



Document title	Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan
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Agenda Item	3 – Implementation and update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan
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Reference	

Background

The 2018 HELCOM Brussels Ministerial Meeting agreed to update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan at the latest by 2021. The aim of the update of the BSAP is to adjust actions based on the newest scientific knowledge so that HELCOM's strategic goals and ecological objectives can be reached and relevant marine and water targets of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can be met in the Baltic Sea. The updated BSAP will include the existing commitments that may not be fulfilled by 2021 and also address new issues on the basis of the commitments made in the 2018 Ministerial Declaration and further deliberations during the BSAP update process.

HOD 54-2018 approved a strategic plan for the BSAP update as contained in **Annex 1** and HOD-55-2018 agreed on a detailed work plan for the BSAP update as contained in **Annex 2** to this document. The update of the BSAP will be based on the existing expertise in the HELCOM working structure according to the mandates of the working groups and will be overseen by the Heads of Delegation. A dedicated project manager supports the tasks of the Secretariat in the BSAP update process.

Support to the update of the BSAP also comes from two specific activities: 1) the HELCOM coordinated ACTION project which is co-financed by the EU, and the *ad hoc* HELCOM platform for analysing sufficiency of measures to reach good environmental status in the Baltic Sea (SOM Platform) as established by HOD 55-2018. These activities are presented in separate document (to be submitted later).

HELCOM Working Groups are invited to initiate activities according to the work plan for the BSAP update, in particular activities 1.1 (not yet accomplished BSAP actions), 2.3 (reporting on implementation of recommendations), and 2.4 (review of the existing BSAP) as further specified in this document.

An Excel file is provided as a separate attachment to this document containing an extract of agreed HELCOM actions related to the Fish Group, to be used as background information for the tasks. The file includes actions from the BSAP and Ministerial Declarations 2010 and 2013 as indicated in the individual sheets.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- take note of the strategic plan and work plan for the BSAP update, as approved by HOD 54-2018 and HOD 55-2018 (**Annexes 1 and 2**);
- consider the not yet accomplished HELCOM actions under the Fish Group and
 - o identify if some of the remaining joint HELCOM actions can be assessed as accomplished;
 - o discuss if the 'not accomplished' actions are still valid.;
 - o propose to HELCOM HOD how valid joint actions that are not yet accomplished can be fulfilled;
 - o discuss reasons for not achieving national actions;
- identify expert groups and networks under the Fish Group to be engaged in the BSAP update work;
- agree on the reporting of HELCOM recommendations to support the BSAP update; and

- agree on which existing HELCOM actions that were previously assigned as “too general” that should be considered for uptake in the updated BSAP, and agree on a procedure for proposing concrete aims and target years for those paragraphs.

Guidance to the request for follow-up implementation of HELCOM agreements

In 2015 HELCOM initiated the work to create a follow-up system for HELCOM agreements. As a first step the system was to cover commitments made through the BSAP and HELCOM Ministerial Declarations in 2010 and 2013. The aim is to also include implementation of HELCOM Recommendations in the future.

The follow-up system is a straightforward account of whether agreed actions have been accomplished or not. The effect of actions is not assessed. The system distinguishes two main type of actions:

- Joint actions, i.e. actions that are implemented jointly in HELCOM through HELCOM Working Groups, Expert Groups and projects. Their level of accomplishment is assessed by Working Groups.
- National actions, i.e. actions that are implemented at a national level. Their level of accomplishment is reported by the Contracting Parties at agreed points in time. Reporting on all national actions was last done in spring 2016 and selected national actions were also updated by end of 2017 in the preparation of the HELCOM 2018 Ministerial Declaration. The next round of reporting on national actions will be carried out by end of 2020 in preparation of the HELCOM 2021 Ministerial Meeting. It should be recalled that national actions are assessed as 'accomplished' only when they have been achieved by all Contracting Parties. Thus, those that are labelled as 'partly accomplished' have been achieved by some but not all Contracting Parties.

The implementation of HELCOM actions will be evaluated to support the update of the BSAP (cf. activity 1.1 of the Strategic Plan for the BSAP update). The first step for Working Groups is to consider each of the not yet accomplished joint actions and with the aim of proposing ways forward to achieve them by 2021. Agreements that are not accomplished by 2021 will be transferred to the updated BSAP unless they have been decided by HELCOM HOD as outdated.

The excel-file provides a list of actions related to the Fish Group sorted according to current level of accomplishment. In summary, the not yet accomplished actions are as follows:

Joint actions (sheet 1):

- 4 not accomplished (no ongoing activities according to previous assessment)
- 3 partly accomplished (activities ongoing or part of the action assessed as completed)

National actions (sheet 2 and 3):

- 9 partly accomplished (accomplished by 1-8 countries)
- 2 with future target years (2020 or 2021)

The Meeting is invited to discuss in particular the following:

- o Has some of the joint actions been accomplished since State and Conservation last reviewed the implementation?
- o Are all actions currently assessed as 'not accomplished' still valid? This question applies to both joint and national actions. Actions that are no longer considered as valid can be proposed to HOD for exclusion from the follow-up.
- o How can the valid joint actions that are not yet accomplished be fulfilled? This question applies both to joint actions as assessed as 'partly accomplished' and 'not accomplished'. Can they be taken forward by an existing expert group? a Lead Country? do they require a project? What is the estimated timeframe for completing the action? The proposal will be presented to HOD 55-2018.
- o The Meeting is also invited to discuss reasons for not achieving national actions; are there any particular obstacles? Could HELCOM support their implementation?

