

Work Plan for HELCOM Response Working Group 2021-2022
(approved by HOD 59-2020)

ACTION	INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES/ RESPONSIBLE	RESULTS/ TIME FRAME
Maintain and further develop the standing operational network for trans-national response in case of incidents		
Keep the HELCOM Response Manual up to date	Contracting Parties/Secretariat Intersessional work	Continuously Scrutiny at HELCOM Response WG
Share experiences of initial implementation of the Joint Inter-Regional Marine HNS Response Manual	Contracting Parties	Meetings of Response WG (2021-2022)
Improve the usability and ease of updating of the Response Manuals by exploring new electronic means of publishing including i.e. smartphone apps.	Secretariat	Continuously Scrutiny at HELCOM Response WG
Implementation and continued development of the HELCOM Response Exercise Plan (HREP)	Contracting Parties HEDMOT	Annual activities
Develop and implement Practical Guide for Response Exercise Projects	Led by HEDMOT (rotating lead country) Response WG	Continuous
Carry out operational and other kinds of exercises in order to train the topics included in the HELCOM Response Exercise Plan (HREP)	Lead Countries/Contracting Parties BALEX 2021: Lead country Finland BALEX 2022: Lead country Germany Other HELCOM and sub-regional exercises On shore response exercises and OWR exercises, which can be combined with other exercises, as appropriate.	BALEX 2022 RESPONSE 31-2022
Build and follow up new knowledge on dispersants' use and applicability in the Baltic Sea	Contracting Parties	Continuously
Implement a three-tier approach to ensure adequate response to incidents in the Baltic Sea Area, with a special focus on the second tier (sub-regional level)		
Develop tools and methodology for regular regional assessments of maritime risks	Contracting Parties Response WG Maritime WG (SAFE NAV)	Continuously Further discussion at RESPONSE 29-2021
Utilize the results of the OpenRisk Project and possible use of AISyRISK tool.		

Conclude/implement sub-regional agreements	Contracting Parties	Continuously
Co-operate by conducting trainings and organizing exchange programmes to ensure swift and adequate response capacity to shoreline pollution and to develop best practices	Contracting Parties Response WG Intersessional work	Continuously
Ensure that response on the shore is integrated with overall contingency planning Make proposals on how to improve access to national and regional information on sensitive areas and sensitive coasts Provide annual cross-border or international exercises Follow up the outcome of relevant projects Ensure wide participation	Contracting Parties RESPONSE Intersessional work SHORE Network	Continuously Work plan of SHORE Network Response WG to implement outcomes of SHORE Network
Carry out Baltic wide mapping of prioritised coastal areas (sensitivity mapping).	Contracting Parties SHORE network	Further discussion at SHORE Network 5-2021 and RESPONSE 29-2021
Integrate oiled wildlife response (OWR) into existing contingency plans Exchange of information on development of national OWR plans, authority-NGO cooperation, national trainings and exercises Develop OWR protocols and facilities Develop OWR preparedness and response Ensure wide participation	Contracting Parties, Sea Alarm, WWF and other stakeholders. Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR)	Baltic Oiled Wildlife network meeting 2021 Reports to Response WG Response WG to implement outcomes of EWG OWR
Continued review of the RESPONSE related HELCOM Recommendations	Contracting Parties Response WG Response Sub-Groups In consultation with MARITIME Intersessional work	Intersessional discussion Further discussion at RESPONSE 29-2021
Contribute to the finalization of the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP)	Contracting Parties Response WG DG BSAP	2021

