Document title	Linking the update of the HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter and the BSAP
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Background

HELCOM Recommendation 36/1 on the Reginal Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP ML) "RECOMMENDS FURTHER that the Contracting Parties review and, if necessary, update this Recommendation and its action plan in 2021". Following considerations at Pressure meetings, HOD 58-2020 supported the proposal by PRESSURE 12-2020 to update the RAP ML and the proposed revision process including the BSAP workshop on hazardous substances and litter as a starting point, with further continuation of the discussion projected for the Fifth Workshop on implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (WS RAP ML 5-2020).

Thus, the revision of the HELCOM RAP ML is scheduled simultaneously with the ongoing update of the HELCOM BSAP. In this respect, HOD 57-2020 decided that documents that are adopted alongside the updated BSAP, e.g. HELCOM Recommendations, roadmaps, topic specific action plans etc., will remain as separate documents and not merged with the main BSAP document. However, updated BSAP should include strategic decisions and central points from the action plans and that they could be adopted in the revised Action Plan on marine litter.

In order to assure coherence of the two documents, in addition to the common task of the BSAP UP workshops - to conclude on the new actions that are supported for inclusion in the updated BSAP and exchange views on their sufficiency to achieve the ambitious BSAP goals - the session on marine litter is tasked to initiate the discussion on the update of the RAP ML. Particularly, the workshop is invited to consider whether measures proposed for the BSAP are more suitable for the RAP ML.

In general, the linkage between the update of the BSAP and the RAP ML lies on the achievement of the same litter related objectives, as agreed by HELCOM 41-2020:

- "No harm to marine life from litter" (ecological objective);
- "Prevent generation of waste and its input to the sea, including microplastics" (management/conservation objective) and
- "Significantly reduce amounts of litter on shorelines and in the sea" (management/conservation objective).

This document provides an overview of the status of implementation of the RAP ML including references to the proposed synopsis on litter for the updated BSAP to be considered by the Workshop with the understanding that some of them may be more suitable for the updated RAP ML, in accordance with the guidance given by HOD 57-2020. Since this workshop also contributes to the revision of the RAP ML, the document contains dedicated section on actions which implementation has not advanced since 2015, aiming at initiating the discussion on the reasons behind. Finally, the document contains proposals on the further steps to revise the RAP ML in connection with the ongoing work on the BSAP update.

The output of the discussion in relation to the update RAP ML will be utilized as basis for the WS RAP ML 5-2020.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- take note of the information and make use of it when considering the linkage between the marine litter section of the update BSAP and the revised RAP ML, particularly:
    - integration of strategic decisions and central points from the action plan to the BSAP, as requested by HOD 57-2020;
    - inclusion of the actions proposed via synopses for the BSAP update to the RAP ML;
    - proposals on concrete (numerical) environmental targets indicating progress towards the BSAP objectives in the update BSAP;

- take note of the information and make use of it when considering further steps of the revision of the RAP ML, particularly:
    - improvement of the national information on implementation of regional actions from the current RAP ML to enable the evaluation of their expected accomplishment;
    - evaluation of implementation of voluntary national actions with the view of their inclusion in the list of regional actions of the revised RAP ML.

Linking the update of the HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter and the BSAP

For the purpose of this document, the overview of the status of implementation of the regional actions in the RAP ML is organized by topics. A detailed description of the status of implementation of each of the thirty regional actions in the RAP ML is contained in **Annex 1** to this document. When available, reference is made to the proposed marine litter synopsis for the update BSAP. Actions where advance has not been achieved are included in a separate chapter. Finally, there is a dedicated section to those synopses for which there is no linkage with the RAP ML.

Waste prevention and management (actions RL1-RL5)

Work has focused on:

- the compilation of background information for drafting HELCOM guidelines on best practice on waste management to prevent waste turn into marine litter (RL3) and probably addressing cleaning and collection systems to prevent litter from land entering the aquatic environment (RL2) and marine litter references in waste management plans (RL1). For that purpose, a questionnaire was prepared, and its results are available (document 3-7 to PRESSURE 11-2019);
- the update of HELCOM Recommendation 23/5 on the reduction of discharges from urban areas by the proper management of storm water systems. There is a draft available (document 7-2 to PRESSURE 12-2020), which is to be further elaborated and discussed at the WS RAP ML 5-2020 (12 October 2020), then considered by PRESSURE 13-2020 aiming at its submission to HOD 59-2020 for endorsement, and
- the drafting of principles to improve the different phases of the design process in terms of reduction/prevention of marine litter generation (document 4-5 to PRESSURE 9-2018). Additional discussion is foreseen in terms of resources' availability and identification of the final product of action RL5[1].

Micro particles (actions RL6-RL7)

Most of the national actions contributing to the actions in the RAP ML target microplastics, from the identification of the importance of different sources of primary and secondary microplastics (RL 6) to possible techniques in wastewater treatment plants to prevent micro particles entering the marine environment (RL7).

