



## Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Intersessional Meeting of the Working Group on the State  
of the Environment and Nature Conservation  
Online, 2 March 2021

STATE &  
CONSERVATION  
13E-2021

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<b>Document title</b>	Provisional Annotated Agenda
<b>Code</b>	1-1
<b>Category</b>	DEC
<b>Agenda Item</b>	1– Adoption of the Agenda
<b>Submission date</b>	18.12.2020
<b>Submitted by</b>	Secretariat

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### Background

In accordance with the decision by STATE & CONSERVATION 13-2020 (paragraphs 4J.25, 4J.68, 3N-20 and 3N.21 of the outcome), the intersessional Meeting of the Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation (STATE & CONSERVATION 13E-2021) will be convened on 2 March 2021. The Meeting will be held as an online meeting.

The Meeting will focus on the progress and development regarding marine mammal indicators and ensure that the planned work is in line with the timetable for HOLAS III as well as on elaborate discussion on establishment of a Precautionary Approach Level (PAL) for Baltic Sea seal populations.

The Meeting will start on **Tuesday, 2 March at 9.00 CET/10.00 EET** and will end **by 16.00 CET/17.00 EET**.

### Agenda Item 1      Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda.

### Agenda Item 2      Progress and development of marine mammal indicators

The Meeting is invited to review the status of marine mammal indicators, consider their progress and development and ensure that the planned work is in line with the HOLAS III timetable. The Secretariat will provide a brief overview of timelines and deadlines related to HOLAS III (document to be submitted later).

#### Item 2.1 Seal abundance and distribution

The indicator leads are invited to briefly present any work planned on the seal indicators that may be relevant.

#### Item 2.2 Harbour porpoise abundance and distribution

The indicator leads are invited to provide an update on progress and plans for what will be achieved by HOLAS III. The integration of the work with the HELCOM BLUES project will also be presented and discussed.

#### Item 2.3 Mammal health status indicators

The leads of the indicators and health team are invited to present an overview of the planned work on health indicators and what will be achieved by HOLAS III. Revision of existing indicators (i.e. nutritional status and reproductive status) or development of new indicators will be presented.

#### Item 2.4 Mammal by-catch developments

Ongoing work on the by-catch indicator (Number of drowned mammals and waterbirds in fishing gear) will be presented, including recent work in the HELCOM ACTION Project WP1 and planned work under the HELCOM BLUES project.

Item 2.5 Data developments related to mammals

Development work related to data flows for marine mammals (e.g. under the HELCOM BLUES project) will be briefly introduced.

Agenda Item 3      Precautionary Approach Level for seal populations

The Meeting is invited to recall the statement by STATE & CONSERVATION 13-2020 that if PAL can only be set retrospectively, this impairs both the functionality of the Recommendation 27-28/2 and its use for active management purposes and agreed that a more in-depth discussion is needed regarding PAL.

The Meeting is invited to thoroughly discuss the establishment of Precautionary Approach Level (PAL) and agree on a way forward.

Agenda Item 4      Any other business

The Meeting is invited to discuss any other business.

Agenda Item 5      Outcome of the Meeting

The Meeting will be provided with the draft Outcome for adoption via correspondence. The final Outcome, incorporating corrections by the Participants, will be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the co-Chairs and made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal.