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Background

HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan and the 2010 Moscow and 2013 Copenhagen Declarations provides for concrete actions, activities and measures, including timetables, necessary for the implementation of the Helsinki Convention and ultimately reaching a good environmental status of the Baltic Sea. Ecosystem-based approach is applied in the work of HELCOM.

The attached Roadmap for HELCOM activities on ecosystem approach provides an outline and timetable for major HELCOM's activities and deliverables until 2021. It has been created to serve as a tool for the Contracting Parties in planning and coordinating the various activities in HELCOM, also in relation to the work of other organizations and on European and global level.

As the planning tool, the Roadmap is continuously updated (a living document) according to the progress of work, approaching deadlines and emerging needs.

HELCOM HOD 45-2014 welcomed the Updated Roadmap of HELCOM activities on Ecosystem Approach as the major planning tool for HELCOM work and pointed out that while the Roadmap has been initiated by GEAR, it has become an overall document covering all major HELCOM activities.

The Meeting noted the large number of activities in the Roadmap for which the resources are still to be allocated and called for participation of all Contracting Parties to ensure ownership of the final deliverables. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to keep the Roadmap updated including indication of lacking resources to the most urgent tasks and thus prioritize the further work. The Meeting further requested the Secretariat to map in the chart the possibilities of gaining synergies for enhanced cooperation with other RSCs and ICES.

HELCOM HOD 45-2014 also took note of the information by the EU that the assessment of implementation of Article 12 of the MSFD is expected to be released before the end of February 2014, the findings of which will support priority setting within Regional Seas Conventions. Baltic Member States Regional meeting will be organized in Brussels on 14-15 May following up the MSFD Art. 12 report.

The chart of the roadmap indicates allocation of resources to the deliverables. The resources may refer to a working plan/a process/an expert group being in place for the given deliverable, the needed expert resources and/or financing. In some cases the planning of how to arrange the work and what are the resources needed has not started yet, as some issues have longer deadlines or the relevant meetings have not been held yet (especially in relation to the Copenhagen Ministerial Meeting commitments).

In addition to mapping the cooperation with RSCs and ICES and some updating in the chart, an annex has been added to the Roadmap to bring to the attention those deliverables for which the allocation of resources is only to be secured. The **annex** presents the situation as of today, and could be used also in the future to indicate the upcoming needs.

At this stage the Roadmap only describes the role of GEAR in the implementation of the Roadmap. However, once the new working structure has been established, the indication of all responsible subsidiary bodies towards deliverables will be included in the Roadmap.

Action required

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Roadmap of HELCOM activities on ecosystem approach and agree to use it as a major planning tool for HELCOM work.

Further, the Meeting is invited to agree on the following process of continuous updating and use of the Roadmap:

- the Secretariat will keep the Roadmap updated according to progressing work and new decisions taken in HELCOM, including decisions by the Heads of Delegation on priorities; the updating will also include the contributions by subsidiary bodies as decided within the new working structure of HELCOM;
- HELCOM GEAR will use the Roadmap to plan and guide the production of deliverables in terms of their timing, management and policy-relevance and linkage to other ongoing processes as well as resource needs, ensuring coherence and integration in the implementation of the Roadmap across various working strands and subsidiary bodies and communicating the progress and possible obstacles, including with allocation of resources to the Heads of Delegation;
- the subsidiary bodies will use the Roadmap to guide prioritization in their work as well as contribution to/production of specific deliverables, in a manner coordinated with other ongoing HELCOM and external processes.

The Meeting is also invited to take note that the MSFD Art. 12 assessment by the EU will be finalized in February and request the next meeting of GEAR to consider the assessment from the perspective of lessons learnt and coordination needs, as far as EU countries are concerned, in the implementation of the Roadmap.

Roadmap of HELCOM activities on ecosystem approach

Background

The HELCOM Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (HELCOM GEAR) was established in 2012 to steer on a managerial level the process of successful implementation of the HELCOM BSAP and other HELCOM commitments to meet the ecological objectives and achieve good ecological/environmental status (GES) of the Baltic Sea by 2021 at the latest. The establishment of the GEAR group was considered by HELCOM as the first step in a larger activity to streamline the working structure of HELCOM. As part of the streamlining process this Roadmap has been created. While it has been initiated by HELCOM GEAR, it has become an overall document covering all major HELCOM activities.

The purpose is also to facilitate regional coordination for the implementation of the MSFD, for those Contracting Parties that are also EU Member States, with the aim to achieve respective coherent national marine strategies. It also needs to include coordination with activities under the Maritime Doctrine of the Russian Federation.

The specific role of GEAR is to aim to combine and enhance synergies of national, regional and EU efforts for the joint implementation of the roadmap according to the common timetable.

Well-coordinated HELCOM processes and deliverables will ensure that HELCOM work continues to create added value and provides support to its Contracting States in fulfilling the Baltic Sea Action Plan as well as their other national, regional, European (notably MSFD) and global obligations (UN, IMO, CBD, etc.), as appropriate, towards improving the status of the marine environment.

Purpose of the roadmap

This roadmap outlines the major on-going and future processes and deliverables within HELCOM on which regional coordination is needed.

The roadmap helps planning the activities, as well as their timing and coordination. This especially focuses on activities that contribute to building the necessary regional knowledge basis, create assessment and information tools, as well as put in place measures for reaching GES.

The roadmap provides for:

- an overview of timetables for HELCOM activities and deliverables for implementation of the ecosystem approach,
- proposing and initiating, as well as steering, of targeted projects and activities, and ensuring ownership of their outcomes through active participation and leadership of the Contracting Parties,
- pooling resources and efforts together to create added value to both provide timely support to national work, as well as to ensure a coherent and adequate approach at the regional level; this includes cooperation with other organizations such as ICES, IMO and EMSA,
- guiding for smart planning and designing of modern HELCOM deliverables and products, including creation of efficient and reliable HELCOM data systems in support of these deliverables and products, to be compatible with other relevant data flows and processes and building on the existing HELCOM know how and databases,
- following and contributing to global progresses as relevant and cooperation with other regional seas conventions,
- cooperation with other relevant initiatives and projects outside the framework of HELCOM to avoid duplication of work and create synergies.

The roadmap is a living document that will be updated and adjusted as needed. This includes prioritisation of activities during the implementation of the ecosystem approach. The attached roadmap has been updated according to progress of HELCOM work, new plans and decision, including the outcome from HELCOM 2013 Ministerial Meeting.

Further, the Roadmap has been used as a basis for formulating the HELCOM input to the MSFD Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) to serve the dual purpose of informing: 1) other RSCs and MSFD CIS of HELCOM activities and planned deliverables, 2) how HELCOM Contracting Parties being EU member states intend to contribute to the CIS utilizing cooperation and activities in HELCOM.

The roadmap for HELCOM work is outlined below in the text and the attached chart. The chart provides an overview of three categories of HELCOM activities:

1. activities/deliverables for which a need has been indicated e.g. by a HELCOM group;
2. activities with deliverables that have been agreed upon by HELCOM; and
3. activities with deliverables that have been agreed upon by HELCOM and for which resources have been allocated. Resource allocation refers both to referring of the indicated work to an existing HELCOM group and/or to secured funding for the work.