Reporting of recommendations under the Fish Group

HELCOM actions committed through the BSAP and Ministerial Declarations only reflect part of the HELCOM commitments. In addition, HELCOM Recommendations provide more specific targets and agreements on measures for many topics. To support the BSAP update process Contracting Parties have agreed to report *ad hoc* on HELCOM recommendations in early 2019 (cf. activity 2.3 of the Strategic Plan for the BSAP update). Since there are over 100 valid HELCOM Recommendations a priority list has been established with focus on recommendations where the implementation involves measures that contributes to improve the state of the Baltic Sea. Based on this principle the HOD 55-2018 tentatively agreed that all three recommendations that are linked to the Fish Group, as listed below, should be reported to support the BSAP update. The Meeting may however wish to consider if the reporting on recommendation 32/33-1 is recent enough to support the updated of the BSAP.

- 19/2, Protection and Improvement of the Wild Salmon*) (*Salmo salar* L.) Populations in the Baltic Sea Area
- 32-33/1, Conservation of Baltic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) and Sea Trout (*Salmo trutta*) Populations by the Restoration of their River Habitats and Management of River Fisheries
- 37/3, Sustainable Aquaculture in the Baltic Sea Region

The reporting templates will be submitted to Fish 9-2019 at a later stage for information. They will be circulated to Contracting Parties after agreement by and closure of FISH 9-2019 and countries are given six weeks to complete the reporting.

Proposal on development of concrete aims and targets for existing HELCOM agreements

When the follow-up system for HELCOM actions was set up some paragraphs from the BSAP and HELCOM Ministerial Meetings in 2010 and 2013 were assigned as “too general” to be included in the HELCOM follow-up system, e.g. because they did not have any measurable or clear target. Such agreements are listed in sheet 6 of the attached excel-file. The Fish Group is invited to identify whether some of these actions should be considered for incorporation in the updated BSAP and in that case to agree on how to develop concrete aims and target years by the next meeting of the Fish Group (e.g. by a Lead country approach or by setting up an intersessional online meeting).

Annex 1. Strategic plan for the BSAP update

As approved by HOD 54-2018.

I STRENGTHENING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BSAP BY 2021

The Baltic Sea Action Plan is an ambitious and comprehensive regional programme of action to achieve a healthy marine environment. There are some basic factors that can be seen as underlying the success of the BSAP:

- all major environmental problems are addressed in a single plan, based on the best available knowledge,
- in general, actions included are concrete and have deadlines,
- the structure of the BSAP is relatively straight forward and its objectives are formulated in a clear and understandable manner,
- stakeholders are invited to, and do contribute to, the implementation of the plan,
- there is a follow-up system to track progress.

The BSAP timespan, 2007-2021, has provided a suitable (long enough) time frame for the work and it has been possible to add commitments through the follow-up Ministerial meetings (2010 - Moscow, 2013 - Copenhagen and 2018 - Brussels).

HELCOM's overall endeavour to streamline the BSAP and integrate it with other (global, European and national) commitments and obligations of the Contracting Parties further supports the BSAP implementation. While maintaining the strong regional perspectives and focusing on where the organization adds value, it has been of paramount importance that HELCOM agreements are closely linked with and integrated into national processes.

Despite extensive efforts, good environmental status and favourable conservation status of biodiversity for the Baltic Sea area are unlikely to be reached by 2021 for all aspects. The HELCOM Brussels Ministerial Meeting re-affirmed the strong commitment of the Contracting Parties to strengthen the implementation of the BSAP and the follow-up declarations, by 2021.

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

Main responsible/resource indication: working groups and Contracting Parties

The working groups will be requested to continue discussion and identify the reasons for lagging behind with the implementation of BSAP, for both regional and national actions. For regional actions forward planning or stock taking could be carried out with the aim of accomplishing of the actions by 2021. For national actions a discussion could be related to timelines, or how HELCOM could support further efforts of the countries to achieve a more uniform implementation. The discussion aims at supporting the strengthening of efforts to implement BSAP by 2021 and beyond.

The Secretariat will prepare background documentation/overall guidance on how the discussion could be structured.

The task will be introduced to the working groups in their meetings in autumn 2018 and will be followed up in the next meetings. Based on the WGs considerations, GEAR and HODs could also be involved to discuss the issue (for instance, GEAR could prepare for such a discussion to be organized in one of the HODs meetings).

Activity 2: Preparing information for the Ministerial Meeting 2021

Main responsible: a) & b) Secretariat (resources not secured yet)

This activity will include: a) making a proposal for an overall update of the information in the BSAP follow-up system and organizing the reporting by CPs [2020], b) further development of the HELCOM Explorer to support the update of the BSAP (end of 2019- early 2020).

For task b) the resource will amount to 3 man months of a GIS Developer, with implication for HELCOM budget 2019-2020 of ca. 12.000 EUR.

The updated results on the BSAP implementation are to be ready by the time of the 2021 Ministerial Meeting.

II MANDATE TO UPDATE THE BSAP

The update of the BSAP is a task for Contracting Parties, based on the mandate given by the Brussels Ministerial Declaration.

Contracting Parties decided to update the BSAP by 2021 at the latest, with the aim being to set out a robust action plan for the achievement of the comprehensive HELCOM vision – a healthy Baltic Sea environment.

Furthermore, the Contracting Parties have also decided that the updated BSAP will, in addition to existing commitments, address new issues based on the commitments made in the 2018 Ministerial Declaration and further deliberations during the BSAP update process (cf. paragraph 16 of the Brussels Ministerial Declaration).