In addition, the outputs of the FanpLESStic-sea project - Initiatives to remove microplastics before they enter the sea is to contribute to actions RL6 and RL7. Thus, the EU INTERREG Baltic Sea Region project will produce:

- a model to map, understand and visualize microplastic pathways that will be applied to the partners' cities and/or regions;
- piloting of new technology (a) for filtering out microplastics; (b) sustainable drainage solutions as means for removal of microplastics; and (c) to remove microplastics from stormwater;
- defining innovative governance frameworks and engaging a large range of players for the implementation of coordinated and cost-efficient measures resulting in locally adapted investment proposals/plans for each partner's region; and
- dissemination of project results, including reports on barriers and ways forward, to increase institutional capacity on up-stream and problem-targeted methods to remove microplastics. The FanpLESStic-sea project will run for 30 months (January 2019-June 2021).

1 RL 5: "Establish a dialogue and negotiate on solutions with business and industry to (i) develop design improvements that reduce the negative impacts of products entering the marine environment, and (ii) reduce over- packaging and promote wise packaging."

So far, the project has produced a "Review of existing policies and research related to microplastics" together with a summary for policy makers, which has enabled the accomplishment of the first part of action RL 6 ("Establish an overview of the importance of the different sources of primary and secondary microplastics") whereas the second part ("Evaluate products and processes that include both primary and secondary micro plastics, such as fibers from clothing, assess if they are covered or not by legislation, and act, if appropriate, to influence the legal framework, or identify other necessary measures") is to remain in the revised RAP on ML.

The proposed synopsis "Development of a HELCOM guideline on establishment and operation of artificial turfs" is linked to the second part of action RL6, thus it is suggested to consider it as a part of the update of the RAP ML.

Sewage related litter including sanitary waste (RL8)

An "Analysis of the degree of the marine environment pollution by wastes flowing down the rivers to the sea, including sanitary waste" is available (document 7-11 to PRESSURE 12-2020). However, there is on-going discussions on how, based on previous data, the report could be properly updated and focused on the magnitude of sanitary waste in the region and suitable measures for prevention and reduction. The revision of the scope of this action is to be considered as part of the update of the RAP ML.

The proposed synopsis "Information campaign on what not to flush", can be considered as linked to this action.

Expended Polystyrene (Polystyrene Foam) (RL9)

A "Survey of polystyrene foam (EPS and XPS) in the Baltic Sea" is available. Based on the report, four actions are to be prioritized to reduce releases of EPS and XPS to the environment (document 7-7 to PRESSURE 12-2020):

- Awareness raising at construction and demolition sites
- Improve collection and recycling of EPS/XPS
- Requirements in order to reduce loss of plastic granules for producers and converters.
- Floats for flag buoys

Countries are now to consider their national position in relation to the work towards including these actions in the revised RAP ML or to work towards a HELCOM recommendation including relevant actions on EPS.

Plastic bags (RL10)

This action aims to "Define and implement appropriate instruments and incentives to reduce the use of plastic bags, including the illustration of the associated costs and environmental impacts (e.g. establishment of levies, deposit fees, taxes or bans on plastic bags). Support regional coordination in the Baltic Sea of the implementation of the future revised Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste to reduce the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags, for HELCOM Contracting Parties being EU members."

There is only information on national activities in relation to this action addressing only on plastic carrier bags.

The proposed synopsis "Ban on handing out free carrier bags" is linked to this action, thus it is suggested to consider it as a part of the update of the RAP ML.

Bottles and containers (RL11)

The outcome of a survey conducted in 2016 indicated that functioning deposit refund systems for bottles, containers and cans (e.g. glass, plastics and aluminum) were in place in Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Lithuania and Sweden LT. In Latvia, Poland and Russia the system was not in place at that moment. There is ongoing work between Estonia and Latvia aiming at developing a joint packaging deposit system between these two countries (document 7-12 to PRESSURE 12-2020).

Remediation and removal actions (RL 14 and RL 15)

The outcome of a survey conducted in 2016, relaunched in 2019, indicated that all the landfills are under control in the region and cannot be considered as sources of marine litter. There is an ongoing process on verification of national data which includes re-evaluation of the risk posed by the sites together with missing landfills' coordinates, which once concluded, will enable the information to be available in the HELCOM Map and Data Service and the accomplishment of action RL14.

The International Environmental Forum "Baltic Sea Day" and exhibition "Ecology in the Big City" which annually takes place in St Petersburg (Russia) can serve as the platform to exchange good practices and techniques for cleaning beaches, riverbanks, ports, marinas and inland waterway (RL15).

Actions addressing shipping related waste (RS1-RS3)

Work on these actions has focused on:

- the compilation of best practice for ELB (End-of-Life boats) (document 3-6 to PRESSURE 10-2019; action RS1) and activities and economic incentives aimed at appropriate disposal of ELB (document 3-4 to PRESSURE 11-2019), which has led to a policy brief on disposal of ELB (document 7-8, 7-8-Rev.1) as a first step to develop a regional approach on the topic. Since consensus on the policy brief has not been reached further work is needed and discussion will continue at PRESSURE 13-2020.
- the report "Sanctions, penalties and fines issued by OSPAR and HELCOM Contracting Parties for waste disposal offences at sea" and the "Seminar on the prevention of and sanctions on illegal waste disposal from ships at sea" held on 29-30 November 2018 in Berlin.
- a study was conducted in 2016 to address actions on the development of best practice in relation to inspections for MARPOL Annex V (RS2) and on the implementation and harmonization of the no-special-fee system in ports of the Baltic Sea (RS3). In order to prepare the study, a questionnaire was used to collect knowledge regarding the regime of control and inspections of MARPOL Annex V infringements in the respective countries. This was accompanied by a review of the existing legal framework as well as relevant literature. A supporting report "Analysis of penalties and fines issued by OSPAR and HELCOM Contracting Parties for waste disposal offences at sea" is the result of such study (document 6-3 to MARITIME 17-2017).

