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<b>Document title</b>	Implementation of new follow-up system for HELCOM agreements
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<b>Reference</b>	GEAR 8-2014 (par. 3.3) and HOD 47-2014 (par. 3.74).

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### Background

One outcome of the HELCOM modernization is a recommendation to establish a long-term planning for the reporting on actions taken, organized theme-wise in response to policy needs. During 2015, the Secretariat has developed in consultation with HELCOM Working Groups a simplified and transparent assessment system for evaluating the level of accomplishment of HELCOM agreements.

A draft proposal on the new system was presented to GEAR 8-2014 that endorsed the development of the proposed simple indicator-based system to follow up the implementation of HELCOM actions (GEAR 8-2014, document 3.1). The Meeting underlined that the system should make clear links also to the MSFD so that it can serve HELCOM Contracting Parties also being EU members as an interim follow-up of measures in 2018.

The new system is based on a set of agreed and straight forward queries for national reporting, allowing self-evaluation by the Contracting Parties, and a set of agreed criteria for assessing the level of accomplishment at the regional level that can be done by the Secretariat. Based on the reporting and resulting evaluations the intention is to create an on-line implementation database with web-based presentation of results. HELCOM has received funding to develop the system through the EU DG ENV co-funded [BalticBOOST project](#) during September 2015 – March 2016.

For practical reasons, the follow up system is to cover only the most recent HELCOM actions, and more specifically the 2007 Baltic Sea Action Plan and 2010 and 2013 Ministerial Declarations, including HELCOM Recommendations adopted since the BSAP. The implementation of all previous commitments, albeit not covered by this new system, will continue to be under observation by HELCOM and timed according to existing work plans and as need may arise (issues revisited by working groups as new developments take place, upon request of Contracting Parties, when updating Recommendations, etc.).

The new follow-up system has been reviewed by meetings and through follow-up consultations by Working Groups State and Conservation 2-2015 (Outcome par. 5J.7), Pressure 2- 2015 (Outcome par. 2.9), Response 20-2015 (Outcome par. 2.5-2.6), Fish 3-2015 (Outcome par. 2.4-25) and HELCOM-VASAB MSP 11-2015 (Outcome par. 2.8-2.10). The Agri group agreed on the list of actions to follow up and requested the Secretariat to propose indicators to measure progress in the implementation (par. 2.2-- 2.6). Maritime WG will review the relevant part in their upcoming meeting on 23-25.11.

The original plan to have an updated assessment ready by end of 2015 (Outcome GEAR 8-2015, para 3.3) has been shifted to March 2016 (HOD 48-2015, par. 3.102). HOD 48-2015 stressed the importance of

communication of results and requested the next meeting of the Gear Group to consider the proposal (Outcome par. 3.100-3.104).

This document outlines examples of search options and tentative resulting graphics, and a timetable for reporting of actions implemented at a national level.

### Action required

The Meeting is invited to:

- take note of the new follow-up system for HELCOM agreements,
- consider and advice on the search options and visualization of results from the implementation database,
- consider and advice on the time table for national reporting.

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## Implementation of new follow-up system for HELCOM agreements

### Background

One of the duties of the Helsinki Commission is to keep the implementation of the Helsinki Convention under continuous observation. This has been done through the work of the HELCOM subsidiary bodies at the occasions of HELCOM ministerial meetings.

In the past, status of implementation of HELCOM Recommendations by the Contracting Parties was evaluated more routinely and at a great level of detail as a standing task for the working groups. As there are over 200 Recommendations, it posed a challenge to communicate results and address gaps.

The implementation of Ministerial declarations and actions under the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) has also been followed-up on a number of occasions and in various ways, often as a one-off effort.

HELCOM needs to continue to evaluate the status of implementation of the agreed requirements to be able to find out and inform on progress and in general, to demonstrate effectiveness of HELCOM cooperation and policy-making. This is especially important at a time when many measures have already been devised and focus is on their implementation.

An [overview](#) of the implementation of the BSAP and other HELCOM agreements was last prepared for the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting. The overview provides an exhaustive list of different actions addressed in the BSAP and the 2010 Ministerial Declaration. The description of progress was based on national information gathered mainly through HELCOM working groups, resulting in a narrative interpretation of progress and designation of status of “accomplishment” based on three levels; accomplished, partly accomplished, not yet accomplished.

A lesson learned from the previous progress report is that while assessment of accomplishment gives a clear and communicable result, it also requires that the actions have a clear and measurable target. Many of the agreed HELCOM actions are, however, of a more general character or are open-ended processes and therefore not suited to concluding on in terms of accomplishment. Also, there has previously been no agreement on what to report or when an action is to be considered as accomplished, resulting in a subjective interpretation of disparate country reporting.

