



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION
11-2019

Riga, Latvia, 21-25 October 2019

Document title	Extracts of outcomes of recent HELCOM meetings of relevance for State and Conservation
Code	2J-2
Category	INF
Agenda Item	2J – Matters of relevance for the Meeting and information from the Secretariat
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Background

The following HELCOM meetings and workshops that are relevant for the State and Conservation Group have taken place since the tenth meeting of the Group (STATE&CONSERVATION 10-2019), which was held on 6-10 May 2019:

- [HOD 56-2019](#), Helsinki, Finland, 18-19 June

Working Groups

- [GEAR 20-2019](#), Berlin, Germany, 15-17 May
- [FISH 10-2019](#), Copenhagen, Denmark, 25-26 June
- [STATE & CONSERVATION 10a](#), Online 7 September

Expert Groups and networks

- [PLC-7 IG 7-2019](#), Warsaw, Poland, 14-16 May
- [MORS EG 9-2019](#), Roskilde, Denmark, 21-23 May
- [IN EUTROPHICATION 13-2019](#), Online, 29 May
- [EN-Noise 2-2019](#), Copenhagen, 18-19 June
- [EN CLIME 3-2019](#), Stockholm, 19 August
- [IN EUTROPHICATION 14-2019](#), Online, 29 August
- [PLC-7 IG 8-2019](#), Tallinn, 11-13 September
- [SOM Platform 2-2019](#), Helsinki, Finland, 16-17 September, [Notes](#) available in the meeting site
- [EG MAMA 13-2019](#), Helsinki, 24-26 September
- EN-HZ 11-2019, Online, 7 October, Outcome will be available via the [meeting site](#)

Workshops

- [ACTION WS 2-2019](#), Helsinki, Finland, 22-23 May
- [BALTICHECK WS 2-2019](#), Helsinki, Finland, 27-28 May
- Incidental bycatch WS 1-2019, Copenhagen, Denmark, 3-5 September
- MPA management WS 2-2019, Vaasa, Finland, 9-12 September
- SOM Biodiversity: Marine Mammals workshop, 26-27 September
- SOM Biodiversity: Waterbirds workshop, 3-4 September

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the attached extracts of outcomes of recent HELCOM meetings of relevance for State and Conservation.

Extracts of outcomes of recent HELCOM meetings of relevance for State and Conservation

HOD 56-2019, Helsinki, Finland, 18-19 June

Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

The Meeting

- endorsed the revised work plan for the BSAP update as included in Annex 2 of the Outcome.
- noted the lack of Lead countries on biodiversity and agreed to organize HELCOM workshops, in autumn 2019, to contribute to the SOM analyses. The Meeting noted that the workshops will likely be held in association to planned meetings for EG MAMA, EN Benthic and JWG Birds, either as part of the planned meetings or by extending the meetings by one day. The Meeting noted that a dedicated workshop on migratory fish will be proposed at FISH 10-2019.
- welcomed that Finland is looking into the possibility to take the lead on migratory fish.
- agreed to convene the next meeting of the HELCOM SOM Platform 16-17 September 2019.
- endorsed the approach for analyzing sufficiency of measures and its use to support the BSAP update as presented in document 2-3 to the meeting.
- agreed to use the provisional 'BSAP structure' as a basis for ongoing work of HELCOM Working Groups on the BSAP update and supported the proposed outline of a BSAP segment as presented in document 2-4 and the use of ecological objectives, management objectives and action areas to structure the segments.
- agreed to prepare a HELCOM voluntary commitment to the UN 2020 Ocean Conference on HELCOM contribution to UN Decade of Ocean Science and the Task Group is assigned to develop a proposal.
- agreed that the HELCOM Stakeholder Conference to be organized on 3 March 2020 back-to-back with HELCOM 41-2020 will focus on the update of the BSAP and should have an engaging format to attract a variety of stakeholders.

Matters arising from the HELCOM groups

The Meeting

- approved the arranging of the following meetings:
 - o second HELCOM MPA Management Workshop tentatively on 9-12 September 2019;
 - o one-day joint HELCOM-ICES online workshop focused on improving reporting and usability of data for the HELCOM COMBINE database in autumn 2019;
 - o one-day extra session of State and Conservation Monitoring focusing on the reporting on and update of the monitoring programmes in early fall, possibly back-to-back with a joint BONUS FUMARI-SEAM workshop; and
 - o STATE&CONSERVATION 12-2020 on 11-15 May 2020, tentatively to be hosted by Estonia.
- welcomed the information that Germany can provide the additional funding needed to take the project work for further development of HELCOM eutrophication test assessment forward. A project proposal outlining the planned work will be provided to HOD intersessionally for approval, with the intention to enable the work to commence in autumn 2019.
- approved the revised project proposal for Quality assurance of phytoplankton monitoring in the Baltic Sea (HELCOM PEG QA) 2020-2022.
- considered the draft Terms of Reference for the HELCOM Expert Group on Sturgeon Remediation (EG STUR) and approved the establishment of the HELCOM Sturgeon EG.

