

**OUTCOME OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE JOINT HELCOM/OSPAR TASK GROUP ON  
BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT CONVENTION (BWMC) AND BIOFOULING  
(HELCOM/OSPAR TG BALLAST)**

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## OUTCOME OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE JOINT HELCOM/OSPAR TASK GROUP ON BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT CONVENTION (BWMC) AND BIOFOULING (HELCOM/OSPAR TG BALLAST)

### Introduction

0.1 The Eleventh Meeting of the Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Task Group on Ballast Water Management Convention (BWMC) and Biofouling was held online on 26-27 November 2020.

0.2 The Meeting was attended by Delegations from Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, EU, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Kotka Maritime Research Association attended as invited guest representing the COMPLETE Project. Consent for publication of the list of participants and the information contained therein (**Annex 1**) was received by all participants. The list of documents is set out in **Annex 2**.

0.3 The Meeting was co-chaired by Ms. Katja Broeg, Germany, and Mr. Ville-Veikko Intovuori, Finland.

0.4 Mr. Philip Stamp, OSPAR Deputy Secretary, Mr. Markus Helavuori, HELCOM Professional Secretary, Ms. Lucy Ritchie, OSPAR Secretariat and Ms. Marta Ruiz, HELCOM Secretariat, acted as Secretaries of the Meeting.

### Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

1.1 The Meeting adopted the Agenda as contained in **document 1-1** and noted the annotated Agenda in **document 1-2** and **document 1-2 Rev. 1**. In this context, the Meeting agreed to discuss the links between ballast water tools and biofouling risk assessment tools under Agenda Item 9 (Any other business).

### Agenda Item 2 Feedback from Relevant Bodies

2.1 The Meeting took note of the Outcomes of HELCOM [HOD 57-2019](#) (10-12 December 2019, Helsinki, Finland) and HELCOM [MARITIME 20-2020](#) (5-8 October 2020, online) as contained in **document 2-1**. The Meeting agreed to consider specific matters in more detail under the relevant agenda items.

2.2 The Meeting noted further that discussions have been initiated within the HELCOM Expert Network on Hazardous Substances (EN-HZ) on the need and potential to develop an indicator assessing copper as it reflects a hazardous substance that can also have maritime sources (e.g. shipping or offshore structures). The development of the indicator is at an early stage and most recently was discussed at EN-HZ 13-2020 in September 2020. [Document 3-2](#) of that meeting presented copper – sources, environmental concentration and state assessments in the Baltic Sea, utilising a compilation of data available through the HELCOM COMBINE database hosted by ICES. [Document 3-1](#) was discussed related to national threshold values for copper to explore possible avenues towards the development of an indicator. The discussion concluded with a proposal for a way ahead to gather further national opinions and input related to threshold values ([Outcome of EN-HZ 13-2020, para. 3.24](#)).

2.3 The Meeting invited the HELCOM Secretariat to regularly inform TG Ballast on the process of developing an indicator assessing copper. The Meeting further agreed that TG Ballast could provide input on copper in anti-fouling systems (AFS), if needed, in order to facilitate the work on developing such an indicator.

2.4 The Meeting took note of the Outcomes from OSPAR [BDC\(2\) 2020](#) (30 September-2 October 2020), [EIHA\(1\) 2020](#) (20-22 April 2020) and [EIHA\(2\) 2020](#) (12-14 October 2020) as contained in **document 2-2**. The Meeting agreed to consider specific matters in more detail under the relevant agenda items.

2.5 The Meeting took note that a proposal for a joint OSPAR-HELCOM expert group on non-indigenous species (NIS) was welcomed in principle by BDC(2) 2020 although a lead country is yet to be identified. The Meeting further noted that the proposal has also been discussed within the HELCOM State & Conservation Working Group, with consideration of the matter expected to continue in 2021. The Meeting discussed the possible need to liaise also with the ICES Working Group on Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms in order to avoid duplicate efforts.

2.6 The Meeting took note of a presentation by the IMO on the latest developments related to the BWM Convention at the IMO (MEPC and PPR) (**Presentation 1**).