The new follow-up system is developed so that Contracting Parties can make a self-evaluation of the level of national accomplishment of actions by responding to **agreed queries** based on unified indicators. The system is furthermore based on **agreed rules** for aggregating the national responses to an evaluation of accomplishment at the regional level. The guiding principle has been to keep the system **as simple as possible** and it is based on the same three levels of accomplishment used previously.

The system is focused on follow-up of the **BSAP and actions agreed in HELCOM Ministerial Declarations 2010 and 2013**. In addition, relevant **HELCOM Recommendations with concrete actions that are part of the BSAP or adopted after 2007** are proposed to be reported using the same principles.

The first step in the development of the new system was to identify actions that are suitable for follow-up in terms of level of accomplishment i.e. those that have **clear and measurable targets**. All actions have also been assigned to different types of pressures and types of actions, which allows for **sorting and searching** of different type of actions and themes.

The HELCOM actions and associated search options are currently held in an excel file but will, together with national responses and regional level assessments, be transferred to a suitable database solution with automatic visualization of user searches thus creating an implementation catalogue of HELCOM agreements.

### Actions considered for future follow-up

Currently 295 actions from the BSAP and Ministerial Declarations 2010 and 2013 have been entered into the database. This includes 30 actions evaluated as accomplished already in 2013, building on results of the previous follow-up assessment. These actions will not be re-assessed but simply referred to as accomplished in any future reporting.

Since actions to be followed-up in terms of level of accomplishment need a clear measurable target, all agreed actions that have not yet been assessed as accomplished have been reviewed and their objectives have been categorized as being specific, general, or overarching. The level of accomplishment will only be assessed for actions with specific objectives (see **Annex 1** for further details). The resulting actions for follow-up amount to 106 actions from the BSAP and 2010 and 2013 Ministerial Declarations.

There are also approximately 52 actions from relevant Recommendations to be followed-up. This number excludes actions from Recommendations related to Maritime which are yet to be analysed. The list of Recommendations to be followed is contained in **Annex 2**.

The follow-up of Recommendations uses the same approach as for other actions i.e. to assess paragraphs of the Recommendations with specific objectives as accomplished, partly accomplished or not accomplished.

All background information regarding the review of actions and the resulting proposals to only follow-up certain actions will be retained in the Secretariat and can be viewed and made available upon request.

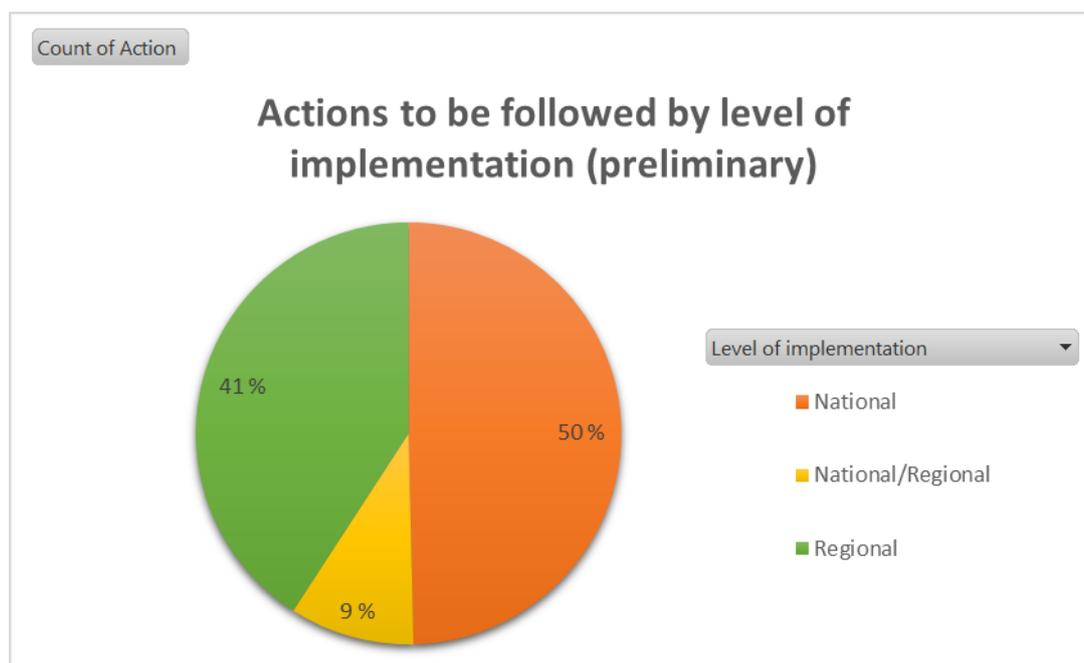
### Level of implementation: national or regional

All actions have been categorized to separate those to be implemented and reported nationally from those that are carried out jointly on the Baltic Sea regional level i.e. by HELCOM (Figure 1).

