



Outcome of the 13th Meeting of the Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation (STATE & CONSERVATION 13-2020)

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Introduction

0.1 In accordance with the decision by HOD 57-2019, the thirteenth Meeting of the Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation was convened online on 5-9 October 2020.

0.2 The Joint session was attended by delegations from all Contracting Parties, except EU and Lithuania, and observers from CCB, ICES, FEAP and Nordic Hunters Alliance. The Nature conservation session was attended by delegations from all Contracting Parties except Lithuania as well as observers from CCB, FEAP and Nordic Hunters Alliance. 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), Chair of nature conservation and biodiversity related topics and Mr. Norbert Häubner (Sweden), Chair of monitoring and assessment related topics. Ms. Jannica Haldin, HELCOM Professional Secretary and Ms. Petra Kääriä, HELCOM Assisting Professional Secretary acted as secretaries of the Meeting.

Joint session

Agenda Item 1J Adoption of the Agenda: Joint themes

1J.1 The Meeting adopted items 1J-9J in the Agenda as contained in document 1-2-Rev.1.

Agenda Item 2J Matters of relevance for the Meeting and information from the Secretariat

2J.1 The Meeting took note that Germany has taken on the HELCOM Chairmanship as of 1 July for the period 2020-2022 and Lilian Busse from the German Environment Agency (UBA) is the new HELCOM Chair. The priorities of the Chairmanship are: Working together for our sea – the Baltic Sea; Strengthening ocean governance; Updating and implementing the BSAP – making progress on specific requirements; Tackling new solutions for well-known, pressing challenges; Strengthening marine biodiversity; Climate change and the Baltic Sea – understanding and responding.

2J.2 The Meeting further took note of information presented by Germany on an ongoing project “the Baltic Sea Coastal Strategy 2100” which is carried out in cooperation with Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenburg Vorpommern, thus addressing the whole German coastline and running between 2019-2024. The project is a best practice example aiming at sustainable coastal protection management. The Meeting appreciated the offer by Germany to present this "best practice example" in more detail at the next S&C Meeting.

2J.3 The Meeting took note of extracts of recent meetings of relevance for State and Conservation (document 2J-1, Presentation 1).

2J.4 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the EU Baltic Sea Ministerial meeting, held on 28 September 2020 (Presentation 2).

Agenda Item 3J Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) and associated activities

3J.1 The Meeting took note of the presentation on the overview of the BSAP update process (Presentation 3).

3J.2 The Meeting took note of the Updated Work Plan for the update of the BSAP (document 3J-1), as presented by the Secretariat.

3J.3 The Meeting noted that HOD 58-2020 agreed on the year 2030 as the target year for implementing the BSAP. With regard to the target year for achieving good environmental status for the Baltic Sea, the HOD 58-2020 further agreed to include in the updated BSAP a reference to the 2007 BSAP and the HELCOM assessments.

Guidance and validation of work under the SOM Platform

Progress on analyzing sufficiency of measures

3J.4 The Meeting considered the results of the SOM analysis (documents 3J-5, 3J-5-Rev.1, Presentation 4), as presented by the Secretariat SOM team.

3J.5 The Meeting thanked the SOM team for the work done so far.

3J.6 The Meeting took note that whether the end year of the business as usual scenario (BAU) is 2030 or 2035 does not change the results of the SOM analysis. The Meeting agreed to suggest to the HOD to change the end year of BAU to 2030 to be in line with the target year of the implementation of the updated BSAP.

- 3J.7 The Meeting took note of the clarification that the expected change in the status of benthic habitats is described qualitatively, i.e. “noticeable improvement”, as a result of a request by the SOM workshop on benthic habitats. The Meeting also took note that the qualitative description was thought to be more suitable since it could include changes in a broad range of aspects of habitats, however no further explanation regarding the interpretation of the qualitative terms used was provided as part of the survey.
- 3J.8 The Meeting took note that the results of the SOM analysis regarding cyprinids seem to be unexpected for a variety of reasons, including the one-out-all-out approach used to integrate different coastal fish assessment units and the relatively high influence of unquantified pressures (e.g. eutrophication, human induced food-web imbalance) on the functional group. The Meeting took note of the clarification that the scale at which the assessment is made needs to be balanced with the number of experts available to provide responses (the higher the spatial resolution the fewer experts are available for a given area and the more the results will be driven by individual responses) and increased variation present at higher spatial scales (larger areas will generally include more environmental variation and personal expertise and confidence of experts may be reduced when trying to assess areas far from their national territory).
- 3J.9 The Meeting took note that the SOM analysis on birds showed some unexpected results with large decreases in pressure needed in order to maintain GES. The Meeting discussed the results and pointed out that this could potentially reflect that experts could obviously not only rely on data-based knowledge but rather had to make educated guesses.
- 3J.10 The Meeting recommended that it should be clearly shown when representing the results on birds which are unexpected, or they could only be described qualitatively.
- 3J.11 The Meeting took note that EG MAMA had reviewed the SOM results for marine mammals, reflected on the unexpected results and recommended that results stemming from only one or two responses should be removed and not presented as part of the SOM analyses, while others could be included (Presentation 5).
- 3J.12 The Meeting considered how the results should be presented and used to support the process of updating the BSAP.
- 3J.13 The Meeting invited the SOM team to provide a more precise description on the figures included in the presentation which illustrate the estimations of the experts and that they should then be included in the final report.
- 3J.14 The Meeting recalled that the aim of the analysis is to show if there is a gap in reaching the GES with existing measures. The Meeting took note that there are also other outcomes, such as the effectiveness of existing measure types, as well as activity-pressure and pressure-state component linkages that are valuable results in their own right.
- 3J.15 The Meeting took note of the position by Denmark that only results of significance should be used and presented, that all presented results should include standards deviation or confidence intervals and the number of experts participating in the questionnaire, and that for Denmark, the part concerning activity-pressure linkages is of the highest interest.
- 3J.16 The Meeting pointed out that, in addition to presenting the results, it is important to focus on developing the explanations and interpretations of the results and conclusions, and describe, for example, where are the gaps, which HELCOM measures are important but are not yet implemented and what are the information gaps to be tackled in the future. The reports should also give clear indications on whether existing measures are addressing the relevant activities or not. It is important to show that the results are not giving a clear picture when that is the case.
- 3J.17 The Meeting commented that for topics where results are unexpected, focus should be on reflection on what may be the cause behind the results, identifying why there are uncertainties, as well as

why the results don't represent the expected need for measures, rather than presenting the results themselves.

3J.18 The Meeting recommended to use standard sentences to present conclusions in a similar manner across topics and that these should be easily identifiable in the text.

3J.19 The Meeting took note that there is a topic team for fish that can discuss the results and also experts involved that can provide input for benthic habitats. However, there are no topic teams for mammals and birds.

3J.20 The Meeting took note of the information that while it would be beneficial for the Working Groups to review how the results are presented in the report to HOD 59-2020, the timeline does not accommodate this if the results are to be submitted to HOD 59-2020 within the established deadline.

3J.21 The Meeting agreed that the general format of the final topic reports will be reviewed by GEAR 23-2020 before compiling the final reports in order to agree about the content of the reports.

3J.22 The Meeting agreed to come back to the question of how the results of the SOM analysis could be used in the work of State and Conservation WG in general at STATE & CONSERVATION 14-2021, when the final results and the report will be available.

3J.23 The Meeting took note of the methodology and progress of the cost-effectiveness analysis (document 3J-9), as presented by the ACTION WP 6.

3J.24 The Meeting took note that the results of the cost-effectiveness analysis will be provided by the end of this year in a report describing briefly the approach and results of the analysis. The analysis will be done at the Baltic Sea scale but will use national estimates on costs and effectiveness. The analysis will be limited to actions categorized as "measures" and "steps towards measure" in the technical review for which costs and effectiveness estimates are available. The Meeting took note that imprecise or unclear descriptions of the actions in the synopses cause additional challenges in the analysis and will have implications on the reliability of the results. The solutions to these challenges are currently being discussed in the ACTION project. Assumptions are necessary to somehow define e.g. the extent of measures.

3J.25 The Meeting invited the ACTION project to forward to State and Conservation which approach was taken to solve the challenges caused by imprecise or unclear descriptions of the actions.

Drafting of the updated BSAP

3J.26 The Meeting took note of the detailed plan for drafting of the updated BSAP and the preliminary timetable (document 3J-2), as presented by the Secretariat.

3J.27 The Meeting took note of the first draft of introduction to the Biodiversity segment of the updated BSAP (document 3J-3), as presented by the Secretariat.

3J.28 The Meeting provided the following comments:

- Sweden suggested that the introduction to the segment could benefit from being more concise, e.g. assume that the reader has a general knowledge on marine ecosystems or can acquire such knowledge from the State of the Baltic report.
- Although already decided by HOD, Germany suggested that the title should reflect that a healthy and resilient Baltic Sea ecosystem is a goal and not a fact yet.
- The introduction should strive to present the content from the Baltic Sea context.
- There might be some information currently presented in the segment introductions that is relevant for all segments and should thus be moved to the general introduction of the BSAP to avoid redundancy (e.g. on page 4).

- It is relevant to point out that the most important actions to improve the status of biodiversity might be found under other segments of the BSAP and this aspect should be highlighted.
- There should be more emphasis on the effects of climate change on biodiversity.
- When referring to connection to other treaties, in addition to including HELCOM Recommendations, also the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan should be mentioned to make it clear that the updated BSAP is very relevant in connection to international treaties (page 4).
- In the description of current state, it needs to be clarified whether MPAs is referring to all MPAs or HELCOM MPAs.
- The bullet points in the start of the operative section are considered a useful approach and could be further improved (page 5).

3J.29 The Meeting took note of the clarification that cross-reference with other segments, climate links to the Climate Change Fact Sheet, as well as specific SDGs etc., will be included in the same way across all segments as part of the visualizations and will thus not be repeated in the text to avoid redundancy.

