



## Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature  
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION  
13-2020

Online, 5-9 October 2020

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<b>Document title</b>	Draft terms of Reference for EG MAMA 15-2021
<b>Code</b>	4J-21
<b>Category</b>	DEC
<b>Agenda Item</b>	4J – Progress of relevant HELCOM expert groups and projects
<b>Submission date</b>	28.9.2020
<b>Submitted by</b>	Secretariat

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*This document was submitted after the deadline. The outcome of the EG MAMA 14-2020 meeting was adopted on the 29 September 2020.*

### Background

This document contains the draft Terms of Reference for the HELCOM Expert Group on Marine Mammals (EG MAMA) drafted at the latest meeting of the group, EG MAMA 14-2019, held online 22-24 September 2020.

Extract of outcome from EG MAMA 14-2019:

5.1 The Meeting 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 13-2020.

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to consider and agree on the Terms of Reference for EG MAMA 15-2021.

## Draft Terms of Reference for EG MAMA 15-2021

The HELCOM Expert Group on Marine Mammals (EG MAMA) will during its 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, and in the intersessional period leading up to the meeting, do the following:

1. Indicators:

- a. The Marine Mammal Health team will further develop existing and new indicators for the health and nutritional status of seals and porpoises including considering expanding the reproduction indicator to include ringed seal, harbour seal and harbour porpoise, and report to **EG MAMA 15-2021**.
- b. The co-Leads for the Harbour Porpoise Abundance and Distribution indicators, together with the Harbour Porpoise Abundance and Distribution Team, will continue the work on developing the indicators on Abundance and population trends of harbour porpoise and Distribution of harbour porpoise, and report to **EG MAMA 15-2021**.
- c. Mr. Sven Koschinski, and Volker Dierschke, Germany, in collaboration with Poland and Sweden and supported by CG FishData, will continue the work on the development of the indicator 'Number of drowned mammals and waterbirds in fishing gears' and report to **EG MAMA 15-2021**.

2. Management plans of marine mammals:

- a. The national representatives to EG MAMA are requested to review the new and updated national management- and action plans from their respective countries against the guidelines developed by SEAL 8-2014, and present the results for discussion at **EG MAMA 15-2021**
- b. The national representatives to EG MAMA are requested to review and update the document on status of management plans of marine mammals by submitting the information to the Secretariat ([laura.kaikkonen@helcom.fi](mailto:laura.kaikkonen@helcom.fi)) prior to **EG MAMA 15-2021**.

3. Dataflows for data on seals and harbour porpoise:

Data for seals

*Data on abundance and distribution of marine mammals*

- a. The Secretariat to report back on how development of the HELCOM Biodiversity Database has been modified to accommodate abundance survey data for seals and harbour porpoise.

*Mortality of Seals*

- a. Denmark to report mortality data from previous years from Kattegat in advance of **EG MAMA 15-2021**.
- b. All Contracting Parties to provide data on the mortality, including information on bycatch and illegal killing, of seals for year 2018- 2020 in advance of **EG MAMA 15-2021**.

Data for harbour porpoise

- a. The Contracting Parties are invited to report to the HELCOM/ASCOBANS Database on Harbour Porpoise prior to **EG MAMA 15-2021** by providing the data to the HELCOM Secretariat ([laura.kaikkonen@helcom.fi](mailto:laura.kaikkonen@helcom.fi)).
- b. Nomination of national contacts for updating the HELCOM/ASCOBANS harbour porpoise database to be submitted to the Secretariat ([laura.kaikkonen@helcom.fi](mailto:laura.kaikkonen@helcom.fi)).
- c. **EG MAMA 15-2021** will be invited to take note of progress regarding the reporting of acoustic monitoring data and provide input.
- d. Germany, to inform **EG MAMA 15-2021** on the progress within OSPAR and ASCOBANS to develop databases for strandings of cetaceans, including geographic information, and to propose how to harmonize the HELCOM data collection with this initiative.

