



---

<b>Document title</b>	Existing HELCOM actions to be transferred to the updated BSAP
<b>Code</b>	4-9-Rev.1
<b>Category</b>	DEC
<b>Agenda Item</b>	4 – Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan
<b>Submission date</b>	10.06.2020
<b>Submitted by</b>	Executive Secretary
<b>Reference</b>	

---

*The revised document includes the comments by HOD 58-2020 in red color.*

## Background

The attached document contains the proposal by the HELCOM Working Groups (AGRI 9-2020, AGRI 9a-2020, FISH 11-2020, GEAR 21B-2020, GEAR 22-2020, MARITIME 19A-2020, PRESSURE 12-2020, PRESSURE 12a-2020, RESPONSE 27-2020, STATE & CONSERVATION 11B-2020, STATE & CONSERVATION 11C-2020, STATE & CONSERVATION 12-2020) on existing HELCOM actions to be transferred to the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan. The actions have been preliminarily divided under the relevant segments agreed by HOD 56-2019 and objectives agreed by HELCOM 41-2020 as well as provisional themes. The exact division of actions under segments will be further specified in the drafting process. Due to merging of several existing actions into rephrased actions, some existing actions are mentioned twice (under both sea-based and biodiversity segments). However, each rephrased action is included only once and under the relevant segment. Actions related to e.g. general monitoring and assessment, climate change and economic and social analysis have been identified as relevant for all four segments. These actions have been tentatively placed under the title “horizontal actions” until there is a decision on the proper placement of such actions.

PRESSURE 12-2020 asked for guidance on whether actions related to mercury should be included in the BSAP although they are mostly covered by the Minamata Convention and discussed that issues of regional importance could be highlighted also in the BSAP although they are covered by an international convention.

It may be noted that there are overlapping actions regarding incidental by-catch under the segment “Environmentally sustainable sea-based activities” as developed by State & Conservation and the Fish Group. It is proposed that the respective groups consider the matter further during their meetings in autumn 2020, with a view to agreeing on the rephrased actions at HOD 59-2020.

## Not yet implemented actions from the BSAP and Ministerial Declarations 2010 and 2013

According to the Work Plan for the BSAP update, HELCOM Working Groups were to review the existing actions from the Baltic Sea Action Plan and Ministerial Declarations 2010 and 2013 that are already regularly reported by countries through the follow-up system of HELCOM actions. The Working Groups have identified actions that are likely to be implemented by 2021, as well as those that are not likely to be implemented by 2021. For the latter, the Groups have considered the tentative need of rephrasing these actions in case they are to be included in the updated BSAP. Such rephrasing may concern addition of a new target year but also more substantial rewrites to be in line with recent developments in HELCOM. Some of the actions are suggested to be transferred without any need for rephrasing. The existing actions from BSAP and MD 2010 and 2013 that are proposed to be transferred to the updated BSAP are included in the attached document.

Annex 1 to this document contains a list of existing actions that are currently followed-up, are not likely to be implemented by 2021 but are proposed by the groups not to be included in the updated BSAP, and the justification for this.

#### Concretization of actions from the HELCOM Ministerial Declaration 2018

The 2018 HELCOM Ministerial Declaration includes commitments that give the direction for HELCOM work in the upcoming years. Some paragraphs, however, need further specification in order to be turned into concrete tasks so that the progress can be assessed and measured. The Strategic Plan and Work Plan for the BSAP update therefore includes the activity to review the MD 2018 and propose more concrete actions (activity 2.4). This could include e.g. to define type of development work and outputs required to reach the commitments of the Declaration (e.g. threshold values for indicators, new guidelines, assessments) and target years for achieving them. The aim is that the concretized actions that are not carried out by end of 2020 will be included in the updated BSAP.

This activity was not conducted by Response, Fish and HELCOM-VASAB MSP groups due to the fact that there are only a limited number of the relevant paragraphs from the MD 2018 and they are mostly of general character.

Concretization of the paragraphs relevant for the Pressure Working Group and some of the paragraphs relevant for Maritime Working Group were already endorsed by HOD 57-2019.

The concretized actions from MD 2018 that are proposed to be transferred to the updated BSAP are included in the attached document.

Annex 2 to this document includes a list of actions from MD 2018 that are likely to be implemented by end of 2020 or are considered to be too general or overlapping and would thus not need to be transferred to the updated BSAP. The actions relevant for the Pressure Working Group are suggested to be included in the follow-up system and to be reported on in autumn 2020 (cf. [document 4-5](#)).

#### Existing HELCOM actions not included in the follow-up system

The implementation of existing HELCOM actions, from the current BSAP and Ministerial Declarations in 2010 and 2013, have been followed-up through a coherent scheme since 2016. Some actions were however evaluated as too generally formulated to be followed-up through reporting, e.g. those lacking concrete aims and target years and those that were formulated as aspirations rather than commitments (we encourage, we strive for). As agreed through the Strategic Plan and Work Plan for the BSAP update, these actions were reviewed by the Working Groups to check if some of them should be considered for inclusion in the updated BSAP and in that case they were concretized in a similar way as outlined for paragraphs of the 2018 Ministerial Declaration.

#### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- agree on the rephrased and concretized existing HELCOM actions to be transferred to the updated BSAP;
- discuss whether actions related to mercury should be included in the BSAP when they are considered as regionally important although they are mostly covered by the Minamata Convention;
- instruct the Fish and State & Conservation groups to consider the overlapping actions under environmentally sustainable sea-based activities related to incidental by-catch, and to submit a proposal for merging or further differentiation of these actions to HOD 59-2020 for agreement.

## Existing HELCOM actions to be transferred to the updated BSAP

### Baltic Sea unaffected by eutrophication

#### Ecological objectives

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

#### Management/conservation objectives

- Minimize input of nutrients from human activities

#### Actions

*Theme: Agriculture*

Existing action	Proposal for rephrasing
<p>Apply as a minimum the updated EU's BREF document and Conclusions on BAT for intensive rearing of poultry and pigs, especially for the facilities located within areas critical to nutrient losses</p> <p>Origin: MD2013 Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (7/9 countries) HELCOM group: Agri</p>	<p><i>No rephrasing needed.</i> <i>If the action will not be implemented by 2021 it can be transferred to the updated BSAP as it is.</i></p>
<p>Revised palette of measures for reducing phosphorus and nitrogen losses from agriculture. Optional agro-environmental measures to be implemented through corresponding international and national instruments</p> <p>Origin: MD2013 Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (3/9 countries) HELCOM group: Agri</p>	<p>Review national regulation and voluntary measures and – if relevant – implement further or revised measures, as compiled in the revised palette of measures for reducing phosphorus and nitrogen losses from agriculture.</p>
<p>Implement and enforce the provisions of part 2 of Annex III "Prevention of pollution from agriculture" of the 1992 Helsinki Convention</p> <p>Origin: MD2013 Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (4/9 countries) HELCOM group: Agri</p>	<p><i>No rephrasing needed.</i> <i>If the action will not be implemented by 2021 it can be transferred to the updated BSAP as it is.</i></p>
<p>Agreement on national level on measures to reduce nutrient surplus in fertilization practices to reach nutrient balanced fertilization</p> <p>Origin: MD2013 Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (5/9 countries)</p>	<p>Agreement on national level by 2023 on measures to reduce nutrient surplus in fertilization practices to reduce nutrient losses</p>

