



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Expert Group on environmental risks of hazardous
submerged objects
Berlin, Germany, 4 May 2018

SUBMERGED 6-2018

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Background

The Fifth Meeting of the HELCOM SUBMERGED expert group (HELCOM SUBMERGED 5-2016) was held on 4-5 October 2016 in Helsinki, Finland. The Meeting was attended by representatives from the Contracting Parties Estonia, Finland, Germany, Poland and Sweden, as well as the Observer organization European Community Shipowners' Associations (ECSA). The Fifth Meeting of SUBMERGED focused on drafting the wreck section of the HELCOM SUBMERGED Assessment. This document contains the Outcome of SUBMERGED 5-2016.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to recall the Outcome of SUBMERGED 5-2016.



Outcome of the Fifth Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Group on
environmental risks of hazardous submerged objects
(SUBMERGED 5-2016)

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and munitions would be welcome and should cover current status, current regulations as well as possible future measures;

- the HOLAS II process, including the information that placeholders have been reserved for munitions and wrecks in the outline and data submissions completed before the end of October 2016 would enable that it may be included in the HOLAS II process. The interested participants are invited to engage directly in the HOLAS II process;
- the initiative to organize a joint IMO-HELCOM seminar on implementation of the London Convention in the Baltic Sea;
- [the HELCOM Clean Shipping Guide 2016](#), published in September 2016.

Agenda Item 3

SUBMERGED Assessment current status

Documents: 3-1-Rev.1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4-W.P.1

3.1 The Meeting took note of the current overall status of the SUBMERGED Assessment, as presented by the Chair (**Presentation 1**).

3.2 The Meeting stressed that even if the deadline of the delivery of the SUBMERGED report has been extended to 2018 it is important to continue taking firm steps in order to complete the necessary joint GIS datasets, as well as drafting the report further in order to complete the work by the deadline.

3.3 The Meeting agreed that the Maritime Assessment is a good way to publish the available material on submerged hazardous objects before 2018, create interest in the work on submerged hazardous objects as well as attract more coastal countries to participate in the SUBMERGED group.

3.4 The Meeting stressed that the SUBMERGED is very valuable activity and the value of the outcome is not depending on the direct participation of all Baltic Sea coastal countries. Participation by all coastal countries is not always achieved in regional processes.

3.5 The Meeting took note of the draft material on Mitigation of Noise Impact on Marine Vertebrates from Munitions Clearance of the Chapter on Warfare materials in the SUBMERGED Assessment submitted by the German BirdLife partner NABU, Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union on behalf of the BirdLife International (document 3-1-Rev.1).

3.6 The Meeting considered the Working Document of the Chapter on Warfare materials in the Baltic Sea (document 3-2), to be used as a basis for further drafting.

3.7 The Meeting took note of the background information relating to the Chapter on Warfare materials in the Baltic Sea (document 3-3).

3.8 The Meeting considered the possibility to cover the Risk Assessment (RA) material from the different chapters (e.g. wrecks, munitions) in a joint RA chapter in the end of the document, noted that the projects UDEMM and DAIMON study such risk assessments, and agreed to return to this issue at a later stage.

3.9 The Meeting drafted material on munitions to be used by the Secretariat when compiling and editing the HELCOM Maritime Assessment as included in **Annex 2**.

Agenda Item 4

Draft chapter on Wrecks

Documents: 4-1

4.1 The Meeting considered and agreed that the Group members should send comments to the currently available draft chapter on wrecks (c.f. document 4-1) to Finland (jorma.rytkonen@ymparisto.fi) and on the draft chapter on munition (c.f. document 3-2) to Germany (claus.boettcher@melur.landsh.de) **by 28**

November 2016. Based on the comments and input the leads will compile revised versions and make them available to the participants by the end of 2016.

4.2 The Meeting took note of a presentation on the project WRENE by Mr. Tafsir Johannsson, WMU (telepresence) (c.f. Presentation 1, slide 15).

4.3 The Meeting agreed that the Secretariat should complement the SUBMERGED questionnaire on wrecks and wreck related national responsibilities (Annex 4, SUBMERGED 4-2016 Outcome) with the questions included in the WRENE questionnaire, and send them **by 7 October 2016** to RESPONSE Working Group, to be filled in **by 28 October 2016** by the coastal country contacts.

Agenda Item 5

Wrecks: Geographical distribution

Documents:

5.1 The Meeting recalled that SUBMERGED 3-2015 agreed to create a joint Baltic-wide wreck dataset including basic wreck information covering the entire Baltic Sea and as a starting point to include wrecks of vessels in the size class 100 GT or more and resulting from incidents on or after the year 1870.

5.2 The Meeting took note of information by the lead country Sweden on the progress in compiling geodata of submerged hazardous wrecks for the SUBMERGED Assessment by October 2016, including the information that so far only Sweden and Poland have submitted data, Germany is preparing an updated dataset while the other Contracting Parties have not informed on the status of this work.

5.3 The Meeting stressed the central importance of this data for the SUBMERGED Assessment section on wrecks and called for all the coastal countries who have not already done so to submit data to the lead country Sweden **by 28 October 2016** (gunnar.moller@mil.se).

