



Document title	Updated Roadmap on HELCOM activities on ecosystem approach
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Background

HOD 54-2018 considered the renewed Roadmap of HELCOM activities on ecosystem approach, including perspectives beyond 2021, based on the outcome of the Brussels Ministerial Meeting, took note of the proposal by Russia for amendments and agreed to amend the Roadmap. The meeting recognized that the Roadmap is a living document to be kept updated. The meeting agreed on endorsement of the amended Roadmap via correspondence ([Outcome of HOD 54-2018](#), paras 3.4-3.6, document 3-5-Rev.1.).

This document contains the final version of the Roadmap of HELCOM activities on ecosystem approach as endorsed by HODs through correspondence.

The following amendments have been made (and the actions have been re-numbered) according to the current situation:

- **Action 20. Describe ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs)** has been completed and has been removed from the Roadmap.
- **Action 38. Develop a new HELCOM Recommendation on biotopes, habitats** will be completed when the Draft HELCOM Recommendation on Conservation and Protection of Marine and Coastal Biotopes, Habitats And Biotope Complexes Categorized as Threatened According to the HELCOM Red Lists has been adopted by HELCOM 40-2019.

Many of the timelines are tentative, until the more detailed planning has taken place such as in relation to core indicators. The timelines in the chart have been adjusted according to the current situation.

Work on indicators, monitoring, data and assessments contribute to building a knowledge base for implementing various SDGs and therefore targets of SDGs are identified in the measures section only. The main related targets of SDGs have been indicated in the chart, and additional associated targets are mentioned in the background information on HELCOM agreements related the actions in the roadmap.

The Roadmap has been submitted for information to the meetings of HELCOM Working Groups in autumn 2018.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to consider and endorse the updated Roadmap on HELCOM activities on ecosystem approach.

Roadmap of HELCOM activities on ecosystem approach

- Background information on HELCOM agreements corresponding to the actions

INDICATORS AND TARGETS

Action 1. Review and further develop [core indicators](#) and threshold values

The Baltic Sea Action Plan states that effectiveness of actions taken and progress towards targets will be evaluated by suitable indicators, allowing future adjustment and review to determine status in the Baltic Sea. The Copenhagen 2013 Ministerial Declaration: the adoption of the revised HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy (p. 5). The Brussels 2018 Ministerial Declaration agreed to complete and fully operationalize a set of indicators for regular status assessment of the Baltic Sea, and in preparation for the next holistic assessment (cf. decision 15). At the same meeting commitments to defining threshold values for marine litter, underwater noise and seabed damage and disturbance were given (cf. decisions 31, 40 and 41).

HELCOM Group: main working groups

Action 2. Joint principles for environmental targets/threshold values for underwater noise

Step 3 of the Regional Baltic Underwater Noise Roadmap 2015-2017 (Annex 3 of the Outcome of HELCOM 37-2016) intends to, based on the compilation of information on impacts of noise (Step 1.1 of the Roadmap), “investigate the possibility to use species specific tolerance to define Good Environmental Status (GES)/ develop environmental targets based on common principles”.

The Brussels 2018 Ministerial Declaration: the commitment to continuing fruitful cooperation between European Regional Seas Conventions, and in particular OSPAR, in order to exchange good practices and to fill knowledge gaps, and to continuing regional work in developing scientifically sound threshold values for underwater noise that are consistent with GES for species identified as sensitive to noise in the Baltic Sea, in close coordination with work undertaken by Contracting Parties in other relevant fora including UNEP Regional Seas Programme (cf. decision 40).

HELCOM Group: State & Conservation, Pressure, Maritime, Gear

Action 3. Regional work on developing threshold values for sea floor integrity, and if needed on quantitative targets

The Brussels 2018 Ministerial Declaration: the agreement to do regional work on developing threshold values for the adverse effects of anthropogenic physical disturbance and, based on the best available scientific information in close coordination with other relevant fora, if needed to achieve GES, to develop the necessary regionally coordinated quantitative targets for the reduction of physical disturbance caused by human activities and habitat loss (cf. decision 41)

HELCOM Group: State & Conservation, Pressure, Gear

Action 4. Further develop the follow-up system for [nutrient reduction scheme](#)

Baltic Sea Action Plan: Pursuing the adaptive management principles, all the figures related to targets and maximum allowable nutrient inputs should be periodically reviewed and revised a harmonized approach using updated information (p. 11). The 2018 Brussels Ministerial Meeting: the acknowledgement that due to

improved data on nutrient inputs in the reference period¹, the Country-Allocated Reduction Targets for nutrients are no longer always sufficient to achieve GES of the Baltic Sea with regard to eutrophication and that, therefore, the follow-up of the nutrient reduction requirements of the BSAP should focus on national commitments based on Maximum Allowable Inputs and that this should be taken into consideration when updating the BSAP (cf. decision 22)

HELCOM Group: Pressure

MONITORING

Action 5. Review and revise [monitoring guidelines](#)

The Copenhagen 2013 Ministerial Declaration: the adoption of the revised HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy (p. 5), as well as the decision to review and update the monitoring guidelines (Cf. decision 1Ka) thereby streamline the work of the Contracting Parties to serve the BSAP and other international and national monitoring and reporting requirements such as the MSFD and Maritime Doctrine of the Russian Federation.

