



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach

GEAR 20-2019

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Background

Referring to Agenda Item 3, this is a working document containing the conclusions from the discussion session on MSFD PoMs and the relationship to the BSAP update and associated work.

Further concrete work building on the discussions outlined in this Working Paper can be found in the Outcome of GEAR 20-2019.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

Conclusions from the discussion session on MSFD PoMs and the relationship to BSAP update

The informal session commenced with discussions around how to present measures, using the newly developed Finnish web application as inspiration, and how this could be used for MSFD follow up.

Conclusions from the discussion session on MSFD PoMs and the relationship to BSAP update, proposals for GEAR to consider on:

- as CPs are ready for it, starting from spring 2020, share informal lists of potential new measures per descriptor, in order to be inspired or find opportunities to collaborate;
- identify possibilities for joint measures, which can possibly feed into the BSAP update;
- compile ideas from MS on how to deal with Art. 14 MSFD;
- discuss situations for when the pressure cannot be addressed within HELCOM (nor nationally); potential use of Art. 15 MSFD or other solutions– prepare teaser document with aspects to be discussed and examples of topics;
- consider a drafting group for preparing the above documentation and discussion points for GEAR meetings;
- prepare a HELCOM joint documentation in support of CPs MSFD Art 13 reporting on Programmes of Measures for end of 2020, describing for example:
 - as a starting point refer to major Baltic Sea pressures as identified in HOLAS II, and how these are jointly addressed through the BSAP update;
 - joint reasons that GES cannot be achieved, and potentially timelines for when GES could be achieved (related to Art .14), using existing sources (ACTION etc.), and consider the use of interim targets to measure progress towards GES;
 - reference to existing regional measures, HELCOM measures;
 - description on (new) measures coordination, reference to BSAP and its use;
 - description of the process for identifying transboundary impacts of new measures on other CPs waters;
 - coherence of MPA network in the Baltic Sea (only HELCOM MPAs or also other? Can be based on the 2016 report or any updated results);
 - summaries of the SOM results, or reference to these if they are presented in some kind of report;
 - science: research needs to close knowledge gaps and how HELCOM plans to address these.

In support of SEAs and Esbo procedures for MSFD PoMs, the procedures applied in the last round were considered useful and could be used again. There was also support for a process for discussing transboundary aspects of potential new measures. This could be done in several ways; in short sessions as the new measures are shared with the group or in a 1-day workshop format.

The session discussed how they see the link between MSFD PoMs and BSAP update. BSAP measures are often very general compared to the national measures, but actions agreed in BSAP can be seen as regional measures which can be implemented, where possible, in national MSFD PoMs. Related to this there is the question on how you technically make the link in reporting between the BSAP actions and the national measures.

As regards the existing measures to be included in the MSFD PoMs:

- the regional existing measures are listed through HELCOM Explorer, as well as their national implementation where relevant;

- in the SOM/ACTION work the Secretariat is listing also other existing measures relevant for the regional scale.

It was discussed that these listings could be used as a basis for CPs if they were made available and in a format that can be reworked to fit national MSFD purposes. Also, it could be useful to have the results of these lists presented in a communicable format. HELCOM might also benefit from presenting BSAP progress in an accessible way, possibly using the Finnish PoMs web application as inspiration.

The session noted that timing is possibly an issue, with Sweden planning public consultation in November 2020 and Finland soon after, whereas other CPs have later timelines.