Waste related to fishing and aquaculture and remediation and removal measures (RS5-RS12)

Under this theme, work has focused on addressing abandoned, lost and otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) (RS6-RS7 and RS10-RS12). The conclusions of the Marelitt Baltic project, the "Baltic Sea Blueprint" (document 1-3 to WS RAP ML 4-2019), together with the outcome of a regional questionnaire to compile information on national activities regarding ALDFG (document 3-3 to PRESSURE 10-2019), have led to the definition of new actions to address ALDFG (document 7-5 to PRESSURE 12-2020). Countries are now to comment on the proposed way forward for these new actions. Further discussion is envisaged at the WS RAP ML 5-2020. The new actions as supported by Pressure are represented in the Figure below (Figure 1).

In relation to the promotion and dissemination of best practice in relation to all relevant aspects of waste management within the fishing sector (RS5), the document on "Best practices to reduce inputs of cuttings of nets and cord to the marine environment" (2020) is available. Further discussion is needed on how to disseminate this material.

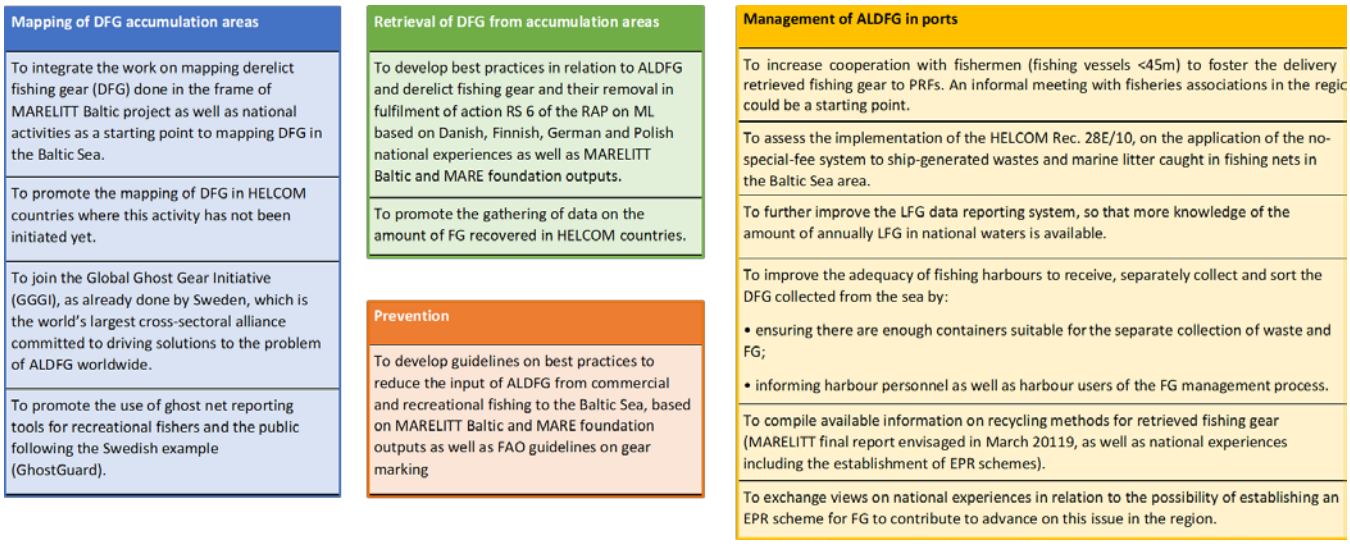

Figure 1 - New actions to address ALDFG.

The proposed synopses:

- **"Development of national and regional ALDFG mitigation policy papers and recommendations on how to approach ALDFG problem in the Baltic Sea in a systemic way" and**
- **"Integration of work regarding mapping of ALDFG host areas and hot spots in the Baltic Sea region, based on the results of mapping activities held within national and international initiatives (such as the MARELITT Baltic project)"**

are extremely linked to these new actions. Thus, it is suggested not to include these synopses into the BSAUP update but to ensure that the purpose of these synopses is achieved through the new actions.

In relation to dolly ropes, PRESSURE 12-2020 agreed that since dolly ropes are not used in the Baltic Sea the action investigating their use and prevalence (RS9) can be considered accomplished since dolly ropes are not used in the Baltic Sea (document 7-6 to PRESSURE 12-2020).

Synopsis which are beyond the current RAP ML.

There are three synopses which are not linked to any of the actions in the RAP ML:

- **"Ban (phasing-out) on non-degradable shot wads and information campaigns targeted at hunters";**
- **"Ban on mass balloon (>50 balloons) releases"; and**
- **"Reduction of single-use plastics consumption at major events".**

Due to their very particular nature, it may be more appropriate to consider the first two synopses as part of the revision of the RAP ML. On the contrary, the third synopsis is more of a strategic nature and may be more appropriate for consideration of inclusion in the BSAP update.

Actions in the RAP ML with no progress

The table below contains actions in the RAP ML where no implementation progress has been achieved. Questions trying to understand why this is the case are suggested. The aim of this table is only to serve initiating the discussion on this topic.

