Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Report on the status of

National wildlife response plans in the Baltic Sea

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Report on the status of national wildlife response plans in the Baltic Sea

Summary

The HELCOM cooperation on maritime pollution preparedness and response has been in place between competent pollution response authorities, usually national coastguard or navy, since 1977. Whilst the topic of oiled wildlife response first appeared in the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan of 2007, the framework for cooperation on oiled wildlife response in the Baltic Sea is set by the HELCOM Recommendation 31E/6 on integrated wildlife response planning, adopted in 2010, and the commitments that were agreed on at the Ministerial level in 2013.

The Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention[1] are to develop a wildlife response plan integrated into oil pollution contingency plans either on a national or sub-national/local level by 2016, and to apply the commonly agreed guidelines on its contents including e.g. aims, minimum standards and involvement of volunteers. The HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR) was set up in 2014 and has worked to strengthen the cooperation between the Contracting Parties by sharing information on a regular basis and organizing training courses.

Identifying growth potential regarding national and regional preparedness for oiled wildlife response is the main driver behind this report, prepared by the HELCOM expert group EWG OWR during 2014-16. Each HELCOM member state was invited to provide a national report on the status of their oiled wildlife response preparedness, using a format developed and agreed upon by the EWG OWR and HELCOM Secretariat. Not all countries submitted a contribution so the overview presented here is incomplete.

The EWG OWR also developed a self-assessment tool to be able to compare the national preparedness between each other, against an international standard that distinguishes four categories. Most countries filled in the self-assessment tool as additional information to their national status report.

Based on the available reporting some general conclusions can be drawn:

- The level of preparedness varies widely throughout the HELCOM region. Some countries are quite advanced in their preparedness level, mostly created via active authority-NGO partnerships. Other countries do not have systems in place and are still identifying and developing resources.
- The approach for oiled wildlife response is different between countries. Denmark uses (mass) euthanasia as the preferred approach for dealing with live oiled animals, unless species with conservation interest are involved. Germany requires NGOs to demonstrate an ability to deal with live oiled animals with high standard skills and organisation structure. Countries such as Finland, Estonia and Poland have adopted rehabilitation as the standard approach, however administering euthanasia for animals that would not benefit from rehabilitation.
- In a number of countries, planning and development of capabilities are still in their infancy. Lack of dedicated capacity and funding seems to be the main obstacles. In Sweden, the development of wildlife response preparedness has started at the national level, but the fact that the responsibility for integrated planning and preparedness has been delegated to local authorities leads to a complex structure and delays in getting things done.
- Russia has not been participating so far in the EWG OWR.

[1] Denmark, Estonia, European Union, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden.

HELCOM Response group decided in March 2016 (RESPONSE 21-2016) that the aim of having oiled wildlife response plans in place by December 2016 is not achievable, and that the timeline should be extended. The group has thus decided to extend the mandate of the EWG OWR by one year, until December 2017.

1. Introduction and background

Swift national and transnational responses to marine pollution incidents are of outmost importance in the Baltic Sea - a small, semi-enclosed, brackish sea in Northern Europe. The Baltic marine environment is an important resource for the 85 million people living in its catchment area, which is vulnerable and highly sensitive to any release of oil or other harmful substances. At the same time, the Baltic Sea is a busy traffic route for shipment of goods and passenger traffic. The size of tankers, the amounts of oil being transported and the numbers of ship movements are increasing in the Baltic Sea. The busy shipping routes, numerous shallow and narrow passages and periodical ice coverage make the Baltic Sea difficult to navigate and involve a high risk of a major oil pollution incident. On average, some 130 accidents occur annually in the Baltic Sea involving tankers over 150 GT and/or other ships over 400 GT. Fortunately, there has not been any major oil incidents in the Baltic Sea since the Fu Shan Hai incident in 2003.

For four decades the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission – Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) has acted as the main environmental policymaker for the Baltic Sea area. The work is based on the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki Convention), first signed in 1974 and revised in 1992. All nine countries (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland Russian Federation and Sweden) as well as the European Union (EU) are parties to the HELCOM agreement (referred here as the Contracting Parties, or CP).

The HELCOM cooperation on pollution preparedness and response has been in place between competent pollution response authorities, usually national coastguard or navy, since 1977. There are today around 70 dedicated oil response vessels in the region with equipment which can be used for international assistance.

The HELCOM Response Manual adopted in 1983 includes the agreed operational procedures of Contracting Parties in the case of a major international oil incident. It covers also administrative procedures and financial matters related to requesting and receiving international assistance.

Whilst the topic of oiled wildlife response first appeared in the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan of 2007, the framework for cooperation on oiled wildlife response in the Baltic Sea is set by the HELCOM Recommendation 31E/6 on integrated wildlife response planning (2010), as well as the commitments that were agreed at the Ministerial level in 2013. The CP are to develop a wildlife response plan integrated into oil pollution contingency plans either on a national or sub-national/local level by 2016 and to apply commonly agreed guidelines on its contents including e.g. aims, minimum standards, involvement of volunteers, etc. An Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (OWR) was set up in 2014 and has since worked to strengthen the cooperation between the CP by sharing information on a regular basis and organizing training courses.

The regional cooperation based on the operational procedures has been tested in practice in the annual joint alarm and operational combating exercises (HELCOM BALEX DELTA), as well as joint airborne surveillance activities (HELCOM CEPCO) since 1980s. The CP are currently considering how cross-border OWR and shore response could be practiced on a regular basis, as part of the national and international response exercises.

The Baltic Sea countries are currently in different stages with regard to the development of their national wildlife response plans: Estonia already has a plan in place, other countries are updating their existing plans

and some are only starting to develop a plan. Thus, progress is ongoing and not all of the Baltic Sea countries will reach the 2016 target.

This report contains an overview of the level of preparedness for oiled wildlife response in the Baltic Sea based on a common reporting tool and future perspectives.

2. HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response

The HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR) works to strengthen the cooperation between HELCOM Contracting Parties in the field of oiled wildlife response. It acts as a forum for the exchange of information on progress and best practices, and facilitates the creation of joint standards and cross-border cooperation in oiled wildlife response. Where possible, it also facilitates the training of national experts and exchange of training materials.

The ad hoc group was set up in 2014 as a result of the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting and was in June 2016 granted a one-year extension, until end of 2017, to continue the work.

3. Oiled wildlife preparedness self-assessment tool

The oiled wildlife response self-assessment tool was developed as an instrument that countries can use to assess their current level of OWR preparedness against what could be considered as a "world class" system of preparedness, or at least a "good basis". *See Annex 1.*

Various statements were provided on systems that have been created, or activities that are taking place in a country, with the intention of developing a higher level of preparedness. The five categories provided were:

1. Planning and integration
2. Exercises
3. Training
4. Equipment and facilities
5. Partnering and funding.

Each column in the table provides statements that signify an increasing level of preparedness from left to right, leading to the world class preparedness in the rightmost column. In each cell of the table two or three statements are presented that can be ticked if the statement applies to the situation in a particular country. Horizontally, statements appear in different text colours, to assist filling in the table and comparing statements of similar nature in each column.

Further explanations on the use of the tool are provided in Annex 1.

4. Analysis of the level of preparedness in the Baltic Sea and future perspectives

In the sections starting from 4.1, the reports are provided as received from the various Contracting Parties (CP). Figure 1 summarizes how the self-assessment tool was filled in by all CP. Figure 2 provides a graphical overview of the results from all countries, and "the average image" of the Baltic Sea as a whole.

Although the information presented in this report is still incomplete, some general conclusions can be drawn:

- The level of preparedness varies widely throughout the HELCOM region. Some countries are quite advanced in their preparedness level, mostly created via active authority-NGO partnerships. Other countries do not have systems in place and are still identifying and developing resources.

- The approach for oiled wildlife response is different between countries. Denmark uses (mass) euthanasia as the preferred approach for dealing with live oiled animals, unless species with conservation interest are involved. Germany requires NGOs to demonstrate an ability to deal with live oiled animals with high standard skills and organisation structure. Countries such as Finland, Estonia and Poland have adopted rehabilitation as the standard approach, however administering euthanasia for animals that would not benefit from rehabilitation.
- In a number of countries, planning and the development of capabilities are still in their infancy. Lack of dedicated capacity and funding seems to be the main roadblocks. In Sweden the development of wildlife response preparedness has started at a national level, but the fact that the responsibility for integrated planning and preparedness has been delegated to local authorities leads to a complex structure and delays in getting things done.
- Russia has not been participating so far in the EWG OWR.

Overall, there is quite some scope for discussion between CP as to define which level of preparedness would be required in order to deal with an oiled wildlife incident in the region, and if this level of preparedness is best developed at national levels, or at a regional level, or perhaps both. Section 5 provides some thoughts to answer this question.

	Planning and integration				Exercises				Training				Equipment and facilities				Partnering and funding			
	To be initiated	Important gaps to be filled	Strong basis	World class	To be initiated	Important gaps to be filled	Strong basis	World class	To be initiated	Important gaps to be filled	Strong basis	World class	To be initiated	Important gaps to be filled	Strong basis	World class	To be initiated	Important gaps to be filled	Strong basis	World class
Denmark			x					x	See comment	See comment	See comment	See comment	See comment	See comment	See comment	See comment			x	
Estonia			x			x				x					x			x		
Finland			x			x				x					x				x	
Germany		x				x				x				x				x		
Latvia		x				x			x				x				x			
Lithuania	x					x			x					x			x			
Poland	x					x			x					x				x		
Russia	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Sweden		x				x			x				x				x			

Additional comments from Denmark:	
DK - exercises	Last OWR exercise did not include volunteers ; Exercises are planned in the overall oil spill plan, but not separately in the OWR plan)
DK - training	Training in relation to rehabilitation, which we assume the questions mainly relate to, are not relevant as the Danish policy is not to rehabilitate. Roles and responses amongst authorities and volunteers are defined.)
DK equip&facs	(As we I Denmark don't rehabilitate the needs for facilities are limited. The questions seem more relevant when rehabilitation is part of the strategy.)
DK part&fund	Tier-3 resources are not described in the oiled wildlife plan as it has not been found necessary when we don't rehabilitate.)

Figure 1. Table expression of the overall preparedness in the Baltic Sea, per country.

