



Document title	Pending issues from HELCOM STATE & CONSERVATION 3-2015
Code	4-19
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	4 - Matters arising from the HELCOM Groups
Submission date	19.11.2015
Submitted by	Coalition Clean Baltic
Reference	HELCOM HOD 49-2015, document 4-7 and 4-3 ; HELCOM STATE & CONSERVATION 3-2015, documents 7J-4 , 7J-5

Background

With reference to the [Terms of Reference](#) of the HELCOM STATE & CONSERVATION Group, Coalition Clean Baltic submitted the following two information documents to the third Meeting of the Group:

- [\(7J-4\) Proposal for actions to save European eel in the Baltic Sea](#)

CCB stressed the fact of listing of European eel since 2015 under [Appendix II of CMS](#) (the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals), that covers migratory species which have an unfavourable conservation status and which require international agreements for their conservation and management, as well as those which have a conservation status which would significantly benefit from the international cooperation that could be achieved by an international agreement ([Art.II-3, IV](#)). [ASCOBANS](#) is one example of such agreements. The document called for potential joint application of HELCOM Contracting Parties for development and conclusion of an international agreement under the CMS to protect the European eel population, contributing to achievement of Good Environmental Status both under the HELCOM BSAP and EU MSFD. The document was also submitted to HELCOM FISH 3-2015. However, CCB considers that eel, being one of the critically endangered species and important part of the Baltic Sea biodiversity, should not be left for consideration just of the FISH Group or even the Migratory Fish Task Force, as it requires coordinated work of several HELCOM subsidiary bodies and experts both on fisheries, as well as biodiversity and nature conservation, and even, potentially – on river basin management.

- [\(7J-5\) Physical loss and damage to the sea floor marine sediment extraction in the Baltic Sea](#)

Baltic NGO community has raised the concerns on environmental aspects of marine sediment extraction in the Baltic Sea Area and therefore calls for the urgent need to address this anthropogenic pressure thoroughly within HELCOM's work. In line with HOLAS II preparation, CCB invited to consider the need to update HELCOM Status Report on Marine sediment extraction in the Baltic Sea ([1999](#)), based on reliable, comprehensive, geospatial national data; and to revise HELCOM Recommendation [19/1](#) "Marine Sediment Extraction in the Baltic Sea Area" and, as deemed necessary, consider revision of HELCOM Recommendations [15/1](#), [16/3](#) and [24/10](#). This issue is partly considered by HELCOM PRESSURE and will be followed at the next meeting of the Group in 2016.

Likewise, taking into account that most of the abovementioned recommendations are under responsibility of the STATE & CONSERVATION Group, as well as that sea bottom integrity is certainly not an issue that HELCOM PRESSURE is dealing with, a coordinated approach to tackle the issue of marine sediment extraction should be applied within HELCOM.

Action required

The Meeting is invited to consider presented information and to clarify the roles of subsidiary bodies when addressing cross-cutting issues, such as protection of endangered species and sea bottom integrity/marine sediment extraction.