2.7 The Meeting noted a clarification that no changes are foreseen to the implementation schedule of the BWM Convention. The Meeting also noted that a study has been conducted on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, showing that implementation of the BWM Convention has not been notably affected and that maritime Administrations are being flexible with regard to expired certificates if renewal surveys have not been possible to conduct due to the pandemic.

2.8 The Meeting discussed the experience building phase under the BWM Convention and noted that Finland is one of few countries to have provided data, and that the IMO Secretariat has therefore not yet been able to produce a report on the matter. The Meeting encouraged HELCOM and OSPAR Contracting Parties to provide relevant data to IMO in order to enable a systematic and evidence-based review of the BWM Convention.

### **Agenda Item 3 Updates to the Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Harmonised Procedure on the Granting of BMW Convention Exemptions**

3.1 The Meeting noted that the revised HELCOM OSPAR Joint Harmonised Procedure on the Granting of BMW Convention Exemptions (JHP) was approved by OSPAR EIHA(1) 2020 and MARITIME 20-2020. MARITIME 20-2020 instructed the HELCOM Secretariat to carry out an editorial and factual review and make necessary corrections before submission to HOD 59-2020. The final draft revised JHP is expected to be considered with a view to adoption at HOD 59-2020 on 7-8 December 2020. Once adopted the revised JHP will be made available on the HELCOM and OSPAR websites as well as on the Risk Assessment tool website.

3.2 The Meeting took note of an update of the development of the regionally harmonized early warning system (EWS) for timely communication of findings of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens (HAOP) (**document 3-1** and **Presentation 2**). The Meeting noted that the EWS is being developed under the COMPLETE project and provided inter alia the following observations and comments:

- significant progress has been made on the development of the EWS since TG BALLAST 10-2019;
- different early warnings should be sent to different authorities, e.g. health authorities need warnings about pathogens but not other types of organisms;
- the needs of stakeholders should be identified before types of warnings and recipient stakeholders can be defined;
- an action on *“Establishment [by 2024] and subsequent implementation of the early warning system in case of the introduction of invasive species in ports.”* has already been agreed in principle by HELCOM HOD 58-2020 for inclusion in the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP);
- the list of ports in the EWS is based on a list from IMO, but should be harmonized with the list of ports in the HELCOM/OSPAR JHP;
- the list of Baltic Target Species is being updated within the COMPLETE PLUS project;
- the duration of warnings still needs further consideration;

3.3 The Meeting further discussed how warnings will be communicated to ships in practice and what the envisaged contingency measures would be. The Meeting welcomed the offer by INTERTANKO to liaise directly with Lithuania in order to provide information on contingency measures recommended to their members.

3.4 The Meeting emphasized the importance of accurate and current data in the AquaNIS database. The Meeting encouraged Contracting Parties to ensure that relevant data on NIS is provided to the AquaNIS database continuously, as this data flow is necessary for the operation of the EWS.

3.5 The Meeting noted that OSPAR Contracting Parties represented were generally in favour of applying an EWS in the OSPAR region as well.

3.6 The Meeting discussed the organizations to receive the information and decide on issuing the warning signal (see step 4 and 5 of the proposed EWS) as well as the organizations to receive the warning signal. The Meeting invited all HELCOM Contracting Parties to inform the HELCOM Secretariat at their earliest convenience on national authorities, institutes and other organizations that should be responsible for issuing and/or receiving such warning signals, considering also the proposed list set out in slide 9 of Presentation 3).

3.7 The Meeting agreed that it would be useful to hold an online workshop on the EWS concept and technical implementation, to be organised by the AquaNIS development team.

3.8 The Meeting encouraged also representatives from all OSPAR Contracting Parties to participate in the online workshop, and to invite EIHA to consider whether the EWS approach as developed and further refined for the HELCOM area could be considered for adaptation to the OSPAR maritime area.

3.9 The Meeting invited Lithuania to further explore a date for such an online workshop and notify TG BALLAST contacts accordingly.

