



Outcome of the
**HELCOM Stakeholder
Conference 2020**

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Take-away messages

- On status of the Baltic Sea, progress has been made. Keep up – and speed up – good work even if improvements can't be seen in the sea – time lag.
- Better implementation of BSAP actions at the national level needed.
- We use the word horizontal but are still stuck in silos. A holistic view is needed.
- Better coordination on the national level between the ministries and authorities.
- Closer collaboration and exchange between the various HELCOM Groups and networks.
- Climate aspects were heavily stressed.
- Upstream work is key, especially in relation to hazardous substances, but equally important to continue actions on land (nutrient reduction).
- Cost effectiveness was discussed; but for whom?

Proposed actions

Actions via synopses: 123

New proposals from the Conference: 49 (total)

- Hazardous substances and marine litter: 10
- Sea-based activities: 11
- Eutrophication: 22
- Biodiversity: 6

Hazardous substances and marine litter

Hazardous substances:

- Mapping, monitoring and development of Best Environmental Practice to control threats posed by munitions, wrecks and other hazardous submerged objects in the Baltic Sea and remediate dumpsite.
- Proposals addressing various measures to minimize input of pharmaceuticals

Marine litter:

- Management to handle derelict fishing gear, including mapping and removal
- Reduction of single-use plastics consumption at major events

New measures:

- Decrease of release of contaminants from small scale and diffuse municipal and industrial sources.
- Minimize the use of fire-fighting foams in the Baltic Sea region to prevent PFAS and other contaminants.
- Waste resource management strategy should focus on reduction, reuse and recycling – not waste combustion for energy.

Sea-based activities

Key message: a holistic perspective for all HELCOM BSAP measures by a social-ecological systems view. Previously submitted proposals for new BSAP actions were considered and new ones were developed.

The following were among the most prioritized ones:

- Enhancing the use of alternative fuels and sources of energy in shipping and enhance the use of digitalization and other innovations in technology to optimize energy efficiency in the Baltic Sea area.
- Adoption and implementation of a HELCOM Roadmap on biofouling management
- Work towards prohibiting the release of scrubber waste-water from open and half open systems into the Baltic Sea
- Develop criteria to indicate the health of a fish stock (besides fishing pressure and biomass criteria also including size and age distribution)
- Identifying and implementing Best available Technique (BAT) and Best Environmental Practice (BEP) to mitigate noise emitting activities, including operational measures and their co-benefits to the ecosystem

Eutrophication

- Prioritized from previously submitted synopses:
 - Annual field-level fertilization planning and farm-gate nutrient balancing for N and P
 - Reducing livestock densities and coupling livestock to the area of available farmland
 - Improved integration of BSAP targets with WFD targets
 - Strengthening of HELCOM Recommendation 28E/5 on municipal wwt
 - Removal of nutrients from the coastal zone by the use of mussel mitigation cultures
- Prioritized from new actions (22) submitted in the session:
 - Holistic land and farm management and multi-benefit measures for soil health, climate resilience and reduced dependency on external mineral inputs
 - Mandatory nutrient recycling at large wwtp
 - Promote water reuse and recirculation in industry

Biodiversity

- Prioritized from previously submitted synopses:
 - Establish an effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected system of highly protected marine protected areas (MPAs), covering a minimum of 30 % of the Baltic Sea area by 2030
 - Joint action to form a common understanding of ecosystem based management by 2023.
 - Designate no-use marine protected areas, that also function as scientific reference areas
 - Strengthening the management of the Baltic Sea MPA network by introducing key management elements to increase effectiveness of protection
 - Seasonal closures to restore coastal fish communities.
 - Nine synopsis covering restoration of habitats and biotopes (considered jointly).
- New proposal for actions:
 - Transboundary management plan for critically endangered sea-spawning grayling:
 - Strengthened cooperation between HELCOM groups and BaltFish
 - Active restoration and restocking of candidate species (or populations)
 - Action plans for threatened habitats
 - Monitor the effect of sea ice loss on ecosystem functioning
 - Ensure climate change is incorporated into all HELCOM monitoring and measures