



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Meeting of the Hazardous substances and litter segment team

DG BSAP HZ 2-2021

Drafting Group for the Updated Baltic Sea Action Plan

Online, 19 January 2021

Document title	Desired state for hazardous substances and litter
Code	3-2
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	3 – Segment introduction
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Submitted by	Sweden and Germany
Reference	

Background

DG BSAP HZ 1-2020 welcomed the offer by Germany and Sweden to make a proposal for redrafting the section on the desired state for hazardous substances and the offer by Sweden to propose a redrafted version for the desired state for litter and invited Germany and Sweden to send the new proposals to the Secretariat by 11 January 2021. The attached document includes the proposed description of the desired state for hazardous substances and litter and a proposal on how to organise the actions on hazardous substances in the operative section.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to consider and develop further the description of the desired state for the hazardous substances and litter segment based on the guidance from HOD 59-2020 and comments received in the review processes in 2020.

**DG BSAP Segment Hazardous substances and Marine litter
Proposal by SE+DE on desired state linked to actions**

DE and SE signed up for the following task on the DG BSAP Segment Hazardous substances and Marine litter, meeting, 3 November 2020:

The Meeting welcomed the offer by Germany and Sweden to make a proposal for redrafting the section on the desired state for hazardous substances and the offer by Sweden to propose a redrafted version for the desired state for litter. The Meeting invited Germany and Sweden to send the new proposals to the Secretariat by 11 January 2021.

In a meeting on 16.12.2020 and 07.01.2020 Anita, Ulrike and Linda made a plan as follows:

- We propose that the Desired state part of the segment is kept very brief, mainly (building on) the ecological objectives.
- We discussed the possibility to present to DG BSAP Hazardous substances+ML a proposal on how to organise the actions on hazardous substances in the operative section of the segment into a structure (groups), since this will in turn help us understand how the segment introduction fits its purpose.

Here is our proposal for the chapter “desired state” and its link to the actions:

Description of desired state

Hazardous substances

The desired state of the Baltic Sea regarding hazardous substances is described by the ecological objectives:

- Concentrations of hazardous substances are close to natural levels
- All sea food is safe to eat
- Marine life is healthy
- Minimal risk to humans and the environment from radioactivity.

In order to reach this desired state, the management objective requires to minimize input and impact of hazardous substances from human activities. A number of actions have already been agreed (existing actions) and new actions are being proposed to achieve the management objective. The actions can be distinguished by legacy pollutants, which HELCOM already addresses such as heavy metals, dioxins etc., and actions on contaminants of emerging concern such as PFAS and pharmaceuticals. Since the topic of hazardous substances covers a large variety of substances, sources and pathways, HELCOM commits to develop an action plan for hazardous substances in the first instance to set priorities and identify gaps:

HLN06 – Develop an action plan for hazardous substances

Legacy pollutants are being monitored, reported and have been assessed in HOLAS II. They are addressed by the following actions on substance groups:

HLE02 – reduction of dioxin emissions from small scale combustion appliances
HLE06 – Minamata Convention on mercury - ratification
HLE07 – Minamata Convention on mercury - implementation
HLE08 – mercury emissions from energy sector
HLE09 – mercury in dredged material
HLE10 – mercury from dentistry
HLE11 – mercury from waste
HLE17 – restricted use of perfluorinated alkyl substances, phenolic compounds with endocrine disrupting effects and chlorinated paraffins
HLN01 – metallic lead in fishing equipment

Commented [LR1]: We might also distinguish between measures and supporting measures if appropriate. Furthermore to me it seems that there is some overlap between some measures (old and new e.g. Identification /prioritization of pharmaceuticals).

Commented [LR2]: Is there a need to use both pollutants and contaminants? We would prefer to only use contaminants. (to check: Radioactivity needs to be addressed?).

HNL11 – TBT removal from ships and leisure boats

Contaminants of emerging concern are being identified via target and non-target screening projects for new hazardous substances. They are addressed by the following actions on substance groups:

HNL02 – persistent pharmaceuticals – prescription compulsory
HNL07 – biocide antifouling paint – leisure boats and commercial vessels
HNL08 – fire fighting foam containing PFAS – limit use at sea
HNL13 – collection of obsolete pharmaceuticals

Further identification and listing of contaminants of emerging concern and especially those among pharmaceuticals is undertaken by the following actions:

HLE01 – identify priority pharmaceuticals with subsequent integration as indicators on state and pressure
HLE03 – address substances of emerging concern by screening campaigns (starting from 2021)
HLE21 – relevant monitoring for the impact of hazardous substances
HLN03 – prioritization of pharmaceuticals for risk reduction
HLN09 – investigate databases on the environmental impact of pharmaceuticals
HLN10 – guideline for environmental monitoring of pharmaceuticals

A number of **overall measures on hazardous substances** do not refer to a specific substance group but aim at reducing emissions and inputs of hazardous substances in general. For these it needs to be identified, which groups of substances are addressed by them and to which extend they overlap. This could be done by the envisaged HLN06 – Action plan on hazardous substances.

HLE04 – national programmes on hazardous substances with a particular focus on hazardous substances which are not adequately regulated by other policies
HLE05 – List of planned and implemented measures for sectors, pathways,...
HLE12 – establishment of chemical product register
HLE13 – private consumers to reduce emissions of hazardous substances
HLE14 – public awareness on handling chemicals in households
HLE15 – chemicals of high concern in public procurement procedures
HLE18 – manage the list of priority substances pointing out contaminants of emerging concern
HLN05 – decreasing the emissions of hazardous substances from small scale emitters in urban areas (by chemical-smart purchasing strategies, substitution and awareness raising campaigns)

The following actions which link to other policies should be mentioned in the preambular/introduction and not listed here under actions:

HLE16 – policies addressing the use of chemicals (e.g. REACH, WFD, IED, Stockholm Convention etc.)
HLE19 – work on hazardous substances under various global and EU policies as well as in RSC
HLE20 – International Chemicals Management High Ambition Alliance (SAICM HAA)
HLN04 – use information from EU Industrial Emissions Directive

Further actions on legacy pollutants and contaminants of emerging concern are listed under other segments and include the following actions:

[include reference to actions from other segments]

Examples from sea-based activities :

SE01 - Update the Action Plan for the protection of the environment from offshore platforms
SN02 - Work for the harmonized implementation of the IMO Biofouling Guidelines and Guidance
SN07 - Develop a Roadmap to possibly reduce the input of pollutants from Exhaust Gas Cleaning System discharge water

A link to the offshore sources and the planned actions on antifouling paints and the roadmap for scrubber should be added.

Commented [LR3]: Very important to see the Baltic in a holistic perspective:
Similar references to other segments (Eutro, seabases, etc.) need to be included. Please also discuss with other segment teams that similar reference to Haz segment is needed.