Existing action	Proposal for rephrasing
HELCOM group: Agri	
<p>Promote and advance towards applying annual nutrient accounting at farm level, taking into account soil and climate conditions, in areas critical to nutrient losses as a first step and with an aim to apply it region-wise</p> <p>Origin: MD2013 Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (4/9 countries) HELCOM group: Agri</p>	<p><b>AGRI 9-2020, Outcome, Annex 2:</b> <i>The action could be included as part of the Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy but make it stronger and add "implement".</i></p> <p><b>HOD 58-2020: To be drafted further as part of the elaboration of the Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy.</b></p>
<p>Make use of appropriate policy and economic instruments as well as economic levies and incentives, in order to minimize nutrient losses in agriculture and thus contribute to keeping the nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea below the Maximum Allowable Inputs</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: Agri</p>	<p>Investigate opportunities for taxation of mineral fertiliser and/or taxation of nitrogen surplus and/or payments for agri-environment measures [by 2024], and implement them building on the experiences available in various countries, when revising policy and economic instruments in order to minimize nutrient losses in agriculture and thus contribute to keeping the nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea below the Maximum Allowable Inputs</p>
<p>Apply innovative water management measures, in particular under difficult soil conditions, to ensure that upgrading and renovation of the agricultural drainage systems aim at reducing nutrient concentrations in the outlets of the adjacent catchment</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: Agri</p>	<p>Apply innovative water management measures, for example, lime filter ditches, sediment traps and controlled drainage, and nature-based solutions, such as two-level ditches and constructed wetlands, to ensure that upgrading and renovation of the agricultural drainage systems aim at reducing nutrient loss from the adjacent catchment</p>

*Theme: Nutrient recycling*

Action	Proposal for rephrasing
<p>Enhance the recycling of phosphorus (especially in agriculture and wastewater treatment) and to promote development of appropriate methodology</p> <p>Origin: MD2013 Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (3/9 countries) HELCOM group: Agri and Pressure</p>	<p><i>The action will likely be rephrased as part of the work on the Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy.</i></p> <p><b>HOD 58-2020: To be drafted further as part of the elaboration of the Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy.</b></p>

*Theme: Follow-up of the implementation of nutrient reduction requirements*

A draft updated HELCOM nutrient input reduction scheme is submitted as a separate document (Cf. [document 4-7](#)). All actions related to the nutrient input reduction scheme are being rephrased as part of the update of the scheme.

Existing action	Proposal for rephrasing
<p>Initiate joint activities to address transboundary nutrient inputs from non-Contracting Parties according to the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013</p>	<p><i>Rephrasing is being done as part of the update of the nutrient input reduction scheme.</i></p>

Existing action	Proposal for rephrasing
<p>Implementation: <b>National</b>  Status: Partly accomplished (3/9 countries)  HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p><i>HOD 58-2020: Rephrasing as part of the update of the nutrient input reduction scheme.</i></p>
<p>Review of BSAP environmental targets - this process should also aim for further regional differentiation of the targets, in particular in the coastal zone, with the view to seek coherence between open sea and coastal waters targets</p> <p>Origin: BSAP  Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up  HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p><i>Rephrasing is being done as part of the update of the nutrient input reduction scheme.</i></p> <p><i>HOD 58-2020: Rephrasing as part of the update of the nutrient input reduction scheme.</i></p>
<p>Progress towards reaching of country-wise allocated nutrient reduction targets (CARTs) to diminish nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea to the maximum allowable level:  <b>Phosphorus</b></p> <p>Origin BSAP  Implementation: <b>National</b>  Status: Not accomplished  HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p><i>Rephrasing is being done as part of the update of the nutrient input reduction scheme.</i></p> <p><i>HOD 58-2020: Rephrasing as part of the update of the nutrient input reduction scheme.</i></p>
<p>Progress towards reaching of country-wise allocated nutrient reduction targets (CARTs) to diminish nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea to the maximum allowable level:  <b>Nitrogen</b></p> <p>Origin: BSAP  Implementation; <b>National</b>  Status: Partly accomplished (1/9 countries)  HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p><i>Rephrasing is being done as part of the update of the nutrient input reduction scheme.</i></p> <p><i>HOD 58-2020: Rephrasing as part of the update of the nutrient input reduction scheme.</i></p>
<p>National programmes to achieve nutrient reductions</p> <p>Origin: BSAP  Implementation: <b>National</b>  Status: Partly accomplished (5/9 countries)  HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p><i>We furthermore agree to submit to HELCOM by [2023] a detailed account list of planned and implemented measures in different sectors and catchments alongside an estimation of their effectiveness in order to share practical information demonstrating how country-wise nutrient inputs ceilings can be achieved.</i></p>
<p>Evaluation of effectiveness of national programmes for reduction of nutrients and need for additional measures, in order to reach the country-wise reduction targets</p> <p>Origin: BSAP  Implementation: <b>National</b>  Status: Partly accomplished (4/9 countries)  HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p><i>HOD 58-2020: BSAP drafting group to change the style to the agreed new style but not change the content.</i></p>
<p>Periodical review and revision of maximum allowable inputs and nutrient reduction requirements using harmonised approach and updated information</p> <p>Origin: BSAP  Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up  HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p><i>Rephrasing is being done as part of the update of the nutrient input reduction scheme.</i></p> <p><i>HOD 58-2020: Rephrasing as part of the update of the nutrient input reduction scheme.</i></p>

Existing action	Proposal for rephrasing
<p>Monitor and evaluate regularly the progress in implementing the measures (for nutrient reduction to reach CART)</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p><i>Rephrasing is being done as part of the update of the nutrient input reduction scheme.</i></p> <p><b><i>HOD 58-2020: Rephrasing as part of the update of the nutrient input reduction scheme.</i></b></p>

*Theme: Atmospheric nitrogen emissions*

Existing action	Proposal for rephrasing
<p>Address the need for additional measures within transportation, combustion and agriculture (as the three major sources of atmospheric emissions of nitrogen these sectors) with the aim to ensure a Baltic-wide application of uniform standards</p> <p>Origin: MD 2010 Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: Pressure, Agri</p>	<p>HELCOM Contracting Parties will continue to reduce the deposition of atmospheric nitrogen on the Baltic Sea through the implementation of the national nitrogen reduction commitments of the Gothenburg Protocol and the EU NEC-Directive 2016/2284 for those HELCOM CPs that are also EU Member States. HELCOM CPs will ensure that measures taken in transportation, combustion and agriculture are tailored to contribute to the reduction of the nitrogen deposition on the Baltic Sea.</p> <p>The HELCOM Recommendation 24/3 on “Measures aimed at the reduction of emissions and discharges from agriculture” is currently undergoing revision to ensure that ammonia emissions from agriculture are reduced</p>
<p>Governments of the HELCOM Contracting Parties shall make use of the assessments of the inputs and effects of airborne nitrogen to the Baltic Sea in the revision of the emission targets for nitrogen under CLRTAP</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p>HELCOM will cooperate with the UNECE Convention for Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution in order to promote the inclusion of the protection of the Baltic Sea ecosystem as an additional criterion in the process of the revision of the emission targets for nitrogen in the Gothenburg Protocol.</p>

*Them: Waste water sector*

Existing action	Proposal for rephrasing
<p>Facilitate exchange of information on best available treatment techniques (WWTP), including showcasing of best examples (“List of Green Baltic Spots”)</p> <p>Origin: MD 2010 Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p>Facilitate exchange of information on best available treatment techniques (WWTP) through cooperation with existing regional digital platform(s) acting as a hub for the best knowledge in the wastewater management sector, including show cases and solutions enhancing safe recycling of nutrients.</p>

Existing action	Proposal for rephrasing
<p>Encourage educational cooperation and exchange of best practices and experiences of solving the problem of municipal sewage in smaller municipalities and scattered settlements</p> <p>Origin: MD 2010 Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p>Encourage educational cooperation with involvement of relevant non-governmental organizations utilizing such regional digital platform(s) to solve problems of municipal sewage in smaller municipalities and scattered settlements.</p>
<p>Launch pilot activities regarding municipal wastewater treatment by engaging a wider network of municipalities, and where appropriate enhancing co-operation in environmental field under the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (for those CPs that are EU MS)</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p>Cooperate with relevant PAs and HAs of the EU SBSR regarding wastewater treatment plants (under “save the sea” objective of the EUSBSR) as well as other regional policies to engage a wider network of stakeholders into cooperation to achieve the BSAP targets through e.g. supporting flagship projects and processes.</p>
<p>Target the elimination of phosphorus in laundry detergents for consumer use as soon as possible, but not later than by 2015</p> <p>Origin: MD 2010) Implementation; <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (8/9 countries) HELCOM group: Pressure</p> <p>(Considering also partly overlapping actions: - Encourage voluntary use of P-free dishwasher detergents (MD 2010)</p> <p>RECOMMENDS to the Governments of the Contracting States to the Helsinki Convention that further investigations on alternative builders, especially on their use and environmental effects, be carried out. (HELCOM Recommendation 28E-7))</p>	<p>Target the elimination of phosphorus in laundry detergents for consumer use as soon as possible, but not later than by [20XX]</p> <p>As the first step to build knowledge base to target the reduction of phosphorus in detergents for industrial &amp; institutional use. By 2025, develop and publish a HELCOM progress report about best available techniques, alternative builder, especially on their use, environmental effects and effectiveness.</p> <p><b>SE study reservation</b></p> <p>Undertake efforts to reduce and where possible eliminate phosphorus in detergents for industrial &amp; institutional use, in particular for institutional use of laundry and dishwasher detergents [no later than by 2030] based on the knowledge on best available techniques compiled at the first step</p>

