





When preparing for this presentation it is highly advisable to first read the longer 8-page document "Directions and solutions for streamlining HELCOM (link: <http://helcom.fi/Documents/HELCOM%20at%20work/Groups/Directions%20and%20solutions%20for%20streamlined%20HELCOM%20activities.pdf>)

The following slides are designed as a brief introduction on the key results of the process.

The streamlining was initiated in order to

- better prepare HELCOM to cope with increasing changes in marine and maritime governance,
- to maintain and strengthen the inter-linkage with other international frameworks, and
- to ensure forward-looking and focused agenda well reflecting priorities of the Contracting Parties

The streamlining will lead to more efficient HELCOM and better use of limited resources to more effectively address the identified challenges of the Baltic Sea.



The Task Force:

HELCOM Annual Meeting in 2013 formally decided that HELCOM must be streamlined, and a dedicated task force was formed, consisting of Russia, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, European Union and Germany.

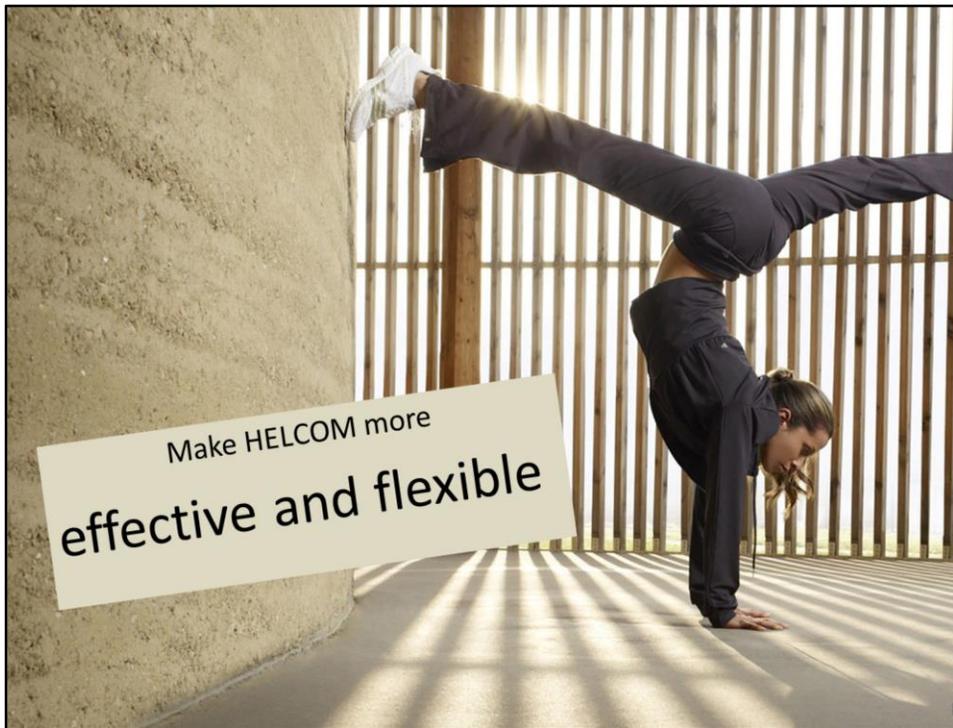
The Task Force inspected the work done so far, such as

- the birth of HELCOM GEAR Group on the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (to combine efforts and enhance synergies of national, regional and EU efforts, such as MSFD, for the implementation of marine environment policies in the Baltic Sea).
- Roadmap of HELCOM activities on ecosystem approach: an outline and timetable for major HELCOM's activities and deliverables until 2021
- Recent upgrades in working methods and tools:
 - new practice for scheduling the meetings;
 - more tele- and video conferencing;
 - new deadline for submission of meeting documents with refined format of cover pages.
 - New HELCOM website & meeting portal have been launched: opportunities for virtual work spaces & sharing/commenting

Key results of streamlining



Key points of how the main goals and objectives of the streamlining were met



Also:

- using better the limited resources
- Build on the existing strengths
- Improve the parts which have not worked so well.

Not to modernize only for the sake of modernizing but find the parts which were needing change.



HELCOM continues to tackle many, many issues in protecting the marine environment.

There are also many simultaneous efforts, processes working on similar issues.

“HELCOM structures, scope of action and working efforts should be concentrated on the most important issues where HELCOM’s involvement **has a clear value added** to the Contracting Parties in relation to their other ongoing processes and existing cooperation schemes. “

Targeting policymakers first - In principal, HELCOM’s work and output should target policy makers and avoid targeting individual stakeholders.

