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| <b>Document title</b>  | Rephrasing of existing actions                              |
| <b>Code</b>            | 3-7   |
| <b>Category</b>        | DEC   |
| <b>Agenda Item</b>     | 3 – Implementation and update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan |
| <b>Submission date</b> | 19.2.2020   |
| <b>Submitted by</b>    | Secretariat   |

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## Background

FISH 10-2019 discussed the existing HELCOM actions to be considered for further development and uptake in the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) and considered the proposals for concretized actions provided by the Secretariat. The Outcome of the discussions in this regard were detailed in Annex 2 of the Outcome.

HOD 57-2019 took note of the ongoing work by HELCOM Working Groups to review existing HELCOM actions (document 3-1). The Meeting made the following comments to guide the further review and tentative rephrasing of existing actions and follow-up of the HELCOM 2018 Ministerial Declaration:

- formulate actions as concretely as possible;
- propose target years for the implementation of actions;
- consider merging of actions and proposing actions to be left out if not found relevant.

For the update of the BSAP in general, the Meeting underlined the importance of proposing a limited number of focused and readily conveyable actions of political interest.

HOD 57-2019 further agreed with the proposal by FISH 10-2019, that the action to “*Further development and implementation of comparable methodology for data collection (salmon and sea trout) through surveys, especially on recreational fisheries*” can be omitted from future implementation and reporting.

The existing BSAP actions that still may need consideration are set out in the annex to this document, based on the outcomes of FISH 10-2019, SOM-FISH WS 1-2019 and FISH-PRO III 2-2020. FISH-M 7-2020 will consider a number of actions related to migratory fish, to be submitted in a separate document in due course. Taking into account the comments by HOD 57-2019, the Meeting is invited to continue the rephrasing of those actions as found necessary.

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to continue the work on rephrasing of existing actions, taking into account the Outcome of HOD 57-2019.

## Annex 1. Ongoing work to rephrase and concretize existing HELCOM actions as needed

### Actions likely to be implemented by 2021

The actions in this table were reported to HOD 57-2019 as likely to be implemented by 2021.

| Existing action   | FISH 10-2019  |
|---|---|
| <p>Further development and implementation of common practices for breeding, rearing and releasing salmon and sea trout as reintroductions in potential salmonid rivers</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013<br/>Implementation: <b>Joint</b><br/>Status: Not accomplished</p>   | <p>The Meeting <u>agreed</u> that although it is ambitious, the aim should be to develop common guidelines by 2021. For this purpose, a FISH-M workshop should be organized in early 2020, possibly back to back with the next meeting of the Fish Group.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Meeting <u>encouraged</u> Contracting Parties to take the lead in this work.</p>  |
| <p>Further development and implementation of recommendations for riverine and estuarine management and conservation measures, such as fish ways for up and down migration, restoration and protection of spawning grounds, concerning fisheries within rivers and estuaries</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013<br/>Implementation: <b>Joint</b><br/>Status: Partly accomplished</p> | <p>The Meeting <u>agreed</u> to invite the Secretariat to do so by adding guidelines on restoration measures to a draft revised Recommendation 32/33-1, taking into account the outcome of FISH-M 4-2017 and developments within the RETROUT Project. The Meeting also <u>agreed</u> that the draft revised Recommendation should be considered by FISH 11, with a view to approval at HOD 58-2020.</p> <p>The Meeting furthermore <u>agreed</u> that Estonia should be invited to contribute to the work as they have recent experience from several dam removal projects.</p> |
| <p>Classify and make inventories of rivers with European eel</p> <p>Origin: BSAP<br/>Implementation: <b>National</b><br/>Status: Partly accomplished (2/9 countries)</p>  | <p>Remaining Contracting Parties are encouraged to accomplish the action by 2021, in which case the action can be deleted.</p>  |

### 4.4.2 Actions not likely to be implemented by 2021

The tables in this section include the existing HELCOM actions linked to the Fish Group that are not likely to be implemented by 2021 and proposals on how they could be revised/rephrased if included in the updated BSAP. The proposals have been made at FISH 10-2019 or at SOM FISH WS 1-2019 as indicated in the tables. Note that for those formulations proposed by FISH-10-2019 target years are still missing. Actions related to monitoring and assessment are listed separately.