- took note of the Terms of Reference for the HELCOM Network for Marine Protected Area Management (EN MPA MANET). The Meeting took note of the comments received by the EU, considered the amendments and approved the amended Terms of Reference.
- took note of the comment by Estonia and Finland that it would be useful to hold a strategic discussion on the number, coverage and requirement for the Expert Groups. The Meeting welcomed the information that this was touched upon in STATE&CONSERVATION 10-2019 and invited the State and Conservation group to elaborate the discussion in STATE&CONSERVATION 11-2019.
- considered the HELCOM monitoring sub-programme on beach litter. The Meeting took note of the comments received by the EU, considered the amendments and agreed to include them in the monitoring sub-programme.
- in principle approved the HELCOM monitoring sub-programme on beach litter as contained in document 3-14-Rev.1, taking into account that editorial amendments may still be included.
- endorsed the arranging of the Second HELCOM indicator Workshop, proposed to take place 16-18 October 2019, as well as endorsed the Terms of Reference for the Workshop.
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Any other business

The Meeting:

- considered the concept note for the XXI International Environmental Forum «Baltic Sea Day» to be held on 19-20 March 2020 in St. Petersburg, Russia and took note that the preliminary topics for discussion include the implementation of BSAP and sufficiency of measures to reach a good environmental status. The Meeting encouraged the HELCOM Working Groups to provide practical suggestions for the agenda of the next Baltic Sea Day Forum

Next Meetings

The meeting decided that the next meeting (HOD 57-2019) will be held on 10-11 December 2019 in Helsinki. The Meeting decided that HOD 58-2020 will be held tentatively on 8-9 June 2020.

Working groups

GEAR 20-2019, Berlin, Germany, 15-17 May

Regionally coordinated implementation of MSFD

The Meeting

- took note of the document on regional coordination in relation to the update of MSFD PoMs.
- discussed the guiding questions for regional coordination and actions included in the document and agreed on a general work plan as outlined below, to be executed taking into consideration timetables and work being done under corresponding work strands under the BSAP update, with the aim to support the Contracting Parties who are also EU Member States in taking regional coordination of the review and update of national programmes forward as follows:
 - o the Secretariat to inform ACTION project (work package on reasons for not reaching GES) that the outcomes of their work could be useful for GEAR in its strategic planning for MSFD purposes and include specifications in Art. 14. Include a technical projection of when GES could be achieved;
 - o highlight to SOM platform any opportunities to improve synergies with national PoMs work (such as structuring lists per Descriptor).
- agreed that in, or prior to, the next GEAR 21-2019, the GEAR WG will:
 - o compile ideas from MS on how to consider Art. 14 MSFD;
 - o consider the draft reporting guidance on PoMs;
 - o discuss potential use of Art. 15 MSFD – prepare teaser document with aspects to be discussed and examples of topics;
 - o discuss preparation for joint documentation in support of CPs MSFD Art. 13 reporting on PoMs.
- agreed that prior to or in the GEAR 22-2020, the GEAR WG will:
 - o exchange initial ideas for measures;
 - o discuss possible transboundary impacts on other countries waters in the context of SEA;
 - o start identifying possibilities for joint measures, which can possibly feed into the BSAP update;
 - o start preparing a HELCOM joint documentation in support of CPs MSFD Art. 13 reporting on PoMs.

Activities of relevant HELCOM projects or processes

The Meeting

- agreed to further elaborate the initial proposal of the components of HOLAS III as included in **Annex 3** to this Outcome, and invited countries to provide comments and suggestions to these components to the Secretariat (Jannica.Haldin@helcom.fi) by **12 August 2019**. The Secretariat will collate and, if possible, cluster the received information and link it to the relevant work strand in the preliminary timeline, with the aim of submitting a further developed proposed plan to STATE&CONSERVATION 11-2019 and GEAR 21-2019 meetings, respectively. The Meeting invited the Secretariat and the relevant Expert Groups to prepare more specific information on identified gaps and development needs for the various work strands not covered by the indicator work, as identified in the HOLAS II process or in subsequent work. The Meeting further agreed to continue the discussion on the topic in GEAR 21-2019.
- supported the suggestion that intersessional preparatory work for HOLAS III should take the form of three consecutive, interlinking work strands focusing on indicators, dataflows, and assessments and methodologies respectively. The Meeting acknowledged that the work strand on indicators is

already established and that work has commenced and invited the Secretariat to prepare a draft for a project proposal for the dataflow strand, to be presented to STATE&CONSERVATION 11-2019 and GEAR 21-2019 for review.

- considered and agreed on the request for HELCOM to co-host a joint workshop on marine ecosystem accounting to be held on 10 October 2019 in Helsinki, Finland (document 4-3).
- highlighted the importance of drivers and the need to account for drivers also in HELCOM work on a broader scale, e.g. BSAP and HOLAS III.
- welcomed the information that STATE&CONSERVATION 10-2019 invited the Secretariat to approach the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG with a proposal for closer cooperation, with the first proposed step being a joint scoping workshop.

