

Review, revision, and development of new HELCOM objectives

- Strategic Plan for BSAP update: review of existing HELCOM objectives (activity nr 2.2)
- HOD 55-2018: agreed to develop new objectives for marine litter, underwater noise, loss and disturbance to the seabed
- Fish Group:
 - Propose ecological and management objectives for loss and disturbance to the seabed
 - Given the opportunity to comments other objectives at a later stage

Existing HELCOM ecological objectives

- Developed in 2003-2006
- Ecological objectives aimed to:
 - describe characteristics of a healthy sea
 - provide a link to HELCOM assessments
 - easy to communicate to the wider community

Baltic Sea unaffected
by eutrophication

- Concentrations of nutrients close to natural levels
- Clear water
- Natural level of algal blooms
- Natural distribution and occurrence of plants and animals
- Natural oxygen levels

Baltic Sea undisturbed by
hazardous substances

- Concentrations of hazardous substances close to natural levels
- All fish are safe to eat
- Healthy wildlife
- Radioactivity at the pre-Chernobyl level

Favourable status of
Baltic Sea biodiversity

- Natural marine and coastal landscapes
- Thriving and balanced communities of plants and animals
- Viable populations of species

Management objectives

- So far only defined for the current Maritime segment
- Related to the desired effect of management measures or aspired target levels of the pressure

Environmentally friendly
maritime activities

- Enforcement of international regulations – no illegal discharges
- Safe maritime traffic without accidental pollution
- Efficient emergency and response capabilities
- Minimum sewage pollution from ships
- No introductions of alien species from ships
- Minimum air pollution from ships
- Zero discharges from offshore platforms
- Minimum threats from offshore installations

System of objectives and actions

Desired state

- Communicated through ecological objectives
- Defined and assessed by indicators and associated threshold values

Sustainable level of human activities

- Communicated through management objectives
- Defined and assessed by indicators and associated pressure or conservation targets

Ways of reaching the desired state and sustainable use

- Agreement on HELCOM actions (and relevant measures taken elsewhere)
- Assessed through follow-up of agreements, effect of measures, SOM analyses, achievement of GES and targets

Provisional agreement HOD 55-2018

VISION:

A healthy Baltic Sea environment, with diverse biological components functioning in balance, resulting in good environmental/ecological status and supporting a wide range of sustainable human economic and social activities

Provisional new structure:

GOALS:

Baltic Sea unaffected by eutrophication

Baltic Sea undisturbed by hazardous substances and litter

Environmentally friendly maritime sea-based activities

Favourable status of Baltic Sea biodiversity

New objectives for
- Litter

New objectives for
- Underwater noise
- Loss and disturbance to the seabed

Guidance

General guidance

The objectives should be:

- linked to HELCOM assessments i.e. achievement should be possible to follow-up through HELCOM assessments,
- easy to communicate to the wider community,
- not too many.

Ecological objectives

- should reflect the desired state of the environment and be of aspirational character,
- should be possible to follow-up by use of indicators and associated threshold values,
- with regard to new topics (litter, underwater noise, loss and disturbance to seabed) the ecological objectives should focus on the state elements of these topics or on their **impacts** on the environment e.g. on the **extent of disturbance to seabeds**, or **properties of the ecosystem that should be maintained or not harmed**.

Management objectives

- management objectives describe the desired effect of or aspirational targets of management measures,
- follow-up of management objectives by use of indicators and associated pressure target.

Existing proposals, loss and disturbance

Ecological objectives

- Healthy seabed habitats
- Maintaining natural seabed conditions

Examples of other ecological objectives related to pressures:

- No harm to marine life from litter (new proposal)
- Natural levels of algal blooms (existing for eutrophication)
- Fish safe to eat (existing for hazardous substances)

Existing proposals, loss and disturbance

Management objectives:

- Sustainable use of sea beds
- Encourage sustainable fishery practices. *Proposed guidance: objectives should be affirmative i.e. avoid using words like 'encourage'*
- Minimise areas affected by (anthropogenically induced) hypoxia
- Methods for ecological sustainable mineral extraction

Examples of other management objectives related to pressures

- Minimum sewage pollution from ships (existing for maritime segment)
- Zero discharges from offshore platforms (existing for maritime segment)
- Minimize input of nutrients from human activities (new proposal)
- Amounts of litter are significantly reduced on beaches and in the sea (new proposal)
- Replacement of hazardous substance by more environmental friendly alternatives (new proposal)