



## Workplan for the HELCOM Expert Group on Wildlife Response (EG Wildlife), 2024-2027

Approved by the HELCOM Response Working Group via correspondence in November 2023.

No	BSAP action	Task	Lead	Responsible body	Contributing	Interlinked activities	Next steps and comments	Output
	N/A	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	EG Wildlife			EG Wildlife reports to WG Response	OWR integrated into existing contingency plans and applied among HELCOM Contracting Parties.
	N/A	Review the RESPONSE related HELCOM recommendations	Contracting Parties	WG Response, WG Response Expert Groups  Intersessional work	EG Shore; EG Surveillance; EG Wildlife  In consultation with WG Maritime		Intersessional discussion  Further discussion at next meetings	Up-to-date and relevant HELCOM Recommendations in place.
	S32	Develop a framework for holistic/integrated management of marine pollution incidents to enable coordinated response operation at sea and on shore by 2025.		WG Response	EG Shore, EG Wildlife, EG Surveillance	On the national level, the national competent response authorities should coordinate implementation.	Input from IRA-MAR project to be taken into account by the Response Working Group.  Information sharing and coordination on the national level to ensure that national shore response plans and wildlife response are implemented and coordinated.	Amendments have been made in the HELCOM Response Manual with improved integration of holistic management of pollution incidents at sea, on shore and cross-sectoral cooperation between sea and shore.

							<p>An informal meeting between the Chairs of WG Response, EG Wildlife, EG Shore and EG Surveillance to be organized at the latest in early 2023 to plan and coordinate implementation.</p> <p>Information sharing to ensure that national OWR plans are implemented by all relevant actors. Denmark to share experiences with the Response Working Group and other relevant groups.</p> <p>EG Surveillance to provide a presentation on aerial surveillance to a future meeting of EG Shore.</p> <p>EG Surveillance to draft a new sub-chapter to the HELCOM Response Manual or the Practical Guide for HELCOM Response Exercise Projects to integrate aerial surveillance in the planning of BALEX exercises.</p>	
	S33	Strengthen mutual assistance for oiled wildlife response in the Baltic Region by 2025.		WG Wildlife	WG Response, HEDMOT (HREP)		<p>EG Wildlife to familiarize with EUROWA 2 deliverables, available by end of 2022.</p> <p>Contracting Parties to consider how to integrate EUROWA at national level and report via the Self-Assessment Tool.</p> <p>Work towards ensuring that mutual assistance is structurally implemented and exercised at regional level.</p> <p>Oiled wildlife response to be included in BALEX exercises.</p>	<p>Adoption and integration of the EUROWA framework at regional and national levels, as appropriate. (Joint and national)</p> <p>Regional implementation of mutual assistance mechanisms, standards and procedures, as described in Chapter 7 of the HELCOM Response Manual. (Joint)</p> <p>Oiled wildlife response is fully integrated into the national and regional response framework. (Joint and national)</p> <p>A multi-year exercise agenda has been set for different exercise categories (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie,</p>

								Delta), and rotation between Contracting Parties to organise, where possible integrated with oil spill exercises. (Joint)
	S38	Undertake monitoring and pollution risk assessment regarding species and habitats in the Baltic Region by 2026.		WG Response	WG BioDiv; WG GEAR; EG Wildlife		<p>Chairs of WG BioDiv and EG Wildlife to communicate in spring 2023 and prepare an outline for the work.</p> <p>Workshop to be organized in 2023 with the aim to plan the work.</p> <p>Action to be interpreted jointly between groups, to come up with a cross-topical plan for how to address this action, what is already available and where further HELCOM work can add value.</p> <p>The third criteria for achievement (output) should be jointly considered by response and biodiversity experts.</p> <p>Relevant WGs and EG to track progress and identify barriers/challenges to implementation.</p> <p>To report progress/barriers to WG GEAR.</p>	<p>An analysis of data stemming from existing monitoring to determine vulnerable species, vulnerable areas, vulnerable times of the year is conducted.</p> <p>Results are presented in a format which fulfils the needs of an operational manager, e.g. seasonal maps with risk indications, scale indications. etc.</p> <p>A risk analysis as to how response activities could also impact certain species and habitats in areas, seasons, or certain circumstances is conducted.</p>