



## Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature  
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION  
15-2021

Online, 4-8 October 2021

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<b>Document title</b>	Proposed topics for a dedicated session
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<b>Submitted by</b>	Secretariat

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### Background

STATE & CONSERVATION 13-2020 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.

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.

The following list of suggestions for themes and topics that would benefit from a dedicated session under Nature conservation and biodiversity session of State and Conservation meetings, was prepared by STATE & CONSERVATION 13-2021:

1. How to better incorporate conservation and other topics of biodiversity relevance into HOLAS and the State of the Baltic Sea report (considered at S&C 15)
2. How to manage commercial and recreational fishing in relation to MPAs (invitation to be extended to Fish and EU COM)
3. 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)
4. Ecosystem services in the Baltic and the role of MPAs
5. The role of MPAs under a changing climate.

STATE & CONSERVATION 13-2020 further

- supported that the outcome of these sessions would focus on concrete tasks and ways forward
- emphasized that the Conservation Session of the State and Conservation meeting has a high potential to function as a platform for implementing joint measures
- 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.

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the list of proposed topics for a dedicated session and consider adding topics as relevant as well as agree on a topic for STATE & CONSERVATION 17-2022.