



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION
6-2017

Uppsala, Sweden, 15-19 May, 2017

Document title	Provisional Annotated Agenda
Code	1-2
Category	DEC
Agenda Item	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
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Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	Outcome of HOD 51-2017, Paragraph 6.61

Background

The Sixth Meeting of the Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation, (STATE & CONSERVATION 6-2017) will be convened on 15-19 May 2017 according to the decision by HELCOM HOD 51-2017 (paragraph 6.61 of the Outcome), in Uppsala, Sweden.

The Meeting will start on **Monday 15 May 2017** at **10.00** and is expected to end on **Friday 19 May 2017** at **15.00**. Monday to Tuesday until 10.30 is planned for issues related to monitoring and assessment (Agenda Items 1MA-6MA), Tuesday 11.00 to Thursday 10.30 will be dedicated to joint themes (Agenda Item 1J-8J), and Thursday 11.00 until the end of the meeting on Friday will be dedicated to biodiversity and nature conservation related issues (Agenda Items 1N-6N). In addition, the nature conservation theme will convene a back-to-back workshop to plan for the next red list assessment from Monday 15 May 2017 to Tuesday 16 May 2017 (a separate invitation and agenda will be sent later).

Focal items of the meeting are to:

- Monitoring and assessment session: review and finalize monitoring guidelines and plan for the update of Recommendation 19/3,
- Joint session: consider and endorse the first version of 'State of the Baltic Sea' report (HOLAS II),
- Nature conservation session: discuss the outcome of the HELCOM Red List workshop and plan for the next HELCOM red list assessment.

Meeting documents will be submitted by the Secretariat to the [document library](#) of the [STATE&CONSERVATION 6-2017 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 20 April 2017**, at the latest. Documents containing comments to the basic documents as well as information documents should be provided to the Secretariat by **4 May 2017**.

Please register for the Meeting by answering the [Participation Survey](#) in the HELCOM Meeting Portal **by 8 May 2017 the latest**. Instructions for the use of the new Meeting Portal are available on the [HELCOM Website](#).

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 documents 1-1 and 1-2.

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 17 April 2017**, by using the guidance provided in document 2MA-1.

The Meeting is invited to discuss and agree on proposed changes to the Monitoring Manual.

Denmark and Sweden are invited to report on the situation regarding proposed modifications to the borders of HELCOM assessment units between the Sound and Kattegat, as invited by STATE & CONSERVATION 6-2016 (paragraph 2MA.6). Germany is invited to clarify the study reservation on proposed changes to the borders between the Sound and the Arkona Basin (Outcome HOD 51-2016, para 6.60).

All Contracting Parties are invited to clarify the correctness of current assessment unit level 4 (WFD coastal water types or water bodies) and if corrections are required, submit corrected national WFD coastal assessment units to be agreed to be used in the update of the State of the Baltic Sea report in 2018.

The Meeting is invited to discuss possible solutions regarding the current borders of the assessment unit levels 3 and 4 which are not completely in line, thus the monitoring and assessment system is not fully nested (document to be submitted at a later stage).

Review and update of HELCOM monitoring guidelines

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 **20 April 2017**, according to the following:

Lead Country Sweden:

- dissolved oxygen
- pH
- hydrogen sulphide
- determination of salinity
- physical oceanography

Lead Country Finland:

- secchi depth
- turbidity
- Chlorophyll a, including for water samples and by use of satellites
- use of satellite data for monitoring of transparency

Lead Country Germany:

- contaminants in water, sediment and biota;

The Meeting is invited to endorse the revised guidelines and agree that they are transferred to the HELCOM Monitoring Manual.

The Meeting is invited to discuss and agree where the guidelines on total alkalinity should be located in the Monitoring Manual.

Lead Country Sweden updated the guidelines for nutrients (ammonium, nitrate, nitrite, phosphate, silicate, total nitrogen, total phosphorus) and total alkalinity as requested by STATE & CONSERVATION 6-2016 and based on comments received from Contracting Parties through the dedicated [review workspace](#). In accordance with the agreement of STATE & CONSERVATION 6-2016, these guidelines will be published on the [HELCOM website](#) once the remaining study reservations (Germany and Poland) have been lifted.