*Theme: Transboundary cooperation*

Existing action	Proposal for rephrasing
<p>List of priority installations contributing to transboundary pollution of the Baltic Sea</p> <p>Origin: MD 2010 Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p>Establish practical cooperation with non-HELCOM countries to identify large industrial plants or sewage treatment plants contributing to riverine inputs of nutrients, hazardous substances and litter, including micro litter, to the Baltic Sea.</p>



## Baltic Sea unaffected by hazardous substances and litter

### Ecological objectives

#### Hazardous substances:

- Concentrations of hazardous substances close to natural levels
- All seafood safe to eat
- Healthy marine life
- Minimal risk to humans and the environment from radioactivity

#### Litter:

- No harm to marine life from litter

### Management/conservation objectives

#### Hazardous substances:

- Minimize input and impact of hazardous substances from human activities

#### Litter:

- Prevent generation of waste and its input to the sea, including microplastics
- Significantly reduce amounts of litter on shorelines and in the sea

### Actions

#### Theme: Hazardous substances

Existing action	Proposal for rephrasing
<p>Collect more information and assess the state of contamination with pharmaceuticals and their degradation products of the aquatic environment and to develop measures, as appropriate, to prevent pharmaceuticals from reaching the Baltic Sea</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Implementation: <b>Joint</b> Status: Partly accomplished HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p>Identify priority pharmaceuticals utilising the best available knowledge on their releases into the aquatic environment, environmental effects and data on the use in the region with subsequent integration of these substances to HELCOM assessments as indicators of the state of the Baltic sea and environmental pressure.</p>
<p>Agree to develop in 2008 specific efficiency requirements and emission limit values for small scale combustion appliances in relation to HELCOM Recommendation 28E-8.</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (3/9 countries) HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p>[in order to decrease dioxin emissions] <b>we agree</b> to perform information campaigns and other instruments that focus on the quality and species of the firewood, and what is burned in the small-scale combustion appliances</p> <p><b>HOD 58-2020: BSAP drafting group to change the style to the agreed new style but not change the content.</b></p>
<p>National programmes to eliminate hazardous substances</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (6/9 countries) HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p>Address substances of emerging concern by commencing recurrent screening campaigns [starting from 2021] including broad analytical techniques such as suspect screening and non-target screening methods.</p>



<p>Evaluation of effectiveness of national programmes to eliminate hazardous substance</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (5/9 countries) HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p>develop national programmes with a particular focus on hazardous substances which are not adequately regulated by other policies</p> <p>submit to HELCOM by [2023] a detailed account list of planned and implemented measures, including examples of best practices for different sectors, pathways and geographical areas in order to share practical information</p>
<p>Ratification of the UNEP 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (7/9 countries) HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p><i>No rephrasing needed.</i> <i>If the action will not be implemented by 2021 it can be transferred to the updated BSAP as it is.</i></p>
<p>Implementation of the UNEP 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Not accomplished HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p>enhance implementation of the UNEP 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury</p> <p>undertake all possible measures to reduce mercury emissions from energy sector</p> <p>control concentration of mercury in dredged material and undertake possible measures to prevent its release during dredging operations and handling of dredged material</p> <p>introduce the ban of the use of mercury-based amalgam in dentistry by [2030], except when deemed strictly necessary</p> <p>establish and maintain procedures (rules) to handle mercury containing wastes to prevent entering of the contaminant to the environment, including public information on the procedures (rules)</p> <p>PRESSURE 12-2020: <i>The Meeting <u>discussed</u> that issues of regional importance could be highlighted also in the BSAP although they are covered by international conventions but <u>agreed</u> to ask for guidance from HOD 58-2020 on whether actions related to mercury should be included in the BSAP although they are mostly covered by the Minamata Convention.</i></p>
<p>Establishment of chemical product registers to be built upon e.g. the EU REACH (EC1907/2006) framework (2010)</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (6/9 countries) HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p><i>No rephrasing needed.</i> <i>If the action will not be implemented by 2021 it can be transferred to the updated BSAP as it is.</i></p>
<p>Promote and continuously support actions aiming at changing e.g. consumer behavior towards “greener” (less associated with use of hazardous substances) products, processes and services</p>	<p>Assess possibilities for private consumers to reduce emissions of hazardous substances in general and for specific substance groups.</p>

<p>Origin: MD 2013 Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p>Launch educational and information campaigns to raise public awareness regarding responsible handling of chemicals in households to prevent their release into the environment.</p> <p>Introduce requirements regarding content of chemicals of high regional environmental concern in public procurement procedures and provide support for follow up.</p>
<p>Making use of information generated by REACH Regulation, EU WFD and EU MSFD, e.g. substance-specific risk assessments and dossiers, etc.</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p>Establish procedures to utilize information obtained under various policies addressing the use of chemicals (e.g. REACH, WFD, IED, Stockholm Convention etc) to prioritize measures targeting regional contaminants and to identify emerging pollutants of high concern.</p>
<p>Start work on strict restrictions of use for perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), nonylphenol/nonylphenoethoxylates (NP/NPEs), short-chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs)</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p>Introduce measures based on the best available scientific knowledge and technologies to restrict the use and prevent releases of perfluorinated alkyl substances, phenolic compounds with endocrine disrupting effects and chlorinated paraffins</p>
<p>If relevant assessments show the need, initiate adequate measures for medium-chain chlorinated paraffins (MCCPs), octylphenols (OP)/Octylphenol ethoxylates (OPE), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), decabromodiphenyl ether (decaBDE) and hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD) (2009)</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p>Establish a mechanism for HELCOM to manage the list of priority substances [starting from 20XX] and respond to screening and assessment results pointing out regional challenges for the Baltic Sea environment and contaminants of emerging concern</p> <p><b><i>SE study reservation</i></b></p>
<p>Input to international forums to influence work on hazardous substances (e.g. revision of BREFs, WFD, REACH, plant protection and biocides regulation, etc.)</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p>Organize continuous follow up of the work on hazardous substances under various global and EU policies as well as in RSCs, and actively influence these processes by promoting international actions identified as necessary to improve the environmental status with respect to hazardous substances in the Baltic Sea.</p>
<p>Promotion and support of identification and inclusion of new candidate substances to Stockholm POPs Convention and CLRTAP Aarhus Protocol</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	
<p>Promotion of and participation in Strategic Approach on International Chemicals Management (SAICM) implementation process</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p>HELCOM participation as member in Strategic Approach on [International Chemicals Management High Ambition Alliance (SAICM HAA)] to support international cooperation on global chemical challenges that influence the state of the Baltic Sea. Identification of global challenges that are of importance for the Baltic Sea that HELCOM will put on the [SAICM HAA] agenda.</p>

	<p>PRESSURE 12-2020:  <i>The Meeting <u>took note</u> that the name of “Strategic Approach on International Chemicals Management High Ambition Alliance (SAICM HAA)” will likely be changed to “Sound management of chemicals and waste”, which should be taken into account in the rephrasing.</i></p> <p><b>HOD 58-2020: To take into account in the further drafting process.</b></p>
<p>Develop biological effects monitoring to facilitate a reliable ecosystem health assessment</p> <p>Origin: BSAP  Implementation: <b>National</b>  Status: Partly accomplished (7/9 countries)  HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p>By [XXXX] develop further relevant monitoring for the impact of hazardous substances and, as needed, pathogens on animal health, in order to facilitate a reliable ecosystem health assessment</p>

