



Outcome of the 51st Meeting of the Heads of Delegation

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Outcome of the 51st Meeting of the Heads of Delegation

Introduction

- 0.1 The 51st Meeting of the Heads of Delegation was held in Helsinki, Finland, on 14-15 December 2016.
- 0.2 The Meeting was attended by participants from all Contracting Parties and by observers from Baltic Farmers' Forum on Environment (BFFE), Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB), OCEANA and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The List of Participants is contained in **Annex 1**.
- 0.3 The Meeting was chaired by the Chair of the Helsinki Commission, Ms. Marianne Wenning.

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

Documents: 1-1, 1-2

- 1.1 The Meeting adopted the Agenda as contained in document 1-1.

Agenda Item 2 Work plan of the EU Chairmanship of HELCOM

Documents: 2-1

- 2.1 The Meeting welcomed the workplan of the EU Chairmanship of HELCOM and endorsed it as guidance for future HELCOM activities under the EU Chairmanship (document 2-1).
- 2.2 The Meeting noted that the factual correction will be made to the implementation year related to the MARPOL Annex IV in the workplan.

Agenda Item 3 Ongoing global processes related to seas and oceans

Documents: 3-1, 6-14, 3-2

NECA

- 3.1 The Meeting recalled that HELCOM HOD 50-2016 approved the final Baltic Sea NOx Emission Control Area application and the related information document on NOx reducing technology and decided that they will be submitted to the 70th session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (IMO MEPC 70) for consideration after editorial work by Finland.
- 3.2 The Meeting took note that the NECA documents were submitted as agreed to IMO MEPC 70 in July 2016 and that the meeting agreed to the proposals to designate the North Sea and the Baltic Sea as emission control areas for NOx Tier III control with an effective date of 1 January 2021.
- 3.3 The Meeting took note that, as these decisions involve amendments to the MARPOL treaty, the IMO Secretary-General has circulated the related amendments among the Contracting Parties with a view to formal adoption at MEPC 71, scheduled for 3-7 July 2017.
- 3.4 The Meeting highlighted the need to continue developing the technology needed to implement NECA, including to reduce the economic impact to shipowners, and underlined the importance of all Contracting Parties to be actively involved and participate in activities within the framework of HELCOM and other fora.

3.5 The Meeting took note of the information on the ongoing negotiations on the development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ).

3.6 The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to provide their views on the needs to follow up this process from the perspective of HELCOM work as a possible new international instrument would change the global marine policy framework.

G7 Marine Litter

3.7 The Meeting took note of the information by Germany that, based on the positive outcome of G7 action plan to combat marine litter, the intention is to continue this work in the G20 context. A workshop on this issue will be organised on 7-8 March 2017, and Germany will provide more information on the workshop at a later stage.

SOI initiative and Fisheries-Environment cooperation

3.8 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the “Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets” held in Seoul, Korea, on 26-29 September 2016 (document 3-1).

3.9 The Meeting considered in general regional follow-up of global commitments and processes related to closer cooperation between management of fisheries and marine environment, including SDG 14 (document 6-14) and the anticipated role and contribution of HELCOM FISH in this work (see also new HELCOM FISH work plan 2017-2018 in Annex 3 of document 6-14).

3.10 The Meeting took note that the SOI event stressed the need for enhanced cooperation and collaboration at the regional level in the fisheries and environment theme, supported by continual exchange of information and lessons learned, exploring of shared objectives, and addressing issues of common interest.

3.11 The Meeting highlighted that the HELCOM FISH group is in itself a very good example of closer cooperation between management of fisheries and marine environment called for by the SOI event as well as recent global developments within UN General Assembly, FAO, CBD and UNEP.

3.12 The Meeting further stressed that a large number of UN SDG targets (particularly under SDG 14) directly relate to fisheries and highlighted the importance of involvement of national fisheries administrations in SDGs and Aichi Targets implementation in the context of HELCOM work.

3.13 The Meeting recalled that currently no formal regular exchange of information exists between HELCOM groups and the fisheries management work taking place within BALTFISH or the EU-Russia arrangement.

3.14 The Meeting took note that formal arrangement for regular and direct information exchange would enable exploring synergies between activities taking place within the different bodies and remove uncertainties regarding overlap of activities, for the benefit of national work.

3.15 The Meeting supported the plan for closer cooperation between marine environment and fisheries management in the Baltic Sea (document 6-14) and agreed to initiate a process for closer cooperation between HELCOM FISH, BALTFISH and the EU-RU fisheries commission based on the three steps outlined on the cover page of document 6-14. The Meeting agreed that the Chair of HELCOM will initiate communication with BALTFISH and other relevant stakeholders.

3.16 The Meeting noted that HELCOM FISH will consider the issue further based on intersessional developments regarding the cooperation.

3.17 The Meeting took note of the comment by CCB that the success of this proposed closer cooperation depends also on progress within BALTFISH to adopt clear rules of procedure reflecting good governance, including access to decision making meetings for civil society observers or at least providing access to reports containing the decisions made within such meetings.

SDG 14 High level meeting

3.18 The Meeting took note of the information by Sweden on the United Nations Conference “Our oceans, our future: partnering for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14”, to be held on 5-9 June 2017 in New York (2017 SDG 14 Conference), co-hosted by Sweden and Fiji (document 3-2).

3.19 The Meeting discussed a possible HELCOM contribution to and presence at the SDG 14 Conference and agreed on the importance to showcase added value of regional cooperation in Regional Sea Conventions, including in the Baltic Sea being an exemplary region for policy making based on best available science, stakeholder involvement and establishing partnerships for integrated management of human activities.

3.20 The Meeting took note of the information by EU on the recently released joint communication “International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans”, in which improvement and strengthening of regional governance is a key topic.

3.21 The Meeting took note that one viable way to convey HELCOM message at the Conference would be through the Contracting Parties. The Meeting took note that such a regional HELCOM message requires national coordination which should be initiated without delay as a preparatory UN meeting to the Conference will be organised on 15 February 2017 in New York.

3.22 The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to stay in contact with the Secretariat in order to inform on any possibilities to provide input in a form of short draft messages which can be used as material for national consultations in the process of preparing for the SDG 14 Conference, taking into account the conference focus on “partnerships” across different administrations and public and private organisations, and that the showcased HELCOM partnerships could include shipping-environment, environment-fisheries and marine litter.

3.23 The Meeting took note of the information that Sweden will organise a side event at the SDG 14 Conference and welcomed the information that Sweden is inviting HELCOM to present its work at the side event possibly through case studies to demonstrate best practices and lessons learned from the Baltic Sea such as the MAI/CART system as well as recent measures to reduce nutrient pollution.

3.24 The Meeting discussed other possibilities for contributing to the side events in the UN SDG 14 Conference and welcomed an initiative of UN-Environment to organize a side event to demonstrate cooperation among 18 Regional Sea Conventions and Action Plans, including HELCOM.

3.25 The Meeting suggested that the upcoming Intergovernmental Review (IGR-4) event of the UNEP Global Programme of Action (GPA), on land-based sources of pollution, to take place in October 2017 in Indonesia, is also a possibility for HELCOM to provide input.

Our Ocean 2017

3.26 The Meeting took note that the EU will host the global 'Our Ocean' 2017 Conference in Malta which will build on the issues of the ocean and climate change, marine pollution and sustainable fishing. The participants are invited to provide suggestions for conference substance and possible commitments to be made at this Conference (Matjaz.MALGAJ@ec.europa.eu).

Agenda Item 4 Preparations for HELCOM 38-2017 including the high-level segment

Documents: 4-1, 4-2, 4-2-Rev.1, 4-3, 4-4

4.1 The Meeting took note of the Provisional Agenda for the 38th Meeting of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM 38-2017) to be held on 28 February - 1 March 2017 in Helsinki, Finland (document 4-1).

4.2 The Meeting considered the outline for the high-level segment on ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and regional issues important for the Baltic Sea to take place on 28 February 2017 during HELCOM 38-2017 (document 4-2) and agreed on the amended outline including questions for debate (document 4-2-Rev.1).

4.3 The Meeting took note of the information by Germany and Sweden that both countries confirmed representation in the high-level segment and invited all other Contracting Parties to inform about the attendance of their high-level representatives to the Secretariat by **15 January 2017**.

4.4 The Meeting considered an initial proposal for the content of the HELCOM high-level segment 28 February 2017 (document 4-3) and suggested to keep the focus of the segment on HELCOM regional work in the context of SDGs, e.g. climate change issues, effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas in protection of endangered species, fisheries management, marine litter and eutrophication.

4.5 The Meeting took note of the suggestion by WWF to also include a discussion regarding where additional attention is still needed to ensure timely implementation of the agreed actions of the BSAP and to highlight concrete proposals to effectively address remaining roadblocks to further progress.

4.6 The Meeting considered that the outcome of the preparatory meeting on UN SDG Conference, to be held in February 2017, may be a useful contribution for the HELCOM high-level segment.

4.7 The Meeting highlighted that the high-level segment outcome should be structured around few and brief political messages identifying HELCOM's role in regional implementation of SDG and contribution to the global process; that the outcome should also have a clear future oriented aspect. The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to provide comments to the draft outcome by **15 January 2017** with the intention to finalize the outcome by 15 February 2017.

4.8 The Meeting discussed and reviewed the draft document on HELCOM results and targets as aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (document 4-4) and invited the Contracting Parties to provide inputs and comments to the material by **15 January 2017**, with the aim to finalize material for final approval by the Contracting Parties and finalize the layout work during February 2017.

Agenda Item 5 Next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting

Documents: none

5.1 The Meeting discussed the timing of the next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting and agreed that it would be best to organize the Ministerial Meeting in spring or early summer 2018, possibly back-to-back with the EU Environment Council to better attract Ministerial attendance.

5.2 The Meeting welcomed the offer by the EU to host the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting during their Chairmanship and invited the EU to explore possible dates and come back on the issue at HELCOM 38-2017.

5.3 The Meeting supported the idea of inviting representatives of the OSPAR Commission to the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting.

5.4 The Meeting agreed to continue planning concrete topics and possible outcomes of the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting at HELCOM 38-2017.

Agenda Item 6 Matters arising from the HELCOM Groups

Documents: 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, 6-5-Rev.1, 6-6, 6-7, 6-8, 6-9, 6-9-Add.1, 6-10, 6-11, 6-12, 6-13, 6-15, 6-16, 6-17, 6-18, 6-19, 6-20, 6-21, 6-22, 6-23-Rev.1, 6-24, 6-25, 6-26, 6-27, 6-28, 6-29, 6-30, 6-31, 6-32

HOLAS II

6.1 The Meeting took note of the timetable and process for finalizing and approving the first version of the 2nd HELCOM holistic assessment by June 2017 (document 6-23-Rev.1).

6.2 The Meeting supported the proposal by GEAR 15-2016 regarding the use of indicators in HOLAS II: 1) if core indicators are not operational on a Baltic-wide scale, the indicators could still be used in the sub-basins where they are operational if agreed by countries sharing that basin 2) if pre-core indicators will be shifted to core indicators or if core indicators will become operational for additional assessment units during 2017, to consider including them in the final version of HOLAS II by mid-2018.

6.3 The Meeting took note of the concerns expressed by WWF, on behalf of the NGO observers, regarding the delay in the timeline of the HOLAS, which raises issues of credibility given the tremendous resources, time and capacity invested to date and threatens to already delay the stated priorities of the workplan of the EU Chairmanship which was widely supported by the Contracting Parties. Furthermore, the NGOs urged that this process, under the EU presidency, could demonstrate fruitful complementarity between HELCOM and EU processes and urged the Contracting Parties to honour their commitments to this process as agreed under the BSAP.

Core indicator

6.4 The Meeting considered the adoption of GES-boundary proposals for core indicators, adoption of new core indicators and associated GES-boundaries, shift in status to pre-core indication as endorsed by State and Conservation 5-2016 (document 6-17, Table 1).

6.5 The Meeting welcomed that Germany can lift the general study reservation on indicators.

6.6 The Meeting took note of the concern by Denmark that they are not for the time being in a position to participate in an agreement on threshold values. The Meeting noted the proposal of Denmark that boundaries used in association to HELCOM indicators should be called assessment values and should not be equivalent to MSFD threshold values.