3J.30 The Meeting took note that the First Meeting of the Biodiversity segment team for drafting the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (DG BSAP BIO 1-2020) will take place on 16 October 2020 and the segment team will also comment and amend the draft preamble.

3J.31 The Meeting invited the Secretariat to forward the comments given by State and Conservation to the biodiversity segment team meeting as soon as possible even though the outcome has not been adopted.

3J.32 The Meeting discussed the role of BSAP in relation to the MSFD and noted that the countries have agreed to use HELCOM as a platform to facilitate a coordinated implementation of the MSFD, but that while there is strong alignment between the goals of HELCOM and the BSAP, these are not a direct tool to implement the MSFD. It was clarified that the implementation of the MSFD as such is up to the Contracting Parties being EU Member States.

3J.33 The Meeting considered the draft Annex to the Biodiversity Segment of the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (document 3J-4), as presented by the Secretariat.

3J.34 The Meeting proposed to include a column identifying the relevant HELCOM expert groups (in addition to the WG) as for several actions the work will primarily be taken forward by the dedicated Expert Groups.

3J.35 The Meeting emphasized that where the annex and the HELCOM Explorer contain similar information these should be aligned.

3J.36 The Meeting invited the Secretariat to prefill the Annex as far as possible and make a doodle poll to find a date for an intersessional meeting to progress the work on the annex prior to submission to HOD 59-2020.

Actions to be included in the updated BSAP

Finalizing existing actions

3J.37 The Meeting took note of the information on finalizing the rephrasing and concretization of existing HELCOM actions (document 3J-10, presentation 6), as presented by the Secretariat.

3J.38 The Meeting discussed the actions relevant for State and Conservation Working Group that HOD 58-2020 invited the group to finalize and endorse for submission to HOD 59-2020 for provisional agreement.

3J.39 The Meeting took note that HOD 58-2020 instructed the Fish and State & Conservation groups to consider the overlapping actions under environmentally sustainable sea-based activities related to

incidental by-catch, and to submit a proposal for merging or further differentiation of these actions to HOD 59-2020 for agreement.

3J.40 The Meeting agreed on the following new formulation to be submitted for consideration of FISH 12-2020:

- At the latest by [2023] enhance monitoring efforts for more reliable data on fishing effort, number of by-caught individuals and by-catch rates, in line with the needs identified by ICES and data-gaps outlined in the HELCOM Roadmap on fisheries data, in order to assess incidental bycatches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes in the Baltic Sea and for the status of populations by [2025].

3J.41 The Meeting took note that Sweden lifted their study reservation on the proposal and endorsed the following rephrased action for submission to HOD 59-2020:

- By 2023 and onwards with new findings use the produced maps in EIA procedures with the aim to protect migratory birds against potential threats arising from new offshore wind farms and other installations with barrier effect.

3J.42 The Meeting considered the proposal: ‘Update and strengthen Recommendation 35-1 by [2025] at the latest, including but not limited to...[developing and applying management plans for existing and new MPAs]’ under Nature Conservation session (c.f. paragraphs 3N.43-3N.45).

3J.43 The Meeting took note that Denmark lifted their study reservation on the proposal and endorsed the following rephrased action for submission to HOD 59-2020:

- To by the next update cycle of the marine spatial plans seek to incorporate the produced maps in the work concerning maritime spatial planning to avoid that maritime activities impair seabirds and their habitats.

3J.44 The Meeting agreed that the existing action “Further develop information provision from ecosystem models and to co-operate closely in doing so, bearing in mind the requirements of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan in developing targets for good ecological status, indicators for assessing the ecological status of the marine environment and in estimating future allowable nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea and its sub-regions without jeopardizing achievement of the good ecological and environmental status” has already been accomplished and does not need to be transferred to the updated BSAP.

Proposed new actions

3J.45 The Meeting considered the notes from the HELCOM BSAP UP workshop on biodiversity, including extraction of species and spatial measures, for the consideration of proposed new actions (document 3J-11, 3J-11-Add.1. 3J-11-Add.1-Att.1), as presented by the Secretariat.

3J.46 The Meeting took note of the clarification that it has not yet been decided how the division into measures and supporting actions will be presented in the updated BSAP.

3J.47 The Meeting took note that while discussions can progress in the Working Groups Denmark, Germany and Sweden have a general study reservation regarding new actions due to ongoing national coordination activities and that these would last at least another three weeks.

3J.48 The Meeting took note of the clarification that if Working Groups have differing views on actions that are considered by several WGs, they will all be submitted to HOD 59-2020.

3J.49 The Meeting also took note that the Working Groups can suggest merging of actions and also make proposals for the new formulation on merged actions although they are considered by several WGs.

3J.50 The Meeting recalled that the DG BSAP segment teams will continue drafting the new actions in spring 2021 based on the guidance by HODs. The Meeting pointed out that some topics, such as fisheries,

could be discussed by two segment teams and proposed that both the biodiversity and sea-based activities segment teams could discuss the actions on eel (“eel package”) and possibly organize a joint meeting of the two segment teams.

3J.51 The Meeting took note of the clarification that while the full synopsis text provides background for the proposed actions, that the title (or rephrasing’s or concretizations thereof) of the synopsis represent the actions to be included in the BSAP.

3J.52 The Meeting discussed the proposal by the BSAP UP WS-BIO to include an action on creating and implementing an action plan/toolbox for restoration of habitats to the updated BSAP instead of including a long list of specific measures and agreed on the proposal. The Meeting agreed to consider endorsement of the actions on restoration of habitats with a view of whether they can be endorsed for inclusion in an action plan/toolbox and rather than endorsement for individual measures for the updated BSAP. The Meeting noted that an action plan on restoration could include concrete targets for restoration, enabling the work to link more closely to ambitions for habitat restoration under other international and global fora (e.g. the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration).

3J.53 The Meeting briefly discussed potential gaps in the set of measures and pointed out that a measure on tackling established invasive species could be added, however acknowledging that a few synopses concerning this topic already exist.

3J.54 The Meeting agreed that due to the implications of the proposed action on a binding regional roadmap to reach climate neutrality reaching far beyond the scope of biodiversity and conservation, this is considered to be outside the mandate of S&C and should be considered further by HOD.

3J.55 The Meeting endorsed for submission to HOD 59-2020 the proposed new actions as outlined in document 3J-11-Add.1-Att.1-Rev.1, under consideration of the aforementioned general study reservations by Denmark, Germany and Sweden (3J.47).

HELCOM Explorer

3J.56 The Meeting noted that the reporting on the implementation status of the national actions will take place via nominated national contact points in autumn 2020. Nominations are made through HOD. Most, but not all countries, have already nominated their national focal points.

3J.57 The Meeting took note of the reporting on the status of the joint actions of relevance for State and Conservation WG (document 3J-12), as presented by the Secretariat, considered the status of accomplishment of the joint actions of relevance for State and Conservation WG and agreed on the updated status assessment as included in the excel attachment 3J-12-Att.1-Rev.1.

3J.58 The Meeting highlighted that the category of ‘partly accomplished’ is, for most actions very broad, ranging from barely started to almost accomplished.

3J.59 The Meeting stressed that concrete criteria should be developed for all actions.

3J.60 The Meeting further noted that end of November is the deadline for national reporting.

HELCOM Science Agenda

3J.61 The Meeting noted that the Science Agenda report and its associated comprehensive inventory of HELCOM knowledge and research needs will be made available by 30 October 2020 (document 3J-13).

Agenda Item 4J

Progress of relevant HELCOM expert groups and projects

4J.1 The Meeting took note of the progress on planning a HELCOM led MPA project for submission under the EU LIFE funding instrument, as presented by the Secretariat. The plan is to submit a concept note to the 2021 LIFE call and should the concept note be approved, and the consequent full application be accepted, the project would start in autumn 2022.

4J.2 The Meeting welcomed presentation by Mr. Michael Dähne, Germany, on the application process for SAMBAH II – Spatio-temporal Monitoring the Baltic proper harbour porpoise and its habitat quality (Presentation 7). He explained to the Meeting that without SAMBAH II, a sufficient monitoring of the abundance and distribution of harbour porpoises in the Baltic Sea is not possible. Further he highlighted the importance that all partners secure their financial contribution.

4J.3 The Meeting invited Russia to contact the project consortium (Michael.Daehne@meeresmuseum.de) regarding the possibility of collaboration with the consortium.

4J.4 The Meeting took note of the progress on a joint HELCOM application for the EMFF/MSFD call 2020 (“BLUES” project). The project proposal was submitted on 12 October. The project, if funded, would be managed by HELCOM and start in late-January 2021, running until end of 2022. Six of the HELCOM Contracting Parties (DE, EE, FI, LT, LV and SE) are involved in the consortium and the project consists of seven activities (i.e. work packages), covering e.g. further work on D1 indicators including bycatch, pelagic habitat and coastal fish indicators, further development of the BEAT tool, marine litter, underwater noise as well as new measures and socioeconomic analysis.

Ongoing projects

ACTION

4J.5 The Meeting took note of the draft report of HELCOM ACTION project Work Package 1 on by-catch (document 4J-18), as presented by the Secretariat. The Meeting also noted that Denmark finds it valuable to extract the important information from this work into a document developed for relevant authorities.

4J.6 The Meeting invited the project to prepare the final project report with management application and outreach in mind (i.e. not only for a scientific audience).

4J.7 The Meeting took note of the draft report of HELCOM ACTION project Work Package 5 (document 4J-19, Presentation 8), as presented by Estonia.

4J.8 The Meeting took note of the draft report on ACTION work package 3 on MPA management effectiveness, including comments provided by STATE & CONSERVATION 12-2020 (document 4J-20), as presented by the Secretariat.

4J.9 The Meeting noted that the ACTION project will finalize the reports by the end of the year and welcomed comments to the Secretariat (owen.rowe@helcom.fi) **by 27 October** and noted that the comments will be directed to the project partners. The Meeting noted that specific comments from Poland will be provided.

