



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION
5-2016, 1-2

Tallinn, Estonia, 7-11 November, 2016

Document title	Provisional Annotated Agenda
Code	1-2
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Agenda Item	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
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Reference	Outcome of HOD 50-2016, Paragraph 4.40

Background

The Fifth Meeting of the Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation, (STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016) will be convened on 7-11 November 2016 according to the decision by HELCOM HOD 50-2016 (paragraph 4.40), in Tallinn, Estonia.

The Meeting will start on **Monday 7 November 2016 at 10.00** and is expected to end on **Friday 11 November 2016 at 15.00**. Monday to Tuesday until 10.30 is planned for issues related to nature conservation and biodiversity (Agenda Items 1N-7N), Tuesday 11.00 to Thursday until midday will be dedicated to joint themes (Agenda Item 1J-8J), and Thursday midday until the end of the meeting on Friday will be dedicated to monitoring and assessment related issues (Agenda Items 1MA-6MA).

Focal items of the meeting are to:

- Nature conservation session - finalize the draft Recommendation on biotopes, habitats and biotope complexes
- Joint session - endorse indicators and assessment tools for use in the 2nd Holistic Assessment.
- Monitoring and assessment session – review and finalize monitoring guidelines.

Meeting documents will be submitted by the Secretariat to the [document library](#) of the [STATE&CONSERVATION 5-2016 Meeting Site](#) via the [HELCOM Meeting Portal](#). The Secretariat has prepared a [document template](#) and recommends using the template when submitting documents to the Secretariat. The Secretariat kindly requests the Contracting Parties and Observers to observe the deadlines for submission of documents to a HELCOM meeting. The basic documents and documents requiring action or a decision to the Meeting should be submitted in electronic format to Professional Secretary, Ms. Ulla Li Zweifel (ullali.zweifel@helcom.fi) **by 14 October 2016**, at the latest. Documents containing comments to the basic documents as well as information documents should be provided to the Secretariat by **31 October 2016**.

Please register for the Meeting by answering the [Participation Survey](#) in the HELCOM Meeting Portal **by 24 October 2016 the latest**. Instructions for the use of the new Meeting Portal are available on the [HELCOM Website](#).

Nature conservation

Agenda Item 1N Adoption of the Agenda: Nature conservation

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda, as contained in document 1-1.

Agenda Item 2N Development and implementation of Recommendations

Draft Recommendation on biotopes, habitats and biotope complexes

STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016 agreed to initiate the development of the Recommendation by updating key paragraphs of Recommendation 21/4 with respect to threatened marine biotopes, habitats and biotope complexes according to the HELCOM 2013 Red List. An online meeting was held to discuss the first draft of the Recommendation on 13 June 2016 ([BIOTOPES REC 1-2016](#)) and it was agreed to provide comments to the second draft Recommendation **by 26 September 2016**.

Lead Country Germany is invited to submit the third draft of the Recommendation to the Meeting. The Meeting is invited to discuss and elaborate the draft Recommendation with the intention of submitting it for endorsement at HOD 51-2016 and adoption at HELCOM 38-2017.

Follow-up of action 'Activities to support conservation of Baltic Sea species and biotopes/habitats categorized as threatened according to the HELCOM Red List'

STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016 agreed to follow-up on the agreed action 'Activities to support conservation of Baltic Sea species and biotopes/habitats categorized as threatened according to the HELCOM Red List' and that the Secretariat will compile an overview on national conservation plans for species and biotopes to STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016. State and Conservation contacts have been invited to discuss the progress of work at an online meeting on 5 September 2016.

The Meeting is invited to use the overview as a basis to discuss the tentative need for new measures, i.a. joint measures (regional plans) or coordinated measures (coordination of national measures) (document to be submitted at a later stage) as well as to consider next steps needed on the action.

The Contracting Parties are invited to inform the Meeting on their willingness to lead the work on preparing a guiding document for the preparation of conservation plans (point 3 of the action, c.f. S&C 4-2016 meeting [document 2N-2, 4N-3 and 3MA-1-Rev.1](#)) and the Meeting is invited to discuss the extent of such guidelines.