HELCOM Group: State & Conservation, Pressure

Action 6. [Illegal spills](#), [accidents](#) and traffic monitoring

1992 Helsinki Convention: Contracting Parties shall establish national, land-based monitoring systems for ships, based on AIS signals and a common Baltic Sea monitoring system based on - and with access to - all national Baltic AIS monitoring systems. Contracting Parties shall elaborate reliable statistics on ships' traffic in the Baltic Sea Area to assess the need for further additional measures to improve the safety of navigation and the emergency capacity (c.f. Regulation 9). In order to prevent violations of the existing regulations on prevention of pollution from ships the Contracting Parties shall develop and apply individually or in co-operation, surveillance activities covering the Baltic Sea Area in order to spot and monitor oil and other substances released into the sea. (cf. Regulation 3).

Baltic Sea Action Plan: The importance of the use of the [HELCOM AIS system](#) was stressed to ensure the effective enforcement of existing legal regimes. It was agreed to extend existing monitoring of non-compliant ships and of the movement of ships in the Baltic which have been detained under the 1982 Paris MoU with a view to giving strong support to port state controls especially of these ships. The Copenhagen 2013 Ministerial Meeting: the agreement to further develop by 2015 regional preparedness and response related services including HELCOM SeaTrackWeb, HELCOM AIS, HELCOM Pollution Reporting System (POLREP), HELCOM GIS and links to relevant EU systems towards a second generation HELCOM oil response information system covering the whole Baltic Sea on an equal basis (cf. decision 5(R)).

HELCOM Group: Response, Maritime

Action 7. Develop harmonized monitoring methods for marine litter

The 2013 Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration: decision to develop a regional action plan by 2015 at the latest with the aim of achieving a significant quantitative reduction of marine litter by 2025, compared to 2015, and to prevent harm to the coastal and marine environment (IX) and agreement that such a plan should allow to develop common indicators and associated targets related to quantities, composition, sources and pathway of

¹ Pre-BSAP period (1997-2003).

marine litter, including riverine inputs, in order to gain information on long-term trends, and carry out the monitoring of the progress towards achieving the agreed goals and to gain an inventory of marine litter in the Baltic Sea as well as scientific sound evaluation of its sources. Where possible, the harmonized monitoring protocols based on the recommendations of the EU Technical Subgroup on Marine Litter will be used (24(B)).

The Brussels 2018 Ministerial Declaration: commitment to strengthening regional research and developing harmonised monitoring methods on the sources, distribution, amounts and impacts of marine litter including micro-plastics, in coherence with similar work undertaken by Contracting Parties in other relevant fora, and to improving assessment of the effectiveness of measures (32).

HELCOM Group: State & Conservation, Pressure

Action 8. Develop harmonized monitoring methods for micro-plastics

The Brussels 2018 Ministerial Declaration: commitment to strengthening regional research and developing harmonised monitoring methods on the sources, distribution, amounts and impacts of marine litter including micro-plastics, in coherence with similar work undertaken by Contracting Parties in other relevant fora, and to improving assessment of the effectiveness of measures (32).

HELCOM Group: State & Conservation, Pressure

STREAMLINED DATA MANAGEMENT

Action 9. Operationalize [core indicators](#) and [assessment systems](#)

The Moscow 2010 Ministerial Declaration established some common principles (Implementation Phase), including that joint coordinated monitoring should provide the necessary data for regular assessment of the status of the Baltic Sea. The Copenhagen 2013 Ministerial Declaration: the adoption of the revised HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy (p.5), and the agreement to the development and operationalization of joint assessments of pressures (cf. Decision 1(K)) and supported the first set of indicators, stating that they represent the basis for an indicator-based follow-up system for measuring progress towards achieving good environmental status, with a full set of operational core indicators envisaged (cf. Decision 2(K)). The Brussels 2018 Ministerial Declaration agreed to complete and fully operationalize a set of indicators for regular status assessment of the Baltic Sea, and in preparation for the next holistic assessment (cf. decision 15).

