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<b>Agenda Item</b>	2 –Concretization of existing HELCOM actions
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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](mailto: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.

GEAR 21-2019 considered the proposals on concretized HELCOM actions and agreed that the actions are to be presented as work in progress at HOD 57-2020. The meeting invited EN-ESA to provide proposals for concretizations to the three first actions outlined in the document, possibly using the ESA roadmap, and submit the proposal to the Secretariat by 5 February 2020.

The meeting agreed that for the remaining two actions GEAR contacts will provide suggestions for concretizations to the Secretariat by 5 February 2020, the Secretariat will collate the proposals, combine them with those received from EN ESA and send out a revised document containing all proposals to GEAR contacts by 7 February 2020 for review and subsequent approval at an intersessional GEAR online meeting on 27 February 2020.

The proposals by EN ESA were received prior to the deadline and sent to GEAR for review on 7 February (contained here in **Annex 2**). Input was only provided by Denmark by the extended deadline of 20 February 2020.

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to consider and agree on final proposals on concretized actions to be included in the updated BSAP.

## Annex 1. Original 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.

The two highlighted paragraphs received input only by Denmark by the extended deadline of 20 February 2020. **It is proposed that, as both paragraphs are of a general nature, these will not be included with actions in the updated BSAP.**

### Theme: Ecosystem approach

Paragraph from Ministerial Declaration	Initial evaluation	LEAD
49. <b>WE RECOGNIZE</b> 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;	General, could be specified based on processes leading up to HOLAS III.	ESA
50. To this end, <b>WE AGREE</b> 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;	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,	ESA

	<p>including the cost of degradation analysis and cost-benefit analysis of future policy measures. 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 Baltic Sea report publication) should also be added. 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. <b>WE ALSO AGREE</b> 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 the updated roadmap and /or of the future HELCOM science plan.</p>	<p>ESA</p>
<p>52. <b>WE EMPHASIZE</b> 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>GEAR DK comment: The ecosystem approach is an essential and integrated part of the overall framework for both BSAP UP and HOLAS III. Based on this, Denmark do not find it necessary to have an action on this. The task must be to mention the blue economy when</p>

		introducing the ecosystem approach in the various deliveries.
53. <b>WE RECOGNISE</b> 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 <b>WELCOME</b> further cooperation to strengthen joint research programmes, under the umbrella of JPI (Joint Programming Initiative) Oceans.	General. Could consider actualising the language, e.g. include possible joint Baltic-North Sea program.	GEAR DK comment: An idea could be to develop a joint Baltic Sea-North Sea program to strengthen joint research programmes, under the umbrella of JPI (Joint Programming Initiative) Oceans.

## Annex 2. Concretization and rephrasing of paragraphs from MD 2018 related to GEAR Group, prepared by EN ESA

### Background

GEAR 21-2019 ([Outcome](#), para 4.40) invited EN ESA to concretize three actions of the 2018 MD outlined for inclusion in the updated BSAP. The proposals should be submitted to the Secretariat by 5 February 2020. EN ESA 8-2019 decided to start the work by linking the actions to items in the roadmap for further ESA. This document presents the actions to be concretized as well as relevant items of the ESA roadmap.

Paragraph from Ministerial Declaration	Proposal for concretized actions to include in update BSAP	LEAD
<p>49. <b>WE RECOGNIZE</b> 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>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appoint a responsible person to participate in the HELCOM EN ESA from each Contracting Party and include expert(s) on social dimension of economic and social analyses. Provide resources for setting up and maintaining a dedicated open-access website to disseminate information on relevant projects, resources and results for Baltic Sea economic and social analyses.</li> <li>2. Improve the integration of economic and social analyses to other HELCOM work strands and communication across HELCOM groups and networks.</li> <li>3. Improve the use of the results of economic and social analyses in the decisions regarding the protection and spatial planning of the Baltic Sea.</li> </ol>	ESA
<p>50. To this end, <b>WE AGREE</b> 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>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Set up and implement a plan how to proceed with marine accounts for the Baltic Sea, including organize communication with representatives of statistical offices of the Contracting Parties, explore options to link the data collected by national statistical offices and health authorities on human well-being with the data on the marine environment, and apply the methods and standards of ecosystem accounting in the assessment of marine ecosystem services and their value.</li> <li>2. Continue developing socioeconomic assessments of marine ecosystem services, including the spatial distribution of benefits from ecosystem services, supporting the integration these into policy making.</li> <li>3. Develop methods to use the existing data sets on marine environment and human well-being (valuation studies and other data sources) in social and economic analyses.</li> </ol>	ESA
<p>51. <b>WE ALSO AGREE</b> to encourage further coordinated research to support cost of degradation analyses, cost-effectiveness analyses of regional measures, and assessment of</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop regional methods and assessments for economic and social analyses to support ecosystem-based management and MSP in the Baltic Sea region.</li> <li>2. Assess comprehensively the economic benefits and costs of achieving GES in the Baltic Sea with</li> </ol>	ESA