Follow-up of Recommendation Conservation of seals in the Baltic Sea Area (27-28/2)

Recommendation 27-28/2 should be assessed in 2016 according to the agreement to assess its effectiveness every 5 years. STATE & CONSERVATION 2-2015 requested the Seal expert group to provide input for such assessment, which will take place during SEAL 10-2016 (to be held on 5-7 October 2016).

The HELCOM Seal expert group is invited to submit an evaluation of the effectiveness of Recommendation 27-28/2.

The Meeting is invited to assess the effectiveness of Recommendation 27-28/2 and consider whether amendments are needed.

Agenda Item 3N HELCOM network of coastal and marine Baltic Sea Protected Areas

HELCOM MPA database

STATE & CONSERVATION 3-2015 supported the further development of guidelines for standardizing the MPA pressure evaluation for use by HELCOM (para 3N.13) and STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016 agreed to provide comments to the guidelines to Finland by 13 May 2016.

Finland is invited to present the comments received and the updated guidelines. The Meeting is invited to agree on the guidelines for standardizing the MPA pressure evaluation.

Follow-up of actions related to marine protection areas

Action 'Coordination of management measures of pressures and impacts on MPAs, in particular for adjacent transnational MPAs'

STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016 emphasized the importance of establishing contacts between responsible managers for the transnational adjacent HELCOM MPAs and agreed to initiate this action as well as to share previous experiences in the cooperation regarding transnational MPAs. The Meeting invited countries to provide names of relevant contacts to the Secretariat by STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016 at the latest. An updated document on adjacent transnational HELCOM MPAs will be submitted at a later stage.

The Contracting Parties are invited to provide names of responsible managers for the transnational adjacent HELCOM MPAs to the Secretariat (ullali.zweifel@helcom.fi) **by 14 October 2016**.

Action 'How to consider MPAs in Maritime Spatial Planning and vice versa'

STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016 encouraged the Co-Chairs of State and Conservation and the HELCOM VASAB MSP Working Group to initiate communication on further cooperation between the groups on this topic.

The Co-Chairs of State and Conservation and HELCOM-VASAB MSP are invited to present plans for cooperation on the topic between the two Working Groups.

Action 'Develop joint tools/approach for assessing effectiveness of spatial protection measures for individual sites as well as network level'

STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016 invited Germany to keep the Working Group updated on the progress regarding activities on assessing management effectiveness of the OSPAR MPA Network.

Germany is invited to report on the progress of the matter.

Agenda Item 4N Mapping of important bird areas and migration routes for birds

HELCOM 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', recommends the Contracting Parties to e.g. map migration routes and staging areas of birds in the Baltic Sea area. Sweden is leading the Recommendation including coordination of the development of relevant maps.

Sweden is invited to present the progress achieved and any outstanding issues to finalize the work.

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

Planning the next HELCOM Red List assessment

STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016 agreed to convene a workshop back-to-back with the nature conservation session at the spring meeting of State and Conservation in 2017 to take stock of data and available updated information on threatened Baltic Sea species and habitats/biotopes and to consider improvements needed to carry out the next Red List assessment.

The Meeting is invited to plan the organization of the 2017 workshop.

STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016 proposed that the Contracting Parties should regularly report to upcoming State and Conservation meetings on the improvement of national data and work on Red Listed species and biotopes and on planned updates of the national Red Lists with the view to compile a timetable of national and international reporting obligations.

The Contracting Parties are invited to report on the improvement of national data and work on Red Listed species and biotopes and to inform on planned updates of the national Red Lists to the Secretariat (petra.kaaria@helcom.fi) **by 14 October 2016**.

Information on ongoing work to identify ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs)

STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016 supported the idea to organize a workshop together with the CBD Secretariat to explore the possibility to designate EBSAs for the Baltic Sea region.

