draft project plan for the development of the HREP (**Presentation 8**).

12.17. The Meeting commented on the suggested project plan and discussed whether the project could also undertake the revision of the exercise chapters in volumes 1 and 3 of the Response Manual, recalling that the HREP should be a living document and not be part of the Manual itself. The Meeting agreed that the HREP should be developed first and based on the outcome the project can liaise with the Secretariat regarding the Exercise Chapter of the Response Manual.

12.18. The Meeting supported the project and thanked Sweden for taking the lead.

12.19. Contracting Parties were invited to nominate participants to the project steering group. Finland, Germany and Sweden agreed to nominate a member to the steering group. The Meeting agreed that the Secretariat should also be involved. The Meeting noted that EMSA will confirm their possible participation in the steering group after consultation at the office.

12.20. Sweden agreed to send an invitation letter to Estonia, to enable their formal consideration of participation in the steering group. The Meeting agreed that the names of nominated steering group members should be sent to Sweden (sonja.dobo@msb.se) by the end of June 2019.

12.21. The Meeting agreed that the HREP should take into account any ongoing EU wide developments of templates for exercise planning, in order not to duplicate efforts or create inconsistent plans.

12.22. The Meeting established a drafting group, which developed terms of reference for the HREP project steering group as set out in **Annex 4**, noting also that the group is not part of the HELCOM framework but is a means for HELCOM Contracting Parties to advise on the development of the HREP within the project managed by Sweden.

12.23. The Meeting noted the intention to organize a HREP project workshop in Stockholm, Sweden October 2019 and that the plan is to finalize the HREP for consideration by RESPONSE 27-2020.

12.24. The Meeting discussed the need of financial support to the project implementation in 2020, as the Swedish funding only lasts until the end of 2019.

Agenda Item 13 HELCOM Recommendations and Response Manual

Documents: 13-1, 13-2, 13-3, 13-4

13.1. The Meeting recalled that RESPONSE 25-2018 had reviewed a list of all valid HELCOM Recommendations and invited the groups and subgroups to consider updating relevant ones (c.f. para 13.14). Contracting Parties and Response sub-groups had been invited to inform the Meeting of any proposals regarding deletion or revision as well as suggestions for merging relevant HELCOM Recommendations.

13.2. The Meeting revisited the matter and agreed that Recommendation 24/7 on *Further development and use of drift forecasting for oils and other harmful substances in the Baltic* could be revoked as its provisions have been accomplished, and invited HOD 56-2019 to approve this proposal. The Meeting agreed, however, that live drift measurements into SeaTrackWeb would be very useful and invited Sweden and Estonia to look into the possibility of obtaining live data for such purposes (see also Agenda Item 10.3).

13.3. The Meeting agreed that Recommendations 33/2 on *Co-operation in response to spillages of oil and other harmful substances on the shore* should be revised and tasked the SHORE Network to develop a proposed revision, under the lead by Germany and Sweden, as agreed by SHORE Network 3-2019.

13.4. The Meeting agreed to invite EWG OWR, in consultation with SHORE Network to revise Recommendation 31E/6 on *Integrated wildlife response planning in the Baltic Sea area* with a view to simplifying the Guidelines set out in the annex of the Recommendation.

13.5. The Meeting noted that IWGAS had agreed that Recommendation 34E/4 on *Airborne surveillance with remote sensing equipment in the Baltic Sea area* is up to date and should remain valid.

13.6. The Meeting further noted that SHORE Network 3-2019 had invited RESPONSE 26-2019 to involve the SHORE Network if it is decided that HELCOM Recommendation 28E/12 should be revised. The Meeting agreed to do so, in case RESPONSE 27-2020 decides to revise Recommendation 28E/12.

13.7. The Meeting agreed that in Recommendation 12/7, many of the recommended actions have been accomplished years ago and that the Recommendation should be revised. The Meeting invited Contracting Parties to confirm their willingness to take the lead in drafting a proposed revision, by HOD 56-2019.

13.8. The Meeting noted that Recommendation 17/12 contains several references to IMO instruments and is outdated. The Meeting agreed that the lead should ideally have an IMO and legal background, and invited Contracting Parties to inform HOD 56-2019 of their willingness to take the lead in drafting a proposed revision.