Follow up on Response related actions in the updated BSAP	Contracting Parties Response WG Response WG Sub-Groups	Starting after 2021 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting
Enhance co-operation with regard to places of refuge according to HELCOM Recommendation 31E/5		
Make the Mutual Plan for Places of Refuge operational and implemented within/through sub-regional agreements	Contracting Parties	Continuously Reports to Response WG and Maritime WG
Ratify the relevant compensation and liability conventions according to HELCOM Rec. 31E/5	Contracting Parties Secretariat to provide update of the ratification status of relevant conventions at each RESPONSE meeting	Reports to Response WG and Maritime WG
Detection, investigation and prosecution of anti-pollution regulations		
Co-ordinate aerial surveillance flights and harmonize aerial surveillance with satellite surveillance	IWGAS (Lead Country 2019-2021: Estonia) In co-operation with EMSA (CleanSeaNet)	Meetings of IWGAS and Response WG
Identify operational needs for satellite surveillance in each sub-region of the Baltic	IWGAS	Continuously
Carry out CEPCO and other flights:	Lead Countries/Contracting Parties	Annual activities
Harmonize aerial surveillance reporting systems with Bonn Agreement area	IWGAS	Continuously
Maintain Seatrack Web/AIS/SAT for improved identification of possible polluters	STW/AIS/SAT partnership	Continuously
Co-operate/assist and exchange experience in investigations	Contracting Parties	Continuously
Co-operate with the Network of the Prosecutors on Environmental Crime (ENPRO)	Contracting Parties/Secretariat	Continuously
Carry out information exchange about offshore activities to be able to respond to accidental spills from such installations		
Report on ongoing/planned offshore activities (exploration/exploitation)	Contracting Parties	When applicable
Collect information/exchange experience/promote development and use of new technology and best practices		
Collect and publish information on shipping accidents and response operations in the Baltic and their impact on marine environment	Secretariat/ Contracting Parties in cooperation with HELCOM MARITIME Data flows from EMSA's EMCIP to be established	Annual report on shipping accidents in the Baltic
Developing response related indicators and update the existing core indicator on spills	Response WG and IWGAS	Meetings of Response WG
Keep track of studies on effects of and response to oil spills on the sea-bed (sunken oil).	Response WG	Meetings of Response WG
National and sub-regional reports on response operations and lessons learned	Contracting Parties	Meetings of Response WG

Collect, compile and publish regional summaries of response operations and lessons learned using the format agreed at RESPONSE 21-2016	Secretariat/ Contracting Parties	Meetings of Response WG New chapter to be added to the Annual report on shipping accidents in the Baltic
Collect information on observed deliberate, illegal oil discharges, other substances and unknown substances and related statistics	Secretariat/ Contracting Parties	Annual report on discharges observed during aerial surveillance Indicator on oil spills
Update HELCOM map and data service with RESPONSE related information Further develop regional preparedness and response related services including HELCOM SeaTrackWeb, HELCOM AIS, HELCOM POLREP, HELCOM GIS towards a second generation HELCOM oil response information system	Secretariat/ Contracting Parties	Annually Meetings of Response WG
Update of national equipment list in CECIS MP database	Contracting Parties	Continuously
Exchange information with other regional agreements including work on lessons learned and funding priorities identified by RESPONSE	Chair/Secretariat RESPONSE	Meetings between regional agreements, EMSA and DG ECHO Meetings of Response WG
Enhance use and development of technology to respond to accidents at night, in bad visibility, in bad weather, oil on ice, accidents involving heavy oil, chemical incidents	Contracting Parties	Meetings of Response WG
Sharing information on common workspace regarding non-traditional oils	Contracting Parties	Continuously Meetings of Response WG
Participate in and share information of research on non-traditional fuel types	Contracting Parties	Continuously Meetings of Response WG
Collect and assess information on submerged hazardous objects including contaminated and potentially polluting wrecks and maintain work on dumped chemical munitions	Contracting Parties HELCOM Expert Group on Environmental Risks of Hazardous Submerged Objects (SUBMERGED)	Meetings of Response WG
Distribute the background document (result of HELCOM-SUBMERGED) on conventional munitions in the Baltic Sea and support to establish links between responsible authorities for common, interdisciplinary assessments of munition objects, wrecks from WW I + II and former	SUBMERGED Response WG	Report back on recent achievements to Meetings of Response WG

munitions dumpsites in the Baltic Sea Region.		
Develop, approve and implement new Terms of Reference for SUBMERGED	Response WG SUBMERGED	Intersessional work RESPONSE 29-2021 According to new ToR of SUBMERGED