#### Theme: By-catch

| Existing action  | Reflection by FISH 10-2019   | Proposed formulation in updated BSAP   |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Implementation of non-lethal mitigations measures for seals-fisheries interactions (HELCOM Recommendation 27-28/2) (2012)</p> <p>Origin: BSAP<br/>Implementation: <b>National</b><br/>Status: Partly accomplished (2/9 countries)</p> | <p><b>Category 3</b></p> <p>Outcomes of HELCOM SFI WS 1-2019 and the BALTIFISH Symposium on seal to be used for revising this action</p> | <p>FISH 10-2019 <u>noted</u> that the HELCOM Workshop on seal-fisheries interactions will take place on 27 June 2019 back to back with FISH 10-2019. The Meeting <u>agreed</u> that this action should be considered intersessionally based on the outcome and recommendations of that workshop.</p> <p>SOM-FISH WS 1-2019 <u>noted</u> that the HELCOM workshop on seal-fisheries interactions did not provide any concrete proposals on this action. The Workshop agreed that this action addresses an important issue which is needed in the updated BSAP. The Workshop further <u>agreed</u> that there is also a need for a joint</p> |

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|   |   | <p>action on the matter, and that information on non-lethal mitigation measures should be shared among Contracting Parties and with BALTFISH and BSAC.</p> <p>The Workshop further <u>agreed</u> that the action could be rephrased as follows:</p> <p><b><i>Implementation and sharing of information among Contracting Parties, BALTFISH and BSAC on non-lethal mitigations measures for seals-fisheries interactions.</i></b></p>   |
| <p>Reduce the negative impacts of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem and to this end, support the development of fisheries management and technical measures to minimize unwanted by-catch of fish, birds and mammals in order to achieve the close to zero target for by-catch rates of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and minimize damage to sea bed habitats.</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013<br/>Not reported: Considered as too general for follow-up</p> | <p>FISH 10-2019 <u>discussed</u> when by-catch rates become meaningful for the by-caught species. A comment was made that for some species and/or populations the close to zero target should stay in the BSAP.</p> | <p>SOM-FISH WS 1-2019 <u>proposed</u> that the commitment should be split into separate concrete actions. The Workshop <u>noted</u> that for harbour porpoise, the target should be zero by-catch. The Workshop also <u>noted</u> that a new objective on seafloor integrity will be included in the updated BSAP and that new actions related to the matter are expected and consequentially minimization of sea bed habitats would not need to be addressed as part of this action. Following discussion, the Workshop <u>agreed</u> that the following revision could be used as a basis for the further development of this commitment into more concrete actions:</p> <p><b><i>Reduce the negative impacts of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem and to this end, support the development of fisheries management and technical measures to minimize unwanted by-catch of fish, birds and sea mammals and achieve the close to zero target for by-catch rates of harbour porpoise and other relevant species of the Baltic Sea Action Plan.</i></b></p> |