13.9. The Meeting noted that Recommendation 20/5 is outdated and needs to be revised, but that for some Contracting Parties the competent authorities are not the response authorities but rather maritime and environmental authorities. The Meeting welcomed the offer by Sweden to take the lead in developing a draft revised Recommendation 20/5 for consideration by RESPONSE 27-2020.

13.10. In considering the remaining Recommendations, the Meeting agreed that lead countries are needed for each Recommendation that is proposed for revision, with a view to submitting draft revisions to RESPONSE 27-2020 for agreement.

13.11. The Meeting noted that Denmark has conducted a thorough national review with regard to all Recommendations related to Response and invited all other Contracting Parties to do the same in advance of the next Meeting. The Meeting agreed that sharing the Danish review documents among Contracting Parties and instructed the Secretariat to do so e.g. through a dedicated Workspace on the HELCOM Meeting Portal, subject to confirmation by Denmark following consultation with the Danish HELCOM HOD.

13.12. The Meeting agreed to a proposal by Denmark to request HOD 56-2019 to consider inviting all HELCOM Working Groups to review all valid HELCOM Recommendations before the 50th anniversary of HELCOM in 2024.

13.13. The Meeting reviewed national contact information and web links included in Chapter 1 of the HELCOM Response Manual Volume 1 (at sea, on shore and oiled wildlife) (document 13-1) and invited all Contracting Parties to update the information and also send a message to the HELCOM Secretariat (alexey.bakhtov@helcom.fi) ensuring that the information has been checked and is up-to-date.

13.14. The Meeting noted that updated information had been provided by Sweden (document 13-3) and Latvia (document 13-4) and that a number of Contracting Parties also provided information to the Secretariat during the Meeting, to be included in the next update of Chapter 1.

13.15. The Meeting took note of the information about the ongoing work related to the update of the HELCOM Response Manual presented by the Secretariat (document 13-2).

13.16. The Meeting encouraged Contracting Parties to consider the possibility of providing further financial contributions to facilitate finalization of the update of the HELCOM Response Manual.

13.17. The Meeting recalled that the agreed chapter leads for the revision of the Response Manual are detailed in document 13-4 of RESPONSE 25-2018. All Contracting Parties and observers were encouraged to participate in the work.

13.18. The Meeting agreed that the oil sampling guideline currently under development by EMSA could be referenced in Chapter 7 of the Manual.

Agenda Item 14 Activities within other organizations and initiatives

14.1 Matters related to this agenda item were covered by the Meeting under other Agenda Items.

Agenda Item 15 Any other business

Documents: 15-1, 15-2, 15-3

- 15.1. The Meeting discussed priorities for an upcoming DG ECHO project call related to maritime activities and marine pollution preparedness, which considers increasing funds available as compared to previous years. The Meeting considered four draft objectives presented by the EU and recognized that there may be opportunities for funding for projects related to various response related matters, including for regional sea conventions such as HELCOM.
- 15.2. The Meeting appreciated the opportunity to comment on the draft objectives to DG ECHO within the next few weeks.
- 15.3. The Meeting checked and updated the list of contact addresses and Observers of the Response Working Group (document 15-1), to be published on the HELCOM Meeting Portal once agreement has been given by all contact points on the list.
- 15.4. The Meeting took note of survey on HELCOM knowledge and research needs presented by the Secretariat (document 15-2). The Contracting Parties are invited to submit proposals to the Secretariat (ullali.zweifel@helcom.fi) by end of June 2019. In this context, the Meeting agreed that it would also be important to, as a first step, assess what research and studies have already been done and is currently ongoing.
- 15.5. The Meeting took note of the achievements and envisaged new projects of EMSA 2018 (document 15-3 and **Presentation 9**), including an overview of oil pollution response services, recent response operations, EMSA's HNS services and activities (including MAR-ICE), as well as information on recent and planned events organized by EMSA.
- 15.6. The Meeting noted that it is also possible for third parties and companies to request assistance from EMSA, as well as non-EU Member States if the European Council agrees. The prices are subsidised for EU Member States and other parties pay slightly more. The Meeting noted that personnel is not available through EMSA's services, but e.g. equipment manufacturers are able to do that.
- 15.7. The Meeting noted that 300-400 tonnes of oil had been collected following the Ro-Ro Grand America accident, which EMSA had provided response assistance to.
- 15.8. The Meeting discussed the list of equipment used for EMSA stress tests. The Meeting noted that there have been risks of confusion with regard to equipment reporting to such tests, that may be misinterpreted to be the total amount of equipment for the respective country.