The Meeting is invited to further discuss the topic.

Agenda Item 6N Any other business

The Meeting is invited to discuss any other business related to the Nature Conservation theme.

Agenda Item 7N Outcome of the Nature conservation session

A draft Outcome with main decisions will be prepared by the Secretariat for consideration and approval by the attendants of the nature conservation session of the Meeting.

Joint session

Agenda Item 1J Adoption of the Agenda: Joint themes

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda, as contained in document 1-1.

Agenda Item 2J Election of co-Chairs of State and Conservation Working Group

The current co-Chairs Urmas Lips and Penina Blankett were elected at STATE 1-2014 and the vice-Chairs Samuli Korpinen and Dieter Boedeker at STATE & CONSERVATION 2-2015. Following the HELCOM procedure to elect Chairs of Working Groups every two years, the Meeting is invited to elect co-Chairs for the Nature conservation and Monitoring and Assessment theme respectively for the years 2017-2018. The election of vice-Chairs will be considered at the next meeting of the Working Group.

Agenda Item 3J Matters arising from other meetings of relevance for the Working Group

The Secretariat will inform the Meeting of the outcome of HOD 50-2016, and other relevant recent meeting outcomes (document to be submitted later).

Agenda Item 4J HELCOM indicators and assessments

Endorsement of HELCOM indicators

HELCOM has agreed on a set of core indicators and associated GES boundaries as [summarized for HOD 50-2016](#). During 2016 Lead countries and expert groups have worked towards operationalization of the core indicators and further testing of the pre-core and candidate indicators. Indicators should be adopted for use in HOLAS II at HOD 51-2016.

New GES boundary proposals and shift of indicator status will be considered from a technical point of view and endorsement by STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016 (document to be submitted at a later stage).

The Meeting is invited to:

- consider and endorse proposed GES boundaries for relevant indicators,
- consider and endorse proposed shift of status of indicators, e.g. from pre-core or candidate indicator to core indicator,
- consider and endorse indicator reports for publication at the HELCOM website.

The Contracting Parties that have remaining study reservations on core indicators are invited to clarify their position. Any remaining technical issues are expected to be resolved at the Meeting.

Endorsement of status assessment tools for use in the second holistic assessment of the Baltic Sea (HOLAS II)

Tools for assessing the status of hazardous substances and biodiversity are being developed through the HELCOM coordinated EU co-financed BalticBOOST project. Two HELCOM workshops for the respective theme were held in February 2016 to guide the development of the tools, and two more workshops will be held on 13-14 September 2016 and 14-15 September 2016 respectively. As agreed at STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016, the outcome of the workshops will be circulated for intersessional commenting by State and Conservation. Comments to the outcome should be submitted to the Secretariat (ullali.zweifel@helcom.fi) **by 29 September 2016**. Proposals on the assessment tools will be developed based on the outcome of the workshops and the intersessional commenting by State and Conservation (documents to be submitted at a later stage).

The HELCOM assessment tool HEAT is proposed to be used for assessing eutrophication according to guidance provided by the intersessional network of eutrophication experts (document to be submitted at a later stage).

The Meeting is invited to consider the proposals for assessing biodiversity, eutrophication and hazardous substances using assessment tools and agree on their use in HOLAS II.

Endorsement of the assessment of pressures and impacts in the second holistic assessment of the Baltic Sea (HOLAS II)

The HELCOM Baltic Sea Pressure and Impact Index is being further developed through the HELCOM coordinated EU co-financed TAPAS project. Two HELCOM workshops have been held to guide the development of the indices, and the next workshop will be held on 6-7 September 2016. Development of Baltic wide maps of ecosystem components is undertaken as part of the TAPAS project according to the agreements by STATE & CONSERVATION 3-2015 (paragraphs 6J.3-6J.6).

The Meeting is invited to agree on the use of the ecosystem component maps in the Baltic Sea Impact Index (document to be submitted later).