Moreover, the HELCOM Ministers have committed to using the water and ocean related goals, and targets of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as a framework for updating the BSAP (cf. paragraph 17 of the Brussels Ministerial Declaration).

Specifically, paragraphs 18-20 of the Ministerial Declaration provide further overall guidance on the BSAP update, in particular noting that Contracting Parties will maintain the ambition level of agreed actions and objectives:

“WE DECIDE that the updated BSAP should include actions necessary for managing human activities in such a way that the current HELCOM strategic goals “Baltic Sea unaffected by eutrophication”, “Baltic Sea with life undisturbed by hazardous substances”, “Maritime activities carried out in an environmentally friendly way” and “Favourable conservation status of the Baltic Sea biodiversity” can be achieved, and that its overall objectives support relevant political processes and strengthen science based decision-making. WE RECOGNIZE the economic and social benefits of achieving these objectives;

WE AGREE that the updated BSAP should be based on an ecosystem approach, fully use the precautionary principle, be supported by fit-for-purpose scientific research, be strongly communicated with stakeholders, enable knowledge sharing between science and policy across all levels, be developed in a participatory and transparent way at regional and local levels, including all appropriate stakeholders, and give due consideration to economic and social impacts of the measures to be taken to meet its objectives;

WE ACKNOWLEDGE that while we work on updating the BSAP we will at least maintain the ambition level of agreed actions and objectives.”

A key to achieving this goal will be to utilize the most recent scientific findings, including from BONUS projects, consolidate the available knowledge and to synthesize information in such a way that Contracting Parties will be in a position to utilise it when developing and agreeing on the updated BSAP. In this respect, an analysis of sufficiency of measures to reach HELCOM goals and objectives will be a major task. Furthermore, a business as usual scenario (BAU), developed in an inclusive and interdisciplinary manner, as well as economic analysis, could support the update of the BSAP.

It is also considered important to create a process in which Contracting Parties have the possibility to be continuously engaged at a policy level, are able to prioritize the BSAP update nationally, and through which a clear common vision can be produced. Therefore, the HELCOM Heads of Delegation should maintain the role to oversee and guide the update process. Thus the HODs engagement should be meaningfully organized, and tasks shared between individual Contracting Parties, the Secretariat, working groups and projects; with sufficient resource allocation to ensure the process is efficiently and properly executed.

In addition, HELCOM should involve contribution from stakeholders throughout the process, e.g. via participation of HELCOM Observers in HELCOM meetings and stakeholder conference(s).

HELCOM 39-2018 agreed on the guidance for the BSAP update which is an inherent part of this Strategic Plan for the BSAP update (cf. [document 3-4-Add.1](#)).

Overall organization and division of responsibility for the BSAP update

HELCOM Heads of Delegation

HELCOM Heads of Delegation will provide the overall guidance for the BSAP update process including over any additional HELCOM working arrangement for the tasks within the BSAP update that may be decided at a later stage. The Heads of Delegation will consider matters of the BSAP update at their regular meetings. Additional meetings of HODs may be necessary, especially in the latter part of the process (years 2020 and 2021).

HELCOM groups

It will not be necessary for HODs to deal with all the details or aspects of the BSAP update. The existing working structure will be utilized and the existing HELCOM groups, in particular working groups, will be involved and responsible for advancing the work in accordance with their mandates. For instance, it can be foreseen that GEAR will be responsible for strategic policy review elements, such as a proposed adjustment to the overall structure of BSAP, and that working groups will have a task to review of BSAP actions, including those not yet implemented. More detailed planning how the contribution of working groups is to be organized within the individual phases will be developed at a later stage (cf. BSAP update Work Plan). Work plans of the groups will need to be adjusted accordingly.

HELCOM project (BSAP 2030 project)

A HELCOM project for the BSAP update is established (BSAP 2030 project). The project represents an operational level and its overall goal is to support and facilitate the work of the Contracting Parties to update the BSAP in line with the Ministerial mandate and the guidance agreed by HELCOM 39-2018, as in the Annex. The work within the project will be carried out by: 1) the Secretariat and a dedicated project manager, 2) Contracting Parties taking lead roles for specific topics or themes, and 3) any additional resources that may be mobilized to carry out the work. Furthermore, an additional working arrangement may be decided by HODs to carry out analysis of sufficiency of measures.

- 1) The Project Manager will mainly support the work of the HELCOM groups with regard to the BSAP update as well as the work in HELCOM to analyse sufficiency of measures (make substantive proposals for consideration, prepare background and guidance documents and compilations, etc.).

The Project Manager will work from July 2018 to December 2020, tentatively to continue from January 2021 until the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting later in the year. In the latter period, half-time employment might be foreseen.

Budget year	Cost of project manager incl. travels	Source of funding
2018/2019	70.000 EUR	58.000 EUR HELCOM and CPs are invited to provide 12.000 EUR (otherwise to be covered by HELCOM)
2019/2020	70.000 EUR	50.000 EUR HELCOM and CPs are invited to provide 20.000 EUR
2020/2021 (tentatively extending to 2021/2022)	35.000 EUR (+ tentatively ca. 20.000 EUR)	35.000 EUR HELCOM

- 2) Contracting Parties will be invited to support the work by offering a leadership and direct contributions (e.g. resources and/or expertise) for individual tasks, which could, for instance, include: directing foreseen results from ongoing national projects into the task force discussions, financial support for analysis and information gathering, and/or hosting the task force meetings.