6.7 Concerning the usage of the term 'threshold value' for HOLAS II and relationship with the term as used in the EU rules, the representative of the EU clarified that according to new GES decision, currently under scrutiny procedure, the threshold values developed through process at regional level, such as HOLAS II, do not automatically become binding on Member States. The freedom of Member States to incorporate or not incorporate these regionally agreed threshold values is reflected in the text of the Commission Decision (Recital 12, Article 4(1)(a) and Article 6).

6.8 The Meeting took note of the statement by Denmark as included in **Annex 2** and agreed on the following clarifying statement in regard to HELCOM indicators:

“At this point in time, HOLAS II indicators and threshold values should not automatically be considered by the Contracting Parties that are EU Member States, as equivalent to criteria threshold values in the sense of Commission Decision (EU) 2017/... laying down criteria and methodological standards on good environmental status, but can be used for the purposes of their MSFD obligations by those Contracting Parties being EU Member States that wish to do so”.

With this clarification Denmark lifted the general reservation on the indicators.

6.9 The Meeting noted that the ZEN-ZIIM project has proposed revisions to the GES-boundaries to the core indicator 'Zooplankton mean size and total stock' since the endorsement by State & Conservation 5-2016. The Meeting took note of the study reservation by Poland on the new proposal on GES-boundary for

- Gdansk basin. The Meeting invited the ZEN-ZIIM project to submit the new proposal for GES-boundaries for consideration at the intersessional meeting of State & Conservation to be held 26 January 2017.
- 6.10 The Meeting adopted GES-boundaries for the core indicator 'State of the soft-bottom macrofauna community' as contained in **Annex 3** Table 1, taking note of the study reservation on the indicator by Denmark and further noted that Denmark currently takes part in the development of the indicator and GES-boundaries for additional areas.
- 6.11 The Meeting took note that Estonia lifted the study reservation on Pb in fish liver in offshore waters while the study reservation on Cd in fish liver is retained (document 6-24) and endorsed the GES-boundaries for the core indicator Metals as contained in Annex 3 Table 1.
- 6.12 The Meeting agreed to extend the core indicator on 'Oxygen debt' to Bothnian Bay, Bothnian Sea and Åland Sea assessment units.
- 6.13 The Meeting took note that Germany can lift the study reservation on the core indicators on 'Abundance of coastal fish key functional groups' and 'Abundance of key coastal fish species', noting that the results are to be noted as preliminary since Germany sees the need for further development of the indicators.
- 6.14 The Meeting took note that Denmark lifted the study reservations on the core indicators 'Zooplankton mean size and total stock', 'Population trends and abundance of seals' as well as on 'Number of drowned mammals and waterbirds in fishing gear' under the condition that during further development and when considering values, the PBR should be replaced with specific values for by-catch.
- 6.15 The Meeting noted that Denmark can lift the study reservation on the protocol for calculating indicators related to the concentration of hazardous substances.
- 6.16 The Meeting took note that Denmark and Poland lifted the study reservations on the shift of the pre-core indicator on 'Total nutrients' to core indicator. The Meeting took note that the GES-boundary for total nitrogen in the Gdansk basin should adhere to the Polish national value, i.e. 18.8 $\mu\text{mol N/l}$. The Meeting thus adopted 'Total nutrients' as a core indicator noting that GES-boundaries will be presented for consideration at the intersessional meeting of State & Conservation to be held 26 January 2017.
- 6.17 The Meeting took note that with regard to shifting the status of the pre-core indicator 'Cyanobacterial bloom index' to core indicator, Germany kept its reserve with the aim of clarifying the situation as soon as possible. Germany explained that, at this point of time, there were no or little satellite data from the Baltic Sea region being used for the development of this indicator, however, welcomed that there has been agreement to apply satellite data in the future. Any further assessment on how well the results of the satellite data will be for the Baltic Sea areas will only be looked into once results are available.
- 6.18 The Meeting took note that Poland, due to lack of data, placed a study reservation on the shift to core indicator for indicators on 'Phytoplankton community composition as a foodweb indicator', 'Diatom/Dinoflagellate index' and 'Cumulative impact on benthic biotopes'. Poland seeks to clarify the situation and find a solution as soon as possible together with the Secretariat by **7 January 2017**.
- 6.19 The Meeting took note that Denmark could lift the study reservation on the shift of the candidate indicator 'Shallow water oxygen' to pre-core.
- 6.20 The Meeting agreed to shift the candidate indicators on 'Litter on the Seafloor' and 'Distribution in time and space of loud low- and mid-frequency impulsive sound' and 'Shallow water oxygen' to pre-core indicators.
- 6.21 The Meeting noted the available set of core indicator based on the outcome of the Meeting and recognized gaps in indicators related to the pelagic habitats and that resolving these reservations will significantly improve completeness of the set of indicators according to themes that will be addressed in HOLAS II.
- 6.22 Contracting Parties that still have study reservations on the individual indicators agreed that a solution could be found to apply these indicators in HOLAS II by indicating that the results are of intermediate/test character and that the indicators may need further development. The Meeting requested

these Contracting Parties to come back with information to which indicators the solution could be applied and the specific wording could be agreed by the online meeting of State and Conservation in January 2017.

6.23 The Meeting took note that with the approach proposed in the paragraph above, Denmark can agree on the use in HOLAS II of the indicators ‘State of the soft-bottom macrofauna community’, ‘Phytoplankton community composition as a foodweb indicator’, ‘Seasonal succession of dominating phytoplankton groups’, ‘Cyanobacterial bloom index’.

6.24 Indicators with remaining study reservations are listed in Annex 3.

6.25 The Meeting took note of the document by Germany on HELCOM Indicators on population demography of seals (document 6-31).

6.26 The Meeting noted the request to re-confirm the role as Lead and co-Lead Countries for pre-core and core indicators to be further tested and developed and the re-confirm role as Lead Countries on all indicators during the course of the HOLAS II project. The Meeting noted that Germany regretted that this delegation for internal reasons had to withdraw, at this point of time, the lead on the indicator “shallow water oxygen”. The Contracting Parties are invited to inform the Secretariat (ullali.zweifel@helcom.fi) on their possibilities to do so by **31 January 2017**. The Meeting took note of the current list of Lead Countries as contained in document 6-30.

Assessment tools

6.27 The Meeting took note that Germany recognizes that the assessment methods need to be implemented in HOLAS II to keep the timetable, however, reserved its final position on the assessment tools in the light of further work on the tools and the results of their application.

6.28 The Meeting considered an updated proposal for the biodiversity assessment tool (BEAT 3.0) taking into account the agreements at State and Conservation 5-2016 (document 6-15).

6.29 The Meeting endorsed the methodology to assess biodiversity in HELCOM and HOLAS II. The Meeting noted that there is still an open issue regarding the integration of assessment results for mammals beyond species. The Meeting mandated the national experts to come to an agreement at the HELCOM HOLAS II workshop to be held in March 2017 and the HOLAS II project to continue working on the basis of the outcome of the workshops and present the draft assessment results to the State and Conservation Working Group. In that process, the HOLAS II project will take record of issues that could still need improvement and should be considered in future developments of the tool.

6.30 The Meeting agreed in principle on the approach to assess confidence as presented in section 4.5 of document 6-15, taking note of the proposal by Sweden to make an analysis of weaknesses and strengths of the confidence assessment and that Sweden is willing to support such analysis. The Meeting noted the proposal of Denmark not to include “zero” in the confidence interval.

6.31 The Meeting took note of the view of Germany that the assessment of harbour porpoise under the Habitats Directive should be included in the BEAT tool. The Meeting noted the explanation that the biodiversity assessment tool has certain requirements on the indicators that are not met by assessments under the Habitats Directive. However, key topics such as harbour porpoise, for which there is no operational core indicators, can still be addressed in the HOLAS II report, for example through a descriptive approach.

6.32 The Meeting took note of the concerns of Germany on the dual use of indicators in the eutrophication and biodiversity assessments.

6.33 The Meeting considered a proposal for a hazardous substances assessment tool (CHASE) (document 6-16). The Meeting welcomed that Denmark lifted the study reservation on the tool.

6.34 The Meeting agreed on the method to assess hazardous substances in HELCOM and HOLAS II. As suggested by the GEAR Group, the Meeting agreed that the integrated CHASE assessment can be used to summarize the contamination status of the Baltic Sea in HOLAS II, however, that the integrated assessment results should not be expressed in terms of GES/sub-GES.

- 6.35 The Meeting agreed on the confidence assessment as presented in section 4-4 of document 6-16 (Alternative 2).
- 6.36 The Meeting took note of the concern of Germany on the applicability of CHASE in coastal waters and that a final position depends on testing of data in German coastal waters.
- 6.37 The Meeting agreed in principle on the method to calculate the Baltic Sea Impact Index (BSII) and its use (document 6-7), noting that the method to assess the impacts on ecosystem components will still be tested and the results will be presented to the planned HELCOM HOLAS II workshop in March 2017. The Meeting mandated the workshop to recommend which method to use and the HOLAS II project to proceed according to those recommendations and present the outcome to State and Conservation 7-2017. The Meeting noted that the Baltic Sea Impact Index will continue to be developed in HELCOM in future as needed. The Secretariat will provide information on links to the outcome of workshops and meetings that have guided the development of the BSII.
- 6.38 The Meeting took note of the comments by Germany:
- to revise Table 1 according to comments provided through the GEAR Group on the work done under BalticBOOST project, Theme 3;
 - that terminology on page 8, point 9, should be harmonized with Table 2.
- 6.39 The Meeting took note of the status of data reporting for HOLAS II (document 6-29).
- 6.40 The Meeting noted that in order to solve the data situation for the first version of HOLAS II it is accepted that data is made available from other sources than the agreed data arrangements in HELCOM, however, that in the longer term, including for the final version of HOLAS II by mid-2018, it is necessary that data is reported according to HELCOM agreements in order to facilitate the update of HOLAS II as well as future assessments.
- 6.41 The Meeting invited those Contracting Parties that have not yet reported the requested data to propose solutions including possible alternative sources of data to the Secretariat by **20 December 2016** (joni.kaitaranta@helcom.fi).
- 6.42 The Meeting took note that Russia agrees that the Russian national data on the state of the marine environment and human activities collected by the Gulf of Finland -2014 Project can be used for the purpose of the HOLAS II project and integrated into the related databases. The Meeting also noted that Russia considers these data as scientific expert input and they should be recognized accordingly.
- 6.43 The Meeting also noted the view of Russia that the HOLAS II project, as a scientifically based assessment, serves for evaluating the effectiveness of measures but the aim is not to use it as a sole basis for making decisions on future measures.
- 6.44 The Meeting supported in principle the tentative planning for a regional consultation on HOLAS II 2017-18 (document 6-22)
- 6.45 The Meeting agreed that the GEAR Group will continue planning intersessionally for a regional consultation as outlined in the document, in a suitable timetable, taking into account also national consultations and open questions regarding how and who is undertaking the consultation.
- 6.46 The Meeting proposed that tentative stakeholder events should be coordinated with the Contracting Parties.
- 6.47 The Meeting considered and agreed on the roadmap for continued HELCOM work on economic and social analyses (ESA) (document 6-10).
- 6.48 The Meeting recognized resource constrains in some of the Contracting Parties to assign all the needed expertise to the network.
- 6.49 The Meeting noted the agreement in GEAR to strengthen the HELCOM ESA network and that the Terms of Reference for the network will be presented to HELCOM 38-2017.

Outcomes of working groups' meetings

6.50 The Meeting took note of the outcomes of the recent working group meetings and marine litter workshop and the essential issues stemming from the meetings (documents 6-9 and 6-9-Add.1).

