



EUSBSR
EU STRATEGY
FOR THE BALTIC
SEA REGION



ICES
CIEM

International Council for
the Exploration of the Sea
Conseil International pour
l'Exploration de la Mer

1 March 2013

**Re: Invitation to the First ICES/HELCOM/EUSBSR Stakeholder Conference
"Sustainable fisheries for a healthier Sea: How can fisheries management
contribute to achieving conservation objectives of marine protected areas?";
25-26 March, 2013, Copenhagen, Denmark,**

Dear Madame/Sir,

Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) and International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), with a support from the Priority Area Bio of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region will hold a Stakeholder Conference, in Copenhagen, Denmark, at the premises of the ICES Headquarters (Address: H.C. Andersen Boulevard 44-46) on 25-26 March, 2013.

The Conference will start at 10:00 on Monday 25 March and is expected to terminate by 12:30 on Tuesday 26 March 2013.

The overall goal of the Conference is to assist, on a regional level, the Baltic Sea States in complying with their obligations to fulfill conservation objectives of marine protected areas. The HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan requires that all the coastal states improve fisheries management and hence fulfill such conservation objectives.

The Conference will aim to:

- **Address key issues** related to fisheries policies and management in the Baltic region, with a focus on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), which are a key tool for improved marine biodiversity conservation. The Baltic Sea is at the global forefront regarding the coverage of such marine areas; however, additional efforts are needed to improve the protection efficiency of the MPAs.
- **Solicit valuable input** on tools to mitigate potential conflict(s) between fisheries and conservation objectives. The novel mitigation solutions could range from improved management of fisheries regulations to the development of new types of fishing gear that are more sustainable for the environment.
- **Showcase the Generic Tool** to assist fisheries management decisions within and beyond the boundaries of an MPA, along with other results of HELCOM's BALTFIMPA Project Inception Phase. The Generic Tool is a powerful way to summarize the available information on fishery impacts on Baltic ecosystems and species so that is available to decision makers in a useful format. The information in the Generic Tool could improve existing management of fisheries, especially within MPAs. The Tool can also be used to educate, raise awareness and in general to improve our understanding of fisheries effects and their management.

Attached please find the Provisional Agenda for the Conference, and the Registration Form to be completed and returned to the HELCOM (petra.kaaria@helcom.fi) and ICES (anne.davies@ices.dk) Secretariats as soon as possible but **not later than 22 March 2013**.

Yours sincerely,

Monika Stankiewicz
Executive Secretary
HELCOM

Anne Christine Brusendorff
General Secretary
ICES

Distribution list:

Contact persons of the HELCOM BALTFIMPA
Participants of HELCOM BALTFIMPA EWS 1 and 2
HELCOM BALTFIPMA Reference Group and Steering Committee
HELCOM CORESET Biodiversity Contact persons
Contact persons of HELCOM FISH/ENV Forum
Participants of HELCOM FISH/ENV FORUM 7 and 8
Participants of the HELCOM RED LIST 4/2012
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