3.10 The Meeting agreed to consider the late proposal by Poland to include nekton in the Port Survey Protocol (**document 3-2** and **Presentation 3**). The Meeting supported the intention of the proposal in principle, noting however that nekton sampling is not possible in all ports (due to e.g. prohibitions, safety considerations, tide fluctuations etc.) and should therefore not be mandatory as part of the JHP, which provides minimum requirements. The Meeting also reflected on the increased costs incurred by such sampling.

3.11 The Meeting noted that the JHP is not legally binding and, as such, sampling of nekton can already be undertaken by any Contracting Parties that wish to do so.

3.12 The Meeting recalled that the revised JHP was very recently approved by OSPAR EIHA and HELCOM Maritime (c.f. paragraph 3.1 above) and that, in the context of this revision, the proposal to include sampling of nekton was not supported. The Meeting also noted that the present Port Survey Protocol does not exclude the use of nekton sampling data, although it is not specifically mentioned either.

3.13 The Meeting consequently invited Poland and interested parties to prepare a revised proposal, taking into consideration the comments made at the Meeting, for further consideration by the next Meeting.

3.14 The Meeting recalled that the possible use of eDNA as part of port sampling had been considered during the revision process of the JHP but not supported. Given the scientific and technological developments of such sampling, the Meeting agreed that the matter warrants further consideration in future revisions of the JHP. The Meeting invited interested parties to develop relevant proposals for consideration by future meetings, as appropriate.

#### Agenda Item 4 Port Sampling

4.1 The Meeting took note of the sampling activities taking place in water bodies of the Port of Valencia (Spain) (**document 4-1**).

4.2 The Meeting discussed other sampling activities in North East Atlantic and Baltic Sea ports undertaken during 2020 or planned for 2021 as follows:

- the Meeting noted that Denmark will initiate monitoring in 6 hotspots (most probably all ports) in 2021;
- the Meeting noted that Finland has revised the national NIS monitoring programme. Monitoring on coastal hard bottom areas started in 2020 with habitat traps and this will continue in the future. Also, port surveys according to the JHP will be conducted in 2 ports/year for the next 6 years. This monitoring will have a 3-year cycle so that every port will be sampled twice during the next 6 years;
- the Meeting noted that in Germany port surveys have commenced in the port of Rostock. The monitoring of NIS has started in the port of Rostock started at three stations in (cruise centre, ferry terminal and marina) in accordance with JHP. In addition to the port sampling, two types of artificial habitat collectors (Crab Condo and "Oyster Crate") were tested. In the scope of this study, in parallel, samples for genetic analysis were also taken (water samples for eDNA and fouling, benthos and plankton samples for meta barcoding). The aim of the study is to optimize taxonomic determination and to improve/check new methods for early warning. In the framework of MSFD, neobiota samples following eRA were taken at 11 locations at the Baltic Sea and 9 locations in the North Sea in 2020;
- the Meeting noted that the Netherlands intends to update the port sampling protocol for Rotterdam in 2021.

4.3 The Meeting took note that MARITIME 19-2019 had noted that the list of surveyed ports contains ports surveyed following the JHP, while other types of surveys may also have been undertaken in other ports. The meeting had agreed that an expanded list of ports would be useful as well and consequently agreed to invite Contracting Parties to provide to the Secretariat information on all port surveys conducted in ports.

4.4 The Meeting further took note that MARITIME 20-2020 had noted that no additional information on port surveys conducted in ports has been received and instructed the Secretariat to request updates and data for new ports e.g. once per year, including for ports surveyed in accordance with other protocols than the survey protocol of the JHP, in order to ensure that sufficient and up to date data is available.

#### Agenda Item 5 On-line decision support tool

5.1 The Meeting recalled that TG BALLAST 9-2018 agreed that the data gathered by the port surveys using the JHP reporting form is valuable and should not be lost, and consequently agreed that from now on, there will be a new form to be used when submitting data to the HELCOM Secretariat for inclusion in the JHP decision support tool ([Annex 1](#) of document 5-1 to TG BALLAST 9-2018), whereas the previous form should continue to be filled in and stored in a dedicated workspace to be made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal ([Outcome of TG BALLAST 9-2018](#), para. 5.1-5.3).

