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<b>Document title</b>	Actions considered for the biodiversity segment in the updated BSAP
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<b>Category</b>	CMNT
<b>Agenda Item</b>	2 – Actions in the updated BSAP
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## Background

### New and existing actions

Proposals for actions for the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan have emerged from two distinct processes. The existing actions included in the 2007 BSAP and 2010, 2013 and 2018 Ministerial Declarations that had not yet been accomplished were to be transferred to the updated BSAP if they were still relevant. HOD 58-2020 agreed in principle on the existing HELCOM actions, some of which had been rephrased and concretized, that were to be transferred to the updated BSAP. Open issues remained for some existing actions and proposals for their rephrasing or concretization were submitted to HOD 59-2020. HOD 59-2020 supported the submitted proposals for rephrased and concretized existing HELCOM actions as the basis for further drafting in the DG BSAP Segment Teams.

In addition to the existing actions, proposals for new actions have been submitted by the Contracting Parties, HELCOM subsidiary bodies, international projects and HELCOM Observers in the form of synopses. A technical review for the new proposal was conducted by the Working Groups followed by an evaluation in a series of BSAP UP workshops in August-September 2020. Based on the evaluation, the Working Groups endorsed the proposals that they considered to be suitable for the updated BSAP. HOD 59-2020 supported the endorsement of actions by Working Groups as the basis for further drafting in the DG BSAP Segment Teams, noting that if gaps are identified in the drafting process by DG BSAP Segment Teams, the actions that were not endorsed could be considered to fill in these gaps. HOD 59-2020 also agreed that that in exceptional cases, where in well-grounded circumstances a clear gap is identified during further drafting in spring 2021, additional actions may be prepared and presented to HODs for consideration.

HOD 59-2020 took note that that the following Contracting Parties have study reservations on all actions: Latvia and Russia, and that Denmark as well has a general reservation due to ongoing national coordination.

### Process in spring 2021

HOD 59-2020 agreed to the following process for actions in spring 2021:

- The Secretariat will, to the extent possible, redraft proposed actions based on the comments received from Contracting Parties and through the review process in 2020, prior to the Segment Team meetings in early 2021.
- All actions will then be further considered and developed in the respective Segment Teams in spring 2021, based on the guidance from HOD 59-2020 and comments received in the review processes in 2020.
- Further developed actions will be presented for review at DG BSAP and for provisional agreement at HELCOM 42-2021 (and possible subsequent intersessional HOD meeting), as they become available.

- The actions will be drafted further by DG BSAP Segment Teams and DG BSAP based on guidance by HELCOM 42-2020.,
- Final approval will take place at HOD 60-2021.

### Guidance by HOD 59-2020

The following guidance for developing further the actions has been provided by HOD 59-2020:

- The formulation of actions should be clear and including similar actions under separate segments should be avoided. When new actions are further developed there is a need to cross-reference with actions included under existing HELCOM Recommendations to ensure synergies as opposed to overlap.
- When structuring actions and information in the operative section of the BSAP the following guidance is to be considered:
  1. Gather actions of more strategic or aspirational character in the introduction using the distinction of proposals requiring concrete action as opposed to those which do not to guide the division of topics between the segment introduction (strategic and aspirational actions) and the operative sections (concrete actions and measures).
  2. Avoid duplication with already existing agreements.
  3. Explore options for giving actions with a direct effect on the environment higher attention than supporting actions.
  4. Consider the possibility of aggregating actions in separate decision documents. Consideration should be given to the content and aim of such separate decision documents to avoid proliferation of action plans.
- It needs to be ensured that in the process of structuring the actions under the operational sections, as outlined above, none of the existing actions are lost, nor the level of ambition lowered.

### Actions related to the CBD process

HOD 58-2020 had agreed to retain actions related to ongoing Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) processes in square brackets until they can be aligned with CBD targets (actions BE02-BE04, HAE19-HAE20), and invited DG BSAP to consider formulation of final actions.

HOD 59-2020 took note that CBD COP 15 will now be held in the second quarter of 2021 due to the delays resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. It is thus unlikely that the new CBD targets can be used as direct input to the BSAP update. HOD 59-2020 also took note that STATE&CONSERVATION 13-2020 and DG BSAP BIO 1-2020 had emphasised that the rephrased and concretized actions proposed for the updated BSAP, which have been directly linked to the CBD process and thus not considered for provisional approval in HOD 58-2020, will likely need to be uncoupled from the CBD process.

HOD 59-2020 agreed that work on these actions can resume, however, noting that Russia cannot approve the targets for spatial conservation currently included under actions coded BE02 and BE03. HOD 59-2020 noted that ongoing CBD processes, as well as the EU Biodiversity Strategy, could be used as support for further drafting of actions coded BE02-BE04.

### Consideration of actions in DG BSAP BIO 2-2021

The attached Excel document includes the actions to be considered for the biodiversity segment. The Secretariat has made proposals for redrafting of some of the actions based on comments received and the guidance by HOD 59-2020. The attachment also includes the information gathered in the technical review and evaluation by the BSAP UP workshops.

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to consider and develop further the actions relevant for the biodiversity segment based on the guidance from HOD 59-2020 and comments received in the review processes in 2020.