Agenda Item 16 Future work and meetings

Documents: 16-1

- 16.1. Meeting took note and considered the preliminary list of upcoming HELCOM and other meetings (document 16-1) and invited Contracting Parties and observers to keep the Secretariat informed of any meetings related to pollution response issues, in order to avoid overlaps
- 16.2. The Meeting welcomed the offer by Denmark to host RESPONSE 27-2020 on 26-28 February 2020 in Vejle. Practical information was provided by Denmark in Presentation 10. The Meeting noted that SHORE Network 4-2020 will be organized in the same venue on 25 February 2019. The Meeting welcomed the tentative offer by Estonia to host RESPONSE 28-2020 on the week starting 5 October 2020, subject to confirmation in 2020.

Agenda Item 17 Outcome of the Meeting

Documents: 17-1

- 17.1. The Meeting adopted the draft Outcome of the Meeting as contained in document 18-1.
- 17.2. 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 presentations given during the Meeting.

Annex 1 List of participants

| N | Name | Representing | Organization | Email address |
|----|---------------------|----------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Heli Haapasaari | Chair | Finnish Border Guard | heli.haapasaari@raja.fi |
| 2 | Torben Iversen | Denmark | Royal Danish Navy Command | pol.con.den@mil.dk |
| 3 | Marit Mätik | Estonia | Estonian Ministry of the Interior | marit.matik@moi.ee |
| 4 | Danel Tüür | Estonia | Estonian Police and Border Guard Board | danel.tyyr@politsei.ee |
| 5 | Kaspar Anderson | Estonia | Ministry of the Environment | kaspar.anderson@envir.ee |
| 6 | Asta Mackeviciute | European Union | European Commission | asta.mackeviciute@ec.europa.eu |
| 7 | Walter Nordhausen | European Union | EC/EMSA | walter.nordhausen@emsa.europa.eu |
| 8 | Pekka Parkkali | Finland | Finnish Border Guard | pekka.parkkali@raja.fi |
| 9 | Jörg Berner | Germany | Central Command for Maritime Emergencies Germany | JBerner@havariekommando.de |
| 10 | Jens Rauterberg | Germany | Central Command for Maritime Emergencies | jrauterberg@havariekommando.de |
| 11 | Laura Mazmaca | Latvia | State Environmental Service | laura.mazmaca@vvd.gov.lv |
| 12 | Ojārs Gerke | Latvia | Latvian Coast Guard Service | ojars.gerke@mrcc.lv |
| 13 | Igor Kuzmenko | Lithuania | MRCC of the Lithuanian NAVY | igor.kuzmenko@mil.lt |
| 14 | Wojciech Wasowski | Poland | Maritime Office in Gdynia | wwasowski@umgd.gov.pl |
| 15 | Ewa Makowska | Poland | Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation | ewa.makowska@mgm.gov.pl |
| 16 | Maciej Grzonka | Poland | Polish Maritime Search and Rescue Service | maciej.grzonka@sar.gov.pl |
| 17 | Krzysztof Pietrasik | Poland | State Fire Service | kpietrasik@kgps.gov.pl |
| 18 | Vadim Ustinov | Russia | Marine Rescue Service | ustinov@morspas.com |
| 19 | Cesar Vallin | Sweden | Kustbevakningen | cesar.vallin@coastguard.se |
| 20 | Sonja Dobo | Sweden | Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency | sonja.dobo@msb.se |
| 21 | Paul Kelway | Observer | Sea Alarm | pkelway@sea-alarm.org |
| 22 | Therese Larsson | Invited guest | Swedish Coast Guard | Therese.Larsson@kustbevakningen.se |
| 23 | Mattias Lindholm | Invited guest | Swedish Coast Guard | mattias.lindholm@kustbevakningen.se |
| 24 | Markus Helavuori | Secretariat | HELCOM | markus.helavuori@helcom.fi |
| 25 | Alexey Bakhtov | Secretariat | HELCOM | alexey.bakhtov@helcom.fi |
| 26 | Reita Waara | Secretariat | HELCOM | reita.waara@helcom.fi |