Three phase BSAP update

FORMULATION PHASE: mid 2018 – mid 2019

Formulation phase	Main responsible on working level
1 Proposal for work plan	Secretariat* → HOD 55-2018
2 Proposal for adjusting the BSAP structure	- Secretariat* → HOD 55-2018 - Working Groups
3 Status of the BSAP implementation	- Working Groups → HODs - (Secretariat*)

Additional resources needed for BSAP update project to support activity

* Project manager in HELCOM Secretariat to support BSAP update

Activity 1. BSAP update Work Plan Overview

Main responsible/resource indication: the Secretariat

This activity will result in a detailed work plan for the BSAP update, including individual steps for the activities presented below, specifying HELCOM groups involvement and requested contribution, setting associated timelines, further indicating resource needs, etc.

The Secretariat (Project Manager together with other Secretariat Staff) will be responsible for preparing a proposal for the Work Plan, to be approved by HODs. A draft work plan will be consulted with the working groups in autumn 2018, finalized by the Secretariat and submitted to HOD 55-2018 for endorsement in principle.

The BSAP update Work Plan - version 2018, as endorsed in principle by HODs, will be adjusted and expanded in the course of work, so it can serve as a reference document for all involved in the process. Iterative versions of the Work Plan will be endorsed by HODs. The Project Manager will be responsible for keeping the document up to date.

Activity 2. Adjustment to the overall structure of BSAP proposal

Main responsible/resource indication: the Secretariat and specific input by working/expert groups, including GEAR.

This activity will involve: a) creating 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.

This work will result in a proposal for an overarching structure and main components of the updated BSAP.

This is to be taken up based on the input from working/expert groups and an initial proposal for the updated overarching BSAP structure will be submitted to HOD 55-2018.

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

Main responsible/resource indication: a) working groups and Secretariat, b) Contracting Parties (+ resource need to facilitate reporting from the Secretariat), and c) additional resources needed

This activity will involve:

- a) identifying HELCOM agreements, not covered by the current BSAP follow-up system, for which additional reporting by CPs will be needed, e.g. recommendations; working groups in their meetings in autumn 2018 will be requested to provide contribution in this regard, supported by the Secretariat;
- b) organizing additional reporting by CPs on main agreements - focusing on measures - not covered by the current BSAP follow up; [tentatively early 2019];
- c) proposing a collection of information on other (than HELCOM) existing measures in the countries and their level of implementation, e.g. utilizing interim reporting on progress of measures under MSFD by the end of 2018 for those CPs being EU member states; organizing and reporting by CPs (in 2019).

The activity will feed into an analysis of sufficiency of measures to reach HELCOM objectives and targets.

CREATING THE CONTENT PHASE mid-2019 – end of 2020

Creating the content phase	Main responsible on working level
<p>4 Review of the current BSAP</p>	<p>- Working Groups → HOD Dec. 2019 - (Secretariat*)</p>
<p>5 Analysis of sufficiency of measures</p>	
<p>— planning (as part of activity 1)</p>	<p>- Secretariat → HOD 55-2018 - GEAR 19-2018</p>
<p>— analysis</p>	<p>Additional resources and working arrangement needed for BSAP update project to support activity</p>

* Project manager in HELCOM Secretariat to support BSAP update

Activity 4. Review of the current BSAP

Main responsible/resource indication: Working Groups

The remaining BSAP actions (not yet implemented, MM 2010 and 2013 inclusive) will be analysed and grouped (following the overarching BSAP structure), taking into account possible overlaps and utilizing the common interpretation of actions done for the HELCOM Explorer. The work will progress topic by topic.

As agreed in the BSAP update guidance, the actions that do not have measurable and clear targets will be identified, with the aim to develop them into a more specific actions or set of actions for the updated BSAP. Obsolete actions will be identified and proposed for a decision to either delete them or supersede by another action.

As a result, there will be an update of regional and national actions per BSAP component not yet implemented that will be taken as the basis in the draft updated BSAP. This step is to be finalized by end of 2019.

The most recent 2018 Ministerial commitments will be integrated into the work.

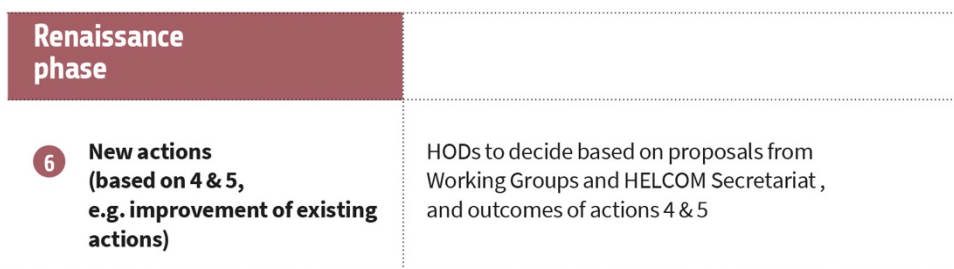
Activity 5. Analysing sufficiency of measures to reach HELCOM objectives and targets

Main responsible: GEAR 19-2018 for planning the work, and an additional working arrangement might be necessary to carry out the task e.g. via the thematic workshops and jointly with the working groups; CPs; resources for implementation not secured yet.

The HELCOM Explorer provides information on which actions have been implemented but it does not provide information on the impact of those actions. In order to estimate whether current actions (HELCOM actions and measures implemented under other policies) are sufficient to reach good status this information is required. This is particularly relevant for those actions aimed at reducing pressures to a level that is consistent with good environmental status. The activity will involve substantial work and will be organized topic by topic. In addition to identifying tentative gaps in measures the activity will also identify knowledge and data needs for effective implementation of measures. This work is to be based on newest scientific findings and knowledge, including from BONUS projects and related to climate change. Steps and working arrangements needed to carry out this work and associated timeline will be identified. The

planning of work on sufficiency of measures will be carried out as part of the preparation of the BSAP update Work Plan, to be taken up at GEAR 19-2018.

