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## Background

The web-based tool to follow-up on the implementation of HELCOM actions, the HELCOM Explorer, was launched in 2016 to provide an opportunity for the general public to be informed of the implementation of HELCOM actions. The HELCOM Explorer currently includes actions from the Baltic Sea Action Plan and Ministerial Declarations of 2010 and 2013.

HOD 57-2019 supported the further development of the HELCOM Explorer and the Secretariat is currently creating the database and web interface for the updated HELCOM Explorer according to the agreed plan (cf. [document 3-2](#) in HOD 57-2019). HOD 57-2019 also agreed to include the recently reported HELCOM Recommendations in the updated HELCOM Explorer.

As agreed in the work plan for the BSAP update, the countries will report on the implementation of HELCOM national actions to the HELCOM Explorer in autumn 2020 to support the preparation of the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2021.

The attached document includes information on the organization of the reporting and highlights some open issues for consideration.

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- agree if the reporting templates will be sent to a nominated national contact point(s) or to the Working Group representatives;
- agree that the reporting templates will be sent out in the end of September 2020 with a two-month reporting time;
- agree that the implementation of the joint actions will be reported by the Working Groups in their autumn 2020 meetings;
- agree that the concretized actions from Ministerial Declaration 2018 under the Pressure Working Group endorsed by HOD 57-2019 can be included in the updated HELCOM Explorer for assessment of accomplishment at PRESSURE 13-2020;
- agree that the actions in the current HELCOM Explorer that originate from HELCOM Recommendations can be replaced with the more detailed reporting done by countries in 2019.

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## Reporting on the implementation of HELCOM actions

### Reporting template for national actions, timetable and reporting contacts

The reporting templates for national actions will be sent to the countries in Excel format. A mock-up of the reporting template is included in Annex 1. The template will be prefilled with the information previously reported by the countries and the countries are invited to check the prefilled information and update it if necessary. It is suggested that the reporting templates will be sent out in the end of September with a two-month reporting time. The templates can either be sent out to a single nominated contact point who will distribute the templates nationally or to national Working Group representatives.

### Reporting on implementation of joint actions

In the work plan for the BSAP update, only the reporting on national actions is mentioned for autumn 2020. However, to have updated background information for Ministerial Meeting 2021 on the implementation of HELCOM actions it would be good to also report on the implementation of joint actions in autumn 2020. This could be done through the autumn Working Group meetings.

### Actions from Ministerial Declaration 2018

The Working Groups were invited to concretize the actions from the Ministerial Declaration 2018. The concretized formulations for the actions from MD 2018 related to the Pressure Working Group were already endorsed by HOD 57-2019. Most of the actions were joint actions that are expected to be implemented by 2021. It is suggested to include these actions to the updated HELCOM Explorer to be part of the reporting in autumn 2020.

### Actions from HELCOM Recommendations

To support the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and the sufficiency of measures work, the HELCOM countries reported on the implementation of selected HELCOM Recommendations in 2019. HOD 57-2019 agreed to include these reported HELCOM Recommendations in the updated HELCOM Explorer.

The current version of the HELCOM Explorer includes actions from the Baltic Sea Action Plan and Ministerial Declarations of 2010 and 2013. The BSAP and Ministerial Declarations contained also commitments to implement actions that were part of HELCOM Recommendations. Thus, there is some overlap between the actions from BSAP, MD 2010 and MD 2013 and some HELCOM Recommendations.

Some of the actions in the current Explorer are single actions extracted from the HELCOM recommendations and some actions prompt to implement the whole Recommendation and are thus less detailed than the reporting done in 2019, e.g. in the current Explorer there is an action "Advanced municipal waste water treatment under HELCOM Recommendation 28E/5" but in the reporting done in 2019 the countries reported specifically on each requirement of Recommendation 28E/5.

It is proposed that as part of the further development of the HELCOM Explorer, the Secretariat will:

- a) include for the national actions that are overlapping with Recommendations that were part of the reporting in 2019, the information reported by countries in 2019 instead of the information from 2016-2018 that is currently in the Explorer;
- b) take out as overlapping the actions and prompt to implement the full Recommendation, e.g. action "Advanced municipal waste water treatment under HELCOM Recommendation 28E/5", if there is a more detailed reporting on that Recommendation available from 2019.

## Annex 1. Reporting template for national actions

The columns in grey colour are background information for the national reporting and the columns in yellow colour are the columns to be checked and updated by countries if needed.

Action	Origin	Identifier	Target year	Working Group	National assessment	Supporting information national assessment	Guidance for reporting	Regional assessment	Supporting information regional assessment
<b>Action from BSAP, MDs or HELCOM Recommendation</b>	Identifies the document from which the HELCOM action originates	Specific information on origin of action, e.g. paragraph, page number, number of Recommendation etc.	Target year as given in origin of the action, when specified	Clarifies the HELCOM Working Groups that are responsible for the follow-up of the implementation	Prefilled information from the previous reporting to be checked and updated if needed by the countries.  Drop-down menu options: <i>Accomplished</i> <i>On-going</i> <i>Not accomplished</i> <i>Not applicable</i>	Supporting information for national actions as provided by the respective country. Prefilled based on the previous reporting to be checked and updated if needed.	Some groups have given additional information on which aspects to consider when reporting implementation of the national actions.	Refers to the level of accomplishment at the regional level. For national actions the assessment is only evaluated as accomplished when the action has been implemented by all relevant HELCOM countries.	Supporting information of national actions indicates how many countries have implemented the action.