



Document title	BSAP Update Work Plan for the Fish Group
Code	3-4
Category	INF
Agenda Item	3 – Implementation and update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan
Submission date	29.05.2019
Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	Documents 3-1, 3-2, 3-3 and 3-5

Background

The [Strategic plan](#) for the BSAP update identifies the phases and activities in the BSAP update and the main responsible bodies. The [Work plan](#) for the BSAP update, approved by HOD 55-2018, clarifies the timing and more detailed steps of activities from the Strategic Plan.

In this document the work plan for the BSAP update has been adjusted to the tasks and expected meetings of the Fish Group. The planned work of the HELCOM SOM Platform 1-2019 and associated consultations and involvement of the Fish Group are also reflected. Timetables for addressing the individual activities of the strategic plan by the Fish Group are provided as well as a timetable with milestones for the BSAP update process.

The information set out in the annex to this document is mainly provided for information. However, as no meetings for the Fish Group are scheduled for the autumn before HOD 57-2019 in December, an intersessional activity needs to be considered with regard to the review of ecological and management objectives of the BSAP related to the Fish Group (see activity 2.2, Adjustment to the overall structure of BSAP).

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

Work plan for the Fish Group

Timetables for each activity

Use of terms and symbols in tables

The titles of activities refer to the adopted activities of the Strategic plan for the BSAP update. Activity 1.2 and 2.1 of the Strategic plan are not included in the work plan for the Fish Group since their implementation will not be carried out by Working Groups.

'Tasks' are short version of tasks adopted through Strategic plan for the BSAP update – for full text, see the [Strategic plan](#).

'SOM Platform' refers to the *ad hoc* interdisciplinary platform on analyses of sufficiency of measures that was established by HOD 55-2018 and 'HELCOM ACTION project' refers to a HELCOM coordinated project that is co-financed by the EU.

Annotations in tables:

- Grey-shaded boxes indicate quarter of the year when the task will be carried and coincides in general with expected regular meetings of the Fish Group.
- 'HOD' refers to when concrete proposals will be put forward to HOD meetings that follows the regular Fish meetings. HOD are also continuously informed on activities related to the BSAP update.
- 'X' refers to activities that have already been considered by the Fish Group.

I. Strengthening the implementation of the BSAP by 2021

Activity 1:1. Discussion on reasons for not yet accomplishing BSAP actions

Tasks according to Strategic Plan: The working groups are requested to identify the reasons for lagging behind with the implementation of BSAP. For joint actions forward planning or stock taking is to be carried out with the aim of accomplishing of the actions by 2021. The discussion aims at supporting the strengthening of efforts to implement the BSAP by 2021 and beyond as agreed by the Ministerial Declaration. Actions not implemented by 2021 will be transferred to the updated BSAP.

Task for Fish: The activity is progressed through the regular working group meetings. Fish 10-2019 will initiate work to identify actions in need of new target years or rephrasing in the case they are not implemented by 2021 and thus will be transferred to the updated BSAP (document 3-1). The outcome of discussions will be continuously reported to HOD and final proposals on actions to be transferred to the updated BSAP are envisioned for presentation to HOD in June 2020.

YEAR	2018		2019				2020				2021
STEPS	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
Initial discussion and plans		X									
Progress on joint actions, identify actions in need of rephrasing											
Initiate rephrasing of existing actions											
Proposal to HOD on actions to be transferred to updated BSAP								HOD			

Activity 2:2. Adjustment to the overall structure of BSAP

Tasks according to the Strategic plan: a) create a nested system of the BSAP strategic goals and objectives mapped against the SDGs and other policy goals and objectives, b) reviewing the existing HELCOM ecological objectives and proposing possible amendments, to be carried out via working/expert groups, c) proposing new ecological objectives for marine litter, underwater noise and seabed damage and disturbance, to be carried out via working/expert groups, and d) identifying other possible additional issues of relevance to the overall BSAP structure. The aim is to agree on a new structure of the BSAP by HOD in December 2019.

BSAP ecological objectives and management objectives

A review of the existing HELCOM ecological objectives and management objectives is to be carried out by HELCOM Working Groups and Expert Groups as part of this activity. The aim of the review of existing objectives is to ensure that they are up to date and reflect the current topics and approach of addressing environmental status and pressures in HELCOM. The Fish Group will be invited to consider ecological and management objectives related to the mandate of the Group, including loss and disturbance to the seabed. The Fish Group may wish to consider an intersessional activity to complete the task. Proposals from State and Conservation will be available in September 2019.

YEAR	2018		2019				2020				2021
STEPS	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
Consider objectives					*						
Final proposal on revised and new objectives to HOD						HOD					

*tentative intersessional activity

Activity 2:3. Status of implementation of the current measures and agreements

Tasks according to the Strategic plan: a) identifying HELCOM agreements, not covered by the current BSAP follow-up system, for which additional reporting by CPs will be needed, b) organizing additional reporting by CPs on main agreements - focusing on measures - not covered by the current BSAP follow up; c) proposing a collection of information on other (than HELCOM) existing measures in the countries and their level of implementation. Point c) which refers to collection of information on measures taken e.g. under WFD and MSFD, will take place under the ACTION project and SOM Platform.

Tasks for Fish: This activity was initiated in autumn 2018 with the identification of HELCOM Recommendations to report on to support the updated of the Baltic Sea Action Plan. Reporting by countries was initiated in February 2019. FISH 10-2019 will consider the outcome of the reporting (document 3-2).