5.4 The Meeting took note that Germany will submit data **by 28 November 2016**.

5.5 The Meeting welcomed the information that Estonia and Finland agreed to send the available wreck GIS data to Sweden by the deadline.

5.6 The Meeting highlighted that especially two types of wrecks, the wrecks with oil on board as well as wrecks with munitions should be reported to Sweden for the purposes of the SUBMERGED Assessment (c.f. Agenda Item 7). Also wrecks with other hazardous cargo should be reported as far as possible.

5.7 The Meeting took note of the following information on national work on wreck databases:

- Estonia has recently completed work to classify wrecks according to pollution risk and will submit the objects to the joint database shortly after the Meeting.
- Finland has carried out work on wrecks and is working on an updated dataset on wrecks which will be published as part of the hylyt.fi website. Submission to the joint dataset will be done shortly. Finland has been working with Russian authorities on historical wrecks in the old naval battle fields in Vyborg Bay and around Kotka.
- Poland has classified wrecks according to the estimated amount of fuel on board and has reported this to Sweden. Poland has finished work on Stuttgart and is currently considering what could be done with the site. A current suggestion is to cover the area with a 3-5 metres deep sand layer as this would be possible to do with a reasonable cost.
- Latvian and Lithuanian navies have likely the best information on wrecks in these countries and will be contacted by Sweden on the possibilities to contribute.
- Denmark has likely a national database which includes wreck classification; Finland will investigate the availability of this data.

Agenda Item 9

Work plan and future meetings

Documents: 9-1

9.1 The Meeting took note of the list of official contacts of the SUBMERGED group as nominated to the Secretariat via the HELCOM HODs (document 9-1) and updated it as contained in **Annex 3**.

9.2 The Meeting considered future work and invited the Secretariat to investigate possibilities to organize the next meeting during spring 2017 back-to-back with, or during nearby dates to the Baltic Sea Day in St. Petersburg, Russia.

9.3 The Meeting agreed that if the dates of the Baltic Sea Day, and the possibility to organize SUBMERGED 6-2017, had not been confirmed by Russia by 20 January 2017 the Secretariat would work with the assumption that the meeting would be organized in Tallinn, kindly hosted by Estonia. Estonia will investigate on their possibilities to host, and come back by the end of the year.

9.4 The Meeting welcomed the information that if there is a need to organize a SUBMERGED meeting in autumn 2017, Germany may investigate on the possibilities to host it in Kiel.

Agenda Item 10

Outcome of the Meeting

Documents: 10-1

10.1 The Meeting adopted the draft Outcome of the Meeting (document 10-1), including the revised assessment chapter on wrecks and munitions. The final Outcome, including the Annexes, will be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Meeting and made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal.

Annex 1 List of Participants

Name	Representing	Organization	E-mail
Marit Mätik	Estonia	Ministry of the Interior	marit.matik@siseministeerium.ee
Ivar Treffner	Estonia	Estonian Police and Border Guard Board	ivar.treffner@politsei.ee
Kirsi Kentta	Finland	Ministry of the Environment	Kirsi.Kentta@ym.fi
Jukka-Pekka Nummila	Finland	Navy Command Finland	jukka-pekka.nummila@mil.fi
Jorma Rytönen	Finland	Finnish Environment Institute, SYKE	jorma.rytkonen@ymparisto.fi
Sven Koschinski	Germany	Meereszoologie, on behalf of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation	sk@meereszoologie.de
Jens Sternheim	Germany	Ministry of Energy, Agriculture, the Environment and Rural Areas of Schleswig-Holstein	jens.sternheim@melur.landsh.de
Uwe Wichert	Germany	BLANO	Uwe.Wichert@gmx.de
Benedykt Hac	Poland	Maritime Institute in Gdansk	Benedykt.Hac@im.gda.pl
Gunnar Möller	Sweden	Swedish Armed Forces	gunnar.moller@mil.se
Per Schölin	Sweden	Swedish Armed Forces	per.scholin@mil.se
Tafsir Johannsson telepresence	Sweden	World Maritime University (WMU)	tm@wmu.se
Observers			
Kari Rinne	ECSA	ECSA - European Community Shipowners' Association	kari.rinne@alfonshakans.fi
HELCOM Secretariat			
Hermann Backer	Professional Secretary	HELCOM Secretariat	hermanni.backer@helcom.fi

Annex 2 Material on munitions for the HELCOM Maritime Assessment

Recently old munitions, resting on the sea bed, were found in areas, formerly assumed to be safe. Due to present development of detection technology more than 70 Ground mines, deployed in WW II, could be disposed of the navigational traffic lane heading from the open Baltic Sea to Kiel Canal and there are more examples. Submerged munitions hinder the development of offshore infrastructure, such as windfarms, pipelines and sea cables.