RENAISSANCE PHASE: end 2019 - 2021



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

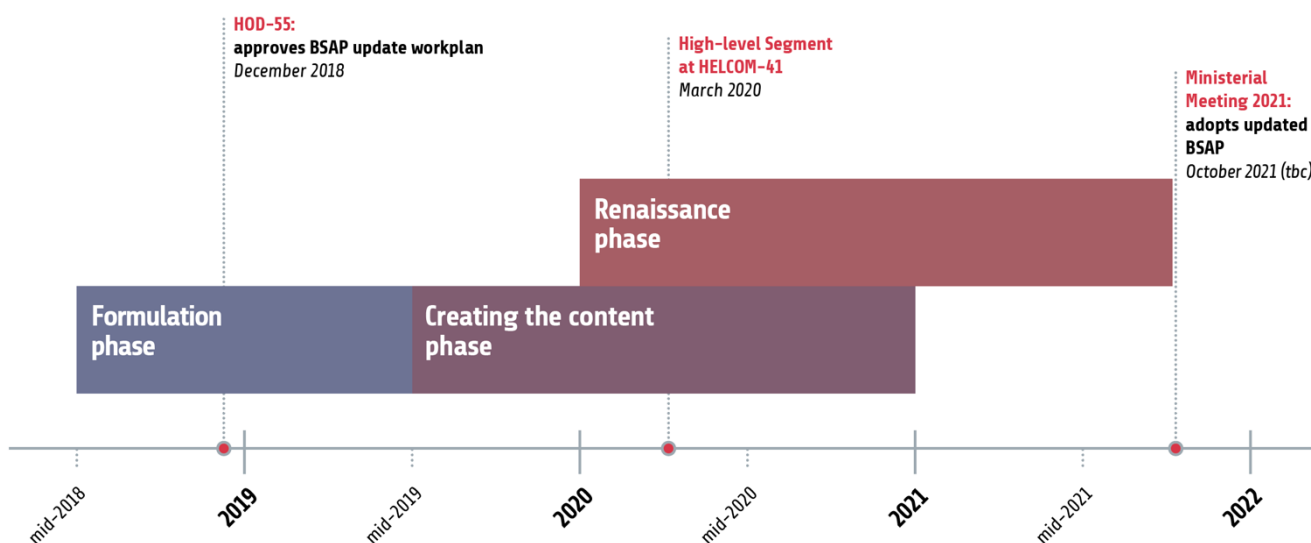
HELCOM 39-2018 provided basic guidance in this regard: the updated BSAP will include new joint (regional) and national actions, to be decided on the basis of the 2018 Ministerial Declaration and the scientific results of the “State of the Baltic Sea” report. To this end, the analysis of sufficiency of measures will be utilized for identifying gaps between the current measures and the measures needed to reach GES. New findings, as may become available within HELCOM and elsewhere, will be utilized as well.

Proposals for new measures and actions will emerge via the regular work of HELCOM and as an outcome of some of the other activities within this strategic plan, in particular the assessment of the sufficiency of measures. Proposals will be put forward to HODs, to be finally decided as part of the process to reach an agreement on the updated BSAP.

A high-level segment of HELCOM in March 2020 could consider milestones towards reaching an agreement on the updated BSAP in 2021.

A full draft of the updated BSAP to be available last quarter 2020.

Three phases of the BSAP update



Annex 2. Work plan for the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

Version as approved by HOD 55-2018, 4.12.2018.

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 as contained in this document clarifies the timing and more detailed steps of activities from the Strategic Plan.

The work plan will be updated by the Secretariat as more agreements come in to place, e.g. timing workshop, timing of reporting by Contracting Parties, agreement on approaches etc.

The titles of activities refers to adopted activities of the Strategic plan for the BSAP update.

'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 an ad hoc interdisciplinary platform on analyses of sufficiency of measures, as agreed by HOD 55-2018. This group would replace the 'Task Force' as agreed by HELCOM 39-2018 ([Outcome of HELCOM 39-2018](#), para 2.6).

Tables at end of the work plan provides a timeline for involvement of HELCOM groups.

Work plan

I. Strengthening the implementation of the BSAP by 2021

Activity 1:1. Discussion on reasons for not yet accomplishing BSAP actions (now - early 2019)

2018		2019				2020				2021
3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
		As needed								
<p>Tasks according to the 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 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 BSAP by 2021 and beyond.</p>										
<p><u>Autumn 2018</u> Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prepare compilation of not accomplished HELCOM actions for each WG autumn/spring* meeting 2018 (*end of full meeting cycle of HELCOM WGs is March 2019). <p>Working Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify if some additional joint actions can be assessed as accomplished. ○ Discuss if all 'not accomplished' actions are still valid. If actions are found redundant or no longer relevant they could be proposed for deletion. ○ Propose how valid joint actions not yet accomplished can be fulfilled (e.g. type of process such as project or lead country approach, type of product e.g. guideline, assessment report etc., and proposed timeline – as a matter of priority by 2021 but otherwise as proposed by the WG). ○ Initial discussion on reasons for not achieving national actions and what would be the most important national actions to achieve for improving the state of the Baltic Sea by 2021. <p>HOD 55-2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider compilation of proposals from autumn 2018 WG meetings. 										
<p><u>Spring 2019</u> Working Groups:</p>										

- Remaining Working Groups (Fish, Agri) to complete the request.
 - Potential follow-up of the above if needed (e.g. based on guidance from GEAR/HOD).
- HOD June 2019:
- Consider compilation of proposals from remaining WGs.

