



Workplan of the HELCOM Expert Group on Aerial Surveillance (EG Surveillance), 2023-2027

Approved via correspondence in November 2023 by the HELCOM Response Working Group.

No	Task	Lead, responsible bodies and interlinked activities	Next steps and comments	Output
Regular tasks for the Group				
1	Keep HELCOM Response Manual up to date on matters related to aerial surveillance	Lead: Contracting Parties/Secretariat Responsible: WG Response and its expert groups	Continuously Scrutiny at meetings of EG Surveillance	Up-to-date response manual
2	Co-ordinate aerial surveillance flights and harmonize aerial surveillance with satellite surveillance	Lead: Contracting Parties Responsible: EG Surveillance Contributing: In co-operation with EMSA (CleanSeaNet)	Meetings of EG Surveillance and WG Response	Coordinated aerial surveillance flights, harmonized with satellite surveillance.
3	Identify operational needs for satellite surveillance in each sub-region of the Baltic	Lead: Contracting Parties Responsible: EG Surveillance	Continuously	Fit for purpose satellite surveillance requests from HELCOM Contracting Parties to EMSA.
4	CEPCO and other flights	Lead: Lead Countries/Contracting Parties Responsible: EG Surveillance	Annual activities to be discussed and coordinated during meetings of EG Surveillance and WG Response	CEPCOs organized in accordance with the HELCOM Response Manual.
5	Harmonize aerial surveillance reporting systems with Bonn Agreement area	Lead: Contracting Parties Responsible: EG Surveillance Interlinked activities: EMSA Inter-Secretariat Meetings	Continuously	Harmonized aerial surveillance reporting systems with Bonn Agreement area
6	Co-operate/assist and exchange experience in pollution investigations to improve prosecution of offenders	Lead: Contracting Parties Responsible: EG Surveillance	Continuously	Contracting Parties co-operate, provide assistance and exchange of experiences in pollution investigations.

7	Develop response related indicators and update the existing core indicator on spills	Lead: Responsible: WG Response, EG Surveillance, Secretariat Interlinked activities: EU discussions on MSFD Descriptor 8, criterion 3	Meetings of EG Surveillance Updating the core indicator on spills as part of HOLAS 3	Up-to-date response related indicators developed and approved.
8	Collect information on observed oil discharges, other substances and unknown substances and related statistics	Lead: Secretariat/ Contracting Parties Responsible: EG Surveillance	Meetings of EG Surveillance and WG Response	Annual report on discharges observed during aerial surveillance published.
Tasks stemming from the 2021 BSAP, where S codes refer to BSAP action coding				
9	S30 - Further develop regional preparedness and response related services by e.g. investigating options for upgrading SeaTrack Web to include live data feed in order to improve oil spill trajectory prognoses no later than by 2027. Investigate options to prepare SeaTrack Web for integration with the Clean Sea Net satellite detection service.	Lead: Sweden or Denmark to lead Responsible: WG Response Contributing: WG Surveillance	<i>Identifying a lead in 2023, after deciding the lead for action S31.</i> <i>An understanding with EMSA will be needed regarding integration of SeaTrackWeb and CleanSeaNet.</i>	Operational version of SeaTrack Web supporting live feed of current data is in place. Options are available for integrating SeaTrackWeb to CleanSea Net satellite detection service.
10	S32 - Develop a framework for holistic/integrated management of marine pollution incidents to enable coordinated response operation at sea and on shore by 2025.	Responsible: WG Response Contributing: WG Surveillance On the national level, the national competent response authorities should coordinate implementation.	<i>Input from IRA-MAR project to be taken into account by the Response Working Group.</i> <i>Information sharing and coordination on the national level to ensure that national shore response plans and wildlife response are implemented and coordinated.</i> <i>An informal meeting between the Chairs of WG Response, EG Wildlife, EG Shore and EG Surveillance to be organized at the latest in early 2023</i>	Amendments have been made in the HELCOM Response Manual with improved integration of holistic management of pollution incidents at sea, on shore and cross-sectoral cooperation between sea and shore.

			<i>to plan and coordinate implementation.</i> <i>Information sharing to ensure that national OWR plans are implemented by all relevant actors. Denmark to share experiences with the Response Working Group and other relevant groups.</i> <i>EG Surveillance to provide a presentation on aerial surveillance to a future meeting of EG Shore.</i> EG Surveillance to draft a new sub-chapter to the HELCOM Response Manual or the Practical Guide for HELCOM Response Exercise Projects to integrate aerial surveillance in the planning of BALEX exercises.	
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