5.2 The Meeting recalled that the workspace was created and is available through [this link](#).

5.3 The Meeting welcomed the improvements done in the [JHP decision support tool](#) (**document 5-1** and **Presentation 4**).

5.4 The Meeting provided the following comments on the new online user interface:

- the new user interface is a significant improvement from the previous version;
- a proposal was made that the templates for inserting the data should be online rather than in Excel files that must be emailed to the HELCOM Secretariat. A clarification was, however,

noted that there are also benefits with the current system as the Secretariat is in a position to double check that all data is correct before it is uploaded to the live JHP decision support tool; and

- the tool should be shared with relevant stakeholders and could also benefit other regions than the Baltic and North Sea regions.

5.5 The Meeting took note that the new on-line decision support tool has replaced the previous version since October 2020.

5.6 The Meeting noted concerns regarding the fact that some of the data being used by the decision support tool is based on incomplete sampling efforts with certain species groups missing. The Meeting invited the HELCOM Secretariat to incorporate a feature in the tool indicating in the risk assessment output those ports where the dataset used as part of the assessment were incomplete. The Meeting further noted that the tool is specifically a decision support tool and should not be used as the only basis for granting exemptions under Regulation A-4 of the BWM Convention.

#### **Agenda Item 6 Target Species**

6.1 The Meeting took note of information provided by Finland on the funding granted to COMPLETE-PLUS and that within its framework the Target Species (TS) list in the Baltic Sea will be updated with the criteria previously agreed by TG Ballast. The Meeting noted that the work will be undertaken from April 2021 to late 2021. The Meeting further noted that the aim is to submit the updated TS list to the next Meeting for consideration.

6.2 The Meeting noted the importance of also ensuring proper consideration of updating the OSPAR TS list. In this context, the Meeting noted that the proposed joint OSPAR-HELCOM expert group on NIS may be able to contribute to such a task, if established.

#### **Agenda Item 7 Biofouling**

7.1 The Meeting took note of an update on the progress and process in Reviewing the IMO Biofouling Guidelines as provided by IMO (**Presentation 5**). The Meeting noted the relevance of the Proposal for a Regional Baltic Biofouling Management Roadmap in both the implementation of the IMO Biofouling Guidelines as well as in contributing to their review. The Meeting encouraged Contracting Parties to participate in the further work of the review of the Biofouling Guidelines.

7.2 The Meeting took note of a proposal by the Netherlands for a pilot study serving as input for the development of a baseline research protocol for the general assessment of biofouling on commercial vessels in the European regional seas (**document 7-1, Presentation 6**).

7.3 The Meeting commented on the proposal, noting inter alia that it is very ambitious and expected to require significant funding. The Meeting also noted a comment that the baseline research protocol could complement the implementation of the HELCOM Biofouling Roadmap and other activities within the COMPLETE project.

7.4 The Meeting noted that the envisaged timeline to develop the baseline research protocol by 2023 is still being adhered to, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

7.5 The Meeting took note of information provided by Poland with regard to the difficulties encountered as well as on the financial burdens in conducting similar work as part of the COMPLETE project. The Meeting further noticed the offer by Poland to cooperate with the Netherlands in the development process of this initiative.

7.6 The Meeting, nevertheless, noted that the proposal covers the fundamental and relevant issues to be investigated for the development of a protocol for the baseline assessment of biofouling on various commercial vessels in European waters.

7.7 The Meeting encouraged Contracting Parties to nominate relevant experts in preparation for the trial runs of the draft protocol at national level and for subsequent exchange of knowledge and experiences to develop a European protocol for the baseline assessment of biofouling. In this regard,

the Meeting invited Contracting Parties to inform Mr. Saa Henry Kabuta ([saahenry.kabuta@rws.nl](mailto:saahenry.kabuta@rws.nl)) accordingly.

7.8 The Meeting took note of the Proposal for a Regional Baltic Biofouling Management Roadmap (**document 7-2**). The Meeting noted that this matter was of relevance mainly to the HELCOM Contracting Parties while the OSPAR Contracting Parties abstained from taking part in decisions regarding the draft Roadmap.

