



Outcome of the Second Meeting of the Biodiversity segment team for drafting the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan

(DG BSAP BIO 2-2021)

Introduction

0.1 The Second Meeting of the Biodiversity segment team for drafting the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (DG BSAP BIO 2-2021) was held online on 21 January 2021.

0.2 All the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention, except for Lithuania and Russia, attended the Meeting, as well as Observers from CCB and WWF. The List of Participants is contained in **Annex 1**.

0.3 The Meeting was moderated by Ms. Jannica Haldin, Professional Secretary. Ms. Jannica Haldin and Ms. Susanna Kaasinen, Associate Professional Secretary, from the HELCOM Secretariat acted as the secretaries of the Meeting.

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

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

Agenda Item 2 Actions in the updated BSAP

2.1 The Meeting took note of the draft actions to be considered for the Biodiversity segment of the updated BSAP and the proposals for redrafting of some of the actions made by the Secretariat based on comments received and the guidance by HOD 59-2020 (document 2-1).

2.2 The Meeting took note of the guidance provided by HOD 59-2020 as presented in document 2-2.

2.3 The Meeting took note of the concern of CCB on the lack of target years for many actions across all segments and on how to deal with actions that are cross-cutting across segments. The Meeting took note that the mandate of the DG BSAP is outlined in the group's ToR.

2.4 The Meeting recalled that HOD 58-2020 agreed that currently all proposed action-specific target years should be considered as provisional. The Meeting further recalled that HOD 58-2020 agreed that once all proposed actions and their target years are in place the overall division and distribution of target years will be reviewed and, where needed, target years might be amended to better distribute upcoming work and ensure that work is planned to take place in a logical order.

2.5 The Meeting took note that DG BSAP SEA also acknowledged the issue of cross-cutting actions and asked for guidance from DG BSAP or HELCOM 42-2021 on how to deal with these actions.

2.6 The Meeting considered and developed further the actions, as included in the separate Excel attachment to this Outcome, based on the guidance from HOD 59-2020 and comments received in the review processes in 2020. The Meeting agreed that the formulation of some of the actions is already satisfactory (coloured green in the Excel attachment) and agreed that the next meeting will focus on the actions that

need further work (coloured yellow) noting, however, that DG BSAP 5-2021 and HELCOM 42-2021 might give additional guidance for drafting all the actions relevant for DG BSAP BIO.

2.7 The Meeting identified actions (BE01, BE05) that could be considered for inclusion in the introduction, recognizing, however, that it is not clear if the actions fulfill the criteria laid down in the guidance from HOD and pointed out that further guidance from DG BSAP or HELCOM 42-2021 would be needed on the placement of these actions.

2.8 The Meeting did not discuss actions under the themes conservation of habitats and biotopes, red listed species and habitats/biotopes, habitat restoration, enabling ecosystem-based management as well as some of the actions under the theme conservation of species due to lack of time and agreed to come back to these actions in the next meeting of the Segment Team.

2.9 The Meeting took note of the proposal that addressing leisure boating in MPAs could be a gap in the set of actions.

2.10 The Meeting took note that the 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, and that the actions will be drafted further by DG BSAP Segment Teams and DG BSAP based on guidance by HELCOM 42-2020 (**Presentation 1**). The Meeting also took note that the final approval of the actions will take place at HOD 60-2021.

2.11

Agenda Item 3 Segment introduction

3.1 The Meeting took note of the segment introduction and the description of the desired state revised by the Secretariat based on the guidance by HOD 59-2020 (document 3-1).

3.2 The Meeting took note of the comments by WWF and that the comments will be sent to the Secretariat in writing.

3.3 The Meeting took note of the comment by Germany that the term “habitat” could be replaced in the text by “biotopes and habitats”.

3.4 The Meeting took note of the comment by Denmark that the link to the goal and ecological objectives could be strengthened in the description of the desired state.

3.5 The Meeting took note that the further developed drafts will be presented for review by DG BSAP and guidance by HELCOM 42-2021 and that the segment introductions will be drafted further by DG BSAP Segment Teams and DG BSAP based on guidance by HELCOM 42-2021. The Meeting also took note that the final approval of the introductions will take place at HOD 60-2021.

Agenda Item 4 Next steps

4.1 The Meeting noted that due to the large number of actions still to be discussed there might be a need for an additional meeting of DG BSAP BIO prior to the already planned DG BSAP BIO meeting in late March/early April and invited DG BSAP 5-2021 to consider this option. The Meeting invited the Secretariat to make a doodle poll to find a date for the meeting.

4.2 The Meeting agreed that the already planned meeting of DG BSAP BIO will be held after HELCOM 42-2021 in the end of March or beginning of April and invited the Secretariat to make a doodle poll to schedule the date.

Agenda Item 5 Any other business

5.1 The Meeting did not discuss any other business.

Agenda Item 6 Outcome of the Meeting

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

Annex 1. List of participants

Name	Representing	Name of organization	Email
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