

Review and revision of HELCOM objectives

- Strategic Plan for BSAP update: review of existing HELCOM objectives (activity nr 2.2)
- New objectives to be developed for marine litter, underwater noise, loss and disturbance to the seabed
- Management objectives to be developed for all segments
- The development has gone through 1-2 WG meetings
- Latest proposal included in document 4-3 rev1.

Adjustment of BSAP structure

Work plan activity 2.2

Goals and structure of the BSAP (document 2.4, HOD 56-2019).

VISION (HOD 55-2018 agreed that the Vision of the current BSAP will be maintained):

A healthy Baltic Sea environment, with diverse biological components functioning in balance, resulting in good environmental/ecological status and supporting a wide range of sustainable human economic and social activities

SEGMENT and GOALS (as HOD 56-2019):

Baltic Sea unaffected
by eutrophication

Baltic Sea undisturbed by
hazardous substances
and litter

New objectives for:
– marine litter

Environmentally friendly
~~sustainable~~ maritime
sea-based activities

New objectives for:
– loss and disturbance
to the seabed
– underwater noise

Proposal to primarily
address MSP under this
segment

Favourable status of
Baltic Sea biodiversity
~~Baltic Sea ecosystems~~
are healthy and resilient

Changes in red are proposed by Maritime 19-2019 and State and Conservation 11-2019 and has not yet been discussed by HOD.

Guidance for objectives (short)

- linked to HELCOM assessments
- aspirational
- easy to communicate to the wider community
- not too many; objectives should reflect overall aim and objectives of HELCOM work
- ecological objectives are related to the desired state of the environment
- management objectives are related to the desired effect of management measures
- the terminology between objectives across segments should be harmonized

Request to the meeting

- take note of the provisional agreement to adjust the BSAP structure,
- consider the proposals on ecological and management objectives by HELCOM Working Groups, propose adjustments as seen relevant to harmonize terminology of objectives across segments, and make a recommendation to Heads of Delegation, noting the aim to endorse the objectives at HOD 57-2019,
- consider the proposal that the goal for biodiversity could be presented as an overarching goal in the BSAP to which the implementation of the segments on eutrophication, hazardous substances and litter, and sea-based activities will contribute.

Proposal by GEAR 19-2018

- Possible change of name from 'ecological objectives' to 'environmental objectives' in order to broaden the policy linkages.
- Proposal by FI at HOD 55-2018: 'ecosystem health objective'
- HOD 55-2018 agreed to come back to the issue at a later stage.
- Additional view from GEAR?

Review of existing objectives

- Eutrophication – no revisions
- Hazardous substances – minor revisions
- Maritime – minor revisions
- Biodiversity – intermediate revisions

New ecological objectives: litter, noise, loss and disturbance

- Ecological objectives; primarily linked to “no harm”, “no threat”

New management objectives:

- Management objectives eutrophication, hazardous substances and litter, new topics; one or a few overarching objectives covering activities in general
- New objective related to MSP

New conservation objectives:

- Conservation objectives; related to Marine protected areas, threatened species and habitats, extraction of species, disturbance to species and their habitats

Wild-life – sea life?

- State and Conservation 11-2019

....discussing the alternatives marine life, brackish life, Baltic Sea life, biodiversity, species

⇒ proposing either ‘Baltic Sea life’ or ‘Baltic Sea biodiversity’

- Pressure 11-2019

⇒ proposing ‘sea life’

Eutrophication

Ecological objectives

- Concentrations of nutrients close to natural levels
- Clear water
- Natural level of algal blooms
- Natural distribution and occurrence of plants and animals
- Natural oxygen levels

Management objective:

- Minimize input of nutrients from human activities

Hazardous substances and litter

Ecological objectives

Hazardous substances:

- Concentrations of hazardous substances close to natural levels
- All seafood safe to eat
- Healthy sea life and food webs
- Minimal risk to humans and environment from radioactivity

Litter:

- No harm to sea life from marine litter (new)

Hazardous substances and litter

Management objectives (new)

Hazardous substances:

- Minimize input and impact of hazardous substances from human activities by elimination, substitution, and source management

Litter:

- Products are designed, produced, used and reused, recycled and disposed by applying principles of circular economy to prevent marine litter
- Prevent input of litter
- Amounts of litter are significantly reduced on shorelines and in the sea

Seabased activites

Ecological objectives (new)

Loss and disturbance

- Activities affecting seabed habitats do not threaten the viability of species and communities

Noise

- No harm to sea life from manmade noise

Seabased activities

Management objectives (new)

Loss and disturbance:

- Reduce, prevent and mitigate pressures and impacts from activities that are causing loss and disturbance to seabed habitats

Noise:

- Ensure noise levels support good conservation status, do not adversely affect stocks of noise sensitive species and do not injure or significantly disturb sea life

MSP:

- Maritime Spatial Planning applying an ecosystem-based approach throughout the Baltic Sea

Seabased activities

Management objectives

Maritime activities:

- Enforcement of international regulations – no illegal discharges
- Safe maritime traffic without accidental pollution
- Effective emergency and response capabilities
- Minimize the contribution to eutrophication and operational pollution from ships
- No introductions of non-indigenous species [from ships]
- Minimum harmful air emissions from ships
- Zero discharges from offshore platforms
- [Minimum threats from offshore installations]

Biodiversity

Ecological objectives

- Viable populations of all native species
- Natural distribution, occurrence and quality of habitats and associated communities
- Functional, healthy and resilient food webs

Biodiversity

Management objectives (new)

- An effectively managed and ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas
 - Minimized disturbance of species, their habitats and migration routes by human activities
 - Human induced mortality including hunting, fishing, and incidental bycatch does not threaten the viability of sea life
 - Effective and coordinated conservation plans and measures for threatened species, habitats, biotopes, and biotope complexes
- *objective for food webs under development

Biodiversity goal

New proposed goal:

Baltic Sea ecosystems are healthy and resilient

Proposal: that the goal for biodiversity could be presented as an overarching goal in the BSAP to which the implementation of the segments on eutrophication, hazardous substances and litter, and sea-based activities will contribute.