6.51 The Meeting adopted the following new Work Plans/Terms of Reference for the working groups and expert groups as contained in Attachments 1-10 of documents 6-9 and 6-9-Add.1:

- Work Plan for MARITIME 2016-2018 (Attachment 1);
- Updated ToR of HELCOM-OSPAR TG BALLAST 2016-2017 endorsed by Maritime 16-2016 and OSPAR (Attachment 2);
- Work Plan for PRESSURE 2017-2018 (Attachment 3);
- Work Plan for State & Conservation 2017-2018 (Attachment 4);
- Updated ToR of the HELCOM Expert Group on Monitoring of Radioactive Substances in the Baltic Sea (MORS EG) as endorsed by State & Conservation 5-2016 (Attachment 5) (Denmark withdrew the proposal to change the last sentence of paragraph 2 of the introduction);
- Work Plan for RESPONSE 2017-2018 (Attachment 6);
- Work Plan for AGRI 2017-2018 (Attachment 7), taking note of the Statement to the initial suggestion on work plan for group by BFFE (document 6-25) and that the related paper by the Copa Cogeca was distributed at the Meeting.
- Work Plan of FISH 2017-2018 (Attachment 8);
- Work plan for HELCOM Task Force on migratory fish species (FISH-M) 2017-2018 (Attachment 9);
- Terms of Reference for the HELCOM expert coordination network on response on the shore (HELCOM SHORE network) (Attachment 10).

6.52 The Meeting took note that concerning the FISH Group, the work plan will be further polished for the next meeting of the group.

6.53 The Meeting noted the concern by CCB that the deadline for the revision of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention is not set in the AGRI Group work plan and took note of the information by CCB on the ongoing activities related to the promotion of existing and development of new BAT and BEP for Industrial Livestock Farms, including cattle in the BSR.

6.54 The Meeting took note of the call by Finland for the Contracting Parties to engage more in the work of the AGRI Group.

6.55 The Meeting noted the information by Russia regarding the ongoing national development of the BAT for agricultural production and including cattle farms larger than 400 items in the Baltic Sea region. The Meeting also took note of the opinion of Russia that there is a need to elaborate a methodology for identification of the P sensitive areas in the Baltic Sea region and probably to consider a related project.

6.56 The Meeting clarified that, concerning the RESPONSE Working Group, the RESPONSE Correspondence Group on HELCOM Recommendation 28E/12 led by Denmark will, as part of the work, consider sub-regional response preparedness targets. However, this does not indicate that Denmark would necessarily be in favour or approve such targets.

6.57 The Meeting took note that the Seventh Meeting of the Group of Experts on Safety of Navigation (Outcome of SAFE NAV 7-2016, para 5.2) invited each Contracting Party to closely study and, if needed, revise the Cat I & II areas in their waters based on up-to-date hydrographic surveys and current commercial shipping AIS info to ensure safe navigation in their waters and highlighted the importance of this work.

6.58 The Meeting approved the amended reporting format for data on dredging and depositing operations at sea.

6.59 The Meeting took note that Germany appreciated the contribution of Sweden related to the concept of green infrastructure as a tool for integrating environmental considerations in MSP as it was reflected in paragraphs 4.3 and 4.4 of the outcome of the last HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Meeting. The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation currently runs a complementary research and development project which also deals with implementing Ecosystem Approach in MSP. This R&D approach has a special focus on transferring scientific data on spatial claims of ecosystem components and their sensitivities into concrete planning objectives and principles to provide scientific input to MSP of the German EEZ. Identifying and establishing priority areas for nature conservation purposes and strengthening ecological connectivity of MPAs is also part of this project. By 2017 the Agency envisages first results. Germany was of the opinion that this method provides valuable knowledge for strengthening nature conservation concerns in MSP and recognizes the high potential of developing and making use of synergies between the approach of R&D project and other HELCOM-Parties for the implementation of Ecosystem Approach. Therefore, Germany would welcome the opportunity for a fruitful exchange of views and experiences on these issues at the occasion of the next meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB Group.

6.60 The Meeting took note that Germany retains their study reservation to approve the proposed change in the separation between the HELCOM assessment units “Sound” and “Arkona basin”, as defined in the HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy.

6.61 The Meeting approved the organization of the next meetings of the working groups as listed in documents 6-9 and 6-9-Add.1.

6.62 The Meeting welcomed the offer by Germany to host the HELCOM nutrient recycling workshop in Berlin 27-28 March 2017.

6.63 The Meeting welcomed the offer by Russia to host the MARITIME 17-2017 meeting on 10-12 October 2017.

6.64 The Meeting congratulated the new Chairs/Vice-Chairs of the working groups for their election/re-election:

- Mr Lars Sonesten, Sweden, Chair of the Pressure Group for 2017-2018;
- Mr Peter Sigray, Sweden, Chair of the HELCOM Expert Network for Underwater Noise;
- Ms Penina Blankett, Finland and Mr. Urmas Lips, Estonia, Co-Chairs of the State&Conservation Group for 2017-2018;
- Ms Heli Haapasaari, Finland, Chair and Mr Ojars Gerke, Latvia and Mr Alexander von Buxhoeveden, Sweden, Vice-Chairs of the Response Group for 2017-2018;
- approved the nomination of Mr Joacim Johannesson as HELCOM Co-chair for the HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group for the next three year period.

6.65 The Meeting thanked Finland for offering a Chair to the AGRI Group.

6.66 The Meeting advised that special attention is paid to the process of electing Chairs for the groups.

Pressure

6.67 The Meeting considered the Scoping Study on International and European Processes that are relevant to and contribute to the implementation of OSPAR’s and HELCOM’s Regional Action Plans on Marine Litter (document 6-27) submitted by Sweden.

6.68 The Meeting noted the Terms of Reference for the study, endorsed the proposal of HELCOM to join the scoping study, and mandated the Executive Secretary to coordinate with the OSPAR Secretariat and take necessary administrative steps.

6.69 The Meeting suggested sharing the results of the study with the Mediterranean region and possibly other sea regions for their potential use.

- 6.70 The Meeting considered the draft HELCOM Recommendation on Sewage Sludge Handling (document 6-1) and the comments submitted by Germany (document 6-32).
- 6.71 The Meeting agreed in general on the proposed version of the document and invited the Contracting Parties to provide minor written comments on the updated version of the draft Recommendation by **20 January 2017** with an intention to adopt it at HELCOM 38-2017. The Meeting noted that the reporting dates indicated in the document should be adjusted bearing in mind the actual date of possible adoption.
- 6.72 The Meeting also noted the comment by Russia that the section “leading countries” in the reporting format, annexed to the document, should be left blank until the lead countries are identified.
- 6.73 The Meeting took note of the study reservation by Sweden and Denmark for the final consultations on the updated version of the draft Recommendation with national competent authorities.
- 6.74 The Meeting endorsed the use of the methodology for accounting extra reduction as a trial calculation in the PLC-6 assessment (document 6-2).
- 6.75 The Meeting took note of the view of Denmark that principle 8 of the methodology application is not relevant. The Meeting also noted the position of Russia that the trial can be made but the further use of the methodology should be based on the strong scientific background.
- 6.76 The Meeting also noted the statement by Germany that it agreed to use of the proposed methodology in a trial calculation. At the same time, Germany emphasized that the methodology to account for extra reductions should only be used if it rests on a sound scientific basis, and if it follows a number of agreed principles. The Meeting noted that principle 8 is of particular importance for Germany, notably the precautionary principle that states to Contracting Parties that the methodology should not be applied to purposely increase inputs to a basin. The Meeting took note that against that background, Germany and Sweden expressed their concerns that Denmark had stated at PRESSURE 4-2016 that it would not intend to follow principle 8 and the methodology would allow Denmark to compensate potential impacts on water quality deriving from human activity with this methodology which, according to the understanding in Germany, would not be in line with the respective principle of the Convention.
- 6.77 The Meeting approved the establishment of an intersessional Expert Network on dredging/depositing operations at sea (HELCOM EN DREDS) and its Terms of Reference (document 6-4).
- 6.78 The Meeting took note of the status of the PLC national data reporting and the availability of these data for the further work (document 6-26) and invited the Contracting Parties to prioritize the work on assuring of the completeness and precision of national datasets.
- 6.79 The Meeting considered and approved the PLC-7 project proposal (**Annex 4**).
- 6.80 The Meeting noted the statement by Germany that it agreed to the PLC-7 project outline and in particular welcomed the new structure of the PLC products with many smaller reports released in sequence instead of one large report. Germany underlined that this will hopefully also contribute to having these reports a bit more up to date. Furthermore, Germany pointed out that it is of high importance to further harmonize the PLC reporting routines (e.g. parameters assessed, assessment areas used etc.) with the requirements under the WFD. To achieve this, Germany has initiated a national process and will inform the PLC Project Group on the outcomes of that process as soon as possible. Germany, finally, regretted to inform the Meeting that due to constraints in terms of timing and personnel this delegation was not able to offer taking the lead on any of the PLC-7 products.
- 6.81 The Meeting welcomed the offer by Denmark to take a lead in implementation of two tasks: assessment of the sources of nutrients and updating of the PLC guideline with statistical report.
- 6.82 The Meeting agreed on the deletion of the hot spot No. 27 “Kehra Pulp and Paper” in Estonia from the HELCOM hot spot list (document 6-12) and congratulated Estonia for the achievement.
- 6.83 The Meeting welcomed the offer by Russia to host PRESSURE 6-2017 on 25-27 April 2017 in St.Petersburg but noted that the official confirmation will be given by 15.01.2017.

6.84 The Meeting welcomed the offer by Lithuania to consider a possibility to host the PRESSURE 7-2017 meeting in autumn 2017 and noted that the offer will be confirmed at PRESSURE 6-2017.

6.85 The Meeting welcomed the information by Finland that NEFCO management board has recently decided that this organization will take actively part in the work related to remediation of the toxic waste landfill Krasnyi Bor in Russia and supported the decision by PRESSURE 5-2016 to invite NEFCO to contribute to the remediation of the Krasnyi Bor landfill.

6.86 The Meeting also welcomed the effort by Russia to reduce the environmental risks posed by the site and preparedness to cooperate with international experts in remediation of this HELCOM hot spot.

6.87 The Meeting noted the comment by CCB that a regular follow up of the situation around Krasny Bor hazardous waste dumpsite should be maintained by HELCOM PRESSURE in line with the work on remediation of other HELCOM hot spots.

Underwater noise

6.88 The Meeting welcomed the report “Noise Sensitivity of Animals in the Baltic Sea”, agreed on its publication in the Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings series (document 6-6), and proposed that the report should be shared with other RSCs and the CBD. The Meeting took note that Finland and Germany will provide editorial comments to the Secretariat.

6.89 The Meeting decided to postpone the discussion on the progress in implementing the underwater noise roadmap to HELCOM 38-2017.

State and Conservation

6.90 The Meeting considered the draft HELCOM Recommendation on conservation of Baltic Sea underwater biotopes, habitats and biotope complexes (document 6-18) and the proposed changes to the draft Recommendation submitted by Denmark (document 6-19). The Meeting noted that HELCOM Recommendation 21/4 (Protection of Heavily Endangered or Immediately Threatened Marine and Coastal Biotopes in the Baltic Sea) will be superseded if the new draft Recommendation is adopted.

6.91 The Meeting noted that Germany could not agree to the Danish proposals and that Germany offered to continue a bilateral dialogue with Denmark to reach a solution with the aim to agree on the Recommendation at HELCOM 38-2017. The Contracting Parties are invited to inform if they wish to join the dialogue. The Meeting underlined that the new draft Recommendation should thus not weaken the paragraphs that stem from Recommendation 21/4.

6.92 The Meeting endorsed the project proposal for PEG QA 2017-2019 (**Annex 5**).

6.93 The Meeting considered the proposal on the Limit Reference Level (LRL) for harbour seals (document 6-21), noted that Denmark and Sweden can lift their study reservations, and agreed to define the limit reference level at 10 000 harbour seals for the combined management unit “Kattegatt (including the Danish Straits)” and “Southwestern Baltic”.

6.94 The Meeting took note of the proposal by Finland for HELCOM to host a workshop in spring 2018, guided by the CBD secretariat, on identifying potential EBSAs (Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas) in the Baltic Sea region (document 6-5-Rev.1). The Meeting noted that such a workshop would focus on reaching a common understanding on the added value of nominating EBSAs in the light of the needs identified in the HELCOM BSEP report 148.

6.95 The Meeting approved that Finland will start planning for a regional EBSA workshop and agreed to the proposal to convene an online HELCOM expert meeting in spring 2017 to support the planning of the workshop. The Meeting agreed to consider the outcome of the online meeting and the further planning of the workshop at HOD in June 2017.

6.96 The Meeting took note of the interest stated by WWF to contribute to such a workshop where results from their Scorecard on MPAs in the Baltic Sea (http://d2ouvy59p0dg6k.cloudfront.net/downloads/wwf_mpa_scorecard_2016_nov.pdf) and recommendations regarding securing greater coherence of the Baltic Sea MPA network, in line with HELCOM

Recommendations, could be shared perhaps together with contributions from other NGOs active on this topic.

