



Document title	Further consideration of the Baltic SCOPE recommendations
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Agenda Item	3 - Regional coordination and policy follow-up
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Submitted by	Sweden and Finland, and HELCOM Secretariat
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Background

HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 14-2017 discussed the Baltic SCOPE recommendations and agreed that some of the recommendations could be included into the agenda of the group, bearing in mind that the work of the group is limited in time and resources. The Meeting also noted that the most urgent recommendations were already included into the project proposal for the PanBaltic SCOPE.

The Meeting also noted that some of the recommendations are relevant for the work of the State & Conservation and other HELCOM group and are already under consideration. Also some of the recommendations are relevant for the planners and should be communicated nationally.

The Meeting pointed out that the recommendation should be taken into account in the implementation of the MSP WG work plan.

HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 14-2017 suggested to establish a task force to make a proposal on relevance of the Baltic SCOPE project recommendations to the mandates of HELCOM groups. The Meeting welcomed the offer by Finland and Sweden to elaborate the proposal with the assistance of the HELCOM Secretariat by the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 15-2017.

With regard to the Baltic SCOPE recommendations, this document presents proposals for potential action by HELCOM-VASAB MSP –WG (prepared by Sweden and Finland) as contained in PART I, and it relates mandates of other HELCOM working groups to these recommendations (prepared by the HELCOM Secretariat) as contained in PART II.

Relevant recommendations of the Baltic SCOPE project have been submitted by the HELCOM Secretariat to the following meetings in HELCOM:

- The 17th meeting of the Maritime working group (10-12 October 2017), which took note of the recommendations (cf. document 2-4);
- The 7th meeting of the State & Conservation working meeting (23-27 October 2017), which took note of the recommendations (cf. document 2J-2) and noted that the application is underway for a follow-up project (PanBaltic SCOPE)(cf. document 6J-4). The Meeting was of the view that the work within the State & Conservation group directly relates to a number of the recommendations listed in the document, and discussed how the group could provide input to the identified recommendations. The Meeting was of the view that the work of the group contributes to recommendations 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 related to environment identified in document 2J-2 and welcomed the offer of co-chair Ms. Penina Blankett, Finland, to attend the next meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP working group to present this information;
- The 7th meeting of the Fish group (14-15 November 2017);
- The 17th meeting of the Gear group (23-24 November 2017).

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- I. consider the proposed actions by HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG;
- II. take note of the feedback on the Baltic SCOPE recommendations provided by the HELCOM groups so far, and that additional feedback may be provided at the upcoming meetings of the Fish group and Gear group in November.

PART I. PROPOSALS FOR POTENTIAL ACTION BY HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG IN RELATION TO THE BALTIC SCOPE RECOMMENDATIONS.

In the Baltic SCOPE project, 2017-2017, Maritime Spatial Planning authorities and Regional Sea Organisations in the Baltic Sea Area came together for the first time to find the planning solutions to transboundary issues and improve the Maritime Spatial Planning processes.

A number of recommendations were developed as a result of the Baltic Scope projects. They are directed at different stakeholders and only some of them are relevant for the HELCOM/VASAB working group on MSP (WG). This document aims at identifying the most relevant ones and proposing potential action for the WG to take.

WG action based on recommendations from Baltic SCOPE project

Below the identified recommendation with HELCOM/VASAB relevance are listed including draft proposed "action" on how the workgroup could address the issues. The appendix includes all Baltic Scope recommendations and how they were sorted.

The numbers in brackets refer to which part of the WGs work programme the recommendation links to:

1. Intergovernmental cooperation on MSP
2. Public participation
3. Ecosystem Approach in MSP
4. Information and data for MSP
5. Education for MSP
6. National and BSR regional frameworks for MSP in place

(Process)GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION

(1 Intergovernmental cooperation, 3 Ecosystem approach, 4 Information and data, 6 National and BSR regional frameworks)

- Planning authorities should **strengthen cooperation with sectorial agencies, which act as contact points to international decision organs**, including the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission - Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) and Visions and Strategies Around the Baltic Sea (VASAB) at the regional sea level, and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and The International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) at the global level.

Proposed action: The WG should if needed communicate with IMO and IALA for coordinated communication on BSR-MSP issues. (1, 4)

PROCESS

(1 Intergovernmental cooperation 3, Ecosystem approach 4, Information and data)

Map transboundary synergies and conflicts, so planners can identify which areas require special attention.

Target groups: planning authorities and maritime administrations

Proposed action: The WG should promote further inclusion, development and use of HELCOM environmental data as a basis for BSR-MSP to identify areas which require special attention. (4)

PLANNING EVIDENCE

(1 Intergovernmental cooperation 3, Ecosystem approach 4, Information and data)

- Establish what **planning evidence** is **required within a transboundary context** and **share data widely to increase knowledge** on MSP planning processes, particularly in relation to MSP projects, Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and Environmental impact assessment (EIA). (1,3,4)

Target groups: planning authorities and data hosts

Proposed action: The WG should continue its work in the Data Expert Group with focus not only on MSP-needs but SEA and EIA as well. (1, 3, 4)

- Planning authorities should **use the three checklists on the ecosystem based approach developed** in Baltic SCOPE when starting up and doing maritime spatial planning. (3)

Target group: planning authorities

Proposed action: The WG should promote the testing/application of the checklist and evaluate the value of the use. The checklist toolbox has been applied and evaluated for UK- plans by UN Environment initiated by WWF. (3, 4)

STAKEHOLDERS & PLATFORMS

(1 Intergovernmental cooperation 2 Stakeholder participation)

- Establish the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group as a **permanent forum** for networking and sharing knowledge and experience, to ensure close cooperation of planning authorities. (1)

Target group: policy-makers

Proposed Action: No need to take action now.

- Find **appropriate forms to contact and mobilize commercial stakeholders and NGOs in transboundary MSP**, to enhance knowledge exchange and consultation.

Target group: planning authorities

Proposed Action: The WG should follow up the implementation and review the guidelines on transboundary consultations, public participation and co-operation. (2)

- Develop an **early warning system to alert and create awareness of potential transnational conflict areas** for planning authorities and sector representatives.

Target group: planning authorities

Proposed Action: The WG should share information to alert and create awareness of potential transnational sea use conflict areas. (1)

SECTORAL RECOMMENDATIONS

ENERGY

(1 Intergovernmental cooperation)

- **Develop a pan Baltic long-term picture on renewable offshore energy** – needs, capacity, other sectors' needs, impacts, etc.

Target groups: policy-makers, research, energy sector and planning authorities

Proposed Action: The WG can identify a need for a pan Baltic long-term picture on renewable offshore energy but not be responsible for development of such a plan. (1)

- **Notify concerned countries early** on about spatial plans and projects with transnational impact.(1)

Target group: planning authorities

Proposed Action: The WG should include this type of information exchange during meetings. (1)

ENVIRONMENT

(1 Intergovernmental cooperation 3, Ecosystem approach 4, Information and data)

- **Map and highlight areas of high ecological value** across the Baltic Sea. **Create value criteria** that can be harmonized across countries.