	Lead country?	Relevance?	Lack of specification?	Others
Encourage, based on existing labels such as the EU Ecolabel and the Nordic Ecolabel, exchange with international environmental certification schemes for information and inclusion of the management and prevention of marine litter in their lists of criteria (RL12)	No	Is it possible to estimate the impact of this action, if conducted?	Yes, but "by 2016 initiate an activity on what certification schemes could be addressed.." and this has not been conducted	Is it feasible within the HELCOM framework to conduct this action?
HELCOM Contracting Parties to seek cooperation with the River and River Basin Commissions, as appropriate, in order to include impacts of litter on the marine environment from riverine inputs, taking into account activities in the context of the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Bathing Water Directive, and beyond, when applicable. This cooperation should include the exchange of experience on best practice to prevent litter entering into water systems, in line with action RL8 (RL13)	Yes	Yes, cooperation on riverine litter inputs is crucial.	Yes, should aim at a more specific target defining this action.	Cooperation between HELCOM and River and River Basin Commission in the particular topic of marine litter has not been established yet. A pragmatic approach on how to do it needs to be defined. As starting point it needs to be clarified whether it is HELCOM or countries individually who seek such cooperation.
Implementation of the ISO standard (ISO 201070:2013) in relation to port reception facilities. Differentiate according to the size of the port. Promote the development of regional statistics on waste collected in ports based on existing information as far as possible (RS4)	No	Yes, however it may be appropriate to redefine the scope of the action towards waste management waste in ports. Input from MARITIME needed.	Maybe, although the action further specifies: "Assess how many ports are operating according to ISO standards and to propose action as appropriate by 2017."	There may have been a reluctancy for HELCOM countries being EU members to initiate this action pending on the finalization of the revision of the EU Directive on PRF.
To prepare information sheets to assist Contracting Parties in developing material for education programs, especially for professional seafarers including fishermen, highlighting the marine litter problem and including codes of practice in cooperation with relevant organisations including IMO (RE1)	No	Cannot material already available be used for this purpose?	Maybe on the contents of the sheets, which were "to be prepared by 2016"	Is it feasible within the HELCOM framework to conduct this action?
HELCOM website to be updated periodically based on the input from Contracting Parties on marine litter management activities (RE2)	No	Yes.	Yes, the specification of the action only indicates that "2015 initial information uploaded (simplified BSAP follow up system)".	The RAP ML is regularly followed up, including a dedicated section on the follow up table on "Activities by country". This could be considered sufficient to ensure exchange of information on management activities.
Develop a communication strategy for this Regional Action Plan linked in a coherent way with national initiatives/actions. This will include linking the HELCOM website to relevant projects and initiatives. (RE3)	No	Yes	No. This should have been done by 2016	The issue has not been tackled. Maybe it is possible to do it know once more experience has been earned.

Further steps to update the RAP in line with the BSAP update

Current HELCOM BSAP contains rather limited number of actions aimed at reducing input of litter to the marine environment. These existing actions are focused on the development of regional indicators related to marine litter, threshold values and monitoring methodologies. Thus, the HELCOM Action Plan on Marine Litter, adopted in 2015 in the format of HELCOM Recommendation, is the only regional mechanism stipulating implementation of practical actions to reduce input of marine litter to the Baltic Sea marine environment.

The update of the BSAP includes the integration of marine litter to the existing BSAP segment on hazardous substances and the setting of relevant ecological and management objectives. The objectives have been provisionally agreed as:

- "No harm to marine life from litter" (ecological objective);
- "Prevent generation of waste and its input to the sea, including microplastics" (management/conservation objective) and
- "Significantly reduce amounts of litter on shorelines and in the sea" (management/conservation objective).

Further, actions sufficient to achieve the objectives are to be identified. However, vast majority of the actions to reduce littering of the marine environment have already been included in the HELCOM RAP ML and most of them, though, not all, are already being implemented. Thus, the link between the updated BSAP and the revised RAP ML becomes a key point of the HELCOM framework for marine litter. In this respect, the following steps are proposed:

(i) **As the first step, a general commitment engaging the implementation of the RAP ML and identifying the RAP ML as a key instrument to achieve the BSAP objectives could be proposed for the updated BSAP to link these two documents. Also, strategic decisions and central points from the Action Plan are to be reflected in the BSAP, as requested by HOD 57-2020 as well as proposals on concrete (numerical) environmental targets indicating progress towards the updated BSAP objectives.**

(ii) **Secondly, actions proposed as synopses for inclusion in the updated BSAP can be considered also in the light of their relevance for the RAP ML, bearing in mind balance between the level of specification of actions in the updated BSAP and the RAP ML.**

(iii) **Thirdly, thorough evaluation of the implementation of actions from the current RAP ML should be organized before PRESSURE 13-2020 and the 5th workshop on implementation of the RAP ML, including update of the information on the status of actions. The evaluation can include also reviewing of voluntary national actions with the intention of including some of them in the list of actions for regional implementation.**

(iv) **Finally, in line with the request of HOD 58-2020 the sufficiency of measures in the updated BSAP and revised RAP ML to achieve the BSAP objectives is to be evaluated and remaining gaps are to be identified. Proposals on actions can be submitted before PRESSURE 13-2020.**

