
Document title	Annotations to the Provisional Agenda
Code	1-2
Agenda Item	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
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Introduction

While official meetings of all HELCOM Working and Expert Groups and other subsidiary bodies are postponed due to the HELCOM strategic pause until further notice, informal consultation sessions, without Russian participation, can be organized and hosted by a Contracting Party.

An informal consultation session of the HELCOM Fish Group (IC FISH 1-2022), hosted by Sweden, is to be held in the HELCOM Secretariat premises in Helsinki, Finland (Katajanokanlaituri 6B), on 2-3 November 2022. The session will start at **10:00 on Wednesday, 2 November 2022** and will end by **16:00 local time (EET) on Thursday, 3 November**. Practical information for participants will be circulated in due time.

The Contracting Parties are requested to ensure that at least the lead of a delegation or another delegate with the mandate to negotiate attends the session in person.

The informal consultation session can process and discuss documents and provide guidance and recommendations as to how to progress work. Issues requiring a formal decision will be handled by a correspondence procedure, including all Contracting Parties, after the informal consultation session.

Documents asking for guidance, discussion or recommendations are invited to be submitted by **19 October 2022** and documents for information by **26 October 2022** to the Secretariat (markus.helavuori@helcom.fi; petra.kaaria@helcom.fi). Documents will be shared on the [IC FISH 1-2022](#) session site.

Participants are invited to register to the session by answering the [Participation Survey](#) by **26 October 2022**.

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

These Annotations to the Provisional Agenda have been prepared based on the outcome of the FISH 14-2022 meeting and consultations between the Chair and the Secretariat.

The Session is invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda as contained in document 1-1.

The Session is invited to note that as a general rule and mindful of the limited time available, pure information documents will no longer be introduced at the Session but will be taken as read. Comments of particular interest related to such documents may, however, be considered by the Session. Participants are therefore invited to familiarize themselves with all submitted documents prior to the Session.

Agenda Item 2 Matters arising from HELCOM work of relevance for the group

The Session is invited to take note of the Outcome of the 61st Meeting of the Heads of Delegation ([HOD 61-2021](#)), held online on 8-9 December 2021. The Session is invited to take note of the Memo of the informal consultation session of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation ([IC HOD 1-2022](#)) held online on 14 June 2022. (document to be submitted).

The Session is invited to take note that the Chairpersons of HELCOM and HELCOM main groups held an informal consultation session (IC CHAIRPERSONS 1-2022) on 2 June 2022 in order to review the potential changes to the working structure of HELCOM and to discuss HELCOM work during the strategic pause, and that IC CHAIRPERSONS 2-2022 will be held on 31 October 2022.

The Session is invited to consider the activities of subsidiary bodies to the Fish Group under the relevant Agenda Items.

The Session is invited to take note of any other matters arising from HELCOM work of relevance for the Fish Group.

Agenda Item 3 Restructuring of HELCOM work

The Session is invited to note that IC HOD 1-2022 discussed the restructuring of HELCOM and the templates of the Terms of Reference and workplans to be used and agreed inter alia that the Secretariat, together with relevant Working Groups, should draft Terms of Reference and workplans for the existing groups in autumn 2022, and that the final decision on restructuring will be taken once the updated Terms of Reference and workplans have been reviewed in December 2022. The Terms of Reference and workplan of the Fish Group will be considered under Agenda Item 11.

Agenda Item 4 Implementation of the 2021 Baltic Sea Action Plan

The HELCOM Ministerial Meeting held on 20 October 2021 adopted the updated [HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan](#) (BSAP) containing almost 200 actions to reach the vision and objectives of the BSAP. HOD 61-2021 discussed the implementation of the BSAP and guidance for the Working Groups to plan their future work. The meeting invited the Secretariat to prepare a technical document for HELCOM 43-2022 on the guidance for the implementation of the BSAP (document to be submitted).

The Session is invited to discuss and recommend a way forward towards the implementation of the actions in the Baltic Sea Action Plan related to the Fish Group.

Agenda Item 5 Regional cooperation on fisheries and environment

Cooperation between HELCOM and BALTFISH

The Latvian Presidency of BALTFISH (1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022), the Lithuanian Presidency (1 July 2022 -30 June 2023) and/or other Contracting Parties are further invited to inform on recent activities within BALTFISH. In particular, information related to BALTFISH discussions regarding the implementation of 2021 BSAP actions would be relevant.

The Secretariat will further inform the Session on recent information sharing and cooperation between HELCOM and BALTFISH. The Session is invited to discuss information of particular interest, that should be shared with BALTFISH.

Cooperation with the BSAC sub-group on ecosystem-based fisheries management

The Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC) is invited to inform the Session on recent activities within BSAC relevant for HELCOM, including the ongoing work regarding ecosystem-based fisheries management.