In 2011 Germany published the number of 300.000 metric tons of conventional munitions, to be contained by territorial waters of the Baltic Sea. The HELCOM expert group on submerged dangerous objects (SUMBERGED) assumes that Baltic wide the amount has to be doubled, at least. HELCOM Baltic Status report on chemical munitions, updated 2013, reconfirmed the assumption of 40.000 tons of chemical warfare material in the Baltic Sea. The total amount of warfare material in the Baltic Sea is still not known. The explosive and toxic chemicals containing objects on the sea floor are a current risk especially for trawl fishery, but also for marine traffic, offshore construction and divers. Cases of contaminated Danish trawlers are reported almost every year. Aging explosives turned out to be less stable, which increases the risk of unintentional spontaneous explosions.

Taking this into account warfare material can be considered relevant, as a factor in European Blue Growth strategy. Incorporating munition contaminated areas into marine spatial planning is one initial step. To avoid strong economic impacts a more systematic approach appears necessary. A key for this is to assess latent risks comprehensively by combining historical information with field survey data and the expertise of relevant bodies. To achieve this one critical element is the facilitation of information exchange. As a future perspective current survey technology needs to be improved and remediation devices further developed to have more options to coping with identified threats. This includes the avoidance of misuse of explosives (IED) and chemical warfare agents as part of European strategy "CISE".

Any corroding munition object is a potential point source emitter of highly toxic, carcinogenic and mutagenic substances. Once introduced in the marine food web, these could be bio-transformed or bio-accumulated. This is subject of current research projects, financed by European and national funds. The remediation in an environmental friendly manner, will not only benefit marine life, but also ensure safe maritime economy.

Annex 3 List of SUBMERGED Contacts

Representing	Name	Organisation	E-mail address
Contracting Parties			
Estonia	Ivar Treffner	Estonian Police and Border Guard Board	ivar.treffner@politsei.ee
Estonia	Marit Mätik	Ministry of the Interior	marit.matik@siseministerium.ee
Estonia	Triin Vokk on maternity leave	Ministry of the Environment	Triin.Vokk@envir.ee
Estonia	Rene Reisner	Ministry of the Environment	rene.reisner@envir.ee
Finland	Kirsi Kentta	Ministry of the Environment	kirsi.kentta@ymparisto.fi
Finland	Jorma Rytönen	Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)	jorma.rytkonen@ymparisto.fi
Finland	Jukka-Pekka Nummila	Navy Command Finland	jukka-pekka.nummila@mil.fi
Germany	Jens Sternheim	Ministry of Energy, Agriculture, the Environment and Rural Areas of the Land of Schleswig-Holstein (MELUR SH)	jens.sternheim@melur.landsh.de
Germany	Claus Böttcher	Ministry of Energy, Agriculture, the Environment and Rural Areas of the Land of Schleswig-Holstein (MELUR-SH)	claus.boettcher@melur.landsh.de
Germany	Ingo Weinberg	Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH)	ingo.weinberg@bsh.de
Germany	Sven Koschinski	on behalf of Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)	sk@meereszoologie.de
Poland	Jacek Bełdowski	Institute of Oceanology PAN	hyron@iopan.gda.pl
Poland	Anna Sosnowska	Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection	a.sosnowska@gios.gov.pl
Poland	Benedykt Hac	Maritime Institute in Gdańsk	benhac@im.gda.pl
Poland	Kinga Łazuga	Maritime University of Szczecin	k.lazuga@am.szczecin.pl
Poland	Piotr Nowosielski	Maritime Office in Szczecin	pnowosielski@ums.gov.pl
Poland	Maciej Grzonka	Maritime Search and Rescue Service	maciej.grzonka@sar.gov.pl
Poland	Malgorzata Giza	Ministry of Development	malgorzata.giza@mr.gov.pl
Sweden	Gunnar Möller	Swedish Armed Forces and Baltic Ordnance Safety Board (BOSB)	gunnar.moller@mil.se
Observers			
IDUM	Terrance Long	International Dialogue on Underwater Munitions (IDUM)	tplong@eastlink.ca
ECSA	Kari Rinne	European Community Shipowners' Association (ECSA)	kari.rinne@alfonshakans.fi
HELCOM Secretariat			
Professional Secretary	Hermann Backer	Helsinki Commission	hermanni.backer@helcom.fi

List of Documents

Name	Submitted by
1-1-Rev1 Provisional Agenda.pdf	Secretariat
1-2 Annotations to the Provisional Agenda.pdf	Secretariat
2-1 Outcome of SUBMERGED 4-2016.pdf	Secretariat
3-1-Rev1 Draft material on Mitigation of Noise Impact on Marine Vertebrates from Munitions Clearance.pdf	Birdlife International
3-2 Working Document Chapter on Warfare materials in the Baltic Sea.pdf	Germany
3-3 Background document relating to the Chapter on Warfare materials in the Baltic Sea.pdf	Germany
3-4-WP1 Munitions material for maritime assessment.pdf	Drafting group
4-1 Draft Chapter on Wrecks in the Baltic Sea.pdf	Secretariat
9-1 Contacts of HELCOM SUBMERGED.pdf	Secretariat

Related Information

Presentation 1: Status of Chapter 3 "Wrecks"
The Implications of Modern Law of the Sea on the Protection of Sunken Warships in the Gulf of Finland
Potentially Polluting Wrecks in Marine Waters
Risk Assessment for Potentially Polluting Wrecks in US Waters