Annex 2. Concretization of actions in the Baltic Sea Action Plan

Table 1: Joint actions related to Response

| Action (origin) | Current status | Comments from RESPONSE 25-2018 | Proposal | Comments from RESPONSE 26-2019 | New action |
|---|---------------------|--|---|--|---|
| Further develop regional preparedness and response related services including HELCOM SeaTrackWeb, HELCOM Automatic Identification System, HELCOM Pollution Reporting System (POLREP), HELCOM GIS and links to relevant EU systems towards a second generation of HELCOM oil response information system covering the whole Baltic Sea on an equal basis (MD 2013) | Partly accomplished | Following the expression of interest from Russia to use CECIS Marine Pollution, made through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism portal in spring 2018, the Meeting invited Russia to confirm their intention to use the system for HELCOM POLREP purposes. | <p>Category 3. This action should be redrafted to include more concrete objectives and a new target year for completion.</p> <p>Russia to liaise with the EU regarding the use of CECIS Marine Pollution and inform Response as appropriate.</p> | <p>The Meeting <u>noted</u> that all the response related services mentioned in this action are in different stages of development, which makes them unsuitable for grouping into one action. The Meeting <u>agreed</u> that this action should be split into sub-actions or separate actions with different target completion dates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SeaTrackWeb was <u>considered</u> to be accomplished, but needs to be continuously developed. - AIS is more related to HELCOM Maritime, but of great importance for Response and working well. This part of the action was <u>considered</u> to be accomplished. - The Meeting <u>noted</u> that POLREP is a global system developed by IMO and is fully developed and working well. The relevant EU systems are in use by all CPs that are EU Member States, but involvement of Russia would also be important. - HELCOM GIS (MADS) contains good background data but is not adding value to response authorities. The Meeting consequently <u>agreed</u> that HELCOM GIS should not be included in the action. - The Meeting <u>noted</u> that links to relevant EU systems are not under the mandate of HELCOM Response and consequently no further concretization needed. <p>The Meeting consequently <u>agreed</u> that this action belongs to Category 3.</p> | Further develop regional preparedness and response related services including SeaTrackWeb to have integrated live feed from online devices such as sea current monitoring bouys, radars etc. no later than [2027]. Work for full integration between satellite coverage and drift modelling by SeaTrackWeb. |

| | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| | | | | <p>EU informed that the Russian expression of interest in using CECIS Marine Pollution was from Kaliningrad authorities. Progress has not been made since RESPONSE 25-2018. EU: some formal invitation to Russia may be needed. All benefits of the system should be listed and an explanation should be included on what limited efforts would be needed. The Meeting <u>agreed</u> to draft an appendix listing benefits and procedures related to Russia gaining access to CECIS. The Meeting further <u>agreed</u> to invite HOD 56-2019 to instruct the Secretariat to use the appendix to draft a letter addressed to Russia, inviting them to formally request access to CECIS Marine Pollution and use it for response purposes.</p> <p>The Meeting further noted <u>that</u> for SafeSeaNet there is a workshop coming up related to POLREP, that Russia has not used POLREP, and is not expected to be granted access.</p> | |
| <p>Produce a one-off HELCOM thematic assessment on environmental risks of hazardous submerged objects covering contaminated wrecks, lost or dumped dangerous goods (e.g. containers), and other objects, also utilizing the 2013 report on dumped chemical munitions (MD 2013)</p> | <p>Partly accomplished</p> | <p>The Meeting agreed to recommend to HOD 55-2018 that the mandate of the Submerged Expert Group should be prolonged until the end of 2020, with a view to finalizing the HELCOM Thematic Assessment on Hazardous Submerged Objects in the Baltic Sea.</p> | <p>Category 3. This work is ongoing but the idea is no longer to have a one off assessment, but that it should be updated in the future with new information and developments (agreed by HOD 54).</p> <p>The aim is to complete the work before the end of 2020.</p> <p>The action should be redrafted to focus on keeping the thematic assessment up to date, and consideration may also be given to measures to manage the</p> | <p>The Meeting <u>agreed</u> that the action should be retained even after the Submerged Assessment has been finalized. The Meeting <u>agreed</u> that the action should be revised to reflect the agreed status of the Submerged Assessment as a living document to be updated once more information on submerged hazardous objects in the Baltic Sea is received. The Meeting also <u>proposed</u> that information on submerged hazardous objects should also be included in the HELCOM MADS.</p> <p>The Meeting consequently <u>agreed</u> that this action belongs to Category 2.</p> <p>The Meeting <u>agreed</u> to urge all CPs to participate in the work on developing the Submerged Assessment, as currently information on submerged hazardous objects is missing from a number of countries. The Meeting also <u>emphasized</u> the importance of the Submerged Expert Group completing the work soon.</p> | <p>Produce a HELCOM thematic assessment on hazardous submerged objects covering contaminated wrecks, lost or dumped dangerous goods (e.g. containers), and other objects, also utilizing the 2013 report on dumped chemical munitions, as a living document to be updated once more information on submerged hazardous objects in the Baltic Sea is received. Include information on submerged hazardous objects in the HELCOM MADS.</p> |

| | | | | | |
|---|------------------|---|--|--|--|
| | | | identified hazardous submerged objects. | The Meeting <u>noted</u> that any elements related to environmental assessment of submerged hazardous objects in the Baltic Sea should not be tasked to the Response Working Group. | |
| Update HELCOM Manual on Co-operation in Combatting Marine Pollution Volume II, focusing on response to accidents at sea involving spills of hazardous substances and loss of packaged dangerous goods (MD 2013) | Not accomplished | A joint project application to DG ECHO on updating regional response manuals on chemical spills has been submitted. The project, to which HELCOM is a Project Partner is entitled Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil and HNS Pollution Cooperation (WestMOPoCo) and is presented in more detail in RESPONSE 25-2018 document 13-3. Of key interest for HELCOM is the development of a joint inter-regional HNS response manual, which is envisaged to replace the HELCOM Response Manual Volume 2. | Work towards completing this action is on-going, with a view to finalizing it by 2021. Therefore no further measures are proposed at this stage. | <p>The Meeting <u>agreed</u> that this action does not need to be included in the updated BSAP.</p> <p>The Meeting <u>emphasized</u> the importance of the Secretariat and CG HNS Manual ensuring that the joint inter-regional HNS response manual will be fit for purpose taking into account Baltic Sea conditions. The Meeting <u>noted</u> that it could be possible to seek approval from the WestMOPoCo Project Manager at DG Echo for flexibility in how the joint manual is developed, by e.g. developing three customized manuals for the Baltic Sea, North Sea and Mediterranean, respectively.</p> | |