YEAR	2018		2019				2020				2021
STEPS	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
Propose HELCOM Recs to be reported by CPs			X								
Quality control the reporting											

Activity 2:4. Review of the current BSAP

Tasks according to Strategic plan: As agreed in the BSAP update guidance (HELCOM 39-2018), the Working Groups will review HELCOM actions where targets were previously evaluated as too general to follow up and propose measurable targets for those actions found relevant for possible uptake in the BSAP update.

Tasks for Fish: All actions that were previously categorized as “too general” will be considered at FISH 10-2019 (document 3-1, Annex 2). Final proposals on concretized actions will be put forward to HOD 57-2019 (December).

YEAR	2018		2019				2020				2021
STEPS	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
Identify actions assigned as “too general” for uptake in updated BSAP											
Finalize proposal on concretized targets for existing actions						HOD					

Activity 2:5. Analysing sufficiency of measures to reach HELCOM objectives and targets

Tasks according to the Strategic plan: HELCOM has agreed to carry out an analysis of sufficiency of measures to reach HELCOM objectives and targets, to support selection of new actions for the updated BSAP (cf. document 2-6 Rev.1, HELCOM 39-2018). The activity is organized topic by topic and the analyses will be carried out by the HELCOM SOM Platform and the HELCOM ACTION project. A supporting activity for the selection of new actions is the development of synopses on potential new and strengthened measures as agreed by HELCOM 40-2019.

Tasks for Fish: Review and guide the work carried out under SOM Platform and ACTION project, particularly with regard to by-catch and but also contribute to the review of work on loss and disturbance to seabed habitats and non-indigenous species (aquaculture). All HELCOM Working Groups are invited to submit synopses on potential new actions for the updated BSAP (see also document 3-3). A format for the synopses will be circulated to HELCOM Working Groups shortly.

YEAR	2018		2019				2020				2021
STEPS	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
Guidance and review of analyses of SOM analyses											
Validation of input to the analyses						*					
Review of synopses on potential new actions for the updated BSAP											

*tentative intersessional activity

Activity 2:6. Proposing new actions and improvement of the existing actions

Tasks according to the Strategic plan and Work plan: The analysis of sufficiency of measures (SOM) will be used to identify gaps between the current measures and the measures needed to reach GES. Proposals for new measures and actions will emerge via the regular work of HELCOM and its Working Groups, the preparation of synopses, and as an outcome of the assessment of the sufficiency of measures. In spring 2020 thematic workshops/meetings will be held to discuss the results of the SOM analyses and synopses and use it as a basis for proposing new or strengthened actions for the BSAP. A full draft of the updated BSAP is to be prepared by last quarter 2020.

Tasks for Fish: Take part in thematic meetings and workshops, make proposals on new (or strengthened) HELCOM actions to HOD.

YEAR	2018		2019				2020				2021
STEPS	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
Thematic workshops/meetings* to consider results of SOM analyses and synopses and to propose new HELCOM actions								HOD			
Further elaboration of new HELCOM actions for updated BSAP										HOD	

*themes for the workshops/meetings have not been agreed yet but they are likely to take place in addition to the regular Working Group meetings.

Milestones for the BSAP update process

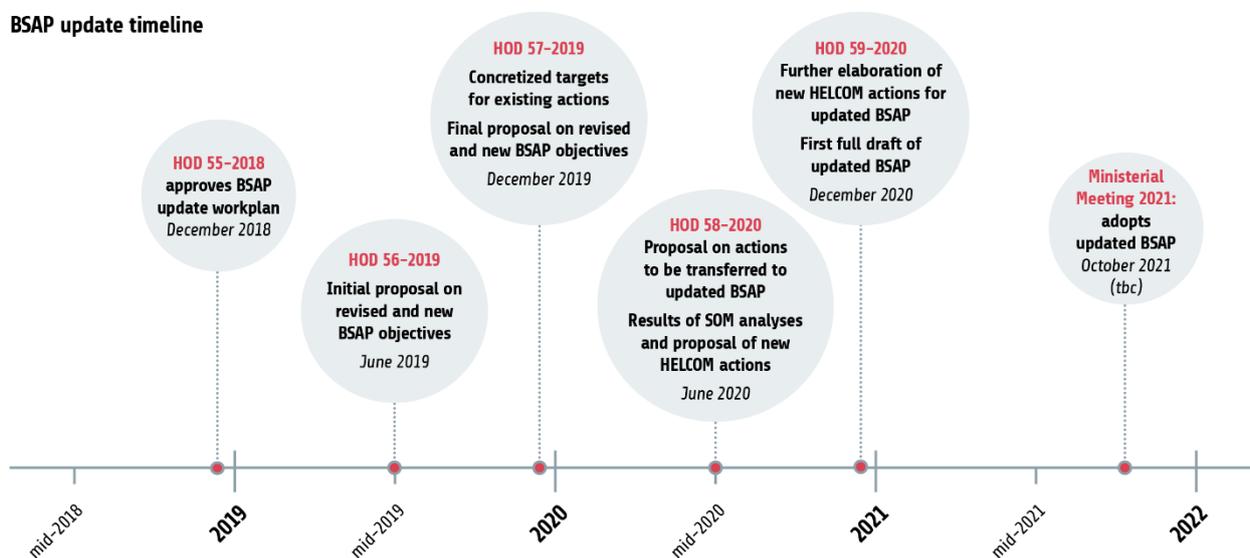


Figure 1. Milestones for consideration by HOD based on tasks prepared by HELCOM Working Groups and associated activities