Implementation and update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan

The Meeting

- endorsed the use of the approach as presented in document 5-4 for continued work to analyse sufficiency of measures in HELCOM.
- recommended that the structure of updated BSAP should remain close to the current structure and that the aim should remain for the goals and objectives to communicate the core ambition of HELCOM work to the wider community.
- took note that the State and Conservation Working Group proposed to consider by-catch under the segment on biodiversity since by-catch is considered in several Recommendations linked to the Group and that by-catch is considered under Descriptor 1 on biodiversity in the MSFD. The Meeting considered that fisheries and associated actions should rather be kept to the segment on sea-based activities while this does not hinder that the topic in the future will be addressed by the State and Conservation Working Group.
- supported the use of action areas, management objectives and ecological objectives as a framework for developing the BSAP document, and found it useful to link the state, pressures, activities and actions. The Meeting furthermore supported that the follow-up of objectives and actions should be clarified as part of the updated BSAP.
- proposed that the tentative action areas on biodiversity are further elaborated.

Election of Chair

- The Meeting elected Ms. Andrea Weiss, Germany, as Chair for the Working Group for the period of 2019-2021.
- The Meeting elected Asker Juul Aagren, Denmark, as vice Chair for the period 2019-2021.

Future work and any other business

The Meeting:

- invited the Chairs of the relevant Expert Groups as well as indicator leads to take part in the work of the EU TGs and where possible share information on the work and processes of HELCOM work on the relevant topics.
- agreed to convene the next physical meeting of WG GEAR **6-8 November 2019**, starting at 13h on 6 November and finalising at 15h on 8 November.
- welcomed the offer by Finland to host the meeting. Finland specified that the meeting will be held in Helsinki.

FISH 10-2019, Copenhagen, Denmark, 25-26 June

Implementation and Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

The Meeting

- In concluding the discussions related to document 3-6-Rev.1 (on work to evaluate the effect of spatial fishery regulation measures on seafloor integrity and by-catch in the HELCOM coordinated ACTION Project, utilizing the DISPLACE model), the Meeting discussed the possibilities of implementing spatial fisheries closures in the Baltic Sea. It was recognized that such restrictions may be feasible if they are sufficiently justified and that with regard to spatial management, fisheries closures in essential fish habitats could in the long term lead to increased stocks in surrounding areas.
- noted the scenarios described in document 3-6 Rev.1 and was invited to provide suggestions on additional scenarios that could be tested using the model used. The Meeting agreed that assessing the effect of fisheries restrictions imposed in MPAs would be an important addition to the work.
- agreed to convene a workshop, tentatively in November 2019 in Warsaw, Poland, to support the analyses of sufficiency of measures and update of the BSAP with regard to fish. The Meeting further agreed that careful consideration should be given to the planning of the workshop, as appropriate, in order to achieve an outcome that will support these ongoing processes.

Regional cooperation on fisheries and environment

The Meeting

- took note of the questionnaire on alternative fishing gears and fishing techniques as published in a dedicated Workspace on the HELCOM Meeting Portal
- considered whether also trials on gear selectivity should remain in the questionnaire and agreed that they should be deleted.
- encouraged the Contracting Parties and observers to continuously keep the questionnaire up to date on the dedicated Workspace.
- discussed how to promote the questionnaire outside HELCOM (e.g. BALTFISH and BSAC), to enable wide usage of the information and addition of new information and invited the Secretariat to share the questionnaire with relevant organizations, as appropriate.

HELCOM data interests

The Meeting

- considered the draft Roadmap on fisheries data in order to assess incidental by-catches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes in the Baltic Sea, submitted by Denmark, Finland, Germany, Poland, and Sweden (document 6-1).
- agreed that a timeline of due MSFD and HD assessments should not be included in the Roadmap.
- took note of the contribution by ICES to the draft Roadmap (document 6-2) and agreed that the Annex from that document will be included as annex to the draft Roadmap. The Meeting did not see the need for any additional annexes to be included in the Roadmap.
- agreed that the agreed Roadmap should be submitted for agreement also to STATE&CONSERVATION 11-2019 (October 2019), as Chapter 1 of the Roadmap requests State&Conservation to ensure that the collected data serve the scientific purpose of the HELCOM indicators. The Meeting further proposed that the draft Roadmap should subsequently be submitted to HOD 57-2019 for approval and HELCOM 41-2020 for adoption.

- recognized the relevance of the Roadmap considered under Agenda Item 6 for the work on HELCOM indicators.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chairs

The Meeting

- recalled that FISH 6-2017 elected Ms. Marianne Goffeng Raakil, Sweden, as Chair of the HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (Fish) for 2017-2019 as well as elected Ms. Katarzyna Kaminska, Poland, as Vice-Chair for the same period.
- re-elected the Chair and Vice-Chair of HELCOM FISH for the next two-year period (2020-2021).

Future work

The Meeting

- considered and updated the Work Plan for the HELCOM Fish Group, based on document 11-1 and agreed on a new Work Plan for 2020-2021, taking into account also the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, as contained in **Annex 4** for approval by HOD 57-2019.
- welcomed the offer by Sweden to consider hosting the next HELCOM Fish Group meeting (FISH 11-2020), and agreed tentatively that it will be held in Gothenburg on 11-12 March 2020.