6.97 The Meeting considered document 6-13 submitted by CCB on the status of the Baltic cod stocks and took note of the comment by CCB that if no action is implemented on the Baltic cod the stock may face collapse. CCB also reminded of the BSAP 2017, HELCOM Recommendation 37/2 and the actions therein, and recommended to update the HELCOM Red list categorization of cod based on its current status, to consider cod status as part of the HOLAS II work and MSFD assessments to be reported in 2018. CCB also highlighted the need to establish new or extend existing MPAs to safeguard threatened species, including the cod stocks in Kattegatt, in the Danish Straits and Belt Sea as well as in the Baltic Proper.

6.98 The Meeting took note of the EU competences on cod, and comments by Poland and the EU that the proposals for recent TAC decisions on Baltic cod stocks were in line with the scientific advice and the EU recalled that a number of associated measures should over time alleviate concerns regarding overfishing.

6.99 The Meeting took note that Denmark does not agree to the information in document 6-13 submitted by CCB.

6.100 The Meeting took note that Germany shares the concern of CCB from the biodiversity point of view and supports the efforts to take further steps on Baltic Sea cod.

6.101 The Meeting agreed that the threat status of cod should be considered as part of the upcoming work to revise the HELCOM Red List according to the existing timeplans.

6.102 The Meeting recalled the decision to strengthen the cooperation and partnerships on sustainable fisheries (cf. para 3.15 above) to be initiated by the HELCOM Chair, creating prospects for strengthened regional dialogue on Baltic Sea cod.

Maritime

6.103 The Meeting considered the regional Baltic Sea plan for harmonized ratification and implementation for the 2004 IMO Ballast Water Management Convention (BWMC) (document 6-8) and approved it as included in **Annex 6**, incorporating editorial changes reflecting the facts that Finland has ratified the Convention on 8 September 2016 and that the BWMC will enter into force on 8 September 2017.

Response

6.104 The Meeting endorsed the revised HELCOM Response Manual Volume III "Response to pollution incidents on the shore" (document 6-11) for adoption by HELCOM 38-2017 with the amendment that prices of equipment of Germany should be removed from Annex 1 "List of specialized on shore equipment that can be sent to assist other Contracting Parties".

Other issues

6.105 The Meeting took note of the list of BONUS projects results having a potential in management (document 6-28).

6.106 The Meeting suggested to the Secretariat to invite BONUS project to follow up closer the HELCOM priorities and synthesize their expected policy input to HELCOM work and share it with the relevant HELCOM bodies.

6.107 The Meeting also recommended to consider an opportunity to include an overview of the BONUS projects contributing into the current agenda of one of the upcoming HELCOM meetings.

Agenda Item 7 HELCOM institutional and organisational matters

Documents: 7-1, 7-2, 7-3

7.1 The Meeting took note of the Audit Report and the Financial Statement of the Helsinki Commission for the financial period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, as well as of the explanatory memorandum (document 7-2) and advised the Executive Secretary to submit them to HELCOM 38-2017 in order to have the accountables officially discharged from responsibility. Furthermore, the Meeting considered and endorsed the proposal for a decision by HELCOM 38-2017 in response to the recommendation included in the Audit Report.

7.2 The Meeting considered the draft budget for the financial period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 (document 7-3) and noted the comments by Germany and the study reservations by Poland, Lithuania and Latvia on the draft budget.

7.3 The Meeting advised the Executive Secretary to submit the draft budget to HELCOM 38-2017 for official adoption.

7.4 The Meeting noted that the draft budget estimate for the following financial period (2018-2019), to be based on the draft budget for 2017-2018, will also be submitted to HELCOM 38-2017 as per Financial Rule 2.

7.5 The Meeting underlined in this context the importance of streamlining and priority setting and invited the Contracting Parties into the work and decided to discuss this issue at HOD 52-2017, based on intersessional exchange to be initiated after the annual Commission meeting.

7.6 The Meeting considered the vacancy announcement of the post of a Professional Secretary for the Maritime, Response and Fish groups (document 7-1) and agreed on the timetable for the recruitment process. The Meeting nominated the following three members (in addition to the *ex officio* members, i.e., the Chair and the Executive Secretary of the Commission) to the Recruitment Panel to conduct the selection procedure: Germany, Latvia and Russia.

7.7 The Meeting took note that the Contracting Parties have been asked to provide their comments by **21 January 2017** to the application for observer status to HELCOM by Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE) distributed via e-mail to HODs on 28 November 2016 and by Baltic Sea States Sub-Regional Cooperation (BSSSC) distributed via e-mail to HODs on 11 December 2016 and noted that the decision regarding the observer status of these organizations will be made by HELCOM 38-2017.

Agenda Item 8 Any other business

Documents: 8-1, 8-2, 8-3, 8-4, 8-5, 8-6

8.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the on-going projects within HELCOM and with HELCOM involvement (document 8-2).

8.2 The Meeting took note of the list of upcoming meetings within HELCOM and other forums in 2017 (document 8-3).

8.3 The Meeting took note of the information by Russia about the XVIII International Environmental Forum "Baltic Sea Day" to take place in St. Petersburg on 22-23 March 2017 as well as of the information by the Secretariat on the situation regarding a project proposal on organizing the "Baltic Sea Day" submitted to the Nordic Council of Ministers on 31 October 2016 (document 8-5).

8.4 The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to contribute to the content of the agenda of the Forum by mid-January 2017 and engage national stakeholders to attend the event.

- 8.5 The Meeting took note of the support of the Forum by CCB and that it is preliminarily planning to arrange a round table related to the the river basin management as a tool to reduce inputs of nutrients into the marine environment.
- 8.6 The Meeting also noted that Sweden is planning to contribute to the organization of the Forum programme related to the problem of littering of the marine environment.
- 8.7 The Meeting took note of the information by Sweden about the outcome of the EUSBSR Strategy Forum held in Stockholm on 8-9 November 2016 and of the outcome of the political seminar "'This is what we need to do for a cleaner sea." Sectors have their say' held by HELCOM at the 7th Strategy Forum of the EUSBSR in Stockholm, Sweden, on 8 November 2016 (document 8-4).
- 8.8 The Meeting took note of the information on the 8th Annual Forum on EUSBSR in Berlin on 13-14 June 2017, the focus of the event and the invitation to attend the Forum.
- 8.9 The Meeting considered the update on and future outlook for HELCOM communication activities (document 8-1) and took note of the communication needs of HOLAS II.
- 8.10 The Meeting requested the Contracting Parties to consider offering additional funding for tasks 5-8 in section 1.4 to complement the funds available from the HELCOM budget and possible support via the new SPICE project proposal.
- 8.11 The Meeting took note of the information from Russia, in accordance with Helsinki Convention Annex VI Reg. 9, that Russia plans to carry out test drilling in 2017 at the offshore deposit D-33 (document 8-6).
- 8.12 The Meeting took note of the information from Russia that as this is a test drill and not a full launch of offshore activities, a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as called for by the Helsinki Convention, is not planned. If a full project will be launched at a later stage the environmental impacts will be considered in accordance with the international and national commitments of Russia.
- 8.13 The Meeting took note of the reminder expressed by CCB to all the Contracting Parties on the need to follow relevant international EIA procedures in case large infrastructure projects are planned in the BSR.
- 8.14 The Meeting took note of the comment by Poland that all the relevant environmental impact provisions, including those of European law as well as the Helsinki and Espoo Conventions will be followed in the project for a navigation canal between the Vistula Lagoon and Gulf of Gdansk across the Vistula Spit.
- 8.15 The Meeting took note of a scientific study commissioned by Oceana of European fish stocks (http://eu.oceana.org/sites/default/files/exploitationstatus_8nov16_2.pdf?_ga=1.100437278.1662887962.1482087650) and its conclusions that 85% of the fish stocks are overfished, only 12% of the stocks fulfil the goals set by the EU CFP and if the fish stocks would be well managed catches would increase by more than half.
- 8.16 The Meeting took note of the statement by the European Union on financing and legislation as included in **Annex 7**.
- 8.17 The Meeting took note of the concern by Germany that there is an ultimate need to keep at least three-week gaps between the meetings of Pressure and State and Conservation groups in order to enable better preparation for the meetings.
- 8.18 The Meeting thanked the retiring Head of Delegation of Finland, Eeva-Liisa Poutanen for her committed efforts covering four decades for the benefit of the Baltic marine environment.
- 8.19 The Meeting thanked Information Secretary Johanna Laurila, whose term of employment is about to finish, for her excellent work since 2011 in making HELCOM more visible.

Agenda Item 9 Next meeting(s)

Documents: none

9.1 The Meeting confirmed that the next meeting (HOD 52-2017) will be held on 20-21 June 2017 in Brussels, Belgium and hosted by the EU. The Meeting decided that HOD 53-2017 will be held tentatively on 13-14 December 2017.

Agenda Item 10 Outcome of the Meeting

Documents: 10-1

10.1 The Meeting adopted the draft Outcome of the Meeting as contained in document 10-1. The final Outcome, incorporating the comments by the Meeting, will be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair and made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal.

Annex 1 List of Participants

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Annex 2 Danish Statement on HOLAS

Like other Contracting Parties Denmark wants to be part of the HOLAS process and to maintain the right to use the results of HOLAS to the extent, we find it useful and valid.

It is our understanding that a Commission directive adopted according to a formal committee procedure is just as legally binding as the mother directive.

The Commission Decision adopted in November establishes in art 4 a general obligation for Member States to regionally establish quantitative threshold values. Art. 5 further gives the right for Member States to use national values or trends etc. but only until regional values have been established. Art. 6 says that Member States are only bound by what they report to the European Commission.

If art. 6 could be read alone, we would have no concern, but it is our expectation that art. 6 will be interpreted in the context of art. 4 and 5, which means that a Member State may be met with a request to justify their choice not to use a regional threshold value.

Against this it is important for Denmark that regional values are something we adopt with open eyes and not something we accept indirectly, because they are used for HOLAS. We are also of the conviction that a regionally coordinated threshold value in accordance with art. 4 is something which exists or not exists, and that it is not something an individual Member State may unilaterally decide.

Denmark recognizes that the Commission Decision has not yet come into force, however we understand that it is expected to happen in the beginning of 2017. Some Contracting Parties have indicated that a Commission Directive cannot be retroactive and will therefore not be applicable to the HOLAS values. In the view of Denmark it is not clear, when a HOLAS value is adopted. Is it now or when the final HOLAS report is being adopted? If the last option is the case the values are adopted after the Commission Directive.

So in order to maintain the right for Contracting Parties to choose which values to use, we find it important that we adopt a disclaimer which makes it clear that HOLAS values are not art. 4 values.

Annex 3 Indicators

Summary of status of HELCOM indicators as result of HOD 51-2016.

