

## Annex 7 Terms of Reference for the Reduction Scheme Core Drafting Group (RedCore DG)

### Background

The 2013 HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Meeting adopted a revised nutrient reduction scheme with new Maximum Allowable Inputs (MAI) and Country-wise Allocation of Reduction Targets (CART).

The establishment of an operational system to follow-up on progress towards the MAI and CART requires development of assessment methodology, filling in knowledge gaps as well as a working procedure for establishing assessment datasets and regularly updating the follow-up assessments.

The Terms of Reference of PRESSURE include duties to:

Develop and maintain a system to evaluate progress by the HELCOM countries in meeting their country-allocated nutrient reduction targets of the HELCOM nutrient reductions scheme, follow-up on the progress and prepare reports and recommendations for improved implementation;

Guide Pollution Load Compilations (PLCs) (Water, and Air in cooperation with EMEP) and continuous work on improving data reporting and quality, as well as prepare assessment reports meeting policy needs, and in relation to PLC be responsible for that:

- HELCOM core indicators for pressures on marine environment are developed and operationalized (in cooperation with EMEP) to serve e.g. holistic assessments according to the goals and objectives of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, HELCOM Ministerial Declarations, and the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive for those Contracting Parties also being EU Member States;
- PLC associated technical guidelines for quality assurance are developed and updated to ensure confident monitoring and assessment results for inputs of nutrients and hazardous substances, taking into account the existing international guidance documents;
- PLC database is developed and maintained;

HOD 46-2014 requested PRESSURE to prioritize work on further development and implementation of the MAI-CART follow-up system and make a proposal how the work could be organized.

HELCOM LOAD 8-2014:

- Was of the view that future work related to PLC data can be taken care of under PLC related projects (e.g. PLC-6) but stressed that there is need for an expert group/forum for discussion of other technical matters that have previously been handled by LOAD, such as to development of MAI-CART, indicators and atmospheric issues/EMEP deliverables.
- Proposed that the additional tasks could be coordinated by a small expert group such as the LOAD core group and the broader discussions could take place in thematic workshops. One possibility might be to hold thematic workshops back-to-back with PLC or PRESSURE meetings.
- Supported proposal to carry out the work related to transboundary inputs and retention within a project.

PRESSURE 1-2014:

- Highlighted that PLC is core work of the group, however, recognized that to enable more policy discussions in the meetings a core expert group needs to be established to coordinate the technical PLC activities, building on the former LOAD expert group and LOAD Core Group.
- Agreed on these terms of reference.

PRESSURE proposed to establish a Reduction Scheme Core Drafting Group that carries out technical work related to the development of the nutrient reduction scheme follow-up and PLC activities as well as other activities as requested by PRESSURE. HOD 47-2014 decided to establish the Drafting Group.

#### Objectives for the establishment of a Reduction Scheme Core Drafting Group

The purpose of the establishment of Reduction Scheme Core Drafting Group is to support the work of the Pressure Working Group by liaising between PRESSURE and the scientific work related to the follow-up of the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme and PLC related activities.

It is also to provide a forum for technical discussions and elaboration of proposals as support for more policy oriented discussion at PRESSURE meetings.

Further, the Reduction Scheme Core Drafting Group will ensure a robust scientific basis for the work of PRESSURE.

And lastly, it is to ensure timely delivery of policy relevant quality assured products from PLC related activities for the consideration of PRESSURE.

#### Composition of the Reduction Scheme Core Drafting Group

The Reduction Scheme Core Drafting Group should be kept small to enable an efficient and flexible structure that can adapt to the quick working pace.

The Reduction Scheme Core Drafting Group should have a Chair.

It should consist of the Chair, PLC-6 project manager, PLC data manager, BNI-Sweden, Chair of PRESSURE, representatives from Contracting Parties as appropriate, invited guests and the Secretariat.

#### Suggested tasks for the Reduction Scheme Core Drafting Group

- Maintain a forum for technical discussions and elaboration of proposals
- Further develop the CART follow-up assessment and propose how to operationalize regular updating
- Make regular assessments (MAI/CART) based on inputs from data consultants
- Establish procedures for making a complete, quality assured dataset suitable for follow-up of MAI and CART, including a mechanism for quick approval by Contracting Parties
- Coordinate and guide technical work and projects within PLC related activities (currently PLC-6 and PLUS) and follow-up on their progress
- Prepare a road map of future activities for improving PLC data and operationalizing the follow-up of MAI and CART
- Guide the timely elaboration of technical assessments
- Make proposals, as needed, to PRESSURE based on the outcomes of projects, assessments, and workshops
- Quality assurance of PLC related products

*Ad hoc* thematic workshops will be held as needed (e.g. back to back with PLC-6 project or PRESSURE meetings) where experts from Contracting Parties and HELCOM data consultants will be invited to participate.

The ad hoc workshops/seminars could cover the following technical cross cutting issues:

- Data reporting, quality assurance, guidelines, statistical methods, uncertainty on dataset, filling in data gaps
- Further development of the follow-up assessments of MAI and CART
- How to revise the nutrient reduction scheme (MAI/CART)
- Discussion of the results of the annual reports from EMEP, including methodologies related to improvement of atmospheric input data, parameters, modelling etc.

**The work will be support by data consultants and project. The Reduction Scheme Core Drafting Group is invited to propose how the tasks of the data consultants and project delivers should be amended in the future to reflect the upcoming needs.**

#### [Working procedures and timeline](#)

The Reduction Scheme Core Drafting Group will report to PRESSURE and will assist other subsidiary bodies and projects of HELCOM with requested information.

The Reduction Scheme Core Drafting Group will meet as often as necessary and in addition to physical meetings will utilize video-/teleconferencing when appropriate.

The Secretariat will provide administrative support during the meetings. The Reduction Scheme Core Drafting Group will focus on elaboration of proposals, documents and products, and will record the outcomes of the meetings in the form of short memos.

The Reduction Scheme Core Drafting Group will identify tasks that may require additional resources and may come up with proposals for projects.

The Reduction Scheme Core Drafting Group is established for the period of 2014 – [2017] and its mandate can be renewed for additional years.

Attachment 1

Flow chart of the proposed framework, workflow and content of the nutrient reduction scheme follow-up system

### HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme follow-up