Also, the cooperation with RSCs and ICES has been mapped in the chart.

Environmental Monitoring

HELCOM is currently revising its monitoring programmes in the HELCOM MORE project (2012-2014). HELCOM coordinated monitoring activities will continue as before also during the revision.

First steps of the work on the revision of HELCOM monitoring focused on the revision of the monitoring strategy and development of an overview of reported monitoring. The revised HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy was adopted by HELCOM 2013 Ministerial Meeting.

Next tasks within the MORE project, described in the MORE Work Plan, will focus on specifying the implications of the revised strategy and starting its implementation, including work on:

1. making publicly available joint documentation, i.e., a HELCOM monitoring manual, for monitoring
2. coordinated monitoring network and programme
3. monitoring guidelines, and
4. review of HELCOM Recommendation 19/3 on monitoring and COMBINE programme.

The specific role of GEAR is to focus on the strategic approach to monitoring and supervise and facilitate the implementation of the HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy from the point of view of coherence and ensuring a cooperative approach among the Baltic Sea countries.

In addition, HELCOM GEAR contacts should work nationally to mobilise necessary resources for the expert work on monitoring.

Joint documentation for monitoring, i.e., monitoring manual

Development of the joint documentation for monitoring, i.e. HELCOM monitoring manual placed on the HELCOM web site, has been agreed to be finalised by the HELCOM MORE project by the first half of 2014.

Coordinated monitoring network and monitoring programme

As following steps, work is foreseen to be carried out by HELCOM MORE and HELCOM experts on eutrophication, biodiversity and hazardous substances working under the CORESET II project to develop a coordinated monitoring network and programme by October 2014. The network and programme will be reflected in the monitoring manual.

Further development of monitoring guidelines

The last step will involve the further development of HELCOM monitoring guidelines. This work is foreseen to be done by HELCOM experts under the CORESET II project as well as BALSAM project with the MORE project and it will continue up to 2015. HELCOM will need to specify how this work will be organised, and expert resources in the relevant expert teams that are linked to the CORESET project will need to be mobilised since the work will require significant expertise and cover various thematic areas.

Review of HELCOM Recommendation 19/3 "The manual for the marine monitoring"

The last step indicated for monitoring involves the review of HELCOM Recommendation 19/3 "The manual for the marine monitoring in the COMBINE programme of HELCOM". Revision of the monitoring program, manuals and guidelines will imply that the Recommendation will be outdated and hence its review is needed.

The Baltic Sea pilot project Testing new concepts for integrated environmental monitoring of the Baltic Sea (HELCOM BALSAM, October 2013-March 2015), steered by GEAR, will support the work of MORE and CORESET II experts and provide input on selected components of the monitoring revision, including methods and guidelines e.g. for seals, birds, benthic habitats, alien species in ports.

Pollution load monitoring

Sharing of information regarding pollution loads originating from the Contracting Parties to the Baltic Sea is one of the activities agreed within the Helsinki Convention (1992), which sets the basis for undertaking abatement and preventative measures to minimise such pollution. The procedure for annual and periodic

waterborne pollution load compilation is agreed in [HELCOM Recommendation 26/2](#) setting the [guidelines](#) for such compilations.

The next revision of the Guidelines is expected to be finalised in early 2014 with a view to use it for the next (Sixth) periodic Pollution Load Compilation ([PLC-6 Project](#)). The PLC-6 project will be carried out in six consecutive stages to accomplish comprehensive assessment of the water- and airborne inputs and their sources to the Baltic Sea during the period 1994-2014 with more detailed assessment for 2014 (for Poland and one federal state in Germany - 2012).

Airborne inputs of contaminants are also covered in PLC work through annual contract for delivery of nutrients and hazardous substances data from [EMEP](#) Centres. Possible enhancement of this data service is under investigation by HELCOM LOAD due to the follow-up of HELCOM BSAP targets regarding airborne deposition of nitrogen and further monitoring of long-range airborne transport of priority hazardous substances.

Maritime Monitoring

The task is to coordinate, further and carry out HELCOM aerial surveillance flights (HELCOM CEPCO) established since 1980s and harmonize aerial surveillance with satellite surveillance in order to identify deliberate, illegal oil discharges and ensure that evidence gathered on offenders of anti-pollution regulations enable effective prosecution procedures. Also, surveillance related to the implementation of environmental regulation concerning maritime traffic needs to be further developed.

HELCOM also follows up regional maritime traffic developments via the HELCOM AIS network and continues to collect information on maritime accidents.

Other pressures-related monitoring

HELCOM monitoring of radioactive substances is performed on an annual basis in line with HELCOM Recommendation 26/3. Respective Guidelines form an integral part of the HELCOM COMBINE Programme and Manual, including both environmental (ambient) monitoring, as well as monitoring of discharges (pressures). Currently, the Guidelines are updated on annual basis through the work of HELCOM MORS Expert Group under HELCOM MONAS and it might be necessary to consider introduction of less frequent cycles of the revisions. Changes mainly concern the location of monitoring stations and frequency of sampling. However, further changes might be expected in light of revision of HELCOM COMBINE manual, as well as in accordance with adopted HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy, e.g. to ensure coherence with the newly agreed sub-basin division.

The HELCOM Guidelines for the disposal of dredged material at sea were adopted in 2007 and agreed to be revised with a view to seek for harmonization with relevant OSPAR and IMO London Convention and Protocol Guidelines. The Guidelines *i.a.* includes requirements for monitoring of both material subject to the disposal as well as the state of the disposal sites, thus providing important information on inputs of hazardous substances to the Baltic, which can be further utilized for thematic/holistic assessment purposes and pressure indicators. The revision process was initiated in 2010 and is expected to be completed within first half of 2014, after integration of relevant parts of new IMO and OSPAR guidelines into the HELCOM document.

Streamlined data management

The specific role of GEAR is to provide guidance on which aspects of data management need further development and coordinate timetables for setting up functional databases and portals, as well as data deliveries.

Modernization of data management and systems

A modernization of databases and access to data hosted by HELCOM is ongoing as part of the renewal of HELCOM data management and systems¹.

PLC PLUS database

A major initiative to support the delivery data and easy access to pollution load data is an upgrading of the PLC database (HELCOM PLUS project). The PLUS project runs until the summer of 2015, and a decision by the NCM on a remaining funding for the project is being awaited to fully secure project budget.

Biodiversity Data Portal

Setting up a Biodiversity Data Portal has been identified as an important activity by HELCOM HABITAT, endorsed by HELCOM HOD but no detailed planning has been started yet. HELCOM should ensure that the biodiversity data and information on species and biotopes collected during the HELCOM RED LIST project and used for assessments will be made publicly available on the internet.