HOLAS III

4J.10 The Meeting took note of the overview of status of HOLAS III preparatory phase and planning (Presentation 9), as presented by the Secretariat. The Meeting noted that HOD 58-2020 considered and approved the elaborated timeline for the HOLAS III assessment, acknowledging that adjustments to the timeline may occur as the process progresses and also approved the proposed way forward for filling gaps in expertise for the HOLAS III assessment.

- 4J.11 The Meeting considered the first draft of proposed HOLAS III working structure (document 4J-2), as presented by the Secretariat and noted the proposed nested approval structure.
- 4J.12 The Meeting noted that the intention behind including a possibility to provide comments mid-way through the review process for the thematic assessments is to allow for authors to take in comments and make needed changes already prior to the meeting, thus allowing for a more developed product to be presented, and hopefully facilitate the approval process, ensuring that the products are available for national consultation.
- 4J.13 The Meeting took note of the information that where possible the proposed approval processes have been aligned with the existing meeting structures, however, if needed intersessional meetings could be included, e.g. an intersessional HOD back to back with HELCOM to move the approval of the thematic assessments from HELCOM to HOD.
- 4J.14 The Meeting took note of the clarification that as the assessment phase has already been shortened by half compared to HOLAS II to accommodate the request for only including one iteration of the assessment, it is no longer possible to shift the work backwards with an additional three months without also shifting data reporting so early in 2022 as to make inclusion of 2021 data impossible.
- 4J.15 The Meeting invited the Secretariat to clarify the role of the Pressure WG (e.g. in the approval of indicator reports) and Gear (e.g. at the strategic levels of review and approval and to check the content against other policy frameworks) groups in the HOLAS III assessment process and include this in the next version of the working structure.
- 4J.16 The Meeting considered the proposal for an ad hoc small-scale expert platform consisting of relevant leads for the various work strands to be established to support the holistic aspect of the report by ensuring improved cooperation and integration between the thematic work strands. The Meeting noted that this could be a way of more concretely involving expertise from e.g. Pressure.
- 4J.17 The Meeting took note of the comment by Finland that it needs to be clarified in the document how the platform would be populated and that it could be challenging to ensure the platform remains small scale while still ensuring participation from all CPs.
- 4J.18 The Meeting noted differing views regarding the establishment of a platform and agreed that this needs further consideration.
- 4J.19 The Meeting considered the proposal by Denmark to set up a core team consisting of national focal points for HOLAS III, the task of which could include to support the management and coordination of the HOLAS III assessment phase work and agreed that this should be further discussed in the GEAR 23-2020 meeting.
- 4J.20 The Meeting noted that national focal points for HOLAS III have not yet been considered or assigned by all CPs.
- 4J.21 The Meeting noted that written comments to the document will be submitted by Sweden.
- 4J.22 The Meeting endorsed the submission of a further developed proposal to GEAR 23-2020 for review and endorsement and HOD 59-2020 for approval.
- Continued development of HELCOM core indicators*
- 4J.23 The Meeting took note of the list of HELCOM indicator leads and co-leads (document 4J-3), as presented by the Secretariat and invited updates to be submitted to the Secretariat (owen.rowe@helcom.fi).
- 4J.24 The Meeting took note of the update on progress regarding development of HELCOM indicators for HOLAS III (documents 4J-4, 4J-4-Rev.1).

4J.25 The Meeting agreed that, as EG MAMA only meets once a year, intersessional meetings between indicator leads, relevant EG MAMA experts (e.g. under the topic teams), and interested contacts from State and Conservation should be established to discuss progress and development regarding marine mammal indicators and ensure that the planned work is in line with the timeline for HOLAS III.

4J.26 The Meeting noted that, regarding development of a by-catch indicator, the indicator leads are working on testing the proposals from Joint OSPAR-HELCOM workshop on incidental by-catch and that it is planned that work done on risk maps could also be included in the State of the Baltic Sea report. Should it be funded, the current proposal for HELCOM BLUES aims to support the work on bycatch for HOLAS III.

4J.27 The Meeting noted information that work on a new indicator for assessment of marine bird habitat quality is ongoing within JWG BIRD.

4J.28 The Meeting noted the importance to further work on the regional harmonization of new and existing indicators with the Habitats Directive.

4J.29 The Meeting noted that indicator work related to zooplankton and thus associated with ZEN is proposed to be included in the HELCOM BLUES project application, and that the intention is that the work under the project would be linked to the ZEN group.

Beach litter indicator

4J.30 The Meeting took note of the considerations on a HELCOM beach litter database and initial thoughts on beach litter assessment in HOLAS III (document 4J-5), as presented by the Secretariat.

4J.31 The Meeting supported the use of the EMODNET database for HOLAS III and in the short term but agreed to explore the use of the ICES database for the longer term, once the short- and long-term resource implications of the development and maintenance of the database are clarified. The Meeting agreed to come back to this when the relevant resource estimates are available and invited the EN Marine Litter, together with the Secretariat, to clarify the resource needs with ICES.

4J.32 The Meeting agreed on the use of assessment scale 2 for all beach types under the beach litter indicator in HOLAS III, however acknowledged that this can be revisited in the future if the underlying data supports a higher resolution.

4J.33 The Meeting took note of comments to the current definitions for the beach classes by Germany and Estonia and invited the Marine Litter EN to further adjust to the beach definitions to ensure that they can be applied by all Contracting Parties.

Cumulative impact on benthic biotopes pre-core indicator

4J.34 The Meeting agreed on the time plan for further work on Cumulative impact on benthic biotopes indicator which has been developed in order for the indicator to be used in HOLAS III (document 4J-16), while acknowledging that further development will be needed in the future to further improve the approach to evaluate loss and disturbance to the seabed.

4J.35 The Meeting noted that this indicator is being tested in Danish waters in conjunction with an evaluation of the ICES RBS approach (in particular reviewing fisheries pressures).

Waterbirds indicators

4J.36 The Meeting took note of the updated work plan on waterbirds for future work on HELCOM indicators (document 4J-6), as presented by the Secretariat.

Oxygen debt indicator

4J.37 The Meeting recalled that Sweden will no longer be able to lead the work on the oxygen debt indicator and invited the Contracting Parties to consider taking lead on the indicator to ensure that it can be included in the HOLAS III assessment.

HELCOM indicator Manual

4J.38 The Meeting took note of the draft HELCOM Indicator Manual Version 1.0 (documents 4J-7, 4J-7-Rev.1), as presented by the Secretariat.

4J.39 The Meeting noted the comments by Denmark that a minimum number of participating countries (e.g. at least three) might be valid in order to consider that indicators are regionally coordinated, that it would be good to expressly state that threshold values need to be presented a minimum of 3 months prior to approval to ensure sufficient time for national review. In addition, a minor adjustment to the order of sections is proposed. The Meeting noted that additional minor comments will be submitted in writing.

4J.40 The Meeting noted that in addition to the Indicator Manual, more information on the integrated assessment tools, e.g. BEAT and CHASE, would be beneficial, similarly to what is available for the HEAT tool.

4J.41 The Meeting noted that establishing consistent policy guidance to support the indicator development needs to be considered further.

4J.42 The Meeting agreed that the comments raised will be incorporated into the manual before submission of the document to GEAR 23-2020 for review and submission for endorsement to HOD 59-2020.

HELCOM Data Flow Project (DataFlow)

4J.43 The Meeting took note of the progress of the HELCOM DataFlow project, as presented by the Secretariat.

4J.44 The Meeting reviewed the data call for HOLAS III (document 4J-1) as well as the overview of expected 2022 data reporting timelines for regular HELCOM dataflows (document 4J-17), as presented by the Secretariat (Presentation 10).

4J.45 The Meeting noted that Secchi depth and Oxygen debt need to be added on page 3.

4J.46 The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to provide further comments to the data calls to the Secretariat (joni.kaitaranta@helcom.fi) **by 12:00 EET, 19 October 2020**.

4J.47 The Meeting noted that national discussions on the data submission timetables are still ongoing.

4J.48 The Meeting considered the need to prioritize which BSII/BSPI layers are to be updated via the data call and agreed that the DataFlow project will prepare an overview of current data layers and preliminary suggestion on the need to update these (i.e. the probability that change has occurred either as a consequence of actual change or due to improved data availability), to be further discussed at a short intersessional meeting of State and Conservation in autumn 2020.

4J.49 The Meeting endorsed the submission of the draft data calls to GEAR 23-2020 for review and endorsement and HOD 59-2020 for approval.

HELCOM Holistic Assessment Methodology Development Project (MetDev)

4J.50 The Meeting reviewed the updated project plan for MetDev (document 4J-8), as presented by the Secretariat.

- 4J.51 The Meeting noted that part of the financing can likely be secured from the HELCOM budget and invited the CPs to consider providing additional national funding to ensure that the necessary development can take place prior to the start of HOLAS III.
- 4J.52 The Meeting welcomed the inclusion of development of driver indicators in the project.
- 4J.53 The Meeting noted that a Swedish project is ongoing where the driver topic (DPSIR) is looked at in relation to MSFD and that this information could be useful for the proposed work on developing driver indicators for HOLAS III.
- 4J.54 The Meeting highlighted the need to align aggregation of indicator results under the integrated assessment tools with the aggregation rules under MSFD.
- 4J.55 The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to provide further comments to the proposal to the Secretariat (Jannica.haldin@helcom.fi) **by 14 October 2020** in order to submit the revised plan for endorsement to GEAR 23-2020 by the deadline on 19 October 2020. Detailed comments will be provided by Sweden and Germany.
- 4J.56 The Meeting welcomed the HELCOM Checklist of Baltic Sea Macro Species 2.0 (document 4J-15), as presented by the Secretariat.
- 4J.57 The Meeting noted that editorial comments to the Checklist will be provided by Sweden.
- 4J.58 The Meeting noted that it is not foreseen that the Checklist will need another full update prior to Red List assessments, however a smaller check for inclusion of new species could be considered, using BioBase as a basis. Checklists are needed to follow up on what species should be included in the consideration for assessment. For red listing distributional information of species and habitats is of higher importance and for this purpose the database can be used.
- 4J.59 The Meeting noted that Checklist information in Excel format is available on the HELCOM website.
- 4J.60 The Meeting approved the publication of the HELCOM Checklist 2.0, the final report of the HELCOM BaltiCheck project, as part of the Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings.