Target groups: research and development projects, HELCOM and national marine data institutions

Proposed Action: The WG should support the mapping of and highlighting of areas of high ecological value across the Baltic Sea. (3)

- Apply and **develop common approaches to assess cumulative pressures and impacts of human activities** on the marine environment.

Target groups: research and development projects and the HELCOM regional cumulative tool to implement marine policies (3)

Proposed Action: The WG should promote the development and application of approaches to assess cumulative pressures and impacts of human activities on the marine environment.

- Improve the **assessment of ecological coherence** of the Marine Protected Area (**MPA**) network in the Baltic Sea and identify potential areas for designation of MPAs.

Target groups: research and development projects, HELCOM and national marine data institutions

Proposed Action: The WG should promote to strengthen the linkages between MSP and MPA inter alia by exploring linkages to other HELCOM groups. (3)

- Develop a **methodology to apply** Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) **descriptors and indicators for assessment** of impacts within MSP related SEA and EIA procedures.

Target groups: environmental authorities, HELCOM and the EU

Proposed Action: The WG should promote a development of harmonized understanding of the MSFD descriptors/GES-indicators for assessment of impacts of relevance to MSP and useable in SEA (and EIA-processes) (1,3,4)

- Elaborate **criteria to apply the precautionary principle** in regulating sea uses through MSP. *Target group: planning authorities*

Proposed Action: The WG should promote a harmonized interpretation of the precautionary principle in MSP. (1,3)

FISHERIES

(1 International cooperation, 3 Ecosystem approach 4 Data and information)

- **Jointly identify essential fish habitat**, including spawning, nursery and growth areas, for the whole Baltic Sea for species of interest to fisheries.

Target groups: national agencies responsible for fisheries data collection and processing, and ICES

Proposed Action: The WG should promote data development and the use in MSP data on fish habitats, including spawning, nursery and growth areas, for the whole Baltic Sea for species of interest to fisheries. (3)

- Joint planning evidence of fishing activities should be provided through ICES. **Discuss and agree with ICES on the methodology to improve the usability of aggregated data** for national maritime spatial planning.
- *Target groups: policy-makers, planning authorities and the ICES Workgroup on Spatial Fisheries Data*

Proposed Action: The WG should coordinate MSP needs of data with ICES and other HELCOM groups (FISH). (3)

SHIPPING

Recommendations on shipping are either handled in the Baltic Lines project or considered not relevant for the WG to consider. See appendix I.

PART II THE TORS AND WORKING PLANS OF HELCOM WORKING GROUPS RELEVANT TO THE BALTIC SCOPE RECOMMENDATIONS: STATE AND CONSERVATION, FISH, MARITIME AND GEAR

Parts which are especially relevant to the Baltic SCOPE recommendations are highlighted.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR HELCOM WORKING GROUP ON THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE CONSERVATION (WG STATE AND CONSERVATION) (adopted by HELCOM HOD 46-2014)

The new subsidiary body will cover monitoring and assessment theme as well as nature conservation and biodiversity protection theme in HELCOM with a specific arrangement for its work, including meetings, in order to cater for the needs to efficiently cover both themes:

- two co-chairs representing monitoring/assessment theme and biodiversity/nature conservation theme are to be elected,
- meetings of the WG will be organized in such a way that parts of the meeting covering specific topics under monitoring and assessment theme as well as nature conservation and biodiversity protection theme will be held back-to-back, and common issues to both themes are addressed within a joint session placed in between the theme-wise sessions; agenda will be organized accordingly,
- theme-wise sessions will be chaired by relevant co-chairs and joint sessions are to be chaired by both co-chairs,
- common agenda will be prepared by the co-chairs together with the Secretariat.

Functioning of this arrangement for the work of the new subsidiary body will be evaluated after two years.

A major common topic will be to work across monitoring-indicators-assessment chain in order to provide a stronger basis for coordinated development of the HELCOM thematic assessment tools and a coherent holistic assessment of the ecosystems health, including Baltic Sea Pressure Index and Impact Index.

This requires scrutinizing and integrating on technical-scientific level the outcomes of various expert groups and projects covering most of all eutrophication, hazardous substances and biodiversity, but also linking the relevant results produced by other subsidiary bodies (e.g. pressures from shipping) into a one coherent system.

This arrangement will ensure that nature protection and biodiversity, including marine protected areas, red listing of species and habitats as well as proposing nature conservation and other measures will continue to receive a prominent place in HELCOM work.

The work will follow the assessment cycles and deadlines agreed in Baltic Sea Action Plan and the Ministerial Declarations (Roadmap of HELCOM activities on ecosystem approach), meaning that not all the issues will be taken up on each occasion, but the agenda will be more flexible, planned according to the finalized/upcoming tasks.

The new subsidiary body will have the role to provide the necessary scientific-technical expertise and advice, including review of the content of deliverables produced by working groups, projects and *ad hoc* activities.

The WG will be responsible for producing and contributing, as appropriate, to deliverables and milestones of the Roadmap of HELCOM activities on ecosystem approach, in a manner coordinated with other ongoing HELCOM processes. The WG will cooperate with other subsidiary bodies i.e. on cross cutting issues, including with GEAR to the extent necessary for GEAR to ensure integration and coherence of work to reach Good Environmental Status of the marine environment across the working groups. It will seek synergies with work carried out in other fora e.g. the relevant work undertaken in EU, ICES and OSPAR, and map these into the working programme.

The WG will be complemented with *ad hoc* working arrangements, i.e. expert and correspondence groups, intersessional processes, and projects with specific tasks and limited duration as they are an efficient and flexible way of working to solve specific problems, address urgent issues, and develop clearly identified products according to predefined deadlines. The support by the *ad hoc* arrangements will allow a new working structure to focus their work on reviewing the results, providing advice and guidance, and developing

policy recommendations, according to its respective mandate. The Roadmap of HELCOM activities on ecosystem approach will be used as a planning tool for such HELCOM *ad hoc* work.

Based on the general rule that projects are decided by the Heads of Delegation, the Working Group will have an initiative to propose setting up projects.

Meetings will be scheduled to keep up with the HELCOM activities and coordinate with other relevant meetings.

Terms of Reference of the Working Group

1. The duties are to:

- A. Advise the Commission in carrying out its duties under Article 20 of the Helsinki Convention, especially in relation to Articles 3, 7, 11, 13, 15, 16, 24 as well as Annex V;
- B. Provide technical and scientific support for the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, Ministerial Declarations and HELCOM Recommendations as well as propose strategies, guidelines and recommendations in the area of its expertise according to the existing priorities as well as requests by the Heads of Delegations and subsidiary bodies;
- C. Coordinate and implement the monitoring and assessment activities of HELCOM related to biodiversity, and status of and effects on the marine environment with regards to eutrophication, hazardous substances, including radioactive substances, marine litter and underwater noise, as well as integrated assessment of human pressures and their impacts affecting the sea state, thereby implementing the HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy;
- D. Review, develop and promote the implementation of HELCOM goals for biodiversity protection, nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources;
- E. Develop, propose and follow-up measures for protection of biodiversity and nature conservation.