The Meeting is invited to consider the proposal for assessing pressures and impacts on the Baltic Sea ecosystem (document to be submitted at a later stage) and agree on its use in HOLAS II.

Reporting from experts groups, networks and projects

The Meeting is invited to take note of information provided by expert groups, networks and projects.

The Meeting is invited to provide suggestions for the continuation of FISH-PRO II as agreed by STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016 (paragraph 4J.38 of the outcome).

Agenda Item 5J Monitoring guidelines for biota

The Lead and assisting countries for specific HELCOM monitoring guidelines are outlined in document 2MA-2.

The Lead Countries/expert groups responsible for the monitoring guidelines for biota are invited to present the outcome of the review and update of the monitoring guidelines and provide this information to the Secretariat (ullali.zweifel@helcom.fi) by **14 October 2016**, according to the following:

- Lithuania and Germany to prepare draft monitoring guidelines for the Extended Rapid Survey;
- Sweden on the guidelines of marine bird health;
- Finland on the review of existing guidelines on softbottom fauna;
- ZEN-ZIIM to inform on the ongoing revision on zooplankton monitoring guidelines;
- PEG to inform on the review of phytoplankton guidelines.

Agenda Item 6J Follow-up of HELCOM agreements and activities

Recommendations

STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016 continued the review of valid Recommendations under the Working Group and agreed to address the following matters (paragraphs 3J.1-3J.10) at STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016:

- HELCOM Recommendation 15/1 'Protection of the coastal strip': Germany will present their view on the proposed updates to the Recommendation, the Meeting to consider the proposed revisions of the Recommendation with the view of endorsing it,
- HELCOM Recommendation 24/10 'Implementation of Integrated Marine and Coastal Management of Human activities in the Baltic Sea Area': Estonia to submit a meeting document to the Secretariat on the revision and the Meeting to consider the review,
- HELCOM Recommendation 17/2 'Protection of harbour porpoise in the Baltic Sea area': co-Chair Penina Blankett and Poland are invited to prepare guidance on how to extract information from the ASCOBANS report to the HELCOM reporting form in the easiest way and submit it to the Secretariat, the Meeting to consider the guidance,
- HELCOM Recommendation 10/1 'Abnormal Situations in the Marine Environment': Estonia is invited to submit a meeting document on the review to the Secretariat, the Meeting to consider the report,

- HELCOM Recommendation 21/3 'Sustainable and Environmentally friendly tourism in the Coastal Zones of the Baltic Sea Area': Latvia is invited to submit a meeting document on the review to the Secretariat, the Meeting to consider the report,
- HELCOM Recommendation 16/3 'Preservation of Natural Coastal Dynamics', Germany to contact Denmark and Finland on if any amendments can be suggested and report the situation to the Meeting.

The Contracting Parties are invited to submit reports and proposed revisions according to this agreement to the Secretariat **by 14 October 2016** (petra.kaaria@helcom.fi). The Meeting is invited to consider the reports by the Contracting Parties, identify needs for revision and to agree when valid recommendations should be reported next time and in what form.

Baltic Sea Environment Fact Sheets

The Meeting is invited to take note of the updates to the existing HELCOM Baltic Sea Environment Fact Sheets (document to be submitted later). The Meeting is also invited to consider and approve the publication of possible new Fact sheets.

Follow-up of HELCOM agreements

A new follow-up system for HELCOM agreements was launched in May 2016 including information on the accomplishment of joint regional actions and national actions agreed in the Baltic Sea Action Plan and Ministerial Declarations from 2010 and 2013.

The Meeting will be informed on the current status of implementation of actions related to the State and Conservation Working Group and is invited to consider and plan for their implementation.

Agenda Item 7J Any other business

The Meeting is invited to consider and update the list of contacts and observers of the Working Group (document 7J-1).

The Contracting Parties are invited to consider the possibility to host future meetings of the Working Group.

The Meeting is invited to discuss any other business related to the mandate of the Working Group.

