



## HELCOM expert network on Hazardous Substances Terms of Reference (ToR)

Adopted by State and Conservation 3-2015

The HELCOM Heads of Delegation meeting 48-2015 held in June, agreed to establish a new HELCOM expert network on hazardous substances. The call for establishing the network has been raised through the work to develop core indicators to be used for the second HELCOM holistic assessment of the ecosystem health.

### **The duties of the expert network are to:**

- A. Act as a platform for discussion and review of HELCOM indicators on hazardous substances being developed by Lead Countries and appointed experts;
- B. Update the core indicator reports at regular intervals as decided in HELCOM;
- C. Ensure timely and quality assured delivery of indicator based assessments of hazardous substances;
- D. Provide expert input to HELCOM work related to hazardous substances.

### **To fulfill these duties the expert network will in the period 2015-2018:**

1. Support Lead Countries in the finalization of HELCOM core indicators on hazardous substances, namely,
  - a. in the operationalization of core indicators for which GES-boundaries were adopted at HOD 48-2015, especially developing assessment protocols including data extraction protocols and the overall data-flow,
  - b. in the development of GES-boundaries for the indicators for which the GES-boundaries have not yet been adopted with the aim of adoption by the end of 2016 at the latest,
  - c. review the further development of state pre-core indicators according to the prioritizations of State & Conservation 2-2015 and Gear 11-2015.
2. Update the core indicator reports on hazardous substances by mid-2017 and further update the reports as relevant by mid-2018, or as otherwise agreed in the HOLAS II project;
3. Provide expert input to the further development of the assessment tool for hazardous substances ('CHASE') through participation in HOLAS II workshops and meetings;
4. Provide the expert input needed in order to deliver the thematic assessment on hazardous substances within the framework of the HOLAS II project by mid-2017 and to the further update of the assessment following the planned national consultation period leading up to the updated assessment to be delivered mid-2018;
5. Support Lead Countries in the revision of monitoring guidelines on hazardous substances.
6. Provide expert input, as may be requested by e.g. Pressure WG, to consideration of pressures from hazardous substances and relevant measures to reduce the harmful effects of hazardous substances in the HELCOM area;
7. Seek opportunities for cooperation with OSPAR, namely with the expert group MIME and, as relevant, HASEC;
8. Investigate the possibility for a project related to hazardous substances e.g. in cooperation with the EUSBSR PA Hazards.



## Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

### Terms of Reference for the Expert Network on Hazardous Substances

The network will consist of experts nominated by Contracting Parties and will be open to Observers according to HELCOM procedures.

The expert network will function under and receive guidance from the HELCOM working group State and Conservation and will provide support to other groups, in particular Pressure working group, as requested.

The mode of work for the expert network will be mainly via correspondence and tele-meetings, with physical meetings being organized as needed. A Chair for the network will be elected. The products will be handled at HELCOM Meeting Portal workspaces dedicated to this use. The HELCOM Secretariat will provide administrative support to the network.