To fulfill these duties the Working Group will:

1. Ensure implementation of the HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy, including development of necessary manuals and guidelines i.a. related to quality assurance, taking into account the existing international guidance documents;
2. Be responsible for functioning of the HELCOM Joint Coordinated Monitoring system covering all aspects from flora and fauna of the Baltic Sea to water quality and human pressures;
3. Be responsible for that HELCOM core indicators, with associated targets are developed and operationalized to serve e.g. holistic assessments according to the goals and objectives of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, HELCOM Ministerial Declarations, and the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive for those Contracting Parties also being EU Member States;
4. Guide periodic assessments of:
 - biodiversity, eutrophication, hazardous substances, marine litter and underwater noise, thereby providing building blocks for HELCOM Holistic assessments;
 - threat status of Baltic Sea species and habitats/biotopes;
 - the status and progress towards an ecologically coherent and effectively managed network of HELCOM coastal and marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and strive for harmonized approach in reporting, including its timing taking into account the work on global and European level;
 - regional climate change and its implications on the Baltic Sea ecosystem in cooperation with Baltic Earth (BALTEX), and recommend actions as appropriate;
5. Assess human pressures and impacts as part of the Holistic assessments, e.g. utilizing inputs from other HELCOM subsidiary bodies on e.g. waterborne and airborne inputs of nutrients and hazardous substances, oils spills, etc.;
6. Prepare proposals for measures for the conservation and protection of species and coastal and marine habitats and biotopes and follow up on implementation of measures, e.g. in order to initiate protection of highly endangered species and threatened habitats and biotopes;
7. Further develop the system of coastal and marine protected areas and promote monitoring and research in these areas;

8. Cooperate with, and seek synergies with relevant work carried out in other international organizations and institutions and processes relevant for the group such as ICES, EEA, JRC, OSPAR, Convention on Biological Diversity, MSFD Common Implementation Strategy, etc.;
9. Develop and maintain the regional data and information systems needed to carry out its tasks;
10. Contribute to other deliverables and activities as requested and prioritized by HELCOM.

The Working Group will report to the Heads of Delegation.

Work Plan for HELCOM Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation (State and Conservation) 2017-2018

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
Task 1: Implementation of the HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy , including development of necessary manuals and guidelines i.a. related to quality assurance, taking into account the existing international guidance documents				
1.1	Review existing HELCOM monitoring guidelines and develop new guidelines for new monitoring sub-programmes included in the HELCOM Monitoring Manual. The review and development should include QA/QC guidelines.	State and Conservation, Seal EG, ZEN-QAI, PEG, FISH-PRO II, MORS	Development of core indicators	Ongoing- mid-2017
1.2	Review and revision of HELCOM Recommendation 19/3 on monitoring	State and Conservation		To start when guidelines (task 1.1) have been revised. Aim for adoption of revised Recommendation by HELCOM 39 (2018).
Task 2: Functioning of the HELCOM Joint Coordinated Monitoring system covering all aspects from flora and fauna of the Baltic Sea to water quality and human pressures				
2.1a)	Development of a coordinated monitoring programme. When indicators have been further developed and revised national monitoring programmes have been implemented, an analysis of the coherence and adequacy of the HELCOM Monitoring programmes should be considered.	State and Conservation	HOLAS II project Base the analysis on information of national monitoring programmes and requirements for core indicators. Initiate in 2018. Overall low priority.	2018
2.1b)	Development of a coordinated monitoring programme. Review data arrangements for existing components of HELCOM monitoring and develop data arrangements for those components without existing reporting structure e.g. for birds, coastal fish, seals, benthic habitat monitoring, marine litter, underwater noise, hydrography	State and Conservation Seal EG, ZEN-QAI, PEG, FISH-PRO II Secretariat [possibly supported by project]	Data needs for HOLAS II project BalticBOOST project, TAPAS Project	Ongoing - mid-2017

2.2	Develop a reporting system on prioritized human activities and pressures, building on the existing HELCOM reporting, to regularly collect harmonized data for HELCOM assessments	State and Conservation Other WGs Secretariat	Data needs for HOLAS II project. Link to MSP needs.	Ad hoc activities ongoing. Identification of priorities for regular reporting in autumn 2017 utilizing HOLAS II experience.
2.3	Establish a set technical standards which may be used for monitoring ambient underwater noise in the Baltic Sea	State and Conservation	Technical standards proposed by the Life+BIAS project was presented to State and Conservation 3-2015 but was not agreed. A proposal from the BIAS project for a coordinated monitoring programme of underwater presented at State and Conservation 4-2016.	2017-2018
<p>Task 3: Development of operational HELCOM core indicators, with associated targets to serve e.g. holistic assessments according to the goals and objectives of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, HELCOM Ministerial Declarations, and the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive for those Contracting Parties also being EU Member States</p>				
3.1	Development of HELCOM core, pre-core and candidate indicators, including for biodiversity, hazardous substance, marine litter, underwater noise, input of nutrients	State and Conservation Pressure	Indicators to be used in HOLAS II, relevant for MSP	Ongoing. Core indicators to be used for HOLAS II operational by March 2017.
3.2	Further development of eutrophication core indicators Operationalization of eutrophication assessment system	State and Conservation EN-Eutrophication supported by EUTRO-OPER EXTENDED	Indicators to be used in HOLAS II	Ongoing activity under EN-Eutrophication supported by project EUTRO-OPER EXTENDED until end of 2016.
<p>Task 4 Periodic assessments of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - biodiversity, eutrophication, hazardous substances, marine litter and underwater noise, thereby providing building blocks for HELCOM Holistic assessments; - threat status of Baltic Sea species and habitats/biotopes; - the status and progress towards an ecologically coherent and effectively managed network of HELCOM coastal and marine Protected Areas (MPAs¹), and strive for harmonized approach in reporting, including its timing taking into account the work on global and European level; - regional climate change and its implications on the Baltic Sea ecosystem in cooperation with Baltic Earth (BALTEX), and recommend actions as appropriate 				

4.1	Carry out thematic assessments of hazardous substances, biodiversity, eutrophication and a holistic assessment of the Ecosystem health of the Baltic Sea as part of the HOLAS II project	State and Conservation HOLAS II		Carried out by April 2017 and by April 2018 as part of HOLAS II.
4.2	Thematic assessment on radioactivity for the period 2011-2015	State and Conservation MORS EG	Should feed into HOLAS II	Ongoing – to be presented to State and Conservation in spring 2017.
4.3	Thematic assessment on coastal fish for the period 2008-2015	State and Conservation FISH-PRO II	Should feed into HOLAS II	Ongoing - early 2017
4.4	Assessment of the risk of extinction of species and biotopes (HELCOM Red List)	State and Conservation [Project needs to be establish]	How to use existing HELCOM Red List in HOLAS II?	Open. [STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2016 to discuss timing of next Red List assessment]
4.5	Micropollutants in effluents from wastewater treatment plants	State and Conservation Pressure	Pressure WG is lead on the action	2017
4.6	Thematic assessment on climate change	State and Conservation Cooperation with BalticEarth anticipated		2018-
Task 5: Assess human pressures and impacts as part of the Holistic assessments, e.g. utilizing inputs from other HELCOM subsidiary bodies on e.g. waterborne and airborne inputs of nutrients and hazardous substances, oils spills, etc.				
5.1	Carry out an assessment of human pressures on the Baltic Sea	State and Conservation HOLAS II Pressure	Pressure WG to feed in data and support retrieval of data	Carried out by April 2017 and April 2018 as part of HOLAS II.