Annex 3 Table 1. List of new threshold values for previously agreed core indicators adopted by HOD 51-2016

Biodiversity				
State of soft-bottom macrofauna community	Assessment unit		threshold value	
	Åland Sea		4.0	
	Bothnian Sea		4.0	
	The Quark		4.0	
	Bothnian Bay		1.5	
Metals	All offshore assessment units			
		Matrix	Threshold value	Reference
	Cd	Water	0.2 µg/l	EQS
		<i>Secondary GES boundary: Mussels</i>	<i>960 µg/kg dw</i>	<i>OSPAR BAC</i>
		<i>Secondary GES boundary: Sediment</i>	<i>2.3 mg/kg</i>	<i>QS from EQS dossier</i>
	Pb	Water	1.3 µg/l	EQS
<i>Secondary GES boundary: Mussels</i>		<i>1300 µg/kg dw</i>	<i>OSPAR BAC</i>	
<i>Secondary GES boundary: Fish liver</i>		<i>26 µg/kg ww</i>	<i>OSPAR proxy BAC</i>	
<i>Secondary GES boundary: Sediment</i>		<i>120 mg/kg</i>	<i>QS from EQS dossier</i>	

Annex 3 Table 2. List of HELCOM core indicators as of the outcome of HOD 51-2016

Theme: Biodiversity and foodweb
Abundance of waterbirds in the breeding season
Abundance of waterbirds in the wintering season
Distribution of Baltic seals
Population trends and abundance of seals
Nutritional status of seals
Reproductive status of seals
Number of drowned mammals and waterbirds in fishing gear
Abundance of coastal fish key functional groups
Abundance of key coastal fish species
Abundance of salmon spawners and smolt
Abundance of seatrout spawners and parr
State of the soft-bottom macrofauna community ¹
Seasonal succession of functional phytoplankton groups ²
Theme: Non-indigenous species
Trends in arrival of new non-indigenous species

¹ Denmark has a remaining study reservation on the indicator (HOD 51-2016 outcome para 6.10), however agreed that the indicator can be used in HOLAS II by indicating that the results are of interim/test character (HOD 51-2016 outcome para 6.22-6.23)

² Denmark has a remaining study reservation on the indicator, however agreed that the indicator can be used in HOLAS II by indicating that the results are of interim/test character (HOD 51-2016 outcome para 6.22-6.23)

Theme: Eutrophication
Nitrogen (DIN) Phosphorous (DIP) Chlorophyll-a Water clarity Oxygen debt Total nutrients
Theme: Hazardous substances
Hexabromocyclodecane (HBCDD) Metals (Cd, Pb, Hg) ³ (partial study reservation, see Table 3) Polybrominated biphenylethers (PBDE) Perfluorooctane sulphonate (PFOS) Polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and their metabolites ⁴ (partial study reservation, see Table 3) Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) ⁵ and dioxins and furan (partial study reservation, see Table 3) TBT and imposex ⁶ (partial study reservation in place, Table 3) Radioactive substances White-tailed eagle productivity
Theme: Pressure
Inputs of nitrogen and phosphorous to the sub-basins Operational oil-spills from ships

Annex 3 Table 3. List of core indicators with remaining indicator specific national study reservations as of the outcome of HOD 51-2016

Core indicator	Study reservation
Theme: Hazardous substances	
Polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and their metabolites	Denmark (HOD 50-2016 para 4-48) - Primary threshold value on metabolites (1-hydroxypyrene) - Secondary substance fluoranthene secondary threshold value for sediment
TBT and imposex	Denmark (HOD 50-2016 para 4.48) - Primary threshold TBT in sediment, - Secondary threshold TBT in mussels - Primary threshold imposex
Metals	Estonia, Denmark (State and Conservation 5-2016) - Secondary threshold value for Cd in fish liver
Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) and dioxins and furans	Denmark (HOD 50-2016) - Secondary threshold CB-118 in biota

³ agreed thresholds: primary threshold Hg biota, primary threshold Cb, Pb water, secondary thresholds Cd mussels and sediments, Pb mussels, fish liver and sediments

⁴ agreed thresholds; primary threshold benzo(a)pyrene, secondary substance fluoranthene secondary threshold value crustaceans, secondary substance anthracene secondary threshold value sediment

⁵ agreed thresholds of the core indicator: primary threshold value dioxin in biota, primary threshold non-dioxin like PCBs in biota

⁶ agreed thresholds: secondary threshold TBT in water

Theme: Biodiversity and food-web	
Proportion of large fish in the community (LFI)	Lead Country presented approach for trend based threshold value and assessment of available dataset for HOLAS II purposes was not endorsed at State and Conservation 5-2016 (outcome para 4J.26). Germany, Estonia and Poland provided written comments regarding their reservations after the meeting.
Zooplankton mean size and total stock	Poland (HOD 51-2016 outcome para 6.9) regarding Gdansk basin ZEN ZIIM invited to submit threshold value proposals to 26 January online meeting of State and Conservation

Annex 3 Table 4. List of pre-core indicators proposed to be shifted to core indicators but not adopted as such by HOD 51-2016

Pre-core indicator	Study reservation on shift to core indicator
Theme: Biodiversity and food-web	
Diatom/Dinoflagellate index	Denmark (State and Conservation 5-2016): national testing of the diatom-dinoflagellate index does not show relevant responses to nutrient stress Poland (HOD 51-2016): Lack of data
Cumulative impact on benthic biotopes	Denmark (State and Conservation 5-2016 para 4J.50) reservation placed due to lack of data and current state of the indicator Poland (HOD 51-2016): Lack of data
Theme: Eutrophication	
Cyanobacterial bloom index	Germany (HOD 51-2016 outcome para 6.17) expressed aim to clarify reservation by considering applicability of satellite data when results are available. Denmark (State and Conservation 5-2016, para 4J.41) analysis of the western Baltic Sea to be carried out before being shifted to core, however agreed that the indicator can be used in HOLAS II by indicating that the results are of interim/test character (HOD 51-2016 para 6.22-6.23) Threshold value proposal to be discussed at State and Conservation online meeting 26 January
Theme: Litter	
Beach litter	Sweden (State and Conservation 5-2016) can support the interim definition of GES, however is not able to endorse the shift from pre-core to core indicator.

Annex 3 Table 5. List of HELCOM pre-core indicators as of the outcome of HOD 51-2016

Theme: Biodiversity
Lower depth limit distribution of the macrophyte community Condition of benthic habitats
Theme: Eutrophication
Shallow water oxygen Phytoplankton spring bloom intensity based on chl-a
Theme: Hazardous substances
Reproductive disorders: malformed eelpout and amphipod embryos ⁷ Acetylcholinesterase inhibition Diclofenac concentration

⁷ proposed to be used as supplementary indicator in HOLAS II by Finland and Sweden (State and Conservation 5-2016 outcome paragraph 4J.49)

<p>Estrogenic-like chemicals and effects Lysosomal membrane stability (LMS) Fish disease index Micronucleus test</p>
Theme: Litter
<p>Beach litter Litter on the seafloor</p>
Theme: Underwater noise
<p>Continuous low frequency anthropogenic sound Distribution in time and space of loud low- and mid-frequency impulsive sound</p>

Annex 3 Table 6. List of HELCOM candidate indicators

Theme: Biodiversity and foodweb
<p>Harbour porpoise distribution and abundance Seal pup weight at weaning 'marine mammal health'⁸ Distribution of seabirds Breeding success in guillemots of Gotland Maximum length fish in the pelagic community State of hard-bottom communities Biomass ratio of opportunistic and perennial macroalgae Phytoplankton community composition as a foodweb indicator⁹ Phytoplankton species assemblage clusters based on environmental factors Phytoplankton taxonomic diversity</p>
Theme: Eutrophication
<p>Deep-water oxygen consumption</p>
Theme: Hazardous substances
<p>PCB and dioxins for fish safe to eat EROD activity</p>
Theme: Litter
<p>Microlitter in the water column</p>
Pressures
<p>Dredging and dumping of dredge materials</p>

⁸ The specific indicator has not yet been specified, however the intention to develop new health indicators for marine mammals has been noted by State and Conservation 5-2016 and that this intention should be reflected in HOLAS II (outcome para 4J.10)

⁹ The indicator was endorsed to be shifted from candidate to core indicator and the proposed threshold values was endorsed by State and Conservation 5-2016. At HOD 51-2016 Poland placed a study reservation on the shift of status for the indicator, thus it is still a candidate indicator (outcome para 6.18)

Annex 4 HELCOM Project for the Seventh Baltic Sea Pollution Load Compilation (PLC-7)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (PROJECT NO. 11.56)

1. Title of Project

The Seventh Baltic Sea Pollution Load Compilation (PLC-7)

2. Project Manager(s)

Lars M. Svendsen

3. Proposing Party

Contracting Party	_____
Commission	_____
Subsidiary body	<u> X </u>
Heads of Delegation	_____
Executive Secretary	_____

4. The body supervising the project

Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area

5. Objective and background

In Article 3 and Article 16 of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, 1992 (Helsinki Convention), the Contracting Parties agreed to undertake measures to prevent and eliminate pollution of the marine environment of the Baltic and to provide pollution load data, as far as available. Compilations of pollution load data (PLC) have been an integral part of HELCOM assessment system since 1987, focusing on annual and periodic assessments of inputs of nutrients and selected hazardous substances.

The 2013 Monitoring and Assessment Strategy and adoption of the nutrient reduction scheme by the 2013 HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Meeting have created demands for new PLC products: a pressure indicator report on progress towards fulfilment of Maximum Allowable Inputs of nutrients (MAI) and an assessment of progress towards implementation of Country Allocated Reduction Targets (CART).

HOD 48-2015 agreed on what should be the PLC assessment products in the future, including annual reports on (actual) airborne and waterborne inputs of nutrients and selected hazardous substances and periodic PLC assessments, in addition to assessments of MAI and CART. HOD 49-2015 agreed that the periodic PLC assessment should be more focused on source apportionment and effectiveness of measures and coupling of future PLC assessments and CART assessment needs to be further considered. HOD 49-2016 also decided that the next PLC-7 assessment will be made in 2019 based on the monitoring data from 2017, which will also serve those Contracting Parties that are EU Member States for their next generation river basin management plans under WFD in 2019/2020.

The Project will use monitoring data obtained in accordance with the requirements of the HELCOM Recommendations on waterborne pollution input assessment and on monitoring of airborne pollution input. Also the Project will utilise data reported by the Contracting Parties under the Convention on Long-range

Transboundary Air Pollution and its protocols as well as data obtained in the frame of the EU and national monitoring programmes. The assessment will be performed using the methodologies provided for in the updated HELCOM PLC Guideline. The PLC-7 will also incorporate an assessment of inputs of nitrogen and phosphorus from seven major rivers as it was agreed by PRESSURE 4-2016.

The PLC-7 project will be based on annual water- and airborne data on nitrogen, phosphorus and selected heavy metals from 1995-2017, periodical data from 2017 supplied with former reported periodical data from e.g. 2006 and 2014. Further background information and data on effects, and as far as possible effectiveness of measures to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus inputs will be collected and included in the assessment. The assessment will use the new PLC database (produced by HELCOM PLUS project) for reporting and quality assuring data. The tools developed by the HELCOM MAI-CART OPER project will be used to complete the assessment data set, make normalizations, trend and other statistical analysis and the evaluation of fulfilment of MAI and CART. Standard tables and figures for the updated Core Pressure Indicator on nutrient inputs, the updated scientific report on CART follow-up assessment and for Seventh Baltic Sea Pollution Load Compilation (PLC-7) will also be produced using the tools developed by HELCOM MAI-CART OPER project.

6. Tasks and expected results (summary, see Annex 1 for full description)

In order to reach project objective the following tasks, grouped in three working packages will be implemented:

1. ESTABLISHING DATASETS AND UPDATE OF MAI AND CART
 - Monitoring and reporting of national annual/periodical data
 - Updating PLC-Water database and data on atmospheric inputs (PLC-Air)
 - Establishing the periodic assessment data set
2. PERIODIC ASSESSMENT
 - Assessment of sources of nutrients
 - Assessment of the effectiveness of measures
 - Assessment of inputs of selected hazardous substances
 - Compilation of the executive summary including policy messages
3. METHODOLOGIES
 - Updating guidelines and a statistical methodology report
 - Intercalibration on heavy metals and nutrients

The expected results are:

1. The PLC assessment data set based on annual and periodic reports of water- and airborne inputs of nutrients and selected hazardous substances from 1995 to 2017 (periodic for 2017).
2. The updated HELCOM Core Pressure Indicator on nutrient inputs (update of MAI fulfilment follow-up) covering data from 1995 to 2017.
3. Updated scientific report on follow up progress toward national reduction targets for nutrients, CART follow-up assessment, covering data from 1995 to 2017.
4. A thematic report on sources of nutrients.
5. A thematic report on effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrients inputs to the Baltic Sea.
6. A thematic report on input of hazardous substances.
7. Executive summary of Seventh Baltic Sea Pollution Load Compilation (PLC-7) including policy messages (also on CART).

8. A report on intercalibration on heavy metals and nutrients between at least 1-2 laboratories from each Contracting Party conducting chemical analysis.
9. Updated PLC guidelines on nutrients and selected heavy metals, including updated statistical methodologies used for PLC and MAI/CART assessments.

7. Consistency with HELCOM priorities ____ yes

- In Article 3 and Article 16 of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, 1992 (Helsinki Convention);
- Baltic Sea Action Plan, HELCOM Ministerial Meeting, Krakow, Poland, 15 November 2007;
- Nutrient reduction targets, HELCOM Ministerial Meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark, 3 October 2013;
- The HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy, HELCOM Ministerial Meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark, 3 October 2013.