Annex 1 Detailed status of implementation of regional actions in the RAP ML

CODE OF ACTION	REGIONAL ACTION	FURTHER SPECIFICATION	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION	CONCLUSIONS ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
RL1	Prepare and agree on HELCOM guidelines on marine litter references to be included in national and local waste prevention and waste management plans, i.a. an element highlighting the impacts of marine litter.	Guidelines by 2017	On-going	Germany prepared a questionnaire for HELCOM countries to compile background information for drafting HELCOM guidelines on best practice on waste management to prevent waste turn into marine litter (RL3) and probably addressing cleaning and collection systems to prevent litter from land entering the aquatic environment (RL2) and marine litter references in waste management plans (RL1). The results of the questionnaire which gathering input from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Poland, Russia, Sweden as well as KIMO and WWF Poland, as well as five additional responses from municipalities and one from a port operator are available (document 3-7 to PRESSURE 11-2019). Germany to provide additional information on planned discussions related to the identification of useful elements linking marine litter to national waste prevention and management plans envisaged by the revised EU Waste Framework Directive once available (Outcome of PRESSURE 11-2019, para. 3.34-3.35)
RL2	Provide HELCOM guidelines on best practice routines with regard to cleaning and collection systems to prevent litter from land entering the aquatic environment.	Guidelines by 2017	On-going	See RL1
RL3	Share best practice on waste management in order to identify and address loopholes that makes waste turn into marine litter, including the issue of landfills, regulations and enforcement.	_	On-going	See RL1

CODE OF ACTION	REGIONAL ACTION	FURTHER SPECIFICATION	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION	CONCLUSIONS ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
RL4	Improvement of stormwater management in order to prevent litter, including microlitter, to enter the marine environment from heavy weather events.	By 2018 at the latest HELCOM has compiled information to give guidance on improvements of stormwater management on a local level to prevent and reduce stormwater related waste (including micro litter) entering the marine environment, taking into consideration similar action within OSPAR. If appropriate according to findings of the activity and other relevant information, amend HELCOM Recommendation 28E/5 on municipal wastewater treatment.	On-going	*Overview of HELCOM Recommendations on waste water management proposed for amendment to address microliter presented to WS RAP ML 2-2017 (document 7), and considered it to be premature and that further building knowledge is needed. *Swedish EPA report on the analysis of the state of knowledge and challenges on storm water *CCB “Guidance on concrete ways to reduce microplastic inputs from municipal stormwater and waste water discharges” *Proposal to update HELCOM Recommendation 23/5 (Annex 3 of the Outcome of WS RAP ML 4-2019) to be considered at PRESSURE 12-2020 *The draft update of HELCOM Recommendation 23/5 (document 7-2 to PRESSURE 12-2020) is to be further elaborated for scrutiny at WS RAP ML 5-2020. PRESSURE 13-2020 will consider the draft, taking into account the recommendations by the workshop with the intention to submit the document to HOD 592020 for endorsement.
RL5	Establish a dialogue and negotiate on solutions with business and industry to (i) develop design improvements that reduce the negative impacts of products entering the marine environment, and (ii) reduce over- packaging and promote wise packaging	Initiatives taken by the private sector.	On-going	Document on list of principles to improve the different phases of the design process in terms of reduction/prevention of marine litter generation steamed from the HELCOM-INTERREG Workshop on Marine Litter and Ecodesign held on 15 June 2018 in Berlin (Germany) submitted to PRESSURE 9-2018 for consideration (document 4-5).

CODE OF ACTION	REGIONAL ACTION	FURTHER SPECIFICATION	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION	CONCLUSIONS ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
RL6	Establish an overview of the importance of the different sources of primary and secondary microplastics. Evaluate products and processes that include both primary and secondary micro plastics, such as fibres from clothing, assess if they are covered or not by legislation, and act, if appropriate, to influence the legal framework, or identify other necessary measures.	By 2017 an overview on what products and processes contribute to the input of micro plastics to the Baltic Sea, taking into account similar action within OSPAR. By 2018 existing legislation is assessed and necessary measures identified together with relevant stakeholders.	On-going	*Results of Danish national investigations available: “Microplastics, Occurrence, effects and sources of releases to the environment in Denmark” and “Microplastic in Danish wastewater. Sources, occurrences and fate". *EU study on microplastics in cosmetics. *EU report "Intentionally added microplastics in products" by Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure UK (2017) *EU report "Investigating Options for Reducing Releases in the Aquatic Environment of Microplastics Emitted by Products" by EUNOMIA (2018) *Finnish Bachelor's Thesis on microplastics and harmful substances in urban runoffs and landfill leachates - Possible Emission Sources to Marine Environment (2016). *Swedish investigation on sources of micro plastics. *"Technical report of microplastic pollution originating from textiles and paints/coatings" by CCB (2017) * With the finalisation of the “Draft review of existing policies and research related to microplastics” (document 3-1 to PRESSURE 19-2019) the first part of the action (“Establish an overview of the importance of the different sources of primary and secondary microplastics”) is accomplished whereas the second part (“Evaluate products and processes that include both primary and secondary micro plastics, such as fibers from clothing, assess if they are covered or not by legislation, and act, if appropriate, to influence the legal framework, or identify other necessary measures”) is to remain in the revised RAP on ML (Outcome of PRESSURE 19-2019, para. 3.8) *The finalised “Draft summary for policy makers on the review of existing policies and research related to microplastics" (document 3-1 Add. 1 to PRESSURE 19-2019) to be published on the HELCOM Website once the input provided by PRESSURE 19-2019 is addressed, is now available.

