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<b>Document title</b>	Availability of fisheries data to be applied in MSP
<b>Code</b>	2-4
<b>Category</b>	INF
<b>Agenda Item</b>	2 - Building up future common regional MSP framework
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## Background

The HELCOM Brussels Ministerial Meeting re-affirmed the strong commitment of the Contracting Parties to strengthen the implementation of the BSAP and the follow-up of declarations, by 2021. HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 17-2018 identified not yet accomplished MSP related actions of (Annex 2 to the outcome of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 17-2018). One of the unaccomplished actions was:

“Continue to work to develop common procedures to facilitate the sharing of aggregated data on fisheries activities in the Baltic Sea in an applicable format for the purpose of assessing pressures on marine and coastal ecosystems e.g. to be applied in maritime spatial planning”.

HELCOM Fish group discussed availability of the aggregated data on fisheries activities in the Baltic Sea and concluded as following.

2.14 In discussing possible advice to HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 18-2019 to facilitate access to fisheries data for MSP purposes, the Meeting recognized that this is a complex matter and noted that work on fisheries data is being conducted in CG Fishdata, that aggregating data before it is analysed reduces the data quality and reliability, and that the GDPR presents challenges when it comes to fisheries data involving individual fishermen.

2.15 The Meeting however noted, that fisheries data is being collected and made available through ICES. The Meeting further noted that the ICES data centre together with ICES working groups have long expertise in matters related to data. ICES noted that some data may be restricted and used by ICES working groups under the ICES data policy. Aggregated and analysed data outputs are also increasingly being made available, in accordance with the ICES Transparent Assessment Framework (TAF). The Meeting noted that although obtaining fisheries data used to be quite challenging, the situation is now much better both nationally and on a regional level, especially in light of the standardized call for data by ICES, which also facilitates the analysing of the data. The Meeting noted information provided by ICES, that a data call is currently in place, and encouraged Contracting Parties to submit data in order to facilitate the process. Outcome of FISH 9-2019 Page 4 of 21

2.16 The Meeting concluded that in order to provide more specific advice to the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG, more detailed information is needed on what type of data is required and what kind of difficulties have been encountered.”

The next meeting of HELCOM FISH group (FISH 10-2019) tentatively will be held in Copenhagen in 25-26 June 2019.

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to discuss the way to identify requirements to the fisheries data to be applied in MSP to facilitate development of common procedures for sharing of aggregated data on fisheries activities in the Baltic Sea.