State & Conservation 10 a, Online, 7 September

Further development of the HELCOM actions related to State & Conservation Working Group The Meeting

- continued the discussion initiated in STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019, concretize the actions from the MD 2018 related to State & Conservation Working Group. The Meeting took note that the Secretariat has collated the comments received to document 8J-3 of STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 into document 8J-3 rev.1, which was circulated to State and Conservation on 14 June 2019.
- took note that the Secretariat has strived to collate the information received from the Contracting Parties and provide suggested content to be included in the future concretized actions as contained in document 8J-3 rev-2 as distributed on 29 August 2019.
- noted the comments received from Germany to the document (document 3-1) and made further suggestions for more concrete actions for those action stemming from the MD 2018 as presented in third revision of the document (document 8J-3 rev.3). In advance of State and Conservation 11-2019 the Secretariat will prepare a consolidated proposal.
- discussed the existing agreements from the BSAP and MD 2010 and 2013 that are not included in the HELCOM follow-up system since they were identified as formulated too general when the follow-up system was set up in 2015 (doc 8J-3 rev.3). The Meeting noted that these agreements, in their current form, will not be followed-up in the future but instead replaced with tentative new/rephrased actions.
- recalled the task to review existing HELCOM actions from the BSAP and MD 2010 and 2013 that are not likely to be implemented by 2021 (as contained in document 8J-4 rev.2). The Meeting noted that rephrasing of these actions is possible if needed e.g. to define a new target year, to rephrase the actions if they are out of date, or if a need to clarify the actions has been identified. If actions are rephrased, the ambition level should be maintained as agreed in the MD 2018.
- noted that the prepared document 8J-4 rev.2 contains an abridged version of the original document 8J-4 rev.1, prepared for the Meeting in order to highlight only those actions identified as unlikely to be implemented by 2021 and where the preliminary categorization identified a need for revision.
- agreed on lead countries to draft proposals for revised text for the actions, as presented in the revised document (document 8J-4 rev.3), to be presented for consideration at STATE & CONSERVATION 11-2019. The Meeting took note that when revising the actions, the ambition level should not be lowered.

Further work on Ecological Objectives

The Meeting

- considered further work on the Ecological Objectives. The Meeting took note that Lead countries are needed for biodiversity related objectives listed in document 8J-WP1, as other objectives are considered in the other Working Groups.
- underlined the need for a cross-cutting discussion in HELCOM on how to address the development of threshold values and targets for pressures related to loss and disturbance to the seabed.
- agreed that countries can inform the Secretariat on their willingness to further develop biodiversity related objectives by 11 September 2019. The Meeting noted that guidance on the development of HELCOM objectives, including from GEAR 20-2019, will be distributed by the Secretariat to support the task.

Expert groups and networks

PLC-7 IG 7-2019, Warsaw, Poland, 14-16 May

The Meeting

- considered the current status of the data on waterborne input of nutrients and concluded that the dataset is ready to update MAI indicator. The Meeting agreed that the updated indicator will be available not later than the first week of October 2019. A draft document will be submitted to PRESSURE 11-2019 and simultaneously circulated to the PLC-7 Project Implementation Group.
- confirmed the intention to present and discuss a first draft of the assessment of progress towards national input ceilings at PLC-7 IG 9-2019 in December 2019.
- in general supported the proposed approach to deduct input by transboundary rivers from the national input ceilings and consider national input ceilings for the transboundary river basins separately.
- took note of and welcomed the information by Urmas Lips from Tallinn Technical University (ACTION project, task 4.2) on the first results of compilation of nutrient-related environmental targets from river basin management plans and evaluation of their sufficiency for achieving BSAP targets.
- discussed the preliminary results and proposed to cooperate closer with the PLC project in relation to data on nutrient loads for individual rivers. The Meeting noted the difference between environmental target sets in HELCOM countries. The Meeting pointed out that according to the preliminary results, the implementation of nutrient-related environmental targets for river basins is not sufficient to achieve the BSAP goals.
- welcomed the preliminary results of the analysis and concluded that the results of the work would be a valuable contribution to the BSAP update.

Any other business

PLC-8 timeframe

The Meeting:

- discussed the information on possible organization of the work on PLC-8 project proposed by the Project Manager (document 5-1).
- was of the opinion that the PLC-8 project is to be launched in the third quarter of 2020 in order to make the assessment products available in 2023. The first period of the project will be aimed at preparatory activities e.g. harmonizing methodologies and update of the PLC-Water Guidelines.
- suggested to consider coordination of PLC-8 products' delivery and timeframe with the HOLAS III project.
- invited the Project Manager together with the Secretariat to submit a proposal on PLC-8 project timeframe based on the document 5-1 and recommendation of PLC-7 8-2019.

Proposal to advance HELCOM core indicators on heavy metals

The Meeting:

- took note of the proposal on advancement of HELCOM HM indicators combining status of the marine environment and loads from various sources, presented by Sweden
- was invited to consider what kind of information on loads can be integrated to the indicator.
- pointed out that the data quality on HS loads is sometimes questionable and that the input part of the indicator will be an aggregation of good quality data and questionable ones. Thus, the Meeting proposed to utilize both loads and concentrations aggregated in a way to correspond subdivision

used for the assessment of the marine environment. Further, the Meeting was of the opinion that integrating loads and status of the marine environment was a long-term intention.

