



# Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation

Hamina, Finland, 6-10 May 2019

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## Background

HELCOM Rec. 35/1 on SYSTEM OF COASTAL AND MARINE BALTIC SEA PROTECTED AREAS (HELCOM MPAs) recommends: ... “*k) assess the effectiveness of the management plans or measures of HELCOM MPAs by conducting monitoring, and where feasible scientific research programmes, which are directly connected to the conservation interests of HELCOM MPAs, including the placement of monitoring stations inside the MPAs (for those Contracting Parties which are also EU Member States this monitoring may be linked to the monitoring related to the implementation of relevant EU legislation);“...This paragraph refers to an assignment of the Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Work Programme on Marine Protected from Bremen 2003, ...,i) develop guidance on, and make arrangements for, the assessment of how effectively the management of HELCOM and OSPAR marine protected areas is achieving the aims of protection;“ to which the DECLARATION OF THE JOINT MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE HELSINKI AND OSPAR COMMISSIONS (Bremen 2003) referred.*

The HELCOM ACTION project has the general objective to contribute to the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and a specific objective to analyse the effectiveness and sufficiency of existing measures to reach good environmental status in the Baltic Sea. One focus of the ACTION project is to assess the effectiveness of marine protected areas (MPA) as a measure to protect biodiversity (WP3 Assessment of effectiveness of MPA network). The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz, BfN) is organizing a relevant workshop on management effectiveness in marine protected areas, which will be convened at the Isle of Vilm, Germany, in fall 2019, details to be announced in due course.

The workshop is targeted to international experts and has the overall objective to develop guidelines for and exchange experiences in the assessment of management effectiveness in MPAs.

More specifically, the workshop will use “best practice” examples to elaborate

- guidelines for assessing management effectiveness in the fulfilment of conservation goals through management measures,
- a framework for monitoring and pressure evaluation of human activities (threats and pressures),
- indicators for assessing management effectiveness.

## Action requested

The meeting is invited to take note of the information and to task the HELCOM secretariat to ask the relevant colleagues of the ACTION project to participate in the workshop and to contribute actively.