Cooperation with other organizations

The Session is invited to share information on regional, EU and international (FAO, CBD, other regions) developments for closer regional cooperation between organisations in the fields of fisheries and the marine environment.

Agenda Item 6 BAT/BEP for sustainable aquaculture

The Session is invited to take note of the memos of the informal consultation sessions of the HELCOM Fish Correspondence Group concerning a draft document on BAT/BEP descriptions for sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea region (IC CG AQUACULTURE 1-2022, IC CG AQUACULTURE 2-2022 and IC CG AQUACULTURE 3-2022) which took place since FISH 14-2022 (document to be submitted).

The Session is invited to consider the way forward with regard to finalization of the BAT/BEP descriptions for sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea region.

Lead countries are invited to further inform the Session on the ongoing work regarding the development of BAT/BEP for sustainable aquaculture.

Session participants are invited to share information on recent activities relevant to the development of sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea as well as the BAT/BEP for sustainable aquaculture.

Agenda Item 7 HELCOM data interests

The Session is invited to recall that FISH 14-2022 considered a draft reporting template for the *Roadmap on fisheries data in order to assess incidental bycatches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes in the Baltic Sea* (FISH 14-2022, document 7-1-Rev.1). The Session is invited to continue consideration of the draft template, as well as the follow up on the Roadmap on fisheries data in general (document to be submitted).

In this context, the Session is invited to recall that FISH 14-2022 noted that the ongoing review of the EU Control Regulation, the new article 4.1 of the EU MAP under the DCF as implemented from 2022 onwards as well as related studies are expected to provide further information addressing the data needs, e.g. the means to fill the data gaps, and that it might be advisable to finalize the template only after the completion of those processes, but also noted that progress on certain elements of the Roadmap would be useful to consider already before that.

Recalling the discussion at FISH 14-2022, the EU is invited inform the Session of the revision of the Control Regulation and in particular matters related to by-catch data collection.

Agenda Item 8 Salmon and sea trout including HELCOM Recommendation 32-33/1

The Session is invited to recall that according to HELCOM Recommendation 32-33/1, the actions taken by the Contracting Parties for implementing this recommendation shall be reported to the Commission every three years in January, starting in 2012.

The Session is invited to recall that FISH 14-2022 agreed on a procedure for Recommendation 32-33/1, according to which the Secretariat has circulated a reporting template as well as the table set out in Annex 2 of document 8-1 to FISH 14-2022 and the responses received were made available on the [IC FISH 1-2022 session site](#) and circulated to contacts and observers of the Fish Group.

The Session is invited to consider the final draft report of the 2022 implementation of Recommendation 32-33/1 with a view to its endorsement (document to be submitted).

Participants are invited to share any other information on recent activities related to migratory fish.

Agenda Item 9 Interactions between fisheries and marine ecosystems

Participants are invited to share information on recent activities related to interactions between fisheries and marine ecosystems, including any relevant follow-up and discussion by BALTFISH on the ICES Special Request Advice on EU request on emergency measures to prevent bycatch of Baltic Proper harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) in the Baltic Sea fisheries.

Agenda Item 10 Work on HELCOM indicator development

The Session is invited to take note of work related to HELCOM indicator work towards the third Holistic Assessment of the Baltic Sea (HOLAS 3), specifically addressing those indicators with relevance to fish-related evaluations (document to be submitted).

The Session is invited to take note that Russia has lifted its study reservation on all HELCOM indicators and threshold values for use in HOLAS 3, with a disclaimer that those indicators for which Russia does not have relevant data and will subsequently not provide any information, will be developed without Russia's input, for further use in HOLAS 3 evaluation.

Agenda Item 11 Future work

Following the recommendation by IC HOD 1-2022 ([Memo of IC HOD 1-2022](#), para. 4.17), the Session is invited to update the Terms of Reference and workplan of the Fish Group using the new templates (document to be submitted). The Session is invited to plan its work ahead for the coming years, taking the workplan as well as the updated BSAP into account.

The Session is invited to agree on the time and place of the next session of the Fish Group.

Agenda Item 12 Any other business

The Session is invited to review, and update as needed, the list of Fish contacts and observers (document 12-1). The Contracting Parties and Observer organizations are invited to inform of any new, or changed, nominations to the Secretariat (petra.kaaria@helcom.fi).

The Contracting Parties and Observers are invited to present any other business of relevance for the HELCOM Fish Group.

Agenda Item 13 Memo of the Session

The Session will be provided with a draft memo for adoption. The final memo, incorporating corrections by the Session, will be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Session and made available on the HELCOM Meeting Portal.