*Data on abundance and distribution of marine mammals*

- a. The Secretariat to report back on how development of the HELCOM Biodiversity Database has been modified to accommodate abundance survey data for seals and harbour porpoise.
4. Monitoring guidelines:
    - a. The guidelines for monitoring blubber thickness-, guidelines for monitoring of reproductive status-, guidelines for monitoring for the draft health indicators for marine mammals will be further improved by the health team intersessionally and presented at **EG MAMA 15-2021**.
    - b. The Harbour Porpoise Distribution and Abundance indicator team will commence the work on drafting monitoring guidelines for distribution and abundance intersessionally and present at **EG MAMA 15-2021**.
  5. Work on Baltic Sea harbour porpoise:
    - a. Ms. Penina Blankett, co-chair of the ASCOBANS AC to report on activities of ASCOBANS and Ms. Ida Carlén, Chair of Jastarnia Group, to report on activities of the Jastarnia Group at **EG MAMA 15-2021**.
    - b. Update the **EG MAMA 15-2021** on the progress of the SAMBAH II and the HELCOM BLUES projects.
  6. Precautionary Approach Level (PAL)
    - a. At **EG MAMA 15-2021** follow up on the response by EG MAMA 14-2020 to State and Conservation WG regarding identifying the PAL.
  10. Marine mammals - fisheries interaction:
    - a. Present progress from the data collection, assessment and mitigation measures related to bycatch.
    - b. Follow up on the progress regarding the ICES Special Request Advice on Emergency Measures for Harbour Porpoise.
    - c. Exchange information on progress of ongoing initiatives regarding seal-fish interactions, specifically with regards to Anisakid parasites in the Baltic Sea ecosystem.
  11. Intersessional activities of the teams
    - a. The marine mammal health team is requested to inform on their intersessional activities **at EG MAMA 15-2021**.
      - i. The Team will strive to further work on the Anisakid nematode species in marine mammals resident in the Baltic Sea and strive to expand the work to include fish health and intermediate hosts.
      - ii. The Team will strive to hold a second workshop, taking Covid-19 restrictions into account.
      - iii. The Team will hold online meetings as needed, including a planned virtual meeting in Autumn 2020 to discuss e.g. indicator development.
    - b. The Seal Distribution team is requested to inform on their intersessional activities **at EG MAMA 15-2021**.
      - i. To intersessionally discuss and prepare a suggestion of updated borders with the seal population team to amend the sub-units used for presenting grey seal survey results to improve the ecological relevance of the units, rather than representing administrative borders and present suggestion(s) for further discussion at **EG MAMA 15-2020**.
      - ii. The Seal Distribution team is requested to continue working on the details of developing telemetry data sharing, to get a current overview of existing telemetry data, deployments, basic relevant metadata and data holders, including drafting a

- possible table for reporting and/or looking into database option and present the results at **EG MAMA 15-2021**.
- iii. Draft a suggestion on how to monitoring breeding distribution, including justifications and an overview of the currently available information on pupping distribution from each country, to be submitted to and further discussed at **EG MAMA 15-2021**, with the intention of submitting a proposal to State and Conservation WG.
- c. The Seal Abundance team is requested to inform on their intersessional activities at **EG MAMA 15-2021**.
- i. Countries to present the results of the 2020 seal survey results for harbour seal and the 2020 and, to the extent possible, 2021 survey results for grey seal and ringed seal. The Lead of the team is invited to present the results at the **EG MAMA 15-2021**.
  - ii. Consider alternative monitoring methods for ringed seal for possible inclusion in the HELCOM Monitoring Guidelines, as mild winters are becoming increasingly more common. Present a proposal for what alternative methods to include, with the relevant associate information, at **EG MAMA 15-2021**.
  - iii. Review the management unit status of the harbour seals in Kattegat and the western Baltic and present a proposal for alternative division of management units to **EG MAMA 15-2021**.
- d. The Harbour Porpoise Abundance and Distribution Team is requested to inform on their intersessional activities at **EG MAMA 15-2021**.
- i. The Team is to review the list of by-catch mitigation measures prepared by FISH WG should the list be updated in the interim between meetings.
  - ii. The Team will have a meeting in autumn 2020, together with the HELCOM DataFlow team, to scope how to progress the data reporting of acoustic monitoring data.

