



Outcome of the First Meeting of the Drafting Group for the Updated Baltic Sea Action Plan

(DG BSAP 1-2020)

Introduction

0.1 The First Meeting of the Drafting Group for the Updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (DG BSAP 1-2020) was held online on 18 June 2020.

0.2 All the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention, except for Estonia and Finland, attended the Meeting, as well as Observers from CLIA Europe, Coalition Clean Baltic and World Wide Fund for Nature. The List of Participants is contained in **Annex 1**.

0.3 The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Rüdiger Stempel, HELCOM Executive Secretary. Ms. Susanna Kaasinen, Associate Professional Secretary from the HELCOM Secretariat acted as secretary of the Meeting.

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

Documents: 1-1

1.1 The Meeting adopted the Agenda of the Meeting as contained in document 1-1.

Agenda Item 2 Appointment of Chair

Documents: None

2.1 The Meeting took note that HOD 58-2020 invited Mr. Rüdiger Stempel, HELCOM Executive Secretary, to chair the DG BSAP.

2.2 The Meeting appointed Mr. Rüdiger Stempel as the Chair of DG BSAP.

2.3 The Meeting noted that a co-chair from the German chairmanship of HELCOM could be elected for the drafting group in 2021.

Agenda Item 3 Planning the work of DG BSAP

Documents: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3

3.1 The Meeting took note of the Terms of Reference for DG BSAP (document 3-3). The Meeting took note of the concern by Russia that the drafting group should not be in the position to make political decisions, but all agreements should be done by HOD. The Meeting took note of the clarification that the aim of the drafting group is to support the political negotiations regarding the content of the updated BSAP and thus the work of the HOD, which is important also with a view to the tight timeline for the BSAP update. With this in mind, it is vital that a representative from each Contracting Parties in the drafting group is mandated to take part in such negotiations.

3.2 The Meeting pointed out that it should also be clarified in the ToR that the DG BSAP is a time-limited drafting group. The Meeting further stressed that regarding the tasks identified for the drafting group in ToR in spring 2021, the guidance for further drafting should not be limited to HOD 59-2020 but all guidance by HOD, including possible intersessional HOD meetings.

3.3 The Meeting invited the Secretariat to draft a revised version of the ToRs, for the consideration of the Heads of Delegation, taking into account the input from the Meeting and to circulate this to HODs for tacit approval.

3.4 The Meeting took note of the updated Work Plan for the BSAP update and the preliminary timeline and division of tasks for drafting of BSAP as well as extracts from the Outcome of HOD 58-2020 including identified tasks for DG BSAP (3-1, **Presentation 1**)

3.5 The Meeting took note of the detailed plan for drafting of the updated BSAP approved by HOD 58-2020 (document 3-2, **Presentation 1**).

3.6 The Meeting recalled that HOD 57-2019 had agreed that the supporting documents such as regional action plans will not be included in the updated BSAP but will be free-standing documents. The Meeting took note of the information that actions included in the documents currently labeled as supporting documents are not to be considered of lower relevance than those included in the BSAP, acknowledging that as free-standing documents these allow for a higher level of specificity and provide a more dynamic format for implementation, as they could, for instance, be updated more frequently than the BSAP. The Meeting highlighted the need to ensure that the supporting documents have an active link to the operative sections of the BSAP.

3.7 The Meeting took note that the aim is to have a similar structure for all the segments and also took note of the clarification that the annexes to the BSAP will include supporting information beneficial for implementing and reporting on agreed actions, in the format of tables.

3.8 The Meeting agreed that the whole drafting group will work on the overarching preamble while the segments teams will be established to work on the different segments (eutrophication, hazardous substances and litter, sea-based activities, biodiversity and horizontal actions) .

3.9 The Meeting agreed that the segment teams will start their work by reviewing the drafts of the segment-specific preambles in the autumn 2020, concomitantly with their submission to the GEAR 23-2020 meeting, and focus on the continued drafting of the preambles and operative sections based on the guidance from HOD, in spring 2021.

3.10 The Meeting agreed that political-level negotiation in DG BSAP will take place in full DG BSAP meetings, and that it is thus not necessary for segment team representatives to be mandated for political negotiation.

3.11 The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to nominate segment team contacts and requested the Secretariat to send the invitation for nominations via email. The Meeting encouraged Contracting Parties to take a lead for the segment teams. The Meeting clarified that the role of the lead country is to collect feedback from the other parties for further drafting of the BSAP texts.

3.12 The Meeting took note of the offer by CCB to lead the fish topic

3.13 The Meeting agreed that the next meetings of the drafting group will be held online on 11 September 2020 and 1 October 2020.

Agenda Item 4 Any other business

Documents: None

4.1 The Meeting took note of the clarification related to the existing actions on by-catch that were rephrased by Fish and State and Conservation groups and are overlapping. The Meeting recalled that HOD 58-2020 invited the groups to make a joint proposal for the rephrasing. The Meeting took note of the suggestion by the Secretariat that the actions could first be reviewed by STATE&CONSERVATION 13-2020 and

after that they could be jointly discussed by the two groups in a joint intersessional meeting. The Meeting noted that the proposed procedure still needs to be agreed by the Chairs of State and Conservation and Fish groups.

4.2 The Meeting suggested that the outcome of the EU Our Baltic Conference to be held on 29 September 2020 could be relevant to the drafting of the BSAP.

4.3

Agenda Item 5 Outcome of the Meeting

Documents: None

5.1 The draft outcome was prepared by the Secretariat and adopted via correspondence.

Annex 1. List of participants

Name	Representing	Name of organization	Email address
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Katja Broeg	Germany	Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH)	Katja.Broeg@bsh.de
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