Finalized projects

HELCOM Expert Groups under the guidance of the State and Conservation WG

Phytoplankton Expert Group (PEG)

- 4J.61 The Meeting noted that the planned physical PEG meeting was postponed due to Covid-19.

Intersessional Network on Eutrophication (IN EUTRO)

- 4J.62 The Meeting considered the proposal by IN EUTRO to change from using Eutrophication ratios (ERs) to Eutrophication quality ratios (EQRs) making different areas more comparable. The Meeting noted that this process started already during HOLAS II, and that this approach has already been tested in the data flow system.
- 4J.63 The Meeting took note of the preference of Germany to use the EQR because of its uniform scale.
- 4J.64 The Meeting agreed to come back to this discussion at STATE & CONSERVATION 14-2021.

HELCOM-Baltic Earth Expert Network on Climate Change (EN CLIME)

- 4J.65 The Meeting took note of the proceedings towards a Climate Change Fact Sheet (document 4J-10), as presented by the Secretariat, and recalled that the intersessional online meeting of State and

Conservation will be held on 15 February 2021 aimed at approving the key messages for the Climate Change Fact Sheet.

[Benthic habitat mapping workshop](#)

4J.66 The Meeting noted that a workshop on Benthic habitat mapping products has been postponed due to Covid-19, however preparations continue, and the current plan is to hold the workshop in spring 2021.

[HELCOM Expert Group on Marine Mammals \(EG MAMA\)](#)

4J.67 The Meeting considered the terms of Reference for EG MAMA 15-2021 (document 4J-21).

4J.68 The Meeting agreed to add the review of status of marine mammal indicators in the spring 2021 meeting of State and Conservation (STATE & CONSERVATION 14-2021) to the ToRs as well as a possible intersessional meeting of relevant contacts related to marine mammal indicator development in spring 2021 (indicator leads and co-leads, Chair of EG MAMA, relevant EG MAMA teams and interested S&C contacts and observers) (cf. para. 4J-25).

4J.69 The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to provide further comments to the Secretariat (jannica.haldin@helcom.fi) **by 21 October 2020** after which the Secretariat will collate the comments and amendments and submit the updated ToR for tacit approval by State and Conservation contacts and observers.

[Baltic Sea MPA Managers Network \(EN MPA MANET\)](#)

4J.70 The Meeting took note of changes with regards to arranging the 2020 MPA MANET workshop due to Covid-19. The possibility for organizing an online event in spring 2021 will be explored and dependent on the Covid-19 situation the aim is to hold a physical workshop in autumn 2021.

[Expert Network on Hazardous Substances \(EN HAZ\)](#)

4J.71 The Meeting reviewed the proposal for regular screening of hazardous substances in the Baltic Sea region (document 4J-14), as presented by the Secretariat.

4J.72 The Meeting noted that the Athens lab is accredited to carry out the planned procedures and is carrying out similar work in other Pan-European projects. The Meeting in general supported the proposal and emphasized that the first screening campaign should be considered as a pilot study which could then guide further efforts.

4J.73 The Meeting took note of the information that the proposal has also been submitted to the Pressure WG.

4J.74 The Meeting welcomed detailed comments on the document to the Secretariat (owen.rowe@helcom.fi) as soon as possible, but not later than by **13 October 2020**.

4J.75 The Meeting endorsed the submission of the document to HOD 59-2020 for consideration and approval, noting that WG Pressure will also provide comments and a recommendation regarding endorsement.

[Strategic discussion on EGs](#)

4J.76 The Meeting took note that HOD 58-2020 approved the proposed way forward for filling gaps in expertise for the HOLAS III assessment, as proposed by STATE & CONSERVATION 12-2020.

4J.77 The Meeting reviewed the content of the draft ToR and plan for HELCOM Correspondence Group on Food Webs (document 4J-11), as presented by the Secretariat.

4J.78 The Meeting recalled that establishing the CG has been agreed by HOD 58-2020, based on the suggestion by STATE & CONSERVATION 12-2020.

- 4J.79 The Meeting took note specific comments on the draft ToRs by Sweden and that comments will be submitted via correspondence.
- 4J.80 The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to provide nomination for the group to the Secretariat (owen.rowe@helcom.fi) by **30 October 2020**.
- 4J.81 The Meeting took note of the information that several Contracting Parties are still exploring the possibility to nominate experts but would like to stay informed regarding the progress of the group.
- 4J.82 The Meeting invited Contracting Parties to provide further comments to the Secretariat (owen.rowe@helcom.fi) by **21 October 2020**.
- 4J.83 The Meeting provisionally endorsed the draft ToRs and the provisional time plan taking into account that comments can to be provided and endorsed their submission to GEAR 23-2020 for information and HOD for intersessional approval.
- 4J.84 The Meeting took note of the invitation to the BONUS symposium on food web knowledge synthesis for the Baltic Sea, which will take place online on October 21, 2020 at 9:00 - 12:00 CET.
- 4J.85 The Meeting reviewed the content of the draft ToR and the provisional time plan for HELCOM Workshop on Commercial Fish (document 4J-12), as presented by the Secretariat.
- 4J.86 The Meeting noted the comment by Finland that if new data needs are identified for HOLAS III, an estimate of the financial consequences of e.g. collecting, processing and analyzing such data should be provided as well the sources available for covering fully the costs associated for such activity.
- 4J.87 The Meeting emphasised that the plan is ambitious given that only one day is planned for the workshop and invited the Secretariat to consider the possibility to include a second day or alternatively consider two one day workshop with intersessional work taking place in between.
- 4J.88 The Meeting invited the Secretariat to include a clear definition of commercial fish in the ToR (based on the definition under D3 MSFD), as well as clarifying the role of ICES in the ToR and include a mention of the relevant ICES working groups.
- 4J.89 The Meeting welcomed that several Contracting Parties have nominations for the workshop already in place.
- 4J.90 The Meeting agreed that, in light of the proposal to also submit the workshop proposal to the Fish Group, nominations can be jointly submitted to the Secretariat (owen.rowe@helcom.fi) by **27 November 2020**.
- 4J.91 The Meeting provisionally endorsed the draft ToRs and the provisional time plan taking note of the comments to be provided to the Secretariat (owen.rowe@helcom.fi) by **21 October 2020** and their submission to GEAR 23-2020 for information and HOD for intersessional approval.
- 4J.92 The Meeting reviewed the content of the draft ToR and the provisional time plan for HELCOM Workshop on Pelagic Habitats (document 4J-13), as presented by the Secretariat.
- 4J.93 The Meeting invited the Secretariat to include bacterioplankton and other relevant groups in the ToRs, to explore the possibility to include relevant OSPAR expert in the workshop, as well as consider including the following topics in the list of main aims and tasks:
- Establish links between the pelagic indicators and relevant anthropogenic pressures
 - Explore possibilities for alignment of baseline and threshold setting between the different indicators to support integration
 - Scrutinize how information of related indicator assessments (other components, certain pressures e.g. eutrophication) can be used in the assessment of pelagic habitats

- Explore the potential of developing a more nested approach (assessment on different levels for species, functional groups and at higher level as proxy for biomass/abundance) comparable to OSPAR

4J.94 The Meeting provisionally endorsed the draft ToRs and the provisional time plan taking note of the comments to be provided to the Secretariat (owen.rowe@helcom.fi) **by 21 October 2020** and their submission to GEAR 23-2020 for information and HOD for intersessional approval.

4J.95 The Meeting considered a possible HELCOM-OSPAR group on NIS which did not get full support at STATE & CONSERVATION 12-2020. The Meeting noted that OSPAR might be interested in setting up such a group and agreed to come back to the discussion at STATE & CONSERVATION 14-2021.

Agenda Item 5J Development and implementation of Recommendations

5J.1 The Meeting took note of the Overview of planned reporting on HELCOM Recommendations under the remit of the S&C WG (document 5J-1), as presented by the Secretariat and agreed to consider the reporting of 1-2 Recommendations per State and Conservation meeting until the rolling system is in place.

[RECOMMENDATION 16/3 PRESERVATION OF NATURAL COASTAL DYNAMICS](#)

5J.2 The Meeting agreed that reporting on the Recommendation will be done every fifth year, next time in 2024.

[RECOMMENDATION 21/3 SUSTAINABLE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY TOURISM IN THE COASTAL ZONES OF THE BALTIC SEA AREA](#)

5J.3 The Meeting noted that due to late submission, it was not possible to consider the HELCOM guidelines for sustainable and environmentally friendly tourism in the coastal zones of the Baltic Sea Area (document 5J-2).

5J.4 The Meeting agreed that comments to the document will be submitted to Latvia (inga.belasova@varam.gov.lv) **by 30 November** and a consolidated version will be presented by Latvia at STATE & CONSERVATION 14-2021.

[RECOMMENDATION 24/10 IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED MARINE AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA](#)

5J.5 The Meeting took note of the results of the Finnish National EBSA process (document 5J-3, Presentation11), as presented by Finland.

5J.6 The Meeting noted that due to Covid-19 the arranging of a joint scoping workshop with HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG has been temporarily halted but planning will continue. The Meeting invited the Secretariat to report on the progress to STATE & CONSERVATION 14-2021.

Agenda Item 6J Baltic Sea Environment Fact Sheets

6J.1 The Meeting agreed to come back to the issue regarding biomass and satellite data use at the next meeting and invited the Chairs of IN EUTRO and PEG to present the matter at STATE & CONSERVATION 14-2021.

6J.2 The Meeting took note of the updated HELCOM Baltic Sea Environment Fact Sheets since STATE & CONSERVATION 11-2019 (document 6J-1), as presented by the Secretariat as well as the new setup of BSEFS on the [HELCOM website](#).