Task 6: Prepare proposals for measures for the conservation and protection of species and coastal and marine habitats and biotopes and follow up on implementation of measures, e.g. in order to initiate protection of highly endangered species and threatened habitats and biotopes				
6.1	New HELCOM Recommendation on conservation plans for habitats and biotopes at risk of extinction	State and Conservation Lead country Germany		Ongoing. Aim for adoption at HELCOM 38 (2017).
6.2	Identify regional priorities for ecosystem restoration in the Baltic Sea	State and Conservation	Related to Aichi target. Look into strengthening biotope related work after HOLAS II in 2018	2018
6.3	Follow-up HELCOM Recommendation 34E/1 on safeguarding important bird habitats and migration routes in the Baltic Sea from negative effects of wind and wave energy production at sea).	State and Conservation Contracting Parties	Focus in a first step (2017) on the development of maps of migration routes. Initiate a follow-up the Recommendation as as whole in 2018. Linked to the protection of seabirds in the Baltic sea, taking into consideration migratory species and need for co-operation with other regions through conventions and institutions such as the agreement on conservation of African Eurasian migratory waterbirds (AEWA) under the convention on migratory species (CMS), and particularly in the North sea (OSPAR) and Arctic (Arctic council), and the Birds Directive. Linked to 6.2, link to MSP	2017-2018
6.4	Increase positive incentives to enhance reduction of pressures on biodiversity and “elimination by 2020 of incentives and subsidies which could be harmful to biodiversity”	State and Conservation	Proposed to be reflected in the section measures in HOLAS II.	2017-2018
6.5	Activities to support conservation of Baltic Sea species and biotopes/habitats categorized as threatened according to the HELCOM Red List.	State and Conservation	First step of the action has been carried out to make an inventory of existing measures that will contribute to the improved status of threatened species and biotopes/habitats	2017-2018

			and analyze if they are sufficient to improve the state of those species	
Task 7: Further develop the system of coastal and marine protected areas and promote monitoring and research in these areas				
7.1	Coordination of management measures of pressures and impacts on MPAs, in particular for adjacent transnational MPAs	State and Conservation [tentatively through project]	First step of the action has been carried out: identify adjacent transnational MPAs using HELCOM MPA database and invite Contracting Parties to inform on any contacts between MPA managers	2017-2018
7.2	How to consider MPAs in Maritime Spatial Planning and vice versa?	State and Conservation HELCOM-VASAB MSP [tentatively through project]		2017-2018
7.3	Develop joint tools/approach for assessing effectiveness of spatial protection measures for individual sites as well as network level.	State and Conservation		2017-2018
Task 8: Cooperate with, and seek synergies with relevant work carried out in other international organizations and institutions and processes relevant for the group such as ICES, EEA, JRC, OSPAR, Convention on Biological Diversity, MSFD Common Implementation Strategy, etc.				
8.1	Continued co-operation with ASCOBANS and updating of the coordinated reporting system and database on Baltic harbour porpoise sightings, by-catches, strandings and acoustic observations	State and Conservation SEAL EG		Reporting of harbour porpoise observations annually at the Seal EG meeting
Task 9: Develop and maintain the regional data and information systems needed to carry out its tasks				
9.1	Develop detailed landscape and biotope maps	State and Conservation	Draft maps on key habitat forming species available through HOLAS II. Aim to base mapping on HUB through initiatives by Contracting Parties.	2018 - make an updated inventory of national mapping
9.2	Modernization of HELCOM data management and systems, including expansion of the HELCOM Geographic Information System (GIS) system to show the progress towards a healthy Baltic Sea	Secretariat	link to MSP, cooperation with OSPAR, EEA, ICES TAPAS project	HELCOM Data and Map service will be updated in 2017.

Continuous or annual activities under the State and Conservation Working Group

ACTIVITY	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
Implementation of Recommendation 26/3 Monitoring of radioactive substances	State and Conservation MORS		Annually
Reporting on HELCOM Recommendations under State and Conservation	State and Conservation		Annually
Update Baltic Sea Environmental Fact Sheets (BSEFS)	State and Conservation BSEFS authors (e.g. Seal EG, PEG, FISH-PRO II, MORS, Response, HELCOM data consultants and responsible national institutes etc.)	Supporting information to be used in HOLAS II	Annually or when new data is available
Update of national information in the modernized MPA database	Contracting Parties		Annually
Seek opportunities to collaborate with OSPAR in the development of indicators, the development of monitoring guidelines, and as otherwise appropriate	State and Conservation		Continuous
Keep up to date a list of non-indigenous and cryptogenic species for the Baltic Sea	State and Conservation	Feed into the HELCOM Maritime work on updating the list of HELCOM Target Species for ballast water management	Continuous
Communicate to relevant authorities and institutions the needs for adequate knowledge on by-caught birds, mammals and threatened fish species, in particular sturgeon, including monitoring and reporting systems	State and Conservation Seal EG	Activities under Fish Group ICES and ASCOBANS by-catch groups	Continuous

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR HELCOM GROUP ON ECOSYSTEM-BASED SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES
(adopted by HELCOM HOD 46-2014)

The new group will deal with fisheries in relation to the implementation of the ecosystem-based approach. Fisheries in the Baltic Sea is among the sectors having the largest environmental impact on the status of the marine environment, including its biodiversity, and The group will respond to the need to find solutions how the sector could further contribute to reaching Good Environmental Status of the Baltic Sea by 2021.

The new group will involve representatives from fisheries and environment authorities of the Baltic Sea countries, as well as EU, and HELCOM Observers and others as appropriate.

The Group will facilitate the implementation and follow-up the progress in fisheries-related actions of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan and Ministerial Declarations, including the 2013 Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration. The Group will seek to recognize the interactions between fisheries and environmental conservation objectives with the view to contribute to achieving the objectives of fisheries and environment policies simultaneously.

The Group will produce and contribute, as appropriate, to relevant deliverables and milestones of the Roadmap of HELCOM activities on ecosystem approach in a manner coordinated with other ongoing HELCOM processes. The group will cooperate with other subsidiary bodies i.e. on cross cutting issues, including with GEAR to the extent necessary for GEAR to ensure integration and coherence of work to reach Good Environmental Status of the marine environment across the working groups. The Group will address the outcomes of relevant HELCOM activities and projects such as coastal fish and holistic assessments, and consider the best possible ways to integrate these for the relevant discussions.