#### Theme: Conservation and restocking of fish stocks, restoration of habitats

| Existing action   | Reflection by FISH 10-2019  | Proposed formulation updated BSAP   |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Continue the efforts underway and enhance co-ordination and evaluation of measures within the Baltic Sea as well as with other European countries, for the conservation of eel stocks, in line with national eel management plans</p> <p>Origin: BSAP<br/>Implementation: <b>Joint</b><br/>Status: Partly accomplished (5/9 countries)</p> | <p>Note: This action has been moved from national actions to joint actions.</p> <p><b>Category 3</b><br/>The Meeting <u>noted</u> that the European Commission is revising the Eel Regulation, and that it may be premature for FISH 10-2019 to make decisions on revising this action.<br/>The Meeting nevertheless <u>agreed</u> that this is a matter of great importance and urgent measures are needed to protect the eel.</p> | <p>SOM-FISH WS 1-2019 <u>noted</u> that for eel, there is a state target and that pressures need to be addressed, rather than only measures. The Workshop also <u>noted</u> that discussions within the EU on eel are more on the management level rather than the pressure level and that it may not be worthwhile to wait for EU to conclude on the matter. The Workshop <u>noted</u> the view of the BSAC that measures on dams are needed and illegal fishing (both unreported and poaching, as well as commercial and recreational) should be stopped. The Workshop <u>agreed</u> that the 2007 ambition level needs to be revitalised and further <u>proposed</u> that FISH 11-2020 should establish a HELCOM Eel Task Force to develop a HELCOM programme to ensure successful eel migrations from the Baltic Sea drainage basin to their spawning grounds by late 2021 with implementation starting by 2022 and intermediate assessments e.g. in 2024 in order to identify problems and address them. The</p> |

| Existing action  | Reflection by FISH 10-2019   | Proposed formulation updated BSAP   |
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|  |  | <p>Workshop <u>noted</u> that active involvement of BALTFISH will eventually be needed in implementation of the programme.</p> <p>In this respect, the Workshop <u>invited</u> Contracting Parties to take the lead in the Eel Task Force and to submit draft Terms of Reference to FISH 11-2020 for consideration.</p> <p>The Workshop further <u>agreed</u> to recommend to rephrase the action as follows:<br/> <b><i>Initiate implementation of a Baltic coordinated programme of protective measures ensuring successful eel migrations from the Baltic Sea by 2022, including a monitoring and post-evaluation process of levels of pressures affecting eel that begins no later than 2024.</i></b></p> |
| <p>Competent authorities to implement national programs for the conservation of eel stocks as a contribution to a Baltic coordinated programme to ensure successful eel migrations from the Baltic Sea drainage basin to national spawning grounds</p> <p>Origin: BSAP<br/> Implementation: <b>National</b><br/> Status: Partly accomplished (8/9 countries)</p>   | <p><b>Category 3</b></p> <p>The Meeting <u>noted</u> that the reference to “national spawning” grounds in the original actions is erroneous and does not make sense.</p> <p>Based on the outcome, develop new or strengthened actions</p>  | <p>SOM-FISH WS 1-2019 <u>proposed</u> that the action should be rephrased as follows:</p> <p><b><i>Competent authorities to implement national programs for the conservation of eel stocks as a contribution to a Baltic coordinated programme to ensure successful eel migrations from the Baltic Sea drainage basin to their spawning grounds</i></b></p>   |
| <p>Consider additional measures if necessary, such as reducing fishing mortality in accordance with the ICES advice, removing migration barriers, and re-stocking in eel-safe river systems, e.g. utilising the outcomes of co-operation between ICES, HELCOM and other stakeholders on this issue</p> <p>Origin: BSAP<br/> Implementation: <b>National</b><br/> Status: Partly accomplished (3/9 countries)</p> | <p><b>Category 3</b></p>   | <p>SOM-FISH WS 1-2019 <u>agreed</u> that the measures detailed in this action would be key elements for consideration by the proposed Eel Task Force and the HELCOM programme to ensure successful eel migrations, and that there would consequently be no need for this action in the updated BSAP.</p>  |
| <p>Develop restoration plans (including restoration of spawning sites and migration routes) in suitable rivers to reinstate migratory fish species</p> <p>Origin: BSAP<br/> Implementation: <b>National</b><br/> Status: Partly accomplished (7/9 countries)</p>   | <p><b>Category 3</b></p>   | <p>SOM-FISH WS 1-2019 <u>agreed</u> that it would be useful if the RETROUT Project and the next FISH-M workshop (agreed by FISH 10-2019) should consider this action in more detail.</p>  |
| <p>Development and implementation of fisheries management measures for fisheries inside marine protected areas (BSAP)</p> <p>Origin: BSAP<br/> Implementation: <b>Joint</b><br/> Status: Partly accomplished</p>   | <p><b>Category 3</b></p> <p>The Meeting <u>noted</u> that a comment had been made at HOD 56-2019 that the Fish Group should consider that joint recommendations are being developed through a process linked to the EU Habitats Directive and Common Fisheries Policy and that guidelines will be developed for fisheries measures in Natura 2000 areas. There is, in addition, a need to consider how to improve the harmonization of</p> | <p>FISH 10-2019<br/> <b><i>Development, implementation and documentation of fisheries management measures for fisheries inside marine protected areas.</i></b></p>  |