*Theme: Litter*

<b>Existing action</b>	<b>Proposal for rephrasing</b>
<p>Identify the biological impacts of marine litter, also in terms of toxicity of litter</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013  Implementation: <b>Joint</b>  Status: Partly accomplished  HELCOM groups: S&amp;C</p>	<p>Review existing knowledge of the impact of marine litter by [2022]</p>
<p>Further investigate the potential harmful impacts to wildlife from microscopic plastic particles, an ingestion of which could lead to the transfer of toxic chemicals to the food chain</p> <p>Origin: MD 2010  Status: Previously deemed too general for follow-up  HELCOM groups: S&amp;C</p>	
<p>Develop common indicators and associated targets related to quantities, composition, of marine litter, including riverine inputs, in order to gain information on long-term trends</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013  Implementation: <b>Joint</b>  Status: Partly accomplished  HELCOM group: S&amp;C, Pressure</p>	<p>Develop common indicators, threshold values to evaluate quantities, composition, and distribution, and sources (including riverine input) of marine litter, including microlitter, by [2022], where applicable and for the rest no later than [2026]. Work should be done in close coordination with work undertaken by Contracting Parties in other relevant fora.</p>
<p>WE COMMIT to regional work on developing baselines and threshold values for maximum levels of marine litter in the Baltic Sea, in close coordination with work undertaken by Contracting Parties in other relevant fora.</p> <p>Origin: MD 2018 para. 31  HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p>Develop harmonise monitoring methods to evaluate quantities, composition, distribution and sources (including riverine input), of marine litter, including microlitter, by [2022], where applicable and for the rest no later than [2026]. Work should be done in close coordination with work undertaken by Contracting Parties in other relevant fora.</p>
<p>WE ALSO COMMIT to strengthening regional research and developing harmonised monitoring methods on the</p>	

<p>sources, distribution, amounts and impacts of marine litter including micro-plastics, in coherence with similar work undertaken by Contracting Parties in other relevant fora</p> <p>Origin: MD 2018, para. 32 HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	
---	--

## Environmentally sustainable sea-based activities

### Ecological objectives

- No or minimal disturbance to biodiversity and ecosystem
- Activities affecting seabed habitats do not threaten the viability of species' populations and communities
- No harm to marine life from manmade noise

### Management/conservation objectives

- Minimize loss and disturbance to seabed habitats
- Minimize noise to levels that do not adversely affect marine life
- No introductions of non-indigenous species
- Minimize the contribution to eutrophication and hazardous substances and litter
- Enforce international regulations – no illegal discharges
- Safe maritime traffic without accidental pollution
- Effective emergency and response capabilities
- Minimize harmful air emissions
- Zero discharges from offshore platforms
- Ensure sustainable use of the marine resources

### Actions

*Theme: Maritime activities*

*Sub-theme: Discharges from offshore platforms*

Existing action	Proposal for rephrasing
<p>Update the Action Plan for the protection of the environment from offshore platforms, to put into practice the “zero-discharge” principle in respect of all chemicals and substances used and produced during the operation of offshore platforms</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>Joint</b> Status: Not accomplished HELCOM group: Maritime</p>	<p>Update the Action Plan for the protection of the environment from offshore platforms, to put into practice the “zero-discharge” principle in respect of all chemicals and substances used and produced during the operation of offshore platforms. This action shall be completed by 2026.</p>

*Sub-theme: Maritime safety*

Existing action	Proposal for rephrasing
<p>Take actions to ensure the completion of the re-surveys for areas used by navigation (CAT I and II) within the time schedules estimated in the 2013 Ministerial Declaration</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Implementation: <b>Joint</b> Status: Partly accomplished HELCOM group: Maritime</p>	<p>Take actions to ensure the completion of the re-surveys for CAT I and II areas used by navigation by 2030 at the latest.</p> <p>Take actions to ensure the completion of the re-surveys for CAT III near shore and other areas used typically for safe boating, environmental and GIS data purposes and oil recovery contingency by the time specified in the revised Re-Survey Scheme</p>
<p>Follow-up actions to identify areas for strengthening regional cooperation in maritime safety in the framework of the HELCOM Maritime Group and consider the appropriate forms for this cooperation, recognizing the need for the exchange of technical expertise in the field of maritime safety, especially in risk assessment to avoid shipping accidents in the Baltic Sea, and taking into account the work of IMO</p> <p>Origin: MD 2010 Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: Maritime</p>	<p>Further strengthen co-operation with IMO in the field of safety of navigation and take follow-up actions for strengthening regional cooperation in maritime safety in the framework of the HELCOM Maritime Group and the SAFE NAV Expert Group and consider the appropriate forms for this cooperation, recognizing the need for the exchange of technical expertise in the field of maritime safety, especially in risk assessment to avoid shipping accidents in the Baltic Sea, and taking into account the work of IMO</p>
<p>Further develop technical co-operation between the European Maritime Safety Agency and HELCOM, including to ease collection and analysis of maritime data relevant for the Baltic Sea</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: Maritime</p>	<p>Continue close technical cooperation with EMSA including collection and analysis of maritime data relevant for the development of safer shipping in the Baltic Sea, such as EMCIP and data including drug/alcohol abuse as a cause of accidents</p>
<p>Further work with regard to the regional HELCOM AIS system operational since 2005 in order to increase safety of navigation and gain environmental benefits</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: Maritime</p>	<p><b>Proposal to be developed by AIS EWG 31-2020 that will be held 9-10 June 2020. The proposal will be submitted for consideration to HOD 59-2020.</b></p> <p><b>HOD 58-2020: The proposal will be submitted to HOD 59-2020</b></p>

*Sub-theme: Non-indigenous species*

Existing action	Proposal for rephrasing
<p>Implementation of the HELCOM Ballast Water Road Map – adjust HELCOM monitoring programme to obtain reliable data on non-indigenous species/ to link the port surveys and monitoring to shore-ship communication systems (2010)</p> <p>Origin: BSAP/Ballast Water Roadmap Implementation: <b>Joint</b> Status: Partly accomplished HELCOM group: Maritime (Pilot sampling and monitoring protocols accomplished under State &amp; Conservation Working Group)</p>	<p>Establishment [by 2024] and subsequent implementation of the early warning system in case of the introduction of invasive species in ports.</p>

<p>Implementation of the HELCOM Ballast Water Road Map - conducting of baseline surveys of prevailing environmental conditions in major ports</p> <p>Origin: BSAP/Ballast Water Roadmap Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (5/9 countries) HELCOM group: Maritime</p>	<p>Implementation of the Joint Harmonised Procedure for the Contracting Parties of OSPAR and HELCOM on the granting of exemptions under the BWM Convention, Regulation A-4, and keep the Ballast Water Risk Assessment Tool up to date with data from conducted port surveys</p>
<p>Promote development of effective, environmentally friendly TBT-free antifouling systems on ships</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: Maritime</p>	<p>Promote the development of effective, environmentally sustainable biofouling management techniques and antifouling systems on ships and pleasure craft, including biocide-free alternatives to prevent biofouling by supporting related R&amp;D activities in the region</p>
<p>Implementation of HELCOM Ballast Water Road Map - to cooperate with OSPAR on any other relevant topics for the benefit of both regions and as necessary for harmonised implementation of the BWM Convention</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: Maritime</p>	<p>Continue close cooperation with OSPAR on the implementation of the BWM Convention and the issue of biofouling management at regional level</p>
<p>WE AGREE to strengthen cooperation on ship hull fouling solutions with regard both to preventing the introduction of invasive alien species and to hazardous substances in anti-fouling systems</p> <p>Origin: MD 2018 HELCOM group: Maritime</p>	<p>Strengthen cooperation on ship hull fouling solutions with regard both to preventing the introduction of invasive alien species and to hazardous substances in anti-fouling systems, as well as energy efficiency aspects on the basis of a Biofouling Management Roadmap</p>