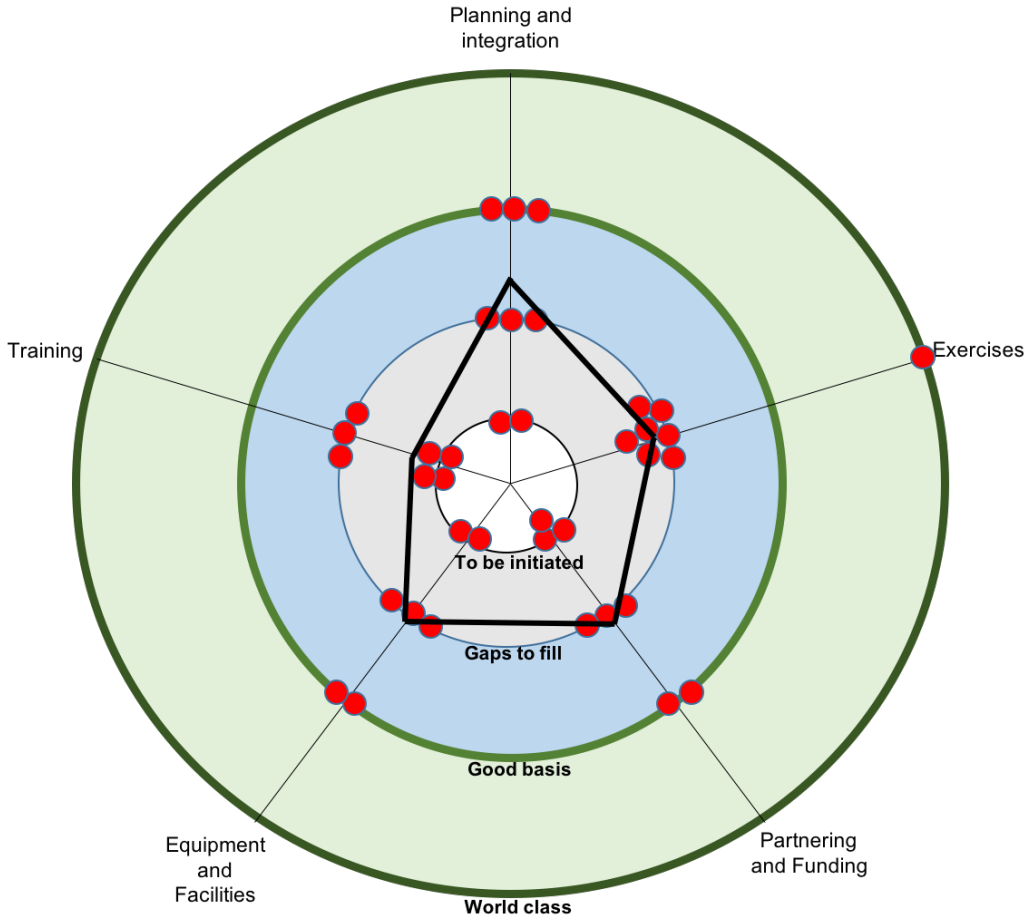

Figure 2. Graphical expression of the overall preparedness in the Baltic Sea, showing relative strengths and weaknesses.

4.1. Denmark

4.1.1. Planning and integration

The Royal Danish Navy is responsible for national contingency arrangements. Maritime Assistance Service holds the responsibility for managing pollution incidents. Danish Defence Operational Staff is responsible for aerial surveillance while aerial surveillance missions have been outsourced to Norwegian company Sundt Air. The Danish Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) and regional or local councils are responsible for shoreline clean-up. Local councils manage pollution response in harbours and share responsibility with the Danish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for restoration.

The Danish Environmental Protection Agency has responsibility for planning and strategy. The Danish Nature Agency has the responsibility for oiled wildlife response and field management. The primary oiled wildlife response strategy is field euthanasia. Birdlife Denmark can rehabilitate Species of special concern (e.g. IUCN or HELCOM Red List). If Wildlife rehabilitators are allowed to rescue and rehabilitate wildlife; this will be a local, ad hoc decision.

The contingency plan is scheduled for revision.

4.1.2. Exercises

Wildlife aspects are exercised as part of the national contingency plan for managing oil spill or pollution incidents. OWR exercises do not include volunteers.

4.1.3. Training

Field euthanasia will be carried out by experienced employees or hunters. Activities will be coordinated by The Nature Agency. Dedicated training is not included in the contingency plan.

4.1.4. Equipment and facilities

Field euthanasia is carried out with standard hunting equipment. If volunteers are involved, ammunition for guns is provided.

There is a network of wildlife rehabilitation centres affiliated with the Dyrenes Beskyttelse (Animal Welfare Denmark), all of which work on a voluntary basis. Present level of experience and capacity to care for oiled wildlife is not known.

4.1.5. Partnering and funding

Tier-3 resources are not described in the Danish oiled wildlife plan.

The following authorities and organizations are partners or stakeholders in the plan:

- The Royal Danish Navy
- Aarhus University, DCE – Danish Centre for Environment and Energy
- DTU Vet, National Veterinary Institute
- Dansk Ornitologisk Forening (Danish Birdlife Partner)
- The Danish Nature Agency
- The Danish Environmental Protection Agency

Stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR.

All main stakeholders are aware of the formal policy guidelines recommending the euthanasia of oiled animals. During an oiled wildlife response, stakeholders can be expected to effectively cooperate on the beach and apply predefined guidelines as appropriate.

Table A. Filled-in SAT Denmark (additional comments from Denmark in ***bold italic underlined text***)

Needed for (cost) effective oiled wildlife response	To be initiated	Important gaps to be filled	Strong basis	World class
Planning and integration	☐ Only an oil spill response plan exists; it may or may not have reference to OWR ☐ No authority so far has taken responsibility to oversee (the quality of) wildlife response and preparedness ☐ It is no common rationale for (the development of) an integrated OWR plan.	☐ It is recognized that OWR needs a plan; meetings have taken place, but no draft document written as yet ☐ One authority has taken responsibility to take a lead on plan development, but other relevant authorities are not engaging as yet ☐ A scenario/risk analysis has resulted in a clear picture of what is needed and who needs to do what	☐ A mature plan has been developed on the basis of scenario analysis, but not (fully) formalised or integrated as yet ☒ All relevant authorities are engaged with the OWR plan, by formal decision ☒ All relevant parties (Authority-NGO-Private) have been brought around the table and have divided and agreed roles, responsibilities and development tasks	☒ OWR plan formalised and fully integrated with all relevant oil spill plans (at sea response, coastal response, regional plans), and implemented via a multi-year programme and budget ☐ Annual activities demonstrate full commitment with all signatories of the plan and significant preparedness improvements thanks to training and exercises in which all signatories participate ☐ Progressively the preparedness is increasing according to plan and budget; Risks are managed
Exercises	☐ No OWR exercises take place ☐ There is no actor who is interested to organises OWR exercises ☐ The importance of exercises such as table tops, field exercises and facility exercises is acknowledged but not acted upon	☐ Exercises have had and ad hoc character and were not related to a plan or training programme ☒ Wildlife aspects are exercised by one or more parties but not by everyone together ***(last OWR exercise did not include volunteers)*** ☐ Ad hoc exercises were limited to table tops and/or simple field exercises	☐ Exercises take place coherently every year and look at different aspects of a response ☐ Exercises are attended by all stakeholders together but there is no clear relation with training ☐ Exercises are structural but a large mobilisation exercise testing the build-up and operations of a facility has not been held to date	☒ Exercises take place according to a pre-defined schedule that directly relates to the agreed plan together ***(Exercises are planned in the overall oil spill plan, but not separately in the OWR plan)*** ☐ Wildlife aspects are exercised by all stakeholders together and aiming at letting trained officers working ☒ There is a full diversity of scheduled exercises (table top, field, facility) as part of a formal plan-related exercise programme ***(Exercises are planned in the overall oil spill plan, but not separately in the OWR plan)***
Training ***(Training in relation to rehabilitation, which we assume the questions mainly relate to, are not relevant as the Danish policy is not to rehabilitate. Roles and responses amongst authorities and volunteers are defined.)***	☐ Roles and responsibilities in a wildlife response are not clarified and not discussed between stakeholders ☐ There is no in-country expertise available to provide training courses ☐ There are parties interested in being trained	☐ Some but not all stakeholders have assumed their roles in a wildlife response and train their key personnel to be able to take responsibilities according to clear job descriptions ☐ Training at different levels (convergent responder, advanced responder, section heads, manager) is recognized, but training is limited to the volunteer (convergent) level. ☐ Management roles are not trained	☐ Roles and responsibilities are defined as job descriptions as part of an agreed plan and a training programme has been agreed and is centrally coordinated, delivering key personnel from different organisations ☐ Training at most levels is recognised and taking place ☐ Training packages aim at international standards allowing trained staff to assist abroad if called upon	☐ Trained personnel from different stakeholder organisations is offered regular opportunities to exercise together, to practice their skills in realistic scenarios ☐ A centrally coordinated training programme is aiming at delivering responders at all levels and ensuring various individuals can take key roles in the higher management positions. ☐ Trained staff are qualified according to international standards to assist with training other responders or responders abroad

Equipment and facilities ***(As we in Denmark don't rehabilitate the needs for facilities are limited. The questions seem more relevant when rehabilitation is part of the strategy.)***	☐ The role of facilities in OWR is recognised, but plans to realise them have not been developed or tested. ☐ Equipment stockpiles are unknown or absent	☐ It is clear what facilities are needed for different purposes in a wildlife response. At this stage, only small size facilities can be used or developed, equipped and staffed, relating to relatively unchallenging incident scenarios ☐ Equipment stockpiles are available in-country, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made	☐ The use and development of facilities has been described in the plan and scripts and criteria are available for scaling up facility size to a desired maximum level that can be equipped and staffed ☐ Equipment stockpiles and lists of equipment and consumables have been drawn up as well as an updated list of manufacturers and providers	☐ The use and development of fit-for-purpose facilities is the subject of specific exercises in an exercise programme in which the performance of contractors and responsible organisations is regularly tested and evaluated ☐ Equipment mobilisation in relation to facility build up and field activities is regularly tested and evaluated as part of an exercise programme
Partnering and funding ***(Tier-3 resources are not described in the oiled wildlife plan as it has not been found necessary when we don't rehabilitate.)***	☐ No dedicated central funds are explicitly available for wildlife preparedness development ☐ It is recognised that wildlife impacts or response can be controversial in terms of public reactions, but no multi-stakeholder activities have been organised to date to explore common ground and solutions ☐ There is a high reliance on quality tier-3 resources from abroad, but the procedures to invite and integrate a tier-3 team have not been discussed or described.	☐ Funds are available to the extent that some ad hoc activities can be financed; there is no multi-year approach nor budget available ☐ Multi-stakeholder meetings have been discussing wildlife impacts and options for a response, and it is clear that different views and approaches are possible, but no actions have been taken to find solutions in bridging different opinions ☐ Quality tier-3 resources for response assistance have been identified and discussions take place on mobilisation procedures, but no formal procedure has been agreed nor described	☒ A multi-year budget has been created to finance a number of activities, contracts and equipment investments. Still it is expected from various key stakeholders to contribute in-kind to the agreed preparedness level ☒ Multi-stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR ☐ The assistance from quality tier-3 resources have been described as part of the wildlife response plan. Tier-3 mobilisation however is not part of an exercise programme	☐ A multi-year budget has been created that allows one or more key stakeholders to coordinate an all encompassing programme and overseeing investments, training and exercises, and provide professional staff to undertake key roles and responsibilities in the management of a response; a key authority oversees that targets are met by the programme ☐ A response will involve a broad range of stakeholders in the response activities, ensuring different viewpoints are respected and publicly communicated as of one voice so that the public is likely to support the response and its decision taking ☐ The assistance from quality tier-3 resources is described as part of the wildlife response plan and mobilisation procedures are regularly exercised and tested

4.2 Estonia

4.2.1. Planning and integration

The competent national authority for response to large coastal pollution incidents is the Rescue Board (RB) (under Ministry of Interior), operating according to response plans. The Environmental Board (EB) (under Ministry of the Environment) is responsible for wildlife response. The EB's partner is also the Estonian Fund for Nature (ELF), organising volunteers' management. Real coastal pollution response is going on by general management of the RB.