Future work and meetings

The meeting agreed to arrange PLC-7 IG 9-2019 on 16-18 December 2019 in Helsinki Finland, provisionally starting at 10.00 EET.

The themes of the next meeting will be: 2018 annual data reporting including spatial data; BSAP update (textual part and input ceilings); ENIREC II results; coordination with ACTION project; update of background information; HS indicator; follow up of the decisions by PRESSURE 11-2019 and HOD 57-2019 and other meetings (Annex 5).

MORS EG 9-2019, Roskilde, Denmark, 21-23 May

The Meeting:

- agreed that the proper way to notify on the reporting under Recommendation 26/3 would be to prepare a document related to the update frequency of the recommendation (which is annual) and the description of data reporting arrangements. The meeting agreed that the Secretariat and Chair will prepare a document and the draft will be circulated to the MORS EG by June 14 and with the aim to submit the document to State & Conservation 11-2019.
- considered the MORS environmental data compilation 2019 as presented by the Secretariat ([document 4-3](#), [presentation 4-A](#)), and checked that all the reported and available national data is reported to the MORS database.
- requested national data providers to check their national procedures on storing and reporting sediment types.
- reviewed the latest version (13 May 2019) of the Guidelines for Monitoring of Radioactive Substances, updated according to MORS EG 8-2018, as presented by the Secretariat and agreed on modifications to the guidelines
- agreed that the updated guideline and the updated reporting format excel file for Environmental and Discharge data will be circulated to the MORS EG and made available in the HELCOM website.
- discussed the need for the updating interval for the sediment BSEFS based on guidance from State & Conservation and agreed on following:
 - o BSEFS [Total amounts of the artificial radionuclide caesium -137 in Baltic Sea sediments](#) will not be updated any more and the information could be updated for and included in the next Thematic assessment on Radioactivity.
 - o BSEFS [Liquid discharges of Cs-137, Sr-90 and Co-60 into the Baltic Sea from local nuclear installations](#) will continued to be updated as recommended by State & Conservation. The Meeting agreed that proper updated interval would be every third year.
- discussed the preparation of the next thematic assessment on radioactivity in the Baltic Sea and agreed that the thematic assessment on radioactivity should feed to the third State of the Baltic Sea report and the schedule should be synchronized with that process.
- took note that for radiocaesium or other human-induced radionuclides there is no natural background value, thus the pre-Chernobyl value is rather easily understandable and cannot be compared to natural values, which would be zero.
- was of the opinion that ecological objective referring to pre-Chernobyl objective is backward-looking objective and should be updated.
- suggested to rephrase the current objective and suggested following formulation: **“Radioactivity at negligible risk level to humans and environment”**
- agreed that rephrasing the ecological objective would also have consequences on the current indicator threshold values, which are based on pre-Chernobyl levels.
- agreed to set up a task force to prepare new dose-based threshold values for the radioactivity core indicator.
- welcomed the information by Lithuania that they will host the meeting of MORS EG in 2020. The Meeting agreed that MORS EG 10-2020 will be held on 26-28 May 2020 in Vilnius.

IN EUTROPHICATION 13-2019, Online, 29 May

The Meeting

- agreed to update the already existing [document on shallow water oxygen indicator](#) with information of the current projects by the end of June. The Meeting noted that the document is a living document that will be updated along the way. The Meeting considered that the updated document can also be used to inform the 2nd indicator workshop on the work on shallow water oxygen indicator development.
- took note of the latest developments regarding co-operation in development of the acidification indicator: Funding for OMAI project has been confirmed, and the project had its kick-off meeting early this year and will have the next meeting at the end of June.
- took note of the proceedings in the issue of adjustments considered for the assessment units, and considered a way forward:
 - o Gulf of Finland (Lead Country for sub-basin division discussion is Finland): First steps on the issue of dividing the assessment unit into 2-3 sub-units were taken over a year ago in the Gulf of Finland year meeting, after which there has been no further progress. Finland noted that the work will be forwarded by the end of this year by discussing with Estonia and Russia, with an aim to make a proposal of 2-3 sub-units by STATE & CONSERVATION meeting in fall 2020 to ensure that the subdivision can be taken in use in HOLAS III.
 - o Bornholm Basin (Lead Country for sub-basin division discussion is Germany): Intention is to split off highly nutrient rich Odra water. A lot of modelling results exist for the area. Germany noted that the task of scrutinizing the modelling results could be included in the national modelling project that starts in 2020. Results would be available in the beginning of 2021.
 - o Kattegat (Lead Country for sub-basin division discussion is Sweden): New OSPAR sub-division for Kattegat area is planned to be taken in use also for HELCOM assessments. Sweden and Denmark noted that having the proposal by STATE & CONSERVATION meeting in fall 2020 is realistic.
- To ensure uninterrupted continuation of the development work, the Meeting agreed to submit a project proposal on eutrophication test assessment to HOD 56-2019, given that the national funding can be secured.
- agreed to make a project proposal for a 1-year project which would include 130 work hours, resulting in cost of 8190 €,