The Group will cooperate with ICES and will seek synergies with the work of BALTFISH under the EUSBSR.

It should be recognized that for the EU Member states, the European Union has exclusive competence in the matter of conservation of marine biological resources. The group should create added value, for the HELCOM countries being EU members, in relation to the work on implementation of EU legislation, taking into account the specific needs of the Baltic Sea.

The Group will meet once per year / three times per two years taking into account any window of opportunities for contributing to or interacting with other processes. The ToR of the Group will be time-limited (5 years) and could be extended upon agreement of the HoDs.

Terms of Reference of Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries

The duties of the Group are to:

- A. Advise the Commission in carrying out its duties under Article 20 of the Helsinki Convention, especially in relation to Articles 3, 15, 16 and 24;
- B. Provide support for the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, Ministerial Declarations and HELCOM Recommendations as well as propose strategies, guidelines and recommendations in the area of its expertise according to the existing priorities as well as requests by the Heads of Delegations and subsidiary bodies.

To fulfill these duties the Group will:

1. Facilitate the work and utilise the results of fish- and fisheries related work of HELCOM, including coastal fish network of experts (FISH-PRO II), task force on migratory fish species (FISH-M) and relevant projects;
2. Contribute to recognizing the data gaps that prevent adequately assessing human pressures on the ecosystems in cooperation with relevant bodies, thus contributing to HELCOM holistic assessments;
3. Contribute to operationalization of HELCOM fish-related core indicators from point of view of biodiversity, food webs and seafloor integrity (indicators on commercial fish are dealt with by ICES);

4. In cooperation with relevant authorities and scientific institutions, address fishing practices which have a potential negative impact on conservation goals and/or threatened or declining species and habitats, especially within coastal and marine protected areas; When doing so, take into account environmental issues and processes, such as oxygen depletion, pollution, habitat destruction, and migratory barriers which may affect the quality, abundance and distribution of fish;
5. Further develop co-operation to implement best practices with the view to achieve the established objectives of HELCOM related to migratory fish species, including the corresponding BSAP targets, and in particular taking into account the following commitments of the Copenhagen Ministerial Meeting:

19 (B) WE AGREE to follow-up initiatives addressing salmon and sea trout restoration activities and further development and implementation, by 2015 and onwards, in co-operation with ICES, of

- common practices for breeding, rearing and releasing salmon and sea trout as reintroductions in potential salmonid rivers;*
- investigations of needed improvements for stocking practices (e.g. biological and genetical guidelines);*
- recommendations for riverine and estuarine management and conservation measures, such as fish ways for up and down migration, restoration and protection of spawning grounds, concerning fisheries within rivers and estuaries;*
- comparable methodology for data collection through surveys, especially on recreational fisheries;*

23 (B) WE AGREE to ask for advice from Regional Coordination Groups within the EU Data Collection Framework and ICES on how to improve data collected on such recreational fisheries, with a view to evaluate the impacts of such recreational fisheries on the marine environment;

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6. Develop a new HELCOM Recommendation on sustainable aquaculture by 2014 to substitute the existing HELCOM Recommendation 25/4 aiming at limiting potential environmental impacts of aquaculture activities taking into account the upcoming EU guidelines for aquaculture;
7. Enhance communication and cooperation between the fisheries and environmental administrations of the HELCOM Contracting Parties as well as relevant bodies and institutions, and seek to establish stronger cooperation with ICES, BALTFISH and JBSFC, and Baltic Sea Advisory Council in order to facilitate mutually supportive agenda and maximize synergies between the different bodies.

The Group will report to the Heads of Delegation.

Work Plan of the Group on ecosystem-based sustainable Fisheries (HELCOM FISH), 2017-2018
(approved by HOD 51-2016 and revised by FISH 6-2017)

No.	ACTION	LEAD/RESPONSIBLE	INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
Action 1 Integrated assessment of human impacts¹				
1	Contracting Parties to support the future joint ICES/HELCOM VMS data calls for the ICES & HELCOM advice on the spatial distribution and impact of fishing activities (confidentiality of VMS data for both data transfer and use to be ensured) To formulate a request for ICES advice on fishing intensity e.g. affecting the seabed per a type of fishing gear based on VMS data	HELCOM Secretariat in cooperation with ICES Secretariat Possibly in coordination with OSPAR	The data will support assessing pressures within HOLAS II and mapping human activities affecting seafloor integrity (activity under HELCOM Gear Group) ICES Working Group on Spatial Fisheries Data	2016-2017
2	Provide an overview of data collection activities related to i.a.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incidental catch of marine mammals and water birds • recreational fisheries • Based on this overview, assess the presence of data gaps Support other HELCOM processes in their further specification of data needs for the HOLAS II assessment, the MSFD and the implementation of BSAP	FISH group	Supporting information for use in HOLAS II as well as in mapping human activities affecting seafloor integrity (under HELCOM Gear Group) ICES WG on the Ecosystem Effects of Fishing Activities	2016-2018
3	Contribute to operationalization (ensuring quality assured data flow) of fish-related HELCOM regional core indicators (BSAP, and MSFD and CFP for EU countries)			
4	Create a common knowledge base on ghost nets distribution and abundance as well as an estimation of their impacts on the ecosystem	FISH Group	Projects e.g. WWF Poland project on retrieval of ghost nets Danish initiative on ghost net distribution and abundance assessment MARELITT	2017-2018

¹ Contribute to recognizing **the data gaps** that prevent adequately assessing human pressures on the ecosystems in cooperation with relevant bodies, thus contributing to HELCOM **holistic assessments**, and contribute to operationalization of HELCOM **fish-related core indicators** from point of view of biodiversity, food webs and seafloor integrity (indicators on commercial fish are dealt with by ICES)

Action 2 Sustainable fisheries practices²				
5	<p>Provide tools for sustainable fishing practices, including to address by-catch of fish, birds and mammals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the outcomes of projects such as BalticBOOST and Baltic SCOPE Compile best practices on sustainable fisheries management in Marine Protected Areas • Testing and use of the tools when implementing sustainable fishing methods and practices into MPA management plans • Promotion of research of fishing gear impacts on marine species and biotopes • Input to development of fisheries management and technical measures to minimize: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ unwanted by-catch of fish, birds and mammals (BSAP target: close to zero by-catch rates and minimized damage to sea bed habitat, [actions agreed in FISH 2-2015 on hot spots and measures]) ○ seafloor impacts from fishing gear ○ damage to catches by marine mammals 	Contracting Parties	<p>Utilise the outcomes of updated work on red listed species and habitats in the Baltic Sea, HELCOM MPAs database</p> <p>Possibly utilize information from coastal fish monitoring and assessment (FISH-PRO II)</p> <p>Poland is leading an activity on compiling information on low impact fishing gears. Cooperation with BSAC to be explored.</p>	<p>2017-2018</p> <p>Continuous</p>
6	Follow up on the development of principles for setting an environmental target for seafloor integrity	Lead by GEAR group	BENTHIS project work on the Baltic/North Sea	2017
Action 3. Migratory fish species³				
7	Exchange of information on national eel management in the coastal countries including i.a.:	FISH-M	Seminar/targeted meeting under Fish-M to present national management plans and consider regional	summer 2017