| Existing action | Reflection by FISH 10-2019   | Proposed formulation updated BSAP |
|-----------------|--|-----------------------------------|
|                 | <p>reporting of fisheries related measures to the HELCOM MPA database, including associated guidance, when updating the MPA database. These processes should be taken into account in the further implementation of relevant actions by the Fish and State &amp; Conservation WGs</p> <p>The Meeting <u>noted</u> that BSAC organized a workshop on fisheries management measures in MPAs earlier this year. The workshop was successful and recommendations have been developed based on the outcome. BSAC agreed to share these recommendations, once formally adopted, through the Secretariat.</p> <p>The Meeting <u>recalled</u> that FISH 9-2019 had agreed that this action should be a national rather than joint action. However, the Meeting <u>noted</u> that to some extent this may still need to be considered as a joint action, especially when it comes to the development of fisheries management measures within MPAs in the EEZ.</p> |                                   |

#### Theme: Management plans for fish stocks

| Existing action   | Reflection by FISH 10-2019 | Proposed formulation in updated BSAP  |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| <p>Competent authorities to take immediate action for development of long-term management plans for commercially exploited fish stocks so that they are within safe biological limits and reach agreed targets, such as maximum sustainable yield, improve their distribution and size/age range (salmon)</p> <p>Origin: BSAP<br/>Implementation: <b>National</b><br/>Status: Partly accomplished (2/9 countries)</p> | <b>Category 1</b>          | <p>SOM-FISH WS 1-2019 <u>noted</u> that upstream mitigation measures, rearing and releasing methodologies etc. are not part of the existing salmon management plans. The Workshop <u>recognized</u> the importance of addressing these matters within the BSAP, but <u>noted</u> that due to lack of specific expertise present, the Workshop was not in a position to discuss the matter in any detail. The Workshop further <u>agreed</u> to recommend that the next FISH-M Workshop (agreed by FISH 10-2019 to take place in 2020) should consider the matter further.</p>   |
| <p>Competent authorities to take immediate action for development of long-term management plans for commercially exploited fish species (sea trout) so that they are within safe biological limits</p> <p>Origin: BSAP<br/>Implementation: <b>National</b><br/>Status: Partly accomplished (2/9 countries)</p>  | <b>Category 1</b>          | <p>SOM-FISH WS 1-2019 <u>noted</u> that upstream mitigation measures, rearing and releasing methodologies etc. are not part of the existing sea trout management plans. The Workshop <u>recognized</u> the importance of addressing these matters within the BSAP, but noted that due to lack of specific expertise present, the Workshop was not in a position to discuss the matter in any detail. The Workshop invited the RETROUT Project to consider this action and provide proposals to FISH 11-2020. The Workshop further <u>agreed</u> to recommend that the next FISH-M Workshop (agreed by FISH 10-2019 to take place in 2020) should consider the matter further.</p> |
| <p>Competent authorities to take action to implement existing long-term management plans for eel</p> <p>Origin: BSAP<br/>Implementation: <b>National</b></p>  | <b>Category 3</b>          | <p>SOM-FISH WS 1-2019 <u>agreed</u> that this action is already covered by the above joint and national actions related to eel, and that there is no need for it to be included in the updated BSAP.</p>  |