HELCOM Group: State & Conservation

Action 10. Map and assess human activities & cumulative impacts for MSP, HOLAS III ([BalticLINes](#) / [Pan Baltic Scope projects](#))

The Moscow 2010 Ministerial Declaration decided that HELCOM should be a major driver in the implementation of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities in the Baltic Sea (Implementation Phase). The Copenhagen 2013 Ministerial Declaration: the agreement to develop and deliver operational assessments of pressures, including nutrient and hazardous substances inputs (PLC), impacts of fisheries on other species and on the seabed, pressures from shipping and other relevant pressures on the Baltic Sea and use these to update the Baltic Sea Impact Index and to support the implementation of ecosystem-based Maritime Spatial Planning (1 (K) c)), and that priority should be given to achieving and maintaining good status and that sustainable growth and development should be supported by an ecosystem based approach that also considers cumulative impacts (cf. Decision 8).

The Brussels 2018 Ministerial Declaration agreed that coordinated regional economic and social assessments and mapping of human activities in the Baltic Sea, including cumulative effects, would be valuable (cf. Decisions 15 and 50). The same meeting recognized the importance of regional cooperation on aspects such as marine spatial planning and the importance of such issues in balancing human activities with good environmental status. (EU funded Pan Baltic Scope project, 1.1.2018 – 31.12.2019; EU funded BalticLines - Coherent Linear Infrastructures in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans, 2016-2019)

HELCOM Group: State & Conservation, HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG

Action 11. Streamline arrangements for ICES advice on fishing activities

The Copenhagen 2013 Ministerial Meeting: the agreement to continue to work to develop common procedures to facilitate the sharing of aggregated data on fisheries activities in the Baltic Sea in an applicable format for the purpose of assessing pressures on marine and coastal ecosystems e.g. to be applied in maritime spatial planning (cf. decision 17(B)).

HELCOM Group: Fish

Action 12. Online decision support tool and port survey database for ballast water (COMPLETE project)

The Copenhagen 2013 Ministerial Meeting: the adoption of the Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Guidelines on the granting of exemptions under the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, Regulation A-4 and the related HELCOM online decision support tool and port survey database and the agreement to develop further necessary details of the Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Guidelines through a continuous cooperation with OSPAR (p. 5) (amended by HELCOM HOD 48-2015). ([COMPLETE project](#) - Completing Management Options in the Baltic Sea Region to Reduce Risk of Invasive Species Introduction by Shipping, 25.5.2018 – 30.9.2020, EU INTERREG).

HELCOM Group: Maritime

ASSESSMENTS

Action 13. Holistic Assessment (HOLAS III)

The Copenhagen 2013 Ministerial Declaration: the adoption of the revised HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy; The Brussels 2018 Ministerial Declaration: the planning to prepare the next holistic assessment of the state of the Baltic Sea in 2023 (cf. decision 2).

HELCOM Group: State & Conservation, Gear

Action 14. Synthesize research on climate change and its impacts, including for BSAP update ([ACTION project](#))

The Copenhagen 2013 Ministerial Declaration: the decision to make the assessment of regional climate change and its implications on the Baltic Sea ecosystem a regular activity, collaborating with Baltic Earth in this respect, with the aim to make it an indicator-based assessment; (Cf. decision 1Kf). The Brussels 2018 Ministerial Declaration: the decision to increase HELCOM's preparedness to respond to climate change impacts, by taking foreseen climate change impacts into account when updating the BSAP and by exploring the needs and possibilities to further adapt HELCOM's policies and recommendations (Cf. decision 47) and the that HELCOM should take action to bridge this knowledge to policy and practice (cf. decision 48).

HELCOM Group: State & Conservation, overall linked to the BSAP update process

Action 15. Coordinated regional economic and social assessments (Pan Baltic Scope Project)

The 2013 Copenhagen Ministerial Meeting: the decision to cooperate with institutions having leading expertise on economic and social analysis of the use of the Baltic Sea and of the cost of degradation of the marine environment in order to contribute to the holistic assessment's socio-economic analysis(cf. decision IV); the agreement to initiate or intensify the work to attribute economic value to marine and coastal ecosystem services and their contribution to societal, cultural and ecological well-being, in cooperation with initiatives such as the Economics and Biodiversity for National International Policy Makers (TEEB), with a view to starting more comprehensively embracing an ecosystem approach.

HOD 51-2016: Roadmap for continued HELCOM work on economic and social analyses (ESA).

The Brussels 2018 Ministerial Meeting: the agreement 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 (cf. decision 50).