HELCOM should develop a biodiversity data portal where regional biodiversity data can be managed, archived, used and made publicly available. This should include making available the species assessment justifications, the distributional data on species, biotope descriptions, photographs on species and biotopes, as well as species check-list data and the Baltic Sea underwater biotope classification HUB. In addition, such a data portal should enable archiving documentation for the red listing processes and enable easy retrieval and repetition of the assessment next time (for this purpose database would need to be developed by 2016). Linking the HELCOM biodiversity data portal to relevant external data portals, e.g., national portals for retrieval of original data should be an ultimate long-term aim of HELCOM.

Recently, EU Project WISE-MARINE-RSC for the development of a shared environmental information system between the EU and Regional Sea Conventions has been awarded financing to a consortium (involving e.g. SYKE) under the DG ENV framework contract. The project offers some support for development of biodiversity data portal (work scheduled for July-December 2014), including making available the information from e.g. HELCOM RED LIST project. Once the work has started, it needs to be considered in HELCOM how to implement an efficient regional biodiversity data management system and database which is connected to the HELCOM Map and Data system and through that ensure public availability and also availability of biodiversity and pressure data for MSP purposes, and which are the optimal options for hosting the database.

Modernization of the protected areas database

The HELCOM 2013 Ministerial Meeting agreed to modernize by 2014 the HELCOM BSPA database to make it publicly available.

This work has been planned to be carried out within the PROTECT project if granted funding by NCM for 2014 (decision is being awaited). In addition, consideration should be given to possibilities, and pros and cons, of harmonization with OSPAR database.

Data on human activities

The work on the HELCOM data portal and GIS Services should be designed so as to serve not only nature conservation and environmental indicators but also other information to fully implement the Helsinki Convention including commitments related to efficient response to spills, enhancing the safety of navigation,

¹ updated information: document 6/3, HELCOM MONAS 18/2013:
http://meeting.helcom.fi/c/document_library/get_file?p_l_id=16324&folderId=2177073&name=DLFE-53463.pdf

as well as maritime spatial planning needs, e.g. with regards to offshore activities, port maintenance and development, submerged objects, fisheries.

Work is needed, in cooperation with ICES and relevant national authorities to enhance collection/availability and facilitate the sharing of anonymous data on fisheries activities in the Baltic Sea in an applicable format for the purpose of assessing pressures (impacts of fisheries) on marine and coastal ecosystems e.g. to be utilized in holistic assessment, MSP (HELCOM/ICES VMS data call 2013, BALSAM project, and as a follow up of reformed CAP and in relation to the revision of Data Collection Framework and future EU multiannual programmes).

In addition, these data activities should provide for further development of HELCOM Map and Data system, at the same time strengthening HELCOM's function as the regional data hub of Baltic Sea related data.

The spatial data component of HELCOM data services should be developed in such a way that it would fully cover also other than HELCOM related spatial data on activities and the resulting human pressures. The biodiversity and other relevant data should also enable the updating of the Baltic Sea Pressure and Impact Indices which are part of the holistic assessment.

Indicators and GES targets

The specific role of GEAR is to steer from the managerial point of view the further development and operationalization of the set of core indicators, as well as operationalization of the indicator-based assessment system with underlying coordinated monitoring. The objective should be to strive towards an as complete set of core indicators as possible to serve the purpose of coherent assessments.

Baltic Sea Environmental Fact Sheets

Related to the specific activities outlined in the roadmap graph, the Baltic Sea Environmental Fact Sheets that were previously called Indicator Fact Sheets are foreseen to be updated annually or bi-annually as before by the responsible institutes. They provide valuable background information on various themes without an assessment of the distance to the good environmental status.

Further development of Core Indicators and GES targets

The first set of core indicators on biodiversity and hazardous substances with targets for good environmental status of the Baltic Sea and a follow-up web page for the implementation of the BSAP have been published².

Some of the proposed core indicators were considered premature, they were called pre-core indicators, and left for further development together with candidate indicators. HELCOM HOD 41 agreed on the first set of core indicators with the understanding that the target boundaries for GES are provisional and will be further developed in a process leading to proposals prepared for HELCOM HOD in the end of 2015. Further work on indicators and GES boundaries is carried out within CORESET II in 2013-2015 and relevant expert teams or groups.

HELCOM GEAR will supervise the further development of the core and pre-core indicators and their GES boundaries, a gap analysis and prioritisation is expected to be carried out by GEAR. As a result of that analysis some of the so called candidate indicators are expected to be developed into core indicator proposals by mid-2015.

Cooperation with OSPAR has been initiated for the further development of core indicators. The aim is to enhance coherence between the HELCOM and OSPAR indicators and approaches to setting GES boundaries.

² Baltic Sea trends <http://www.helcom.fi/baltic-sea-trends>

Review of eutrophication targets every six years

The eutrophication targets, as well as parameters to be addressed by the core eutrophication indicators have been agreed upon and a [demonstration set of core eutrophication indicator reports](#) exist. The eutrophication targets are proposed to be reviewed by the end of 2018.

Eutrophication core indicators

Further work is required to finalise and operationalize the core eutrophication indicators, as well as indicator-based eutrophication assessment system and this will be done by the HELCOM project “Making HELCOM Eutrophication assessments operational” (EUTRO-OPER, 2014-2015), supported by the (non-HELCOM) EU Project WISE-MARINE-RSC for the development of a shared environmental information system between the EU and Regional Sea conventions funded within the framework contract by DG ENV.

Pressure indicator development

A full set of core indicators representing the most relevant pressures acting on the state described by core indicators should be developed.

Work on nutrient load indicators that enable tracking the progress towards the MAI/CART targets are being developed under HELCOM LOAD. First drafts of MAI/CART indicators that reflect decisions taken by HELCOM 2013 Ministerial Meeting are expected to be submitted to HELCOM LOAD in mid-March 2014 by LOAD experts.

Core indicators for marine litter and underwater noise need to be developed so that they can be used for the 2016 holistic assessment. This is planned to be carried out within CORESET II and MONAS work.

Assessments

The specific role of GEAR is to coordinate the timing, development, intended content in general and delivery of environmental assessment products according to assessment needs.

Development of status assessment tools

Further development and testing of the assessment tools is needed in order to make the tools fit for continuous and thematic integration of core indicators and for the holistic assessment of 2016. The further development and testing needs concern particularly the tools CHASE, BEAT and HOLAS since the HEAT tool has been adjusted according to new needs and the revised version (HEAT3.0) has been tested and is now being used. The EUTRO-OPER idea outlines that e.g. a user manual for the HEAT3.0 tool should be developed.

HELCOM should consider setting up a project for development of these assessment tools as well as for the next cycle of thematic and holistic assessments in 2015-2016 as outlined in the roadmap chart. An initial proposal has been developed by MONAS and will be further considered in GEAR.

Operationalization of core indicators-based assessment system

Operationalisation of the indicator-based assessment systems for eutrophication, hazardous substances and biodiversity should be carried out by relevant experts functioning under the CORESET II project during 2013-15. GEAR is advising how the work should be arranged, and the expertise of the following groups and projects could be utilized: the EUTRO-OPER project experts, hazardous substances experts network under CORESET II, relevant biodiversity expert groups or teams for biodiversity *inter alia* HELCOM SEAL, FISH-PRO, PEG and ZEN.