Revision of HELCOM Recommendation 19/3

Recommendation 19/3 on 'The Manual for the Marine Monitoring in the Combine Programme of HELCOM' was adopted in 1998 and recommends i.a. that monitoring in the Baltic Sea should be performed based on the COMBINE Manual. The State and Conservation Working Group has agreed through its workplan 2017-2018 that Recommendation 19/3 should be revised once the HELCOM monitoring guidelines have been updated, aiming for adoption of the revised Recommendation at HELCOM 39-2018.

The Meeting is invited to plan and agree on the process to revise Recommendation 19/3 in preparation for State and Conservation 7-2017.

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 available data and sources of data for the first version of HOLAS II (mid-2017) and the arrangements for updating the data for the final version of HOLAS II (mid-2018) (document to be submitted later).

The Meeting is invited to note that only data submitted according to agreed HELCOM reporting arrangements will be used for the updated and final version of HOLAS II.

Agenda Item 4MA Progress of relevant HELCOM projects and assessments

The MORS EG is invited to present the thematic Assessment of long-term changes in radioactivity, based on data 2011-2015.

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

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.

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 vice co-Chairs of State and Conservation Working Group

The current vice co-Chairs Samuli Korpinen, Finland, and Dieter Boedeker, Germany, were elected at STATE & CONSERVATION 2-2015. Following the HELCOM procedure to elect Chairs of Working Groups every two years, the Meeting is invited to elect vice co-Chairs for the Monitoring and Assessment and Nature conservation themes, respectively, for the years 2017-2018.

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

The Secretariat will inform the Meeting of the outcome of HELCOM 38-2017, and other relevant recent meeting outcomes (document to be submitted later).

Agenda Item 4J HELCOM indicators and assessments

Endorsment of the first version of 'State of the Baltic Sea' report (HOLAS II)

The HOLAS II project has prepared a draft of the first version of the 'State of the Baltic Sea' report that is aimed to be finalized by June 2017. The first version of the report could be used for national consultation purposes by those Contracting Parties that are also EU Member States. By June 2018 the report will be updated to include data to cover also the year 2016, fill data gaps, and possibly include new threshold values and indicators that have become operational during 2017 (cf. Outcome of HOD 51-2016, para 6.2).

The Meeting is invited to endorse the draft 'State of the Baltic Sea' report and recommend its approval to HOD 52-2017.

Endorsement of HELCOM core indicator reports

HELCOM has agreed on a set of core indicators and associated threshold values that form the basis for the integrated assessments of the 'State of the Baltic Sea' report. Lead countries on the indicator development and HELCOM expert bodies have provided updated indicator evaluations for HOLAS II based on data for the period 2011-2015. Concurrently, the core indicator reports have been updated so that they are based on the same data. The core indicator reports will be made available as supporting material to the 'State of the Baltic Sea' report.

The Meeting is invited to agree on the publication of the new and updated core indicator reports.

Continued development of HELCOM core indicators

HELCOM has developed core indicators for use in HELCOM assessments for more than ten years. Over time some proposed indicators have proved difficult to operationalize and other indicators have been deemed as unsuitable by some Contracting Parties that have placed study reservations on them. Yet another set of indicators have not been developed for several years due to lack of Lead countries.

The Meeting is invited to scrutinize the current list of pre-core and candidate indicators and discuss their further development with the aim of updating the list.

Reporting from experts groups, networks and projects

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

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 submit draft guidelines to the Secretariat (ullali.zweifel@helcom.fi) by **20 April 2017**, according to the following:

- Sweden: marine bird health,
- ZEN-ZIIM: zooplankton,
- PEG: phytoplankton guidelines.

The Meeting is invited to endorse the guidelines and agree that they are transferred to the HELCOM Monitoring Manual.

Monitoring guidelines for extended Rapid Assessment Survey of NIS (eRAS) have been finalized intersessionally and will be submitted for endorsement by the Meeting.

