



Document title	Update of the BSAP
Code	1-3
Category	INF
Agenda Item	1 – Introduction
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Reference	

Background

The HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan adopted in 2007 is currently being updated and the updated BSAP is to be adopted in autumn 2021. The attached document contains a short description of the process for the update of the BSAP.

Action requested

The workshop is invited to take note of information.

The update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

The current Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) was adopted in 2007. The overall objective of the BSAP, to reach good environmental status of the Baltic Sea by 2021, will most likely not be reached. Nevertheless, implementing the current BSAP has shown promising results towards improving the state of the sea. The mandate for an update was therefore given by the HELCOM Brussels Ministerial Meeting in March 2018. An evolution rather than a revolution, the updated BSAP is to become a fit-for-purpose and effective tool, addressing the shortcomings of the current plan and taking into account emerging issues.

The update process was launched in 2018 and involves three phases:

Three phases of the BSAP update

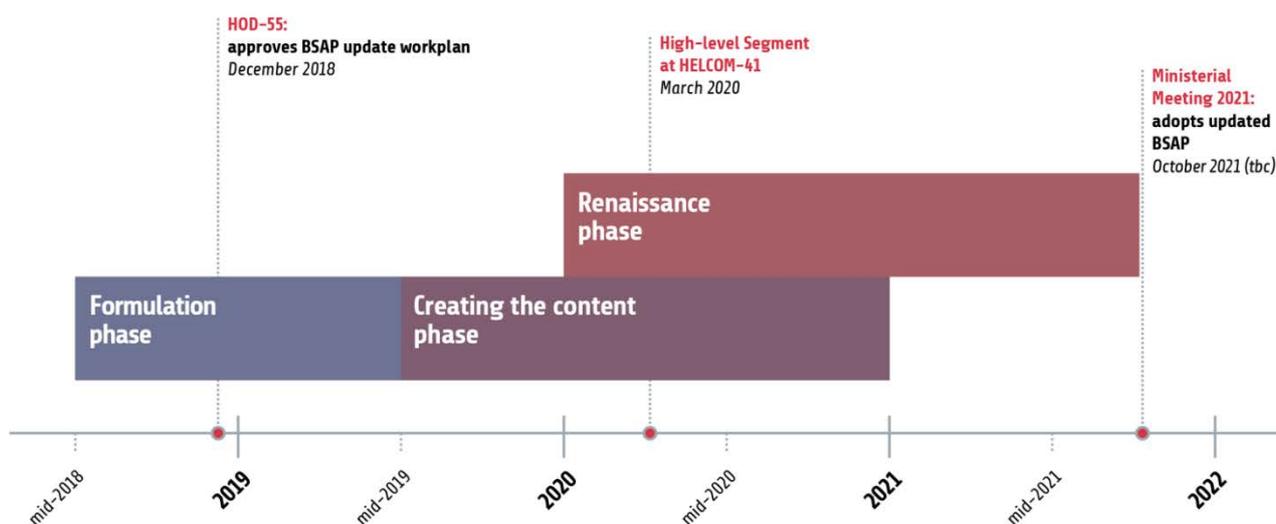


Figure 1. Three phases of the BSAP update.

1. Formulation phase: mid 2018 – mid 2019

- Establishing the work plan for the update
- Proposals for adjustments to the BSAP structure
- Status of the current BSAP implementation

2. Creating the content phase mid-2019 – end of 2020

- Review of the current BSAP
- Analysis of sufficiency of measures

3. Renaissance phase: end 2019 – 2021

- Proposing new actions and improvement of the existing actions

The BSAP UP workshops are organized as part of the “Renaissance phase”. The operative section of the updated BSAP will include existing actions that were agreed in Baltic Sea Action Plan and subsequent Ministerial Meetings of 2010, 2013 and 2018 but are not implemented by 2021 (c.f. document 1-2), as well

as new actions as necessary. To identify possible new actions which can be considered for inclusion in the updated BSAP a call for synopses of possible actions was issued to Contracting Parties, HELCOM subsidiary bodies, international projects and HELCOM Observers in 2019-2020. The proposals for potential new actions for the updated HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan are based on these synopses.

As a first step in the process to evaluate and agree on which of these proposed new actions should be included in the BSAP, the HELCOM Working Groups carried out a technical review of the synopses at their meetings in spring 2020. The aim of the review was to provide a preliminary evaluation focusing on the technical aspects and substance of the proposals (c.f. document 2-1). As the second step, the proposals for new actions will be evaluated with regards to effectiveness at the BSAP UP workshops (c.f. document 3-1).

Next steps

The outcomes of the BSAP UP workshops will be submitted to the HELCOM Working Groups meetings where they will be further elaborated and endorsed for submission to the meeting of HELCOM Heads of Delegation (HOD 59-2020) in December 2020. The Working Groups will also still identify possible gaps in the set of measures for the updated BSAP and propose measures to fill the gaps, if needed, as well as consider the results from the analyses of sufficiency of measures. The first full draft of the BSAP will be discussed at HOD 59-2020. The drafting of the BSAP will continue in 2021 and the updated plan will be adopted tentatively in October 2021.

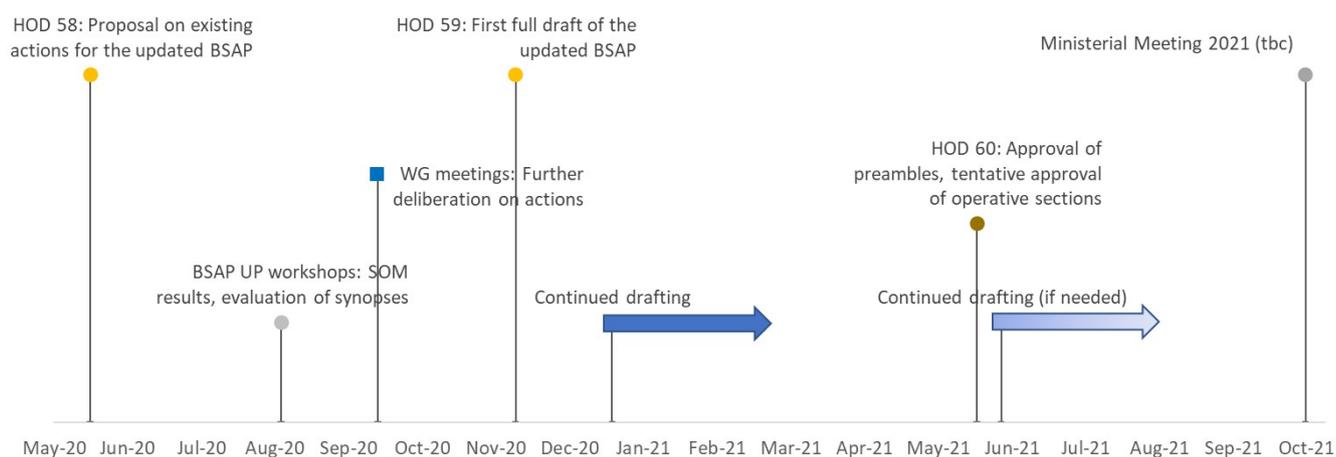


Figure 2. Timeline for drafting the actions for updated BSAP in 2020-2021

More information:

[Strategic Plan for the BSAP update](#)

Updated Work Plan for the BSAP update ([Outcome of HOD 59-2020](#), Annex 2)

Preliminary timeline and division of tasks for drafting of BSAP ([Outcome of HOD 59-2020](#), Annex 3)