The objective is to further develop the first set of core indicators, finalise the core indicator proposals, GES boundaries, as well as to identify and mobilise into action all components of an operational indicator-based assessment system by the end of 2015 in cooperation with relevant organisations (ICES, EEA). Operationalisation should allow a system to be developed where the expert groups meet only 1-2 times per year (if at all) to carry out the updates with new data and text to the HELCOM core indicators and possibly indicator integrations for them, providing the core information of thematic assessments, to be presented on the HELCOM website.

Regarding the GES targets, the HELCOM 2013 Ministerial Meeting specified that HELCOM is to develop by 2015 regional targets for the implementation of the UN CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. This task needs to be incorporated to the biodiversity work on core indicators. Further specification by the Ministerial Meeting for biodiversity work included that measures are to be taken so that by 2020, regionally, the loss of all red listed marine habitats and biotopes in the Baltic Sea will be halted and they have largely recovered, and that degradation and fragmentation have been significantly reduced, the progress of which will be measured with a core indicator to be produced. This implies that the core indicator work will need to focus also on development of a progress indicator for halting of the loss of all red listed marine habitats and biotopes.

Core indicator integrations for eutrophication, hazardous substances and biodiversity could be created into light assessment reports/building blocks updated on the HELCOM website annually (cf. the [summary](#) of the Baltic Sea Environment Fact Sheets). The system for producing these indicator-based light assessments could be set up under the CORESET II by the relevant expert groups or teams during 2013-2015.

The actual thematic reports/building blocks for eutrophication, hazardous substances and biodiversity should be updated to support the holistic assessments and to provide a good overview of the status in regards the thematic area.

Core indicator integrations are foreseen to be essential components of the thematic assessments. They could be carried out every year and updated to a concise report/building block on the HELCOM web page annually or as often as new data for indicators is provided or as often as recommended by GEAR.

The thematic reports/building blocks could integrate a larger set of indicators in addition to the core indicators (e.g. supporting indicators used only in some areas or sub-basins), present trends, scrutinise pressures along with the status, analyse linkages from the status to wider phenomena such as climate change and encompass economic considerations (ecosystem services, costs and benefits of actions and measures) as far as possible.

The first thematic reports/building blocks should be produced in 2015-2016 as outlined in the timeline graph. This sequence of updating the thematic reports/building blocks would allow for the holistic assessment to be prepared partly parallel and be finalised by the end of 2016.

This activity should be carried out by the relevant expert groups or teams under the CORESET II project. This activity requires the first step, development and testing of the assessment tools to be completed before 2015, as well as development of the holistic assessments in 2015-2016. An initial proposal has been developed by MONAS and will be further considered in GEAR.

Pollution Load Compilation 5.5

A review of the PLC-5 was prepared for the 2013 HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Meeting and published as BSEP 141 in December 2013. The complete PLC-5.5 report is expected to be finalized during 2014 and presented to HELCOM HOD in autumn 2014 for approval.

Pollution Load Compilation 6 (PLC-6)

The timetable of the 6th Pollution Load Compilation has been adjusted upon the request by GEAR to be able to deliver some essential data for 2014 (or 2012 depending on the country) by the end of 2016 for the use in the next holistic assessment of the marine environment. PLC-6 project runs until the autumn of 2017 with funding secured from the HELCOM budget.

The Contracting Parties are requested to prioritise the PLC data collection and delivery in their national activities and the following quality assurance and active participation in the PLC-6 project.

Assessment of the risk of extinction of species

The assessment of the risk of extinction of species, as well as of biotopes and habitats will be part of the six-year assessment cycle in such a way that the assessment will be repeated every twelve years. The first update is expected to be done by 2019 with the aim to further improve data availability on species and biotopes already prior to the assessment and through that the quality of the red list assessments.

The checklist of Baltic Sea macro-species should also be regularly reviewed. HELCOM HABITAT 14 was of the opinion that the checklist and the related distributional information should be updated every five years by organising a minimum of two-day's HELCOM workshop of experts, with the Contracting Parties ensuring a cover of both species group and sub-basin wide expertise from each Contracting Party. This might mean that for several countries more than one expert per species group will need to attend the workshop. These workshops could also be used for updating the information on the threats and pressures to the red listed species. In order to support the red list assessments the updating of the checklist should be done at least two years prior to the actual assessment, i.e. the first update by [2017].

The Contracting Parties should consider producing and updating their national red lists of marine species prior to the HELCOM assessments in order to make data available for the HELCOM assessments. Bearing in mind that the future work on threatened species will require expert work, HELCOM Contracting Parties should aim to ensure that the RED LIST expert network will be able to continue its work and will be kept active and available.

The future work on red listing should take into account the relevant activities on global and European level, such as under the EU Habitat Directive. For the just finalized RED LIST assessment, HELCOM has been agreed to contribute to the EU project "Establishment of a European Red List of Habitats". Baltic Sea experts' contribution to the project will take place during 2014 based on the finalized RED LIST, while the final report of the project is scheduled to be ready by mid-2016.

Assessment of status of BSPA network and database renewal

An update to the status report on the network of protected areas in the Baltic Sea was developed during 2013 (PROTECT project)³. The activity was funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

If granted additional funding by the NCM, the project will in 2014 work on modernising and streamlining the Baltic Sea Protected Areas database which has not been optimally functional since 2009 and development of an ecological coherence assessment/assessment of management plans.

Assessment of climate change

A thematic assessment of climate change in the Baltic Sea region was published in cooperation with BALTEX in 2013⁴. Such a thematic assessment is expected to be updated every six years. Therefore, the next update would be 2019.

This is an activity which is carried out in close collaboration with the Baltic Earth (ex BALTEX) community and the timing should be communicated and agreed with BALTEX.

Second Holistic assessment

Making use of the thematic reports/building blocks and other indicator and assessment material, the Holistic assessment of ecosystem health will be updated every six years with the second holistic assessment being due by the end of 2016.

The Holistic assessment covers all possible aspects of the BSAP, and the MSFD for those Contracting Parties that are also EU Members States, including marine litter and noise, and especially various features of

³ Overview of the status of network of marine protected areas in the Baltic Sea

<http://www.helcom.fi/Lists/Publications/PROTECT/HELCOM%20BSPAs%20report%202013.pdf>

⁴ Climate change in the Baltic Sea area <http://www.helcom.fi/Lists/Publications/BSEP137.pdf>

biodiversity. An assessment of the sum of pressures and impacts by updates of the Baltic Sea Pressure Index and Impact Index is a relevant part of such work. The holistic assessment should build on an integration of the core indicators, using a finalised and tested assessment tool and all possible other relevant information, e.g. on costs and benefits of protecting the Baltic, including ecosystem services, climate change impacts and adaptation, etc.

Assessment of Maritime Activities

HELCOM cooperation includes as a central component also cooperation on clean shipping and safety of navigation as carried out under the HELCOM MARITIME group as well as efficient response to spills (HELCOM RESPONSE). In the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Declaration it has been agreed to comprehensively assess the status, environmental risks and opportunities of maritime activities in the Baltic Sea region within HELCOM by 2016. This assessment will be utilized for the 2nd holistic assessment and will be carried out under the supervision of the MARITIME group with contribution by the RESPONSE Group.

