



Outcome of STATE&CONSERVATION 11a-2019

Introduction

0.1 In accordance with the decision by STATE&CONSERVATION 11-2019, the intersessional Meeting of the Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation (STATE & CONSERVATION 11A-2019) was convened online on 8 November.

0.2 The Meeting was attended by delegations from Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Germany. Estonia provided comments and positions to the agenda items prior to the Meeting. No observers took part in the meeting. The List of Participants is contained as **Annex 1**.

0.3 The Meeting was chaired by the Co-Chairs of the Working Group: Ms. Marie-Louise Krawack (Denmark), and Mr. Norbert Häubner (Sweden). Ms. Jannica Haldin, HELCOM Professional Secretary acted as secretary of the Meeting.

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

1.1 The Meeting adopted the Provisional Agenda, as contained in this document.

Agenda Item 2 The use of BSPI/BSII datasets for SOM analysis

2.1 The Meeting recalled that STATE&CONSERVATION 11-2019 considered the proposal to use same data and approach as in the HOLAS II project to estimating loss and disturbance to the seabed from human activities (document 8J-10 to that meeting). STATE&CONSERVATION 11-2019 took note that due to the late submission of the document Denmark, Germany and Poland were not in a position to agree on the approach and consequently agreed that countries will provide comments to document 8J-10 by 6 November 2019 to the Secretariat (luke.dodd@helcom.fi) and to discuss potential comments at an online meeting on the 8 November.

2.2 The Meeting took note of the comments provided by Poland regarding inclusion of information on the scope of these disturbances in analysed sub basins in order to provide appropriate context to the presented percent contribution data and noted that the Secretariat has suggested an amendment to the document and will follow up with Poland regarding their comments

2.3 The Meeting took note of the comments received by Germany on the need for clarification that the proposal for the use of loss and disturbance data based on BSPI/BSII remains limited to the SOM analysis to support the update of the BSAP. The SOM results must not develop automatically into a generally accepted indicator or method for determining loss and disturbance which will be then used for HOLAS III. The same applies for BSPI/BSII as such. In addition, a new parallel development with the indicator for cumulative impacts on benthic habitats (CUMI) must be avoided. Therefore, Germany can only support the proposal to use the same data and approach as in the HOLAS II project for estimating loss and disturbance to the seabed from human activities, if the above conditions are fulfilled. Regarding calculations loss and disturbance of the seabed or benthic habitats, Germany requests that the terms potential loss and potential disturbance always be used, because e.g. at least in Germany claims for sand and gravel extraction are shown in the HOLAS dataset and not the actual areas mined according to the main operating plan, which are only parts of the areas in which mining is permitted under license. Further, Germany pointed out that the cut-off method to be finally used should highly depend on the results of the work of TG SEABED and respective EU decisions.

2.4 The Meeting noted the clarification by the Secretariat that the German concerns have been taken into account and subsequent changes added to the documentation.

2.5 The Meeting took note of the comments by Denmark that Denmark requires confirmation that the amount and spatial distribution of potential loss and potential disturbance used for the SOM analysis is in line with the principles used in HOLAS II. The Meeting took note of the clarification that the intention is to directly use the principles and data from the HOLAS II process.

2.6 The Meeting agreed that the comments raised by the CPs at the meeting will be included in the documentation and took note that Poland, Germany and Denmark can lift their study reservation.

Item 3 Lead Country roles for rephrasing and concretizations of BSAP actions

3.1 The Meeting recalled that STATE&CONSERVATION 11-2019 agreed that Contracting parties are to provide final confirmation to the Secretariat (jannica.haldin@helcom.fi) on their role as lead for the concretization and rephrasing of existing actions for the Baltic Sea Action Plan **by 8 November 2019**.

3.2 The Meeting welcomed that all countries listed in Annex 2 of the outcome of STATE&CONSERVATION 11-2019 can confirm their role as lead for the rephrasing or concretization of the respective actions.

3.3 The Meeting invited the Co-Chairs and Secretariat to prepare proposals for those topics for which State and Conservation WG is listed as lead, in preparation for the online meeting of STATE&CONSERVATION 11b-2020 on the 17 March 2020, dedicated to the review and approval of the concretizations and rephrased actions.

Item 4 Alternative wording of the management objective for foodwebs

4.1 The Meeting recalled that STATE&CONSERVATION 11-2019 discussed an additional management objective on foodwebs (Pressures affecting foodwebs are reduced or prevented) however that this work was not finalized and that the meeting agreed to come back to this issue at the intersessional meeting of State and Conservation and invited Denmark to distribute the alternative wording for the management objective for foodwebs to State and Conservation contacts prior to the intersessional meeting.

4.2 The Meeting took note of the alternative wording for the management objective on foodwebs, intended to make the objective more specific by focusing on those pressures that cause the foodweb to fail good status - meaning deviate from a state of balance in species diversity and abundance as submitted by Denmark:

- 1: Reduce or prevent human pressures that lead to imbalance in [diversity and abundance of] the foodweb.
- 2: Pressures significantly affecting foodwebs are reduced or prevented.

4.3 The Meeting took note of the input provided by Estonia, Sweden, Germany, Denmark and Finland and supported the use of option number one, however excluding the specification in the brackets. The final wording is as follows: **Reduce or prevent human pressures that lead to imbalance in the foodweb.**

4.4 The Meeting agreed to submit the foodweb management objective to be included in the document on objectives being prepared for HOD 57-2020 and to the online meeting of GEAR (GEAR 21a-2019) dedicated to reviewing the objectives.

Item 5 Workshop on biological effect of Hazardous Substance

5.1 The Meeting took note of the information by EN-HZ regarding the process of planning their next physical meeting and the plan to have a biological effects workshop back-to-back with the meeting. The workshop is intended to provide a basis for future work on biological effects and will likely be arranged in late February 2020, possibly at the HELCOM Secretariat.

5.2 The Meeting endorsed the arranging of a workshop on biological effects back-to-back with next EN-HZ.

5.3 The Meeting noted that the deadline in the document on the questionnaire on indicators/methods on biological effects is still listed as 31 December, as opposed to 15 November as decided at STATE&CONSERVATION 11-2019 (ref. Outcome para. 7J.8-9), and highlighted that this might cause misunderstanding at the national level regarding when to deliver the requested information. The Meeting invited the Secretariat to contact Ms Berit Brockmeyer to enquire regarding a possible extension of the deadline to the 2 December 2020, and to send out a reminder to the recipients of the questionnaire regarding the deadline.

Agenda Item 6 Outcome of the session

6.1 The Meeting considered and approved the outcome of the Meeting.

Annex 1 List of Participants

Name	Organization	E-mail address
Co-Chairs		
Marie-Louise Krawack	Ministry of Environment and Food	makra@mfvm.dk
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Contracting Parties		
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Dieter Boedeker	German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)	dieter.boedeker@bfn.de
Secretariat		
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