*Sub-theme: Pollution from ships*

<b>Existing action</b>	<b>Proposal for rephrasing</b>
<p>Investigate feasible and effective economic incentives for reducing emissions from ships (HELCOM Recommendation 28E/13)</p> <p>Origin: HELCOM Recommendation 28E/13 Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (2/9) countries HELCOM group: Maritime</p>	<p>Develop and facilitate implementation of feasible and effective economic incentives to reduce pollution from ships, taking into account HELCOM Recommendation 28E/13 as amended 19 June 2019</p>
<p>Implement the Roadmap for upgrading port reception facilities for sewage in passenger ports in the Baltic Sea Area: Priority ports</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (4/5 countries) HELCOM group: Maritime</p>	<p>Enforce the requirements of the Baltic Sea Special Area under MARPOL Annex IV and continuously ensure the availability of adequate port reception facilities in passenger ports in the Baltic Sea Area taking into account the "Technical Guidance for the handling of wastewater in Ports of the Baltic Sea Special Area under MARPOL Annex IV"</p>
<p>Work jointly in co-operation with other regional governmental and non-governmental organizations, the industry and research community, to further promote development and enhanced use of green technologies and alternative fuels, including LNG, methanol as well as</p>	<p>Continue the dialogue established by the Baltic Sea Platform for Green Technology and Alternative fuels in shipping (HELCOM GREEN TEAM) and work jointly in co-operation with other regional governmental and non-governmental organizations, the industry and research</p>

<p>other propulsion technologies, in order to reduce harmful exhaust gas emissions and greenhouse gases from ships</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: Maritime</p>	<p>community, to further promote development and use of green technologies and alternative fuels, in order to reduce harmful exhaust gas emissions and to strive for clean and low-carbon shipping</p>
<p>In particular, WE WELCOME the progress made in addressing the environmental impact of the maritime transport sector in the Baltic Sea via (a) the collaborative long-term effort to designate the Baltic Sea as a NOx Emission Control Area (NECA), (b) HELCOM commitment at the UN Ocean Conference on NECA and to promote green shipping technology and use of alternative fuels, including LNG, and (c) the recent International Maritime Organization (IMO) decision on the date of enforcement of the Baltic Sea as a special area under MARPOL Annex IV</p> <p>Origin: MD 2018 HELCOM group: Maritime</p>	<p>Develop a Roadmap for enforcement of the Baltic Sea NOx Emission Control area by [2023]</p>

*Sub-theme: Pleasure boating*

<b>Existing action</b>	<b>Proposal for rephrasing</b>
<p>Promote environmentally friendly pleasure boating and the development of marinas and the use of the best ecological practice by every marina/guest harbour, including education and raising awareness of the personnel and boat owners of key marinas/guest harbours</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: Maritime</p>	<p>Promote by 2025 environmentally sustainable pleasure boating and the development of “green” marinas/guest harbours and the use of the best ecological practice, including education and raising awareness of the personnel and boat owners of key marinas/guest harbours, by for example, introducing eco-labelling of marinas and developing guidance and best practice documents as a help for the marinas to reach criteria</p>

*Theme: Response*

<b>Existing action</b>	<b>Proposal for rephrasing</b>
<p>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</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Implementation: <b>Joint</b> Status: Partly accomplished HELCOM group: Response</p>	<p>Further develop regional preparedness and response related services including SeaTrackWeb to have integrated live feed from online devices such as sea current monitoring buoys, radars etc. no later than (by 2027)</p> <p>Have a full integration between satellite based spill detection and drift modelling by SeaTrackWeb (by 2027)</p>
<p>Produce a one-off HELCOM thematic assessment on environmental risks of hazardous submerged objects</p>	<p>Keep the HELCOM thematic assessment on hazardous submerged objects covering warfare materials and</p>



<p>covering contaminated wrecks, lost or dumped dangerous goods (e.g. containers), and other objects, also utilizing the 2013 report on dumped chemical munitions</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Implementation: <b>Joint</b> Status: Partly accomplished HELCOM group: Response</p>	<p>contaminated wrecks updated as a living document to be updated when more information on submerged hazardous objects in the Baltic Sea is received</p> <p>Keep information on submerged hazardous objects in the HELCOM Map and Data System up to date</p>
<p>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</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Implementation: <b>Joint</b> Status: Not accomplished HELCOM group: Response</p>	<p>Implement the Marine HNS Response Manual in operational response to spills involving hazardous or noxious substances as well as exercises by 2025</p> <p>Commit to testing the procedures of the Marine HNS manual at BALEX DELTA 2022</p>

*Theme: Underwater noise*

<b>Existing action</b>	<b>Proposal for rephrasing</b>
<p>WE AGREE to strengthen the fruitful cooperation with OSPAR on transboundary issues and common challenges to gain efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of SDGs such as ballast water management and introduction of invasive alien species, the issue of underwater noise, micro-plastic, migratory birds, MPA network and management, and threatened and endangered species.</p> <p>Origin: MD 2018, para.59 HELCOM group: S&amp;C (part of the para concretized by Pressure, see Annex 2)</p>	<p>Develop and implement threshold values and assessment methods for adverse effect of impulsive and ambient noise for marine life, in cooperation with OSPAR and relevant EU expert groups, by [2023] at latest for marine mammals and by [2026] for other relevant species groups.</p>
<p>Establish a set of indicators including technical standards which may be used for monitoring ambient and impulsive underwater noise in the Baltic Sea</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Implementation: <b>Joint</b> Status: Partly accomplished HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	
<p>Consider regular monitoring on ambient and impulsive underwater noise as well as possible options for mitigation measures related to noise taking into account the ongoing work in IMO on non-mandatory draft guidelines for reducing underwater noise from commercial ships and in CBD context.</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Status: Previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p>Implementing mitigation measures according to existing Best Environmental Practice and Best Available Technique for continuous and impulsive noise in the Baltic as soon as they become available, but at the latest by [XXXX]</p> <p>Implement regular and regional harmonized monitoring of ambient and impulsive noise [by 2023] to follow up effects of mitigation measures.</p>

*Theme: Fisheries management*

<p>The further development and testing of the HELCOM generic decision-support tool to map possible negative impacts of specific gear types on threatened or declining species and habitats, and which helps to develop and/or recommend measures to address these</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Implementation: <b>Joint</b> Status: Partly accomplished HELCOM group: Fish</p>	<p>To update and harmonize the 2016 BALTFIMPA decision-support tool approach with ongoing initiatives e.g. in ICES on a seafloor assessment framework for the Baltic Sea. This tool should also provide options on how to reduce the possible negative impact of fisheries on conservation values in the most cost-effective way, including in marine protected areas</p>
<p>Ask for advice from Regional Coordination Groups within the EU Data Collection Framework and ICES on how to improve data collected on such recreational fisheries, with a view to evaluate the impacts of such recreational fisheries on the marine environment</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Status: Previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: Fish</p>	<p>Develop guidance in cooperation with the Regional Coordination Groups within the EU Data Collection Framework and ICES on how to improve data collected on recreational fisheries in a cost-effective way, with a view to evaluate the impacts of recreational fisheries on the marine environment, where there is a need.</p>
<p>Introduction of additional fisheries management measures to achieve: - that all caught species and by-catch are landed and reported</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: Fish</p>	<p>Identify fish species for which there is a need for better data for identified purposes, e.g. GES, and enable fishermen to record catches of relevant species in dedicated programmes</p> <p><b>SE study reservation</b></p>

*Sub-theme: Bycatch*

<p>Evaluation of the effectiveness of existing technical measures to minimise by-catch of harbour porpoises</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>Joint</b> Status: Not accomplished HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p>Invite the competent authorities, such as BALTFISH, to immediately, but no later than 2022, implement mitigation measures in the Baltic proper, in order for by-catch of harbour porpoise to be significantly reduced with the aim to reach by-catch rates close to zero.</p> <p>Continually test new by-catch mitigation measures, with evaluation of measures every 5 years starting in [2022], continually introduce new technical and operational by-catch mitigation measures, in cooperation with competent authorities and regularly update HELCOM questionnaire on trials of alternative fishing gears and fishing techniques.</p> <p>At the latest by [2023] enhance monitoring efforts for more reliable data on fishing effort, number of by-caught individuals and by-catch rates, as stipulated in the HELCOM Roadmap on collection of fisheries data in order to assess incidental bycatches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes in the Baltic Sea and for the status of populations by [2025].</p>
<p>Take decisive action to work towards a favourable conservation status of the harbor porpoise based on implementation of the CMS (Convention on Migratory Species) ASCOBANS (Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans in the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas) Jastarnia Plan for the harbor porpoise in the Baltic Sea, in particular by addressing the pressing problem of by-catch.</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Implementation: <b>Joint</b> Status: Not accomplished HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	