Activity 1.2. Preparing information for the Ministerial Meeting 2021 (spring 2019 - end 2020)

2018		2019				2020				2021
3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
Tasks according to the Strategic plan: Technical update of the HELCOM Explorer and organizing the reporting by CPs in 2020.										
<u>Spring 2019</u> Secretariat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prepare a proposal for an overall update of the information in the BSAP follow-up system (HELCOM Explorer) and how to organize the reporting by CPs on national actions. 										
<u>Autumn 2019</u> GEAR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review the proposed update to the BSAP follow-up system e.g. taking into account similar work CPs might have undertaken on national level. HOD Dec 2019: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agreement on update of the BSAP follow-up system, including on presentation of results. ○ Agreement on the scope of the reporting by Contracting Parties to the BSAP follow-up system (reporting to take place in 4Q of 2020). 										
<u>Spring 2020</u> Secretariat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prepare reporting forms for the BSAP follow-up on national actions. ○ Implement technical solutions for update of the BSAP follow-up system (Jan-Sept). HOD June 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Preview of the reporting forms to the BSAP follow-up system. 										
<u>Autumn 2020</u> Secretariat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Organize the reporting of the BSAP follow-up on national actions. Contracting Parties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reporting on the implementation of HELCOM national actions to the BSAP follow-up system (Oct-Dec 2020). 										

II. Mandate to update the BSAP

Activity 2.1. BSAP update Work Plan Overview (now – HOD 55-2018)

2018		2019				2020				2021
3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
Tasks according to the Strategic plan: Development and agreement on the first version of this document.										

<p><u>Autumn 2018</u></p> <p>Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prepare work plan proposal by first WG meeting in autumn 2018: the work plan preparation will be advancing with time, leading to a first full draft at the GEAR meeting, which is just before HOD 55-2018, and utilizing input from WGs. <p>Workings Groups (MARITIME 18-2018, PRESSURE 9 -2018, STATE&CONSERVATION 9-2018, and GEAR 19-2018):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review draft proposal prepared by the Secretariat, and consider how to best arrange the work requested by the Working Group (e.g. through sessions during ordinary WGs meetings, workshops, intersessional activities etc.). ○ Propose EGs and networks to be engaged in the work. <p>HOD 55-2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work plan proposal for agreement

Activity 2:2. Adjustment to the overall structure of BSAP (now – early 2020)

2018		2019				2020				2021
3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
<p>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.</p>										
<p><u>Autumn 2018</u></p> <p>Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prepare document with potential alignment/gaps of current BSAP structure with SDG goals, Aichi targets and MSFD descriptors. <p>GEAR 19-2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide feedback on a proposal on new BSAP segments and goals (and possible revision of existing ones). ○ Guidance for Working Groups on possible new ecological objectives i.e. the narrative description of desired state (e.g. clear water) (level of detail, relation to other policies). <p>HOD 55-2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proposal on new overarching structure (level of segments and goals) for agreement. 										
<p><u>Spring 2019</u></p> <p>Working Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Intersessional preparatory step for the review of ecological objectives at spring meetings 2019 ○ Review and potentially propose revised and new ecological objectives at spring meetings 2019. <p>HOD June 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Draft proposals on revised and new ecological objectives for consideration. 										
<p><u>Winter 2019</u></p> <p>HOD Dec 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Endorsement of overall structure, including ecological objectives, of BSAP UP. 										
<p><u>March 2020 (HELCOM Meeting)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adoption of overall structure of BSAP update at HELCOM 2020 (at High-level Segment of HELCOM). ○ Stakeholder conference. 										

Activity 2:3. Status of implementation of the current measures and agreements (now- mid-2019)

2018		2019				2020				2021
3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
<p>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; [tentatively early 2019]; c) proposing a collection of information on other (than HELCOM) existing measures in the countries and their level of implementation-</p>										
<p><u>Autumn 2018</u></p> <p>Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Make list/proposal of recommendations or other commitments, (e.g. part of the Convention) that could be reported by Contracting Parties to support the assessment of implementation of HELCOM agreements. Focus is primarily on recommendations related to measures. ○ Arrange for reporting by Contracting Parties on recommendations and other relevant HELCOM commitments. <p>Workings Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify other HELCOM commitments that could be relevant to support the assessment of HELCOM agreements, e.g. recommendations or part of the Convention. Meeting to agree on how the follow-up of the recommendation should be carried out e.g. questions, reporting forms, based on proposal by Secretariat. 										
<p><u>Spring 2019 1Q</u></p> <p>Contracting Parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reporting on recommendations and main agreements [via Working Groups or national contact point to be agreed] <p>SOM Platform (first meeting):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kick-off collection of information on other existing measures in the countries (other than HELCOM commitments) to support analysis of sufficiency of measures <p>Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Arrange for collection and search of additional information on measures (other than HELCOM commitments) 										
<p><u>Spring 2019 2Q</u></p> <p>Working Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider the reports by Contracting Parties on main agreements/recommendations not covered by the current BSAP follow up as identified and agreed at autumn meeting 2018. <p>Contracting Parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review the collected information on other existing measures in the countries. <p>HOD June 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Results from additional reporting on HELCOM commitments (e.g. recommendations) endorsed 										

Activity 2:4. Review of the current BSAP (early- mid 2019)

2018		2019				2020				2021
3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
<p>Tasks according to the Strategic plan: As agreed in the BSAP update guidance (HELCOM 39-2018), the actions that do not have measurable and clear targets will be identified, with the aim to develop them</p>										

into a more specific actions or set of actions for the updated BSAP. The most recent 2018 Ministerial commitments will be integrated into the work.