Police and Border Guard Board (PBGB) is responsible for or large sea pollution incidents.

National Wildlife Contingency Plan was adopted in 2013 by the Director General of the EB.

4.2.2. Exercises

Exercises for oil response include special elements of OWR in some regional or local levels.

4.2.3. Training

Larger training courses for rescue officials (organised by RB and PBGB) were launched in 2011-2014 and OWR component was included to the plan.

ELF is organising a training course for volunteers once per year.

4.2.4. Equipment and facilities

Special wildlife response equipment ("bird hospital units") is owned by EB and ELF and located in central logistical centre of the RB.

4.2.5. Partnering and funding

Partnership between state authorities (EB, RB, PBGB) is based on legislation and practical experiences and has quite a strong basis. Partnership with NGOS's (ELF) is based on agreements and have also long traditions.

International cooperation is mostly carried out with authorities of Finland and Latvia, but would be enlarged to other HELCOM-members too.

Table B. Filled-in SAT Estonia

Needed for (cost) effective oiled wildlife response	To be initiated	Important gaps to be filled	Strong basis	World class
Planning and integration	☐ Only an oil spill response plan exists; it may or may not have reference to OWR ☐ No authority so far has taken responsibility to oversee (the quality of) wildlife response and preparedness ☐ It is no common rationale for (the development of) an integrated OWR plan.	☐ It is recognized that OWR needs a plan; meetings have taken place, but no draft document written as yet ☐ One authority has taken responsibility to take a lead on plan development, but other relevant authorities are not engaging as yet ☐ A scenario/risk analysis has resulted in a clear picture of what is needed and who needs to do what	☒ A mature plan has been developed on the basis of scenario analysis, but not (fully) formalised or integrated as yet ☒ All relevant authorities are engaged with the OWR plan, by formal decision ☒ All relevant parties (Authority-NGO-Private) have been brought around the table and have divided and agreed roles, responsibilities and development tasks	☐ OWR plan formalised and fully integrated with all relevant oil spill plans (at sea response, coastal response, regional plans), and implemented via a multi-year programme and budget ☐ Annual activities demonstrate full commitment with all signatories of the plan and significant preparedness improvements thanks to training and exercises in which all signatories participate ☐ Progressively the preparedness is increasing according to plan and budget; Risks are managed
Exercises	☐ No OWR exercises take place ☐ There is no actor who is interested to organises OWR exercises ☐ The importance of exercises such as table tops, field exercises and facility exercises is acknowledged but not acted upon	☒ Exercises have had and ad hoc character and were not related to a plan or training programme ☒ Wildlife aspects are exercised by one or more parties but not by everyone together ☒ Ad hoc exercises were limited to table tops and/or simple field exercises	☐ Exercises take place coherently every year and look at different aspects of a response ☐ Exercises are attended by all stakeholders together but there is no clear relation with training ☐ Exercises are structural but a large mobilisation exercise testing the build up and operations of a facility has not been held to date	☐ Exercises take place according to a pre-defined schedule that directly relates to the agreed plan together ☐ Wildlife aspects are exercised by all stakeholders together and aiming at letting trained officers working ☐ There is a full diversity of scheduled exercises (table top, field, facility) as part of a formal plan-related exercise programme
Training	☐ Roles and responsibilities in a wildlife response are not clarified and not discussed between stakeholders ☐ There is no in-country expertise available to provide training courses ☐ There are parties interested in being trained	☒ Some but not all stakeholders have assumed their roles in a wildlife response and train their key personnel to be able to take responsibilities according to clear job descriptions ☒ Training at different levels (convergent responder, advanced responder, section heads, manager) is recognized, but training is limited to the volunteer (convergent) level. ☐ Management roles are not trained	☐ Roles and responsibilities are defined as job descriptions as part of an agreed plan and a training programme has been agreed and is centrally coordinated, delivering key personnel from different organisations ☐ Training at most levels is recognised and taking place ☒ Training packages aim at international standards allowing trained staff to assist abroad if called upon	☐ Trained personnel from different stakeholder organisations is offered regular opportunities to exercise together, to practice their skills in realistic scenarios ☐ A centrally coordinated training programme is aiming at delivering responders at all levels and ensuring various individuals can take key roles in the higher management positions. ☐ Trained staff are qualified according to international standards to assist with training other responders or responders abroad
Equipment and facilities	☐ The role of facilities in OWR is recognised, but plans to realise them have not been developed or tested. ☐ Equipment stockpiles are unknown or absent	☐ It is clear what facilities are needed for different purposes in a wildlife response. At this stage, only small size facilities can be used or developed, equipped and staffed, relating to relatively unchallenging incident scenarios ☐ Equipment stockpiles are available in-country, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made	☒ The use and development of facilities has been described in the plan and scripts and criteria are available for scaling up facility size to a desired maximum level that can be equipped and staffed ☒ Equipment stockpiles and lists of equipment and consumables have been drawn up as well as an updated list of manufacturers and providers	☐ The use and development of fit-for-purpose facilities is the subject of specific exercises in an exercise programme in which the performance of contractors and responsible organisations is regularly tested and evaluated ☐ Equipment mobilisation in relation to facility build up and field activities is regularly tested and evaluated as part of an exercise programme

Partnering and funding	☒ No dedicated central funds are explicitly available for wildlife preparedness development ☐ It is recognised that wildlife impacts or response can be controversial in terms of public reactions, but no multi-stakeholder activities have been organised to date to explore common ground and solutions ☐ There is a high reliance on quality tier-3 resources from abroad, but the procedures to invite and integrate a tier-3 team have not been discussed or described.	☐ Funds are available to the extent that some ad hoc activities can be financed; there is no multi-year approach nor budget available ☒ Multi-stakeholder meetings have been discussing wildlife impacts and options for a response, and it is clear that different views and approaches are possible, but no actions have been taken to find solutions in bridging different opinions ☐ Quality tier-3 resources for response assistance have been identified and discussions take place on mobilisation procedures, but no formal procedure has been agreed nor described	☐ A multi-year budget has been created to finance a number of activities, contracts and equipment investments. Still it is expected from various key stakeholders to contribute in-kind to the agreed preparedness level ☐ Multi-stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR ☒ The assistance from quality tier-3 resources have been described as part of the wildlife response plan. Tier-3 mobilisation however is not part of an exercise programme	☐ A multi-year budget has been created that allows one or more key stakeholders to coordinate an all encompassing programme and overseeing investments, training and exercises, and provide professional staff to undertake key roles and responsibilities in the management of a response; a key authority oversees that targets are met by the programme ☐ A response will involve a broad range of stakeholders in the response activities, ensuring different viewpoints are respected and publicly communicated as of one voice so that the public is likely to support the response and its decision taking ☐ The assistance from quality tier-3 resources is described as part of the wildlife response plan and mobilisation procedures are regularly exercised and tested

4.3 Finland

4.3.1 Planning and integration

In Finland, planning and integration are estimated to stand on a strong, though not world class, basis. The organisations and authorities involved in oiled wildlife response (OWR) have been identified, and bi-annual meetings ensure that cooperation is functional and developed plans are being brought forward. All parties are committed to further developing and working according to the OWR plan which is in its final stages of development, with some annexes still in progress.

The plan outlines the OWR organization and its responsibilities. It includes principles for a 3-tiered response with pre-identified cut-off numbers; 0 – 100/200 oiled birds requiring a Tier-I local response, 100/200-300 birds requiring a national Tier-II response and more than 300 birds requiring a Tier-III international response. The maximum amount of treatable birds is still unclear, and decisions about euthanasia and its criteria will have to be made on a case-by-case basis. The OWR plan includes all essential information on notification and mobilization procedures, alarm and first response actions, costs and claims management, bird rehabilitation procedures and monitoring of released animals. It also details volunteer engagement and needs for future work and development. A draft version of the Finnish OWR plan has been translated into English (at this point excluding annexes, which make up a significant part of the plan). The most important gaps in planning and integration are in particular the lack of both formal approval of the OWR plan and mutual agreement of a long-term plan or vision to support the development of OWR related activities. Also, the involvement of local environmental authorities and rescue services should be strengthened.

4.3.2 Exercises

Regarding exercises, there are still important gaps to be filled. There is no consistent multi-annual exercise plan for oiled wildlife response in Finland, but possibilities to use present exercise frameworks for OWR purposes exist. For example, the BALEX DELTA exercise in 2012 offered an important chance to test the coordination between authority representatives (SYKE, rescue services), organisations coordinating volunteers (WWF), Tier-I rehabilitation centre staff (Helsinki Zoo) and experts (veterinarians, ornithologists, conservationists). It provided a much needed forum for integrating oiled wildlife into the overall oil spill response operations, and also highlighted the importance of securing information flow to oiled wildlife responders.

There is a clear need for a long-term, goal-oriented exercise plan for OWR. The exercise plan should take into account different exercise modes (theoretical, table-top, practical field exercises) and levels (local, national, international) and aim to test the preparedness of personnel in all levels (convergent volunteers, advanced volunteers, experts and managers).

4.3.3 Training

Training is largely regarded as necessary for volunteers, and hence WWF has organised bi-annual, 3-day oiled wildlife training courses for members of their voluntary oil combating troops. Since the year 2007, 430 volunteers have been trained for OWR related tasks. Because of lacking training opportunities, volunteers are trained at a convergent level, leaving them incapable of independent action in case of a spill. This convergent volunteer training is however important, as volunteers with basic knowledge will be much faster to train for specific tasks in the event of a spill. An understanding of the overall animal rehabilitation process, and even limited practical experience, is a good basis from which to proceed with training. The challenge is to find the opportunities for volunteers to get real-life experience of handling oiled animals, as spills are few and far apart. At the moment, WWF is taking part in the EUROWA project which is developing an OWR module and related training

program, looking into the possibilities to streamline the Finnish volunteer training programme with that of the EUROWA project, and searching for possibilities for convergent volunteers of WWF to receive further training.

Training needs for experts has also been recognised, and there are for example plans to arrange training opportunities abroad for Finnish veterinarians taking up key positions in case of a spill. Although opportunities are limited, WWF Finland regularly participates in international development projects and aims at training its staff according to international standards.

4.3.4 Equipment and facilities

Finland is well placed regarding equipment and facilities. For a Tier-I response, either local resources like wildlife rehabilitation centres are put into operation, or birds are transferred for rehabilitation to the Helsinki Zoo. The zoo can house approximately 200 birds. For a Tier-II national scale response a mobile bird cleaning unit (BCU) is put into operation. The unit can be set up nation-wide, in places where certain criteria are met. 40 locations for BCU have been pre-defined and are found in the Finnish situation awareness system BORIS. Also a light alternative for the BCU has been developed and it can be deployed to any location with enough space, hot water access and oil separation system. This light system contains basic resources like mobile washing stations, and can be used either as a separate system or to complement the BCU. WWF has a stockpile of PPE for volunteers, and also a limited stockpile of equipment needed for bird rehabilitation, like washing up liquid, tubes for tube-feeding, and pools. The Finnish OWR plan includes a detailed list of equipment to be purchased after a spill, and both stockists and delivery times have been identified for selected items like pools.

