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<b>Document title</b>	Updated version of HELCOM Science Agenda
<b>Code</b>	2-1
<b>Category</b>	CMNT
<b>Agenda Item</b>	2 – Science Agenda report
<b>Submission date</b>	28.9.2020
<b>Submitted by</b>	Secretariat

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## Background

Attachment 1 to this document includes the updated Science Agenda report based on revisions by Lead countries and authors to follow up on the comments by countries and the Secretariat on the version submitted to HOD 58-2020.

**Representatives of the Science Agenda Task Group are invited to submit comments to the document by 8 October** so that the Secretariat can prepare for discussions at TG 5-2020. In some cases previous comments have been maintained in the document since they have not been addressed by Lead countries or authors yet. It would be ideal if clarifications regarding these issues can also be submitted by 8 October. Note that a number of issues have been specifically tagged for further discussions at TG 5-2020; these have been marked in yellow in the right hand commentary field. This includes for example:

- New proposals on highlighted science needs to be discussed and agreed during the meeting (see also document 3-1).
- Glossary: it has been proposed to add a glossary. If to be added the extent and focus need to be decided.
- Is it possible to indicate science needs that are needed and could be realized within a shorter-term perspective? (see Introduction).
- If development of indicators per se should be highlighted in the Science Agenda and in that case how these highlights should be formulated (see section 1.1).
- The proposed revision by the secretariat on the Habitats section so that it also addresses pelagic habitats (section 1.2).
- How to formulate the highlight related to food web models (section 1.3).
- How to consider the mentioning of societal issues under the Eutrophication section (section 2.2, and possibly moving them to the ESA section)
- New text on underwater noise (section 2.5).
- The proposed revisions by the secretariat on the Non-indigenous species section (section 2.6).
- If to address BAT and BEP more generally for issues related to shipping (section 2.8).
- Whether to address social science in the Science Agenda (see section 3.1, comments from Sweden as well as existing highlight under Eutrophication, section 2.2).
- Updated text on Spatial pressures and impact assessment (previously labelled Cumulative impacts, section 3.3). Since this section has been substantially re-written tracks have not been kept but changes can be followed in the version with tracks on the work space.
- References: new heading added and a few key HELCOM reports have been added. Extent/need for references to be discussed.

The following changes and additions have made the version labelled 31 August (circulated intersessionally):

- **All changes to texts by authors since the version distributed 31 August have been accepted** to facilitate the reading and further work. A file with all edits visible is available at the HELCOM

[Workspace for the Science Agenda](#). In that version you will also find responses on how certain comments have been treated or why they have not been considered.

- **Some comments from the last round** are still included where authors have indicated that they would still like to discuss how to treat them.
- **New text edits by the secretariat** have been kept in tracked changes while minor editorial changes have been accepted.
- **The proposed re-shuffling of text on holistic approaches in the version circulated 31 August has been accepted** since those commenting so far has supported this change.
- **The text on cumulative impacts** has been updated based on the outcome of the HELCOM meeting [Scoping CA 1-2020](#).

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to discuss and agree on outstanding issues related to document 2-1, Att1., with the aim to come to agreement on the report within the Science Agenda Task Group.