Agenda Item 7J

Future work

7J.1 The Meeting re-elected Ms. Marie-Louise Krawack and Mr. Norbert Häubner as co-Chairs, representing the biodiversity/nature conservation and monitoring/assessment components, respectively for the time period of 2021-2022. The Meeting re-elected Mr. Dieter Boedeker as vice-Chair for the Working Group for the time period of 2021-2022 and agreed to come back to the election of the second Vice-Chair in STATE & CONSERVATION 14-2021.

7J.2 The Meeting took note of the draft Work Plan for State and Conservation Working Group 2021-2022 (document 7J-1), as presented by the Secretariat and agreed to shorten the period of validity of the updated Work Plan from the standard 24 months to 18 months to account for the need to update the Work Plan following the adoption of the updated BSAP.

7J.3 The Meeting took note the comment that in light of the large number of tasks identified for State and Conservation Working group, the need for quality over quantity as regards future tasks in the Work Plan should be considered.

7J.4 The Meeting edited the Work Plan further as included in document 7J-1-Rev.1.

7J.5 The Meeting considered the action 3.4 and highlighted the importance of linking the status of indicators to relevant sources and loads.

7J.6 The Meeting considered the action 3.5 and noted that discussion on the driver indicators is important to have before HOLAS III and that indicators on activities are also needed (linked to MSFD Annex III).

7J.7 The Meeting suggested that action 4.8 would be considered by the Pressure WG.

7J.8 The Meeting suggested that action 6.9 would be considered by the Fish Group instead of S&C WG and State and Conservation would be informed about activities related to the action.

7J.9 The Meeting agreed to, in addition to the changes to the already included tasks of the workplan, add to the Work Plan the collaboration with HELCOM-VASAB and the EMSP project (EBA work package) as well as work on MPA LIFE project application.

7J.10 The Meeting reflected on that there is already at this stage overlap between actions proposed for inclusion in the update BSAP and the State and Conservation WG workplan.

7J.11 The Meeting agreed that for the next update of the workplan in spring 2022 an intersessional meeting focused on specifying and concretizing tasks under the Conservation segment should be arranged.

Next meetings

7J.12 The Meeting noted that STATE & CONSERVATION 14-2021, focusing on Monitoring and assessment and Joint sessions, will likely be held in Sweden, on 3-7 May 2021 and that an intersessional meeting of State and Conservation will be held online on 15 February 2021, focused on review and approval of the key messages for the HELCOM Climate Change Fact Sheet.

7J.13 The Meeting agreed to organize STATE & CONSERVATION 15-2021 on 4-8 October 2021.

7J.14 The Meeting recalled that this Meeting has agreed to organize the following intersessional meetings:

- meeting on biodiversity Annex of updated BSAP (autumn 2020; prior to submission to HOD 59-2020);
- meeting on updating layers on Pressure and Impact assessment (autumn 2020);
- meeting on marine mammal indicator development (spring 2021).
- meetings for taking the work on the MPA LIFE project proposal forward (autumn 2020 and spring 2021)

Agenda Item 8J Any other business

8J.1 The Meeting welcomed the presentation by Mr. Alexander Darr, Germany on the latest biotope mapping results in the Fehmarnbelt-MPA (Presentation 12).

8J.2 In response to a question from Poland, Germany confirmed that the "Guideline for Seafloor Mapping in German Marine Waters Using High-Resolution Sonars" is available for the public (<https://mobil-vilm.bfn.de/portal/webclient/index.html#/desktop>).

8J.3 The Meeting took note of the clarification by Germany that the guideline concerns only sediment mapping and is a living document and will change over time.

8J.4 The Meeting took note of the [outcome of the workshop on seals-fisheries interactions](#), organized in Copenhagen, Denmark on 27 June 2019, as well as the results of the discussion on these topics by EG MAMA 13-2019 (document 8J-1), as presented by the Secretariat.

8J.5 The Meeting noted that a new Danish management plan on seals has been finalized and is being implemented.

8J.6 The Meeting took note of the HELCOM Roadmap on fisheries data which has been presented in several meetings, e.g. within ICES and ASCOBANS.

8J.7 The Meeting reviewed the list of contacts and observers of State and Conservation and invited possible updates to be submitted to the Secretariat (petra.kaaria@helcom.fi).

8J.8 The Meeting took note of information on development on an indicator on seafloor litter as presented by Lead Country Denmark.

8J.9 The Meeting took note of suggestion by OSPAR regarding the development and publication of a joint scoping study based on the background material and outcomes of the joint HELCOM-ICES-OSPAR by-catch workshop and supported producing such a joint product.

Agenda Item 9J Outcome of the Joint themes

9J.1 The Meeting adopted the outcome of the Joint session via correspondence and noted that the outcome will be available (together with the outcome of the nature conservation and biodiversity session) at the STATE & CONSERVATION 13-2020 Meeting Site, together with the documents and presentations considered by the Meeting.

Nature conservation

Agenda Item 1N Adoption of the Agenda: Nature conservation

1N.1 The Meeting adopted Agenda items 1N-7N as contained in document 1-2-Rev.1.

Agenda Item 2N Matters of relevance for the Meeting and information from the Secretariat

2N.1 The Meeting took note that due to delays and uncertainties regarding the arrangements surrounding the international Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC) resulting from Covid-19, the team arranging the special symposium on MPA networks, co-organized by HELCOM, has decided to withdraw the symposium from the 2020 Congress and will instead aim to submit it to the next Congress.

2N.2 The Meeting noted that CBD COP 15 will be held in the second quarter of 2021 and the meeting will discuss the new strategic plan of CBD including the new biodiversity targets and regretted that due to the delays resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic it is unlikely the new targets can be used as direct input to the BSAP update as they will not be adopted in time.

2N.3 The Meeting noted that the importance of regional sea conventions in implementing the post 2020 CBD biodiversity targets was highlighted in the Regional Seas Programmes and the IUCN post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework webinar.

2N.4 The Meeting emphasised that the rephrased and concretized actions proposed for the updated BSAP which have been directly linked to the CBD process, and thus not considered for provisional approval in HOD 58-2020, will likely need to be uncoupled from the CBD process and supported to use the concrete targets from the EU biodiversity strategy as basis for further consideration of these actions in the BSAP update process and invited HOD 59-2020 to consider how to take the work forward on these topics.

2N.5 The Meeting also supported the inclusion in the updated BSAP of a more general action regarding the implementation of the CBD targets, once these have been adopted.

2N.6 The Meeting took note of information regarding the first IUCN WCPA regional workshop on OECMs (Other effective area-based conservation measures), focused on North African and the Eastern Mediterranean, which took place in Tunis, Tunisia on 10-11 February 2020. The workshop focused on how to identify, advance and report on OECMs. The report from the workshop is available [online](#).

2N.7 The Meeting took note of the background information provided for the workshop:

- CBD Decision 14/8. (English: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop14-dec-08-en.pdf>;
- IUCN/WCPA Technical Report on Recognising and Reporting OECMs: <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48773>
- FAO expert meeting report expert meeting to guide the identification of OECM in fisheries conservation areas: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca7194en/CA7194EN.pdf>
- Special Issue of PARKS on OECMs : <https://parksjournal.com/wpcontent/uploads/2018/07/PARKS-24-SI-Low-ResWeb.pdf>

2N.8 The Meeting acknowledged that regional work on OECM in the Baltic sea is linked both to actions under the updated BSAP and to tasks identified for a possible HELCOM MPA project under LIFE.

2N.9 The Meeting welcomed the suggestion to approach WCPA and FAO for informal enquiry regarding the possibility to arrange a similar event for the Baltic Sea region and agreed to come back to this in more detail at STATE & CONSERVATION 15-2020.

2N.10 The Meeting noted that national work has been carried out on OECMs in Finland.

Agenda Item 3N Development and implementation of Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION 15/1 PROTECTION OF THE COASTAL STRIP

3N.1 The Meeting took note that the latest national reporting has been undertaken in 2019 as part of the BSAP update process, and that the next scheduled reporting will take place in 2025.

RECOMMENDATION 17/2 PROTECTION OF HARBOUR PORPOISE IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA

3N.2 The Meeting took note of the following national work relevant for the Recommendation 17/2:

- Denmark hopes to include harbour porpoise as a conservation feature in 18 MPAs in Danish waters, this suggestion has been up for public consultation.

3N.3 The Meeting took note of the first draft of a reporting form for the Recommendation (document 3N-1), as presented by Poland.

3N.4 The Meeting highlighted that information reported to ASCOBANS can be used in this form as well to avoid double-reporting.

3N.5 The Meeting noted that Denmark and Sweden will provide written comments on the reporting form to Poland (k.kaminska@mgm.gov.pl) by **28 October**.

3N.6 The Meeting suggested that EG MAMA will consider the reporting form in further detail after which it will be submitted to STATE & CONSERVATION 15-2021 for approval.

a. Follow-up of action 'avoiding by-catches of harbour porpoises, particularly following the recommendations of ASCOBANS and the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Plan'

3N.7 The Meeting took note of the follow up of ACTION project WP1 on bycatch as presented by the Secretariat.

3N.8 The Meeting recalled information on a NATO mine sweeping exercise presented by Germany at STATE & CONSERVATION 11-2019. The Meeting took note of planned national NATO mine sweeping exercises from Germany and noted that Denmark will provide information on national procedures for similar exercises to the meeting in writing.

3N.9 The Meeting took note of the ICES Special Request Advice on EU request on emergency measures to prevent bycatch of Baltic Proper harbour porpoise (document 3N-11), as presented by CCB.

3N.10 The Meeting noted that the measures in the advice are intended to be implemented together and that though the emergency measures are only valid for a maximum of 6+6 months, long term measures are needed to secure an improved status of the population.

3N.11 The Meeting took note that a joint Recommendation to implement emergency mitigation measures for harbour porpoise in the Baltic Sea is currently being discussed under Baltfish and noted that a proposal with a higher level of ambition compared to the first draft is currently being prepared based on input from the EU Commission.

