



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach

GEAR 20-2019

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Agenda Item	5 – Implementation and update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan
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Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	Outcome of HOD 55-2018, para. 3.30 and Annex 4

Background

This document contains the workplan for the BSAP update as approved by HOD 55-2018 ([Outcome of HOD 55-2018](#), para. 3.30 and Annex 4).

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note that HOD-55-2018 approved the workplan for the BSAP update as contained in this document.

Workplan for the BSAP update

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></p> <p>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></p> <p>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
<p>Tasks according to the Strategic plan: Technical update of the HELCOM Explorer and organizing the reporting by CPs in 2020.</p>										
<p><u>Spring 2019</u> Secretariat:</p> <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. 										
<p><u>Autumn 2019</u> GEAR:</p> <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. <p>HOD Dec 2019:</p> <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). 										
<p><u>Spring 2020</u> Secretariat:</p> <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). <p>HOD June 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Preview of the reporting forms to the BSAP follow-up system. 										
<p><u>Autumn 2020</u> Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Organize the reporting of the BSAP follow-up on national actions. <p>Contracting Parties:</p> <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
<p>Tasks according to the Strategic plan: Development and agreement on the first version of this document.</p> <p><u>Autumn 2018</u> 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> 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> 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. 										

HOD June 2019: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Draft proposals on revised and new ecological objectives for consideration.
<u>Winter 2019</u> HOD Dec 2019: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Endorsement of overall structure, including ecological objectives, of BSAP UP.
<u>March 2020 (HELCOM Meeting)</u> <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) 										

Spring 2019 2Q

Working Groups:

- 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.

Contracting Parties:

- Review the collected information on other existing measures in the countries.

HOD June 2019:

- 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 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.</p> <p><u>Spring meeting 2019</u> Working Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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> 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> 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. ○ 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> 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> 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> Working Groups:</p>										

- 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.

HOD Dec 2019:

- 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 measurable targets for MD 2018 commitments (draft proposals).

Spring 2020

SOM Platform:

- 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:

- 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:

- Review of further developed lists of actions.

Autumn 2020

Working Groups:

- 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:

- 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											