(EU funded [Pan Baltic Scope project](#), 1.1.2018 – 31.12.2019)

HELCOM Group: Gear, HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG

Action 16. Pollution Load Compilation (PLC-7)

HELCOM HOD 51-2016: adopted [The Seventh Baltic Sea Pollution Load Compilation \(PLC-7\), 2017-2020](#)

HELCOM Group: Pressure

Action 17. Assessment of coastal fish status (FISH-PRO III)

HELCOM HOD 53-2017: the adoption of the [Project for Baltic-wide assessment of coastal fish communities in support of an ecosystem-based management \(HELCOM FISH-PRO III\), 2018-2023](#)

HELCOM Group: State & Conservation, Fish

Action 18. Assessment of submerged hazardous objects (SUBMERGED)

The 2013 Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration: the agreement to produce by 2015, a one-off HELCOM thematic assessment on environmental risks of hazardous submerged objects covering contaminated wrecks, lost or dumped dangerous goods (e.g. containers), and other objects, also utilizing the 2013 report on dumped chemical munitions (cf. decision 6 (R)).

HELCOM Group: Response

Action 19. Assessment of the risk of extinction of species and biotopes (RedList)

The Copenhagen 2013 Ministerial Declaration: the decision to make the Red List assessments of Baltic Sea species and habitats/biotopes a regular activity which will enable the tracking of long-term trends in the status of the Baltic Sea biodiversity; (Cf. decision 1Ke). [HELCOM Recommendation 37/2](#) on Conservation of Baltic Sea Species Categorized as Threatened According to the 2013 HELCOM Red List adopted by HELCOM 37-2014 (cf. 4.45 in Meeting Outcome).

HELCOM Group: State & Conservation

Action 20. Identify the scale of problems of emerging contaminants incl. micro-pollutants

The Brussels 2018 Ministerial Meeting: the agreement to identify the scale of problems of contaminants of emerging concern, including micro-pollutants in coastal and marine waters and, based on this knowledge, to consider possible cost-effective mitigation measures (cf. decision 35).

HELCOM Group: Pressure

Action 21. Identify and assess hazardous substances from off-shore sources

The Brussels 2018 Ministerial Declaration: the agreement to identify and assess further hazardous substances and contaminants from offshore sources, which may give rise to pollution effects, and develop appropriate mitigation measures (cf. decision 36).

HELCOM Group: Pressure, Response, Maritime

Action 22. Develop a new regional risk assessment for ships (OPENRISK)

The Copenhagen 2013 Ministerial Declaration: the agreement to consider and implement the recommendations of the HELCOM BRISK and BRISK-RU projects to strengthen preparedness and response capacity to marine accidents in the Baltic Sea (cf. decision 1(R)). (EU DG ECHO funded and HELCOM led OpenRisk project - [Open-source tools for regional risk assessments for improved European preparedness and response at Sea, 2017-2019](#))

HELCOM Group: Response

Action 23. [Internal nutrient reserves](#) 1) improve knowledge 2) potential management measures

The Brussels 2018 Ministerial Declaration: further improving the knowledge base regarding the nature and dynamics of internal nutrient reserves (cf. decision 25) and undertaking research on the potential of measures to manage internal nutrient reserves that have accumulated in the sediments due to anthropogenic activities in the last decades; emphasizing that the risks to ecosystem and human health stemming from measures to manage internal nutrient reserves, as well as the long-term sustainability of their effects, need to be considered and thoroughly evaluated; encouraging in parallel developing and applying a risk assessment framework in HELCOM to meet the necessary environmental requirements for measures planned for the open sea and any other measures having potentially significant transboundary effects; the acknowledgement of the need to elaborate in line with the Helsinki Convention commonly agreed regional principles as guidance for internal nutrient reserves management (cf. decision 26).

HELCOM Group: Pressure

PROGRAMMES OF MEASURES

Action 24. Update BSAP using water & ocean targets of SDGs as a framework ([ACTION project](#))

All ocean and water-related SDGs as well as 17.14, 17.16, 17.17 and 17.19 are relevant

The Brussels 2018 Ministerial Declaration: the decision to update the BSAP by 2021 at the latest (Cf. decision 16) and the commitment to use the water- and ocean-related goals and targets as a framework in updating the BSAP (cf. decision 17). [HELCOM 39-2018](#) adopted the proposal for the update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (document 2-6 Rev.1), stating that the BSAP update will be guided by SDGs and associated targets, and in

particular SDG 14 (cf. paragraph 2-6 in the Meeting Outcome). [HOD 54-2018](#) approved the strategic plan for the BSAP update (HOD 54-2018 document 3-4-Rev.2 and Annex 2 of the Outcome) and [HOD 55-2018](#) approved the work plan for the BSAP update (HOD 55-2018 document 3-2 and Annex 4 of the Outcome).