Assessment of submerged hazardous objects

According to the Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration, a one off assessment on submerged hazardous objects should be carried out (through the new SUBMERGED Group) by 2015.

Thematic assessment on radioactivity in the Baltic Sea, covering the period 2011-2013

HELCOM MORS Expert Group agreed that that as input to the next holistic assessment (due in 2016) the next MORS thematic assessment on radioactivity in the Baltic Sea should be finalized by the end of 2015 and based on data for the period 2011-2013.

Programmes of measures

Examination of sufficiency of existing measures for reaching GES

GEAR should plan how to carry out an examination of sufficiency of existing measures for reaching GES.

Over the past decades, HELCOM has taken a wealth of measures to tackle the anthropogenic pressures on the Baltic Sea environment. The Baltic Sea Action Plan as HELCOM's regional strategy to achieve good environmental status sets out which actions to take and provides a package of measures to address eutrophication, contaminant pollution, maritime safety and biodiversity.

HELCOM uses as its foundation the BSAP and additional measures agreed by the HELCOM Ministerial Meetings, including nutrient input reduction schemes, and HELCOM Recommendations

HELCOM Ministers in 2010 and 2013 agreed on a coherent and coordinated approach to developing recommendations providing for harmonized implementation of the measures imposed by other international organizations, as well as proposals to other international organizations necessary to achieve good environmental status, ensuring full cooperation of HELCOM Contracting Parties.

HELCOM 2013 Ministerial Meeting in October reviewed the effectiveness of the BSAP and proposed further measures to reach HELCOM objectives by 2021. The effectiveness of earlier established point-source ("hot spot") approach within the Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme (1992-2013) was also [evaluated](#).

The HELCOM work on measures has so far resulted in:

- remediation of 2/3 of major "conventional" pollution sites/areas around the Baltic Sea, as well as in transboundary context in other countries in the catchment area, as identified by the Contracting Parties already in 1992;
- identification of necessary measures to reach Good Environmental Status, to be taken on national level, regional level and international level (e.g. within International Maritime Organization);

- understanding of which environmental problems are of transboundary nature, and for example for eutrophication the Nutrient Reduction Scheme identifies the reduction targets for nutrient inputs for each HELCOM country;
- relevant HELCOM forums and groups have been established to discuss with sectorial ministries and stakeholders the implementation of measures, including to some extent cost-efficiency (fisheries, agriculture, maritime spatial planning).
- existing HELCOM structures related to implementation of Helsinki Convention provisions on clean maritime traffic and safety of navigation as well as response to pollution at sea and ashore have been strengthened by new focus on new emerging issues such as Ballast Water Management and response on the shore.

Part of HELCOM work has been to follow up on how far the agreed measures have been implemented, and based on scientific advice, propose any new measures as necessary for reaching GES. This has been done by using, e.g. the Overview of BSAP implementation⁵ as a follow-up tool.

Establish regionally coordinated programmes of measures

After an analysis of sufficiency of existing measures for reaching GES has been carried out, GEAR should develop the component of regional coordination for the programmes of measures. Options for regional coordination of this aspect should be developed by GEAR already by early 2014.

The cooperation on the programmes of measures should include socio-economic considerations and the discussion on programmes of measures has started in GEAR 3/2013 with the preparation of a concept paper⁶.

Measures to reduce nutrient loads to MAI/CART level

A wealth of national measures is under way to reduce loads of nutrients to the levels of MAI and CARTs.

HELCOM BSAP as well as the Declarations of HELCOM Ministerial Meetings of 2010 and 2013 contain numerous actions and measures addressing nutrient loads and a core indicator for follow-up of nutrient load reductions towards MAI/CARTs is under development.

GEAR might wish to produce an overview of the further measures planned to reduce the loads to the level of MAI/ CARTs.

Development of such measures especially related to sectorial policies, e.g. agriculture and wastewater management, should be performed in consultation with relevant HELCOM groups. Such measures would include those that are already agreed in BSAP and consequent Ministerial meetings in 2010 and 2013, e.g. as listed below, and possible new measures.

Agriculture-related measures

Identification/verification of areas critical to N and P losses, to enable directing targeted and cost-effective measures, e.g. compulsory measures on manure handling (storage and application) for installations of intensive rearing of cattle, poultry and pigs.

Development of measures to reduce nutrient surplus in fertilization practices to reach nutrient-balanced fertilization with the objective to come to an agreement on national level (2018).

Preparation work for introduction of annual nutrient accounting at farm level, with an aim to apply it region-wide, as a first step, in areas critical to nutrient losses (2018).

Compilation of information on national guidelines or standards for nutrient content in manure (2016), with a view to prepare regional guidelines/recommendation on the use of such standards (2018).

⁵ Overview of the implementation of the BSAP

http://www.helcom.fi/Documents/Ministerial2013/Associated%20documents/Supporting/BSAP_Overview_with%20cover.pdf

⁶ document 4/3, GEAR 3/2013:

http://meeting.helcom.fi/c/document_library/get_file?p_l_id=1765910&folderId=2100930&name=DLFE-53025.pdf

Review and an updating of part II of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention, in order to better serve the purposes of reaching good environmental status (2016) and implementation and enforcement of relevant provisions.

Application of BAT for intensive rearing of poultry and pigs at least equally ambitious EU's BREF document and Conclusions throughout the region, especially within areas critical to nutrient losses.

Development of appropriate methodology for phosphorus recycling (especially in agriculture and waste water treatment).

Application of innovative water management measures, to ensure that upgrading and renovation of the agricultural drainage systems aim at reducing nutrient concentrations.

Enhanced transfer of knowledge and technology and exchange of good examples.

Exchange experiences and ideas for potential development of policy instruments, both voluntary and mandatory, as well as measures for improved farm nutrient management.

Wastewater treatment

Enforcement of full implementation by 2018 of HELCOM Recommendations 28E/5 (Municipal WWTP) and 28E/6 (Sewage from scattered settlements and single houses).

Other sectors

Assessment of other potential significant sources of nutrient pollution on land e.g. industries, fur- and fish-farming, and address them with abatement measures.

Ecosystem-based MSP

The Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013-2020, adopted by the Copenhagen Ministerial Meeting, outlines further steps needed for advancing ecosystem based MSP in the Baltic Sea.

Development of a new HELCOM Recommendation for nature conservation

HELCOM 2013 Ministerial Meeting agreed to "develop by 2015 a new HELCOM Recommendation on conservation plans for species, habitats and biotopes which are at risk of extinction".

GEAR might wish to plan how, when, and by whom this work should be carried out.