EN-Noise 2-2019, Copenhagen, 18-19 June

SOM Analysis for underwater noise

The Meeting

- discussed the aggregation of the list of activities/sources generating underwater noise (document 2-3) into a smaller number of groups so that SOM-modelling is feasible, and agreed on the following aggregation:
 - o A. Ships required to carry AIS-transmitters.
 - o B. Smaller boats not required to carry AIS-transmitters.
 - o C. Construction, dredging, towing of fishing gear etc.
 - o D. Stationary infrastructure (bridges, tunnels, platforms, offshore wind farms, pipelines etc.).
 - o E. Impulsive sources with peak energy below 10 kHz (pile driving, seismic surveys, certain military sonars, explosions, etc.). F. Impulsive sources with peak energy above 10 kHz (echosounders, sonars, subbottom profilers, pingers, seal scarers etc.).
- discussed how the input from activities and effect of measures should be quantified in the SOM analysis, and was of the view that: -
 - o The existing pre-core indicator for continuous noise covers sources A-D, but current modelling of their contributions is limited to group A and to a limited degree group B (smaller vessels that voluntarily carry AIS-transmitters). –
 - o The existing pre-core indicator for impulsive noise is intended to cover all of group E, but in previous reporting years it is acknowledged that there is a substantial underreporting of activities, which means that the indicator is insufficient to assess the relative contribution of these sources. –
 - o The last group, F, is not covered by any existing indicator and as it consists of a multitude of sources, some of which are very abundant (echosounders), it is an open question how this group of sources can be assessed.
- agreed to include impulsive sources with peak energy below 10 kHz (pile driving, seismic surveys, certain military sonars, explosions, etc.) in the SOM analysis.
- agreed to exclude impulsive sources with peak energy above 10 kHz (echosounders, sonars, subbottom profilers, pingers, seal scarers etc.) from the SOM analysis but consider them, due to their relevance, when proposing measures in the HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Underwater Noise under development.
- agreed to invite countries to share available information on national activities generating underwater sources with those countries sharing the geographical areas defined in §2.8. 2.16 The Meeting agreed that the Secretariat will further elaborate the survey activity-pressure based on the input from the Meeting and circulate it to the EN-Noise for tacit approval by 15 August 2019. The Meeting further agreed to invite the EN-Noise to fill in the survey by 6 September 2019 and inform the Secretariat (Luke.Dodd@helcom.fi) accordingly.
- took note that the outcome of the survey activity-pressure will be submitted to HELCOM Working Groups for consideration.

HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Underwater Noise

The Meeting

- took note of the Draft HELCOM RAP on Underwater Noise (document 3-1) which contains the feedback provided by Estonia, Germany and Russia included as footnotes for further consideration of the Meeting.

- agreed on the revised Draft HELCOM RAP on Underwater Noise as contained in document 3-1 Rev. 1.
- agreed to further elaborate document 3-1 Rev. 1 based on the input of the Meeting as contained in Annex 2 for consideration of the EN-Noise in the on-line meeting to be held in August aiming at the submission of an improved draft to MARITIME 19-2019 for consideration.

Future work and any other business

The meeting

- agreed to convene an on-line meeting of the EN-Noise in August in preparation for the upcoming PRESSURE meeting, as well as to further advance on the SOM on underwater noise (i.a. measures on noise) and the provision of a joint reply to the survey on knowledge and research gaps.

EN CLIME 3-2019, Stockholm, 19 August

Key messages for the primary parameters

The Meeting

- agreed that the fact sheet will include an introduction section which will highlight the complexity and complementary effects of climate change.
- agreed that revisions proposed by the Meeting should be implemented and submitted to the HELCOM Secretariat (jannica.haldin@helcom.fi) by the **30 September 2019**, after which they will be collated and submitted for internal review by the whole network, until the 6 December 2019.
- agreed on the following guidance
 - o the key message text needs to be simplified and aimed at a broad, non-scientific audience.
 - o text for each parameter should not exceed 1 A4 page (when not in table format).
 - o at this stage all statements need to be supported with appropriate references.
 - o basic definitions need to be included in the description section (e.g. what is a heatwave?, what is drought? etc).
 - o to the extent possible trends and ranges should be included for each parameter. - confidence is to be presented using the guidance prepared by IPCC (available in the Workspace for reference), with the key messages each given an overall confidence assessment based on the confidence matrix outlined by the IPCC. In addition, confidence can also be presented for each section independently (e.g. per statement) stemming from background literature.
- took note of the draft key messages prepared by the Energy Cycle, Water Cycle, Carbon and Nutrient Cycle and Sea Level Teams as presented by the Team Leads. The Meeting reviewed the texts under each parameter, discussed and provided input as contained in document 3-1 rev.1., 3-2 rev.1 , 3-3 rev.1 and 3-4 rev.1.

Work on secondary parameters

The Meeting:

- took note of the information by the HELCOM Secretariat that, where appropriate, existing HELCOM Expert Groups will be invited to provide input to the work on secondary parameters under EN CLIME.
- invited the experts of EN CLIME to contact the HELCOM Secretariat with recommendation for experts to take part in the work on the secondary parameters.
- agreed that primary and secondary parameters will be presented as separate sections in the final Fact Sheet, as they largely represent two different types of key messages (data-based and expert-based).
- agreed that key messages for secondary parameters will be presented as “If”-statements.

any other business

The Meeting:

- welcomed the information that that the intention is for all key messages to go out for peer review in February 2020, utilizing the Baltic Earth peer review network.

