



Document title	Implementation of HELCOM actions and reporting on Recommendations
Code	3-4-Add.1
Category	DEC
Agenda Item	3-Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan
Submission date	20.11.2018
Submitted by	Executive Secretary
Reference	

Background

This document includes proposals from the HELCOM-VASAB MSP 17-2018 and HELCOM RESPONSE 25-2018 with regard to the implementation of HELCOM actions and reporting on HELCOM Recommendations to support the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to consider the addendum when deliberating on document 3-4 (see the requested actions on the cover of the document), and in addition to:

- agree that the cases of “open ended” national actions in the BSAP are to be considered when reviewing the existing actions for the updating of the BSAP, which is planned for the next meetings of the WGs. The Secretariat will provide background information to facilitate the review.
- clarify that only “measurable” actions of the listed Response Recommendations can be included in the reporting survey planned for early 2019, while reporting on other actions and provisions of the Recommendations would need to be organized separately, either timed to support the BSAP update, or at other suitable time, and task the Secretariat to make a suitable proposal to the next Response group meeting.

1) Proposals and information on not yet accomplishing HELCOM actions

HELCOM-VASAB MSP 17-2018

Annex 1 presents the full list of proposals and information by HELCOM-VASAB MSP 17-2018 on the not yet implemented HELCOM actions. Attention is drawn to these proposals in particular:

Updated information on implementation of national actions

With regard to changes and updated information on national actions the following was noted:

- Action '*Identify by 2013 competent contact points for MSP for the purpose of transboundary consultation and joint planning (MSP Roadmap 2013-2020)*' is considered as accomplished for all EU Member States, implying change in status for:
 - o Lithuania: 'Accomplished' (previously On-going)
- Action '*National frameworks for coherent MSP are in place in all Baltic Sea countries by 2017 (MSP Roadmap 2013-2020)*' is considered as accomplished for all EU Member States, implying change in status for:
 - o Denmark, Finland, Latvia: 'Accomplished' (previously On-going)

HELCOM RESPONSE 25-2018

The Meeting of RESPONSE 25-2018 discussed the not yet accomplished actions, in particular:

- The Meeting noted that many of the actions contain several individual measures, making it less likely to achieve the entirety of such actions in the BSAP and agreed that such situations should be avoided in the updated BSAP.
- **The Meeting discussed the reasons for not achieving national actions and noted that in some cases national actions will always be ongoing, for instance when it comes to integrating shoreline response into national contingency plans and conducting trainings and organizing exchange programmes. The Meeting agreed to invite HOD 55-2018 to provide instructions on how such actions should be reported.**

2) Priority list of Recommendations to report to support the BSAP update

HELCOM-VASAB MSP 17-2018

[The Meeting considered the overview of MSP commitments that have so far not been included in the HELCOM follow-up system (cf. Annex 4 of document 3-3 to the meeting). More specifically, this concerns HELCOM recommendation 28E/9 on development of broad-scale marine spatial planning principles in the Baltic Sea area. The Meeting agreed that there is no need for reporting of the Recommendation at this point of time, as its requirements are either overlapping with the already reported actions or are actions that do not directly reduce pressures to the marine environment.

HELCOM RESPONSE 25-2018

The Meeting considered which of the Recommendations related to the Response Working Group are relevant for a more thorough assessment of implementation (cf. detailed in document 3-2 of Response 25), and agreed to inform HOD 55-2018 that all Recommendations that are not already followed up through specific actions in the current BSAP, are relevant for a more thorough assessment of implementation. These are the following Recommendations:

-
- 36/3 Marine pollution incident reporting and requests for assistance between Contracting Parties in the Baltic Sea area
 - 34E/4 Airborne surveillance with remote sensing equipment in the Baltic Sea Area
 - 33/3 Reporting on incidents involving harmful substances and emergency dumping
 - 31E-5 Mutual plan for places of refuge in the Baltic Sea area
 - 31/1 Development of national ability to respond to spillages of oil and other harmful substances
 - 28E/12 Strengthening of sub-regional co-operation in response field
 - 25-5 Assessment of the need for escort towing in tanker transport routes to prevent accidents in the Baltic Sea area
 - 24/9 Ensuring adequate emergency capacity
 - 24/7 Further development and use of Drift Forecasting for Oils and other Harmful Substances in the Baltic
 - 23/2 Co-operation and assistance to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia in the field of combatting marine pollution incidents
 - 22/2 Restricted use of Chemical agents and other Non-chemical means in oil Combatting Operations on the Baltic Sea Area
 - 20/5 Minimum ability to respond to Oil spillages in Oil Terminals
 - 19/7 Measures in order to Combat Pollution from Offshore Units
 - 18/2 Offshore Activities
 - 17/12 Measures to Abate Pollution by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Grounding, Collision, Sinking of a Ship or other Maritime Casualty
 - 12/9 Follow-Up Studies in Connection with Major Oil Spills
 - 12/7 Special Cooperation in Case of a Chemical Tanker Accident in the Baltic Sea

Note by the Secretariat: the above Recommendations proposed by the Response group for a more thorough assessment of implementation include Recommendations with both concrete “measurable” actions and more general actions. “Measurable” actions can be included in the reporting survey planned for early 2019, as the reporting will apply the same three status categories as in the current BSAP follow up system (accomplished/not accomplished/on-going). The 2019 reporting is meant to complement the previously reported “measurable” BSAP actions (cf. activity 3 in the Strategic plan for the BSAP update). The more general provisions of the Recommendations would require a separate reporting system, yet to be developed.

Annex 1. HELCOM-VASAB MSP 17-2018.