**National actions:** An example of an action to be implemented at the national level is the designation of MPAs, for which reporting by Contracting Parties is required in order to assess HELCOM actions related to designation of MPAs. Currently, overall 40 national actions related to BSAP and HELCOM Ministerial Declarations and 41 actions included in relevant Recommendations, excluding those related to Maritime, will require reporting from Contracting Parties. Some of the national reporting is already done through special arrangements e.g. through reporting to the HELCOM MPA or PLC database.

**Regional actions:** Examples of regional actions include to carry out an assessment of the network of HELCOM MPAs, to develop a HELCOM Recommendation, or to develop concerted regional action in relation to third parties. The level of accomplishment can in this case be assessed by the Secretariat, with the support of relevant Working Groups as needed. Currently, 54 actions related to BSAP and HELCOM Ministerial Declarations and 11 actions included in relevant Recommendations are carried out jointly at the regional level.

**National and Regional actions:** These are actions that require national implementation as well as joint regional actions. An example is the development of coordinated monitoring programmes. Currently, there are 12 such actions related to BSAP and Ministerial Declarations.



**Figure 1.** Relative distribution of actions being implemented at national and jointly at regional level, respectively as well as the actions having both national and regional components of implementation.

## Indicators, questions and agreed rules of aggregation

### Reporting

For each action that has been categorized as having a specific objective, queries to be responded by each Contracting Party have been defined. Note that there is no need for national reporting if the action is carried out jointly at the regional level.

In the simplest cases, countries will be asked to respond whether the action is a) accomplished (yes), b) ongoing, c) not started (no). In other cases countries are asked to report on the number or percentage of relevant parameters. In all cases the assessment is based on a self-evaluation by the Contracting Party. The plan is to carry out the reporting via a web-based questionnaire (Table 1).

When an action is reported as accomplished, the Contracting Party may be asked to provide a link to relevant documentation (national language acceptable). If an action is reported as “ongoing” Contracting Parties are invited to provide an optional short summary of ongoing activities and to provide information on when the action is expected to be accomplished. The questionnaire is currently being developed.

**Table 1.** Example of query for national reporting of actions.

Action	Reporting	If yes, provide link to relevant documentation	Additional information (optional, max. 100 words)
<b>Establish national guidelines or standards for nutrient content in manure (MD 2013)</b>	Do you have national guidelines/standards for nutrient content in manure in place in your country? Yes <input type="radio"/> On-going <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	<a href="#">Link to national guidelines</a>	

### Assessment of accomplishment at the regional level

Presentation of results will have a focus on the regional perspective while national level implementation can also be displayed if desired. The aim is to provide a simple assessment of the level of accomplishment using the same categories as previously; accomplished, partly accomplished, or not accomplished. In the simplest case, the number of countries reporting an action as “accomplished” is proposed to be taken into account when evaluating the regional level accomplishment e.g.

- Accomplished: ALL CPs have implemented the action,
- Partly accomplished: SOME CPs have implemented the action,
- Not accomplished: NO CP has implemented the action.

Other variants are, however, also used when appropriate.

Examples of criteria and rules of aggregation are provided in **Annex 3**.

### Presentation of results

Note that the development of presentation of results and searches have not started yet; the figures included in this document only provide examples of what type of information can be extracted and displayed. The proposed visualization of results will be presented to HOD 49-2015.

### Search options

To support a variety of uses of the results, the actions have been further specified in terms of origin (BSAP, MD 2010, MD 2013, Recommendations), BSAP segments, target year, level of implementation, as well as the type of HELCOM action and the pressures/measures<sup>1</sup> that are addressed by the action (Table 2). They can thereby be sorted according to user selection of search options.