Next meeting

The Meeting agreed to hold the next physical meeting in late January/early February 2020, preferably back to back with the Baltic Earth BEAR workshop and Science Steering Group Meeting, and invited the Secretariat and Co-Chairs to explore the possibility to hold the meeting in Norrköping, at the premise of the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute.

IN EUTROPHICATION 14-2019, Online, 29 August

Second Indicator workshop

The Meeting

- considered the draft document by Germany on interlinkages within and across themes in HOLAS III – An example focusing on aspects related to eutrophication (document 4-4).
- agreed that the experts will provide comments on the document to Germany (wera.leujak@uba.de) by 13 September, after which Germany will collate the comments and submit the document to the second indicator workshop.
- agreed that the Indicator leads, as presented in the [HELCOM indicator match and scoring table](#), will provide the input requested for the workshop to the Secretariat (owen-rowe@helcom.fi) at the latest by the 10 of September. For the indicators for which there is no lead, the Meeting further agreed that Finland will provide input for the chlorophyll-a spring bloom indicator, Sweden will provide input for the oxygen debt indicator if possible, Germany will provide input for the shallow water oxygen indicator, and Finland and OMAI project for the acidification indicator. For the deep water oxygen indicator, there is no ongoing development or resources.

HELCOM Science Agenda

The Meeting:

- took note of the proposal from Germany for the HELCOM science agenda, regarding further developing the HELCOM indicator on near-bottom oxygen concentrations in shallow waters towards a Baltic Sea wide application (document 5-3). The Meeting noted that the document will be circulated within the group for comments.

Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus targets

The Meeting:

- agreed to take the process further with the following procedure: As a next step Denmark will check nationally if Denmark is in position to use the Targrev values for the open-sea areas, and send a confirmation to the Secretariat. After this, Germany will proceed the issue nationally in hope to get acceptance for the use of Targrev values.

Indicator Scaling table and Test assessment

- The Meeting agreed that the next steps of the Test Assessment will be discussed when HODs have agreed on the project, and look into the issue in the next meeting.

any other business

- The Meeting discussed organizing a face-to-face meeting in December - January. The Meeting took note that the Meeting can be hosted by Finland or by HELCOM. The Meeting agreed that the Secretariat will send out a Doodle poll for finding the date and further agreed that if the face-to-face meeting will be organized later than in December 2019, an online meeting of the group will be organized in November.

PLC-7 IG 8-2019, Tallinn, 11-13 September

Data reporting and processing

The Meeting

- took note of the information on the Baltic Sea Environmental Fact Sheets (BSEFS) on waterborne input of nutrients covering period 1995-2017, produced by RedCore DG. The BSEFS was approved by the Pressure Group via correspondence and published on HELCOM website. The main goal of the BSEFS is to make the most recent data on actual waterborne nutrient input to the Baltic Sea available for the HELCOM community.
- agreed to proceed with the same format of BSEFS on waterborne input of nutrients the next year.
- took note that the data on atmospheric deposition of nitrogen has been recently supplied by EMEP. The Meeting pointed out that the deposition of nitrogen for the period 2001-2016 has increased in this report compared to the previous one. The increase concerns both actual and normalized deposition. The tendency to increase the level of deposition in the past years remains in the EMEP reports during the last six years.
- considered the current status of the data on waterborne input of nutrients and concluded that the dataset is ready to update MAI indicator. The Meeting agreed that the updated indicator will be available not later than the first week of October 2019. A draft document will be submitted to PRESSURE 11-2019 and simultaneously circulated to the PLC-7 Project Implementation Group.
- agreed that trend analysis for Archipelago Sea will be performed separately in addition to the traditional assessment of progress towards national input ceilings based on 7 sub-basins.
- proposed to raise an issue of separation of Archipelago Sea from Bothnian Sea in
- the context of the HELCOM BSAP update and related adjustment of nutrient input ceilings.

Any other business

The Meeting agreed:

- that the assessments based on annual data could not be aligned with the products based on periodic reporting. The Meeting also proposed to align the delivery of the assessment products with national reporting needs, e.g. WFD and MSFD.
- was of the opinion that the PLC-8 project is to be launched in the third quarter of 2020 in order to make the assessment products available in 2023. The first period of the project will be aimed at preparatory activities e.g. harmonizing methodologies and update of the PLC-Water Guidelines.

Future work and meetings

- The Meeting agreed to arrange PLC-7 IG 9-2019 on 16-18 December 2019 in Helsinki Finland, provisionally starting at 10.00 EET.
- The themes of the next meeting will be: 2018 annual data reporting including spatial data; BSAP update (textual part and input ceilings); ENIREN II results; coordination with ACTION project; update of background information; HS indicator; follow up of the decisions by PRESSURE 11-2019 and HOD 57-2019 and other meetings (Annex 5).