HELCOM Group: All groups, Platform on sufficiency of measures

Action 25. Develop Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy ([SuMaNu project](#))

Main SDG: 14.1

Additional SDGs: 2.4, 6.3, 8.4, 11.6, 12.2, 13.2

The Brussels 2018 Ministerial Declaration: the decision to elaborate by 2020 a Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy (cf. decision 27). (EU co-funded SUMANU project platform “Sustainable manure and nutrient management for reduction of nutrient loss in the Baltic Sea Region”, 1.1.2018- 31.3.2021, and BSR WATER project platform “Platform on Integrated Water Cooperation”, 1.10.2018-31.12.2010)

HELCOM Group: Agri, Pressure

Action 26. Revise part II of Annex III of the Helsinki Convention

Main SDG: 14.1

Additional SDGs: 2.4, 6.3, 8.4, 12.2, 13.2

The Copenhagen 2013 Ministerial Declaration: the decision to initiate and accomplish by 2016 a 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 (cf. decision 11 (N)).

HELCOM Group: Agri

Action 27. Regional guidance/recommendation on manure nutrient content ([MANURE STANDARDS project](#))

Main SDG: 14.1

Additional SDGs: 2.4, 6.3, 8.4, 12.2, 13.2

The Copenhagen 2013 Ministerial Declaration: the decision to establish by 2016 national guidelines or standards for nutrient content in manure and to develop by 2018 guidelines/recommendation on the use of such standards (cf. decision 10 (N)). (EU co-funded [MANURE STANDARDS](#) Project “Advanced manure standards for sustainable nutrient management and reduced emissions”, 1.10.2017-30.9.2019).

HELCOM Group: Agri

Action 28. Introduction of annual nutrient accounting at farm level

Main SDG: 14.1

Additional SDGs: 2.4, 6.3, 8.4, 12.2, 13.2

The Copenhagen 2013 Ministerial Declaration: the decision to promote and advance towards applying by 2018 at the latest annual nutrient accounting at farm level taking into account soil and climate conditions giving the possibility to reach nutrient balanced fertilization and reduce nutrient losses at regional level in the countries,

noting the positive examples of mandatory requirements on nutrient bookkeeping in some HELCOM countries and with an aim to apply it region-wide, as a first step, in areas critical to nutrient losses (cf. decision 8(N)).

HELCOM Group: Agri

Action 29. [Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter](#) – implement, develop measures ([FanPLESStic-sea project](#))

Main SDG: 14.1

Additional SDGs: 8.4, 8.9, 12.2, 12.5

The 2013 Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration: decision to develop a regional action plan by 2015 at the latest with the aim of achieving a significant quantitative reduction of marine litter by 2025, compared to 2015, and to prevent harm to the coastal and marine environment (cf. decision IX) and agreement that such a plan should allow to carry out concrete measures for prevention and reduction of marine litter from its main sources with the aim of achieving significant quantitative reductions focusing inter alia on working with industry to reduce or phase out microbeads in certain products in the market (cf. decision 24(B)).

The Brussels 2018 Ministerial Declaration: commitment to support measures aimed at preventing plastics, including micro-plastics, from contaminating the marine and coastal environment, at addressing the entire lifecycle of products, and at examining efficient and cost-effective options to reduce plastic and micro-plastic releases from products and processes into the environment (cf. decision 33) as well as decision to develop appropriate measures to address micro-plastics in riverine inputs, urban waste water effluents as well as storm water based on an increased knowledge on the scale of the problem (cf. decision 34).

HELCOM Group: Pressure and other WGs

Action 30. Measures aimed at preventing micro-plastics ([FanPLESStic-sea project](#))

Main SDG: 14.1

Additional SDGs: 8.4, 8.9, 12.2, 12.5

The 2013 Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration: decision to develop a regional action plan by 2015 at the latest with the aim of achieving a significant quantitative reduction of marine litter by 2025, compared to 2015, and to prevent harm to the coastal and marine environment (cf. decision IX) and agreement that such a plan should allow to carry out concrete measures for prevention and reduction of marine litter from its main sources with the aim of achieving significant quantitative reductions focusing inter alia on working with industry to reduce or phase out microbeads in certain products in the market (cf. decision 24(B)).

The Brussels 2018 Ministerial Declaration: commitment to support measures aimed at preventing plastics, including micro-plastics, from contaminating the marine and coastal environment, at addressing the entire lifecycle of products, and at examining efficient and cost-effective options to reduce plastic and micro-plastic releases from products and processes into the environment (cf. decision 33) as well as decision to develop appropriate measures to address micro-plastics in riverine inputs, urban waste water effluents as well as storm water based on an increased knowledge on the scale of the problem (cf. decision 34).