Development of an ecologically coherent network of MPAs

The 2013 Ministerial Meeting decided to re-enforce action to achieve by 2020 an ecologically coherent network of well-managed marine protected areas for the Baltic Sea, including the objective to provide specific protection to those species, 2013 HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration habitats and biotopes included in the HELCOM Red Lists that are considered to be priorities for protection. In addition, the Meeting agreed to develop and apply by 2015, management plans and/or measures for already existing Baltic Sea Protected Areas; and to follow every new BSPA designation by the establishment of a management plan and/or measures within five years.

This work is mainly dependent on national activities and designation and development of marine protected areas. GEAR might wish to plan how these activities could be taken forward in the countries.

Consideration of specific measures related to fisheries within MPAs has been launched through the initial phase of the [BALTFIMPA Project](#) under the Fisheries and Environment Forum in close cooperation with ICES. The preliminary version of the [Generic Tool](#) to support decision-making on management of fisheries within MPAs will need to be further tested within the full-scale activity. The application for the large scale BALTFIMPA to LIFE+ has not succeeded in receiving funding and some further work is needed to investigate alternative/other sources of financing.

Review of HELCOM recommendation 15/5 on BSPAs

The HELCOM 2013 Ministerial Meeting agreed to revise by 2014 HELCOM Recommendation 15/5 “System of coastal and marine Baltic Sea protected areas (BSPAs)”, taking into consideration new developments under relevant legislation of the Contracting Parties as well as under the CBD, IUCN and other institutions.

HELCOM HABITAT has provided a timetable for this process, work is ongoing and a draft revised Recommendation is expected to be presented for adoption by HELCOM 35/2013.

Regional implementation of the IMO Ballast Water Management Convention

The Ministerial Meeting in 2013 decided on development by the end of 2014 of a regional Action Plan and carrying out and implementation of the joint HELCOM OSPAR A-4 Guidelines and database in cooperation with the HELCOM OSPAR TG BALLAST group.

Alternative fuels and green technology for shipping

Reducing airborne emissions including intensifying cooperation on alternative fuels and green shipping technology in cooperation with other actors in the Baltic sea region is an ongoing activity.

Addressing sewage from passenger traffic

Completing the regional commitments related to sewage from passenger traffic and notification to IMO on adequacy of PRF by 2014 (Special Area under MARPOL Annex IV entry into force for new ships 1 January 2016) is proceeding.

Improving safety of navigation

Improvement of safety of navigation in the region including completion of HELCOM resurveys of important shipping routes is an ongoing task.

Ensuring the use of best available technology related to Anti-Fouling systems

There is a need to follow-up on outstanding commitments of the 2007 HELCOM BSAP including work on anti fouling systems (AFS), as well as to strengthen cooperation with Paris MoU.

Ensure full regional preparedness to spills of hazardous and noxious substances

Planning for the updating by 2016 HELCOM Response Manual has started, especially completing the process to overhaul Manual volume II on chemical (HNS) spills.

Develop regional procedures related to response on the shore

Amendments to Annex VII, Response to Pollution Accidents, of the 1992 Helsinki Convention concerning response on the shore will enter into force 1 July 2014.

There is a need to further define and reach required capacity and procedures related to response on the shore and Oiled Wildlife Response as agreed in the 2013 Ministerial Declaration.

Modernize regional communication channels related to pollution incidents

The task is to develop the regional communication channels and online services related to pollution incidents specified in the HELCOM RESPONSE manual, especially related to the interaction with similar EU systems and how to ensure that all HELCOM countries are covered on an equal basis (by 2015).

Develop regional response capacity through HELCOM exercises and surveillance flights

The work will continue to coordinate, develop and carry out operational and other kinds of exercises in the region to practically train the procedures of the Manual, e.g. the annual HELCOM BALEX DELTA operational exercise and HELCOM CEPCO flights.

Fisheries-related actions

Fish and fisheries-related actions are included into the Biodiversity Section of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and the later ministerial declarations with the understanding of the exclusive competence of the EU and Russia on management of the main fish stocks in the Baltic Sea:

Measures to ensure achievement of MSY for all stocks, e.g. through input to development of multi-species management plan for the main commercial Baltic Sea fish stocks with ecosystem-based approach.

Development of regionally appropriate solutions to solving the discard problem, e.g. introduction of improved selectivity of gears and sharing knowledge on incentives to applying the ban

Input to development of fisheries management and technical measures to minimize unwanted by-catch of fish, birds and mammals in order to reach BSAP targets of close to zero by-catch rates and minimized damage to sea bed habitats.

Continuation of work on monitoring for assessment of coastal fish communities, including inputs to the CORE indicators on biodiversity and possible application of ecosystem services accounting/valuation on coastal fish case.

Exchange of best practices, knowledge and experiences on regional level and further development and implementation, in co-operation with ICES on measures related to Baltic salmon, sea trout and eel, including

- common practices for breeding, rearing and releasing as reintroductions in potential salmonid rivers;
- investigations of improvements for stocking practices (e.g. biological and genetical guidelines);
- recommendations for riverine and estuarine management and conservation measures, such as fishways for up and down migration, restoration and protection of spawning grounds, concerning fisheries within rivers and estuaries;
- comparable methodology for data collection through surveys, especially on recreational fisheries
- additional measures such as reducing fishing mortality, removing migration barriers, and re-stocking in eel-safe river systems.

New HELCOM Recommendation on sustainable aquaculture aiming at limiting potential environmental impacts of aquaculture activities needs to be developed (2014).

Evaluation of impacts of recreational fisheries should be conducted, e.g. from boats using commercial gears, and thus contributing to fishing mortality of certain commercially exploited fish stocks and impacting on biodiversity.

Hazardous substances

Measures addressing hazardous substances should be considered in coordination with relevant other international legal frameworks, e.g. National Implementation Plans under the Stockholm Convention POPs Convention and EU Directives (for those Contracting Parties that are also EU Member States). However, some of the measures are stemming both from the HELCOM BSAP and the Ministerial commitments from 2010 and 2013. These include:

- Establishing by 2016 a combustion efficiency requirements and/or emission limit values for dioxins according to HELCOM Recommendation 28E/8 in order to minimize dioxin emissions from small-scale combustion sources as well as develop cost-efficient and BAT measures to large-scale industrial sources;

- Measures aimed at early ratification of the UNEP 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury, as well as a quick start of the implementation of the Convention, taking into account existing and possibly updated HELCOM Recommendations limiting the use of mercury in products and processes
- Collecting more information and assess the state of contamination with pharmaceuticals and their degradation products of the aquatic environment and develop measures, as appropriate, to prevent pharmaceuticals from reaching the Baltic Sea
- Possible revision of the HELCOM List of priority substances, as contained in the HELCOM BSAP as a result of implementation of HELCOM's objective for hazardous substances ([HELCOM Recommendation 31E/1](#))
- Promoting green technologies and practices to implement BSAP
- Promoting and continuously supporting actions aiming at changing e.g. consumer behavior towards "greener" (less associated with use of hazardous substances) products, processes and services.

Roadmap of HELCOM activities on ecosystem approach

Version 12 February 2014. Indications of all subsidiary bodies to be indicated at a later stage.