4.3.5 Partnering and funding

The cooperation between the different OWR actors in Finland is on a very strong basis. There is need for further development on a municipal/local level, e.g. to create active local groups with a core group of trained volunteers quickly capable of initiating a Tier-I response in close cooperation with local authorities. The Finnish oil spill compensation fund has recognized the critical role of volunteers and voluntary organisations for OWR development and has granted significant funding in the past. Decisions about funding are, however, made on an ad-hoc basis so no formal guarantees exist for continuity. It has been recognized that Finland will, in a large-scale incident, require international assistance. Although assisting organizations have been identified and cooperation with them exists, no formal decisions and arrangements have been made how this assistance will be requested and integrated into the oiled wildlife response organisation.

Table C. Filled-in SAT Finland

Needed for (cost) effective oiled wildlife response	To be initiated	Important gaps to be filled	Strong basis	World class
Planning and integration	☐ Only an oil spill response plan exists; it may or may not have reference to OWR ☐ No authority so far has taken responsibility to oversee (the quality of) wildlife response and preparedness ☐ It is no common rationale for (the development of) an integrated OWR plan.	☐ It is recognized that OWR needs a plan; meetings have taken place, but no draft document written as yet ☐ One authority has taken responsibility to take a lead on plan development, but other relevant authorities are not engaging as yet ☐ A scenario/risk analysis has resulted in a clear picture of what is needed and who needs to do what	☒ A mature plan has been developed on the basis of scenario analysis, but not (fully) formalised or integrated as yet ☒ All relevant authorities are engaged with the OWR plan, by formal decision ☒ All relevant parties (Authority-NGO-Private) have been brought around the table and have divided and agreed roles, responsibilities and development tasks	☐ OWR plan formalised and fully integrated with all relevant oil spill plans (at sea response, coastal response, regional plans), and implemented via a multi-year programme and budget ☐ Annual activities demonstrate full commitment with all signatories of the plan and significant preparedness improvements thanks to training and exercises in which all signatories participate ☐ Progressively the preparedness is increasing according to plan and budget; Risks are managed
Exercises	☐ No OWR exercises take place ☐ There is no actor who is interested to organises OWR exercises ☐ The importance of exercises such as table tops, field exercises and facility exercises is acknowledged but not acted upon	☒ Exercises have had and ad hoc character and were not related to a plan or training programme ☒ Wildlife aspects are exercised by one or more parties but not by everyone together ☒ Ad hoc exercises were limited to table tops and/or simple field exercises	☐ Exercises take place coherently every year and look at different aspects of a response ☐ Exercises are attended by all stakeholders together but there is no clear relation with training ☐ Exercises are structural but a large mobilisation exercise testing the build up and operations of a facility has not been held to date	☐ Exercises take place according to a pre-defined schedule that directly relates to the agreed plan together ☐ Wildlife aspects are exercised by all stakeholders together and aiming at letting trained officers working ☐ There is a full diversity of scheduled exercises (table top, field, facility) as part of a formal plan-related exercise programme
Training	☐ Roles and responsibilities in a wildlife response are not clarified and not discussed between stakeholders ☐ There is no in-country expertise available to provide training courses ☐ There are parties interested in being trained	☒ Some but not all stakeholders have assumed their roles in a wildlife response and train their key personnel to be able to take responsibilities according to clear job descriptions ☒ Training at different levels (convergent responder, advanced responder, section heads, manager) is recognized, but training is limited to the volunteer (convergent) level. ☐ Management roles are not trained	☐ Roles and responsibilities are defined as job descriptions as part of an agreed plan and a training programme has been agreed and is centrally coordinated, delivering key personnel from different organisations ☐ Training at most levels is recognised and taking place ☒ Training packages aim at international standards allowing trained staff to assist abroad if called upon	☐ Trained personnel from different stakeholder organisations is offered regular opportunities to exercise together, to practice their skills in realistic scenarios ☐ A centrally coordinated training programme is aiming at delivering responders at all levels and ensuring various individuals can take key roles in the higher management positions. ☐ Trained staff are qualified according to international standards to assist with training other responders or responders abroad
Equipment and facilities	☐ The role of facilities in OWR is recognised, but plans to realise them have not been developed or tested. ☐ Equipment stockpiles are unknown or absent	☐ It is clear what facilities are needed for different purposes in a wildlife response. At this stage, only small size facilities can be used or developed, equipped and staffed, relating to relatively unchallenging incident scenarios ☐ Equipment stockpiles are available in-country, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made	☒ The use and development of facilities has been described in the plan and scripts and criteria are available for scaling up facility size to a desired maximum level that can be equipped and staffed ☒ Equipment stockpiles and lists of equipment and consumables have been drawn up as well as an updated list of manufacturers and providers	☐ The use and development of fit-for-purpose facilities is the subject of specific exercises in an exercise programme in which the performance of contractors and responsible organisations is regularly tested and evaluated ☐ Equipment mobilisation in relation to facility build up and field activities is regularly tested and evaluated as part of an exercise programme

Partnering and funding	☐ No dedicated central funds are explicitly available for wildlife preparedness development ☐ It is recognised that wildlife impacts or response can be controversial in terms of public reactions, but no multi-stakeholder activities have been organised to date to explore common ground and solutions ☐ There is a high reliance on quality tier-3 resources from abroad, but the procedures to invite and integrate a tier-3 team have not been discussed or described.	☐ Funds are available to the extent that some ad hoc activities can be financed; there is no multi-year approach nor budget available ☐ Multi-stakeholder meetings have been discussing wildlife impacts and options for a response, and it is clear that different views and approaches are possible, but no actions have been taken to find solutions in bridging different opinions ☒ Quality tier-3 resources for response assistance have been identified and discussions take place on mobilisation procedures, but no formal procedure has been agreed nor described	☒ A multi-year budget has been created to finance a number of activities, contracts and equipment investments. Still it is expected from various key stakeholders to contribute in-kind to the agreed preparedness level ☐ Multi-stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR ☐ The assistance from quality tier-3 resources have been described as part of the wildlife response plan. Tier-3 mobilisation however is not part of an exercise programme	☐ A multi-year budget has been created that allows one or more key stakeholders to coordinate an all encompassing programme and overseeing investments, training and exercises, and provide professional staff to undertake key roles and responsibilities in the management of a response; a key authority oversees that targets are met by the programme ☒ A response will involve a broad range of stakeholders in the response activities, ensuring different viewpoints are respected and publicly communicated as of one voice so that the public is likely to support the response and its decision taking ☐ The assistance from quality tier-3 resources is described as part of the wildlife response plan and mobilisation procedures are regularly exercised and tested

4.4 Germany

4.4.1 Planning and integration

Response: Role of the authorities

The competent national authority for the management of major marine incidents is the Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (CCME), Havariekommando, located in Cuxhaven. Here the Marine Pollution Response-High Sea Section is responsible for spill response at sea, emergency towing, aerial surveillance and international affairs. The Marine Pollution Response-Coastal Section is responsible for response to spills in coastal waters and for beach cleaning operations.

The CCME is a joint agency of the Federal Ministry of Transport and the Environmental Ministries of the five Coastal States of Bremen, Hamburg, Niedersachsen, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Schleswig-Holstein allowing for unified response. Onshore oil spill response, including oiled wildlife, is the responsibility of the five coastal states. Only Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern are located at the Baltic Sea.

In Schleswig-Holstein the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Areas is the responsible authority for wildlife response. In Mecklenburg-Vorpommern the competent authority is the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Consumer Protection.

A local response plan from Schleswig-Holstein is in place e.g. for the western part of the Baltic Sea. The plan describes the general approach of the competent authorities for Oiled Wildlife Response and possible cooperation with regional welfare institutions. In the eastern part of the Baltic (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern) a draft response plan is existing which needs to be finalized and like the plan in Schleswig-Holstein needs to be elaborated.

For major incidents in Germany a general response plan is under development which describes the common approach for German oiled wildlife response.

4.4.2 Exercises

Exercises for oil response are already including special elements of OWR in some coastal states of Germany. Other coastal states are busy preparing for this topic (e.g. Lower Saxony). In Schleswig-Holstein OWR is conducted by the oil combating department of the Agency for Coastal Protection and Nature Conservation. Together with the Federal Agency for Technical Relief special wildlife response teams were created that are trained regularly (one to several times a year) within major oil combating exercises.

4.4.3 Training

Training elements are e.g. handling of equipment, health and safety, communication and media handling (in major incidents CCME is taking over the overall command of all response operations including PR work).

4.4.4 Equipment and facilities

Personal protection equipment to ensure health and safety requirements is available regionally. Cooperation between NGO's and authorities is developing. Regional Wildlife Rehabilitation Centres have equipment and capabilities for limited response.

4.4.5 Partnering and funding

Germany is a signatory to the Bonn Agreement, Helsinki Convention, DenGerNeth (Denmark Germany Netherlands) Agreement for response in the Wadden Sea and part of the North Sea,

SweDenGer (Sweden Denmark Germany) for response in the southwestern Baltic and a bilateral agreement with Poland for response in the Pomeranian Bight.

Cooperation between Federal Coastal States in Germany has improved during the last decade. Regular exchange (meetings twice a year) between competent authorities (and CCME) now is common standard to get prepared for Oiled Wildlife Response.

Table D. Filled-in SAT Germany

Needed for (cost) effective oiled wildlife response	To be initiated	Important gaps to be filled	Strong basis	World class
Planning and integration	☐ Only an oil spill response plan exists; it may or may not have reference to OWR ☐ No authority so far has taken responsibility to oversee (the quality of) wildlife response and preparedness ☐ It is no common rationale for (the development of) an integrated OWR plan.	☐ It is recognized that OWR needs a plan; meetings have taken place, but no draft document written as yet ☒ One authority has taken responsibility to take a lead on plan development, but other relevant authorities are not engaging as yet ☐ A scenario/risk analysis has resulted in a clear picture of what is needed and who needs to do what	☐ A mature plan has been developed on the basis of scenario analysis, but not (fully) formalised or integrated as yet ☒ All relevant authorities are engaged with the OWR plan, by formal decision ☐ All relevant parties (Authority-NGO-Private) have been brought around the table and have divided and agreed roles, responsibilities and development tasks	☐ OWR plan formalised and fully integrated with all relevant oil spill plans (at sea response, coastal response, regional plans), and implemented via a multi-year programme and budget ☐ Annual activities demonstrate full commitment with all signatories of the plan and significant preparedness improvements thanks to training and exercises in which all signatories participate ☐ Progressively the preparedness is increasing according to plan and budget; Risks are managed
Exercises	☐ No OWR exercises take place ☐ There is no actor who is interested to organises OWR exercises ☐ The importance of exercises such as table tops, field exercises and facility exercises is acknowledged but not acted upon	☐ Exercises have had and ad hoc character and were not related to a plan or training programme ☒ Wildlife aspects are exercised by one or more parties but not by everyone together ☐ Ad hoc exercises were limited to table tops and/or simple field exercises	☒ Exercises take place coherently every year and look at different aspects of a response ☐ Exercises are attended by all stakeholders together but there is no clear relation with training ☐ Exercises are structural but a large mobilisation exercise testing the build up and operations of a facility has not been held to date	☐ Exercises take place according to a pre-defined schedule that directly relates to the agreed plan together ☐ Wildlife aspects are exercised by all stakeholders together and aiming at letting trained officers working ☐ There is a full diversity of scheduled exercises (table top, field, facility) as part of a formal plan-related exercise programme
Training	☐ Roles and responsibilities in a wildlife response are not clarified and not discussed between stakeholders ☐ There is no in-country expertise available to provide training courses ☐ There are parties interested in being trained	☒ Some but not all stakeholders have assumed their roles in a wildlife response and train their key personnel to be able to take responsibilities according to clear job descriptions ☐ Training at different levels (convergent responder, advanced responder, section heads, manager) is recognized, but training is limited to the volunteer (convergent) level. ☐ Management roles are not trained	☐ Roles and responsibilities are defined as job descriptions as part of an agreed plan and a training programme has been agreed and is centrally coordinated, delivering key personnel from different organisations ☐ Training at most levels is recognised and taking place ☐ Training packages aim at international standards allowing trained staff to assist abroad if called upon	☐ Trained personnel from different stakeholder organisations is offered regular opportunities to exercise together, to practice their skills in realistic scenarios ☐ A centrally coordinated training programme is aiming at delivering responders at all levels and ensuring various individuals can take key roles in the higher management positions. ☐ Trained staff are qualified according to international standards to assist with training other responders or responders abroad
Equipment and facilities	☐ The role of facilities in OWR is recognised, but plans to realise them have not been developed or tested. ☐ Equipment stockpiles are unknown or absent	☒ It is clear what facilities are needed for different purposes in a wildlife response. At this stage, only small size facilities can be used or developed, equipped and staffed, relating to relatively unchallenging incident scenarios	☐ The use and development of facilities has been described in the plan and scripts and criteria are available for scaling up facility size to a desired maximum level that can be equipped and staffed ☐ Equipment stockpiles and lists of equipment and consumables have	☐ The use and development of fit-for-purpose facilities is the subject of specific exercises in an exercise programme in which the performance of contractors and responsible organisations is regularly tested and evaluated ☐ Equipment mobilisation in relation to facility build up and field activities is regularly tested and evaluated as part of an exercise programme