3N.12 The Meeting took note of a statement on the ICES Advice by EG MAMA (Presentation 13).

3N.13 The Meeting acknowledged that the political process regarding the ICES Special request measures is ongoing. The Meeting was of the opinion that Baltfish is the correct forum to discuss the implementation of the emergency measures, as it is tightly linked to fisheries management. The Meeting further highlighted the importance of close cooperation with ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group in this respect.

3N.14 The Meeting emphasized the dire state of the Baltic Proper harbor porpoise population, as well as the high importance and urgency of implementing measures both to address the immediate risk of

extinction of the population and in the long term. The Meeting invited BALTFISH to consider the following statement by HELCOM EG MAMA in their further work:

*“EG MAMA AGREES that emergency measures to protect the genetically distinct, morphologically divergent and ecologically separated management unit of harbour porpoises in the Baltic Sea are urgently needed. To achieve a Good Environmental Status of porpoises according to HELCOM regulation in the Baltic Proper adequate conservation measures have been recently outlined in the ICES Special Request Advice on emergency measures to prevent bycatch of Common Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) and Baltic Proper Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) in the Northeast Atlantic issued on 26 May 2020 and endorsed by the 9th Meeting of Parties to ASCOBANS on 11 Sep 2020.*

EG MAMA agrees with and emphasizes the following resolutions made by ASCOBANS:

ASCOBANS URGES the Parties to implement swiftly the recommendations on measures for bycatch mitigation made by ICES in areas of more than occasional Harbour Porpoise occurrence.

ASCOBANS URGES Parties to put in place long-term bycatch mitigation measures in line with the ICES advice both within and outside marine protected areas in areas of more than occasional Harbour Porpoise occurrence.

ASCOBANS ENCOURAGES Parties not to carry out activities shown to cause negative impact on Harbour Porpoises within Baltic Proper Natura-2000 sites.

ASCOBANS URGES Parties to implement monitoring of fishing effort and bycatch in line with ICES advice and to take into account the HELCOM Roadmap on fisheries data in order to assess incidental bycatch and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes in the Baltic Sea.

EG MAMA undertakes work to further develop the HELCOM core indicator on distribution of harbour porpoises. The results of the indicator and other relevant scientific work should be taken into account when defining the term “more than occasional harbour porpoise occurrence”.

ASCOBANS has agreed and underlined that pingers are only an interim solution and EG MAMA emphasizes the need for implementation and, when needed, development of fishing gear proven to minimize or avoid bycatch of protected, endangered and threatened species to replace static nets, using the best available technology.”

3N.15 The Meeting considered that the Recommendation 17/2 already covers implementation of measures such as those presented in the ICES special request advice and thus did not support integrating the ICES advice directly into Recommendation 17/2, however the Meeting agreed that the proposed measures should be considered in the implementation of the Recommendation.

3N.16 The Meeting suggested that once decision has been taken in Baltfish, HELCOM should consider including similar measures as actions in the updated BSAP.

3N.17 The Meeting noted the comment by CCB that the ICES advice is already tempered by fisheries interests, as all stationary net fisheries would need to be fully closed in order to reach levels of by-catch of less than 0.7 animals/year.

[RECOMMENDATION 27-28/2 CONSERVATION OF SEALS IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA](#)

3N.18 The Meeting took note that the latest full national reporting has been undertaken in 2017.

3N.19 The Meeting took note of the statement drafted by EG MAMA 14-2020 on establishing Precautionary Approach Level (PAL) (document 3N-13), as presented by the Secretariat.

3N.20 The Meeting concluded that if PAL can only be set retrospectively then this impairs both the functionality of the Recommendation and its use for active management purposes and agreed that a more in-depth discussion is needed regarding PAL.

3N.21 The Meeting agreed that this should be included in the agenda on the planned joint intersessional meeting of EG MAMA and S&C representatives planned to take place in spring 2021 (cf. 4J.25 in the outcome of the Joint Session) and invited the Secretariat to approach the former Chair of EG MAMA Mr. Arne Bjørge to contribute to the discussion.

3N.22 The Meeting took note of the progress on other tasks identified for EG MAMA in relation to the Recommendation by S&C 11-2019 (Presentation 14), as presented by the Secretariat.

3N.23 The Meeting invited EG MAMA to annually report count data to the HELCOM Biodiversity Database (once the functionality is enabled) and to annually provide a document to the autumn meeting of State and Conservation Working Group containing a table presenting the number of seals by species and management unit, confidence information as well as population trend curves. The Meeting invited the Secretariat to prepare a document template for submission to EG MAMA 15-2021 to support the work.

3N.24 The Meeting noted that data on harbour seals will only be obtained during autumn and thus will be reported for the previous year.

3N.25 The Meeting noted that alternative methods for surveying ringed seals are being considered in EG MAMA to account for the increasing frequency of milder winters and consequent poor ice conditions.

3N.26 The Meeting took note of the screening study on hazardous substances in marine mammals (document 3N-14), as presented by Germany. The Meeting noted that costs related to national participation in the project will be clarified. The Meeting noted that six Contracting Parties (SE, FI, DK, DE, PL and LT) indicated their interest to participate in the screening study and proposed contact persons. The remaining Contracting Parties are invited to nominate contact persons for providing samples for the study to Ms. Anita Künitzer (anita.kuenitzer@uba.de) **by 20 October 2020**.

RECOMMENDATION 34E/1 SAFEGUARDING IMPORTANT BIRD HABITATS AND MIGRATION ROUTES IN THE BALTIC SEA FROM NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF WIND AND WAVE ENERGY PRODUCTION AT SEA

3N.27 The Meeting welcomed the presentation by Mr. Stefan Garthe, Germany, on TRACKBIRD project.

3N.28 The Meeting agreed that once the CG on bird migration has been established, a kickoff workshop should be organized to share information, results and data on bird migration from various projects around the Baltic Sea to support the distribution of information, possibility for transboundary cooperation and harmonization between the Contracting Parties and welcomed that BFN could possibly organize such a workshop.

3N.29 The Meeting suggested sharing information on the TRACKBIRD project as well as the outcome of such a workshop with the HELCOM-VASAB MSP group.

3N.30 The Meeting welcomed that further results on bird migration be shared in future meetings of State and Conservation.

3N.31 The Meeting noted that a 1-year-project aiming at collection of radar data in Baltic Sea area will possibly begin in 2021 in Germany and that the aim is that this data, after processing through modelling, could also be used to track bird movements.

3N.32 The Meeting took note of information on the migratory bird correspondence group, as presented by the Secretariat and agreed that the ToR for the CG can be approved intersessionally and, if accepted by ICES and OSPAR, can then be included in the Work Plan of JWG Bird.

3N.33 The Meeting considered the draft HELCOM Guidelines for monitoring seabirds at sea (document 3N-8), as presented by Germany.

3N.34 The Meeting noted that further comments will be provided to Germany (gesine.lange@nabu.de) in writing by Denmark and Sweden.

RECOMMENDATION 35/1 SYSTEM OF COASTAL AND MARINE BALTIC SEA PROTECTED AREAS (HELCOM MPAs)

3N.35 The Meeting supported the proposals for a reporting template for the Recommendation (document 3N-2), as presented by Finland, and considered the possibility to extract most of the information needed for the reporting from the MPA database, once the database functionality has been improved, and recommended that this be taken into consideration when the update is planned.

3N.36 The Meeting noted the concern raised by Denmark that annual updates of the MPA database might not be possible due to lack of resources and noted that other detailed comments will be provided in writing to Finland (lasse.kurvinen@metsa.fi).

3N.37 The Meeting reiterated that an annual review of national data in the MPA database is the current recommendation, with updates needed only if changes are known to have occurred in the past year.

3N.38 The Meeting agreed to come back to the discussion on the reporting template in STATE & CONSERVATION 15-2021 and invited lead country Finland to prepare a draft template for that meeting.

3N.39 The Meeting considered the observed possible update needs for Recommendation 35/1 (document 3N-12) as presented by Finland and noted that as part of the update process a reporting schedule should be included.

3N.40 The Meeting noted that the Recommendation will need to be revised to account for possible new MPA actions included in the updated BSAP.

3N.41 The Meeting highlighted the need to align the Recommendation with the CBD biodiversity targets once available, as well as the EU Biodiversity Strategy, especially as it seems unlikely that the CBD targets will be adopted in time for inclusion in BSAP.

3N.42 The Meeting noted the suggestion by Germany to update point i) in order to keep 12-year cycle and to follow new IUCN categorization under point n). The Meeting further noted the suggestion by Germany to revise the text under point n) as follows: "Apply the new IUCN categorization when describing at least new HELCOM MPAs". The Meeting agreed that this should be revisited if and when the Recommendation is opened for revision.

3N.43 The Meeting emphasized that following the invitation by HOD 58-2020 (3J.42 to joint session outcome), an action on reviewing and updating the Recommendation 35/1 is expected to be presented to HOD 59-2020.

3N.44 The Meeting noted that Denmark is in favor of including a more general action or text in the updated BSAP regarding the updating of all relevant recommendations, rather than including selected Recommendations.

3N.45 The Meeting welcomed the offer by the Secretariat to provide a first draft of such a general text by **20 October 2020**, comments or amendments to be submitted to the Secretariat by 26 October 2020, to be collated, revised accordingly and sent out by the Secretariat by **27 October 2020** for approval by State and Conservation by **13 November 2020**, so as to be submitted to HOD 59-2020 by the deadline of 16 November 2020.

3N.46 The Meeting took note of the outcome of TG MPA 14-2020 as well as the updated HELCOM LIFE MPA project proposal (document 3N-3).

3N.47 The Meeting agreed to focus on a subset of the proposed work packages (Capacity, Coherence and Effectiveness) in a dedicated scoping session. The Meeting executed a scoping session aimed at identifying envisioned end products, methods and ways of working to achieve the deliverables as well scoping if expertise and/or experience relating to the various tasks under the work packages is available in the Baltic Sea region.

