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<b>Document title</b>	Received information on HELCOM monitoring guidelines
<b>Code</b>	2MA-3
<b>Category</b>	INF
<b>Agenda Item</b>	2MA – Revision of HELCOM monitoring
<b>Submission date</b>	22.9.2015
<b>Submitted by</b>	Secretariat

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### Background

HELCOM has agreed to review existing monitoring guidelines to support the accomplishment of regionally coordinated monitoring programmes (task 1.1 on the Work Plan of State and Conservation). The review should ensure that HELCOM monitoring guidelines are up to date regarding sampling and analytic methods, include quality assurance protocols, reflect the monitoring programmes and sub-programmes outlined in the HELCOM Monitoring Manual, and support the assessment of HELCOM core indicators. This will also require the development of new guidelines for topics where HELCOM monitoring guidelines are incomplete or lacking. The aim is to include existing, new, and updated monitoring guidelines in the HELCOM Monitoring Manual by mid-2016.

The review of the COMBINE manual and need to develop new monitoring guidelines for topics lacking guidelines was discussed at the second meeting of State and Conservation. A Lead Country approach was agreed for the review and development of specific HELCOM monitoring guidelines and Lead Countries for guidelines are stated in document 2MA-1.

This document ([2MA-3-Att.1](#)) contains information on the current use of HELCOM monitoring guidelines and proposed guidelines for existing and new monitoring programmes received by Contracting Parties in an excel format.

### Action required

The Lead Countries for the HELCOM monitoring guidelines (c.f. document 2MA-1) are invited to

- review the existing guidelines, taking into account the information on current use of monitoring guidelines provided by Contracting Parties (as included the Attachment of this document),
- present the outcome of the review and propose how the guidelines can be updated and provide this information to the Secretariat ([petra.kaaria@helcom.fi](mailto:petra.kaaria@helcom.fi)) by **19 October 2015**.

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 mid-2016.