CODE OF ACTION	REGIONAL ACTION	FURTHER SPECIFICATION	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION	CONCLUSIONS ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
RL7	Compilation of available techniques as well as research and develop additional techniques in waste water treatment plants to prevent micro particles entering the marine environment.	By 2018 HELCOM has compiled information, and prepared a report on micro particles removal in waste water treatment plants taking into account similar action within OSPAR. If appropriate according to findings of the search and other relevant information, amend HELCOM Recommendation 28E/5 on municipal wastewater treatment.	On-going	*Danish project on evaluation of various technologies ability to retain microplastic from wastewater developing a technology to retain microplastic from wastewater (2015) *Danish partnership focusing on microplastic pollution in wastewater (2017) *Danish guide on how to handle wastewater from artificial football pitches containing car tire rubber granulates (2018) *Danish project on developing and testing a filter technology to retain microplastic (2016) *Danish project on developing a technology to retain micro rubber from car tires (2017) *PhD thesis of J. Talvitie “Wastewater treatment plants as pathways of microlitter to the aquatic environment" (2018) *Swedish sources and pathways for microplastics to the marine environment - A review of existing data *Swedish report: "Advanced wastewater treatment for separation and removal of pharmaceutical residues and other hazardous substances (Report 6803 April 2017)" which section 5 (p.29) provides an assessment of available techniques
RL8	Assess the importance of the contribution of upstream waste flows to the marine environment and, if needed, identify suitable actions.	By 2017 an assessment of the importance of sewage related waste coming from the upstream waste flow is produced. By 2018 share assessment with River and River Basin Commissions and identify measures including the implementation of related regulations; missing elements are identified and guidelines for improvement are presented.	On-going	* "Analysis of the degree of the marine environment pollution by wastes flowing down the rivers to the sea, including sanitary waste" (2019). * "Guidance on concrete ways to reduce microplastic inputs from municipal stormwater and waste water discharges" by CCB (2017) *Poland prepared a summary page containing the most important reasons and conclusions to be used to communicate the report on the contribution of upstream waste flows to the marine environment with river basin management authorities. Poland is to present an updated background report and summary page to PRESSUR 12-2020 (document 3-3 and Outcome of PRESSURE 19-2019, para. 3.18-3.22) *PRESSURE 12-2020 took note of the analysis of the degree of the marine environment pollution by wastes flowing down the rivers to the sea, including sanitary waste (document 7-11), considered how the original full report (document 7-11, Attachment 1) based on previous data could be properly updated and agreed to focus further work on the report on the magnitude of sanitary waste in the region and suitable measures for

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				prevention and reduction to consider revision of the scope of this action as part of the update of the RAP ML. Countries were to provide input to the report by 12 June 2020. The meeting further agreed to invite the Secretariat to communicate with Poland for further work on this action, including communication on the matter of harmonised monitoring of riverine inputs in general with river basin management authorities (document 7-11, Attachment 2).
RL9	Compile information on the prevalence and sources of expanded polystyrene (EPS) in the marine environment, and engage with industry to make proposals for alternative solutions (e.g. use of other materials, establishment of deposits, return and restoration systems, overpackaging reduction).	By 2017 an overview of the most significant sources of EPS ending up in the marine environment is produced, in cooperation with OSPAR. Make recommendations to the Contracting Parties on voluntary agreements with the industry on changes in product design and applying best practices when handling EPS by 2019.	On-going	*Survey of polystyrene foam (EPS and XPS) in the Baltic Sea" by Denmark (2019). *Catalogue of actions to prevent EPS entering the marine environment, proposed in the report above, discussed at the Forth Workshop on the Implementation of the Action Plan (WS RAP ML 4-2019). Proposed new actions (Annex 4 of the Outcome of the Workshop) to be considered at PRESURE 12-2020. *PRESSURE 12-2020 agreed on the four actions to be prioritized to reduce releases of EPS and XPS to the environment (document 7-7). Countries are to consider their national position in relation to the work towards including relevant actions on EPS/XPS in a revised RAP ML or to work towards a HELCOM recommendation including relevant actions on EPS, by 15 May 2020.
RL10	Define and implement appropriate instruments and incentives to reduce the use of plastic bags, including the illustration of the associated costs and environmental impacts (e.g. establishment of levies, deposit fees, taxes or bans on plastic bags). Support regional coordination in the Baltic Sea of the implementation of the future revised Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste to reduce the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags, for	By 2018 HELCOM Contracting Parties start to coordinate and inform each other about consumption of plastic bags on an annual basis. By 2019 establish a reduction target of plastic bags, taking into account the measures which are implemented nationally.	On-going	*"Life Cycle Assessment of grocery plastic carrier bags' in DK's supermarkets in 2017" *Finnish Plastic Carrier Bag Agreement