| Existing action   | Reflection by FISH 10-2019  | Proposed formulation in updated BSAP  |
|---|---|---|
| Status: On-going  | Consideration should be given to strengthening the action or developing new concrete actions e.g. based on the outcome of FISH-M 5-2017 and the BALTFISH workshop on eels, as well as proposed workshop* on developing measures for migratory fish species in autumn 2019 (focus on eel, salmon and seatrout) |   |
| Implement existing long-term management plans for eel to improve their distribution size/age-range<br><br>Origin: BSAP<br>Implementation: <b>National</b><br>Status: Future target year (2021)  | <b>Category 1</b><br><br>Consideration should be given to strengthening the action.   | SOM-FISH WS 1-2019 <u>agreed</u> that this action is already covered by the above joint and national actions related to eel, and that there is no need for it to be included in the updated BSAP.<br>The workshop further <u>noted</u> that size/age range is not relevant for eel.   |
| Implement long-term management plans for cod to improve their distribution size/age-range<br><br>Origin: BSAP<br>Implementation: <b>National</b><br>Status: Future target year (2020)   | <b>Category 1</b><br><br>Consider possibly options for revising and strengthening the action.<br><br>The Meeting <u>noted</u> that the Baltic cod is in such a state that focusing on improvement of size/age range is not sufficient.  | FISH 10-2019 proposed the following formulation:<br><br><b><i>Define necessary completion of multi-annual plans of cod, within the framework of the CFP for Contracting Parties which are also EU Member States, in order to improve cod size/age-range</i></b><br><br>SOM-FISH WS 1-2019 agreed that this action is of utmost importance, but also noted that the revised action proposed by FISH 10-2019 is not clear, and <u>suggested</u> the following revision:<br><br><b><i>Define necessary complementary measures and completion of multi-annual plans of cod, within the framework of the CFP for Contracting Parties which are also EU Member States, in order to improve cod size/age-range</i></b> |
| Introduction of additional fisheries management measures to achieve: - that all caught species and by-catch are landed and reported<br><br>Origin: BSAP<br>Not reported so far: Considered as too general for follow-up in its current form | FISH 10-2019 <u>agreed</u> that this is a relevant action. Landing obligations are not implemented in the Baltic Sea. Revision needed not only to concretize, but also to ensure alignment with the CFP.  | FISH 10-2019<br><br><b><i>Improvement of compliance with the landing obligation regarding commercial fish species with a TAC. Identify species on which there is a need for better data and encourage fishermen to record by-caught specimen of these species in dedicated programmes.</i></b>  |

## Theme: Monitoring and assessment

| Existing action   | Reflection by FISH 10-2019   | Proposed formulation updated BSAP  |
|---|--|--|
| Development and implementation of effective monitoring for by-caught birds and mammals<br><br>Origin: BSAP<br>Implementation: <b>Joint</b><br>Status: Partly accomplished | <b>Category 3</b><br><br>The Meeting <u>noted</u> that a comment had been made at HOD 56-2019, that the Fish Group should consider adding to the proposed further work: "After development of the roadmap on collection of fisheries data, promotion of suggestions and recommendations contained in the document, in order to improve the monitoring of by-catch of protected | FISH 10-2019<br><br><b><i>Development and implementation of effective monitoring for by-caught birds and mammals in line with the assessment method by ICES WGBYC and the identified data-gaps outlined in the HELCOM Roadmap on fisheries data.</i></b> |