Spring meeting 2019

Working Groups:

- 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 – to be concluded at autumn meetings 2019 (see 2.6).
- Agree on how to propose actions and define targets for MD 2018 commitments; this could take place intersessionally e.g. through proposal by Lead countries – to be concluded at autumn meetings 2019 (see 2.6).

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

2018		2019				2020				2021
3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
<p>Tasks according to the Strategic plan: The guidance document on the BSAP update (cf. document 2-6/REV, HELCOM 39-2018) states HELCOM will carry out an analysis of sufficiency of measures to reach HELCOM objectives and targets, to support selection of new actions. In order to estimate whether current actions (HELCOM actions and measures implemented under other policies) are sufficient to reach good status, information on the impact of the actions is required. This is particularly relevant for those actions aimed at reducing pressures to a level that is consistent with good environmental status. The activity will involve substantial work and will be organized topic by topic. In addition to identifying tentative gaps in measures the activity will also identify knowledge and data needs for effective implementation of measures. This work is to be based on newest scientific findings and knowledge, including from BONUS projects and related to climate change.</p>										
<p>Planning: Main responsible for planning the work: GEAR 19-2018. Additional working arrangement might be necessary to carry out the task e.g. via the thematic workshops and jointly with the working groups. Such an additional working arrangement proposed is a new interdisciplinary platform on sufficiency of measures (SOM Platform). The HELCOM ACTION project (pending the final approval as of 13.11.2018) will carry out analysis of sufficiency of measures for a number of topics.</p>										
<p><u>Autumn 2018</u></p> <p>Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Come up with initial proposal for areas for synthesis of existing knowledge and for sufficiency of measures; liaison with experts/lead countries to be appointed for work of the SOM Platform. ○ Estimate expert and resource needs for sufficiency of measures analyses. <p>GEAR 19-2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Propose focal areas for synthesis of existing knowledge to support the analysis of sufficiency of measures and identification of potential new measures (priority areas). ○ Propose focal areas for analyses of sufficiency of measures (priority areas). ○ Consider the experts needs for sufficiency of measures analyses and development of business-as-usual (BAU) scenarios. 										
<p>Analyses: To estimate whether current actions (HELCOM actions and measures implemented under other policies) are sufficient to reach good status. The activity will be organized topic by topic.</p>										
<p>Secretariat: Support, e.g. arrangement of SOM Platform meetings, HELCOM thematic workshops</p>										
<p><u>Spring 2019 1Q</u></p> <p>SOM Platform (first meeting – February 2019):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plan for how to structure syntheses of existing knowledge to support the BSAP update. 										

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plan for regional analysis of sufficiency of measures and development of BAU scenarios according to priority areas agreed by HOD. Plans for the assessment of effectiveness of measures by OSPAR to be considered. ○ Work on syntheses started (to be carried out by appointed experts/lead country by end of 2019). <p>Contracting Parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assignment of resources, identification of lead countries and appointment of experts to carry out syntheses and analyses - by early 2019.
<p><u>Autumn 2019</u></p> <p>SOM Platform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prepare regional “business as usual” scenario. ○ Analysis of sufficiency of measures initiated by lead countries/appointed experts. <p>Workings Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review of ongoing work on syntheses.
<p><u>Spring 2020</u></p> <p>SOM Platform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continued analyses. ○ Reporting on work to WGs. <p>Working Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider outcome of syntheses. ○ Review of on-going work on sufficiency of measures analyses. <p>HOD June 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discuss initial results from analyses of sufficiency of measures and agree on topics for which new HELCOM actions are needed.

Activity 2:6. Proposing new actions and improvement of the existing actions (end 2019- end 2020)

2018		2019				2020				2021
3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
<p>Tasks according to the Strategic plan: The analysis of sufficiency of measures will be utilized for identifying 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 WGs and as an outcome of some of the other activities within this strategic plan, in particular the assessment of the sufficiency of measures. A full draft of the updated BSAP to be available last quarter 2020.</p> <p>Comment: Proposal on new measures is expected to be put forward at various meetings and thematic workshops during the course of the BSAP update process, including also from stakeholders. Climate change will be considered in the analyses leading up to proposed measures. The Secretariat will compile and distribute the proposals to HELCOM meetings. It is expected that knowledge needs for effective implementation of measures will be identified throughout the work and will also be part of proposed new HELCOM actions.</p>										
<p><u>Autumn 2019</u></p> <p>Working Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prepare proposals on uptake of HELCOM actions in the updated BSAP that were previously evaluated as too general to follow up and on measurable targets for those actions. ○ Prepare proposals of actions and measurable targets to follow-up on the MD 2018 commitments and open discussion on potential new measures. <p>HOD Dec 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Based on outcome Activity 1:1, 2:3, 2:4 and 2:6 of previous WG meetings, consider proposals on: 										

- not yet implemented existing HELCOM actions to be considered for uptake in the updated BSAP,
- actions and measureable targets for MD 2018 commitments (draft proposals).

Spring 2020

SOM Platform:

- o Prepare proposals on new actions based on analyses of sufficiency of measures. Such proposals could e.g. be based on reviewing the list of measures implemented in the countries, and will be made to WGs to support their considerations on measures.