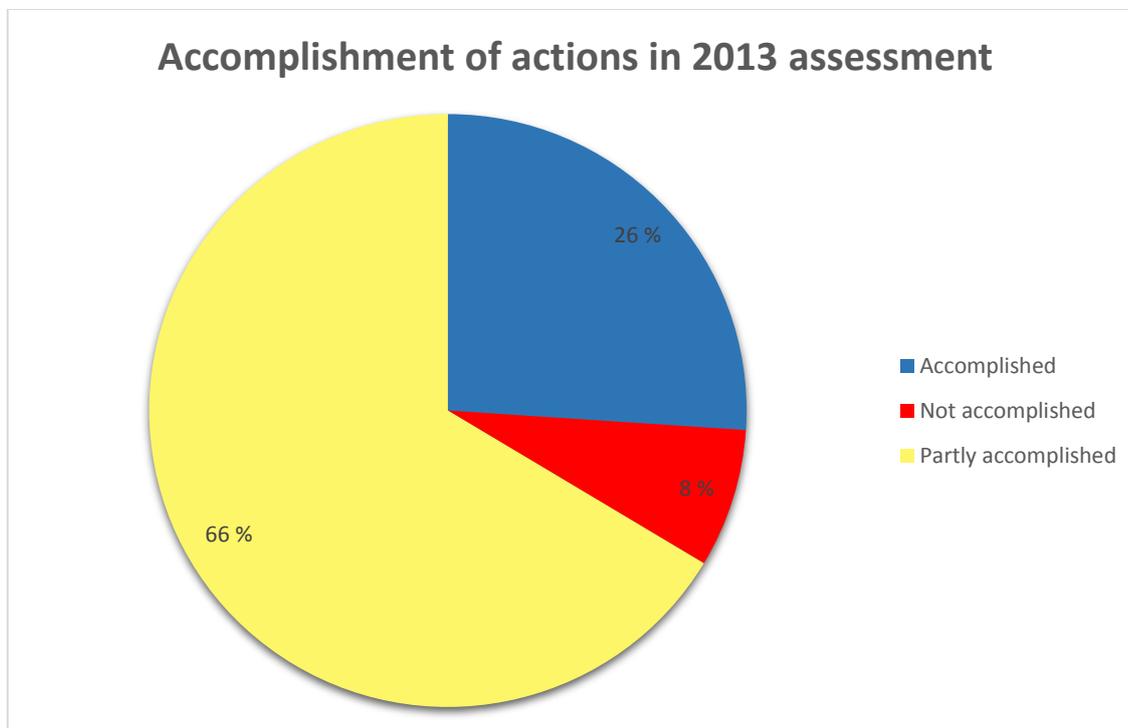
<sup>1</sup> The options follow the themes of the Joint document on regional coordination of programmes of measures.

**Table 2.** Selected search options for different type of actions. Note that there is no horizontal link between the columns except of for the last two columns.

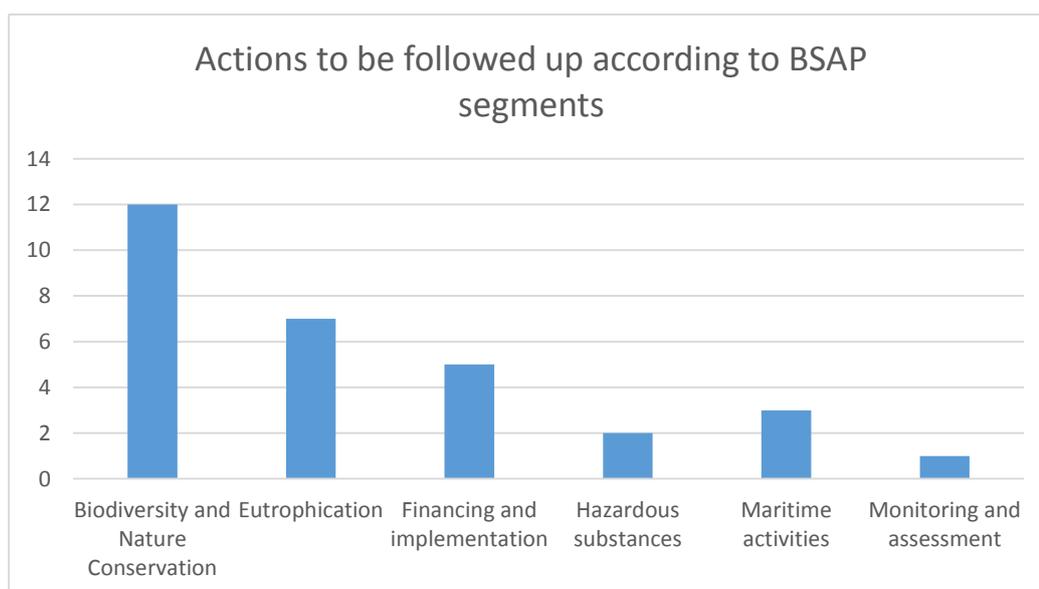
Level of implementation	BSAP segment or equivalent	Pressures/measures addressed	Category of HELCOM action	Sub-category of HELCOM action	
National	Biodiversity and nature conservation	Inputs of nutrients and organic matter	Measure	Reduction of pressures	
Regional	Hazardous substances	Inputs of synthetic and non-synthetic contaminants and systematic and/or intentional release of substances		Spatial protection	
National and Regional	Eutrophication	Accidental pollution from maritime activities		Restoration/Reintroductions of habitats and species	
	Maritime activities	Spatial protection measures (MPA)	Measure	HELCOM Recommendations that require implementation through measures	
	Monitoring and assessment	Spatial protection measures (MSP)		Joint actions with the aim of influencing international regulations	
	Awareness	Conservation, restoration and reintroduction of species	Management coordination	HELCOM Recommendations not included under Measures	
	Financing and implementation	Physical loss and damage of seabed habitats		Plans, guidelines and manuals	
				Selective extraction and incidental by-catch of species	Assessment tools, indicators
				Introduction of non-indigenous species	Classification systems, reporting systems
				Inputs of litter	Follow-up/assessments of agreed actions and plans
				Inputs of energy including underwater noise	International coordination
				Monitoring and assessment	Monitoring and surveillance Assessments
			Data and information	Data Databases	
			Knowledge	Promotion of research/technical development	
				Reviews and evaluations	
				Development of supporting information	
				Knowledge and information sharing	