	<p><b>Note by the Secretariat:</b> This action overlaps with an action on by-catch from Fish.</p> <p><i>HOD 58-2020 instructed the Fish and State &amp; Conservation groups to consider the overlapping actions under environmentally sustainable sea-based activities related to incidental by-catch, and to submit a proposal for merging or further differentiation of these actions to HOD 59-2020 for agreement. DK and FI supported the formulation by the Fish group.</i></p> <p>Invite the competent authorities to implement operational conservation measures for the Western Baltic population by [2024] such as permanent and/or spatial-temporal closures for relevant fishing métiers in risk areas where technical mitigation measures are insufficient to reach conservation goals.</p>
<p>Reduce the negative impacts of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem and to this end, support the development of fisheries management and technical measures to minimize unwanted by-catch of fish, birds and mammals in order to achieve the close to zero target for by-catch rates of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and minimize damage to sea bed habitats.</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: Fish</p>	<p>Reduce the negative impacts of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem and to this end, support the development of fisheries management including technical measures to minimize unwanted by-catch of fish, birds and marine mammals and achieve the close to zero target for by-catch rates of relevant species, e.g. harbour porpoise</p>
<p>Development and implementation of effective monitoring for by-caught birds and mammals</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>Joint</b> Status: Partly accomplished HELCOM group: Fish</p>	<p>Development and implementation of effective data collection for by-caught birds and mammals in line with the needs identified by ICES and the identified data-gaps outlined in the HELCOM Roadmap on fisheries data</p> <p><b>Note by the Secretariat:</b> This action overlaps with an action on by-catch from S&amp;C.</p> <p><i>HOD 58-2020 instructed the Fish and State &amp; Conservation groups to consider the overlapping actions under environmentally sustainable sea-based activities related to incidental by-catch, and to submit a proposal for merging or further differentiation of these actions to HOD 59-2020 for agreement. DK and FI supported the formulation by the Fish group.</i></p>

*Sub-theme: Fish stock management plans*

<b>Existing action</b>	<b>Proposal for rephrasing</b>
Competent authorities to take immediate action for development of long-term management plans for	Competent authorities to establish long-term national management plans for salmon stocks by 2023 and

<p>commercially exploited fish stocks so that they are within safe biological limits and reach agreed targets, such as maximum sustainable yield, improve their distribution and size/age range (salmon)</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (2/9) countries) HELCOM group: Fish</p>	<p>implement them at the latest by 2025 so that they reach set targets, including but not limited to smolt production, genetic diversity and distribution throughout the river habitat</p>
<p>Competent authorities to take immediate action for development of long-term management plans for commercially exploited fish species (sea trout) so that they are within safe biological limits</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (2/9) countries) HELCOM group: Fish</p>	<p>Competent authorities to improve data related to sea trout stocks with the view to establish and implement long-term national management plans for sea trout stocks at latest by 2025 so that they reach set targets, including but not limited to recruitment status, genetic diversity and distribution throughout the river habitat</p> <p><b>SE study reservation</b></p>
<p>Implement long-term management plans for cod to improve their distribution size/age-range</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Future target year (2020) HELCOM group: Fish</p>	<p>Define necessary complementary measures supporting the EU multi-annual plans of cod, sprat and herring (Regulation (EU) 2016/1139) for Contracting Parties which are also EU Member States, in order to improve cod size/age-range</p> <p><b>DK study reservation</b></p>

*Sub-theme: Seal-Fisheries interactions*

<b>Existing action</b>	<b>Proposal for rephrasing</b>
<p>Implementation of non-lethal mitigations measures for seals-fisheries interactions (HELCOM Recommendation 27-28/2) (2012)</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (2/9) countries) HELCOM group: Fish</p>	<p>Sharing of information and implementation among Contracting Parties, BALTIFISH and BSAC on the implementation of non-lethal mitigation measures or ways to manage seals-fisheries interactions.</p>

*Theme: seabed loss and disturbance*

<b>Existing action</b>	<b>Proposal for rephrasing</b>
<p>WE AGREE to complete and fully operationalise a set of indicators used for regularly assessing the status of the marine environment including in the next holistic assessment; to advance mapping and assessment of the extent and intensity of human activities in the Baltic Sea region and improve the understanding of their impacts, including the cumulative effects on the ecosystem; and to use this information for strengthening the implementation of ecosystem-based management;</p> <p>Origin: MD 2018, para. 21 HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p>Develop common indicators, threshold values to evaluate the status of structure, function, distribution and loss of benthic habitats by [2022], where applicable and for any remaining topics no later than [2026]. Work should be done in close coordination with work undertaken by Contracting Parties in other relevant fora.</p> <p>To identify by [2022] data needs for quantitative cumulative assessment of human activities and implement by [2024] at latest methods for mapping and</p>

	assessment of adverse effects on the ecosystem of human activities in the Baltic Sea region  [NOTE by Secretariat: indicator development for other topics are found under the relevant sections]
WE AGREE to do regional work on developing threshold values for the adverse effects of anthropogenic physical disturbance and, based on the best available scientific information in close coordination with other relevant fora, if needed to achieve GES, (to develop the necessary regionally coordinated quantitative targets for the reduction of physical disturbance caused by human activities and habitat loss)  Origin: MD 2018, para. 41 HELCOM group: S&C (the latter part of the para concretized by Pressure group, see Annex 2)	To develop map service for lost and disturbed habitats under HELCOM MADS by [2024].  To develop methods and define benthic habitats for assessment and collect relevant data to assess the status of the seabed by [2029]

## Baltic Sea ecosystem is healthy and resilient

### Ecological objectives

- Viable populations of all native species
- Natural distribution, occurrence and quality of habitats and associated communities
- Functional, healthy and resilient food webs

### Management/conservation objectives

- Effectively managed and ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas
- Minimize disturbance of species, their habitats and migration routes from human activities
- Human induced mortality, including: hunting, fishing, and incidental bycatch, does not threaten the viability of marine life
- Effective and coordinated conservation plans and measures for threatened species, habitats, biotopes, and biotope complexes
- Reduce or prevent human pressures that lead to imbalance in the foodweb

### Theme: Spatial Conservation Measures and Management

Existing action	Proposal for rephrasing
Reach the target set by the HELCOM 2010 Moscow Ministerial Declaration that at least 10% of the marine area in all sub-basins of the Baltic Sea including the EEZ areas beyond territorial waters is covered by MPAs where scientifically justified  Origin: MD 2010/Rec 35/1 Implementation: <b>National</b> (Regional evaluation) Status: Partly accomplished HELCOM group: S&C	<b>Comment by S&amp;C 12-2020:</b> <i>The Meeting proposed that for actions closely tied to the CBD post-2020 process and associated targets the final formulations, targets and target years of the actions be considered once the new CBD targets are available, consequently text in square brackets and targets are proposed to be updated following agreement on the CBD targets.</i>
Designate new sites as HELCOM MPAs where ecologically meaningful especially in offshore area beyond territorial waters [counting from 2014 – when rec 35/1 was adopted]	[Protect sites of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem resilience through marine protected areas and OECMs by [2030] at the latest covering at least [60%] of all such sites regionally, especially, where scientifically justified, in offshore areas beyond territorial waters.]

