

Review, revision, and development of new HELCOM objectives

- Strategic Plan for BSAP update: review of existing HELCOM objectives (activity nr 2.2)
- HOD 55-2018: agreed to develop ecological objectives for marine litter, underwater noise, loss and disturbance to the seabed
- Develop management objectives for all segments
- MSP Group:
 - Consider existing proposals on objectives with spatial implications

Existing HELCOM ecological objectives

- Developed in 2003-2006
- Ecological objectives aimed to:
 - describe characteristics of a healthy sea
 - provide a link to HELCOM assessments
 - easy to communicate to the wider community

Baltic Sea unaffected by eutrophication

- Concentrations of nutrients close to natural levels
- Clear water
- Natural level of algal blooms
- Natural distribution and occurrence of plants and animals
- Natural oxygen levels

Baltic Sea undisturbed by hazardous substances

- Concentrations of hazardous substances close to natural levels
- All fish are safe to eat
- Healthy wildlife
- Radioactivity at the pre-Chernobyl level

Favourable status of Baltic Sea biodiversity

- Natural marine and coastal landscapes
- Thriving and balanced communities of plants and animals
- Viable populations of species

Existing management objectives

- So far only defined for the current Maritime segment
- Related to the desired effect of management measures or aspired target levels of the pressure

Environmentally friendly
maritime activities

- Enforcement of international regulations – no illegal discharges
- Safe maritime traffic without accidental pollution
- Efficient emergency and response capabilities
- Minimum sewage pollution from ships
- No introductions of alien species from ships
- Minimum air pollution from ships
- Zero discharges from offshore platforms
- Minimum threats from offshore installations

System of objectives and actions

Desired state

- Communicated through ecological objectives
- Defined and assessed by indicators and associated threshold values (or trends)

Sustainable level of human activities

- Communicated through management objectives
- Defined and assessed by indicators and associated pressure or conservation targets (or trends)

Ways of reaching the desired state and sustainable use

- Agreement on HELCOM actions (and relevant measures taken elsewhere)
- Assessed through follow-up of agreements, effect of measures, SOM analyses, achievement of good status and targets

Provisional agreement HOD 56-2019

VISION:

A healthy Baltic Sea environment, with diverse biological components functioning in balance, resulting in good environmental/ecological status and supporting a wide range of sustainable human economic and social activities

Provisional new structure:

GOALS:

Baltic Sea unaffected by eutrophication

Baltic Sea undisturbed by hazardous substances and litter

New objectives for
- Litter

Environmentally friendly maritime **sea-based** activities

New objectives for
- Underwater noise
- Loss and disturbance to the seabed

MSP proposed to be primarily addressed under the segment on sea-based activities

Favourable status of Baltic Sea biodiversity

Guidance for objectives (short)

- linked to HELCOM assessments
- easy to communicate to the wider community
- not too many; objectives should reflect overall aim and objectives of HELCOM work to the wider community
- ecological objectives are related to the desired state of the environment
- management objectives are related to the desired effect of management measures
- the terminology between objectives across segments should be harmonized

Loss and disturbance to seabed habitats

Ecological objective:

- Activities affecting seabed habitats do not threaten the viability of species and communities

Management objective:

- Reduce, prevent and mitigate pressures and impacts from activities that are causing loss and disturbance to seabed habitats

Underwater noise

Ecological objective:

- No harm to sea life from manmade noise

Management objective:

- Ensure noise levels support good conservation status, do not adversely affect stocks of noise sensitive species and do not injure or significantly disturb sea life

Biodiversity

Proposal management objectives with spatial implications:

- Ecosystem-based planning throughout the Baltic Sea
- Minimized disturbance of species, their habitats, and migration routes by human activities

Note that the proposal marked in yellow was formulated by State and Conservation Working Group as an objective for consideration under the biodiversity segment but is proposed to be placed under the segment on sea based activities.