² In cooperation with relevant authorities and scientific institutions, address fishing practices which have a potential negative impact on conservation goals and/or threatened or declining species and habitats, especially within **coastal** and **marine protected areas**. When doing so, take into account environmental issues and processes, such as oxygen depletion, pollution, habitat destruction, and migratory barriers which may affect the quality, abundance and distribution of fish

³ Further develop co-operation to implement best practices with the view to achieve the established objectives of HELCOM related to **migratory fish species**, including the corresponding BSAP targets, and in particular taking into account the commitments 19(B) and 23(B) of the Copenhagen Ministerial Meeting.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tackling assumed illegal catches (to assess the scale of the problem and look for solutions for proper enforcement), traceability/tracking of eel data gaps and collection methods links to international eel management (e.g. CMS) development and financing of dedicated projects other relevant issues as appropriate <p>The above is carried out with the aim of a Baltic wide stock status assessment and facilitating subsequent action, to be further developed at the appropriate fora.</p>		<p>collaboration related to the implementation of national management plans on eel, for EU countries in relation to the EC regulation on eel⁴ 2017.</p> <p>Participants should preferably include representatives from management bodies, scientific experts and relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Sweden to host a workshop on eel in the Baltic Sea in autumn 2017</p>	
8	Compile best practices on River restoration	Fish-M	<p>Workshop on river restoration best practices in May 2017 hosted by Denmark</p> <p>If funded, RETROUT project WP on river restoration 2018</p>	summer 2017
9	<p>Reporting on the implementation of HELCOM Recommendation 32/33-1 and following up on the below activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the active conservation of at least ten endangered/threatened wild salmon river populations in the Baltic Sea region as well as the reintroduction of native Baltic Sea salmon in at least four potential salmon rivers, by 2009, common practices for breeding, rearing and releasing salmon as reintroduction in potential salmon rivers, investigating needed improvements for stocking practices (e.g. biological and genetic guidelines), as well as model recommendations for protection and conservation measures such as fish ways for up and down migration, restoration and protection of spawning grounds, fishery regulation for the river and estuaries; 	Fish-M	<p>Updating of 2012 report by May 2017</p> <p>Evaluation on the status and revision needs of HELCOM Recommendation 32/33-1 based on updated information and EU Salmon management plan developments by 2018</p>	
Action 4 HELCOM Recommendation on sustainable aquaculture⁴				

⁴ Develop a new HELCOM **Recommendation on sustainable aquaculture** by 2014 to substitute the existing HELCOM Recommendation 25/4 aiming at limiting potential environmental impacts of aquaculture activities taking into account the upcoming EU guidelines for aquaculture

10	A follow up on the HELCOM Recommendation on Sustainable Aquaculture on BAT and BEP	Fish Group in consultation with the CG on Aquaculture	Translation of existing reports and application to support continuation of the work Swedish report compiling existing technologies [Seed money project if funded] [NCM project if funded] Meeting of CG Aquaculture 26 September 2017	2017-2018
Action 5 Cooperation between authorities and with stakeholders⁵				
11	Look for the ways how to cooperate in practise, e.g. with BALTFISH Liaise with Aquaculture Advisory Council soon to be operationalized	[Country acting as a liaison between Fish and BALTFISH]		continuous
Action 6 Follow up of the Baltic Sea Action Plan⁶				
12	Support the follow up implementation of the of BSAP and Ministerial commitments regarding fisheries impact and conservation of fish species Identify ways and propose actions to fill any gaps and shortcoming identified in the follow up.	Fish Group	Contribution to work of the Gear group	Continuous

⁵ Enhance communication and cooperation between the fisheries and environmental administrations of the HELCOM Contracting Parties as well as relevant bodies and institutions, seek to establish **stronger cooperation with ICES, BALTFISH and JBSFC, and Baltic Sea Advisory Council** in order to facilitate mutually supportive agenda and maximize synergies between the different bodies

⁶ Provide support for the **implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, Ministerial Declarations and HELCOM Recommendations** as well as propose strategies, guidelines and recommendations in the area of its expertise according to the existing priorities as well as requests by the Heads of Delegations and subsidiary bodies

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE MARITIME GROUP

(approved by HELCOM HOD 9-2002)

The duties of the Maritime Group (HELCOM MARITIME) of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission are:

To advise the Commission in discharging its duties under Article 20 of the Helsinki Convention adopted at the Diplomatic Conference on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, Helsinki 9 April 1992, especially in respect of matters related to Articles 3 "Fundamental principles and obligations", 8 "Prevention of pollution from ships", 9 "Pleasure craft", 10 "Prohibition of incineration", 11 "Prevention of dumping", 12 "Exploration and exploitation of the seabed and its subsoil", 16 "Reporting and exchange of information" and 24 "Scientific and technological co-operation" as well as Annexes IV "Prevention of pollution from ships" and VI "Prevention of pollution from offshore activities" of the Convention, in relation to:

- I) Identification of current and emerging issues related to sea-based sources of pollution and proposals for actions to limit emissions and discharges, and in particular:
 - i) to consider ways and means to manage risks and potential threats from the increasing maritime transportation in the Baltic Sea area, including the introduction of non-native aquatic species and air pollution, especially NOx emissions;
 - ii) to follow-up the Baltic Strategy regarding Port Reception Facilities for Ship-generated Wastes and Associated Issues, including adequacy of port reception facilities, mandatory delivery and the "no-special-fee" system;
 - iii) to take measures to prevent pollution resulting from exploration or exploitation of the seabed or subsoil;
- II) Identification of current and emerging issues related to maritime safety and proposals to enhance the safety of navigation with a view to prevent pollution from ships, and in particular:
 - i) to consider ways and means to avoid accidents due to the increasing maritime transportation in the Baltic Sea area;
 - ii) to follow-up and assess the status of implementation of the HELCOM Copenhagen Declaration
- III) Ensuring successful convictions of offenders of anti-pollution regulations
 - i) to take measures to increase the numbers of successful convictions of offenders;
 - ii) to enhance trans-national co-operation between competent authorities engaged in investigation/prosecution of offenders of anti-pollution regulations;
- IV) Co-operating with other international organizations
 - i) to provide for the coordination of the efforts of the Contracting Parties to the Convention in the work of other international organizations, especially the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the European Community (EC);
- V) Monitoring and assessing the implementation by the Contracting Parties of the Helsinki Convention and the HELCOM Recommendations in the maritime field, and in particular:
 - i) to co-ordinate the reporting.