### Potential search for overarching results

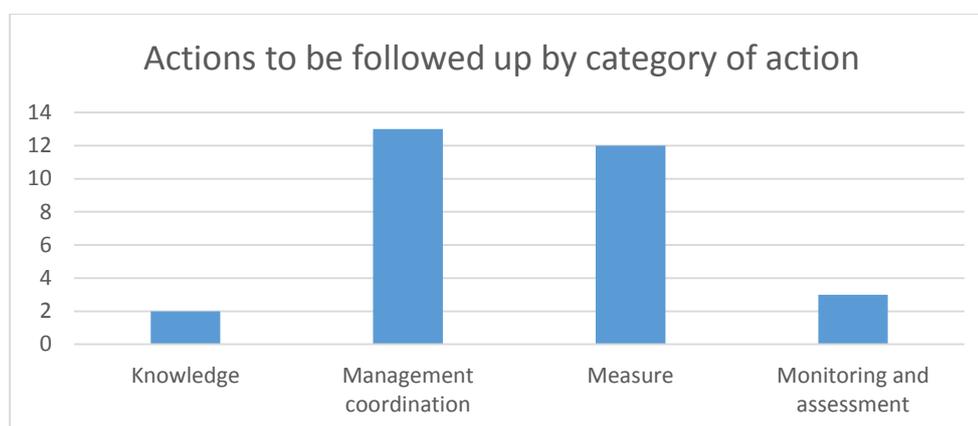
Overarching information on HELCOM actions can easily be retrieved by searching for particular areas of interest. Some selected examples are provided below. Note that these figures are preliminary and do not include actions under HELCOM Recommendations.



**Figure 2.** Level of accomplishment of HELCOM actions in 2013 evaluation (prepared for MD 2013). The colour scheme is the same as used in 2013 although note that colours and graphics are still to be decided upon.



**Figure 3.** Number of actions to be followed up in 2015 according to BSAP segments.



**Figure 4.** Number of actions to be followed up in 2015 by different categories of HELCOM actions.

#### Search for a single action or a set of actions

The system also makes it possible to search for specific areas of interest and display the level of accomplishment for specific actions. To retrieve the list of actions included in **Table 3** the following step-wise search was made:

- **Origin:** BSAP, MD 2010, MD 2013 (119 actions)
  - **Level of implementation:** Regional (67 actions)
    - **Pressure/measures addressed:** Input of nutrient and organic matter (9 actions)
      - **Type of action:** Measure and Management coordination (5 actions as listed in Table 3)

The results are displayed in a list-form for the purpose of showing available outcome of the search. In this case the origin of action, sub-type of action and criteria for the evaluation was also chosen to be displayed but other options are also available (e.g. specific identifier in BSAP or Ministerial Declarations, target year).

Note that results of the regional level evaluation is partly mock-up since the 2015 evaluation is still to be carried out and the visualization of search results is still to be developed.

**Table 3.** Example of use of the search options: BSAP, MD 2010, MD 2013\_Regional action\_Input of nutrients and organic matter\_Measure AND Management coordination (*note that maritime actions are yet to be reviewed by Maritime WG*)

Action	Origin	Type of action	Sub-type of action	2015 Regional level evaluation	Evaluation criteria
Further development of MAI-CART follow-up scheme	MD 2013	Management coordination	Follow-up/Assessments of agreed actions and plans	Partly accomplished	On-going work to elaborate a MAI-CART follow-up system
Develop a new HELCOM Recommendation on sustainable aquaculture by 2014 to substitute the existing HELCOM Recommendation 25/4	MD 2013	Measure	HELCOM Recommendations that require implementation through measures	Accomplished	New Recommendation on sustainable aquaculture (adopted)
Review and update part II of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention, in order to better serve the purposes of reaching GES	MD 2013	Measure	HELCOM Recommendations that require implementation through measures	N/A - to be accomplished by 2016	
Develop guidelines/recommendation on the use of standards for nutrient content in manure	MD 2013	Management coordination	Plans, guidelines, manuals	N/A - to be accomplished by 2018	

Work towards submitting, preferably by 2011, a joint proposal by the Baltic Sea countries to the IMO applying for a NOx Emission Control Area (NECA) status for the Baltic Sea, taking into account the results of the study by HELCOM on economic impacts of a Baltic Sea NECA and to welcome and support the idea of a NOx Emission Control Area in other sea areas, in particular with regard to the North Sea.	BSAP, MD 2010, MD 2013	Measure	Joint actions with the aim of influencing international regulations	Partly accomplished	Ongoing discussions on submission to IMO
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For actions implemented fully or partly on a national level, it is also possible to display the accomplished actions for respective country, if desired.