Working Groups:

- o Develop and consider proposals on new measures and actions based on results of analyses of sufficiency of measures and knowledge on effectiveness of potential new measures and actions (e.g. based on existing reports or syntheses prepared by the SOM Platform)

HOD June 2020:

- o Review of further developed lists of actions.

Autumn 2020

Working Groups:

- o Further elaboration of possible actions, including an evaluation of effect of proposed new measures (at WG meetings or HELCOM workshops to be decided).

HOD Dec 2020:

- o Further consideration of measures (first complete draft of the updated BSAP presented).

Timetable for Tasks at Working Group meetings

Task	Activity	2018 3Q	2018 4Q	2019 1Q	2019 2Q	2019 3Q	2019 4Q	2020 1Q	2020 2Q	2020 3Q	2020 4Q	2021 1Q
Propose how existing joint actions can be accomplished	1:1			As needed								
Discuss reasons for not achieving current BSAP commitments	1:1			As needed								
Review draft work plan for BSAP update	2:1											
Preparatory step for the review of ecological objectives	2:2											
Propose revised and new ecological objectives	2:2											
Identify additional HELCOM commitments to be reported (e.g. recommendations)	2:3			As needed								
Consider reporting on additional HELCOM commitments as per above [via WGs or national contact points to be agreed]	2:3					As needed						
Review HELCOM actions previously assigned as “too general”	2:4											
Agree on how to propose actions and define targets for MD 2018 commitments	2:4											
Guidance and review of syntheses by SOM Platform	2:5											
Guidance and review of analyses of sufficiency of measures by SOM Platform	2:5											
Propose measurable targets for relevant existing HELCOM actions previously assigned as “too general”	2:6											
Prepare proposals on actions and targets for MD 2018 commitments	2:6											
Continued elaboration of possible new actions [possibly through workshops]	2:6											

Timetable for Tasks at GEAR meetings

Task	Activity	2018 3Q	2018 4Q	2019 1Q	2019 2Q	2019 3Q	2019 4Q	2020 1Q	2020 2Q	2020 3Q	2020 4Q	2021 1Q
Review of updated BSAP follow-update system	1:2											
Review draft work plan for BSAP update	2:1											
Feed-back on overarching structure (segments and goals) for BSAP UP	2:2											
Plan for analyses of sufficiency of measures, including propose focal areas for synthesis of existing knowledge, propose focal areas for analyses of sufficiency of measures (priorities), consider expert needs	2:5											
Guidance and review of analyses of sufficiency of measures	2:5											
Consider proposals on new actions under the mandate of GEAR	2:6											

Timetable for Tasks of the SOM Platform

Task	Activity	2018 3Q	2018 4Q	2019 1Q	2019 2Q	2019 3Q	2019 4Q	2020 1Q	2020 2Q	2020 3Q	2020 4Q	2021 1Q
Plan for how to structure syntheses of existing knowledge to support the BSAP update	2:5											
Carry out syntheses	2:5											
Plan for BAU/Sufficiency of measures analysis	2:5											
Prepare regional BAU scenario	2:5											
Carry out analyses of sufficiency of measures	2:5											
Prepare proposal on new actions	2:6											
Potentially: analyses of cost-effectiveness of proposed new measures (see draft ToR)	2:6											

Timetable for reviews and decisions at HOD meetings

Task	Activity	2018 3Q	2018 4Q	2019 1Q	2019 2Q	2019 3Q	2019 4Q	2020 1Q	2020 2Q	2020 3Q	2020 4Q	2021 1Q
Proposals from WGs on how to achieve current BSAP	1:1											
Agreement on update of the BSAP follow-up system, including presentation of results, agreement on the scope of the reporting by CPs	1:2											
Preview of the reporting forms the reporting to the BSAP follow-up system to be carried out by CPs end of 2020	1:2											
Agreement on workplan for BSAP update	2:1											
Agree on overarching structure (segments and goals) for BSAP UP	2:2											
Draft proposal on revised and new ecological objectives	2:2											
Endorse structure for BSAP UP (segments, goals and objectives)	2:2											
Endorse results on reporting of additional commitments (e.g. recommendations) reported via WGs	2:3											
Discuss initial results from analyses of sufficiency of measures; agree on topics for which new HELCOM actions are needed	2:5											
Agreement on measurable targets for existing relevant HELCOM actions and consider first proposal for new actions and targets for commitments from MD 2018	2:6											
Review of further developed list of actions												
Agreement on new HELCOM actions	2:6											

Time-table for preparation of documents to HELCOM meetings (Secretariat)

Task	Activity	2018 3Q	2018 4Q	2019 1Q	2019 2Q	2019 3Q	2019 4Q	2020 1Q	2020 2Q	2020 3Q	2020 4Q	2021 1Q
Prepare for WGs to discuss implementation of current BSAP	1:1											
Proposal for update of HELCOM Explorer	1:2											
Developing report forms reporting	1:2											
Technical update of HELCOM Explorer	1:2											
Organizing reporting and updating the Explorer	1:2											
Prepare work plan for BSAP update	2:1											
Prepare background document for how BSAP can be aligned with SDGs, Aichi targets and MSFD	2:2											
Prepare list/proposal of HELCOM recommendations (or other HELCOM agreements) to be reported	2:3											
Prepare reporting forms for HELCOM recommendations as per above	2:3											
Support analyses of sufficiency of measures	2.5											
Prepare list of proposals on actions for BSAP UP	2:6											