3N.48 The Meeting agreed on organizing intersessional meetings for taking the work on the MPA LIFE project proposal forward, during late 2020 and early 2021 respectively, in order to have the plan in place prior to the expected call opening in March 2021.

3N.49 The Meeting acknowledged that the identification of partners and the possibility of securing co-financing needs to commence in order to ensure sufficient time is available for these processes. The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to consider possible suitable partners and garner interest in tasks as well as to explore co-financing possibilities nationally and communicate this to the Secretariat **by 1 March 2021 at the latest**.

3N.50 The Meeting emphasized the need to acquire information on which tasks possible partnering Contracting Parties/institutions could lead in the project.

3N.51 The Meeting noted that work on defining specific task for species in MPAs has been carried out under the Arctic Council Working Group PAME (protecting the Arctic marine environment) and suggested considering the results of the group when further drafting the application.

3N.52 The Meeting welcomed a presentation on a Finnish MPA from the Archipelago Sea national park, as presented by Mr. Lasse Kurvinen (Presentation 15). The Meeting noted that enforcement of protection is managed by Game and fisheries wardens (in cooperation with e.g. the Finnish Border Guard) that patrol in the MPAs and oversee that e.g. no unlicensed hunting or fishing is taking place and further noted that new ways for enforcement via new technologies are being explored.

3N.53 The Meeting welcomed the information that Denmark will give a presentation on Danish MPAs and Finland on an adjacent transnational MPA between Sweden and Finland in the Bothnian Bay at STATE & CONSERVATION 15-2021.

a) Follow-up of action 'reach goal of 10% of the marine area in all sub-basins of the Baltic Sea including the EEZ areas beyond territorial waters is covered by MPAs where scientifically justified'

3N.54 The Meeting took note of the information on encountered issues with MPA coverage analysis (document 3N-4 Presentation 16), as presented by the Secretariat, noted the alternative solutions for the varying quality of data sets and noted the preferences expressed by the Contracting Parties.

3N.55 The Meeting took note that although these issues are widely distributed, the effect on the percentual values of MPA coverage is likely to be limited. The Meeting acknowledged that solving the issues regarding EEZ and coastlines are likely to be more time consuming and can be politically challenging and thus dedicated time and resources for this work would be beneficial. The Meeting further agreed to include these tasks in the Capacity work package of the draft proposal for a HELCOM MPA LIFE project.

3N.56 The Meeting agreed that with regards to the shift of a subset of the MPAs this can be solved by updating the GIS layer containing MPA borders and invited the Contracting Parties to provide shapefiles of HELCOM MPAs to the Secretariat (joni.kaitaranta@helcom.fi) by **30 November 2020** and noted that the Secretariat will update the layer and upload all the MPA shapefiles once they are available.

3N.57 The Meeting took note that Germany can provide shape files for the EEZ, and will explore the feasibility of providing this information for German territorial waters as well.

c) Follow-up of action 'ensure that HELCOM MPAs inter alia provide specific protection to those species, habitats, biotopes and biotope complexes included in the HELCOM Red Lists'

3N.58 The Meeting took note of the clarification regarding why littoral classes, as well as circalittoral open sea classes have been excluded from the translation matrix for habitat classifications: the reason behind excluding littoral classes in the matrix developed in the SPICE project is the lack of tides in the Baltic Sea. For example, coastal lagoons in the Baltic are considered as included in the infralittoral. The Meeting noted that it was not clear to the authors why the offshore circalittoral classes were not included and that this needs to be further explored. The Meeting noted that the translation matrix may need to be revised according to further advice from the authors, after which it will be presented to State and Conservation once more.

d) Follow-up of action 'ensure, when selecting new areas, that the network of HELCOM MPAs is ecologically coherent and takes into account connectivity between sites'

3N.59 The Meeting took note of the plans on HELCOM workshop on habitat mapping and monitoring, which has been postponed to spring 2021, due to Covid-19 restrictions.

3N.60 The Meeting welcomed the presentation by Finland on the outcome of a HELCOM workshop on habitat mapping and monitoring held in November 2019 (Presentation 17) and noted that a report from the workshop is expected to be published soon.

e) Follow-up of action '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'

3N.61 The Meeting noted the information by Germany on the progress of activities on assessing management status under the OSPAR MPA Network: OSPAR Contracting Parties will continue to use the existing "four question method" for reporting MPA management status and in addition will be asked to provide confidence scores and clarifying comments for responses to each of the four questions in the 2021 status report and as contribution to the QSR 2023. OSPAR parks further development of new approaches until after the QSR.

3N.62 The Meeting took note of the final report on Work Package 3 on analyzing sufficiency of MPAs as a measure under the HELCOM ACTION project, as presented by the Secretariat.

f) Follow-up of action 'update, when necessary, HELCOM MPA related guidelines and guiding documents in order to keep them in line with new knowledge and compatible with other international criteria'

3N.63 The Meeting considered the draft updated guidelines for MPA pressure evaluation (document 3N-5, Presentation 18), as presented by Finland.

3N.64 The Meeting took note of the comment by Denmark that they would like to see the text in the introduction expanded.

3N.65 The Meeting agreed that text under section 7 will be replaced by a disclaimer explaining that the content will be included only after there is further clarification regarding definitions on loss and disturbance from the EU TG Seabed.

3N.66 The Meeting clarified that the document is intended to support harmonized reporting on pressures in MPAs to the HELCOM MPA database. The Meeting agreed that the title of the guidelines can be modified to include the word 'Instructions' in place of 'Guideline'.

3N.67 The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to provide further comments **by 29 October** to Finland (lasse.kurvinen@metsa.fi) in writing and agreed that following the inclusion of final amendments an intersessional approval procedure will be established.

3N.68 The Meeting noted that this document should be considered as a living document after its approval.

3N.69 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the national EBSA process, as presented by Finland (Presentation 11).

g) Follow-up of action 'modernize the HELCOM MPAs database'

3N.70 The Meeting considered the possibility to include information (e.g. on measures) received through the ACTION project MPA questionnaire to the database when the database is updated and agreed that this will be evaluated in more detail when the MPA database is updated, or as part of the relevant task under the Capacity work package under the proposed HELCOM LIFE MPA project.

RECOMMENDATION 37/2 CONSERVATION OF BALTIC SEA SPECIES CATEGORIZED AS THREATENED ACCORDING TO THE 2013 HELCOM RED LIST

3N.71 The Meeting noted that the next reporting on the Recommendation will take place in late 2020, as agreed by STATE & CONSERVATION 11-2019.

3N.72 The Meeting considered the reporting template (document 3N-9), as prepared and presented by Germany, thanked Germany for producing the template and noted specific comments provided for the template.

3N.73 The Meeting agreed on ways forward to tackle the comments and open questions and invited Germany to amend the draft template accordingly. The Meeting approved the reporting template, bearing in mind the changes that will still be implemented and noting that further work on linking habitats to species is needed to ensure this functionality is available for the next reporting in 2026.

3N.74 The Meeting invited Germany to provide an amended and ready template by **16 October 2020**, to be shared with the Contracting Parties by **19 October 2020** for reporting on the Recommendation by **31 December 2020**. Filled in templates are to be sent to lead country Germany (gesine.lange@nabu.de) for collation and preparing the presentation of results.

a) Follow-up of action 'Inventory of existing and planned national and regional conservation-, recovery- and/or action plans, and by 2018 review their effectiveness and, if necessary, define future protection needs'

3N.75 The Meeting took note of submitted information on national conservation plans for species and biotopes categorized as threatened according to HELCOM 2013 Red List (document 3N-6).

3N.76 The Meeting acknowledged that there are no clear agreed definitions for conservation plan, action plan etc. which has resulted in unclarity regarding the internal relationship between these different measures. The Meeting agreed to consider the preferred interpretation of the terms at STATE & CONSERVATION 15-2021 and invited Sweden to submit a document to the meeting outlining the various terms and possible definitions, to function as background for further discussion.

3N.77 The Meeting noted that Poland will update information on commercial fish species before STATE & CONSERVATION 15-2020 and that developing conservation plans when needed will be included in the updated national Programmes of Measures in Finland.

b) Follow-up of action 'Introduce and/or update national legislation or, if more appropriate, choose different kinds of instruments (such as incentives, administrative actions or negotiated agreements), to provide for effective protection of relevant HELCOM threatened species'

3N.78 The Meeting reviewed the list of threatened and declining species occurring in the waters of more than one CP (document 3N-7), as presented by the Secretariat, welcomed the information that the list has already been used as a basis for communication on measures between Finland and Sweden and supported the submission of the list to GEAR 23-2020.

c) Follow-up of action 'Take measures to reduce transboundary pressures and/or impacts on HELCOM threatened migrating species'

3N.79 The Meeting took note of the information provided by Finland and Germany regarding which of the measures recommended by JWG BIRD have been implemented in the respective CP. The Meeting took note of the information that Denmark will provide information intersessionally and invited all Contracting Parties to provide their responses to the Secretariat (petra.kaaria@helcom.fi) so that they can be collated and presented in an overview to STATE & CONSERVATION 15-2021.

RECOMMENDATION 40/1 CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF MARINE AND COASTAL BIOTOPES, HABITATS AND BIOTOPE COMPLEXES CATEGORIZED AS THREATENED ACCORDING TO THE HELCOM RED LISTS

3N.80 The Meeting considered the reporting template (document 3N-10), as prepared and presented by Germany, thanked Germany for producing the template and noted specific comments provided for the template.

3N.81 The Meeting clarified that when reporting on the Recommendation was carried out last time within the BSAP UP project, only national activities and national level implementation were considered and when reporting on the Recommendation as a whole by end of 2020, both national and regional aspects will be considered.

3N.82 The Meeting agreed on ways forward to tackle the comments and open questions and invited Germany to amend the draft template accordingly. The Meeting approved the reporting template, bearing in mind the changes that will still be implemented and noting that further work on linking habitats to species is needed to ensure this functionality is available for the next reporting.

