



Document title	Associated action documents, supporting documents and background documents
Code	4-2
Category	DEC
Agenda Item	4 – Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan
Submission date	24.2.2021
Submitted by	Executive Secretary
Reference	

Background

HOD 59-2020 supported that documents submitted together with the updated BSAP will be divided into three specific categories depending on their nature, as follows:

- **Associated action documents:** documents which directly relate to implementing actions and measures for achieving the overall visions and objectives of the updated BSAP e.g. roadmaps, topic specific action plans, strategies, Recommendations etc.
- **Supporting documents:** documents which function as support for implementing and achieving the overall visions and objectives of the updated BSAP, but which do not require specific and concrete actions, e.g. the Climate Change Fact Sheet and the HELCOM Science Agenda.
- **Background documents:** material providing background information for the BSAP and the update process e.g. implementation report of the BSAP 2007-2021, rationale and process of the BSAP update etc.

The background documents are to provide background for the BSAP and the Ministerial Meeting and are not intended to be adopted with the updated BSAP. The supporting and associated action documents will have a stronger link to the BSAP since some of them will be adopted with the BSAP. The attached document contains proposals on how to adopt and reference these documents.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to agree on the mode of adoption and referencing for the associated action documents and supporting documents, as proposed in the attachment.

Adopting documents alongside the updated BSAP

A number of documents were adopted with the current [Baltic Sea Action Plan](#) adopted in 2007. The adoption of these documents was included in the relevant segment, e.g. the adoption of the revised Annex III, part II of the Helsinki Convention with Recommendation 28E/4 was included in the eutrophication segment as “WE AGREE to amend Annex III part II Prevention of pollution from Agriculture of the Convention by adopting HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 28E/4”.

It has been agreed that in the updated BSAP the traditional preambular style will not be used except in the overarching preamble. The agreement on adoption of documents could be included as part of the overarching preamble while references to these documents could be made in the relevant segments.

In the current BSAP, the documents adopted with the BSAP are included as annexes to the BSAP. It could be considered that the associated action documents and supporting documents that are adopted with the BSAP would only be included as links in the updated BSAP to avoid a lengthy document.

Associated action documents

HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Underwater Noise

Proposal for adoption and reference: The Regional Action Plan on Underwater Noise is expected to be adopted by HELCOM 42-2021. Reference to the Regional Action Plan on Underwater Noise will be made in the Sea-based activities segment.

Updated HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter

Proposal for adoption and reference: The Recommendation 36-1 on Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter will be revised and is expected to be adopted alongside the updated BSAP. Adopting the revised Recommendation can be included in the overarching preamble of the BSAP. Reference to the RAP ML will be made in the Hazardous substances and litter segment.

Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy

Proposal for adoption and reference: The Strategy is expected to be adopted alongside the update BSAP. Adopting the Strategy can be included in the overarching preamble of the BSAP. Reference to the Strategy will be made in the Eutrophication segment.

The Regional MSP Roadmap 2021-2030

Proposal for adoption and reference: The Regional MSP Roadmap is a regional document developed for joint implementation by HELCOM and VASAB member states and, thus, should be adopted by both HELCOM and VASAB. The document is closely linked to the HELCOM BSAP and VASAB Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region. The Roadmap contains concrete activities in maritime spatial planning aimed at supporting the achievement of the BSAP objectives. The document is suggested for adoption alongside with the BSAP. Adopting the Roadmap can be included in the overarching preamble of the BSAP. Reference to the Roadmap can be included in the introductory text for MSP section of the “horizontal actions” segment.

Revised Annex III part II of the Helsinki Convention

Proposal for adoption and reference: The changes to the Annex are proposed to be implemented via a Recommendation (document to be submitted for HELCOM 42-2021). Adopting the Recommendation can be included in the overarching preamble of the BSAP. Reference to the Annex will be made in the Eutrophication segment.

Supporting documents

Climate change fact sheet

Proposal for adoption and reference: The Climate Change fact sheet is expected to be adopted by HELCOM 42-2021. Reference to the Fact Sheet will be made under each of the segments.

HELCOM Science Agenda

Proposal for adoption and reference: The Agenda is expected to be adopted alongside the updated BSAP. Adopting the Agenda can be included in the overarching preamble of the BSAP together with a paragraph highlighting the importance of basing HELCOM work and the implementation of the BSAP on the best available science and knowledge.

Background documents

Implementation of the 2007-2021 BSAP

Proposal for distribution: The report will be published on the HELCOM website and printed for the Ministerial Meeting 2021 participants.

SOM reports

Proposal for distribution: The mode of publishing and inclusion as background document is to be discussed by the meeting under [document 4-1](#).

BSAP update process

Proposal for distribution: A summary of the BSAP update process will be published in online format, e.g. story map, timeline, PDF sheet.