

# Outcome of the Intersessional Meeting of the Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (HELCOM GEAR 21B-2020)

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or in the ESA Roadmap. The Meeting further agreed on the need to shorten the actions and make them more concrete so that a clear goal and target year is indicated.

2.8 The Meeting discussed the proposals in relation to para. 51 and agreed that they are relevant actions but suggested to merge them with the proposals in relation to para. 50. The Meeting further agreed on the need to make them more concrete so that a clear goal and target year is indicated.

2.9 The Meeting discussed a way forward to finalise the process of concretization of actions and agreed to invite EN-ESA to further work on the proposals for para. 49, 50 and 51 based on the guidance provided by the Meeting and additional guidance to be provided by the Secretariat in line with HOD 57-2019 decisions ([Outcome of HOD 57-2019](#), para. 3.4) so that they provide further elaborated proposals by **10 April 2020** so that they can be submitted to GEAR 22-2020 for consideration.

2.10 The Meeting encouraged national representatives from EN-ESA and GEAR WG to communicate on this task to ensure its achievement.

### **Agenda Item 3 Any other business**

3.1 The Meeting did not discuss any other business.

### **Agenda Item 4 Outcome of the Meeting**

4.1 The Meeting adopted the draft outcome of the Meeting. The final Outcome of the Meeting, together with the documents considered by the Meeting are available in the [HELCOM Meeting Site](#).

## Annex 1 List of Participants

Representing	Name	Organization	E-mail
<b>Chair</b>			
<b>Germany</b>	Andrea Weiss	Federal Environment Agency	<a href="mailto:andrea.weiss@uba.de">andrea.weiss@uba.de</a>
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## Annex 2 Concretization and rephrasing of paragraphs from MD 2018 related to GEAR Group

Paragraph from Ministerial Declaration	Proposal for concretized actions to include in update BSAP	GEAR 21B-2020
<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>	<p>In relation to the three proposals: Reference to the application of the ecosystem approach to management of human activities to be included in the BSAP update.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To be kept for now as <i>“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.”</i>, but there is a need to evaluate the level of detail/specification which is suitable for the actions to be included in the BSAP update.</li> </ol> <p>2 and 3: To be merged. Rephrase it to be more concrete so that the “improvement” can be measured, including addition of deadlines.</p>
<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</li> </ol>	<p>Relevant action, but its added value for the BSAP update is not clear. There is a need to shorten the action and make it more concrete so that a clear target and target year is indicated.</p>

	<p>methods and standards of ecosystem accounting in the assessment of marine ecosystem services and their value.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <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>	
<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>	<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 coordinated valuation and cost-effectiveness studies.</li> <li>3. Improve the coordination of national economic analyses in the Contracting Parties to advance the comparability of analyses and results across countries.</li> </ol>	<p>Third proposal to read: <i>“Improve the coordination between Contracting Parties on economic analyses to advance the comparability of analyses and results across countries.”</i></p> <p>Rephrasing needed to be more concrete including target and target years. Consider merging with actions included under 50.</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>Not to be included as an action in updated BSAP. The ecosystem approach is a central concept of the BSAP and should function as a horizontal theme in the Plan. Thus, EA is to be considered in the preamble of the update BSAP and as such does not require a separate action.</p>
<p>53. <b>WE RECOGNISE</b> that BONUS, the joint Baltic Sea Research and Development programme, has enhanced research capacity in the Baltic Sea</p>		<p>Due to its general nature this paragraph cannot be considered an action or a measure and should not be included in</p>

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<p>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.</p>		<p>the updated BSAP. However, can be considered for inclusion in the HELCOM Science Agenda.</p>
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