



MORSKA SŁUŻBA POSZUKIWANIA I RATOWNICTWA

MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICE

Wasz znak
Your Ref.

Nasz znak
Our Ref.

Data
Date

29.01.2025

Markus Helavouri
HELCOM Secretariat
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INVITATION TO BALEX 2025 EXERCISE

With reference to the 23'd Meeting of the HELCOM Response Working Group (RESPONSE 23-2017, Outcome paragraph 12.3), Poland will host the international Baltic Sea oil spill response exercise BALEX in 2025.

On behalf of the BALEX 2025 organizing team, I have the honour to invite the HELCOM Contracting Parties to take part in the international oil spill response exercise BALEX 2025, which will take place in **Swinoujscie, Poland, from 25 to 28 of August 2025.**

BALEX 2025 will be organized by the leading institution responsible for oil spill response at sea in Poland - Maritime Search and Rescue Service, in close cooperation with other organizations tasked with response to pollution at sea and on shore: West Pomeranian Voivodship Office, Maritime Office in Szczecin, State Fire Service, Polish Navy and Polish Border Guard.

An oil spill response exercise in Port of Swinoujscie and a shoreline response exercise are scheduled for Tuesday, 26th of August, followed by an oil spill response exercise at open sea on Wednesday, 27th of August. The complete exercise scenario will be prepared and distributed in due time.

Arrival schedule for the participating vessels will be distributed at later stage along with the general programme. The exercise will be officially concluded on Thursday 29th of August, 2024.

Contracting parties and observers are invited to:

- 1) **Register vessels** as exercise participating units by filling in the Ship Registration Form (Annex I) and returning it by **28 February 2025** to Balex 2025 Organizing Team (balex2025@sar.gov.pl), with a copy to HELCOM Secretariat (laura.meski@helcom.fi);
- 2) **Register as official observer** by filling in the Observer Registration Form (Annex II) and returning it by **30 April 2025** to Balex 2025 Organizing Team (balex2025@sar.gov.pl), with a copy to the HELCOM Secretariat (laura.meski@helcom.fi);
- 3) **Register as exercise planning participant** by e-mail (balex2025@sar.gov.pl) by **28 February 2025**;

- Initial Planning Conference (online MS Teams meeting) – 11.03.2025

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- Main Planning Conference (online MS Teams meeting) – April/May 2025 (date tbd)
- Final Planning Conference (online MS Teams meeting) – June 2025 (date tbd)

Yours sincerely

Sebastian Kluska – Director of the SAR Service

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DYREKTOR
Sebastian Kluska

Annexes:

- Annex I – Ship Registration Form
- Annex II – Observer Registration Form