Table 2: National actions related to Response

| Action (origin) | Status in March 2018 | Comments from RESPONSE 25-2018 | Proposal | Comments from RESPONSE 26-2019 | New action |
|---|--|---|---|---|------------|
| Integrate the subject of oiled wildlife response into oil pollution contingency plans either on a national or sub-national/local level (BSAP) | Partly accomplished (Implemented by 5/9) | Latvia informed that a national Oiled Wildlife Response Plan is under development and that there is a scheme for cooperation and a list of the main responsible authorities in case oiled wildlife response is to be included within the National Contingency Plan. In addition, national authorities and | Remaining Contracting Parties are encouraged to accomplish the action by 2021, in which case the action can be deleted. If this is not accomplished, the action could remain (Category 1). | <p>The Meeting <u>agreed</u> that the intention of the action has been fulfilled, but formally it cannot be reported as such for all Contracting Parties, e.g. as the word “integrate” is interpreted in different ways in different countries.</p> <p>The Meeting consequently <u>agreed</u> that this action should not be carried forward to the updated BSAP. The Meeting, however, <u>agreed</u></p> | |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| | | relevant NGOs have jointly prepared Guidelines for Oiled Wildlife Care at Marine and Inland Water Oil Spills. | | that completely new actions may be proposed to the updated BSAP, regarding oiled wildlife response Poland informed the Meeting that they have now accomplished this action. | |
| Based upon sensitivity mapping, to identify the need for and to finalise the quantification of countermeasures for shoreline response, and to prepare concrete plans/programmes for fulfilling them by 2013 (BSAP) | Partly accomplished (Implemented by 5/9) | | Remaining Contracting Parties are encouraged to accomplish the action by 2021. If this is not done, the target year is to be revised for the updated BSAP (Category 2). | The Meeting <u>agreed</u> that the action in its current form is unclear and formulated in a way that makes it very difficult to fully accomplish. Especially the word “quantification” causes problems in the national interpretations. The Meeting consequently <u>agreed</u> that the action is to be revised (Category 3). | Prepare national or sub-regional plans for shoreline response. |
| Integrate shoreline response into national contingency plans and conduct trainings and organize exchange programmes (BSAP, Annex VII 1992 Helsinki Convention) | Partly accomplished (Implemented by 5/9) | | Remaining Contracting Parties are encouraged to accomplish the action by 2021. If this is not done, some revision of the wording may be needed. E.g. conducting trainings is an ongoing action that can never be fully accomplished (Category 2). | The Meeting <u>agreed</u> that the action in its current form is formulated in a way that makes it very difficult to fully accomplish. The Meeting nevertheless <u>agreed</u> that the intention of the action has already been fulfilled. The Meeting consequently <u>agreed</u> that this action should not be carried forward to the updated BSAP. The Meeting, however, <u>agreed</u> that completely new actions related to shoreline response may be proposed to the updated BSAP. The Meeting <u>noted</u> that the action on “organizing exchange programmes” is in principle fulfilled each year through the BALEX DELTA exercises and other means of expert exchange, but that calling it exchange programmes adds unnecessary formality to the matter. | |

Existing commitments that are not included in the follow-up system

The Meeting considered the following commitments that were previously assigned as “too general”, with a view to their possible concretization in the process of the update of the BSAP and inclusion in the update BSAP.

- Implement a public awareness programme aimed at involving the public in the detection of illegal discharges from ships (*RESPONSE 26-2019 agreed that this action should not be included in the updated BSAP*);
- Develop best practices for shoreline response, continue the research work and information exchange to close gaps in the knowledge (*RESPONSE 26-2019 agreed that this action should not be included in the updated BSAP as this is something Contracting Parties do in any case*);
- Promote development and use of technology to respond to accidents (difficult weather conditions, heavy oil, hazardous substances) (*RESPONSE 26-2019 agreed that this action should not be included in the updated BSAP*);
- Encourage development and use of innovative and cost-effective integrated pollution surveillance systems (*RESPONSE 26-2019 agreed that this action should not be included in the updated BSAP*); and
- Consider an assessment of pleasure craft activities in the Baltic Sea Area, including inter alia their environmental impacts and risks of accidents, in order to consider the safety of navigation of both recreational as well as commercial vessels (*RESPONSE 26-2019 agreed that the Maritime Working Group needs to be consulted regarding environmental impacts, but that as far as Response is concerned, this action does not need to be included in the updated BSAP*).

The Meeting agreed that many of these points are nevertheless good ideas, that could be used e.g. when developing project proposals. The Meeting agreed to establish a list of such issues that may need future development, as an ongoing topic/document submission to each HELCOM Response Meeting.

Appendix

Invitation to Russia to use CECIS Marine Pollution for POLREP information exchange

Marine pollution reporting and emergency communication in HELCOM is based on the POLREP system. Traditionally POLREP messages were transmitted via fax and email. HELCOM Recommendation 36/3 on *Marine pollution incident reporting and requests for assistance between Contracting Parties in the Baltic Sea area* which was adopted in 2015 introduced the use of the Common Emergency Communication and Information System for Marine Pollution (CECIS MP) among other means for POLREP exchange, CECIS Marine Pollution provides for a better coordination and overview as well as simplify administration and filing. The Russian Federation was also invited to use the same approach and has been regularly offered to get access and user rights to CECIS MP. Regrettably, no positive reply has been received so far and the Russian Federation remains the only Contracting Party outside this communication platform.

