

Provisional Programme

Tuesday, 22 November 2022 – implementation obstacles to achieve NICs

The first day will be chaired by Wera Leujak (UBA, Germany). All times are Central European time (CET).

Time (CET)	Activity
9:00-9:05	Welcome – the host (Wera Leujak – Germany)
9:05-9:20	Scope and aims of the informal consultation workshop (Wera Leujak- Germany, Lars M. Svendsen – Chair of PLC-8 Project Implementation Group)
9:20-9:30	Status of fulfilling nutrient input ceilings to the Baltic Sea (Lars M. Svendsen)
9:30-9:50	Sources and pathways of nutrients and trends in inputs to the Baltic Sea results of PLC-assessments (Lars M. Svendsen)
9:50-10:15	Analysis of implementation obstacles – (Birgit Heyden-AquaEcology, Germany)
10:15-10:30	Modelling scenarios demonstrating the achievability of BSAP nutrient reduction targets in the Western Baltic Sea – (Sarah Piehl, René Friedland– IOW)
10:30-10:45	Sufficiency of the EU WFD targets for individual rivers basins to achieve the BSAP goals (Stella-Theresa Stoicescu, Urmars Lips TTU)
10:45-11:15	Coffee break
11:15-11:45	Rapid Fire Session Each Contracting Party to present a max 3 min statement on achievability of Nutrient Input Ceilings
11:45-12:15	Discussion and questions
12:15-13:15	Lunch break
13:15 – 14:45	Group work – splitting participants into three groups to discuss each of the following topics: 1) Measures contributing to the achievement of NICs <i>Objective: Identification of the most effective measures to reduce nutrient inputs and how HELCOM can contribute to implementation</i> 2) Innovative measures / procedures to achieve good status <i>Objective: Thinking out of the box – what additional innovative measures could help in achieving good status, e.g. nutrient trading, internal measures</i> 3) Managing nutrients along the river-coastal-offshore continuum <i>Objective: Explore natural and policy synergies that support achievement of NICs (e.g. role of WFD, nutrient retention, nutrient limitation)</i> Chairs: Group 1 Birgit Heyden, Group 2 Wera Leujak, Group 3 TBC
14:45 – 15:15	Coffee Break
15:15 – 16:15	Presentation of the results of the group work by the chairs
16:15 – 16:30	Final discussion
16:30 – 16:45	Preliminary conclusions: Feasibility of reaching the BSAP nutrient reduction targets by 2030 and identifying relevant obstacles that could be tackled in HELCOM to support the efforts of Contracting Parties in reducing nutrient inputs
18:30	Dinner

Wednesday, 23 November 2022 – Effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea

The second day will be chaired by Lars M. Svendsen. All times are Central European time (CET).

<i>Time (CET)</i>	<i>Activity</i>
9:00-9:10	Welcome to day 2 – the host (Wera Leujak, Germany)
9:10-9:30	Summary and conclusions from Day 1 (Wera Leujak, Germany)
9:30-9:50	Portfolio of HELCOM work on the sufficiency of measures and fulfilment of NICs – (Lotta Ruokanen, HELCOM Secretariat)
09:50-10:05	Effectiveness of measures as part of the PLC-8 project and supporting the 2021 BSAP action E1 implementation – HELCOM (PLC-8 Project Manager and BNI)
10:05-10:20	Introducing the PLC-8 effectiveness of measures thematic report and its main aspects – (Antti Räike, SYKE Finland)
10:20-10:45	Discussion and questions
10:45-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:15	Best practice examples for estimating the effectiveness of measures (10 min per example) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Danish case – Second opinion project (TBC) - German case – the river Schlei (TBC) - Archipelago Sea catchment case (Elina Laurila, ELY Centre, Finland) - Integrated rural water management – WaterDrive project (NN) - Using proxies to estimate the effectiveness of measures (Wera Leujak, Germany) Discussion and questions
12:15-13:00	Lunch break
13:00-14:15	Group work – splitting participants into three groups to discuss each of the following topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Scope of BSAP action E1 and support needed from PLC 8 project <i>Objective: Identify a common approach of implementing action E1 and how this can be supported by the PLC 8 project</i> 2) Scope of the PLC 8 effectiveness of measures report <i>Objective: To further discuss the outline of the report and guide the PLC work</i> 3) Identifying challenges in determining the effectiveness of measures and ways to address them <i>Objective: Clarify what methodological/administrative challenges exist and how HELCOM work can support addressing these</i> Chairs: Group 1 Lars M. Svendsen, Group 2 Antti Räike, Group 3 Wera Leujak Joint discussion on the way forward
14:15-14:30	Coffee break
14:30-15:15	Reporting back from the breakout groups
15:15-15:30	Preliminary conclusions: Towards a coherent and complete evaluation of the effectiveness of measures in PLC-8 and regarding action E 1