7.9 The Meeting considered the comments provided by MARITIME 20-2020, as reflected also in document 7-2. The Meeting reviewed a revised Proposed Roadmap on the screen, where those comments had been addressed. The Meeting further agreed on a number of additional minor revisions to the text, as set out in **document 7-2 Rev.1**.

7.10 The Meeting noted that the Proposed Roadmap is aligned with and based on the IMO Biofouling Guidelines and Guidance but explicitly addressing the specific conditions of the Baltic Sea region and aspects relevant for its implementation in the Baltic Sea. The Meeting agreed that the Proposed Roadmap may be seen as an important contribution to the work currently going on within IMO on the issues regarding biofouling, for example the review of the IMO Biofouling Guidelines.

7.11 The Meeting noted that the Proposed Roadmap, even after the agreed revisions, is not drafted in the typical style of a Roadmap. The Meeting agreed that the Proposed Roadmap should not be approved as an official HELCOM instrument, but should instead serve as a basis for future work on harmonizing biofouling management in the Baltic Sea and contributing to the review of the IMO Biofouling Guidelines.

7.12 The Meeting emphasized that further development of the Proposed Roadmap and additional guidance documents referred to in the Proposed Roadmap should be done with due consideration to agreements and developments within the IMO.

7.13 The Meeting agreed to inform HOD 59-2020 of the outcome of these discussions, taking into account the relevance of the Proposed Roadmap with regard to a proposed new action for the updated BSAP on *Work for the harmonized implementation of the IMO Biofouling Guidelines and Guidance documents, taking into account e.g. the HELCOM Biofouling Management Roadmap, and further contribute to the work carried out in the IMO.*

7.14 The Meeting took note of the information on a biofouling risk assessment tool, the "Vessel-Check" (**document 7-3**).

## **Agenda Item 8      Open issues**

8.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the designation of Öresund as a Same Risk Area (SRA) (**document 8-1**). The Meeting noted that shipowners have expressed interest in exemptions for ships operating in the area, but that no official applications for exemptions have been received by the relevant authorities to date.

8.2 The Meeting noted that the Kattegat area had also been modelled together with Öresund, but due to inconclusive results Kattegat was not designated a SRA.

8.3 The Meeting noted that Denmark and Sweden will consult countries that may be affected by exemptions granted in the SRA whenever deemed necessary.

8.4 The Meeting encouraged Contracting Parties to share information with future meetings for any similar agreements that are being planned or have been established.

8.5 The Meeting took note of the information on a sampling and analysis of treated ballast water pilot exercise in Algeciras (**document 8-2**).

8.6 The Meeting took note of the audit of port reception facilities for ballast tank sediments (**document 8-3**) and encouraged Contracting Parties to share information on similar activities.

**Agenda Item 9 Any other business**

9.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the ranking of Danish ports for granting exemptions according to the Ballast Water Management Convention (**document 9-1**). The Meeting noted that the ranking would not be used as the sole factor for granting exemptions but can support the decision making.

9.2 The Meeting considered the links between ballast water tools and biofouling risk assessment tools and the possibilities to utilize e.g. the JHP decision support tool for biofouling purposes. The Meeting agreed that that the matter should be considered in more detail at the next Meeting and invited interested parties to submit proposals, as appropriate.

9.3 The Meeting took note of the updates on the Swedish monitoring program which is based on a new habitat modelling for selecting hotspots for monitoring locations as contained in **document 9-2** and **Presentation 7**. The Meeting noted that studies are ongoing also with regard to eDNA methods in Sweden as well as in other Contracting Parties.

**Agenda Item 10 Work plan and future meetings**

10.1 The Meeting took note of the Terms of Reference for the Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Task Group on Ballast Water Management Convention (BWMC) and Biofouling, 2020-2024 as contained in **document 10-1**.

10.2 The Meeting discussed the updated draft Joint HELCOM/OSPAR TG Ballast Water Management Convention (BWMC) and Biofouling Work Plan 2021-2022 (**document 10-2**) and agreed on the revised updated work plan for the group as contained in **Annex 3**. In this context, the Meeting also agreed that the name of the Group should be abbreviated as JTG BALLAST & BIOFOULING to reflect that the Terms of Reference now incorporate also biofouling in addition to ballast water.