EG MAMA 13-2019, Helsinki, 24-26 September

Information by the Chair, HELCOM Secretariat and Contracting Parties

The Meeting:

- took note that the experts of EG MAMA are invited to contribute to key messages under the secondary parameter marine mammals. The Meeting welcomed that Mart Jüssi, Antti Halkka, Anders Galatius, Markus Ahola, Penina Blankett, Ida Carlen, Michael Dähne and Iwona Pawliczka, Kristina Lehnert, Morten Tange Olsen all expressed interest to take part to the work. The Meeting noted that any other interested experts can inform the Secretariat (Jannica.haldin@helcom.fi).
- took note of the survey regarding HELCOM science agenda, and the proposals by Denmark to the survey (document 2-5 rev.1) as presented by the Chair. The Meeting took note that the deadline for submitting proposals for the survey has been extended for EG MAMA so that proposals can be submitted based on discussions at the Meeting
- discussed additional proposals for the survey document from the Health Team, Denmark, Germany and Sweden. The Meeting provided further input to the list of proposals and agreed to send the list, as contained in document 2-5 rev.2, as proposals by EG MAMA to the Secretariat (ullali.zweifel@helcom.fi), to be submitted to STATE & CONSERVATION 11-2019 for review.
- agreed that hunting quotas for seals should also be included into the Mortality of marine mammals database where relevant.

Seals in the Baltic Sea

The Meeting

- considered the suggestion from STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018 to report data on distribution and abundance of seals annually concomitantly with EG MAMA meetings and to include the reporting frequency to the guidelines for seal abundance and distribution in the HELCOM area.
- agreed that following the suggestion by State & Conservation, the data for the previous year's survey will be provided to the Secretariat in advance of the EG MAMA meetings.
- discussed the following topics lifted in BaltFish and HELCOM workshops in relation to EG MAMA work:
 - 1) The need to define a concretized standard for estimating populations size of seals: The Meeting agreed that EG MAMA should update the population size indices yearly for the three seal species, in order to have regional, accepted population abundance indices every year. The Meeting agreed that correction factors are needed for seals.
 - 2) Define hot spots of seal occurrence as soon as possible: The Meeting agreed that the gaps in telemetry data can already be identified and a list for possible means to fill in the gaps could be produced. The Meeting considered the possibility to develop a research proposal, and noted that there is funding possibility under the EMFF, when the research is directly linked to fisheries needs. The Meeting considered that HELCOM and ASCOBANS could join forces in making an application.
 - 3) Collect and review information on the food preferences for seals, propose further research, if necessary
 4. Parasites, reviewing the knowledge and look for causalities

Baltic Sea Harbour Porpoise

The Meeting:

- agreed to nominate Julia Carlström and Anita Gilles as joint Team Leads for the Harbour Porpoise Abundance and Distribution Team.
- took note of the work done in developing and splitting the indicator on harbor porpoise distribution and abundance into separate indicators, as presented by indicator co-lead Julia

Carlström (presentation 5, document 4-2, 4-2 rev.1). The Meeting agreed that the information needs to be discussed in State and Conservation.

- took note that the Secretariat will present a proposal for new visualization and restructuring of the indicators in the second indicator workshop and agreed that the question on how to organize the harbour porpoise abundance and distribution indicator(s) should be postponed to ensure that the indicator(s) follow the outline supported in the workshop and agreed on in consequent meetings.
- took note of information on the progress of the SAMBAH II project proposal under the LIFE call, as presented by Julia Carlström (presentation 7). The Meeting took note that the planned project is to be coordinated by HELCOM, should it get funded.
- considered the issue of national funding for SAMBAH II, and its division between the partner countries. The Meeting took note of information from the Secretariat that an evening session to discuss the funding issue can be organized at STATE & CONSERVATION 11-2019 for those partners that are present. The Meeting considered that following the evening session, an online meeting with all relevant parties should be organized by the project consortium.
- considered the identified actions related to harbour porpoises that were evaluated as not accomplished and needing further efforts.
- took note of the invitation by ASCOBANS to nominate representation to the newly established Working Group on resource Depletion. The Meeting agreed to nominate Katarzyna Kaminska as the HELCOM representative to the group.

Recommendation 17/2

The Meeting:

- took note that HOD 55-2019 agreed to initiate a process to revise the Recommendation, whereby STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 provides initial revisions to the document, to be submitted to EG MAMA 13-2019 meeting for further revision and to STATE & CONSERVATION 11-2019 for endorsement and submission to HOD 57-2019 for approval, aiming at adoption by HELCOM 41-2020.
- took note of the draft revised recommendation, as edited by STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019 (document 4-1).
- provided further input to the recommendation as contained in document 4-1 rev.1 and agreed to submit the revised document to STATE & CONSERVATION 11-2019 for endorsement, with the intention of submitting the revised Recommendation to HOD 57-2019 for approval and HELCOM 41-2020 for adoption.

Any other business

- amended and agreed on the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the next meeting, including an Annex outlining the main tasks and membership of the Teams, and agreed on submitting the draft ToRs for endorsement by STATE & CONSERVATION 11-2019.
- welcomed the information that Denmark has offered to host the EG MAMA 14-2020 meeting in Odense. The Meeting agreed to hold the meeting on 22-24 September 2020.