Improved documentation

Less issues raised but more visibility



Better prioritization, better focus -> better visibility, to singular issues but also to HELCOM work at large

More involvement

Better involvement of the Contracting Parties in elaborating HELCOM documents and inputs

Clear definition of the type and timing of input needed from processes outside HELCOM



- **synchronize** with other national policies and
legislation

- **strengthen** HELCOM's role as a policy-maker
for regional cooperation



Reaching out to other
sectors and processes

Mainstreaming marine protection to other policies
Address obstacles in delayed implementation
Incorporate socio-economic considerations

U.S. National Archives

Coordination with other processes

Synergies especially with other
Regional Seas Conventions & EU
Identify and use opportunities
for joining efforts

Gilad Kavalchik

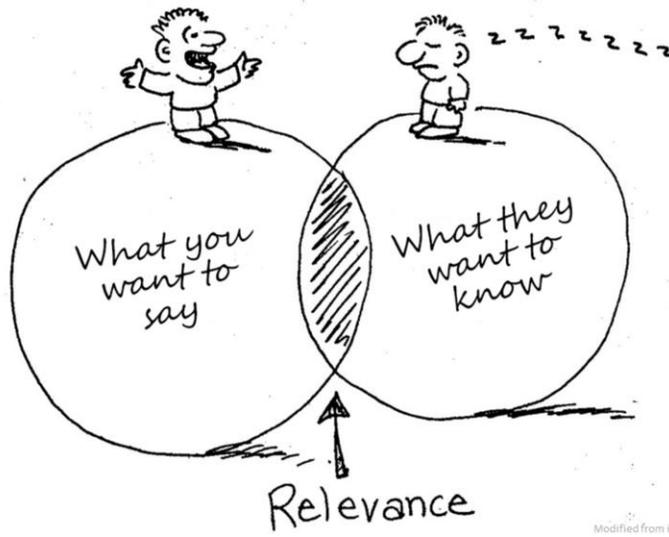
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- Coordination is the key! The challenge: how to have a good balance between reaching out to sectors AND keeping the focus?
- Joining efforts in order to share the work, not to double it; as well as avoiding overlaps



- to improve the quality of HELCOM's assessments and modeling work. (4. r, page 5*)
- Will also help to improve the overall reporting structures, defining which contributions are needed, from which groups, when (1. a, page 4*)
- **One responsible actor** (Lead subsidiary body/expert group/country/chair/Secretariat) for leading the work on a specific item/deliverable should be clearly defined (page 6 - Steps for improving work flow in HELCOM*)
- For each new project and initiative (e.g. policy document, recommendations, guidelines) a **consultation plan** will be prepared at the beginning of the process to schedule expected feedback from the Contracting Parties (page 6 - Steps for improving work flow in HELCOM*)

***Streamlining outcome document ("Directions and solutions for streamlined HELCOM activities")**

Focus on policy relevance



This remains vital

Some more detailed results



The second part picks few more, more concrete highlights of the stramlining results

Mandates and deliverables of the groups are clearer



More clear mandates, deliverables should help improve the overall reporting structures, defining which contributions are needed, from which groups, when

Need to establish longer-term planning for the reporting on actions taken on e.g. implementing HELCOM Recommendations, organized theme-wise in response to policy needs.



This was done earlier – need to keep flexible, update regularly, include clear deliverables and deadlines



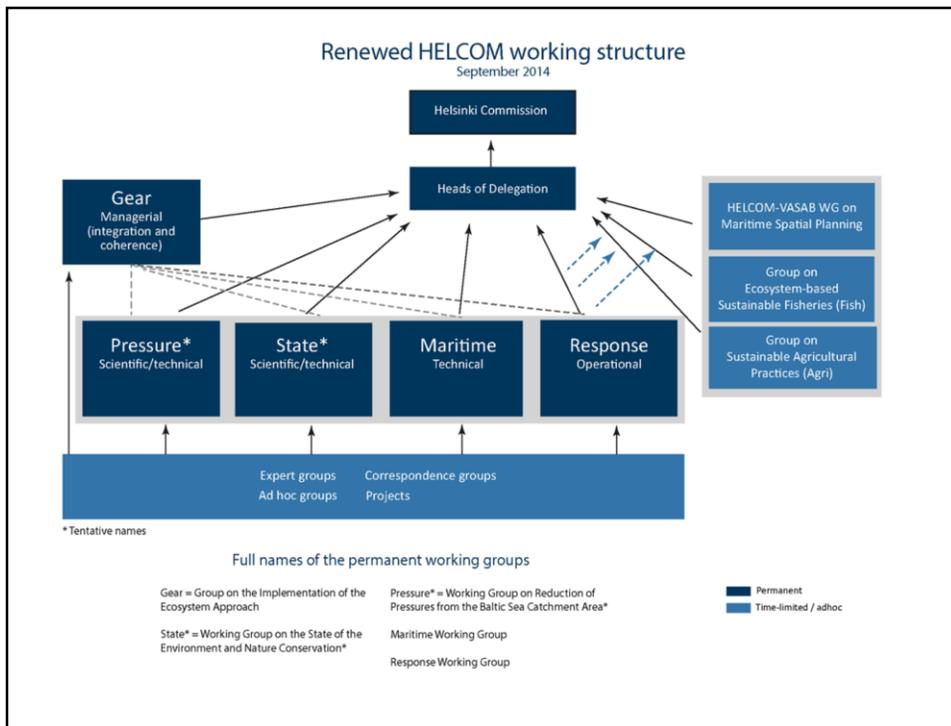
- Video conferences will save travel time and costs
- More "streamlined" working plans should help the work in higher levels, e.g. in the Heads of Delegation meetings