Work Plan for the HELCOM Maritime Working Group 2016-2018 (adopted by HOD 51-2016 and updated by MARITIME 17-2017)

ACTION	INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES/RESPONSIBLE	RESULTS/TIME FRAME
Measures and actions enhancing maritime safety		
Propose additional safety measures, including routing measures	HELCOM MARITIME	Meetings of HELCOM MARITIME Meetings of HELCOM SAFE NAV
Follow-up implementation of HELCOM Recommendation 34E/2 on e-navigation	HELCOM SAFE NAV HELCOM AIS EWG	Continuous
Maintain and update the “HELCOM Transit Guide for the Baltic Sea” – chart and web page version	Lead countries: - chart - Germany - web page version - Denmark	Continuous
Contribute to HELCOM Maritime Spatial Planning work with maritime input	HELCOM - VASAB MSP WG HELCOM Secretariat HELCOM MARITIME	Continuous
Follow-up, contribute to and utilize the results of various risk assessments of shipping accidents in the Baltic Sea	In co-operation with HELCOM RESPONSE OPENRISK project	Meetings of HELCOM SAFE NAV
Continue the development of AIS Application Specific Messages and promote their use in the Baltic Sea	HELCOM AIS EWG	Continuous
Co-operate with the Monitoring Working Group of BSHC to speed-up hydrographic re-surveys and support other hydrographic activities and follow-up the implementation of the Revised re-survey scheme and its time schedules agreed during the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting	Contracting Parties HELCOM MARITIME	National analyses on the need to revise the re-survey scheme areas based on traffic density maps
Co-operate with Baltic Icebreaking Management to further improve the safety of navigation in ice conditions	Contracting Parties	Meetings of HELCOM MARITIME
Implement actions to facilitate the use of ECDIS in the Baltic Sea	HELCOM MARITIME	Meetings of HELCOM MARITIME
Implement HELCOM Recommendation 31E/5 on Mutual Plan for Places of Refuge	Contracting Parties In co-operation with HELCOM RESPONSE	

ACTION	INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES/RESPONSIBLE	RESULTS/TIME FRAME
Consideration of the ways to further reduce emissions and discharges from shipping		
Follow-up the designation of the Baltic Sea as a Special Area under Annex IV of MARPOL for sewage discharges from passenger ships	HELCOM MARITIME Cooperation Platform on Special Area according to MARPOL Annex IV Germany as lead for HELCOM work on PRF Best Practices	Continuous
Follow-up new developments regarding availability of technology to treat sewage to Special Area standards and promote harmonised application of Special Area requirements	HELCOM MARITIME Cooperation Platform on Special Area according to MARPOL Annex IV	Continuous
Investigate and consider introduction of economic incentives for reducing emissions from ships, which are not covered by Annex VI Tier III	Contracting Parties GREEN TEAM	Meetings of HELCOM MARITIME
Investigate and consider alternative fuels and green technology for shipping, including following up improvements in Tier III technologies	HELCOM MARITIME GREEN TEAM Joint platform on alternative fuels and green technology for shipping, together with CBSS	HELCOM MARITIME
Follow-up implementation of more stringent limits of SOx emissions that came into force in 2015	HELCOM MARITIME	Continuous
Assessment whether there is room/need for other HELCOM measures to address emissions from shipping	HELCOM MARITIME	Continuous
Port Reception Facilities		
Carry out activities according to the work plan for 2016-2018 of the Cooperation Platform on Special Area according to MARPOL Annex IV	HELCOM MARITIME Members of the Cooperation Platform on Special Area according to MARPOL Annex IV	Continuous Meetings of the PRF Cooperation Platform (events in cooperation with other actors)
Monitor the availability of PRF for sewage in the Baltic Sea region, and upgrade if necessary	Contracting Parties	Continuous
Submit HELCOM Overview on Sewage PRFs to IMO MEPC	Contracting Parties HELCOM MARITIME	MEPC 73

ACTION	INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES/RESPONSIBLE	RESULTS/TIME FRAME
Identify further gaps in availability of PRF for other ship-generated wastes than sewage, mandatory delivery of waste and the application of the “no-special-fee” system, and propose measures to fill in these gaps	Contracting Parties	Continuous
Regional implementation of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships’ Ballast Water and Sediments		
Carry out work according to the Baltic BWMC implementation plan enabling harmonized implementation and ratification of the BWMC	HELCOM MARITIME COMPLETE Project	HELCOM MARITIME 18-2018
Implementing a harmonized BWMC A-4 exemption system in the Baltic Sea	HELCOM MARITIME in co-operation with OSPAR HELCOM-OSPAR TG BALLAST	Continuous
Regularly update the Baltic Sea target species list	HELCOM MARITIME Target Species List Expert (Correspondence) Group led by Finland Information on progress will be provided to HELCOM STATE & CONSERVATION and TG BALLAST	Continuous
Co-operation to ensure enforcement of regulations and detection, investigation and successful conviction of offenders of anti-pollution regulations		
Co-operate with the Paris MoU and EMSA, e.g. to obtain statistics on PSC or national inspections from the EMSA databases THETIS and THETIS-S	HELCOM Secretariat Contracting Parties	HELCOM MARITIME 18-2018
Apply for advisor status of HELCOM to Paris MoU on Port State Control	HELCOM MARITIME	Action to be reconsidered during HELCOM MARITIME 18-2018 with alternative ways to deliver the needed information exchange.
Collection and analyses of the statistics on ships’ movements in the Baltic and on environmental impact of shipping/experience exchange		
Monitor emissions from ships in the Baltic Sea Area	Lead country: Finland	Annual reports on emissions to HELCOM MARITIME meetings
Collect and compile information on shipping accidents in the Baltic Sea	HELCOM Secretariat/ Contracting Parties	Annual HELCOM report on shipping accidents Accident data 2016/2017 to be requested in January 2018.

ACTION	INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES/RESPONSIBLE	RESULTS/TIME FRAME
Analyse and use annual HELCOM reports on illegal discharges observed during aerial surveillance	In co-operation with HELCOM RESPONSE	Meetings of HELCOM MARITIME
Uphold, maintain and further develop the HELCOM AIS System	HELCOM AIS EWG	Continuous
Analyse AIS based information on the shipping in the Baltic	Contracting Parties HELCOM Secretariat	Continuous HELCOM Maritime Assessment
Regulating access to AIS information according to HELCOM Recommendation 33/1	HELCOM AIS EWG national contact points HELCOM Secretariat	Continuous
HELCOM Assessment on Maritime Activities	HELCOM MARITIME HELCOM Secretariat	By end of 2017
Produce thematic assessments and GES relevant indicators related to Maritime Activities to support work of HELCOM GEAR and STATE & CONSERVATION	HELCOM MARITIME HELCOM Secretariat	Continuous
Information to mariners		
Update and disseminate the revised HELCOM Baltic Sea Clean Shipping Guide	HELCOM Secretariat	Update when needed
Other tasks stemming from implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (Maritime Activities segment)		
Further address marine litter, including the problem of "ghost fishing"	[KIMO] HELCOM PRESSURE WS RAP ML October 2017 Contracting Parties	According to the Baltic Sea Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter agreed by 2015
Further consider noise from shipping and leisure vessels and its environmental effects according to HELCOM roadmap on underwater noise and in light of the developments at the international level in IMO	HELCOM MARITIME	HELCOM MARITIME 18-2018
Exchange information about offshore activities	HELCOM MARITIME HELCOM RESPONSE	Continuous

ACTION	INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES/RESPONSIBLE	RESULTS/TIME FRAME
Consider an assessment of pleasure craft activities in the Baltic Sea region including, <i>i.a.</i> , environmental impacts and risks of accidents	EBA, Contracting Parties	by 2018
Consider joint proposals to IMO on clean and safe shipping in the Baltic Sea	HELCOM MARITIME	Continuous

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR HELCOM GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH (HELCOM GEAR)

As agreed by the HELCOM Heads of Delegation on 17 September 2014

The Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach will work towards region-wide co-operation on all elements of national marine strategies, building both on national activities based on a legal framework and HELCOM's work, such as HELCOM's coordinated monitoring programmes, core indicators with good environmental status boundaries, thematic and integrated assessment reports, including assessment of pressures on the marine environment, as well as commonly agreed measures, with the view to facilitate adaptive management and strive for improved state of the Baltic Sea.