HELCOM Group: Pressure and other WGs

Action 31. Eliminate remaining [Hot Spots](#)

Main SDG: 14.1

Additional SDGs: 6.3, 6.5

The 2013 Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration: the agreement to aim for elimination of remaining hot spots from the List of the Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme (JCP) as part of the implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan by 2018 latest, with a view that municipal (23) and industrial (20) hot spots should be removed from the List by 2016; Possible remaining JCP Hot Spots should then be included in the National Implementation Programmes of the BSAP (cf. decision 18(N)). The 2018 Brussels Ministerial Declaration: the decision to continue concrete cooperation on HELCOM Hotspots with the aim to eliminate the remaining hot spots (cf. decision 54, last indent).

HELCOM Group: Pressure, Agri

Action 32. Enhance implementation of MARPOL Annex IV & V ([sewage & garbage](#))

Main SDG: 14.1

Additional SDGs: 14.c, 3.9, 8.9, 9.4

Baltic Sea Action Plan: It was agreed to enhance the availability of adequate reception facilities for ship generated wastes, mandatory delivery of waste and the application of the “no-special-fee” system in all the Baltic Sea ports. It was agreed to have in 2009 a joint submission by HELCOM Contracting States to IMO in order to elaborate relevant new regulations for ships covered by MARPOL Annex IV, including further consideration of designation of the Baltic Sea as a special area, with the aim to eliminate the discharge of sewage from ships, especially from passenger ships and ferries.

The Copenhagen 2013 Ministerial Declaration: The importance of reducing nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea from ships’ sewage was emphasized, recalling the designation of the Baltic Sea as a Special Area under MARPOL Annex IV. It was also agreed to continue efforts to upgrade port reception facilities in the remaining ports, in order to strive for that HELCOM countries are in the position to report to IMO, by 2014 that adequate facilities are available for the regulation to enter into force by 1 January 2016 for new ships (c.f. 4(M)).

The Brussels 2018 Ministerial Declaration: in maritime transport, the commitment to improve the availability of adequate port reception facilities in the region for delivery of sewage and other ship-generated waste (cf. decision 55)

HELCOM Group: Maritime

Action 33. Re-examine the effectiveness of measures for legacy pollutants

Main SDG: 14.1

Additional SDGs: 14.2, 6.3, 12.4, 8.4, 6.5

The Brussels 2018 Ministerial Declaration: the agreement to re-examine the effectiveness of measures and recommendations for legacy pollutants and to identify the scale of problems of contaminants of emerging concern, including micro-pollutants in coastal and marine waters and, based on this knowledge, to consider possible cost-effective mitigation measures (cf. decision 35).

HELCOM Group: Pressure, State & Conservation

Action 34. Implement [Regional Maritime Spatial Planning roadmap](#) (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG)

Main SDG: 14.2

The Copenhagen 2013 Ministerial Declaration: the adoption of the Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013-2020 (p. 5);

The Brussels 2018 Ministerial Declaration: the reiteration of the common goal of all Baltic Sea countries to establish, by 2020, maritime spatial plans that are coherent across borders and apply the ecosystem approach, and in this regard, stressing the importance of further cooperation in using the agreed principles, guidelines, concepts and mechanisms for planning purposes and developing them further as needed, whilst investigating existing obstacles that impede more rapid development in this field (cf. decision 55).

HELCOM Group: HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG

Action 35. Environmental protection in MSP (MPAs, “green infrastructure”/EBSAs) (Pan Baltic Scope)

Main SDG: 14.2

Additional SDGs: 14.5

The Copenhagen 2013 Ministerial Meeting: the decision to continue the work towards reaching common understanding and adopting guidelines on ecosystem approach, [...], according to the Regional MSP Roadmap 2013-2020 (cf. decision 2 (MSP)). (cf. action 19 & 42).

HELCOM Group: HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG, State & Conservation

Action 36. Establish conservation plans/measures for threatened species, biotopes, habitats (Rec. 37/2 on species and draft Rec. on biotopes, habitats and biotope complexes)

Main SDG: 14.2

Additional SDGs: 14.4, 14.5, 13.2

HELCOM Recommendation 37/2 “CONSERVATION OF BALTIC SEA SPECIES CATEGORIZED AS THREATENED ACCORDING TO THE 2013 HELCOM RED LIST” adopted by 35-2016.