		☐ Equipment stockpiles are available in-country, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made	been drawn up as well as an updated list of manufacturers and providers	
Partnering and funding	☐ No dedicated central funds are explicitly available for wildlife preparedness development ☐ It is recognised that wildlife impacts or response can be controversial in terms of public reactions, but no multi-stakeholder activities have been organised to date to explore common ground and solutions ☐ There is a high reliance on quality tier-3 resources from abroad, but the procedures to invite and integrate a tier-3 team have not been discussed or described.	☒ Funds are available to the extent that some ad hoc activities can be financed; there is no multi-year approach nor budget available ☒ Multi-stakeholder meetings have been discussing wildlife impacts and options for a response, and it is clear that different views and approaches are possible, but no actions have been taken to find solutions in bridging different opinions ☐ Quality tier-3 resources for response assistance have been identified and discussions take place on mobilisation procedures, but no formal procedure has been agreed nor described	☐ A multi-year budget has been created to finance a number of activities, contracts and equipment investments. Still it is expected from various key stakeholders to contribute in-kind to the agreed preparedness level ☒ Multi-stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR ☐ The assistance from quality tier-3 resources have been described as part of the wildlife response plan. Tier-3 mobilisation however is not part of an exercise programme	☐ A multi-year budget has been created that allows one or more key stakeholders to coordinate an all encompassing programme and overseeing investments, training and exercises, and provide professional staff to undertake key roles and responsibilities in the management of a response; a key authority oversees that targets are met by the programme ☐ A response will involve a broad range of stakeholders in the response activities, ensuring different viewpoints are respected and publicly communicated as of one voice so that the public is likely to support the response and its decision taking ☐ The assistance from quality tier-3 resources is described as part of the wildlife response plan and mobilisation procedures are regularly exercised and tested

4.5 Latvia

4.5.1 Planning and integration

There is a scheme for cooperation and a list of the main responsible authorities in case oiled wildlife response is needed within the National Civil Protection Plan. In addition, national authorities and relevant NGOs have jointly prepared the Guidelines for Oiled Wildlife Care at Marine and Inland Water Oil Spills (Guidelines).

It is recognized, that an integrated OWR Plan should be developed and adopted by relevant authorities in close cooperation with NGOs, National authorities and local municipalities. State Environmental Service (SES) has been stated as a responsible authority for coordinating the development of the National Oiled Wildlife Response Plan.

4.5.2 Exercises

Oiled wildlife response scheme and Guidelines were exercised in a small scale in 2014 as part of the BALEX Delta exercise in Ventspils. The main goal for the OWR part of the exercise was to estimate and understand the ability of National authorities (SES in particular) to response on small scale incident with oiled wildlife (birds), to check alerting and communication systems and to determine the most important gaps in OWR in Latvia.

4.5.3 Training

There have not been trainings in the last years regarding oiled wildlife response in Latvia.

4.5.4 Equipment and facilities

No specialized permanent oiled wildlife rescue/rehabilitation facilities exist in Latvia.

4.5.5 Partnering and funding

As there are no rescue/rehabilitation equipment and facilities for oiled wildlife, Latvia relies on the possibility to seek help from abroad. However, there is no established procedure for requesting assistance and its funding.

Table E. Filled-in SAT Latvia

Needed for (cost) effective oiled wildlife response	To be initiated	Important gaps to be filled	Strong basis	World class
Planning and integration	☐ Only an oil spill response plan exists; it may or may not have reference to OWR ☐ No authority so far has taken responsibility to oversee (the quality of) wildlife response and preparedness ☒ It is no common rationale for (the development of) an integrated OWR plan.	☒ It is recognized that OWR needs a plan; meetings have taken place, but no draft document written as yet ☒ One authority has taken responsibility to take a lead on plan development, but other relevant authorities are not engaging as yet ☐ A scenario/risk analysis has resulted in a clear picture of what is needed and who needs to do what	☐ A mature plan has been developed on the basis of scenario analysis, but not (fully) formalised or integrated as yet ☐ All relevant authorities are engaged with the OWR plan, by formal decision ☐ All relevant parties (Authority-NGO-Private) have been brought around the table and have divided and agreed roles, responsibilities and development tasks	☐ OWR plan formalised and fully integrated with all relevant oil spill plans (at sea response, coastal response, regional plans), and implemented via a multi-year programme and budget ☐ Annual activities demonstrate full commitment with all signatories of the plan and significant preparedness improvements thanks to training and exercises in which all signatories participate ☐ Progressively the preparedness is increasing according to plan and budget; Risks are managed
Exercises	☐ No OWR exercises take place ☐ There is no actor who is interested to organises OWR exercises ☐ The importance of exercises such as table tops, field exercises and facility exercises is acknowledged but not acted upon	☒ Exercises have had and ad hoc character and were not related to a plan or training programme ☒ Wildlife aspects are exercised by one or more parties but not by everyone together ☒ Ad hoc exercises were limited to table tops and/or simple field exercises	☐ Exercises take place coherently every year and look at different aspects of a response ☐ Exercises are attended by all stakeholders together but there is no clear relation with training ☐ Exercises are structural but a large mobilisation exercise testing the build up and operations of a facility has not been held to date	☐ Exercises take place according to a pre-defined schedule that directly relates to the agreed plan together ☐ Wildlife aspects are exercised by all stakeholders together and aiming at letting trained officers working ☐ There is a full diversity of scheduled exercises (table top, field, facility) as part of a formal plan-related exercise programme
Training	☒ Roles and responsibilities in a wildlife response are not clarified and not discussed between stakeholders ☒ There is no in-country expertise available to provide training courses ☐ There are parties interested in being trained	☐ Some but not all stakeholders have assumed their roles in a wildlife response and train their key personnel to be able to take responsibilities according to clear job descriptions ☐ Training at different levels (convergent responder, advanced responder, section heads, manager) is recognized, but training is limited to the volunteer (convergent) level. ☒ Management roles are not trained	☐ Roles and responsibilities are defined as job descriptions as part of an agreed plan and a training programme has been agreed and is centrally coordinated, delivering key personnel from different organisations ☐ Training at most levels is recognised and taking place ☐ Training packages aim at international standards allowing trained staff to assist abroad if called upon	☐ Trained personnel from different stakeholder organisations is offered regular opportunities to exercise together, to practice their skills in realistic scenarios ☐ A centrally coordinated training programme is aiming at delivering responders at all levels and ensuring various individuals can take key roles in the higher management positions. ☐ Trained staff are qualified according to international standards to assist with training other responders or responders abroad
Equipment and facilities	☒ The role of facilities in OWR is recognised, but plans to realise them have not been developed or tested. ☒ Equipment stockpiles are unknown or absent	☐ It is clear what facilities are needed for different purposes in a wildlife response. At this stage, only small size facilities can be used or developed, equipped and staffed, relating to relatively unchallenging incident scenarios ☐ Equipment stockpiles are available in-country, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made	☐ The use and development of facilities has been described in the plan and scripts and criteria are available for scaling up facility size to a desired maximum level that can be equipped and staffed ☐ Equipment stockpiles and lists of equipment and consumables have been drawn up as well as an updated list of manufacturers and providers	☐ The use and development of fit-for-purpose facilities is the subject of specific exercises in an exercise programme in which the performance of contractors and responsible organisations is regularly tested and evaluated ☐ Equipment mobilisation in relation to facility build up and field activities is regularly tested and evaluated as part of an exercise programme

Partnering and funding	☐ No dedicated central funds are explicitly available for wildlife preparedness development ☒ It is recognised that wildlife impacts or response can be controversial in terms of public reactions, but no multi-stakeholder activities have been organised to date to explore common ground and solutions ☒ There is a high reliance on quality tier-3 resources from abroad, but the procedures to invite and integrate a tier-3 team have not been discussed or described.	☒ Funds are available to the extent that some ad hoc activities can be financed; there is no multi-year approach nor budget available ☐ Multi-stakeholder meetings have been discussing wildlife impacts and options for a response, and it is clear that different views and approaches are possible, but no actions have been taken to find solutions in bridging different opinions ☐ Quality tier-3 resources for response assistance have been identified and discussions take place on mobilisation procedures, but no formal procedure has been agreed nor described	☐ A multi-year budget has been created to finance a number of activities, contracts and equipment investments. Still it is expected from various key stakeholders to contribute in-kind to the agreed preparedness level ☐ Multi-stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR ☐ The assistance from quality tier-3 resources have been described as part of the wildlife response plan. Tier-3 mobilisation however is not part of an exercise programme	☐ A multi-year budget has been created that allows one or more key stakeholders to coordinate an all encompassing programme and overseeing investments, training and exercises, and provide professional staff to undertake key roles and responsibilities in the management of a response; a key authority oversees that targets are met by the programme ☐ A response will involve a broad range of stakeholders in the response activities, ensuring different viewpoints are respected and publicly communicated as of one voice so that the public is likely to support the response and its decision taking ☐ The assistance from quality tier-3 resources is described as part of the wildlife response plan and mobilisation procedures are regularly exercised and tested