The current situation where not all HELCOM the Contracting Parties use these IT systems creates a number of inconveniences and duplications during marine pollution incidents and exercises obliging the use the old and new communication channels in parallel. Furthermore, CECIS MP facilitates resources databases that has been agreed to be an entry point for reporting and updating information on national resources in the HELCOM area..

In order to achieve a uniform and more effective approach for sending and receiving POLREP messages in the whole HELCOM area on an equal basis, it is important that all Contracting Parties use the same communication tool. Therefore, it is suggested that the HOD 56-2019 would instruct the HELCOM Secretariat approach relevant authorities in the Russian Federation with an encouragement to become a user of CECIS MP. Access to the system can be granted upon a written expression of interest by a relevant national authority to DG ECHO in the European Commission. The use of CECIS MP is free of charge and training can be provided.

Background

The Common Emergency Communication and Information System for Marine Pollution (CECIS MP) was developed to enable communication, sharing of information as well as requesting for and offering international assistance. It connects EU Member States' contact points, Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) in the European Commission (which is the 24/7 operational hub of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism – 'UCPM') and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). The system is also open to third countries sharing a regional sea basin with the EU.

CECIS MP can be used at EU or at regional sea basin level. It connects both marine pollution and civil protection authorities, allowing for a more complete overview of at-sea and shoreline operations and international assistance. The system can be used during real incidents as well exercises.

CECIS MP is linked to EMSA's SafeSeaNet and automatically receives and stores information on reported pollution incidents. This information can be transformed into a request for assistance, directed to one or multiple Regional Agreements, EMSA and/or selected/all Participating States of the UCPM. An emergency notification and request for assistance from a third country can also be created directly in CECIS MP, without a POLREP message in SafeSeaNet.

Main functionalities of the CECIS MP include:

- Information transmission;
- Possibility to request and offer international assistance through a common platform;
- Overview and coordination of international requests and offers;
- Logbook of actions within the system and communication with international users;
- Database of countries' and EMSA's resources for oil and HNS response operations;
- Policy information per country on dispersants and HNS

Annex 3

Work Plan for the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR), 2019-2021

| Categories | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|--|---|--|--|
| Regular exchange at HELCOM RESPONSE meetings | Report on possible updates of national plans | Report on possible updates of national plans | Report on possible updates of national plans |
| | Report on national training, exercises, events and response operations | Report on national training, exercises, events and response operations | Report on national training, exercises, events and response operations |
| | Progress and lessons learnt on authority-NGO cooperation | Progress and lessons learnt on authority-NGO cooperation | Progress and lessons learnt on authority-NGO cooperation |
| | Progress report on oiled wildlife response preparedness in the Baltic region | Progress report on oiled wildlife response preparedness in the Baltic region | Progress report on oiled wildlife response preparedness in the Baltic region |
| | Report on sub-regional cooperation (including trainings, agreements e.t.c.) in field of OWR | Report on sub-regional cooperation in field of OWR | Report on sub-regional cooperation in field of OWR |
| Training & Exercises | | | |
| Workshops, meetings and events | Online Seminar „Early incident response in Baltic Countries“ | | |
| | Meetings of oiled wildlife response expert working group | Meetings of oiled wildlife response expert working group | Meetings of oiled wildlife response expert working group |
| Cooperation with other regional conventions and EU | | | |

Annex 4

Terms of Reference for the steering group of the HREP project managed by Sweden

The project time period is from August 2019 and terminated at HELCOM RESPONSE 27-2020.

Sweden will Chair the steering group. The project consists of two phases

- Analysis & suggestion
- Implementation

The steering group has the decision mandate of the project deliverables.

The task of the group:

- Be available and support the contractor on short notice
- Keep Response Heads of Delegation informed about the suggestions from Phase 1
- Attend the HREP workshop in October 2019
- Deliver a decision at two steering group meetings. Decision meetings can be physical or online meetings.

The project consultant will work as secretary at all meetings.