

## **INFORMAL MEETING TO DISCUSS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GEF BALTIC SEA REGIONAL PROJECT (GEF/BSRP)**

Date: Thursday 3 October 2002

Time: 13.00-15.30

Place: ICES Annual Science Conference, Copenhagen

Participants: The list of participants is attached (**Attachment 1**).

The meeting was chaired by Jan Thulin, ICES and Mr. Juha-Markku Leppänen, HELCOM, acted as rapporteur.

Jan Thulin presented the background for and the status of the GEF/BSRP. The presentation is attached to this document as **Attachment 2**.

The GEF has allocated a budget for the project and the World Bank and HELCOM will officially approve the project by the end of 2002. The practical implementation can start at the beginning of 2003. The first phase of the project will run 2003-2005. The chairman pointed out that the different activities will have various starting times.

Thulin presented and discussed the organisational chart of the whole BSRP and of the structure of the Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) component.

Urmas Lips, Estonia, presented the progress in the planning of the ship-of-opportunity component including SOOP network, descriptions of equipment, future cost estimates and plans to get additional funding.

It was considered important that also the other LME components start planning their activities and detailed financing.

Thulin informed that when applying for project financing from EU research funds, the GEF/BSRP funding can be used as a contribution to the total budget.

The next steps for the LME component are as follows:

- The official GEF/BSRP documentation will be available on the web site of GEF within some weeks.
- All the recipient countries/institutions have to respond to the circular letter sent by Thulin and nominate the responsible persons for coordination centres and lead laboratories including their CVs **by 20 October 2002**.
- Preparation of MoUs and agreements between GEF/BSRP and institutions in non-recipient countries has been started.
- The first kick-off meeting of the LME component will be organized ASAP after official start of the GEF/BSRP.

### List of participants

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