3N.83 The Meeting invited Germany to provide an amended and ready template by **16 October 2020**, to be shared with the Contracting Parties by **19 October 2020** for reporting on the Recommendation by **31 December 2020**. Filled in templates are to be sent to lead country Germany (gesine.lange@nabu.de) for collation and preparing the presentation of results.

Agenda Item 4N [Links to ongoing work under the habitats and Birds Directives](#)

4N.1 The Meeting welcomed the presentation on the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#), by Ms. Sophie Ouzet (Presentation 19). The Strategy was adopted in May 2020.

4N.2 The Meeting considered questions and input regarding progress and interpretation of the Strategy, and took note that the notes for the NADEG meeting will be uploaded shortly and that these will be public documents and can be found here: <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/fcb355ee-7434-4448-a53d-5dc5d1dac678>.

4N.3 The Meeting took note that the folders relevant for Marine Natura 2000 can be found under the following link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/00564ca7-9d16-4b81-bac5-b35fcb84aa33>.

4N.4 The Meeting considered that HELCOM can function as forum to support those CPs that are also EU member states in their work to ensure regional coordination and coherence when implementing the Strategy and acknowledged that there are synergies between the BSAP and the Biodiversity Strategy.

4N.5 The Meeting welcomed the information that Denmark supports the ongoing work to improve the network of well-connected marine protected areas. Therefore, Denmark supports the proposed global target for 30 % marine protected areas. Furthermore, Denmark supports the aim within the EU and HELCOM waters to reach 30 % MPAs and 10 % areas which are strictly protected.

4N.6 The Meeting took note of progress, questions and challenges related to the work on the EU Habitats and Birds Directives.

4N.7 The Meeting took note of the information by Denmark that new assessments for the Danish marine Natura 2000 sites have been published, these areas being also HELCOM MPAs.

Agenda Item 5N Plans for implementation of the work plan and emerging issues

5N.1 The Meeting considered the work plan of State and Conservation and updated the sections regarding Nature Conservation, as included in document 7J-1-Rev.1.

5N.2 The Meeting acknowledged the need to further concretize the work under the Conservation session, and highlighted the need for, and value of, the opportunity to concentrate in more detail on individual challenges and tasks to progress the work. The Meeting agreed for upcoming meetings to identify a relevant theme or topic and include a dedicated session during the meeting to tackling the issue in question, with the aim that this would result in concrete ways forward and the identification of clear future tasks.

5N.3 The Meeting emphasized the value of sharing the latest information and progress on national work, as well as international projects etc., to support these discussions and agreed that relevant experts can be invited to contribute. The Meeting further emphasized the need to involve expertise across HELCOM groups and agreed to invite other HELCOM EG's and WG's to take part in sessions relevant to their expertise.

5N.4 The Meeting noted the following suggestions for themes and topics that would benefit from a dedicated session under Nature conservation & biodiversity under State and Conservation:

- How to better incorporate conservation and other topics of biodiversity relevance into HOLAS and the State of the Baltic Sea report.
- How to manage commercial and recreational fishing in relation to MPAs (invitation to be extended to Fish and EU COM)
- How to ensure space for nature outside of protected areas: using green infrastructure, blue corridors, and OECMs to ensure connectivity (invitation to be extended to the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG);
- Ecosystem services in the Baltic and the role of MPAs;
- The role of MPAs under a changing climate.

5N.5 The Meeting supported that the outcome of these sessions would focus on concrete tasks and ways forward.

5N.6 The Meeting emphasized that the Conservation Session of the State and Conservation meeting has a high potential to function as a platform for implementing joint measures.

5N.7 The Meeting supported that in the future effort should be made to further aligning HELCOM Red Listing and MPA coherence analysis with the process of drafting national Programmes of Measures under the MSFD.

5N.8 The Meeting took note of the plan for updating of the HELCOM Red List, preliminary planned to start in 2022 and to be available by the end of 2024. The Meeting clarified that the Red List work will consist of assessments for both on species and habitats/biotopes.

5N.9 The Meeting welcomed the information that Sweden will explore the possibility to utilize the Swedish red list assessment support tool for regional purposes and will inform the Secretariat (jannica.haldin@helcom.fi).

5N.10 The Meeting welcomed the information that IUCN has prepared an R-package as a tool to support redlist assessments and that this is publicly available and supported that functionality of this tool also be explored.

5N.11 The Meeting noted that the Finnish Red List will soon be available in English and further noted that Finland will need to clarify the availability of resources for the upcoming HELCOM Red List-process.

5N.12 The Meeting agreed to prepare a HELCOM Red List project proposal, including resource estimates, for consideration and approval at HOD 60-2021 and invited the Secretariat to inform HOD 59-2020 of the current plan.

Agenda Item 6N Any other business

6N.1 The Meeting welcomed the presentation on Management of habitats and species in MPAs – Coalition Clean Baltic’s management briefs for five species and eight habitats in the Baltic Sea (document 6N-2, Presentation 20), by CCB. The Meeting noted that this could be presented at an upcoming MPA MANET workshop and supported providing this information already to the network via e-mail. The Meeting further noted the suggestion to add linkage to MSFD broadscale habitats. The Meeting further noted the suggestion to present this work at an ASCOBANS MPA workshop.

6N.2 The Meeting reviewed the list of TG MPA members (document 6N-1) and invited the Contracting Parties to provide updates to the Secretariat (petra.kaaria@helcom.fi).

Agenda Item 7N Outcome of the Nature conservation session

7N.1 The Meeting adopted the outcome of Nature Conservation theme via correspondence and noted that the outcome will be available (together with outcomes of the joint and monitoring and assessment themes) at the [STATE & CONSERVATION 13-2020 Meeting Site](#), together with the documents and presentations considered by the Meeting.

Annex 1. List of participants

Representing	Name	Name of organization	E-mail address
Co-Chairs			
Co-Chair	Marie-Louise Krawack	Ministry of Environment and Food	makra@mfvm.dk
Co-Chair	Norbert Haubner	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	norbert.haubner@havochvatten.se
Contracting Parties			
Denmark	Nathia Brandtberg	Ministry of Environment and Food	nathb@mfvm.dk
Estonia	Eda Andresmaa	Ministry of the Environment	eda.andresmaa@envir.ee
Estonia	Urmas Lips	Tallinn University of Technology	urmas.lips@taltech.ee
EU	Sophie Ouzet	EU	sophie.ouzet@ec.europa.eu
Finland	Penina Blankett	Ministry of the Environment	penina.blankett@ym.fi
Finland	Lasse Kurvinen	Parks & Wildlife Finland	lasse.kurvinen@metsa.fi
Finland	Maija Häggblom	Ålands Government	maija.haggblom@regeringen.ax
Finland	David Abrahamsson	Ålands Government	David.Abrahamsson@regeringen.ax
Finland	Vivi Fleming	SYKE	Vivi.Fleming@ymparisto.fi
Germany	Christine Wenzel	Ministry for Energy Transition, Agriculture, the Environment, Nature and Digitalization of Schleswig-Holstein	christine.wenzel@melund.landsh.de
Germany	Gesine Lange	Consultant for the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation	gesine.lange@nabu.de
Germany	Kristine Brüggemann	Consultant for the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation	kristine.brueggemann@tiho-hannover.de
Germany	Marina Carstens	Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	m.carstens@lm.mv-regierung.de
Germany	Dieter Boedeker	German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)	dieter.boedeker@bfn.de
Germany	Markus Billerbeck	Federal Maritime & Hydrographic Agency	markus.billerbeck@bsh.de
Germany	Alexander Darr	Leibniz-Institute for Baltic Sea Research	alexander.darr@io-warnemuende.de
Germany	Stefan Garthe	Research and Technology Centre, West Coast	garthe@ftz-west.uni-kiel.de

Outcome of STATE & CONSERVATION 13-2020

Germany	Juliane Wendt	State Agency for Environment, Nature Conservation and Geology, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	juliane.wendt@lung.mv-regierung.de
Germany	Michael Dähne	German Oceanographic Museum	Michael.Daehne@meeresmuseum.de
Latvia	Inga Belasova	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development	inga.belasova@varam.gov.lv
Latvia	Juris Aigars	Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology	juris.aigars@lhei.lv
Poland	Andrzej Ginalski	General Directorate for Environmental Protection	andrzej.ginalski@gdos.gov.pl
Poland	Magdalena Kaminska	Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection	m.kaminska@gios.gov.pl
Poland	Katarzyna Kaminska	The Fisheries Department Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation	k.kaminska@mgm.gov.pl
Russia	Evgeny Genelt-Yanovskiy	Baltic Fund for nature	eugene@bfm.org.ru
Sweden	Linda Rydell	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	linda.rydell@havochvatten.se
Sweden	Urban Pettersson	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	urban.pettersson@havochvatten.se
Observers			
CCB	Aimi Hamberg	Coalition Clean Baltic	aimi@dn.dk
CCB	Ida Carlen	Coalition Clean Baltic	ida.carlen@ccb.se
FEAP	Torben Wallach	Federation of European Aquaculture Producers	tw@musholm.com
ICES	Anna Osypchuk	ICES	anna.osypchuk@ices.dk
Nordic Hunters Alliance	Hans Geibrink	Nordic Hunters Alliance	hans.geibrink@jagareforbundet.se
HELCOM Secretariat			
HELCOM	Jannica Haldin	HELCOM	jannica.haldin@helcom.fi
HELCOM	Petra Kääriä	HELCOM	petra.kaaria@helcom.fi
HELCOM	Susanna Kaasinen	HELCOM	susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi
HELCOM	Jana Wolf	HELCOM	Jana.Wolf@helcom.fi
HELCOM	Laura Kaikkonen	HELCOM	laura.kaikkonen@helcom.fi
HELCOM	Heini Ahtiainen	HELCOM	heini.ahtiainen@helcom.fi
HELCOM	Luke Dodd	HELCOM	luke.dodd@helcom.fi
HELCOM	Owen Rowe	HELCOM	owen.rowe@helcom.fi
HELCOM	Joni Kaitaranta	HELCOM	joni.kaitaranta@helcom.fi