8. Timetable (see also Annex 2)

Task	Timeframe (quarter/year)	
	Start of the task	End of the task
Project management (including about 12 project team meetings)	1/2017	4/2020
Workshops (2 workshops are planned)	1/2017	4/2019
Monitoring and compilation of national annual/periodical data	1/2017	4/2017
Reporting of quality assured national annual/periodic data	3/2018	3/2019
Establishing the periodic assessment data set	2/2019	4/2019
Assessment of sources of nutrients	4/2019	1/2020
Assessment of the effectiveness of measures	1/2019	1/2020
Assessment of inputs of selected hazardous substances	3/2019	2/2020
Compilation of the executive summary and policy messages	3/2020	4/2020
Updating guidelines and statistical methodology report	1/2017	1/2018
Intercalibration on heavy metals and nutrients	3/2017	2/2018

9. Budget (taking into account financial year from 1 July to 30 June)

9.1 Total Costs

300,000 Euro

9.2 Costs divided per financial year

2016/17 – 50,000 Euro

2017/18 – 50,000 Euro

2018/19 – 60,000 Euro

2019/20 – 70,000 Euro

2020/21 – 69,750 Euro

9.3 Sources of financing divided per financial year

HELCOM budget

10. Additional requests (manpower, equipment, facilities, etc.)

10.1 From the Contracting Parties

The available funds from the HELCOM budget (the indicated above and in **Annex 3**) do not cover all expenses for the implementation of the tasks. Additional funds are requested to be allocated by the Contracting Parties either via national arrangement (e.g. in kind co-financing) or contribution to the HELCOM budget, in accordance with monthly rate of the national experts and the working time required for the implementation of the individual tasks except for the tasks under the contracts between HELCOM and HELCOM PLC-Water Centre (SYKE) and HELCOM PLC-Air Centre (EMEP), laboratory work for intercalibration and expenses for proofreading and publication (see **Annex 3** for details). The minimum estimated working time required for the implementation of the project tasks is given in **Annex 4**.

The Contracting Parties have been invited to take a lead on preparation of the individual thematic assessment reports (see points 2.1-2.3 in **Annex 1**). The leads, through assigned experts, will be responsible for preparing the assessment reports based on the gathered data and information, in accordance with the description of the tasks and PLC Guidelines.

The PLC-7 project budget does not reflect national resources that need to be allocated for implementation of national monitoring programmes, compilation and reporting of national data.

The Contracting Parties are expected to attend 2-3 meetings of the PLC-7 project implementation group per year during 2017-2020 as well as two workshops. The Contracting Parties will be invited to host the meetings.

10.2 From the Secretariat

The Project will be supported by the Secretariat.

Annual PLC-Water data management will be covered by a separate annual contract.

Annual PLC-Air data on inputs of nitrogen and selected hazardous substances will also be covered by a separate annual contract.

Contract with BNI for hosting PLC-water database and its supplementary functionality.

11. Organization of the project and procedure of nomination of the Project Team members

The project will be coordinated by a project manager. Project Manager – Lars M. Svendsen (DCE, Denmark) - was nominated by the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (outcome of PRESSURE 5-2016). The PLC-7 project manager coordinates the work and follows the implementation of the project tasks. He is involved in the collecting of information, outlining of the project products and contributing to their content. The Project manager with assistance of the HELCOM Secretariat reports to PRESSURE and RedCore DG, prepares project meetings and organizes workshops on technical and methodological solutions on follow-up of MAI/CART.

The HELCOM PLC-7 project will be implemented by a project implementation group consisting of participants from all Contracting Parties (PLC-7 Project Group). Members of the PLC-7 project group, to be nominated by the Contracting Parties, will guide and support the work of the project, attend project meetings and workshops, and actively contribute into, *inter alia*, the collection of background information, revising guidelines, and contributing to writing the assessment reports. The Contracting Parties are responsible for collection, compilation, quality assurance and national data reporting. The PLC-7 project implementation group will meet regularly 2-3 times per year (2-3 days/meeting) during 2017-2020. The Contracting Parties will be invited to host project meetings.

It is foreseen that country-leadership will be assumed for preparation of the individual thematic assessment reports. Work on the Executive Summary will be done by a drafting team to be established at a later stage.

RedCore DG will provide methodological support for the project implementation. The group will assist with quality assurance and preparing for approval of PLC assessment dataset, scientific advice, and quality assurance of the assessment reports. HELCOM Secretariat will assist with the finalization of the reports (design, linguistic check, etc.).

Pressure Working Group will provide overall guidance to the project including preparation of the assessment reports. The progress in implementation of the PLC-7 will be regularly reported to Pressure group to ensure that the final products correspond to the demands of the countries and HELCOM agreements.

12. Signature of the Project Manager(s)

13. Opinion of the Chairs of the relevant body

The Chair of the Pressure working group supports the project proposal.

14. Opinion of the Executive Secretary

The Executive Secretary supports the Project proposal.

15. Decision of the Heads of Delegation

HOD 51-2016 decided

X_ to establish not to establish

the project

Annex 1

Work packages and tasks

The PLC-7 assessment results will be reported as individual thematic reports, with an Executive Summary summing up the main finding from these reports. The PLC-7 project will consist of the three thematic work packages (WP) and WPO - project management. The work packages will include:

WPO Project management

The management of the project includes the overall coordination of project implementation, communication with project partners and participants with an assistance by the Secretariat, planning project activities and follow-up their implementation and reporting on status and progress of the project to PRESSURE and RedCore DG. The work package includes organization of project team meetings with assistance of the Secretariat and other project partners, as well as will support the preparation of two workshops on technical and methodological solutions to follow-up of MAI/CART.

The appointed project manager will follow the [HELCOM risk management procedure](#).

WP1 Establishing datasets and update of MAI and CART

1.1 Contracting Parties will organize monitoring and compilation of national annual and periodical data in 2017 according to the relevant HELCOM Recommendations and Guidelines. Contracting Parties will report national annual and periodic data using PLC reporting WEB application assuring quality control of the reported data and their insertion into the PLC database. The annual and periodic data 2017 will be reported by 31 October 2018 and 31 December 2018, respectively, and according to the established procedure (Procedures for releasing the reported PLC water data adopted by HOD 50-2016). Contracting Parties will also provide background information including data on effects of measures.

1.2 Reporting templates (with prefilled metadata) for PLC-7 (2017) will be prepared and update of the PLC database will be made. Other activities include: carrying out manual data quality assurance, follow-up with Contracting Parties on reporting and missing data, preparing datasets for RedCore DG and PLC-7 project team to complete datasets taking into account missing data and data inconsistency. HELCOM procedure for releasing the reported PLC water data will be followed. Selected standard figures will be provided to PLC-7 project meetings upon request. Further, calculations and assessment of emissions of nitrogen as source receptor matrix [2017] and of actual and normalized deposition (divided per country by basin including shipping on Baltic Sea and North Sea, inputs from all individual EU countries and other significant contributors of nitrogen deposition on the Baltic Sea) will be made. PLC-Water Data Centre and MSC-W EMEP centre acting as HELCOM PLC-Air Centre will carry out the work. Further annual deposition in 2017 of four selected hazardous substances calculated by EMEP (MSC-E) will be included in the PLC-7 assessment.

1.3 Establishing the periodic assessment data set as filling in data gaps, removing inconsistent data and approval of the assessment data set by Contracting Parties is included in the work package. Further, normalization, trend analysis and other statistical analysis and the evaluation of fulfilling MAI and CART applying the MAI CART OPER tools is included together with the preparing of updated MAI report (Core Pressure indicator on nutrients) and an updated scientific CART report. The normalization and statistical data processing might be repeated in case the data set are updated/corrected during the assessment process. Further preparing periodic data for source apportionment, big rivers and hazardous substances is included as well. The project task includes also operations related to processing and storage of the assessment datasets.

WP2 Periodic assessment

The periodic assessment is focused on three main themes: source apportionment, effects and as far as possible effectiveness of measures and input of hazardous substances.

2.1 A thematic report on sources of nutrients (source apportionment) will be based on the periodic reports by countries on industrial, WWTP and aquaculture point sources, and on natural background and diffuse sources in accordance with the PLC Guideline. Also the assessment of flow and loads in selected (at least 7) big rivers will be carried out.

2.2 A thematic report on effects of measures to reduce nutrients inputs to the Baltic Sea will be based on information provided by the countries as replies to a questionnaire that will be prepared by the project. The report will also utilize outcomes of the workshop(s) and other reporting by countries (e.g. programmes of measures, etc.) and address effectiveness of measures as far as possible.

2.3 A thematic report on input of hazardous substances will be based on the periodic reports by countries on inputs of selected hazardous substances according to the PLC Guideline, and airborne inputs on four hazardous substances calculated by EMEP. The assessment will also as far as possible utilize the results of questionnaires utilizing data obtained by national monitoring and screening campaigns.

2.4 Main outcomes of the PLC-7 assessment will be summarized in an executive summary, reflecting on essential and policy-relevant aspects of the progress in implementation of the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme and the themes of thematic reports. The work on outlining the content of the report will start along with the work on other work packages.

The thematic assessments will be prepared by [2020].

WP3 Methodologies

3.1 In order to improve quality and intercomparability of PLC products, regular intercalibration between laboratories conducting chemical analysis are necessary. The latest intercalibration was conducted in 2013 on nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus including fractions of these) and six heavy metals (Cd, Cr, Cu, Hg, Ni and Pb) for river and waste water samples with participation of 18 laboratories. The PLC-7 project will perform intercalibration with at least one laboratory from each Contracting Party participating, but altogether up to twenty laboratories are budgeted. The intercalibration will be made for heavy metals (Cd, Cr, Cu, Hg, Ni, Pb and Zn) and for total nutrients and nutrient fractions (total nitrogen, ammonia-N, nitrite-nitrate-N, dissolved and total and phosphorus) from both river and point source (waste water) samples.

3.2 HELCOM PLC Guideline was adopted for publication by HOD 47-2015. The Guideline contains description of assessment methodologies as well as data reporting format. The HELCOM PLC Guideline (2015) needs to be updated utilizing the experienced gained by the PLC-6 project. The following methodologies will be adjusted/updated by the PLC-7 project:

- statistical methods;
- evaluation of effects of measures;
- calculation of transboundary input;
- accounting extra reduction;
- adjusting CART evaluation if requested as a result of the MAI/CART workshop scheduled for February 2017;
- definitions of source apportionment and retention.

An update of the statistical methods will include new algorithms for trend analysis and modernized approaches to flow normalization and evaluation of uncertainties. Altogether the following statistical methodologies will be revised/added:

- detection of break point in time series
- testing for non-linear trend – and changes
- flow normalization in case of trend in flow
- estimates of uncertainties on e.g. monitored, unmonitored and total inputs country pr. basin and on the CART evaluation
- other necessary adjustments of the statistical methods
- adjusting methodology for CART fulfilment evaluation as a result of MAI/CART workshop in February 2017 (MAI CART OPER project) and from a further workshop.

Descriptions of all the revised methodologies will be compiled in the updated version of the PLC Guideline. PRESSURE 4-2016 noted that it will not be possible to develop a common methodology or fully harmonized source apportionment approach for the PLC-7 assessment due to the short preparation time, but the possibilities for further harmonisation will be investigated for the PLC-8 assessment.

Division of tasks and responsibilities

Work package	Task	Specification	Responsible	Deliverables
WP0: Project management	0.1 Overall coordination, communication, implementation and follow-up	- regular reporting of the progress to Pressure WG - planning project activities - follow-up their implementation.	Project manager	Progress reports to Pressure group meetings. Outcomes of the project meetings. Outcomes of workshops
	0.2 Preparations for meetings and workshops	Technical and methodological aspects of project implementation. With assistance from the Secretariat	Project manager	2 workshops will be organized 2-3 project meetings per year during 2017-2020
WP1: Establishing datasets and update of MAI and CART	1.1 Monitoring, compilation, quality assurance and reporting of national annual and periodical data	According to the PLC Guideline and the timelines of HELCOM procedure for releasing the reported PLC water data.	Contracting Parties	
	1.2 Updating periodic data in the PLC database and providing data on atmospheric inputs	The tasks for the PLC Water Data Manager related to the PLC-7 assessment The tasks for the WSC-W EMEP centre as PLC Air Centre related to the PLC-7 assessment	PLC-Water Data Centre PLC-Air Data Centre	The PLC database updated with the verified periodical data 2017 reported by countries Source receptor matrixes (2017) and country pr. basin deposition for all HELCOM CP's, other EU countries and other major sources on nitrogen deposition based on normalized data 1995-2017. Reports and data on airborne inputs: selected hazardous substances for the period 1995-2017
	1.3 Establishing the periodic assessment data set	Verification of the periodic PLC data 1995-2017 for outliers and suspicious data, filling-in data gaps, establishing waterborne input country pr. sub-basin taking into account transboundary inputs and retention. Getting approval from national experts in	BNL, DCE RedCore DG and Project manager	The periodic assessment dataset established and approved by the national experts. The updated HELCOM Core Pressure Indicator on nutrient inputs.