10.3 The Meeting invited the Secretariats to undertake a final editorial review of the Work Plan before submission to HELCOM MARITIME and OSPAR EIHA for consideration and approval.

10.4 The Meeting noted agreed that further consideration could be given to the Work Plan at the next Meeting, provided that concrete proposals are submitted by Contracting Parties and observers, taking into account also the decisions by MARITIME and EIHA.

10.5 The Meeting took note of the National Administration Contacts - Official Contact Points for BWMC A-4 Exemptions (**document 10-3**) and updated the list as contained in **Annex 4**.

10.6 The Meeting took note that once updated the list will be uploaded to the HELCOM OSPAR Risk Assessment Decision Support Tool.

10.7 The Meeting took note of the contact list for both HELCOM and OSPAR (**document 10-4**), and updated the list as contained in **Annex 5**.

10.8 The Meeting recalled that TG BALLAST 10-2019 welcomed the offer by Spain to host the next meeting, which had to be conducted online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

10.9 The Meeting welcomed the offer by Spain to host the next Meeting in San Sebastian, to be held tentatively in November 2021, if the COVID-19 situation allows.

**Agenda Item 11 Outcome of the Meeting**

11.1 The Meeting adopted the draft Outcome of the Meeting (**document 11-1**). The final Outcome incorporating corrections by the Meeting will be finalised by the Secretariats in consultation with the Co-Chairs and made available in the HELCOM and OSPAR websites.



## Annex 1 – List of Participants

Name	Organisation	Email address
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## Annex 2 – List of Documents

No	Title	Presented By
JTG-Ballast 20/00/01	Letter of invitation	HELCOM and OSPAR Secretariats
JTG-Ballast 20/00/02	Document List	HELCOM and OSPAR Secretariats
JTG-Ballast 20/01/01	Draft agenda	HELCOM and OSPAR Secretariats
JTG-Ballast 20/01/02-Rev.1	Draft annotated agenda	HELCOM and OSPAR Secretariats
JTG-Ballast 20/02/01	Outcomes of relevant HELCOM meetings	HELCOM Secretariat
JTG-Ballast 20/02/02	Outcomes of relevant OSPAR meetings	OSPAR Secretariat
JTG-Ballast 20/03/01	An update of the regionally harmonized early warning system (EWS) for timely communication of findings of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens (HAOP)	Lithuania
JTG-Ballast 20/03/02(L)	Amendment to the Joint Harmonised Procedure in order to include nekton in the port survey protocol	Poland
JTG-Ballast 20/04/01	Sampling activities taking place in water bodies of the Port of Valencia (Spain)	Spain
JTG-Ballast 20/05/01 (and add.1)	Update on the improvement of the online JHP decision support tool	HELCOM Secretariat
JTG-Ballast 20/07/01 (and add.1)	Netherlands proposal for designing a baseline study to evaluate bio-fouling on commercial vessels as vector for non-indigenous species into and across European regional seas	the Netherlands
JTG-Ballast 20/07/02 (and add.1)	Proposal for a Regional Baltic Biofouling Management Roadmap	HELCOM Secretariat
JTG-Ballast 20/07/02 (and add.1)	Proposal for a Regional Baltic Biofouling Management Roadmap	HELCOM Secretariat
JTG-Ballast 20/07/03	Biofouling Risk Assessment Tool	Denmark
JTG-Ballast 20/08/01 (and add.1)	Designation of Öresund as a Same Risk Area (SRA)	Sweden and Denmark
JTG-Ballast 20/08/02	Sampling and analysis of treated BW pilot exercise in Algeciras	Spain