Agenda Item 8J Outcome of the Joint themes

A draft Outcome with main decisions will be prepared by the Secretariat for consideration and approval by attendants of the joint themes.

Monitoring and assessment

Agenda Item 1MA Adoption of the Agenda: Monitoring and assessment

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda, as contained in document 1-1.

Agenda Item 2MA Revision of HELCOM monitoring

Update of HELCOM Monitoring Manual

The Contracting Parties are invited to inform on tentative revision of national information and to propose updates to the Monitoring Manual **by 14 October 2016** by use of guidance provided in document 2MA-1.

The Meeting is invited to discuss and agree on proposed changes to the Monitoring Manual as well as to agree on the update procedure for the programme topics (document to be submitted later).

Denmark, Finland and Sweden are invited to report on the situation regarding proposed modifications to the borders of HELCOM assessment units, as invited by STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016 (paragraph 2MA.5).

Review and update of HELCOM monitoring guidelines

As a follow-up activity on the revision of monitoring guidelines since STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016, a [workspace](#) has been set up for further work on the monitoring guidelines. The Contracting Parties are invited to provide national comments to the monitoring guidelines on the workspace **by 15 September 2016** and to indicate to the Secretariat (ullali.zweifel@helcom.fi) the position towards the adoption of the guidelines when not providing further comments.

The Lead and assisting countries for specific HELCOM monitoring guidelines are outlined in document 2MA-2.

The Lead Countries/expert groups responsible for the monitoring guidelines are invited to present the outcome of the review and update of the monitoring guidelines and provide this information to the Secretariat (ullali.zweifel@helcom.fi) by **14 October 2016**, according to the following:

- Finland on the guidelines on use of satellite data for monitoring of transparency;
- Finland on the review of guidelines for pigments, both for water samples and by use of satellites (Sweden is prepared to support the development);
- Germany on the revision process on contaminants in water, sediment and biota;
- Sweden on the tentative development of missing elements of 'Water column hydrological conditions' (temperature, salinity) and 'Water column chemical characteristics' (O₂, CO₂, H₂S).

Furthermore, Sweden is invited to report on amendments made to the following guidelines considered already by STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016 and the Meeting is invited to endorse them:

- Draft guidelines for determination of total alkalinity
- Draft guidelines for determination of pH
- Draft guidelines for determination of nitrate
- Draft guidelines for determination of nitrite
- Draft guidelines for determination of total nitrogen
- Draft guidelines for physical oceanography

Finland is invited to report on amendments made to the following guidelines and the Meeting is invited to endorse them:

- Draft guidelines for measuring Secchi depth
- Draft guidelines for measuring turbidity

Germany is invited to clarify their study reservation on the guidelines for monitoring reproductive status of seals.

Regarding Annexes B1-B5 of COMBINE, The Meeting is invited to note that the updated version presented at STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016 has been agreed, as no comments were provided. The updated version is available [here](#).

The Meeting is invited to discuss and agree on the further work on revising existing monitoring guidelines with a view of including updated monitoring guidelines in the HELCOM monitoring manual by the end of 2016.

Agenda Item 3MA Environmental monitoring and data

Development of data arrangements for HELCOM monitoring data and assessments

ICES is invited to inform on the status of national reporting to the COMBINE database.

The Meeting will be informed on the ongoing work to develop databases on coastal fish, seals and birds under the BalticBOOST project and plans for further development of HELCOM data services under the TAPAS project (document to be submitted later).

Agenda Item 4MA Progress of relevant HELCOM projects and assessments

Follow-up of agreed "Further actions to be considered" related to monitoring and assessment

The Meeting is invited to follow-up on the implementation of the HELCOM action 'Micropollutants in effluents from wastewater treatment plants'.

Agenda Item 5MA Any other business

The Meeting is invited to discuss any other business related to the monitoring and assessment theme.

Agenda Item 6MA Outcome of the Monitoring and assessment session

A draft Outcome with main decisions will be prepared by the Secretariat for consideration and approval by attendants of the monitoring and assessment theme.