Plans and next step for implementation of not yet implemented **joint** actions

Action (origin)	Current status	Proposed process
Continue to work to develop common procedures to facilitate the sharing of aggregated data on fisheries activities in the Baltic Sea in an applicable format for the purpose of assessing pressures on marine and coastal ecosystems e.g. to be applied in maritime spatial planning (MD 2013)	Partly accomplished	The action remains valid, as data on fisheries are highly relevant for MSP, but it continues to be challenging to have easy access to data (and on a regular basis), both on regional and national level, and is not cost free. It could be considered if to open this action to cover data also on other activities. Spatial planners are users of the data, but other groups should be addressed to accomplish this action. The Baltic SCOPE project (i.e. Central Baltic case, study including Estonia, Latvia and Sweden), shown that the fisheries dataset were available from the different national fishery institutes but the format was different: it was hard to use these dataset.
Update the Roadmap for Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), if necessary, in 2014 after HELCOM and VASAB ministerial meetings and assess the implementation of this Roadmap 2016, 2018 and 2020 (MSP Roadmap 2013-2020)	Partly accomplished	Planned

Information and discussion on not yet accomplished **national** HELCOM actions

Action (origin)	Status in March 2018	Comments
Identify by 2013 competent contact points for MSP for the purpose of transboundary consultation and joint planning (MSP Roadmap 2013-2020)	Partly accomplished (Implemented by 7/9)	This can be considered accomplished by the EU member state countries according to the requirements of the MSP Directive.
National frameworks for coherent MSP are in place in all Baltic Sea countries by 2017 (MSP Roadmap 2013-2020)	Partly accomplished (Implemented by 5/9)	This can be considered accomplished by the EU member state countries according to the requirements of the MSP Directive.
Draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea region by 2020, which are coherent across the borders and apply the ecosystem approach, cooperate in the field of MSP using inter alia the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG framework (MD 2013)	Future target year (to be reported in 2020)	Evaluating the coherence of plans across the region and application of ecosystem approach is an important topic in MSP (and a legal requirement under the MSP Directive as far as EU countries are concerned). A system to follow up the action is needed. Results of the projects, in particular Pan Baltic Scope and former project BalticSCOPE, can be of use to start evaluating this action (cf. document 3-6 for this meeting).
Apply by 2018 Baltic Sea regional "Guidelines on transboundary consultations and cooperation in the field of MSP". Apply by 2018 Baltic Sea regional "Guidelines on public participation for MSP with transboundary dimensions" (MSP Roadmap 2013)	Future target year (to be reported in 2020)	The Pan Baltic Scope project will offer material to support evaluation of this action.

Apply by 2018 Baltic Sea regional “Guidelines on the application of Ecosystem Approach in transnationally coherent MSP” (MSP Roadmap 2013)	Future target year (to be reported in 2020)	The Pan Baltic Scope project will offer material to support evaluation of this action.
--	---	--

Annex 2. HELCOM RESPONSE 25-2018

Plans and next step for implementation of not yet implemented joint actions

Action (origin)	Current status	Comments
Further develop regional preparedness and response related services including HELCOM SeaTrackWeb, HELCOM Automatic Identification System, HELCOM Pollution Reporting System (POLREP), HELCOM GIS and links to relevant EU systems towards a second generation of HELCOM oil response information system covering the whole Baltic Sea on an equal basis (MD 2013)	Partly accomplished	Following the expression of interest from Russia to use CECIS MP, made through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism portal in spring 2018, the Meeting invited Russia to confirm their intention to use the system for HELCOM POLREP purposes.
Produce a one-off HELCOM thematic assessment on environmental risks of hazardous submerged objects covering contaminated wrecks, lost or dumped dangerous goods (e.g. containers), and other objects, also utilizing the 2013 report on dumped chemical munitions (MD 2013)	Partly accomplished	The Meeting agreed to recommend to HOD 55-2018 that the mandate of the Submerged Expert Group should be prolonged until the end of 2020, with a view to finalizing the HELCOM Thematic Assessment on Hazardous Submerged Objects in the Baltic Sea.
Update HELCOM Manual on Co-operation in Combatting Marine Pollution Volume II, focusing on response to accidents at sea involving spills of hazardous substances and loss of packaged dangerous goods (MD 2013)	Not accomplished	A joint project application to DG ECHO on updating regional response manuals on chemical spills has been submitted. The project, to which HELCOM is a Project Partner is entitled Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil and HNS Pollution Cooperation (WestMOPoCo) and is presented in more detail in document 13-3. Of key interest for HELCOM is the development of a joint inter-regional HNS response manual, which is envisaged to replace the HELCOM Response Manual Volume 2.

Information and discussion on not yet accomplished national HELCOM actions

Action (origin)	Status in March 2018	Comments
Integrate the subject of oiled wildlife response into oil pollution contingency plans either on a national or sub-national/local level (BSAP)	Partly accomplished (Implemented by 5/9)	Latvia informed that a national Oiled Wildlife Response Plan is under development and that there is a scheme for cooperation and a list of the main responsible authorities in case oiled wildlife response is to be included within the National Contingency Plan. In addition, national authorities and relevant NGOs have jointly prepared Guidelines for Oiled Wildlife Care at Marine and Inland Water Oil Spills.
Based upon sensitivity mapping, to identify the need for and to finalise the quantification of countermeasures for shoreline response, and to prepare concrete plans/programmes for fulfilling them by 2013 (BSAP)	Partly accomplished (Implemented by 5/9)	
Integrate shoreline response into national contingency plans and conduct trainings and organize exchange programmes (BSAP, Annex VII 1992 Helsinki Convention)	Partly accomplished (Implemented by 5/9)	