



## Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature  
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION  
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<b>Document title</b>	Update of HELCOM maps on important bird areas and mapping of migration - progress report
<b>Code</b>	4N-2
<b>Category</b>	INF
<b>Agenda Item</b>	4N – Mapping of important bird areas and migration routes for birds
<b>Submission date</b>	31.10.2016
<b>Submitted by</b>	Sweden
<b>Reference</b>	

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### Background

In 2013 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”, Contracting Parties are recommended to e.g. “map migration routes and staging areas (i.e. wintering, feeding, moulting and resting, not breeding areas per se) of birds in the Baltic Sea Area and to enhance research and monitoring in order to improve the understanding of the impacts of wind energy facilities, both during and after construction, on birds in the Baltic Sea”. Sweden has offered to take the Lead on this Recommendation.

At State and Conservation 3-2015 Sweden was also invited to organize a request to Contracting Parties for the submission of data for the purpose of mapping migration routes and staging areas and to cater for an update of HELCOM map layers on birds (paragraph 2N.13, Outcome of S&C 3-2015). The product (map) should be referred to in the Recommendation.

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the update and discuss how the update could be finalized for inclusion in HOLAS II.

## Progress report on “Update of HELCOM maps on important bird areas and mapping of migration”

The update is delayed but ongoing. At State & Conservation IV it was decided that even contact points JWG BIRDS could be used to gather data about IBAs and SPAs (State & Conservation IV outcome 3N.2). So far the following data was received from contracting parties:

CP	Data received	Comment
<b>Denmark</b>	Shapefiles showing IBAs and SPAs	No metadata
<b>Estonia</b>	Shapefile showing SPAs	Full metadata
<b>Finland</b>	Shapefile showing SPA and metadata on SPAs	
<b>Germany</b>	shapefiles showing IBAs and SPAs	Full metadata
<b>Latvia</b>	shapefiles showing IBAs and SPAs	Full metadata
<b>Poland</b>	shapefiles showing IBAs and SPAs	Full metadata
<b>Sweden</b>	shapefiles showing IBAs and SPAs	Full metadata
<b>Lithuania</b>	No data received yet	
<b>Russia</b>	No data received yet	

Do due to the delay in the project no online meeting to discuss outcome of the update was conducted yet as decided at State & Conservation IV (para 3N.3). If all data is delivered the update could be finalized within one week.

It was decided to not include migration routes at this stage, since the localization of these routes is still too unsecure. It should be discussed in future how the data availability concerning migration routes of birds in the Baltic Sea region could be improved.