To retrieve the actions displayed in **Table 4** the following step-wise search was made:

- **Origin:** BSAP, MD 2010, MD 2013 (119 actions)
  - **Level of implementation:** National (52 actions)
  - **Pressures/measures addressed:** Conservation, restoration and reintroduction of species (5 actions as listed in table 4)

The results are displayed in a list-form. In this case the origin of action, specific identifier in relevant HELCOM agreement, evaluation criteria and information on country specific implementation is included in the display of results.

Searches can also be made for specific recommendations as a whole, an example is provided in **Annex 4**.

**Table 4.** Examples of search for: BSAP, MD 2010, MD 2013\_National AND National actions\_ Conservation restoration and reintroduction of species. Note that results of the regional level evaluation and country level implementation of management plans for seals is based on 2014 reporting to SEAL EG.

Action	Origin	Identifier	2015 Regional evaluation	Evaluation criteria	National implementation
Finalisation and implementation of national management plans for grey seals	BSAP	B-9	Partly accomplished	Management plans developed in some CPs with permanent breeding colonies	<u>Management plans grey seals:</u> Relevant countries: DK, EE, FI, PL, SE Existing in: DK, EE, FI, SE Ongoing in: PL
Finalisation and implementation of national management plans for harbour seals	BSAP	B-9	Accomplished	Management plans developed by all CPs with permanent breeding colonies	<u>Management plans harbour seals:</u> Relevant countries: DK, SE Existing in: DK, SE
Finalisation and implementation of national management plans for ringed seals	BSAP	B-9	Partly accomplished	Management plans developed in some CPs with permanent breeding colonies	<u>Management plans ringed seals:</u> Relevant countries: EE, FI, RU, SE Existing in: EE, FI, SE Lacking in: RU
Additional fisheries measures such as conservation of at least ten wild salmon river populations	BSAP	B-17	Partly accomplished	Conservation of 10<0 wild salmon rivers since 2007	<i>No recent reporting</i>

Additional fisheries measures such as the reintroduction of native salmon in at least four potential salmon rivers	BSAP	B-17	Partly accomplished	Reintroduction of native salmon in 4<0 rivers since 2007	<i>No recent reporting</i>
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### Proposed time table for finalizing the next follow-up of HELCOM agreements.

The time table below is aimed at finalizing an updated assessment by March 2016. This will make it possible, if desired, to provide a link to the updated follow-up of HELCOM agreements when reporting the Programmes of Measures under MSFD Article 13 for those Contracting Parties that are also EU Member States.

Activity	Date	Responsible body
Finalization of questionnaires for national reporting	November 2015	Secretariat
Presentation of accomplishment of actions implemented at a regional level and proposal for visualization	HOD 49-2015	Secretariat
Reporting by Contracting Parties on accomplishment of actions implemented at a national level	by 15 February 2016	Contracting Parties
Responses from countries included in new database and draft assessment results ready	end of February 2016	Secretariat
Presentation of draft assessment results at HELCOM 37	9-10 March 2016	Secretariat
Implementation of Visualisation of assessment results online	end of March 2016	Secretariat

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## Annex 1. Categorization of HELCOM actions to structure the follow-up system

All actions from the BSAP and HELCOM Ministerial Declarations included in the database that were not assessed in 2013 have been systematically categorized according to the following:

- **Actions with specific objectives:** Actions with a clear target, e.g. ‘finalisation and implementation of national management plans for seals’ or to ‘develop a regional action plan on marine litter’. Currently, 106 actions not yet accomplished have been categorized to have a specific objective and will be followed-up in terms of level of accomplishment in future assessments.
- **Actions with general objectives:** Actions that lack a clear target but still have an objective, e.g. to ‘further investigate the potential harmful impacts to wildlife from noise’ or to ‘promote and advance annual nutrient accounting at farm level’. Currently, 83 actions have been categorized to have a general objective. The actions with general objectives have not been chosen for follow-up. If the level of accomplishment should be evaluated, a more specific target would need to be formulated. Thwn appropriate, the actions can still be followed-up over time by the relevant Working Group, e.g. by reporting on their progress, thereby providing the basis for a narrative description of progress in future follow-up reports if desired.
- **Actions with overarching objectives:** Some agreed actions are expressed as visions or high level ambitions, e.g. ‘the Baltic Sea shall become a model of good management of human activities’. Such actions have been categorized as having an overarching objective and are considered too wide for regular follow-up activities. In principle, implementation of the specific and general objectives should lead to the achievement of the overarching objectives. Currently 11 actions have been categorized as having an overarching objective.

For more detailed examples, see e.g. State and Conservation 2-2015, document 5J-1 and its Annexes.