**ANNEX 1: Role and membership of the EG MAMA Teams****Marine Mammal Health Team**

Role of team:

To review marine mammal health data. This team will identify need for research relevant to assess marine mammal health status and collect information and evaluate results.

Team Membership:

Germany	Ursula Siebert (Team Lead)
Denmark	Morten Tange Olsen
Denmark	Heidi Huus Petersen
Denmark	Line Kyhn
Denmark	Rune Dietz
Denmark	Anders Galatius
Estonia	Ivar Jussi
Estonia	Mart Jussi
Finland	Marja Isomursu
Finland	Kaarina Kauhala
Germany	Kristina Lehnert
Germany	Michael Dähne
Latvia	Valdis Pilats
Lithuania	Ignas Kazlauskas
Lithuania	Vaida Surviliene
Poland	Iwona Pawliczka
Russia	Mikhail Verevkin
Sweden	Sara Persson
Sweden	Karin Hårding
Sweden	Britt-Marie Bäcklin

**Harbour Porpoise Abundance and Distribution Team**

## Role of the Team:

To function as a cooperation and coordination platform in order to harmonize national harbour porpoise work, including monitoring, on a regional scale to achieve sufficient data quality for the harbour porpoise indicators. To support the indicator leads in their work to maintain and develop indicators for harbour porpoise.

## Team Membership:

Country	Name
Germany	Michael Dähne
Germany	Anita Gilles (Team lead)
Sweden	Julia Carlström (Team lead)
Sweden	Kylie Owen
Denmark	Signe Sveegaard
Poland	Iwona Pawliczka
Finland	Olli Loisa
ASCOBANS	Ida Carlén
Denmark	Finn Larsen
Poland	Katarzyna Kaminska
Finland	Penina Blankett
Finland/Åland	Maija Häggblom
WWF	Antti Halkka

**Seal Population Team**

## Role of Team:

To develop and coordinate abundance and trend monitoring and undertake abundance and trend estimations

## Team Membership

Country	Name
Estonia	Ivar Jüssi (Team Lead)
Estonia	Mart Jüssi
Denmark	Finn Larsen
Denmark	Morten Olsen
Denmark	Anders Galatius
Finland	Penina Blankett
Finland	Mervi Kunnasranta
Finland	Mikko Toivola
Finland/Åland	Maija Häggblom
Germany	Alexander Liebschner
Germany	Linda Westphal
Poland	Iwona Pawliczka
Poland	Michal Malinga
Russia	Mikhail Verevkin
Sweden	Markus Ahola
Sweden	Susanne Viker
Sweden	Anja Carlsson

**Seal Distribution Team**

## Role of Team:

1. Review of seal distribution data
2. Gather information on, and evaluate research on seal movements, e.g. from satellite tagging programmes;
3. Identification of suitable habitats for breeding, moulting, and at sea distribution for harbour seals and moulting and at sea distribution for grey seals and ringed seals.
4. Identification of protected areas for seals in the Baltic either on a national, HELCOM or EU level and evaluate the protection regime;
5. Identification of those habitats already used by seals with a view to a potential establishment of those habitats identified under 2. and 3. as potential protected areas for seals; and
6. Work on the suggestion to use the degree of geographical coverage (expansion) of suitable habitats in the Baltic Sea as reference levels for the distribution reference levels. Development/Specification of this objective as an indicator for the Baltic Sea Action Plan.

## Team Membership:

Estonia	Mart Jüssi (Team Lead)
Estonia	Ivar Jüssi
Estonia	Märt Kesküla
Denmark	Finn Larsen
Denmark	Morten Olsen
Denmark	Anders Galatius
Finland	Mervi Kunnasranta
Finland	Penina Blankett
Finland/Åland	Maija Häggblom
Germany	Alexander Liebschner
Germany	Michael Dähne
Poland	Iwona Pawliczka
Poland	Michal Malinga
Russia	Mikhail Verevkin
Sweden	Markus Ahola
Sweden	Susanne Viker
Sweden	Anja Carlsson
WWF	Antti Halkka