The Brussels 2018 Ministerial Declaration: the agreement to take actions to prevent the loss of biodiversity in the Baltic Sea and to improve the status of species, biotopes and habitats that are threatened according to the 2013 HELCOM Red Lists, *inter alia*, by establishing conservation plans or other relevant programmes or environmental measures for species, biotopes and habitats at risk of extinction (cf. decision 44).

HELCOM Group: State & Conservation

Action 37. Develop an action plan and regionally coordinated actions on underwater noise

Main SDG: 14.2

Additional SDGs: 14.1

The Brussels 2018 Ministerial Declaration: welcoming the progress made in the implementation of the Regional Baltic Underwater Noise Roadmap 2015-2017, including the establishment of a joint HELCOM/OSPAR registry of licenced impulsive sound events and on-going work for a regional monitoring programme and for monitoring guidelines for continuous noise, as well as new evidence regarding potential impact of underwater noise on species in the Baltic Sea (cf. decision 37); emphasizing the need to further improve our understanding of the adverse impacts of underwater noise on those identified noise sensitive marine species and in particular the cumulative impacts of impulsive noise from multiple activities (cf. decision 38); the agreement to develop an action plan, preferably by 2021, and regionally coordinated actions on underwater noise, aiming, in the long-term, at addressing adverse effects of underwater noise on marine species identified as sensitive to noise, whilst safeguarding the potential of the Baltic Sea for sustainable human activities (cf. decision 39).

HELCOM Group: Pressure, State & Conservation, Maritime

Action 38. Solutions for ship hull fouling re. alien species and hazardous substances (COMPLETE project)

Main SDG: 14.2

Additional SDGs: 14.c, 3.9, 9.4, 8.9, 6.3, 12.4

The Brussels 2018 Ministerial Declaration: agreement to strengthen cooperation on ship hull fouling solutions with regard both to preventing the introduction of invasive alien species and to hazardous substances in anti-fouling systems (cf. decision 55). ([COMPLETE project](#) - Completing Management Options in the Baltic Sea Region to Reduce Risk of Invasive Species Introduction by Shipping, 25.5.2018 – 30.9.2020, EU INTERREG). HODs agreement on the strategic partnership with the proposed GEF-UNDP-IMO Glofouling Partnership.

HELCOM Group: Maritime

Action 39. New regional partnership on fisheries & aquaculture

Main SDG: 14.2

Additional SDGs: 14.4, 14.6, 17.16

HOD 51-2016: The Meeting supported a plan for closer cooperation between marine environment and fisheries management in the Baltic Sea and agreed to initiate a process for closer cooperation between HELCOM FISH, BALTFISH and the EU-RU fisheries commission. The Meeting agreed that the Chair of HELCOM will initiate communication with BALTFISH and other relevant stakeholders (c.f. paragraph 3.15 of the Outcome).

The Copenhagen 2013 Ministerial Declaration: It was agreed to further work to develop and implement sustainable fishing methods and practices into management plans for marine protected areas [...] and cooperate with the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) and regional stakeholders including EU Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council and BALTFISH Forum, when doing so (c.f. 10 (B)).

The Brussels 2018 Ministerial Declaration: It was agreed to strengthen coordination and cooperation mechanisms with fishery bodies active in the Baltic Sea region, in particular BALTFISH, and the Baltic Sea Advisory Council, to seek synergies with the work carried out by ICES, and to aim to ensure coherence between marine and fisheries management measures (c.f. 50).

HELCOM Group: Fish

Action 40. Common practices and restoration activities for Baltic salmon, sea trout and eel (Retrout project)

Main SDG: 14.4

Additional SDGs: 14.2

The Copenhagen 2013 Ministerial Meeting: the agreement to prioritise and intensify implementation of HELCOM BSAP (2007) conservation goals for the Baltic salmon and sea trout to be met by 2015, based on HELCOM Recommendation 32-33/1 "Conservation of Baltic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) and Sea Trout (*Salmo trutta*) populations by the restoration of their river habitats and management of river fisheries", and the upcoming EU multi-annual plan for the Baltic salmon stock and the fisheries exploiting that stock (as applicable to EU Member States), through exchange of best practices, knowledge and experiences on regional level, as well as follow-up initiatives addressing salmon and sea trout restoration activities and further development and implementation, by 2015 and onwards, in co-operation with ICES, of:

- common practices for breeding, rearing and releasing salmon and sea trout as reintroductions in potential salmonid rivers;

- investigations of needed improvements for stocking practices (e.g. biological and genetical guidelines);
- recommendations for riverine and estuarine management and conservation measures, such as fish ways 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;

(cf. decision 19 (B))

The Copenhagen 2013 Ministerial Meeting: the agreement to continue the efforts underway and enhance co-ordination of measures within the Baltic Sea as well as with other European countries, for the conservation of eel stocks, in line with national eel management plans and to consider additional measures if necessary, such as reducing fishing mortality in accordance with the ICES Advice, removing migration barriers, and re-stocking in eel-safe river systems, e.g. utilising the outcomes of co-operation between ICES, HELCOM and other stakeholders on this issue (cf. decision 21 (B)).