CODE OF ACTION	REGIONAL ACTION	FURTHER SPECIFICATION	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION	CONCLUSIONS ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
	HELCOM Contracting Parties being EU members.			
RL11	Cooperate on the establishment and/or further development of deposit refund systems for bottles, containers and cans (e.g. glass, plastics and aluminium) in the HELCOM Contracting Parties in accordance with national law as appropriate. Investigate and strive for bilateral and multilateral solutions between the countries for establishment of such systems in relation to passenger ships.	CPs informing in 2017 on the status/plans regarding the deposit refund systems, including on possible solutions regarding passenger ships.	On-going	*Estonia conducted a survey to CPs (2016). Outcome: currently functioning deposit refund systems for bottles, containers and cans (e.g. glass, plastics and aluminium) are in place in DE, DK, SE, FI, EE and LT. In PL, LV and RU the system is not in place at the moment. There is no action regarding bilateral and multilateral solutions between the countries for establishment of such systems in relation to passenger ships. *On-going work between Estonia and Latvia aiming at developing a joint packaging deposit system between these two countries (document 7-12 to PRESSURE 12-2020).
RL12	Encourage, based on existing labels such as the EU Ecolabel and the Nordic Ecolabel, exchange with international environmental certification schemes for information and inclusion of the management and prevention of marine litter in their lists of criteria.	By 2016 initiate an activity on what certification schemes could be addressed, which existing criteria could be promoted for potential inclusion in international certification systems together with ways and means how to help approving those.	Not initiated	_

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RL13	HELCOM Contracting Parties to seek cooperation with the River and River Basin Commissions, as appropriate, in order to include impacts of litter on the marine environment from riverine inputs, taking into account activities in the context of the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Bathing Water Directive, and beyond, when applicable. This cooperation should include the exchange of experience on best practice to prevent litter entering into water systems, in line with action RL8.	HELCOM Contracting Parties will continue cooperation with River and River basin Commissions, as appropriate, in order to integrate measures addressing the reduction of littering in river basins followed up by appropriate information exchange on the implementation of measures.	Not initiated	_
RL14	Address landfills or dumpsites including historic ones which may eventually pose a risk to the marine environment due to factors such as coastal erosion and vicinity to rivers.	By 2020 a regional-wide map on landfills and dumpsites including historic ones which may eventually pose a risk to the marine environment is produced.	On-going	Estonia conducted a survey to CPs (2016). Feedback provided by all HELCOM members except Germany, Lithuania and Russia. The received feedback indicated that all the landfills are under control in the region and cannot be considered as sources of marine litter. The survey was relaunched in 2019 when Lithuania provided feedback. Information on the landfills is to be verified by national data reporters including re-evaluation of the risk posed by the sites together with missing landfills' coordinates by 1 December 2019. Once the information is updated, it will be made available in the HELCOM Map and Data Service and the action will be considered accomplished (Outcome of PRESSURE 11-2019, para. 3.10-3.17). There have not been any reviews of information on landfills supplied. Poland has collected information on landfills and needs some time to process it before reporting. The action is not accomplished yet (Outcome of PRESSURE 12-2020, para. 7.25-7.26).

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RL15	Establish an exchange platform for spreading experiences on good cleaning practices in beaches, including cleaning beaches actions by local communities, riverbanks, pelagic and surface sea areas, ports, marinas and inland waterways, in cooperation with relevant fora. Develop best practice on environmental friendly technologies and methods for cleaning.	Coordinate with other RSCs in order to set up an exchange platform for spreading experiences on good cleaning practices in the different marine compartments and rivers.	On-going	The International Environmental Forum "Baltic Sea Day" and exhibition "Ecology in the Big City" which annually takes place in St Petersburg (Russia) can serve as the platform to exchange good practices and techniques for cleaning beaches, riverbanks, ports, marinas and inland waterway.
RS1	Development of best practice on the disposal of old pleasure boats (i.e. intentional disposal of the boats at the ending of their lifetime in the sea and on shore).	Best practice developed by 2018	On-going	*ELB (End-of-Life boats) report that collects a best practice -model on recycling of ELB (2019). *Swedish national project on recycling of pleasure boats by Sweboat, Båtskroten Sverige AB and Stena Recycling AB (2015). *Compiled information on activities and economic incentives aimed at appropriate disposal of ELB (2019). *Danish report on recycling of fiberglass into traffic shield products (2019) *PRESSURE 19-2019 supported the development of a regional approach on ELB which would assist countries to handle the problem. Since the situation of ELB differs in the countries, the starting point to develop the regional approach would be a policy message based on the existing material. Finland with the assistance of Sweden is to produce such a document (Outcome of PRESSURE 19-2019, para. 3.27-3.29). *PRESSURE 12-2020 took note of a policy brief on disposal of ELB (document 7-8, 7-8-Rev.1) and agreed that as the first step to develop a regional approach on the topic a consensus on the HELCOM policy message regarding the issue has to be achieved. Countries were invited to express national positions in relation to the message contained in the Policy Brief by 15 May 2020. Since consensus on the policy brief was not reached further work is needed, and discussion will continue at PRESSURE 13-2020.