cost and benefits related to achieving GES covering the entire Baltic Sea region;	coordinated valuation and cost-effectiveness studies. 3. Improve the coordination of national economic analyses in the Contracting Parties to advance the comparability of analyses and results across countries.	
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## Linking MD 2018 actions to items in the ESA roadmap

*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;*

Relevant themes in the ESA roadmap: all

Specific themes that could be used to as a basis of the concretization:

**1. Integrate economic and social analyses to other HELCOM work strands** to support the implementation of the ecosystem-based approach and allow for more comprehensive assessment of the linkages between the ecological and socio-economic systems.

**2. Secure continuation and develop institutional memory** of national and regional economic and social analyses to enable improved integration of research outcomes from the Baltic Sea region. This should entail collecting and maintaining continuous economic and social ESA data to support HELCOM work. The HELCOM EN ESA is important for this, as well as setting up a dedicated open-access HELCOM website on ESA projects and results tailored to the use and dissemination of knowledge to topic experts.

**3. Continue developing integrated approaches for assessing the marine environment, linking the ecosystem and socio-economic system** to assess how the marine environment affects human welfare and how human activities and measures affect the marine environment. The work should build on the approaches and results developed in the HELCOM SPICE, HELCOM ACTION and previous and ongoing BONUS projects, SOM analysis for the BSAP update, BSP II and Symphony tools, as well as other relevant work. Integrated models and approaches would enable analyses of the impacts of different scenarios, such as baseline and policy scenarios.

**5. Continue developing regional frameworks for economic and social analyses in maritime spatial planning.** The work can build on the results of the Pan Baltic Scope and other relevant MSP projects, including BONUS projects.

*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;*

Relevant items in the ESA roadmap:

**4. Continue developing the ecosystem services approach for the economic and social analyses of the marine environment** (including use of marine waters and cost of degradation) to improve the consideration of ecosystem services and linkages between the marine environment and human welfare. This work would

support the integration of ecosystem and socio-economic assessments, as well as the consideration of the social dimension of ESA.

**6. Develop approaches and data for marine ecosystem accounting** to describe and quantify the interactions between the economy and the marine environment, and to quantify the economic value of the Baltic Sea ecosystems. Building on the rich data, methods and expertise in the HELCOM ESA network, pilot marine accounts for the Baltic Sea can be developed. This entails working with the national statistical agencies to provide data in standard format, e.g. on the economic benefits derived from the use of marine waters.

**11. Develop approaches, data and results for spatially explicit analysis of economic and social impacts of the marine environment** to enable assessing the spatial distribution of the economic contribution from human activities, ecosystem services, and benefits from ecosystem services and environmental changes to support maritime spatial planning and other marine policies.

**12. Conduct regionally coordinated economic valuation studies of ecosystem services and/or environmental benefits** to provide comparable information on the benefits of reaching GES to support cost of degradation and cost-benefit analyses. This would enable covering additional environmental topics and ecosystem services. The studies should enable evaluating the spatial distribution of benefits to support maritime spatial planning. Finland, Sweden and Germany have or are currently implementing a similar study to value the benefits of achieving GES, using identical survey material in all countries.

*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;*

Relevant items in the ESA roadmap:

**10. Continue developing approaches and results for regional cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analyses** to support policy evaluation and national work on programmes of measures for those Contracting Parties being member states of the EU.

**12. Conduct regionally coordinated economic valuation studies of ecosystem services and/or environmental benefits** to provide comparable information on the benefits of reaching GES to support cost of degradation and cost-benefit analyses. This would enable covering additional environmental topics and ecosystem services. The studies should enable evaluating the spatial distribution of benefits to support maritime spatial planning. Finland, Sweden and Germany have or are currently implementing a similar study to value the benefits of achieving GES, using identical survey material in all countries.