4.6 Lithuania

Text not received from Lithuania

Table F. Filled-in SAT Lithuania

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Training	☐ Roles and responsibilities in a wildlife response are not clarified and not discussed between stakeholders ☒ There is no in-country expertise available to provide training courses ☒ There are parties interested in being trained	☒ Some but not all stakeholders have assumed their roles in a wildlife response and train their key personnel to be able to take responsibilities according to clear job descriptions ☐ Training at different levels (convergent responder, advanced responder, section heads, manager) is recognized, but training is limited to the volunteer (convergent) level. ☐ Management roles are not trained	☐ Roles and responsibilities are defined as job descriptions as part of an agreed plan and a training programme has been agreed and is centrally coordinated, delivering key personnel from different organisations ☐ Training at most levels is recognised and taking place ☐ Training packages aim at international standards allowing trained staff to assist abroad if called upon	☐ Trained personnel from different stakeholder organisations is offered regular opportunities to exercise together, to practice their skills in realistic scenarios ☐ A centrally coordinated training programme is aiming at delivering responders at all levels and ensuring various individuals can take key roles in the higher management positions. ☐ Trained staff are qualified according to international standards to assist with training other responders or responders abroad
Equipment and facilities	☐ The role of facilities in OWR is recognised, but plans to realise them have not been developed or tested. ☐ Equipment stockpiles are unknown or absent	☒ It is clear what facilities are needed for different purposes in a wildlife response. At this stage, only small size facilities can be used or developed, equipped and staffed, relating to relatively unchallenging incident scenarios ☒ Equipment stockpiles are available in-country, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made	☐ The use and development of facilities has been described in the plan and scripts and criteria are available for scaling up facility size to a desired maximum level that can be equipped and staffed ☐ Equipment stockpiles and lists of equipment and consumables have been drawn up as well as an updated list of manufacturers and providers	☐ The use and development of fit-for-purpose facilities is the subject of specific exercises in an exercise programme in which the performance of contractors and responsible organisations is regularly tested and evaluated ☐ Equipment mobilisation in relation to facility build up and field activities is regularly tested and evaluated as part of an exercise programme

Partnering and funding	☒ No dedicated central funds are explicitly available for wildlife preparedness development ☐ It is recognised that wildlife impacts or response can be controversial in terms of public reactions, but no multi-stakeholder activities have been organised to date to explore common ground and solutions ☒ There is a high reliance on quality tier-3 resources from abroad, but the procedures to invite and integrate a tier-3 team have not been discussed or described.	☐ Funds are available to the extent that some ad hoc activities can be financed; there is no multi-year approach nor budget available ☒ Multi-stakeholder meetings have been discussing wildlife impacts and options for a response, and it is clear that different views and approaches are possible, but no actions have been taken to find solutions in bridging different opinions ☐ Quality tier-3 resources for response assistance have been identified and discussions take place on mobilisation procedures, but no formal procedure has been agreed nor described	☐ A multi-year budget has been created to finance a number of activities, contracts and equipment investments. Still it is expected from various key stakeholders to contribute in-kind to the agreed preparedness level ☐ Multi-stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR ☐ The assistance from quality tier-3 resources have been described as part of the wildlife response plan. Tier-3 mobilisation however is not part of an exercise programme	☐ A multi-year budget has been created that allows one or more key stakeholders to coordinate an all encompassing programme and overseeing investments, training and exercises, and provide professional staff to undertake key roles and responsibilities in the management of a response; a key authority oversees that targets are met by the programme ☐ A response will involve a broad range of stakeholders in the response activities, ensuring different viewpoints are respected and publicly communicated as of one voice so that the public is likely to support the response and its decision taking ☐ The assistance from quality tier-3 resources is described as part of the wildlife response plan and mobilisation procedures are regularly exercised and tested

4.7 Poland

4.7.1. Planning and integration

The national oiled wildlife response plan in Poland is on final stage of preparation. The leading authority ought to be selected from the following entities: the Ministry of Environment, General Directorate for Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, with a significant role of rehabilitation centres as well as volunteers coordinated by an environmental NGO. The Ministry of Environment has organized preliminary meetings with potential stakeholders concerning establishing the national OWR plan (legal basis, scientific analysis, preventive system, provide for the risk of oil spills in Crisis Management plans, trainings, financing system, appointment of the coordinator).

The initiative to prepare the self-assessment and the input to the *Report on the status of national wildlife response plans in the Baltic Sea* came from WWF Poland, the NGO observer to HELCOM. The self-assessment and the country profile to the Report have been prepared by WWF Poland in consultation with the Ministry of Environment, General Directorate for Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation (self-assessment only).

4.7.2. Exercises

There is no regular exercise plan. Exercises and study tours, organized by WWF Poland, had an ad-hoc character.

The first one was a training course in Helsinki, Finland, in April 2014 for 21 participants from different, mainly environmental, institutions and organizations (WWF Blue Patrol volunteers, ornithologists, ZOO workers, veterinarians, representatives from the Ministry of Environment and General Directorate for Environmental Protection). Lectures organized by WWF Finland focused on their voluntary oil spill response, bird species that may be encountered in an oil spill, capturing and handling wildlife, arranging the care of oiled birds, triage and medical care of oiled birds as well as hygiene and diseases related to animal care. Practical exercises in mobile Bird Cleaning Unit in Porvoo included: checking the health status of a bird, triage procedures, necropsy of birds, introduction to patient cards, treatment forms and feeding cards, tube feeding, practical exercise on how to wash and rinse an oiled bird, introduction to pools and post-wash care facilities and practicing bird handling techniques on dead birds. During the visit to Heinola Birds Rehabilitation Centre participants learned how to capture a bird in practice (technique and equipment) and were trained in planning the capture and taking care of oiled wildlife (theoretical group work).

Second training course took place in Łeba, Poland, in October 2014 and brought together about 150 participants, mainly WWF Blue Patrol volunteers. The knowledge gained in Finland was transferred to Poland during this course.

WWF Poland also translated the manual: *Oiled Wildlife Response Protocols in the Central Baltic Sea* into Polish. The translated document was published on the website as a teaching aid and distributed among participants of exercises.

4.7.3 Training

There are parties interested in being trained – inter alia WWF Blue Patrol volunteers, ornithologists, veterinarians from rehabilitation centres, national and landscape parks employees, nature protection authorities, Maritime Search and Rescue Service etc.

The need for training at different levels, from volunteers to managers, is recognized as well. Main authorities have occasionally taken part in exercises.

4.7.4. Equipment and facilities

The Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation declared that some of Polish harbours or fishing marinas could dedicate some space for mobile equipment and/or protective clothing storage (Łeba, Rowy, Ustka, Jarosławiec, Darłowo, Bobolin, Dźwirzyno). The Director of Maritime Office in Słupsk can make a multifunctional car (for moving heavy equipment and removing post-washing oil contaminated water) available for trainings and OWR actions. What is more, the Director of Maritime Office in Szczecin has offered to organize dead birds' storage and disposal if needed. Nevertheless, no analysis of the completeness of equipment stockpiles' has been made.

Organizations and institutions interested in OWR, owing to the training courses they attended and the OWR manual translated into Polish, have necessary knowledge about required equipment and actions that need to be taken in case of an oil spill, but at the moment only small size facilities can be used or developed, equipped and staffed, acting in response to small scale incident scenarios.

4.7.5. Partnering and funding

Oil exploration and production company LOTOS and the Ministry of Environment have agreed to establish a fund for some ad hoc activities (e.g. OWR actions during relatively small oil spill incidents). Thanks to participation in international meetings and exercises, quality tier-3 resources for response assistance have been identified and discussions on mobilisation procedures took place, but no formal procedure has been agreed on nor written down.

Table G. Filled-in SAT Poland

Needed for (cost) effective oiled wildlife response	To be initiated	Important gaps to be filled	Strong basis	World class
Planning and integration	☐ Only an oil spill response plan exists; it may or may not have reference to OWR ☒ No authority so far has taken responsibility to oversee (the quality of) wildlife response and preparedness ☒ It is no common rationale for (the development of) an integrated OWR plan.	☒ It is recognized that OWR needs a plan; meetings have taken place, but no draft document written as yet ☐ One authority has taken responsibility to take a lead on plan development, but other relevant authorities are not engaging as yet ☐ A scenario/risk analysis has resulted in a clear picture of what is needed and who needs to do what	☐ A mature plan has been developed on the basis of scenario analysis, but not (fully) formalised or integrated as yet ☐ All relevant authorities are engaged with the OWR plan, by formal decision ☐ All relevant parties (Authority-NGO-Private) have been brought around the table and have divided and agreed roles, responsibilities and development tasks	☐ OWR plan formalised and fully integrated with all relevant oil spill plans (at sea response, coastal response, regional plans), and implemented via a multi-year programme and budget ☐ Annual activities demonstrate full commitment with all signatories of the plan and significant preparedness improvements thanks to training and exercises in which all signatories participate ☐ Progressively the preparedness is increasing according to plan and budget; Risks are managed
Exercises	☐ No OWR exercises take place ☐ There is no actor who is interested to organises OWR exercises ☐ The importance of exercises such as table tops, field exercises and facility exercises is acknowledged but not acted upon	☒ Exercises have had and ad hoc character and were not related to a plan or training programme ☒ Wildlife aspects are exercised by one or more parties but not by everyone together ☒ Ad hoc exercises were limited to table tops and/or simple field exercises	☐ Exercises take place coherently every year and look at different aspects of a response ☐ Exercises are attended by all stakeholders together but there is no clear relation with training ☐ Exercises are structural but a large mobilisation exercise testing the build up and operations of a facility has not been held to date	☐ Exercises take place according to a pre-defined schedule that directly relates to the agreed plan together ☐ Wildlife aspects are exercised by all stakeholders together and aiming at letting trained officers working ☐ There is a full diversity of scheduled exercises (table top, field, facility) as part of a formal plan-related exercise programme
Training	☒ Roles and responsibilities in a wildlife response are not clarified and not discussed between stakeholders ☐ There is no in-country expertise available to provide training courses ☒ There are parties interested in being trained	☐ Some but not all stakeholders have assumed their roles in a wildlife response and train their key personnel to be able to take responsibilities according to clear job descriptions ☒ Training at different levels (convergent responder, advanced responder, section heads, manager) is recognized, but training is limited to the volunteer (convergent) level. ☐ Management roles are not trained	☐ Roles and responsibilities are defined as job descriptions as part of an agreed plan and a training programme has been agreed and is centrally coordinated, delivering key personnel from different organisations ☐ Training at most levels is recognised and taking place ☐ Training packages aim at international standards allowing trained staff to assist abroad if called upon	☐ Trained personnel from different stakeholder organisations is offered regular opportunities to exercise together, to practice their skills in realistic scenarios ☐ A centrally coordinated training programme is aiming at delivering responders at all levels and ensuring various individuals can take key roles in the higher management positions. ☐ Trained staff are qualified according to international standards to assist with training other responders or responders abroad
Equipment and facilities	☐ The role of facilities in OWR is recognised, but plans to realise them have not been developed or tested. ☐ Equipment stockpiles are unknown or absent	☒ It is clear what facilities are needed for different purposes in a wildlife response. At this stage, only small size facilities can be used or developed, equipped and staffed, relating to relatively unchallenging incident scenarios ☒ Equipment stockpiles are available in-country, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made	☐ The use and development of facilities has been described in the plan and scripts and criteria are available for scaling up facility size to a desired maximum level that can be equipped and staffed ☐ Equipment stockpiles and lists of equipment and consumables have been drawn up as well as an updated list of manufacturers and providers	☐ The use and development of fit-for-purpose facilities is the subject of specific exercises in an exercise programme in which the performance of contractors and responsible organisations is regularly tested and evaluated ☐ Equipment mobilisation in relation to facility build up and field activities is regularly tested and evaluated as part of an exercise programme

