

HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group 23rd Meeting Online Meeting, 16-17 November 2021



Document title Information on the publication of the climate change on the Climate Change Fact Sheets

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Agenda Item 5 - Intergovernmental cooperation and follow up progress in regional MSP

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Submitted by HELCOM Secretariat

Reference

Background

A joint Expert Network on Climate Change (EN CLIME) was established by HELCOM and Baltic Earth in late 2018 to function as a coordinating framework and a platform to harness the expertise of leading scientists on both direct and indirect effects of climate change on the Baltic Sea environment, and to make this expertise available to, and open up for closer dialogue with policy makers. Through this, this network's purpose is to ensure that new scientific findings on climate change and its impacts on oceans and seas should be visible in HELCOM, as well as find their way into HELCOM decision-making and the day-to-day work.

The overall scope of the network is to facilitate the regional cooperation in relation to climate change and its impacts, including transferring quality assured science to end users, and to provide clear guidance on the level of confidence in information which is presented.

The main goal of EN CLIME is to condense the large body of scientific research into a Climate Change Fact Sheet that is directly utilizable in developing HELCOM core indicators, updating and implementing BSAP, and in preparation of future HELCOM Assessments on climate change.

The first Baltic Sea Climate Change Fact Sheet was published in September 2021 by the Expert Network. It is a first regional summary publication of recent science on climate change in the Baltic Sea region targeting policy makers and the general public. It depicts information on climate change impacts in the region through 36 parameters, showcasing both direct and indirect effects of climate change to Baltic Sea ecosystem. It synthesizes existing detailed peer-reviewed science into concise key messages including confidence assessment of statements. The science behind the key messages has been clearly referenced and information depicted in a concise and visual way. The Fact Sheet has been peer reviewed by external scientists and is expected to be updated every seven years.

The Climate Change Fact Sheet is available via this HELCOM website.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- take note of the information,
- share national experience on the accounting of climate change impacts in MSP and
- <u>discuss</u> perspectives for practical joint activities to contribute to increasing climate change resilience of the Baltic Sea Region.