No	Title	Presented By
JTG-Ballast 20/08/03	Audit of port reception facilities for BW sediments	Spain
JTG-Ballast 20/09/01	Ranking of Danish Ports for granting exemptions according to the Ballast Water Management Convention	Denmark
JTG-Ballast 20/09/02	Updates on monitoring of non-indigenous species in Swedish marine waters	Sweden
JTG-Ballast 20/10/01	Terms of Reference for the Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Task Group on Ballast Water Management Convention (BWMC) and Biofouling, 2020-2024	HELCOM and OSPAR Secretariats
JTG-Ballast 20/10/02	Updated draft Joint HELCOM/OSPAR TG Ballast Water Management Convention (BWMC) and Biofouling Work Plan 2021-2022	HELCOM and OSPAR Secretariats
JTG-Ballast 20/10/03	National Administration Contacts - Official Contact Points for BWMC A-4 Exemptions	HELCOM and OSPAR Secretariats
JTG-Ballast 20/10/04	Contact addresses of JTG-Ballast	HELCOM and OSPAR Secretariats

## Annex 3 – Updated Joint HELCOM/OSPAR TG Ballast Water Management Convention (BWMC) and Biofouling (JTG Ballast &amp; Biofouling) Work Plan 2021-2022

WP	Actions from TOR	Activity	Timing	Task leader
1	Meeting organisation	Arrange meetings and documentation	JTG BALLAST & BIOFOULING 2021 and 2022	OSPAR Secretariat and HELCOM Secretariat
2	Updates of the JHP	Carry out updates of the JHP based on lessons learnt	Continuous	CPs
3	Port surveys	Port Survey Testing in the Baltic	Continuous	National Initiatives
	Port surveys	Port Survey Testing in the North East Atlantic	Continuous	National Initiatives
	Port surveys	Consider potential synergies with additional strategies, developments and commitments relevant for NIS monitoring	Continuous	TG BALLAST and other HELCOM/OSPAR groups
	Port surveys	Generate a list of surveyed ports according to JHP protocol	Information to be submitted to JTG Ballast & Biofouling meetings	CPs & HELCOM/OSPAR Secretariats
	Port surveys	Generate a list of ports surveyed under other methods	Information to be submitted to JTG Ballast & Biofouling meetings	CPs & HELCOM/OSPAR Secretariats
4	Target Species	Review of HELCOM target species List	Continuous	HELCOM Maritime sub-group on Baltic A-4 target species list (Maiju Lehtiniemi)
	Target Species	Review of OSPAR target species List	Continuous	OSPAR NIS Expert Group (Peter Stæhr)
	Target Species	HELCOM/OSPAR cooperation on target species list	Continuous	HELCOM Maritime sub-group on Baltic A-4 target species list (Maiju Lehtiniemi) & OSPAR NIS Expert Group (Peter Stæhr)
5	Data storage and decision support tool	Update online decision support tool	Continuous	HELCOM/OSPAR Secretariats
	Data storage and decision support tool	Early warning system	According to COMPLETE extended timeplan (tentatively March 2021).	HELCOM/OSPAR Secretariats
6	Same Risk Area	Consider issues related to Same Risk Area	Continuous	CPs

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7	Compliance control and enforcement of the BWMC	Support and exchange experiences on the matter	Continuous	CPs
8	Biofouling	Develop common interpretation of the IMO evaluation guidance and a uniform approach to the evaluation of the IMO Biofouling Guidelines for all ships (MEPC.207(62), including the evaluation of the Guidance for recreational craft (Resolution MEPC.1/Circ.792)	By JTG BALLAST & BIOFOULING 2022	CPs & HELCOM/OSPAR Secretariats
	Biofouling	Align with and contribute to the process of evaluation of the guidelines within the IMO SubCommittee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) and further steps that could be decided within the IMO - Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC)	Continuous	CPs & HELCOM/OSPAR Secretariats
	Biofouling	Develop a common OSPAR/HELCOM biofouling management strategy for the implementation of the IMO Biofouling Guidelines	By JTG BALLAST & BIOFOULING 2024	CPs & HELCOM/OSPAR Secretariats
	Biofouling	Collection and sharing of relevant data and information about: best practices (cleaning methods and waste management), research, regulations, legal aspects, risk assessment, awareness and training	Continuous	CPs
	Biofouling	Identify knowledge gaps, needed expertise and knowledge exchanges on biofouling	Continuous	CPs

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## Annex 4 National Administration Contacts - Official Contact Points for BWMC A-4 Exemptions

*(Missing information to be added)*

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