In addition, Some HELCOM Recommendations are specifically addressed in the BSAP. Furthermore, actions agreed in Ministerial Declarations sometimes overlap with HELCOM Recommendations that have been adopted at a later date. In this case the Recommendations will be followed-up directly rather than through scattered actions in the BSAP or Ministerial Declaration. As a result, 20 actions previously addressed under the BSAP or 2010 and 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Declarations will now be followed up through relevant Recommendations instead.

## Annex 2. Recommendations to be included in the next follow-up

Recommendation	Segment	Title	Adopted
Recommendation 33/2	Maritime and Response	Co-operation in response to spillages of oil and other harmful substances on the shore	6.3.2012
Recommendation 34E/4	Maritime and Response	Airborne surveillance with remote sensing equipment in the Baltic Sea Area	3.10.2013
Recommendation 28E/11	Maritime and Response	Further measures to improve the safety of navigation in ice conditions in the Baltic Sea	15.11.2007
Recommendation 28E/12	Maritime and Response	strengthening of sub-regional cooperation in response field	15.11.2007
Recommendation 28E/13	Maritime and Response	Introducing economic incentives as a complement to existing regulations to reduce emissions from ships	15.11.2007
Recommendation 28E/4	Eutrophication and hazardous substances	Amendments to Annex III "Criteria and Measures Concerning the Prevention of Pollution from Land-Based Sources" of the 1992 Helsinki Convention	15.11.2007
Recommendation 28E/5	Eutrophication and hazardous substances	Municipal wastewater treatment	15.11.2007
Recommendation 28E/6	Eutrophication and hazardous substances	On-site wastewater treatment of single family homes, small businesses and settlements up to 300 Person Equivalent (P.E.)	15.11.2007
Recommendation 28E/7	Eutrophication and hazardous substances	Measures aimed at the substitution of polyphosphates (phosphorus) in detergents	15.11.2007
Recommendation 28E/8	Eutrophication and hazardous substances	Environmentally friendly practices for the reduction and prevention of emissions of dioxins and other hazardous substances from small-scale combustion	15.11.2007
Recommendation 29/1	Eutrophication and hazardous substances	Reduction of Emissions from Crematoria	5.3.2008
Recommendation 31E/1	Eutrophication and hazardous substances	Implementing HELCOM's objective for hazardous substances	20.5.2010
Recommendation 31E/2	Eutrophication and hazardous substances	Batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators containing mercury, cadmium or lead	20.5.2010
Recommendation 31E/3	Eutrophication and hazardous substances	Cadmium in fertilizers	20.5.2010

Recommendation 31E/4	Eutrophication and hazardous substances	Proper handling of waste/landfilling	20.5.2010
Recommendation 36/2	Eutrophication and hazardous substances	Management of Dredged Material	4.3.2015
Recommendation 35/1	Biodiversity	System of coastal and marine Baltic Sea protected areas (HELCOM MPAs)	1.4.2014
Recommendation 32-33/1	Biodiversity	Conservation of Baltic Salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) and Sea Trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> ) populations by the restoration of their river habitats and management of river fisheries	15.6.2011
Recommendation 34E/1	Biodiversity	Safeguarding important bird habitats and migration routes in the Baltic Sea from negative effects of wind and wave energy production at sea	3.10.2013
Recommendation 19/2	Biodiversity	Supplemented by Recommendation 32-33-1	98
Recommendation 28E/9	MSP	Development of broad-scale marine spatial planning principles in the Baltic Sea area	15.11.2007

## Recommendations to be considered

Recommendation	Segment	Title	Adopted
Recommendation 28E-10	Maritime and Response	Application of the no-special fee system to ship-generated wastes and marine litter caught in fishing nets in the Baltic Sea area	15.11.2007
Recommendation 31-1	Maritime and Response	Development of national ability to respond to spillages of oil and other harmful substances	4.3.2010
Recommendation 31E-6	Maritime and Response	Integrated wildlife response planning in the Baltic Sea area	20.5.2010
Recommendation 31E-5	Maritime and Response	Mutual plan for places of refuge in the Baltic Sea area	20.5.2010
Recommendation 33_1	Maritime and Response	Unified interpretation in relation to access to and use of HELCOM AIS	6.3.2012
Recommendation 33_3	Maritime and Response	Reporting on incidents involving harmful substances and emergency dumping	6.3.2012
Recommendation 34E-3	Maritime and Response	Amendments to Annex VII 'Response to Pollution Accidents' of the 1992 Helsinki Convention, concerning response on the shore	3.10.2013

Recommendation 34-E2	Maritime and Response	Further testing and developing the concept of pro-active route planning as well as other e-navigation solutions to enhance safety of navigation and protection of the marine environment in the Baltic Sea Region	3.10.2013
Recommendation 36/3	Maritime and Response	Marine pollution incident reporting and requests for assistance between Contracting Parties in the Baltic Sea area	4.3.2015

