

Workplan of the HELCOM Expert Group on dredging/depositing operations at sea (EG DREDS) 2025-2027

Approved by WG Sea-based pressures in June 2025

No	Task	Lead and responsible bodies	Next steps and comments	Output (for BSAP actions this will be criteria for achievement)
<i>Reporting and validation of data</i>				
1	Facilitate the reporting and verification of data on dredging and disposal of dredged material, as outlined in the HELCOM Recommendation 36/2 and the Guidelines for management of dredged material at sea.	Lead: EG DreDS Responsible: WG Sea-based pressures	Annual facilitation of the reporting and reporting back to WG Sea-based pressures on the status of reporting. Review and development of the reporting template as relevant.	Validated annual datasets on dredging/depositing operations at sea.
2	Provide support and validate the annual products compiled of the reported data: Baltic Sea Environmental factsheet on Disposal of dredged material in the Baltic Sea and the regional consolidated report on disposal of dredged material at sea to the London Convention / London Protocol.	Lead: EG DreDS Responsible: WG Sea-based pressures	Support the Secretariat in the production of the annual publications.	Validated annual products published according to the schedule.
3	Provide support to regularly update the HELCOM database on dredging/disposal operations at sea; and contribute to the development of HELCOM information resources (e.g. the HELCOM Map and Data Service and Power BI) on dredging/disposal operations at sea	Lead: EG DreDS Responsible: WG Sea-based pressures	Support the Secretariat in data publishing and development of data products.	An up-to-date data set available in HELCOM MADS on dredging/disposal operations at sea.
<i>Assessment</i>				
4	Provide expert advice regarding the assessment of environmental pressure caused by dredging/disposal of dredged material operations at sea in HELCOM assessment, such as HOLAS 4.	Lead: EG DreDS Responsible: WG Sea-based pressures	On request, contribute to the development of assessment methods relevant to the groups' expertise.	The expertise of the group is being used in all relevant HELCOM assessments.
5	Suggest further developments in the methodology to assess environmental pressure caused by dredging/depositing operations at sea with the aim of contributing to the work on developing threshold values for the adverse effects of anthropogenic physical disturbance and physical loss ¹	Lead: EG DreDS Responsible: WG Sea-based pressures	Support the work on assessing physical loss and disturbance.	Physical loss and disturbance are assessed in a way that considers the impacts of dredging and disposal of dredged material.
6	Implement any other specific tasks related to the expertise of the group by request of the HELCOM Sea-based pressures Working Group	Lead: EG DreDS Responsible: WG Sea-based pressures	On request, contribute to HELCOM work relevant for the group.	The expertise of the group is being used in all relevant HELCOM work.

¹ Working on this topic should take into account the decision by the EU regarding assessment methods for the EU MSFD Descriptor 6 and the decision of the EU-MSCG (Marine Strategy Coordination Group) to task the "CIS Technical Group on Sea-Floor Integrity" to further develop assessment methods.

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Baltic Sea Action Plan				
7	S66: Regularly update and improve the HELCOM Recommendation and Guideline for handling dredged material at sea using the best available knowledge to minimize environmental impact of these activities further developing Best Environmental Practice (BEP) and Best Available Technique (BAT) for dredging and depositing operations.	Lead: EG DreDS Responsible: WG Sea-based pressures	Ensuring the up-to-dateness the Recommendation and the Guidelines.	HELCOM Recommendation and Guideline for handling dredged material at sea are improved and maintained up to date. BAT/BEP to minimize environmental impact of dredging/depositing operations is developed.
8	HL18: Control concentration of mercury in dredged material and undertake possible measures to prevent its release during dredging operations and handling of dredged material.	Lead: EG DreDS Responsible: WG Sea-based pressures	Have dialogue on the national monitoring practices and action list levels of Mercury, with the aim to implement the action HL18.	National requirements to monitor mercury in sediments to be dredged including using either national or regionally harmonized action list levels for mercury concentration in marine sediments are set in respective environmental permits, as defined in the HELCOM Guidelines for Management of Dredged Material at Sea, to be used for implementing the Recommendation 36/2.
9	Support the implementation of all other BSAP actions where dredging / disposal of dredged material is relevant, such as action S65.	Lead: EG DreDS Responsible: WG Sea-based pressures	Support the Secretariat and working/expert groups on BSAP actions relevant for the group.	BSAP actions where the impacts of dredging/disposal of dredged material are taken into account.
Cooperation				
10	Cooperate with other HELCOM Expert Groups, such as EG Benthic, to share knowledge and data.	Lead: EG DreDS Responsible: WG Sea-based pressures	Where needed, cooperate with other HELCOM expert groups.	Well-connected EG DreDs in the HELCOM community.
11	Cooperate with relevant stakeholders in the region, such as OSPAR, ICES, EU and IMO.	Lead: EG DreDS Responsible: WG Sea-based pressures	Coordinate with corresponding reporting and assessments activities of OSPAR.	Well-connected EG DreDs with the stakeholders in the region and beyond.