		<p>Contacting Parties</p> <p>Flow-normalisation of waterborne inputs, checking for trends in riverine, direct, waterborne, airborne and total inputs country pr. basin. Tables and figures, updating text.</p> <p>Estimation of total inputs country pr. basin including, uncertainty, evaluation of CART fulfilment, produce tables and figures, elaborate scientific report.</p> <p>Preparing data for the assessment of source apportionment (periodical data), load data on big rivers (including trend and changes) and for inputs of hazardous substances to the Baltic Sea</p>		<p>The updated scientific report on follow up progress toward national reduction targets for nutrients - CART follow-up assessment</p>
<p>WP2: Periodic assessment</p>	<p>2.1 Assessment of sources of nutrients</p>	<p>Elaboration of source apportionment, assessing sources, produce figures and tables, preparing text for PLC-7 assessment.</p> <p>Assessing nutrient loads on the sea by at least seven big rivers, evaluating significance of inputs to the Baltic Sea, and trend and changes in loads</p>	<p>Lead needed for preparing the report together with project team;</p> <p>RedCore DG methodological support</p>	<p>Thematic report on source apportionment as a part of PLC-7 assessment report, including results of assessing nutrient load by at least seven big rivers</p>
	<p>2.2 Assessment of the effectiveness of measures</p>	<p>Compilation of data on measures to reduce input of nutrients implemented in the assessment period from all countries and reduction achieved through these measures.</p> <p>Compilation of information on measures foreseen by the countries to reach the reduction targets by 2021 and anticipated reduction through each of them.</p> <p>Assessment of the effectiveness of measures throughout the BS region,</p>	<p>Lead needed for preparing the report together with project team;</p> <p>RedCore DG methodological support</p>	<p>Thematic report on effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrients inputs to the Baltic Sea</p>
	<p>2.3 Assessment of inputs of selected hazardous</p>	<p>Evaluate comparability of the data on hazardous substances concentrations between countries and years. Calculate inputs of HZS to the Baltic Sea, produce figures and tables, preparing</p>	<p>Lead needed for preparing the report together with project</p>	<p>Thematic report on input of selected hazardous substances into the Baltic Sea</p>

	substances	text for PLC-7 assessment.	team; RedCore DG methodological support	Executive summary with policy messages
	2.4 Compilation of the executive summary with policy messages	Main outcomes of the PLC-7 assessment will be synthesized in the executive summary covering policy messages on the progress in implementation of the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme and the themes of thematic reports.	A drafting team; RedCore DG methodological support	
WP3: Methodologies	3.1 Intercalibration on heavy metals and nutrients	Intercalibration with at least one laboratory from each Contracting Party. The intercalibration will be made for heavy metals (Cd, Cr, Cu, Hg, Ni, Pb and Zn) from river and point source samples. Intercalibration for total nutrients and nutrient fractions (total nitrogen, ammonia-N, nitrite-nitrate-N, dissolved and total and phosphorus) will be carried out for at least one laboratory from each Contracting Party.	Project manager, PLC 7 project team	The intercalibration report covering at least 1 and up to 2 laboratories per Contracting Party
	3.2 Updated PLC guidelines and statistic report	The following methodologies are updated: -statistical method for trend analysis including break points; testing for non-linear trend – and changes, flow normalization in case of trend in flow, estimates of uncertainties -evaluation of effects of measures; -calculation of transboundary input; -accounting extra reduction; - adjusting CART evaluation if requested as a result of the MAI/CART workshop scheduled for February 2017 -definitions of source apportionment and retention.	Project manager, PLC 7 project team and DCE (statistical report)	Updated HELCOM PLC Guideline, including an updated report with statistical methods for PLC and MAI/CART assessments

Annex 2

Project timetable

WP	Task	1-2017	2-2017	3-2017	4-2017	1-2018	2-2018	3-2018	4-2018	1-2019	2-2019	3-2019	4-2019	1-2020	2-2020	3-2020	4-2020
WP0	Project management																
	Workshops																
WP1	Monitoring and reporting of national annual/periodical data																
	Updating PLC database and data on atmospheric inputs																
WP2	Establishing the periodic assessment data set																
	Assessment of sources of nutrients																
	Assessment of the effectiveness of measures																
WP3	Assessment of inputs of selected hazardous substances																
	Compilation of the executive summary and policy messages																
WP3	Updating guidelines and statistical methodology report																
	Intercalibration on heavy metals and nutrients																

The HELCOM budget for PLC-7 project

Annex 3

	Project tasks	Project management	Statistical analysis (DCE)	QA and inter-calibration*	Assessment data processing (BNI)	Periodic PLC water data management (SYKE)**	Periodic data on air-borne input (EMEP)	Assessment tasks by experts	Report proofreading & publishing	Total for the tasks
WP0	Project management	46125							10000	71500
	Monitoring and reporting of national annual/periodical data									0
WP1	Updating PLC database and data on atmospheric inputs					28500	27 000			55500
	Establishing of the periodic assessment data set (DCE and BNI)				33000			25500		78000
	Assessment of sources of nutrients							20625		27500
	Assessment of the effectiveness of measures							17625		23500
WP2	Assessment of inputs of selected hazardous substances							16500		22000
	Compilation of the executive summary and policy messages (a drafting team)							14250		19000
	Updating guidelines and statistical methodology report		20625					15375		47500
WP3	Intercalibration on heavy metals and nutrients			25000						25000
	HELCOM budget	46125	20250	25000	33000	28500	27 000	109875	10000	299750

* price for 15 laboratories participating in the intercalibration. (27,000 € for 20 labs). The cost for national laboratories are not included.

** maximal number of man month calculated according to the Procedures for releasing the reported PLC water data.

Annex 4

The minimum estimated workload for the implementation of the PLC-7 project tasks in man/month. The HELCOM budget (Annex 3) does not cover total cost of the project deliverables. The Contracting Parties leading the selected tasks (columns highlighted in yellow) are invited to co-finance implementation of the tasks in the volume according to the monthly rates of the national experts. The co-financing can be provided to the HELCOM budget or through national arrangements including in kind contribution.

	Project tasks	Project management	Statistical analysis (dedicated task by DCE)	QA and inter-calibration*	Assessment data processing	Periodic PLC water data management (SYKE)**	Periodic data on air-borne input (EMEP)	Assessment tasks by experts	Report proofreading & publishing	Sum
WP0	Project management	4.5							10000	4,5
	Monitoring and reporting of national annual/periodical data									0
WP1	Updating PLC database and data on atmospheric inputs					3	27000			3
	Establishing of the periodic assessment data set (DCE and BNI)				4			2.5		6,5
	Assessment of sources of nutrients							2***		2
WP2	Assessment of the effectiveness of measures							2.5***		2,5
	Assessment of inputs of selected hazardous substances							2***		2
	Compilation of the executive summary and policy messages (a drafting team)							2		2
	Updating guidelines and statistical methodology report		2					1,5***		3,5
WP3	Intercalibration on heavy metals and nutrients			25000*						
Sum		4.5	2		4	3		12,5		26

* price for 15 laboratories participating in the intercalibration. (27,000 € for 20 labs). The cost for national laboratories are not included.

** maximal number of man month calculated according to the Procedures for releasing the reported PLC water data.

*** Lead countries to be responsible for implementation of the assessment tasks including preparation of thematic reports which require specific expertise.

Annex 5 HELCOM Project for Quality assurance of phytoplankton monitoring in the Baltic Sea (HELCOM PEG QA)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (PROJECT NO. 11.57)

1. Title of the project:

Quality assurance of phytoplankton monitoring in the Baltic Sea (HELCOM PEG QA)

2. Project Manager(s):

Ms. Iveta Jurgensone, Latvia, 2017-2019

3. Proposing party:

Contracting parties: Latvia

4. The body supervising the project:

HELCOM State and Conservation

5. Target and activities:

- The main target of the project is to ensure and maintain high quality standard of the international Baltic Sea regional phytoplankton monitoring within the HELCOM COMBINE Programme. This should be achieved by:
 - Maintaining annual training courses (workshop)
 - Maintaining the phytoplankton biovolume list
 - Intercalibrations
 - Maintaining the HELCOM Monitoring guidelines for Phytoplankton - Species composition, abundance and biomass (currently Combine manual Annex C-6).
- HELCOM PEG will serve as a forum for:
 - discussion and review of phytoplankton indicators developed by Lead Countries and to dedicate part of annual meetings to this objective,
 - commenting the HELCOM phytoplankton indicator reports and indicator evaluations for use in HELCOM assessments,
 - supporting the definition of data requirements for phytoplankton indicators and an appropriate data reporting format to ensure that the COMBINE database hosted by ICES provides the data needs for HELCOM phytoplankton indicators,
 - comparing the HELCOM core indicators with OSPAR indicator work after HOLAS II.

The main activities within the project will be carried out at the annual workshops. Intersessional activities will be organized if needed. The following types of activities are planned:

Activity:	Aim:
Training courses	To maintain continuity and high quality in phytoplankton identification and quantification, in particular because a new generation of phytoplankton researchers and analysts are currently joining the PEG; To follow recent changes in taxonomy of problematic and important phytoplankton groups in order to keep the PEG Phytoplankton list up to date.
Intercalibrations	To keep the high standard of phytoplankton monitoring in the Baltic Sea, to assure the comparability of results.
Further unifying the counting method	To continuously update the HELCOM monitoring manual for phytoplankton species composition, abundance and biomass.
Revision of the biovolume file	To add new species and size classes when necessary; to update the biovolume file according to recent taxonomical changes in co-operation with ICES Data Centre.
Production of environmental fact sheets	Updating and production of environmental fact sheets to track changes in phytoplankton community structure.
Platform for phytoplankton indicators	The project will serve as a forum for discussion of phytoplankton indicators being developed in HELCOM and review the results of the indicator evaluations of the HELCOM holistic assessment (HOLAS II) to be finalized 2017-2018.

At the training courses it is planned to consider:

- a) Identification of phytoplankton species;
- b) Maintaining and upgrading of the expertise for identification of alien species;
- c) Making representative and validated images of the Baltic Sea phytoplankton species public in the HELCOM PEG image gallery at, www.Nordicmicroalgae.org.

Intercalibrations and further unifying the counting method includes:

- a) Interlaboratory intercalibration and checking the general methodology, species identification, counting strategy, biovolume estimation etc.
- b) For the professional planning and statistical evaluation of the intercalibration, an expert with a short-term contract has to be employed (approximately 3 months)

The venue of the workshops will be circulated between the Contracting Parties and their marine laboratories. Suggested host countries are: Russia in 2017, Sweden in 2018 and Latvia in 2019.

The project period is three years. Ms. Iveta Jurgensone, Latvia, will be the convener during 2017-2019.

6. Expected results

The outcome of the project will be:

- a) Annual reports from the 3 workshops to HELCOM State and Conservation;
- b) Annually revised species/biovolume list of Baltic Sea phytoplankton species;
- c) Updated HELCOM Monitoring manual for Phytoplankton - Species composition, abundance and biomass;
- d) Review the indicator evaluations for phytoplankton
- e) Intercalibration report to HELCOM/ICES;
- f) Updated environmental fact sheet;
- g) Continuation of contribution of quality-checked images to the HELCOM PEG image gallery at, www.Nordicmicroalgae.org;
- h) Final report (2017-2019).