### Recommendations not to be considered the next follow-up

Recommendation 29/2	Biodiversity	Marine litter within the Baltic Sea region	5.3.2008
Recommendation 28E/14	Eutrophication and hazardous substances	Development of harmonised principles for quantifying diffuse losses throughout the Baltic Sea catchment area	15.11.2007
Recommendation 36/1	Eutrophication and hazardous substances	Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP ML)	4.3.2015

Note: Recommendation 29/2 refers to monitoring of beach litter. A new protocol is under development as part of the development of a core indicator on beach litter. State and Conservation 2-2015 proposed that Recommendation 29/2 could be reflected in the planned revision of Recommendation 19/3 (The Manual for The Marine Monitoring in the Combine Programme of HELCOM).

## Annex 3. Examples of criteria and rules of aggregation for assessing regional level accomplishment

**Example 1:** Action to be implemented at national level. Query for national reporting and evaluation criteria at the regional level.

HELCOM action	National reporting level	Evaluation criteria of regional level accomplishment		
		Accomplished	Partly accomplished	Not accomplished
Finalisation and implementation of national management plans for <b>grey seals</b>	Management plans in place for grey seals: Yes/Ongoing/No	All CPs with permanent breeding colonies have developed management plans for grey seals.	Management plans developed in some CPs with permanent breeding colonies of grey seals.	No management plans for grey seals.

**Example 2:** Action to be implemented at regional level (i.e. by HELCOM). Evaluation criteria at the regional level.

HELCOM action	Evaluation criteria of regional level accomplishment		
	Accomplished	Partly accomplished	Not accomplished
Further development of MAI-CART follow-up scheme	Operational MAI-CART follow-up system	On-going work to elaborate a MAI-CART follow-up system	No action taken to develop a MAI-CART follow-up system

## Annex 4. Example of search results for Recommendation 35-1

In the table below the search is made for Recommendation 35-1 'System of coastal and marine Baltic Sea protected areas (HELCOM MPAs<sup>2</sup>)'. Results are currently partly mock-up but the ongoing analysis of ecological coherence of the network of HELCOM MPAs will provide for a follow-up of the Recommendation and provide detailed information on the current status (e.g. % protected area or the nr of HELCOM threatened species present in MPAs) by February 2016.

**Accomplishment of actions in HELCOM Recommendation 35-1, System of coastal and marine Baltic Sea protected areas (HELCOM MPAs).**

Paragraphs from Recommendation 35_1	2015 Regional evaluation	Evaluation criteria
a) reach the target set by the HELCOM 2010 Moscow Ministerial Declaration that at least 10% of the marine area in all sub-basins of the Baltic Sea including the EEZ areas beyond territorial waters is covered by MPAs where scientifically justified.	Partly accomplished	10% of the marine area is covered by MPAs in some sub-basins, including the EEZ areas beyond territorial waters (presented per sub-basin)
b) designate new sites as HELCOM MPAs where ecologically meaningful, especially in offshore area beyond territorial waters	Accomplished	The nr and/or % of MPAs in offshore areas is increasing

<sup>2</sup> Former HELCOM BSPAs

c) ensure that HELCOM MPAs inter alia provide specific protection to those species, habitats, biotopes and biotope complexes included in the HELCOM Red Lists, as agreed in the HELCOM 2013 Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration, by considering these in the site selection procedure	Partly accomplished	1)The HELCOM network of MPAs provides protection to some HELCOM threatened species  2) The HELCOM network of MPAs provides protection to some HELCOM threatened biotopes/habitats
d) ensure when selecting new areas, that the network of HELCOM MPAs is ecologically coherent and takes into account connectivity between sites including for example migration routes, species mobility and areas of special ecological significance such as spawning areas	Partly accomplished	Some criteria considered in the evaluation are reflecting ecological coherence
h) 1) develop and apply by 2015 management plans or measures for all existing HELCOM MPAs,	Partly accomplished	> 67%* of HELCOM MPAs designated by 2014-have management plans or measures  *% MPAs with management plans in 2013 HELCOM assessment prepared for Ministerial Meeting (no new areas were designated by 2014)
h) 2) and establish management plan or measures for every new MPA within five years after its designation,	Partly accomplished	Some HELCOM MPAs designated after 2014 have a management plan within 5 years of designation
k) assess the effectiveness of the management plans or measures of HELCOM MPAs by conducting monitoring, and where feasible scientific research programmes, which are directly connected to the conservation interests of HELCOM MPAs, including the placement of monitoring stations inside the MPAs	Not accomplished	Assessment of management effectiveness of MPAs has not started.
p) modernize the HELCOM MPAs database as agreed in the HELCOM 2013 Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration, taking into account and harmonizing with other similar databases;	Accomplished	New database published on-line