<p>Origin: BSAP (HELCOM Recommendation 35/1)  Implementation: <b>National</b>  Status: Partly accomplished (2/9 countries)  HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p>[Protect sites of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem resilience through marine protected areas and OECMs by [2030] at the latest covering at least [30%] of the area of the Baltic Sea (marine?) area, especially, where scientifically justified, in offshore areas beyond territorial waters.]</p> <p>[Protect sites of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem resilience through marine protected areas and OECMs by [2030] at the latest of which at least [10%] need to be under strict protection, as defined by IUCN [possibly include categories], especially, where scientifically justified, in offshore areas beyond territorial waters.]</p> <p><b>HOD 58-2020: Retain actions in brackets until they can be aligned with CBD targets, invite BSAP drafting group to consider formulation of final actions</b></p> <p>Regionally identify and agree on what OECMs could be available in the Baltic Sea region by [2022].</p> <p>By [2025] review and update as needed the HELCOM guidance on planning and designating MPAs</p> <p>By [2026] prepare HELCOM guidance on planning and designating guidance on OECMs in the Baltic Sea region.</p>
<p>Ensure when selecting new areas, that the network of HELCOM MPAs is ecologically coherent and takes into account connectivity between sites including for example migration routes, species mobility and areas of special ecological significance such as spawning areas</p> <p>Origin: MD 2010/HELCOM Recommendation 35/1  Implementation: <b>National</b> (Regional evaluation)  Status: Future target year (2020)  HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p>Ensure that by [2030] the Baltic Sea MPA network is fully coherent including with respect to adequacy, connectivity (incl. migration), replication and representativity, taking into account the changing climate. For the purpose of enabling adaptive management the coherence of the network shall be periodically assessed at least every 10 years, the next such assessment of effectiveness should be carried out by [2025] and appropriate actions taken to ensure conservation and resilience of biodiversity.</p> <p>By [2027] use results from the coherence analysis to identify possible spatial conservation expansion needs to improve coherence, including with regards to possible effects and impacts of climate change.</p>
<p>Ensure that HELCOM MPAs inter alia provide specific protection to those species, habitats, biotopes and biotope complexes included in the HELCOM Red Lists, as agreed in the HELCOM 2013 Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration, by considering these in the site selection procedure</p> <p>Origin: MD 2010/Rec 35/1  Implementation: <b>National</b> (Regional evaluation)  Status: Partly accomplished  HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p>Ensure that by [2030] the HELCOM MPA network inter alia provides specific protection to species and biotopes listed as regionally threatened or near threatened in the HELCOM Red Lists.</p>
<p>WE ALSO COMMIT to improving the understanding of the role of MPAs for ecosystem services, in order to enhance cost-effectiveness of MPAs management and</p>	<p>Support Baltic Sea MPA managers by building capacity including by updating the HELCOM Guidance for MPA</p>

<p>yield the greatest environmental benefits. WE ALSO AGREE to strive for full achievement of Aichi Target 11 regarding the management, ecological representativeness and connectivity of the HELCOM MPAs network;</p> <p>Origin: MD 2018, para 45 HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p>Management, including arranging annual capacity building workshops.</p> <p><b>Comment by S&amp;C 12-2020:</b> <i>Will need further elaboration in the autumn STATE&amp;CONSERAVTION 13-2020 meeting Conservation session, TG MPA will also discuss and provide input. Update and strengthen Recommendation 35-1 by [2025] at the latest, including but not limited to....[developing and applying management plans for existing and new MPAs]</i></p>
<p>Develop and apply by 2015 management plans or measures for all existing HELCOM MPAs</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p><b>HOD 58-2020: Further elaboration by STATE&amp;CONSERVATION 13-2020.</b></p>
<p>Establish management plan or measures for every new MPA within five years after its designation. <i>[first target year 2019 – five years after adoption of Rec 35/1]</i></p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Future target year (2019) HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p>By [2026] nationally ensure that MPA management plans and/or measures are legally binding and ensure appropriate structures are in place to enforce compliance.</p>
<p>Development and implementation of fisheries management measures for fisheries inside marine protected areas (BSAP)</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>Joint</b> Status: Partly accomplished HELCOM group: Fish</p>	<p>Development, implementation and information sharing of management measures for fisheries inside marine protected areas</p>

*Theme: Protection of species*

<b>Existing action</b>	<b>Proposal for rephrasing</b>
<p>Protect seabirds in the Baltic Sea, taking into consideration migratory species</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Implementation: <b>Joint</b> Status: Partly accomplished HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p>By [2022] establish a sub-group of experts to maintain an updated map of the sensitivity of seabirds to threats such as wind energy facilities, wave energy installations, shipping and fisheries</p> <p>Complete, as a first step, the mapping of migration routes and staging areas with existing data by [2022] and ensure that appropriate resources are made available by the Contracting Parties to finalize this task</p> <p>Further develop maps of migration routes and staging areas by [2025] and ensure that appropriate resources are made available by the Contracting Parties to finalize this task</p> <p><b>By [2023] and onwards with new findings [or knowledge instead of findings] and on the basis of produced maps propose mitigation measures and potential exclusion areas for offshore wind farms and other installations with barrier effect. EIA procedure finally decides upon individual wind/wave energy installation projects that</b></p>



	<p>affect a proposed exclusion area. (for this action no agreement on formulation was reached at S&amp;C 12-2020. Consequently DE, DK, PL and SE placed study reservations on the action and the meeting invited DK and DE to continue the clarification regarding the formulation bilaterally)</p> <p><b>HOD 58-2020: Took note of new proposal by lead countries DE and DK</b></p> <p><i>“By 2023 and onwards with new findings use the produced maps in EIA procedures with the aim to protect migratory birds against potential threats arising from new offshore wind farms and other installations with barrier effect.”</i></p> <p><b>S&amp;C 13-2020 to further work on the proposal. SE study reservation</b></p> <p>To by the next update cycle of the marine spatial plans seek to incorporate the produced maps in the work concerning maritime spatial planning to avoid that maritime activities impair seabirds and their habitats.</p> <p><b>DK study reservation</b></p> <p><b>S&amp;C 11C-2020:</b> <i>Sensitive species should be included under a more general action for MSP for HELCOM-VASAB. If not covered by HELCOM-VASP MSP group then it should be considered as a possible gap for S&amp;C 13.</i></p> <p>By [2027] assess the effectiveness of conservation efforts to protect seabirds against threats and pressures</p>
<p>Evaluation of the effectiveness of existing technical measures to minimise by-catch of harbour porpoises</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>Joint</b> Status: Not accomplished HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p>By [2022] at the latest, identify knowledge gaps and identify and determine high-risk areas for by-catch of harbour porpoise;</p>
<p>Take decisive action to work towards a favourable conservation status of the harbor porpoise based on implementation of the CMS (Convention on Migratory Species) ASCOBANS (Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans in the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas) Jastarnia Plan for the harbor porpoise in the Baltic Sea, in particular by addressing the pressing problem of by-catch.</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Implementation: <b>Joint</b> Status: Not accomplished HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	
<p>WE AGREE to take actions to prevent the loss of biodiversity in the Baltic Sea and to improve the status of species, biotopes and habitats that are threatened according to the 2013 HELCOM Red Lists , inter alia, by establishing conservation plans or other relevant programmes or environmental measures for species, biotopes and habitats at risk of extinction;</p>	<p>To update the HELCOM Red List Assessments by [2024], including identifying the main individual and cumulative pressures and underlying human activities affecting the red listed species, biotopes and habitats</p> <p>Develop ecologically relevant conservation plans or other relevant programmes or environmental measures</p>