- Agreed and resources allocation secured
- Agreed but no resources allocated yet
- Need has been indicated

MONITORING

- Joint documentation for monitoring programme, i.e. monitoring manual (MORE)
- Coordinated monitoring network and mon. programme (MORE, CORESET II teams, BALSAM)
- Further development of monitoring guidelines (MORE, CORESET II, BALSAM, MORS EG, FISH-PRO II)
- Revision of PLC Guidelines (Waterborne pollution load compilation - PLC-6)
- Illegal spills, accidents and traffic monitoring (MARITIME, RESPONSE)
- Revision/harmonization of guidelines for disposal of dredged material
- Review of HELCOM recommendation 19/3 on monitoring (MORE)

In cooperation with

2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021

STREAMLINED DATA MANAGEMENT

- Pollution Load User System database (PLUS)
- Biodiversity data portal
- Modernization of protected areas database (PROTECT)
- Human pressures and MSP relevant data
- VMS data call together with ICES (BALTFIMPA)
- Online decision support tool and port survey database (ALIEN 3, BALSAM, MARITIME)
- Modernise regional online RESPONSE-related systems

Bonn Agreement
OSPAR

OSPAR
EU WISE Marine RSC
OSPAR
ICES
OSPAR

INDICATORS AND TARGETS

- Baltic Sea Environmental Fact Sheets (e.g. FISH-PRO II)
- Further development of Core Indicators and GES targets (CORESET II, FISH-PRO II)
- Review of eutrophication targets every 6 years
- Eutrophication core indicators (EUTRO OPER)
- Pressure indicator development

OSPAR

ASSESSMENTS

- Development of assessment tools (CHASE, BEAT, HOLAS)
- Operationalization of eutrophication assessment system (EUTRO OPER)
- Operationalization of core indicators-based assessment system (CORESET II)
- Pollution Load Compilation 5.5 (PLC 5.5)
- Pollution Load Compilation 6 (PLC 6) - Essential data by the end of 2016
- Thematic assessment on radioactivity - period 2011-2013 (MORS EG)
- Assessment of submerged hazardous objects (SUBMERGED)
- Assess the state of contamination with pharmaceuticals
- Assessment of coastal fish status (FISH PRO II)
- Assessments of the risk of extinction of species and biotopes (RED LIST)
- Assessment of status of BSPA network (PROTECT)
- Maritime assessment 2016 (MARITIME, RESPONSE)
- Assessment of climate change
- Holistic Assessment

EU WISE Marine RSC / ICES

PROGRAMMES OF MEASURES

- Analysis of gap in measures for reaching GES
- Regionally coordination of programmes of measures
- Revision of part II of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention
- Measures to reduce nutrient surplus in fertilization practices
- Introduction of annual nutrient accounting at farm level
- Regional guidance/recommendation on manure nutrient content
- Emission limitations for small-scale combustion sources, HELCOM Rec. 28E/8
- Measures to support early ratification of 2013 UNEP Minamata Convention
- Roadmap of ecosystem-based Maritime Spatial Planning (HELCOM/VASAB WG)
- Development of a new HELCOM recommendation for nature conservation
- Review of HELCOM recommendation 15/5 on BSPAs
- Development of a new HELCOM Recommendation on sustainable aquaculture
- Measures addressing fisheries within MPAs, generic decision-support tool (BALTFIMPA)
- Common practices and restoration activities for Baltic salmon, sea trout and eel
- Evaluation of impacts of recreational fisheries
- Marine litter Action Plan
- Regional work on IMO Ballast Water Mana Convention in new Action Plan (MARITIME)
- Work around notification to IMO on sewage PRF adequacy (MARITIME)
- Revising RESPONSE Manual Vol II, further developing Vol III& I (RESPONSE)
- Regionally promoting electronic aids for navigation for increased safety (MARITIME, HELCOM AIS)
- Development of a roadmap on enhanced use of green technologies in shipping (MARITIME)

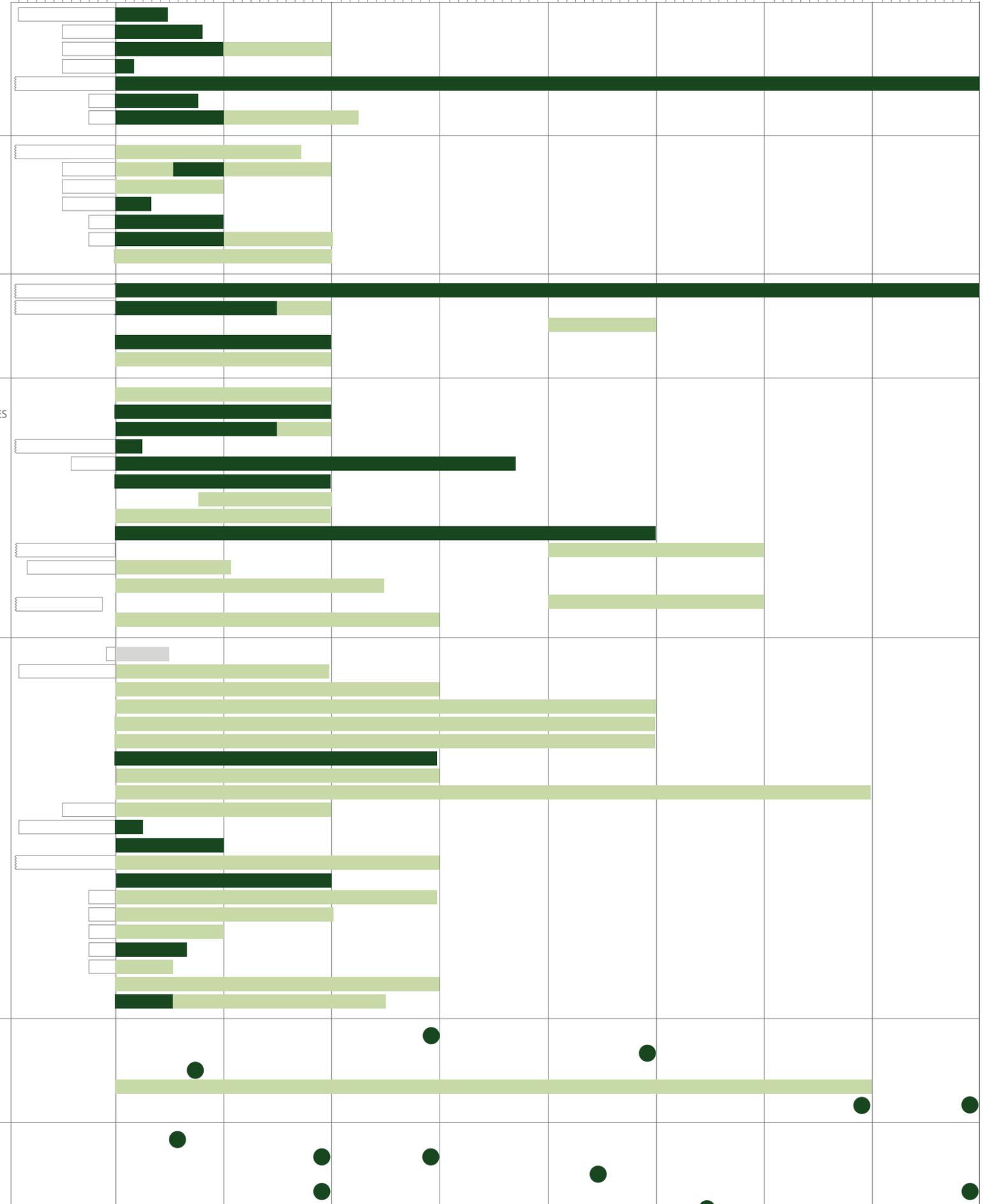
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MILESTONES