Partnering and funding	☐ No dedicated central funds are explicitly available for wildlife preparedness development ☐ It is recognised that wildlife impacts or response can be controversial in terms of public reactions, but no multi-stakeholder activities have been organised to date to explore common ground and solutions ☐ There is a high reliance on quality tier-3 resources from abroad, but the procedures to invite and integrate a tier-3 team have not been discussed or described.	☒ Funds are available to the extent that some ad hoc activities can be financed; there is no multi-year approach nor budget available ☒ Multi-stakeholder meetings have been discussing wildlife impacts and options for a response, and it is clear that different views and approaches are possible, but no actions have been taken to find solutions in bridging different opinions ☒ Quality tier-3 resources for response assistance have been identified and discussions take place on mobilisation procedures, but no formal procedure has been agreed nor described	☐ A multi-year budget has been created to finance a number of activities, contracts and equipment investments. Still it is expected from various key stakeholders to contribute in-kind to the agreed preparedness level ☐ Multi-stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR ☐ The assistance from quality tier-3 resources have been described as part of the wildlife response plan. Tier-3 mobilisation however is not part of an exercise programme	☐ A multi-year budget has been created that allows one or more key stakeholders to coordinate an all encompassing programme and overseeing investments, training and exercises, and provide professional staff to undertake key roles and responsibilities in the management of a response; a key authority oversees that targets are met by the programme ☐ A response will involve a broad range of stakeholders in the response activities, ensuring different viewpoints are respected and publicly communicated as of one voice so that the public is likely to support the response and its decision taking ☐ The assistance from quality tier-3 resources is described as part of the wildlife response plan and mobilisation procedures are regularly exercised and tested

4.8 Russia

Text not received from Russia

Table H. Filled-in SAT not received from Russia

4.9 Sweden

In Sweden, the coordinator of the overall strategy for oil spill preparedness is the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), and the strategy covers all areas at sea, on shore, and on land. The strategy itself, however, is a joint commitment and document between most concerned stakeholders, namely: Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SWAM), Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), Swedish Coast Guard, The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), Swedish Maritime Administration, Swedish Transport Agency, County Administrative Board and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions. The overall purpose of the strategy is to coordinate national priorities and function as decision support for relevant stakeholders.

Oil contingency plans, on the other hand, fall under the responsibility of the Swedish Coast Guard (at sea) and relevant municipalities (on shore and on land). Swedish municipalities have a large degree of autonomy and play an important role in civil emergency planning and preparedness. The planning and local procedures vary to some extent between municipalities due to differences in organizational structures and circumstances.

A large number of stakeholders will be involved in a large scale accident, including volunteer and private organizations. The key actors in Sweden are:

- The Swedish Coast Guard does the overall impact assessment, is responsible for planning for, and conducting response operations at sea.
- Local municipalities are responsible for planning for, and conducting response operations on the shore.
- The County Administrative Board has a supportive and coordinating operational role in case of larger operations affecting the shore.
- The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency also has a supportive role in case of larger operations and provides coordination support as well as material and expert resources from the oil combating depots.

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) is alleged as the responsible authority in developing national guidelines for oiled wildlife response. Such guidelines are under development during 2016 aiming to support and harmonize municipalities' as well as the Coast Guards' contingency planning regarding OWR. However, due to the municipalities' extensive autonomy adopting national guidelines is voluntary.

Due to the Swedish decentralized constitution and organization some areas in the self-assessment tool will appear less developed than they really are. It is unlikely that Sweden will ever reach "world class" level of preparedness according to this matrix and it is also not our aim from a national perspective.

The national guidelines will clarify roles and responsibilities for the authorities, as well as the expectations on other local and regional stakeholders. The OWR related HELCOM recommendations are a natural starting point for the national guidelines. The national guidelines will thus form a tool to implement HELCOM recommendations on local and regional level in Sweden.

OWR specific material and expert resources are generally possessed by volunteer organizations', which are often locally based. The municipalities are recommended to include relevant OWR stakeholders in their oil contingency planning and exercises.

Decisions regarding methods (e.g. euthanasia or rehabilitation) are taken by local authorities but SEPA recommends that endangered species are prioritized if a rehabilitation operation is executed.

Table H. Filled-in SAT Sweden

Needed for (cost) effective oiled wildlife response	To be initiated	Important gaps to be filled	Strong basis	World class
Planning and integration	☐ Only an oil spill response plan exists; it may or may not have reference to OWR ☐ No authority so far has taken responsibility to oversee (the quality of) wildlife response and preparedness ☒ It is no common rationale for (the development of) an integrated OWR plan.	☒ It is recognized that OWR needs a plan; meetings have taken place, but no draft document written as yet ☒ One authority has taken responsibility to take a lead on plan development, but other relevant authorities are not engaging as yet ☐ A scenario/risk analysis has resulted in a clear picture of what is needed and who needs to do what	☐ A mature plan has been developed on the basis of scenario analysis, but not (fully) formalised or integrated as yet ☐ All relevant authorities are engaged with the OWR plan, by formal decision ☐ All relevant parties (Authority-NGO-Private) have been brought around the table and have divided and agreed roles, responsibilities and development tasks	☐ OWR plan formalised and fully integrated with all relevant oil spill plans (at sea response, coastal response, regional plans), and implemented via a multi-year programme and budget ☐ Annual activities demonstrate full commitment with all signatories of the plan and significant preparedness improvements thanks to training and exercises in which all signatories participate ☐ Progressively the preparedness is increasing according to plan and budget; Risks are managed
Exercises	☐ No OWR exercises take place ☐ There is no actor who is interested to organises OWR exercises ☐ The importance of exercises such as table tops, field exercises and facility exercises is acknowledged but not acted upon	☒ Exercises have had and ad hoc character and were not related to a plan or training programme ☒ Wildlife aspects are exercised by one or more parties but not by everyone together ☒ Ad hoc exercises were limited to table tops and/or simple field exercises	☐ Exercises take place coherently every year and look at different aspects of a response ☐ Exercises are attended by all stakeholders together but there is no clear relation with training ☐ Exercises are structural but a large mobilisation exercise testing the build up and operations of a facility has not been held to date	☐ Exercises take place according to a pre-defined schedule that directly relates to the agreed plan together ☐ Wildlife aspects are exercised by all stakeholders together and aiming at letting trained officers working ☐ There is a full diversity of scheduled exercises (table top, field, facility) as part of a formal plan-related exercise programme
Training	☒ Roles and responsibilities in a wildlife response are not clarified and not discussed between stakeholders ☒ There is no in-country expertise available to provide training courses ☒ There are parties interested in being trained	☐ Some but not all stakeholders have assumed their roles in a wildlife response and train their key personnel to be able to take responsibilities according to clear job descriptions ☐ Training at different levels (convergent responder, advanced responder, section heads, manager) is recognized, but training is limited to the volunteer (convergent) level. ☐ Management roles are not trained	☐ Roles and responsibilities are defined as job descriptions as part of an agreed plan and a training programme has been agreed and is centrally coordinated, delivering key personnel from different organisations ☐ Training at most levels is recognised and taking place ☐ Training packages aim at international standards allowing trained staff to assist abroad if called upon	☐ Trained personnel from different stakeholder organisations is offered regular opportunities to exercise together, to practice their skills in realistic scenarios ☐ A centrally coordinated training programme is aiming at delivering responders at all levels and ensuring various individuals can take key roles in the higher management positions. ☐ Trained staff are qualified according to international standards to assist with training other responders or responders abroad
Equipment and facilities	☒ The role of facilities in OWR is recognised, but plans to realise them have not been developed or tested. ☒ Equipment stockpiles are unknown or absent	☐ It is clear what facilities are needed for different purposes in a wildlife response. At this stage, only small size facilities can be used or developed, equipped and staffed, relating to relatively unchallenging incident scenarios ☐ Equipment stockpiles are available in-country, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made	☐ The use and development of facilities has been described in the plan and scripts and criteria are available for scaling up facility size to a desired maximum level that can be equipped and staffed ☐ Equipment stockpiles and lists of equipment and consumables have been drawn up as well as an updated list of manufacturers and providers	☐ The use and development of fit-for-purpose facilities is the subject of specific exercises in an exercise programme in which the performance of contractors and responsible organisations is regularly tested and evaluated ☐ Equipment mobilisation in relation to facility build up and field activities is regularly tested and evaluated as part of an exercise programme

Partnering and funding	☒No dedicated central funds are explicitly available for wildlife preparedness development ☒It is recognised that wildlife impacts or response can be controversial in terms of public reactions, but no multi-stakeholder activities have been organised to date to explore common ground and solutions ☒There is a high reliance on quality tier-3 resources from abroad, but the procedures to invite and integrate a tier-3 team have not been discussed or described.	☐Funds are available to the extent that some ad hoc activities can be financed; there is no multi-year approach nor budget available ☐Multi-stakeholder meetings have been discussing wildlife impacts and options for a response, and it is clear that different views and approaches are possible, but no actions have been taken to find solutions in bridging different opinions ☐Quality tier-3 resources for response assistance have been identified and discussions take place on mobilisation procedures, but no formal procedure has been agreed nor described	☐A multi-year budget has been created to finance a number of activities, contracts and equipment investments. Still it is expected from various key stakeholders to contribute in-kind to the agreed preparedness level ☐Multi-stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR ☐The assistance from quality tier-3 resources have been described as part of the wildlife response plan. Tier-3 mobilisation however is not part of an exercise programme	☐A multi-year budget has been created that allows one or more key stakeholders to coordinate an all encompassing programme and overseeing investments, training and exercises, and provide professional staff to undertake key roles and responsibilities in the management of a response; a key authority oversees that targets are met by the programme ☐A response will involve a broad range of stakeholders in the response activities, ensuring different viewpoints are respected and publicly communicated as of one voice so that the public is likely to support the response and its decision taking ☐The assistance from quality tier-3 resources is described as part of the wildlife response plan and mobilisation procedures are regularly exercised and tested

5. Recommendations for regional activities

The variability in the level of preparedness between the various Contracting Parties (CP) is a matter of concern and leads to some key questions:

1. Does the HELCOM area need to have one standard for national oiled wildlife response preparedness, and which standard would be both reasonable and achievable?
2. Are there alternative solutions which would entail further investments and developing capacity on a regional scale, made available to countries which have challenges in setting up national arrangements?

From the results presented in this report, it can be concluded that it is unreasonable to expect CP to agree on and develop one single system for oiled wildlife preparedness and capability and establish this in each country in the foreseeable future. Some countries still struggle to get started on this topic, let alone that the same standards could yet be achieved within an agreed timeline.

Trying to develop regional capacity seems to be an interesting concept, especially if that can be made available to countries that are facing challenges in oiled wildlife response during spill incidents and do not have the required national capacity or capability to effectively deal with such situation.

However, it is clear that each country will continue developing a national system of preparedness, and as part of the process, the HELCOM Response group should inform other CP about the progress made. The EWG OWR could continue as the platform in identifying challenges and finding international solutions to these challenges. Developing regional capacity would mean that a regional strategy should be developed. If this can be agreed by HELCOM Response group, it would also mean that work towards developing this capacity could be financed via international resources such as the European Commission.