Current main groups

one by one



Next: the new groups introduced, and the continuing groups revisited



- Now: 4 permanent working groups and 3 time-limited groups
- Clearer role for the Gear group: to manage and integrate
- No more: HABITAT, MONAS or LAND
- **State group** (tentative name)
- **Pressure group** (tentative name)
- Flexibility on the structure not to be forgotten! Ad hoc arrangements, changing agendas
- Groups have to cooperate in cross cutting issues, and with Gear
- FISH/ENV FORUM and AGRI/ENV FORUM will now be Groups
- Clear deliverables for groups and clear mandates



Gear

-> to boost synergies with national & other regional players on marine policies

See next slide



Gear (continued)

Managerial role:
Integration & coherence between
other HELCOM groups

Craig Miles

State* **Permanent**
**Working Group on the State of the Environment
and Nature Conservation**

Two themes, two co-chairs:

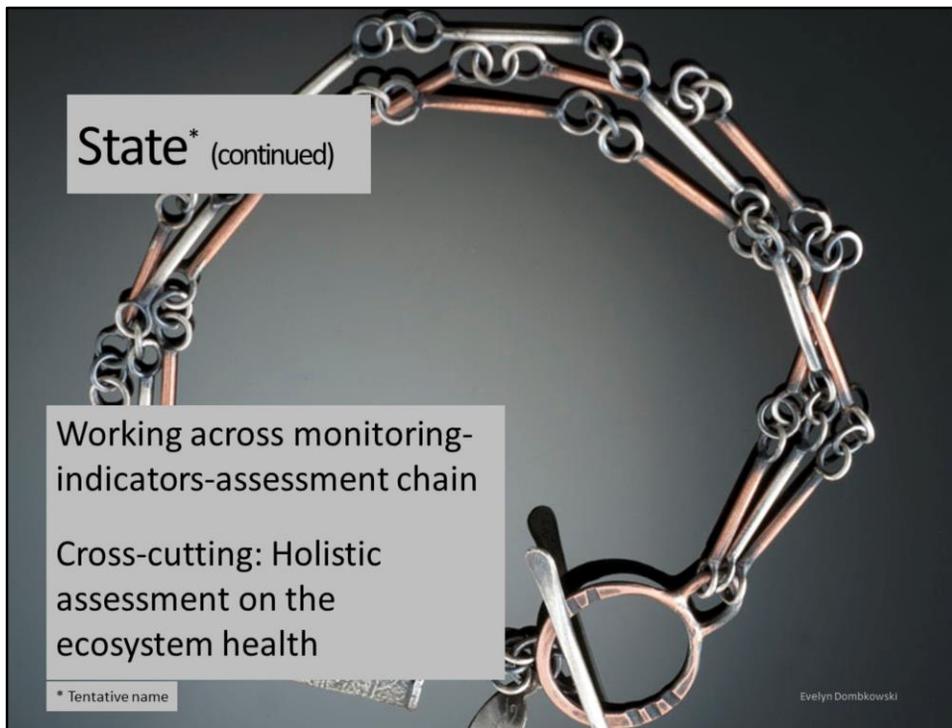
Monitoring and assessment
biodiversity, status of & effects on marine environment

Nature conservation and biodiversity protection
develop measures & Marine Protected Areas

