



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION
3-2015

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Document title	Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) of HELCOM expert network on hazardous substances
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Reference	HELCOM HOD 48-2015 (para 3.66)

Background

HELCOM HOD 48-2015 agreed to establish a new HELCOM expert network on hazardous substances. The call for establishing the network has been raised through the work to develop core indicators to be used for the second HELCOM holistic assessment.

HOD 48-2015 agreed that the continued indicator development will be taken forward by Lead Countries and nominated experts while HELCOM expert groups and networks will provide a platform for discussion and review of the ongoing development. Thus a main task assigned to the expert network on hazardous substances is to serve as a communication platform. The network should furthermore support HELCOM assessments on hazardous substances and ensure regular updates of core indicator reports.

HELCOM has previously established as a general principle for indicator development to seek opportunities for cooperation and coordination with other relevant regional organizations. In accordance with that HOD 48-2015 agreed that the expert network on hazardous substances should seek opportunities for cooperation with OSPAR and EUSBSRA PA Hazards as relevant. HOD 48-2015 further requested nominations for experts to participate in the network by 30 June 2015.

This document provides draft Terms of Reference for the work of the expert network on hazardous substances and information on experts nominated to the network as of September 2015.

Comments on the draft ToR and further expert nominations are welcomed by 19 October (ullali.zweifel@helcom.fi). The nominated expert network members will be kept informed about core indicator development work taken forward by Lead Countries up until the approval of the ToR by State and Conservation 3-2015.

Action required

The Meeting is invited to:

- consider and agree on the Terms of Reference for the HELCOM expert network on hazardous substances.

HELCOM expert network on hazardous substances

Draft Terms of Reference (ToR)

The HELCOM Heads of Delegation meeting 48-2015 held in June, agreed to establish a new HELCOM expert network on hazardous substances. The call for establishing the network has been raised through the work to develop core indicators to be used for the second HELCOM holistic assessment of the ecosystem health.

The duties of the expert network are to:

- A. Act as a platform for discussion and review of HELCOM indicators on hazardous substances being developed by Lead Countries and appointed experts;
- B. Update the core indicator reports at regular intervals as decided in HELCOM;
- C. Ensure timely and quality assured delivery of indicator based assessments of hazardous substances;
- D. Provide expert input to HELCOM work related to hazardous substances.

To fulfill these duties the expert network will in the period 2015-2018:

1. Support Lead Countries in the finalization of HELCOM core indicators on hazardous substances, namely,
 - a. in the operationalization of core indicators for which GES-boundaries were adopted at HOD 48-2015, especially developing assessment protocols including data extraction protocols and the overall data-flow,
 - b. in the development of GES-boundaries for the indicators for which the GES-boundaries have not yet been adopted with the aim of adoption by the end of 2016 at the latest,
 - c. review the further development of state pre-core indicators according to the prioritizations of State & Conservation 2-2015 and Gear 11-2015.
2. Update the core indicator reports on hazardous substances by mid-2017 and further update the reports as relevant by mid-2018, or as otherwise agreed in the HOLAS II project;
3. Provide expert input to the further development of the assessment tool for hazardous substances ('CHASE') through participation in HOLAS II workshops and meetings;
4. Provide the expert input needed in order to deliver the thematic assessment on hazardous substances within the framework of the HOLAS II project by mid-2017 and to the further update of the assessment following the planned national consultation period leading up to the updated assessment to be delivered mid-2018;
5. Support Lead Countries in the revision of monitoring guidelines on hazardous substances.
6. Provide expert input, as may be requested by e.g. Pressure WG, to consideration of pressures from hazardous substances and relevant measures to reduce the harmful effects of hazardous substances in the HELCOM area;
7. Seek opportunities for cooperation with OSPAR, namely with the expert group MIME and, as relevant, HASEC;
8. Investigate the possibility for a project related to hazardous substances e.g. in cooperation with the EUSBSR PA Hazards.

The network will consist of experts nominated by Contracting Parties and will be open to Observers according to HELCOM procedures.

The expert network will function under and receive guidance from the HELCOM working group State and Conservation and will provide support to other groups, in particular Pressure working group, as requested.

The mode of work for the expert network will be mainly via correspondence and telemeetings, with physical meetings being organized as needed. A Chair for the network will be elected. The products will be handled at HELCOM Meeting Portal workspaces dedicated to this use. The HELCOM Secretariat will provide administrative support to the network.

Experts nominated to the network by 22 September 2015

HELCOM HOD 48-2015 requested nominations to the expert network on hazardous substances by 30 June 2015 (para 3.67). By the time of 22 September the Secretariat has received the following nominations:

Name	Organization	E-mail address/Contact details
Denmark		
Estonia		
Finland		
Germany		
Nominated contact persons		
Michael Haarich Nominated expert for hazardous substances network (all indicators)	Thünen Institute of Fishery Ecology (TI-FI) Marckmannstr. 129 b Haus 4 D-20539 Hamburg	Dir. Phone: +49 4042817612 Fax: +49 4042817600 Email: michael.haarich@ti.bund.de
Ulrike Pirntke Nominated expert for hazardous substances network (all indicators)	Federal Environment Agency Wörlitzer Platz 1 D-06844 Dessau	Dr. Phone: + 49 340 2103 2419 Email: Ulrike.pirntke@uba.de
Nominated experts for individual indicators/areas of expertise		
Ulrike Kammann Confirmed lead for indicator PAH/Metabolites (focus on metabolites)	Thünen Institute of Fisheries Ecology (TI-FI) Palmaille 9 D-22767	Dir. Phone: +494038905198 Fax: +494038905261 Email: ulrike.kammann@ti.bund.de
Detlef Schulz-Bull PCBs / furans /dioxins and other indicators	IOW Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Seestraße 15 D-18119 Rostock, Germany	detlef.schulz-bull@io-warnemuende.de
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Marina Magnusson,	Marine Monitoring	marina@marine-monitoring.se

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