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|   | <p>species, should take place as soon as possible."</p> <p>The Meeting <u>proposed</u> that the action should be revised to reflect the Roadmap and work carried out by ICES.</p>  |  |
| <p>Development and implementation of effective reporting systems for by-caught birds and mammals (BSAP)</p> <p>Partly accomplished</p>  | <p>The Meeting <u>proposed</u> that this action should be revised as follows: <i>Further development and implementation regionally coordinated fit for purpose reporting systems for by-caught birds and mammals.</i></p> <p>The Meeting also <u>noted</u> that there is a need to develop in the framework of this action a close cooperation with relevant regional fisheries management bodies (BALTFISH and BSAC). The Meeting <u>proposed</u> that this should be a new HELCOM BSAP action and <u>agreed</u> to revisit the matter in due course, considering the work plan for the update of the BSAP.</p>   | <p>SOM-FISH WS 1-2019 <u>recommended</u> that the <i>Draft Roadmap on fisheries data in order to assess incidental bycatches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes in the Baltic Sea</i>, agreed by FISH 10-2019 and to be considered by HOD 57-2019, should be used as basis for discussion. The Workshop <u>agreed</u> that the rephrased action could make reference to the Roadmap and follow up on its implementation. The Workshop <u>agreed</u>, nevertheless, that implementation of the Roadmap in 2020 should determine any further details of a new, or more concrete action related to such a reporting system for by-caught birds and mammals.</p> |
| <p>The further development and testing of the HELCOM generic decision-support tool to map possible negative impacts of specific gear types on threatened or declining species and habitats, and which helps to develop and/or recommend measures to address these</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013<br/>Implementation: <b>Joint</b><br/>Status: Partly accomplished</p>   | <p><b>Category 3</b></p> <p>The Meeting <u>noted</u> that work completed in 2016 under the HELCOM project BalticBOOST included several deliverables of which a generic decision-support tool was one. It was recognized that since 2016 significant steps have been taken on this topic (c.f. document 6-2).</p> <p>The Meeting <u>agreed</u> that future efforts should be to update and harmonize the generic decision-support tool approach with ongoing initiatives in ICES on a seafloor assessment framework for the Baltic Sea (c.f. document 6-2). This work should also suggest to Fish options on how to most cost effectively reduce the environmental impact of bottom fishing on seafloor habitats.</p> | <p>FISH 10-2019:</p> <p><b><i>To update and harmonize the 2016 decision-support tool approach with ongoing initiatives e.g. in ICES on a seafloor assessment framework for the Baltic Sea. This tool should also provide options on how to reduce the environmental impact of bottom fishing on seafloor habitats, and reducing the impact of fisheries inside marine protected areas in the most cost effective way.</i></b></p>  |
| <p>Ask for advice from Regional Coordination Groups within the EU Data Collection Framework and ICES on how to improve data collected on such recreational fisheries, with a view to evaluate the impacts of such recreational fisheries on the marine environment.</p> <p>Not reported so far: Considered as too general for follow-up in its current form</p> |  | <p>FISH 10-2019:</p> <p><b><i>Develop guidance in cooperation with the Regional Coordination Groups within the EU Data Collection Framework and ICES on how to improve data collected on such recreational fisheries, with a view to evaluate the impacts of such recreational fisheries on the marine environment.</i></b></p>  |

## Theme: coastal fish

| Existing action  | Reflection by State & Conservation  | Proposed formulation in updated BSAP   |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Develop long-term management plans by 2012 for protecting, monitoring and sustainably managing coastal fish species, including the most threatened and/or declining, including anadromous ones, according to BSEP109</p> <p>Partly accomplished 2/9</p> | <p>Existing reflection: Minimum amendment required is update of target year (S&amp;C 10-2019)</p> <p>Should be checked against CFP and other EU management plans, there is a need to revise to include concrete targets (to agree on when it is accomplished). Measure against HELCOM Red List and secondly against national Red Lists. (S&amp;C 10E-2019)</p> <p>Could be broken down to facilitate reporting, e.g. commercial fish (CFP), non-commercial fish (need for more data?), HELCOM threatened species. (S&amp;C 10E-2019)</p> <p>FISH-PRO and the Chair of the FISH WG to be approached to draft a first suggestion.</p> | <p>Proposal by FISH-PRO III 2-2020:<br/>To assess the state of coastal fish* and to develop and coordinate monitoring and measures to achieve favourable status of these populations and communities, also including threatened, exploited and declining species.</p> <p><i>*Coastal fish are fish that utilise the coastal habitats in at least one life history stage.</i></p> |