* Tentative name

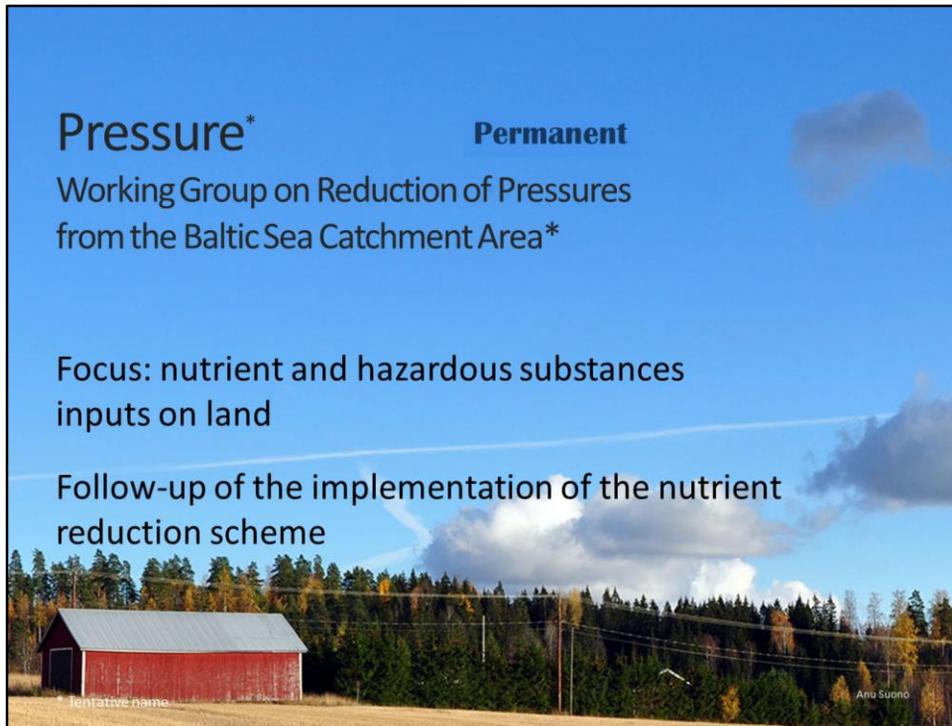
Ata Foto Grup

State group (tentative name) will cover these two themes (**see next slide**)



IMPORTANT to note, that

- indicator-based assessments is not something just for State but is relevant to all our groups.
- HOLAS II (2nd holistic assessment on the ecosystem health of the Baltic Sea) involves more groups than just State, most notably Gear group
- Overall: Monitoring and assessment (e.g. indicators, assessments, monitoring manuals, assessment units etc.) continues to be a fundamentally cross-cutting issue within HELCOM, for all groups
- Monitoring and Assessment Strategy – the basis



- The group provides the technical basis to the work on nutrient and hazardous substances inputs from diffuse sources and point sources on land
- Nutrient reduction scheme was updated in the 2013 Ministerial Meeting, and better country-wise follow up is a current priority issue
- **See next slide**



The State group ensures the necessary technical underpinning as well as develops solutions to the policy-relevant questions and needs.

Note, that especially marine litter and underwater noise are crosscutting issues, but the main coordination lead is with Pressure



- Fisheries in the Baltic Sea is among the sectors having the largest environmental impact on the status of the marine environment, including its biodiversity
- The Fish group (replacing FISH/ENV FORUM) will respond to the need to find solutions how the sector could further contribute to reaching Good Environmental Status of the Baltic Sea by 2021.
- The group involves representatives from fisheries and environment authorities of the Baltic Sea countries, as well as EU, and HELCOM Observers and others as appropriate

Agri

Time-limited

Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices

Update part II Annex III of the Helsinki Convention

- Standards for nutrient content in manure
- Annual nutrient accounting on farm level
- Promote development of methodology for nutrient recycling



- Agriculture is a major source of polluting nutrients – the group addresses nutrient inputs and emissions from agriculture
- Agri group (replacing AGRI/ENV FORUM) deals with agriculture in relation to the implementation of the ecosystem-based approach
- involves representatives from agriculture and environment authorities of the Baltic Sea countries, as well as EU and HELCOM Observers.



The long-run main working groups Maritime and Response continue as before

Maritime working group

- identifies and promotes actions to limit sea-based pollution and ways for safer navigation
- works to ensure enforcement and harmonized implementation of international shipping regulations (IMO)
- Sub-groups include HELCOM-OSPAR Task Group on [Ballast](#) Water Management, Expert group on safety of [navigation](#), Working group for mutual exchange and deliveries of Automatic Identification System ([AIS](#)) data, and HELCOM Cooperation Platform on Port Reception Facilities ([PRF](#)).

Response working group

- works to ensure swift regional response to maritime pollution incidents both oil products and other harmful substances
- also coordinates aerial surveillance of maritime shipping routes, response on the shore, sub-merged hazardous objects



MSP working group continues as before

- The Regional Roadmap on MSP was adopted in the 2013 Ministerial Meeting, "to fulfill the goal of drawing up and applying maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea region by 2020 which are coherent across borders and apply the ecosystem approach"
- HELCOM co-leads with VASAB the Horizontal Action "Spatial" in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)



HELCOM has under its wings several sub-groups, expert groups, projects and networks, complementing the work of HELCOM main groups as well as providing indispensable input

New HELCOM will be a more
dynamic team



Dodik Putro

