



Document title	Concretization of existing HELCOM actions
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Agenda Item	4 –Implementation and update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan
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Background

The 2018 HELCOM Ministerial Declaration includes a number of paragraphs related to activities under the mandate of the GEAR Group (Annex 1). These paragraphs give the direction for HELCOM work in the upcoming years, but some need further specification in order to be turned into concrete tasks for the Group or associated networks. This could include e.g. to define type of development work and products (e.g. targets for indicators, guideline, assessment) required to reach the goals of the Declaration and target years for achieving them. The aim is that the concretized actions that are not carried out by the end of 2020 will be included in the updated BSAP to be agreed in 2021.

GEAR 20-2019 recalled that the 2018 HELCOM Ministerial Declaration includes a number of paragraphs related to activities under the mandate of the GEAR Group. These paragraphs give the direction for HELCOM work in the upcoming years, but some need further specification in order to be turned into concrete tasks for the Group or associated networks. The aim is that the concretized actions that are not carried out by the end of 2020 will be included in the updated BSAP to be agreed in 2021.

The meeting agreed to postpone the discussion on the initial proposals for concretized actions based on the Ministerial Declaration 2018 to the next GEAR meeting, and invited countries to provide comments to the proposals contained in document 5-2 to the Secretariat (marta.ruiz@helcom.fi) prior to GEAR 21-2019. No comments have been received prior to the submission of this document. Contracting Parties are invited to prepare concrete proposals for concretization of the identified actions to be presented and discussed in GEAR 21-2019.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to consider and agree on final proposals on concretized actions to be submitted to HOD 57-2019.

Annex 1. Paragraphs from MD 2018 related to GEAR Group

This document includes an extract of paragraphs from the HELCOM 2018 Ministerial Declaration related to the GEAR Group ([HELCOM 2018 Ministerial Declaration](#)). An initial evaluation has been made if the paragraphs warrant more concrete formulation and targets for implementation. If not implemented by 2020 the concretized actions will be considered for uptake in the updated BSAP. Paragraphs using wording such as recall, encourage, strive for, acknowledge etc are in general not proposed to be concretized due to their general character.

Suggestions for text that could warrant more precise wording and concretization, including e.g. target years, is presented in yellow.

Theme: Ecosystem approach

Paragraph from Ministerial Declaration	Initial evaluation
<p>49. WE RECOGNIZE that knowledge on the relationship between the state of the marine environment and human well-being is essential for applying the ecosystem approach to management of human activities and in maritime spatial planning in the region, as well as for implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention on Biological Diversity;</p>	<p>General, could be specified based on processes leading up to HOLAS III.</p>
<p>50. To this end, WE AGREE to further develop and carry out coordinated regional economic and social assessments, including mapping, valuation, and analysis of ecosystem services and natural capital accounting, taking advantage of improved methods and comparability of data;</p>	<p>Could be specified based on processes leading up to HOLAS III (e.g. possible work on ecosystem services and aiming for an integrated assessment that captures the linkages between human activities, pressures, environmental state, ecosystem services and human welfare) and work being done under ACTION and SOM. The ACTION and SOM analyses will provide useful information for the ESA in HOLAS III and can be utilized to develop integrated assessment of the marine ecosystem. The BAU status being identified under the BSAP UP related work is useful for other economic and social analyses besides the sufficiency of measures, including the cost of degradation analysis and cost-benefit analysis of future policy measures.</p> <p>The first steps towards integrated assessment were taken in the SPICE project in the Baltic Sea region and continued in the sufficiency of measures analyses in the BSAP update. A target year (in line with publication of the third State of the</p>

	<p>Baltic Sea report publication) should also be added.</p> <p>One way forward would be to review and update the ESA roadmap into a more structured and detailed document, dividing what approach HELCOM takes for the assessment of measures and state of the environment, and what could be/will be done for the valuation etc. The review and update of the roadmap could function as an intermediate step before proposing concrete wording for the BSAP update.</p>
<p>51. WE ALSO AGREE to encourage further coordinated research to support cost of degradation analyses, cost-effectiveness analyses of regional measures, and assessment of cost and benefits related to achieving GES covering the entire Baltic Sea region;</p>	<p>Could be specified based on processes leading up to HOLAS III and be part of of the updated roadmap and /or of the future HELCOM science plan.</p>
<p>52. WE EMPHASIZE that the implementation of the ecosystem approach will enable the transition towards a sustainable use of ecosystem goods and services by present and future generations, to the benefit of the effective implementation of marine policies as well as maritime spatial planning, and will lay the grounds for a sustainable blue economy;</p>	<p>General.</p>
<p>53. WE RECOGNISE that BONUS, the joint Baltic Sea Research and Development programme, has enhanced research capacity in the Baltic Sea region and provided an important platform for cooperation in research activities as well as useful research for science based decision-making and WELCOME further cooperation to strengthen joint research programmes, under the umbrella of JPI (Joint Programming Initiative) Oceans.</p>	<p>General. Could consider actualising the language, e.g. include possible joint Baltic-North Sea program.</p>