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. STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016 agreed to come back to and consider the proposal by Finland to amend HELCOM Recommendation 15/1 'Protection of the coastal strip' at STATE & CONSERVATION 6-2017. Contracting Parties have been asked to provide possible additional comments to the revised Recommendation intersessionally.

The Meeting is invited to consider the proposal to amend Recommendation 15/1 'Protection of the coastal strip'(document to be submitted later).

The review of the following Recommendations remains to be addressed:

- 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 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 20 April 2017** (minna.pyhala@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.

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).

Poland is invited to inform on the venue of State and Conservation 7-2017 which will be held in Poland, 23-27 October 2017.

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.

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 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 back-to-back workshop with the nature conservation session at the STATE & CONSERVATION 6-2017 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. STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016 drafted ToR for the workshop (Outcome, Annex 4) and discussed the possibility to update the assessment for some biotopes or species groups in 2021.

The organizers of the workshop are invited to present results of the workshop to the Meeting.

The Meeting is invited to make plans for the the next HELCOM Red List assessment.

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. HOD 51-2016 approved that Finland will start planning for a regional EBSA workshop and agreed to the proposal to convene an online HELCOM expert meeting in spring 2017 to support the planning of the workshop.

Finland is invited to inform about the plans for a Baltic Sea EBSA workshop.

Agenda Item 3N Development and implementation of Recommendations

Draft Recommendation on biotopes, habitats and biotope complexes

The draft HELCOM Recommendation on 'Conservation and Protection of Marine and Coastal Biotopes, Habitats and Biotope Complexes Categorized as Threatened According to the HELCOM Red Lists' was considered by HELCOM 38-2017. Due to three still open paragraphs the Recommendation was not adopted. HELCOM 38-2017 agreed to continue an intersessional dialogue with the aim to develop a joint draft proposal on the wording of the outstanding paragraphs in the preparation for State & Conservation 6-2017. All countries that wish to participate in the dialogue are welcome to inform lead country Germany.

The Meeting is invited to follow-up on the outcome of HELCOM 38-2017 and the intersessional follow-up.

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 5-2016 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' by testing the categorization of conservation measures proposed by the Meeting (Outcome STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016, Annex 3), and by updating the inventory of national conservation plans for species and biotopes threatened according to the HELCOM Red Lists.

Contracting Parties are invited to updated the inventory of conservation plans by **17 April 2017** (template to be submitted by the Secretariat at a later stage).

Finland and Sweden are invited to inform about their cooperation on conservation of threatened species and habitats in the Quark area.

Sweden is invited to provide a first proposal on species and/or biotopes that could be suitable for regional cooperation in terms of conservation measures based on the Swedish national approach presented to STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016.

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

Guidelines for reporting on the implementation of HELCOM Recommendation 17/2

STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016 agreed to come back to the proposal by Poland on Guidelines for reporting on the implementation of HELCOM Recommendation 17/2 for countries being also ASCOBANS parties (STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016, document 2N-4).

The Meeting is invited to agree on the guidelines.

Agenda Item 4N HELCOM network of coastal and marine Baltic Sea Protected Areas

HELCOM MPA database

STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016 supported the further development of guidelines for standardizing the MPA pressure evaluation for use by HELCOM (para 3N.4 of the [Outcome](#)) and invited Contracting Parties to provide comments to the guidelines to Finland by 31 January 2017.

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'

As a follow-up to STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2016, representatives from areas where transnational cooperation occurs will be invited to the meeting.

The document on adjacent transnational HELCOM MPAs has been updated according to comments received by State and Conservation (document 4N-1).

The Meeting is invited to plan for how the cooperation related to adjacent transnational MPAs can be taken further in HELCOM.

Contracting Parties that have not yet done so (Lithuania, Russia and Sweden) are invited to provide contact details for persons responsible for the management of adjacent transnational MPAs to the Secretariat (minna.pyhala@helcom.fi) **by 20 April 2017**.

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.

Future work

The Meeting is invited to discuss a roadmap for continued work on Marne Protected areas under the State and Conservation Working Group.

Agenda Item 5N Any other business

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

Agenda Item 6N 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.