Attachment 1. Background – PLC informal consultation workshop on the effectiveness of measures and the analysis of implementation obstacles

22-23 November 2022, Berlin, Germany and online

The PLC informal consultation workshop on the effectiveness of measures and the analysis of implementation obstacles and best practices will be hosted by Germany. The event is aimed at key stakeholders in the Baltic Sea region countries working with water management and specifically with measures to reduce nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea.

Background and aim

During the PLC-6 and PLC-7 projects it became evident that it was not possible to reliably estimate reasons behind the past changes in nutrient loads, with the exception of point source loads. Furthermore, it was not possible to evaluate projected future reductions in a harmonized way. However, since that time there has been a lot of progress in development of nutrient load models in many PLC countries, which has led to more accurate estimates of nutrient loads in the past and projected loads in the future ([document 7-15 of PRESSURE 15-2021](#)).

The intention in the forthcoming PLC-8 Effectiveness of measures (EOM) work is to include some examples from river catchments with decreasing nutrient inputs and to quantify reasons behind the decreases, to compile information of the planned measures and to evaluate what is their implementation status in 2023. Furthermore, the intention is to estimate what are the expected reductions in nutrient loads by 2030. There are still many open issues concerning what kind of EOM data countries are finally able to submit for the PLC-8 project (e.g. spatial scale, time period, accuracy of different mitigation measures, effect of climate change). The event aims to solve the open issues and facilitate the data collection. This work will also support Contracting Parties in delivering 2021 BSAP action E1 (*“Submit an account listing, as detailed as possible, the planned and implemented measures in different sectors and catchments alongside an estimation of their effectiveness to HELCOM by 2023 in order to demonstrate whether national net nutrient input ceilings can be achieved with these measures”*).

The informal consultation workshop is combined with the work of analysing of implementation obstacles and propagation of best practice examples for eutrophication by Germany, in the framework of the priorities of the German HELCOM Chairmanship 2020-2022. The analysis mainly investigates the feasibility of reaching the BSAP Nutrient Input Ceilings (NICs), thereby also looking at natural background loads, past reductions and measures and their prognosticated effectiveness. In the event the results of the analysis are presented and discussed. The aim is to identify country/basin combinations where the achievement of the NICs is unlikely, in order to embark on a discussion how these concrete implementation obstacles could be overcome.

The workshop also intends to follow up on the 2019 HELCOM Workshop with River Basin Management Authorities (RBMAs), continuing the good cooperation that has been established between HELCOM and the RBMAs and seeking for synergies in achieving good status of the surface waters and the Baltic Sea.

Resources

- Analysing of implementation obstacles and propagation of best practice examples for eutrophication proposed by Germany at PRESSURE 14-2021 ([document 9-4 of PRESSURE 14-2021](#));
- The PLC-7 thematic report on [Effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient inputs](#) was published as Baltic Sea Environmental Proceedings (BSEP 184, 2022);

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- The [Outcome of the 2019 HELCOM Workshop with River basin Management Authorities](#) includes the main recommendations of that Workshop.

Participants and previous recommendations

Invitees include HELCOM Contracting Parties of EU and EU Member States, relevant third countries and interested NGOs and Observers. Besides the marine community also the river basin management authorities are invited and thus the cooperative work that started at the first HELCOM Workshop with River Basin Management Authorities in September 2019 is continued. A special focus of the informal consultation workshop lies on inviting practitioners to present best practice examples from around the Baltic Sea catchment on specific measures that work well in lowering nutrient inputs or on dedicated management efforts that can be recommended in a regional context.