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RS2	Develop best practice in relation to inspections for MARPOL Annex V, including harmonized management of data. Support regional coordination of IMO regulations in accordance with EU requirements for those HELCOM countries which are EU members.	Best practice developed in cooperation with Paris MoU by 2017	On-going	*"Sanctions, penalties and fines issued by OSPAR and HELCOM Contracting Parties for waste disposal offences at sea" *Seminar on the prevention of and sanctions on illegal waste disposal from ships at sea held on 29-30 November 2018 in Berlin.
RS3	Further work on implementation and harmonization of the no-special-fee system in ports of the Baltic Sea countries, addressing: * gaps in existing regulations, * enforcement and practices concerning shipping, * port reception facilities auditing to assess adequacy of garbage collection, * fair waste burden sharing between ports.	Evaluate the implementation of HELCOM Recommendation (28E-10), starting 2016	On-going	*Chapter 2 of the EU *Study to support the development of measures to combat a range of marine litter sources" (2016) *See action RS2
RS4	Implementation of the ISO standard (ISO 201070:2013) in relation to port reception facilities. Differentiate according to the size of the port. Promote the development of regional statistics on waste collected in ports based on existing information as far as possible.	Assess how many ports are operating according to ISO standards and to propose action as appropriate by 2017.	Not initiated	_
RS5	Promote and disseminate best practice in relation to all relevant aspects of waste management within the fishing sector (including e.g. waste management on board, waste management at harbours	By 2018, based on the OSPAR outcome, select best practices to be disseminated in the Baltic Sea.	On-going	"Best practices to reduce inputs of cuttings of nets and cord to the marine environment" (2020). On behalf of SwAM, KIMO International conducted a survey of port authorities and fishers from four countries in the North Sea region in order to explore challenges and solutions to reducing the volume of waste net cuttings from the fishing industry that end up in the sea. As a result, KIMO has created a suite of awareness-raising materials,

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	and operational losses/net cuttings).			including these Best practices for use both in harbour and on board fishing vessels to encourage fishers to collect their cuttings waste and dispose of it responsibly.
RS6	Through a multinational project, such as the MARELITT Baltic project, together with the fishing industry and other stakeholders, develop and promote best practice in relation to ALDFG and derelict fishing gear and their removal.	Best Practice developed by 2017, the issues is promoted within HELCOM- EUSBSR cooperation	On-going	*Conclusions of the Marelitt Baltic project available: "Baltic Sea Blueprint" *Outcome of a regional questionnaire to compile information on national activities regarding ALDFG available. *Preliminary actions to address ALDFG in the Baltic Sea discussed at the Forth Workshop on the Implementation of the Action Plan (WS RAP ML 4-2019). Proposed new actions (Annex 2 of the Outcome of the Workshop) to be considered at PRESURE 12-2020. *PRESSURE 12-2020 considered the suggested way forward for the proposed new actions to address ALDFG (document 7-5), in general supported the proposed actions and agreed to invite countries to provide comments to the way forward on the proposed new actions. This topic is to be considered in the WS RAP ML 5-2020.
RS7	Compile information and elaborate guidelines on best practices to reduce the input of ALDFG from commercial and recreational fishing to the Baltic Sea taking into account geographical particularities; utilize UNEP RSC report and FAO on ALDFG as a starting point and focus on regional specifics	Guidelines developed by 2017 taking into account geographical particularities.	On-going	See RS6
RS8	Identify the options to address key waste items from the fishing and aquaculture industry, which could contribute to marine litter, including deposit schemes and extended producer responsibility.	Late 2016 assess the use of OSPAR document and in consultation with the Baltic Sea Advisory Council consider and agree on the way forward to address key waste items from the fishing and aquaculture industries.	On-going	*Chapter 4 of the EU *Study to support the development of measures to combat a range of marine litter sources" (2016) *Swedish preliminary study of lost fishing gear from a circular economic perspective.

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RS9	Investigate the use and prevalence of dolly ropes (bunches of polyethylene threads used to protect the cod end of demersal trawl nets from abrasions; synthetic fibre) in the areas of the Baltic Sea where they are used and consider the need to act.	Consider the outcome of the study on the impact of dolly ropes currently under development by the Netherlands. Baltic Sea Advisory Council is to be invited to be involved in this activity.	Accomplished	PRESSURE 12-2020 agreed that RAP ML action RS9 on dolly rope can be considered accomplished since dolly ropes are not used in the Baltic Sea (document 7-6).
RS10	Mapping of snagging sites or historic dumping grounds and a risk assessment for identifying where accumulation of ghost nets pose a threat to the environment and should be removed.	As part of the assessment to be developed by HELCOM SUBMERGED by 2016. Mapping by 2017. Risk assessment	On-going	*Danish report: "Ghost nets—A pilot project on derelict fishing gear" (2017)
RS11	Based on the risk assessment conducted in RS10 and identification of accumulation areas, initiate removal of ghost nets and their safe management on land.	The aim is to increase the removal and disposal of the nets, and that statistics are available to confirm the increasing trend.	On-going	See RS6
RS12	Enter into the partnership with international and regional organizations (e.g. KIMO, NABU, OSPAR Commission) as well as port authorities, to encourage implementation of passive Fishing for Litter schemes, to collect litter caught in fishing nets during normal fishing activities.	Increasing trends in the number of vessels from the fishing sector involved in the schemes.	On-going	See RS7

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RE1	To prepare information sheets to assist Contracting Parties in developing material for education programs, especially for professional seafarers including fishermen, highlighting the marine litter problem and including codes of practice in cooperation with relevant organisations including IMO.	Information sheets to be prepared by 2016	On-going	CBD open online training course on marine litter and microplastic pollution (September-November 2017)
RE2	HELCOM website to be updated periodically based on the input from Contracting Parties on marine litter management activities.	2015 initial information uploaded (simplified BSAP follow up system)	Not initiated	_
RE3	Develop a communication strategy for this Regional Action Plan linked in a coherent way with national initiatives/actions. This will include linking the HELCOM website to relevant projects and initiatives.	2016	Not initiated	_