The Group will serve as a regional instrument for the national work of the HELCOM EU Contracting States in implementing the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive. For the MSFD related coordination for those Contracting Parties that are also EU member states, the tasks of the group will in particular cover Articles 8 (Assessment), 9 (Determination of good environmental status), 10 (Establishment of environmental targets), 11 (Monitoring programmes) and 13 (Programmes of measures).

It will also include coordination with activities under the Maritime Doctrine of the Russian Federation.

The integration and coherence between the working groups and coherent implementation of the ecosystem approach in HELCOM (reflected with dashed line in the organogram on the HELCOM working structure) will be the specific role of GEAR, in practice requiring that GEAR will continue planning activities that support regional coordination, steering the development in relevant projects and of relevant deliverables according to the Roadmap of HELCOM activities on ecosystem approach. GEAR will also continue to serve as initiator of the processes and review the relevant deliverables to guarantee that these have an optimal timing and content responding to management and policy needs. GEAR, however, will not be expected to verify scientific-technical content of any deliverables and that task should rest at the other subsidiary bodies. By this, GEAR will be facilitating the work and decision-making of the Heads of Delegation, and HOD will have possibility to focus the discussions on more strategic and policy relevant issues, since the scientific-technical outcomes will be coordinated from the management needs perspective by GEAR.

GEAR will analyse relationships between activities of HELCOM and EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and propose ways on how to get better synergies in the implementation and improve coordination between HELCOM and the EU Strategy.

Based on the general rule that projects are decided by the Heads of Delegation, the Group will have an initiative to propose setting up projects.

Meetings will be scheduled to keep up with the HELCOM activities and coordinate with other relevant meetings.

Terms of Reference of the Group*Background*

The HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) adopted by HELCOM in 2007 contains a set of actions to achieve a Baltic Sea in Good Environmental Status by 2021.

For those HELCOM Contracting Parties being also EU Member States the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD, 2008/56/EC) establishes a framework within which the Member States shall take the necessary measures to achieve or maintain good environmental status of the marine environment by the year 2020 at the latest (Article 1).

For the Russian Federation, the relevant policy document enhancing the delivery of good environmental status is the Maritime Doctrine of the Russian Federation.

The HELCOM Moscow Ministerial Declaration on the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (2010) *inter alia*:

- stresses that shared scientific understanding and quantification of the good environmental status are to be used in policy making at the international, regional and national levels,
- contains the decisions:
 - to develop the role of HELCOM as the main driving force of the implementation of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities in the Baltic Sea marine area,
 - to establish, for those HELCOM Contracting Parties being also EU Member States, the role of HELCOM as the coordination platform for the regional implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), including striving for harmonised national marine strategies for achieving good environmental status according to the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan and the EU MSFD,
 - that core set of indicators with quantitative targets shall be developed for each of the segments of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, while ensuring that the indicators can also be used for the other international monitoring and reporting requirements *inter alia* the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive,

The HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration (2013) states that in order to further align the implementation of the ecosystem approach through HELCOM BSAP, MSFD implemented by the HELCOM contracting Parties being also EU Member States and the Maritime doctrine of the Russian Federation, the Contracting Parties decided to:

- promote the regional knowledge and specificities of the Baltic Sea at the European and international fora;
- use limited resources effectively by better drawing on synergies between the work of HELCOM, other relevant international organizations, including Regional Seas Organizations, and the Common MSFD Implementation Strategy;
- produce joint documentation in support of regional coordination and coherence – “Baltic Sea roof reports”.

The duties of HELCOM GEAR are to:

- A. Advise the Commission in discharging its duties under Article 20 of the Helsinki Convention.
- B. Steer the process of successful implementation of the HELCOM BSAP and subsequent decisions of the HELCOM Ministerial Meetings from managerial point of view, to meet the ecological objectives and achieve good ecological/ environmental status of the Baltic Sea by 2021 at the latest, as well as propose “Baltic Sea roof reports”, strategies, and recommendation according to the existing priorities as well as requests by the Heads of Delegation.

To fulfill these duties the Group will:

1. Act as the responsible body for the regional coordination for the implementation of the MSFD, for those Contracting Parties that are also EU Member States, and to include coordination with activities under the Maritime Doctrine of the Russian Federation, with the aim to achieve respective coherent national marine strategies (Assessments; Determination of Good Environmental Status; Establishment of environmental targets; Monitoring programmes, Programmes of measures);
2. Identify areas where there is a need for consistency and opportunities for cooperation and coordination between HELCOM and other Regional Seas Conventions focusing on OSPAR and the Black Sea Commission;
3. Serve as a platform for exchange of information on related national activities and link the implementation of the BSAP and subsequent decisions of the HELCOM Ministerial Meetings to activities under other

international frameworks, especially the Marine Strategy Framework Directive for those Contracting Parties that are also EU Member States, including ensuring that national programmes of measures are developed towards the same directions to meet the common goals and thus they incorporate and reinforce the BSAP measures and HELCOM recommendations in national work;

4. Act as a managerial level coordination body and give guidance and ensure coordination of scientific and technical activities of HELCOM, including to:
 - a) integrate and utilize the work of other working groups and projects so as to ensure the implementation of the ecosystem approach,
 - b) communicate the needs for activities and deliverables (e.g. their content and timing) to other HELCOM subsidiary bodies,
 - c) see to the timely finalization of the processes and delivery of products, following the scrutiny in the scientific and technical working groups,
 - d) propose/initiate projects according to HELCOM needs,
 - e) assist and guide in identifying funding to implement relevant activities in accordance with the Roadmap of HELCOM activities on ecosystem approach.

Participation

The Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach will preferably consist of nominated representatives of HELCOM Contracting Parties who work nationally to implement the Baltic Sea Action Plan and/or the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). Chairs and Vice-Chairs of HELCOM subsidiary bodies will be invited to the Meetings. In addition, HELCOM observers will be invited to participate. HELCOM GEAR may invite additional experts on a case by case basis to participate in its work.

The Group will report to the HELCOM HODs.