



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Intersessional Meeting of the Working Group on the State
of the Environment and Nature Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION
13A-2020

Online, 29 October 2020

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

Introduction

0.1 In accordance with the decision by STATE&CONSERVATION 13-2020, the intersessional meeting of the State and Conservation WG (STATE&CONSERVATION 13A-2020) was held as an online Meeting on 29 October 2020.

0.2 The Meeting was attended by delegations from all Contracting Parties except EU, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia and Sweden, and an Observer from Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB). The List of Participants is contained as **Annex 1**.

0.3 The Meeting was chaired by the Co-Chair of the Working Group: Ms. Marie-Louise Krawack (Denmark), Chair of nature conservation topics. Ms. Jannica Haldin, HELCOM Professional Secretary and Ms. Susanna Kaasinen, HELCOM Associate Professional Secretary, acted as secretaries of the Meeting.

Agenda Item 1

Adoption of the Agenda

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

Agenda Item 2

Draft annex to the updated BSAP

2.1 The Meeting recalled that each segment in the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan will have a segment specific annex, which will contain detailed supplementary information on each action under the segment in question, to provide context for the actions and support implementation efforts and follow up.

2.2 The Meeting recalled that according to the work plan for the BSAP update, the annexes will be drafted by the Working Groups while the drafting of other parts of the BSAP will continue in DG BSAP and HOD exclusively following HOD 59-2020. The Meeting noted that the Annexes will be submitted for approval to HOD 60-2021, as part of the updated BSAP.

2.3 The Meeting took note of an initial draft of the structure of the Annex containing information of relevance for State and Conservation WG for the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan, including further developed content prepared by the Secretariat, at the invitation of STATE & CONSERVATION 13-2020 (document 1).

2.4 The Meeting agreed to start the work focusing first on the actions that have already been provisionally approved by HODs and which are identified to be under the mandate of State and Conservation WG, and to continue in spring 2021 step-by-step when new actions have been approved.

2.5 The Meeting considered the proposal to include information on activities and pressures in the Annex and agreed that this information should be compiled by the Working Groups based on a common list of activities and pressures, but the information should only be included in the HELCOM Explorer and not in the Annex. The Meeting invited the Secretariat to prepare a draft list of activities and pressures, possibly utilizing the list compiled for the sufficiency of measures work as a basis, to be reviewed and agreed by WGs by correspondence at the latest in early 2021. The Meeting agreed to come back to linking the activities and pressures to the actions at a later stage when the agreed list is available.

2.6 The Meeting invited the Secretariat to prepare a standard introductory phrase to include for supporting actions under the Effect heading, to clarify that they do not directly affect the state of the environment but function as a necessary step towards a measure.

2.7 The Meeting pointed out that action plans for seals could be local as well as national and invited DG BSAP BIO to consider including this specification in the relevant actions when finalizing the actions regarding finalization and implementing action plans for seals.

2.8 The Meeting noted that assessing the state of key ecosystem components including habitat forming species as well as their main threats could, if possible, be included as result of holistic and red list assessments.

2.9 The Meeting considered the draft Annex and agreed that it can be included as an example in the first full draft of the updated BSAP to be submitted to HOD 59-2020 as contained in document 1-Att.1-Rev.1, and clearly marked as "Work in progress".

2.10 The Meeting invited the Secretariat to circulate the latest version of draft Annex to the group with instructions for commenting and agreed to send written comments to the Secretariat (jannica.haldin@helcom.fi) **by 1 December 2020**. The Meeting invited the Secretariat to compile the comments and circulate the updated version to the group for review and consideration **by 15 December 2020**.

2.11 The Meeting agreed to organize an intersessional online meeting to continue the work in mid-January 2021 and invited the Secretariat to make a doodle poll to schedule the date.

Agenda Item 4

Outcome of the Meeting

4.1 A draft outcome was prepared by the Secretariat and adopted via correspondence.

Annex 1. List of participants

Name	Name of organization	E-mail address
Co-Chair		
Marie-Louise Krawack	Ministry of Environment and Food	makra@mfvm.dk
Contracting Parties		
Denmark		
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Observers		
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HELCOM Secretariat		
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