7. Consistency with HELCOM priorities yes no

8. Timetable

The project will be carried out in 2017-2019 as a continuation to the ongoing HELCOM PEG project for 2014-2016. More specific timetable:

Regular tasks will be discussed during all workshops, especially:

- discussion on new species and size classes that have occurred in the previous year's samples including non-indigenous species
- discussion of new environmental fact sheets and updating of the existing one
- harmonization of species identification by common microscoping of samples from the Baltic Sea
- harmonization of analyzing methods by discussing the methodology and committing intercalibrations
- information on recent changes in taxonomy of planktonic microalgae
- new images to add to the phytoplankton image gallery
- information on new relevant literature, projects about e.g. the development of phytoplankton indicators, meetings and conferences.
- review of phytoplankton indicators being developed by Lead Countries.

Specific tasks for the separate workshops are:

Workshop 2017

- a) A training course on cyanobacteria, teacher will be decided in 2017;
- b) Planning of the next intercalibration;

The workshop will be held in St.Peterburg, Russia.

Workshop 2018

- a) A training course on diatom resting spores and dinoflagellate cysts, Anna Godhe Sweden;
- b) Planning the next project (2020-2022).

The workshop will be held in Sweden.

Workshop 2019

- a) Presentation of the results from the intercalibration;
- b) A training course on diatoms, teacher will be decided in 2018

The workshop will be held in Latvia.

Specific tasks to support the development and evaluation of phytoplankton indicators

2017:

Comment on phytoplankton indicator analyses made for the HOLAS II report and indicator evaluations on phytoplankton by February 2017.

2018:

Comment on phytoplankton indicator reports and indicator evaluations according to deadlines agreed in the HOLAS II project.

9. Budget

9.1. Total costs

The total costs for HELCOM from 2017 to 2019 are estimated to be **15480** EUR.

9.2. Costs divided per financial year

Estimated costs for HELCOM

2017:

Compensation for teaching (120 EUR/h, 8 hours)	960 EUR
Travel and accommodation for the teacher	1000 EUR
Administrative costs	1100 EUR
Travel and accommodation for project manager to present the PEG work in the HELCOM State and Conservation meeting	600 EUR

SUM	3660 EUR
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2018:

Compensation for teaching (120 EUR/h, 8 hours)	960 EUR
Travel and accommodation for the teacher	1000 EUR
Administrative costs	1100 EUR
Preparation of intercalibration	1500 EUR
Travel and accommodation for project manager to present the PEG work in the HELCOM State and Conservation meeting	600 EUR

SUM	5160 EUR
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2019:

Compensation for teaching (120 EUR/h, 8 hours)	960 EUR
Travel and accommodation for the teacher	1000 EUR
Compensation for teaching evaluation of ringtest (intercalibration)	3000 EUR
Administrative costs	1100 EUR
Travel and accommodation for project manager to present the PEG work in the HELCOM State and Conservation meeting	600 EUR
SUM	6660 EUR

9.3. Sources of financing divided per financial year

In general both HELCOM and the host countries finance the workshops and activities therein:

2017: HELCOM and Russia

2018: HELCOM and Sweden

2019: HELCOM and Latvia

10. Additional requests

10.1. From the Contracting Parties

The Contracting Parties are supposed to cover the travel expenses for the participation of the national experts in the workshops, which are not included in the project budget.

The financial contribution of the host country for each workshop is estimated to be ca. 1500 EUR annually, which is expected cost in addition to the administrative costs listed under 9.2.

11. Procedure of nomination of the Project team members

The present phytoplankton expert group consists of the following experts:

Hans Jakobsen	Denmark
Andres Jaanus	Estonia
Annely Enke	Estonia
Kaire Kaljurand	Estonia
Marko Järvinen	Finland
Heidi Hällfors	Finland
Sirpa Lehtinen	Finland
Jeanette Göbel	Germany
Norbert Wasmund	Germany
Regina Hansen	Germany
Susanne Busch	Germany
Iveta Jurgensone	Latvia
Irina Olenina	Lithuania
Janina Kownacka	Poland

Slawomira Gromisz	Poland
Wojciech Kraśniewski	Poland
Andrey Sharov	Russia
Evgenia Lange	Russia
Chatarina Karlsson	Sweden
Siv Huseby	Sweden
Helena Högländer	Sweden
Lars Edler	Sweden
Malin Mohlin	Sweden
Marie Johansen	Sweden
Ann-Turi Skjevik	Sweden

12. Signatures of the project managers

Ms. Iveta Jurgensone

Chair of HELCOM Phytoplankton Expert Group

13. Opinion of the chairman of the relevant body

14. Opinion of the Executive Secretary

positive

15. Decision of the heads of Delegation

HOD 51-2016 decided

X to establish _____ not to establish

the project

Annex 6 Regional Baltic Sea plan for harmonized ratification and implementation for the 2004 IMO Ballast Water Management Convention (BWMC)

Recalling that the 2004 International Convention for Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention) will enter into force in 8 September 2017, and to ensure its coherent implementation, **the HELCOM member states AGREE:**

To encourage Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland to ratify the BWM Convention as soon as possible and at the latest before the entry into force of the BWM Convention to ensure the equal treatment of the ships (i.e. the granting of exemptions) throughout the Baltic Sea (HELCOM area).

To continue the work within the HELCOM-OSPAR TG BALLAST, including:

- Continuing working on the Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Harmonised Procedure for the Contracting Parties of OSPAR and HELCOM on the granting of exemptions under BWM Convention (JHP) and further developing the online decision support tool.
- Further studying the new concept of the "same risk area" - which is currently being discussed at IMO - in relation to the JHP, avoiding pre-empting any decisions at IMO MEPC or PPR.
- Examining if the database on port survey results can be coupled with or linked to the data obtained from the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) monitoring for Descriptor 2 in order to improve the current limitation of data availability on non-indigenous species (NIS).

To nominate a national focal point to the new expert group to continuously update the target species list (TSL) for the JHP risk assessments.

To develop and have in place by 2018 a system to quickly disseminate information on outbreaks of ballast water mediated invasive species which, for example, could lead to the withdrawal of A-4 exemption or requirements on contingency measures or require notification to ship owners and administration to avoid ballast water operations where such events occur (early warning system).

To provide, and inform on availability, of reception facilities for sediments in ports and terminals where cleaning and repair of ballast tanks occurs based on IMO Guidelines G1 by 2018.

To investigate if ports as hotspots should be included as a regular part of the HELCOM Monitoring programs on NIS keeping in mind the obligations from the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the other EU Directives for the EU member states.

To generate a list of surveyed ports by 2018; the list will be permanently updated.

To support and exchange experiences on compliance control and enforcement of the BWMC.

To work towards further harmonization of implementing regulations of the BWM Convention.

Annex 7 Statements by the European Commission Regarding Financing and the Implementation of EU Legislation

Statements by the European Commission Regarding Financing and the Implementation of EU Legislation

The EU is an important financing body for potential projects being considered within the context of HELCOM. In order to avoid any interference with the independent decision-making procedures established under the various financing instruments, the EU does, as a matter of principle, not take any position as regards any project proposal intended for submission to EU financing bodies. This should not be interpreted in any way as prejudging the position of the EU when taking financing decision.

The responsibility for implementing EU legislation is solely with the EU Member States. The role of the European Commission is, inter alia, to assess compliance with EU legislation once a Member State has submitted its report. Hence, any statement or position taken by the EU within the context of HELCOM should not be construed to give any assessment of whether the work done by HELCOM is compliant with EU legislation.

Statement regarding MSFD Implementation

The EU pointed out that any agreement that the EU delegation will give within the context of HELCOM in this respect is without prejudice to the European Commission's role under the EU Treaty to assess the implementation and compliance of EU Member States with EU law and the assessments that the European Commission is required to carry out in accordance with Articles 12 and 16 MSFD after EU Member States have officially reported to the European Commission.

List of documents

Title	Category	Submitted by
1-1 Provisional Agenda.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary
1-2 Annotations to the Provisional Agenda.pdf	CMNT	Executive Secretary
2-1 Work plan of the EU Chairmanship.pdf	DEC	Chair
3-1 SOI Seoul Outcome.pdf	CMNT	Executive Secretary
3-2 Information on upcoming global events related to SDG 14.pdf	INF	Executive Secretary
4-1 Provisional Agenda for HELCOM 38-2017.pdf	INF	Chair and Executive Secretary
4-2-Rev1 Outline for the high-level segment of HELCOM 38-2017.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary
4-3 Initial proposal for the content of the HELCOM high-level segment 28 February 2017.pdf	CMNT	Executive Secretary
4-4 HELCOM results and targets as aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.pdf	CMNT	Executive Secretary
6-1 Draft HELCOM Recommendation on sewage sludge handling.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary
6-2 Draft methodology for accounting an extra reduction.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary
6-3 Project proposal PEG QA 2017-2019.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary
6-4 Proposal to establish an intersessional Expert Network on dredging-depositing operations at sea (HELCOM EN DREDS).pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary
6-5-Rev1 Identifying Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in the Baltic Sea.pdf	DEC	Finland
6-6 Noise Sensitivity of Animals in the Baltic Sea.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary
6-7 Endorsement of the method to calculate the Baltic Sea cumulative impact index (BSII).pdf	DEC	TAPAS Project
6-8 Draft regional Baltic Sea plan for harmonized ratification and implementation for the 2004 IMO BWMC.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary
6-9 Outcomes of working groups meetings.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary
6-9-Add1 Outcomes of working groups' meetings.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary
6-10 Roadmap for continued HELCOM work on social and economic analyses.pdf	CMNT	Executive Secretary
6-11 Revised HELCOM Response Manual Volume III.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary
6-12 Deletion of Hot Spot No 27 – Kehra Pulp and Paper.pdf	DEC	Estonia
6-13 Status of the Baltic cod stocks and related actions in BSAP.pdf	DEC	CCB
6-14 Plan for closer cooperation between marine environment and fisheries management in the Baltic Sea.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary
6-15 Agreement on a biodiversity assessment tool.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary
6-16 Agreement on a hazardous substances assessment tool.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary
6-17-Rev1 Adoption of core indicators and GES boundary values.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary
6-18 Draft HELCOM Recommendation on conservation of Baltic Sea underwater biotopes, habitats and biotope complexes.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary
6-19 Danish proposed changes to HELCOM draft Rec on conservation of Baltic Sea underwater biotopes, etc.pdf	CMNT	Denmark
6-20 PLC-7 Project Proposal.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary
6-21 Proposal on the Limit Reference Level (LRL) for harbour seals.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary
6-22 Tentative plan for a regional consultation on HOLAS II 2017-18.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary
6-23-Rev1 Achievements and plans of the HOLAS II project.pdf	INF	Executive Secretary
6-24 Estonian clarification on study reservation on Cd and Pb secondary GES boundary.pdf	INF	Estonia
6-25 Statement to the initial suggestion on work plan for HELCOM AGRI Group 2017-2018.pdf	INF	BFFE
6-26 The status of PLC data reporting.pdf	INF	Executive Secretary

6-27 Scoping Study on International and European Processes relevant to OSPAR and HELCOM RAP ML.pdf	CMNT	Sweden
6-28 BONUS projects results having a potential in management.pdf	INF	Sweden
6-29 Status on reporting of data for use in HOLAS II.pdf	INF	Executive Secretary
6-30 Lead Countries on indicators.pdf	INF	Executive Secretary
6-31 HELCOM Indicators on population demography of seals.pdf	INF	Germany
6-32 Comments by Germany to the draft HELCOM Recommendation on Sewage Sludge Handling.pdf	CMNT	Germany
7-1 Recruitment of Professional Secretary.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary
7-2 Accounts of the Commission 2015-2016.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary
7-3 Draft budget for 2017-2018.pdf	DEC	Executive Secretary
8-1 Update on HELCOM communication activities and outlook for future.pdf	INF	Information Secretary
8-2 On-going projects within HELCOM and with HELCOM involvement.pdf	INF	Executive Secretary
8-3 Upcoming meetings within HELCOM and other forums in 2017.pdf	INF	Executive Secretary
8-4 Outcome of the political seminar by HELCOM at the 7th Strategy Forum of the EUSBSR.pdf	INF	Executive Secretary
8-5 Baltic Sea Day 2017.pdf	INF	Russia
8-6 Information on Lukoil activity.pdf	INF	Russia