Still, each country should accommodate the involvement of international response capacity in their oil spill response planning. The EWG OWR could explore which minimum standards should be in place for such accommodating systems, and it would be in the interest of each CP to have these minimum standards in place. The EWG OWR should also consider initiatives to revitalize the cooperation between the parties that are aiming for rehabilitation and to consider a Baltic-wide project to jointly enhance preparedness for rehabilitation in the region.

Annex 1: Oiled wildlife preparedness self-assessment tool

Oiled Wildlife Preparedness
Self-assessment tool (draft)

Introduction

In 2015 IPIECA published the Good Practice Guide on Oiled Wildlife Preparedness. The guide can be used as a guide for industry and governments to develop a level of preparedness for oiled wildlife response that meets an international standard of good practice. It describes the nature of an oiled wildlife incident and the various the challenges that responders may be confronted with, and provides recommendations for response plan development and the implementation of such a plan.

This self-assessment tool has been developed by Sea Alarm as an instrument that countries can use to assess their current level of preparedness against what could be considered as a "world class" system of preparedness, or at least a "good basis".

Guidance for use

The table on the next page provides various statements on systems that have been created or activities that are taking place in a country's intention to develop a higher level of preparedness. Five categories are provided: Planning and integration, Exercises, Training, Equipment and facilities, Partnering and funding. Each column in the table provide statements that signify an increasing level of preparedness from left to right, leading to the world class preparedness in the rightmost column. In each cell of the table two or three statements are presented that can be ticked if the statement applies to the situation in a particular country. Horizontally statements appear in different text colours, to assist filling in the table and comparing statements of similar nature in each column. **Double click to tick a box** (via a dialogue screen).

The user should aim to tick the most relevant description comparing statements of the same colour in each category, and working through the table so that each horizontal line of statements will have one tick.

Once completed the position of the ticks will provide an indication how the preparedness level can be assessed. The overall judgment should be the column in which the gravity of the ticks have been put.

The way the statements are formulated is in such way that it they give guidance on how to improve to a higher level by simply reading what would be required for being able to tick the next statement to the right in the same text colour.

In order to reach a more graphical expression of the overall preparedness, figure 1 on the third page can be used. An example is provided in figure 2. Again it is to put a dot where the gravity of the score per category lies.

The figures of different countries in a geographical region can be used in one overview, showing relative strengths and weaknesses.

Good luck and be honest!

Needed for (cost) effective oiled wildlife response	To be initiated	Important gaps to be filled	Strong basis	World class
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Exercises	☐ No OWR exercises take place ☐ There is no actor who is interested to organises OWR exercises ☐ The importance of exercises such as table tops, field exercises and facility exercises is acknowledged but not acted upon	☐ Exercises have had and ad hoc character and were not related to a plan or training programme ☐ Wildlife aspects are exercised by one or more parties but not by everyone together ☐ Ad hoc exercises were limited to table tops and/or simple field exercises	☐ Exercises take place coherently every year and look at different aspects of a response ☐ Exercises are attended by all stakeholders together but there is no clear relation with training ☐ Exercises are structural but a large mobilisation exercise testing the build up and operations of a facility has not been held to date	☐ Exercises take place according to a pre-defined schedule that directly relates to the agreed plan together ☐ Wildlife aspects are exercised by all stakeholders together and aiming at letting trained officers working ☐ There is a full diversity of scheduled exercises (table top, field, facility) as part of a formal plan-related exercise programme
Training	☐ Roles and responsibilities in a wildlife response are not clarified and not discussed between stakeholders ☐ There is no in-country expertise available to provide training courses ☐ There are parties interested in being trained	☐ Some but not all stakeholders have assumed their roles in a wildlife response and train their key personnel to be able to take responsibilities according to clear job descriptions ☐ Training at different levels (convergent responder, advanced responder, section heads, manager) is recognized, but training is limited to the volunteer (convergent) level. ☐ Management roles are not trained	☐ Roles and responsibilities are defined as job descriptions as part of an agreed plan and a training programme has been agreed and is centrally coordinated, delivering key personnel from different organisations ☐ Training at most levels is recognised and taking place ☐ Training packages aim at international standards allowing trained staff to assist abroad if called upon	☐ Trained personnel from different stakeholder organisations is offered regular opportunities to exercise together, to practice their skills in realistic scenarios ☐ A centrally coordinated training programme is aiming at delivering responders at all levels and ensuring various individuals can take key roles in the higher management positions. ☐ Trained staff are qualified according to international standards to assist with training other responders or responders abroad
Equipment and facilities	☐ The role of facilities in OWR is recognised, but plans to realise them have not been developed or tested. ☐ Equipment stockpiles are unknown or absent	☐ It is clear what facilities are needed for different purposes in a wildlife response. At this stage, only small size facilities can be used or developed, equipped and staffed, relating to relatively unchallenging incident scenarios ☐ Equipment stockpiles are available in-country, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made	☐ The use and development of facilities has been described in the plan and scripts and criteria are available for scaling up facility size to a desired maximum level that can be equipped and staffed ☐ Equipment stockpiles and lists of equipment and consumables have been drawn up as well as an updated list of manufacturers and providers	☐ The use and development of fit-for-purpose facilities is the subject of specific exercises in an exercise programme in which the performance of contractors and responsible organisations is regularly tested and evaluated ☐ Equipment mobilisation in relation to facility build up and field activities is regularly tested and evaluated as part of an exercise programme
Partnering and funding	☐ No dedicated central funds are explicitly available for wildlife preparedness development ☐ It is recognised that wildlife impacts or response can be controversial in terms of public reactions, but no multi-stakeholder activities have been organised to date to explore common ground and solutions ☐ There is a high reliance on quality tier-3 resources from abroad, but the procedures to invite and integrate a	☐ Funds are available to the extent that some ad hoc activities can be financed; there is no multi-year approach nor budget available ☐ Multi-stakeholder meetings have been discussing wildlife impacts and options for a response, and it is clear that different views and approaches are possible, but no actions have been taken to find solutions in bridging different opinions ☐ Quality tier-3 resources for response assistance have been identified and discussions take place on mobilisation procedures, but no	☐ A multi-year budget has been created to finance a number of activities, contracts and equipment investments. Still it is expected from various key stakeholders to contribute in-kind to the agreed preparedness level ☐ Multi-stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR ☐ The assistance from quality tier-3 resources have been described as part of the wildlife response plan. Tier-3 mobilisation however is not part of an exercise programme	☐ A multi-year budget has been created that allows one or more key stakeholders to coordinate an all encompassing programme and overseeing investments, training and exercises, and provide professional staff to undertake key roles and responsibilities in the management of a response; a key authority oversees that targets are met by the programme ☐ A response will involve a broad range of stakeholders in the response activities, ensuring different viewpoints are respected and publicly communicated as of one voice so that the public is likely to support the response and its decision taking

	tier-3 team have not been discussed or described.	formal procedure has been agreed nor described		☐ The assistance from quality tier-3 resources is described as part of the wildlife response plan and mobilisation procedures are regularly exercised and tested

Figure 1: diagram in which scores can be put

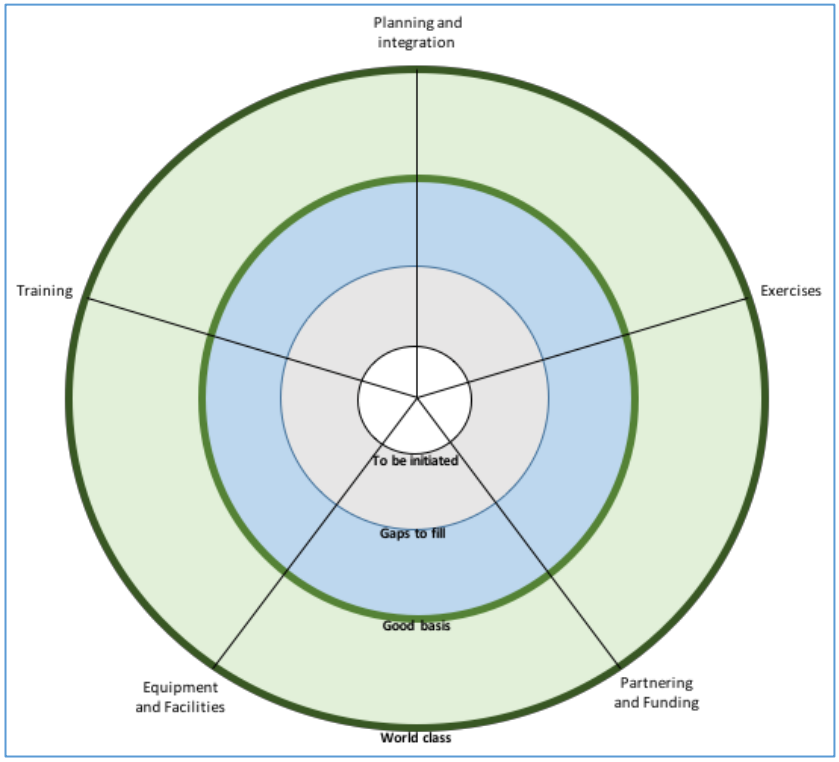
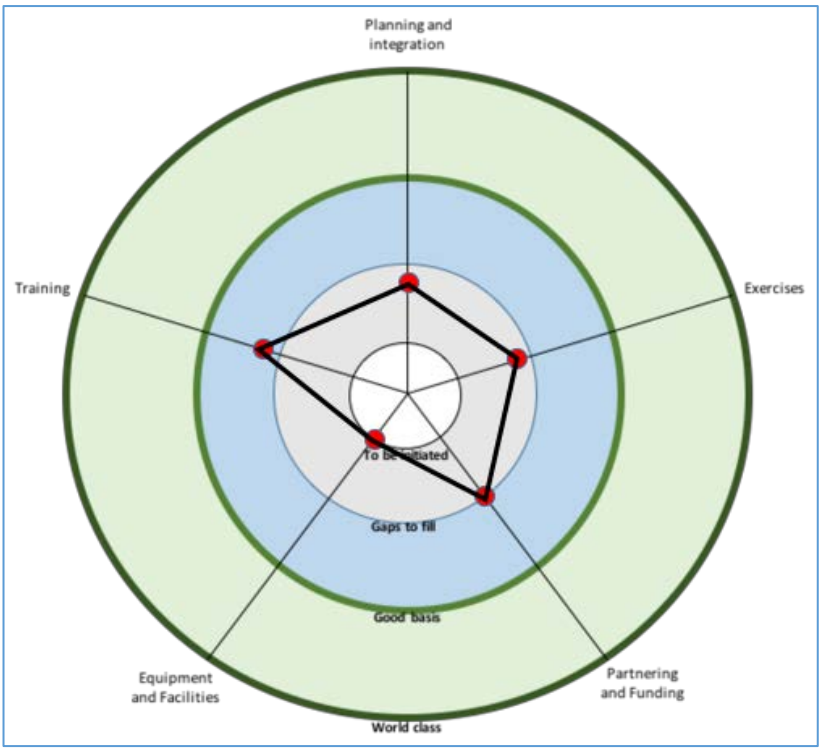


Figure 2: Example



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