(The EU-funded RETROUT project - [Development, promotion and sustainable management of the Baltic Sea Region as a coastal fishing tourism destination](#), 2017-2020).

HELCOM Group: Fish

Action 41. Evaluate impacts of recreational fisheries

Main SDG: 14.4

Additional SDGs: 14.2

The Copenhagen 2013 Ministerial Declaration: the agreement to ask for advice from Regional Coordination Groups within the EU Data Collection Framework and ICES on how to improve data collected on such recreational fisheries, with a view to evaluate the impacts of such recreational fisheries on the marine environment (cf. 23 (B)).

HELCOM Group: Fish, State & Conservation

Action 42. Increase ecological coherence & effectiveness of [HELCOM MPAs](#)

Main SDG: 14.5

Additional SDGs: 14.2

The Copenhagen 2013 Ministerial Declaration: the decision re-enforce action to achieve by 2020 an ecologically coherent network of well-managed marine protected areas for the Baltic Sea (cf. decision 6B), and to develop and apply management plans and/or measures for Baltic Sea Protected Areas (cf. decision 8B).

Recommendation 35/1 on System of coastal and marine Baltic Sea protected areas (HELCOM MPAs) adopted by HELCOM 35-2014 (cf. 4.36 in Meeting Outcome). The Brussels 2018 Ministerial Declaration: the decision to improving the understanding of the role of MPAs for ecosystem services, in order to enhance cost-effectiveness of MPAs management and yield the greatest environmental benefits and to strive for full achievement of Aichi Target 11 regarding the management, ecological representativeness and connectivity of the HELCOM MPAs network (Cf. decision 45).

HELCOM Group: State & Conservation

Action 43. Implement a new Regional Baltic Sea plan for IMO Ballast Water Convention

Main SDG: 14. c

Additional SDGs: 8.9, 9.4

HOD 51-2016: the approval the Regional Baltic Sea plan for harmonized ratification and implementation for the 2004 IMO Ballast Water Management Convention (BWMC) (cf. annex 6 of the Outcome).

HELCOM Group: Maritime

Action 44. Engage with river basin authorities on SDGs incl. to align nutrient reduction requirements

Main SDG: 6.5

Additional SDGs: 14.1, 17.16

The Brussels 2018 Ministerial Declaration: recognizing with concern the sustained high nutrient input especially from agriculture; the decision to engage, as a priority, in further enhanced cooperation with the agricultural sector in the Baltic Sea area with the aim of further reducing land-based nutrient inputs in the Baltic Sea, as well as to engage with the relevant river basin authorities to better align national and international nutrient reduction requirements of the BSAP with those of coastal waters, whilst seeking synergies between relevant regimes (cf. decision 23).

HELCOM Group: Pressure

Action 45. Enhance the use of green technologies and alternative fuels for ships e.g. NECA ([Green Team](#))

Main SDG: 9.4

Additional SDGs: 14.1, 3.9, 8.9

The Copenhagen 2013 Ministerial Declaration: It was agreed to work towards the creation of a joint “Green Technology and Alternative Fuels Platform for Shipping” together with other regional actors in the Baltic Sea, emphasizing the need to work jointly, in co-operation with other regional governmental and non-governmental organizations, the industry and research community, to further promote development and enhanced use of green technologies and alternative fuels, including LNG, methanol as well as other propulsion technologies, in order to reduce harmful exhaust gas emissions and greenhouse gases from ships (c.f. 10 (M)). (EU co-funded CSHIPP “Clean Shipping Project Platform”, 1.10.2018-31.3.2020)

HELCOM Group: Maritime

Action 46. Regional follow up on UN SDGs and cooperation via UN Regional Seas Programme

Main SDG: 17.16

According to the multiple decisions in the Baltic Sea Action Plan, 2010, 2013 and 2018 Ministerial Declarations, and the Outcome of the High-level Segment of HELCOM 38-2017.

HELCOM Group: all WGs

SDGs and targets linked to the actions in the Roadmap

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality
Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead
8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*

* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.
13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution
14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans
14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels
14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics
14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information
14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation ²
14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of “The future we want”
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development
17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development
17.16 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships
17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries

² Taking into account ongoing World Trade Organization negotiations, the Doha Development Agenda and the Hong Kong ministerial mandate.