- Measures to reduce nutrient loads to MAI/CARTs level
- Full implementation of HELCOM Rec. 28E/5 and 28E/6 on sewage treatment
- VASAB Ministerial Conference
- Ecologically coherent network of MPAs
- Good environmental status (MSFD / BSAP)

MILESTONES FOR THE HELCOM EU MEMBER STATES

- MSFD Monitoring programmes to be established
- MSFD Programmes of measures developed and put into operation
- MSFD Review of initial assessment, determin. of GES, targets and indicators
- WFD river basin management plans review
- Habitats Directive (Art 17 Reporting)



Annex - The resource needs that need to be addressed (status as of February 2014)

Monitoring

HELCOM MORE project will last until end of 2014. The work on monitoring guidelines and review of HELCOM recommendation on 19/3 on monitoring, to be completed, will need to continue beyond the project timeframe, until end of 2015 and spring 2016, accordingly.

The next meeting of GEAR could discuss and plan the work beyond 2014, taking into account the decisions on the new working structure of HELCOM.

Streamlined data management

Pollution Load User System database (PLUS) - HELCOM HOD 45/2014 requested the PLUS workshop (Helsinki, 27-28 February 2014) to consider the issue of hosting PLUS database and to prepare more specific information, including on economy side as a basis for the decision by the Heads of Delegation. The Secretariat will communicate with the Heads of Delegation accordingly.

Biodiversity data portal - The EU Project WISE-MARINE-RSC for the development of a shared environmental information system between the EU and Regional Sea conventions, will provide some support towards the database. The concept for development of the database should be further developed by a relevant HELCOM subsidiary body in spring.

Modernization of protected areas database (PROTECT) - The discussion has been initiated at HELCOM HOD 45/2014, including investigating pros and cons of the possible use of MAIA system which is a structure for MPA database in OSPAR. In PROTECT project some limited resources has been allocated to the database, subject to a decision by NCM of financing. The concept for development of the database should be further developed by a relevant HELCOM subsidiary body in spring.

Modernize regional online RESPONSE-related systems - Discussions have been initiated at HELCOM RESPONSE 18/2014. For one part (a response awareness system) Finland has proposed and plans to lead a HELCOM-linked project and plans to send out inquiry to Contracting Parties during next few weeks. The first possible call could be the DG ECHO call, deadline in April 2014. More resources from e.g. national sources would be welcome.

Indicators and targets

CORESET II projects ends in June 2015, however work on core indicators and GES targets (and especially operationalization of core indicator-based assessment system) will likely need to be extended beyond this date. GEAR could discuss and plan the work beyond mid-2014 once the work in the CORESET II project advances and a good picture is gained which are the remaining and open issues requiring further work.

Pressure indicator development is starting to be being taken forward by different activities and working groups, and some further consideration is needed to ensure the progress. For instance, indicators related to by-catch of mammals and number of oiled waterbirds will be taken forward by CORESET II. Noise and marine litter are about to be addressed by intersessional activities initiated by MONAS while the continued work on development of indicators is expected to be taken up by CORESET II. Furthermore, an indicator for input of nutrient loads is being developed by the LOAD expert group. The last meeting of CORESETII added also as a candidate indicator "Accidental and illegal discharges of oil and other harmful substances". The indicator is already described in HELCOM Environment Fact Sheet.

Assessments

Development of assessment tools (CHASE, BEAT, HOLAS 2) / Holistic assessment – The work has not started yet, and there is an urgent need to start planning and carrying the work. MONAS 19/2013 planned how to proceed

with the elaboration of a second holistic assessment and stressed that a project should be established to provide a framework and support for the assessment work. The next meeting of GEAR will consider the project outline by MONAS.

Assessment of submerged hazardous objects (SUBMERGED) – the first meeting of the HELCOM expert group on environmental risks of hazardous submerged objects (HELCOM SUBMERGED) is planned (host Poland, exact date still to be decided). The expert group should plan the production of a one-off thematic assessment on environmental risks of hazardous submerged objects covering contaminated wrecks, lost or dumped dangerous goods (e.g. containers), and other objects. The assessment should contribute to HOLAS 2.

Assess the state of contamination with pharmaceuticals – the work to collect more information and assess the state of contamination with pharmaceuticals and their degradation products is a commitment of the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting. Two pharmaceuticals have been included as pre-core indicators. In order to make contribution to the HOLAS 2 assessment, the work would need to be conducted by the end of 2015.

Maritime assessment 2016 – the outline for assessment has been approved by HELCOM MARITIME 13/2013. MARITIME 13/2013, RESPONSE 18/2014 and SAFE NAV 4 have been informed and requested for contributions in terms of text and authors from Contracting Parties. The Secretariat has been invited to investigate the possibilities for external funding, which would be welcome also from national sources.

Programmes of measures

Analysis of gap in measures for reaching GES / Regionally coordination of programmes of measures – the next meeting of GEAR should continue discussing these items in order to advance the progress.

Roadmap of ecosystem-based Maritime Spatial Planning – the Roadmap is expected to be adopted also by the VASAB Ministerial Conference in September 2014. It has been used for drafting the Work Plan of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG for 2014-2016, including indication of resources needed/lead parties, etc. Once finalized, the Work Plan 2014-2016 will be forwarded to HELCOM HOD and VASAB CSPD/BSR for approval.

Measures addressing fisheries within MPAs – Resources for larger scale BALTIFMPA, including further development, together with ICES, of the preliminary version of the Generic Tool to support decision-making on management of fisheries within MPAs, has not been secured. Recently, the HELCOM Secretariat has been informed that LIFE+ has not been granted funding to the application.

Marine Litter Action Plan – a proposal for how to arrange the work submitted to HELCOM 35/2014.

Ballast Water Management Convention HELCOM OSPAR exemptions online decision support tool and port survey database – No funding from Summer 2014 and onwards

Revising Response Manual – Issue of funding was raised at RESPONSE 18/2014 and Finland and Sweden offered to consider providing funding, *i.a.*, for staff at the Secretariat, with request that also other Contracting Parties contribute.

Regionally promoting electronic aids for navigation for increased safety – No funding, issue can be discussed at HELCOM AIS EWG 2014 (20-21 May 2014).

Roadmap for green shipping – a document on launching the Platform on green shipping and alternative fuels will be submitted to HELCOM 35/2014.

For the remaining working items under programmes of measures – the tasks stem from the Copenhagen Ministerial Meeting. The planning is only to start/advance by relevant subsidiary bodies.