<p>Origin: MD 2018, para. 44 HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p> <p>Take measures so that by 2020, regionally, a) the loss of all red listed marine habitats and biotopes in the Baltic Sea will be halted</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Future target year HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p>(e.g. habitat restoration, MPAs), limiting direct and indirect pressures stemming from human activities for threatened and declining species, biotopes and habitats, if not already done then by 2020, by [2025], including joint or regionally agreed conservation measures for migrating species;</p> <p>Implement ecologically relevant conservation plans, or other relevant programmes or environmental measures (e.g. habitat restoration, MPAs), limiting direct and indirect pressures stemming from human activities for threatened and declining species, biotopes and habitats by [2024], incl. joint or regionally agreed conservation measures for migrating species;</p>
<p>Take measures so that by 2020, regionally b) red listed marine habitats and biotopes have largely recovered, and that degradation and fragmentation have been significantly reduced, the progress of which will be measured with a core indicator to be produced</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Future target year HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p>Enforce compliance with conservation plans, or other relevant programmes or environmental measures (e.g. habitat restoration, MPAs), limiting direct and indirect pressures stemming from human activities for threatened and declining species, biotopes and habitats by [2025], incl. joint or regionally agreed conservation measures for migrating species;</p> <p>Regularly assess the effectiveness of other conservation measures, besides MPAs, the first assessment to be done by [XXXX] as well as assess effect on species, biotopes and habitats through risk- and status assessments by [XXXX].</p>
<p>Increase positive incentives to enhance reduction of pressures on biodiversity and to work towards elimination by 2020 of incentives and subsidies which could be harmful to biodiversity in order to improve the buffering capacity of the marine and coastal ecosystems for a better resilience.</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Status: Previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p><b>Comment by S&amp;C 12-2020:</b> <i>S&amp;C not necessarily the most appropriate group to evaluate the appropriateness of the actions. For further consideration S&amp;C recommends that these actions are considered by another group in the HELCOM structure. These actions are also possibly affected by the outcome of the CBD processes.</i></p> <p>By [2025] identify positive incentives to reduce existing pressures so that by [2030] incentives, including public and private economic and regulatory incentives, are either positive or neutral for biodiversity</p> <p>By [2030], if not covered by initiatives within CBD and the EU green deal or other international agreements, increase positive incentives to reduce existing pressures by [2030] that incentives, including public and private economic and regulatory incentives, are either positive or neutral for biodiversity</p> <p>Identify by [2025] the subsidies that are harmful for biodiversity, if needed in addition to initiatives by CBD, EU Green deal or other relevant international agreements.</p> <p>Ensure that by [2027] half of these subsidies [and in particular the most harmful] are already successfully reformed, if needed in addition to initiatives by CBD, EU Green deal or other relevant international agreements.</p>

	<p>Reform, or where possible, eliminate by [2030] the subsidies that are harmful for biodiversity, if needed in addition to initiatives by CBD, EU Green deal or other relevant international agreements.</p> <p><i>DK study reservation on all the concretizations above</i></p> <p><i>HOD 58-2020: Retain actions in brackets until they can be aligned with CBD targets, invite BSAP drafting group to consider formulation of final actions</i></p>
<p>Develop long-term management plans by 2012 for protecting, monitoring and sustainably managing coastal fish species, including the most threatened and/or declining, including anadromous ones, according to BSEP109</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (2/9 countries) HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p>To regularly assess the state of the coastal fish community through selected coastal fish species and groups, the next assessment to be available by [target year of next FISH-PRO assessment].</p> <p>To develop and coordinate monitoring and assessment methods, where ecologically relevant, of coastal fish populations and communities, also including threatened and declining species by [2023].</p> <p>By [2027] implement management measures with the view to achieve good environmental status for coastal fish, including threatened and declining coastal fish species.</p>
<p>Finalisation of national management plans for grey seals</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (4/6 countries) HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p><b>Comment by S&amp;C 12-2020:</b> <i>Target year to be reviewed.</i></p> <p><i>No rephrasing needed.</i></p>
<p>Implementation of national management plans for grey seals</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (4/6 countries) HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p><b>Comment by S&amp;C 12-2020:</b> <i>Target year to be reviewed.</i></p> <p><i>No rephrasing needed.</i></p>
<p>Finalisation of national management plans for ringed seals</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (2/4 countries) HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p><b>Comment by S&amp;C 12-2020:</b> <i>Target year to be reviewed.</i></p> <p><i>No rephrasing needed.</i></p>
<p>Implementation of national management plans for ringed seals</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (1/4 countries) HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p><b>Comment by S&amp;C 12-2020:</b> <i>Target year to be reviewed.</i></p> <p><i>No rephrasing needed.</i></p>
<p>Protect the ringed seal in the Gulf of Finland, including to significantly reduce by-catch and to improve the understanding of the other direct threats on the seals, and urge transboundary co-operation between Estonia,</p>	<p><b>Comment by S&amp;C 12-2020:</b> <i>Target year to be reviewed.</i></p> <p><i>No rephrasing needed.</i></p>

<p>Finland and Russia to support achieving a viable population of ringed seals in the Gulf</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (1/2 countries) HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	
<p>Classify and make inventories of rivers with European eel</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: National Status: Partly accomplished (2/9 countries) HELCOM group: Fish</p>	<p><i>If this action has not been accomplished before adoption of the updated BSAP, the following action should be included in the updated BSAP:</i></p> <p>Inventory and identify rivers where management measures for eel would have the greatest impact</p>
<p>Continue the efforts underway and enhance co-ordination and evaluation of measures within the Baltic Sea as well as with other European countries, for the conservation of eel stocks, in line with national eel management plans</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>Joint</b> Status: Partly accomplished (5/9 countries) HELCOM group: Fish</p>	<p>Initiate implementation by 2022 of a Baltic coordinated programme of protective measures ensuring successful eel migrations, aligned with CMS, the EU Eel Regulation and other relevant instruments, including a monitoring and post-evaluation process of levels of pressures affecting eel that begins no later than 2024</p> <p><b>DK study reservation</b></p>
<p>Competent authorities to implement national programs for the conservation of eel stocks as a contribution to a Baltic coordinated programme to ensure successful eel migrations from the Baltic Sea drainage basin to national spawning grounds</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: National Status: Partly accomplished (8/9) countries HELCOM group: Fish</p>	

*Theme: Protection and restoration of habitat*

<p>Further development of detailed landscape maps</p> <p>Origin: Status: Previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p>Develop a fully functioning translation matrix between HUB, MSFD broad habitat types, HD habitats and EUNIS, in co-ordination with EMODNET by [2025]</p> <p>Update the HUB-classification where gaps have been identified, by [2024]</p>
<p>WE COMMIT to increasing the protection and restoration of biodiversity, to intensifying regional, sub-regional and cross-sectoral cooperation, and to preserving and promoting the ecological balance of the Baltic Sea area with strengthened resilience, also as streamlined response to adaptation needs stemming from human-induced climate change</p> <p>Origin: MD 2018, para.43 HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p>Map biotopes and habitats nationally, including key habitats and habitat forming species, and identify gaps in spatial coverage of mapping efforts, with the aim to produce Baltic-wide models, including production of maps, of distribution of habitats and biotopes by [2028].</p> <p>Establish continual Baltic-wide monitoring of biotopes and habitats, including key habitats and habitat forming species by [2030]</p>

<p>Speed up sea bed habitat/biotope mapping for nature protection and maritime spatial planning purposes, and with HELCOM as the regional node for data and information sharing</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Status: previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p>Map ecosystem services and the present and potential spatial distribution of key ecosystem components, including habitat forming species such as bladder wrack, eelgrass, blue mussel and stoneworts Baltic-wide, by [2025].</p> <p>To assess the state of key ecosystem components including habitat forming species as well as their main threats by [2023],</p> <p>By [2025] identify key ecosystem components including habitat forming species and suitable areas for restoration.</p> <p>By [2030] implement cost-effective programmes for the restoration of suitable habitats including key ecosystem components such as habitat forming species. These should be done in co-operation between countries when feasible.</p> <p>To implement effective mitigation measures in accordance with the results of the assessed state and the level and main sources of threat of key ecosystem components including habitat forming species by [2030],</p> <p>To include information on functional and lifehistory traits for the species in the HELCOM Biodiversity Database, by [XXXX].</p>
<p>Develop restoration plans (including restoration of spawning sites and migration routes) in suitable rivers to reinstate migratory fish species</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: National Status: Partly accomplished (7/9 countries) HELCOM group: Fish</p>	<p>Develop and implement habitat restoration plans (including spawning sites and migration routes) in relevant rivers by 2025 to strengthen native strains and to reinstate migratory fish species</p>

## Horizontal actions

*Theme: Hot spots*

<b>Existing action</b>	<b>Proposal for rephrasing</b>
<p>Elimination of remaining hot spots from the JCP List (agricultural, municipal and industrial)</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished HELCOM group: Pressure</p>	<p>Prioritize inclusion of HELCOM hot spots into investment programmes (national or international) or establish alternative financial mechanisms to eliminate remaining hot spots from HELCOM list by 2025</p> <p>Specify HELCOM criteria for deletion of hot spots from the list wherever it is needed</p> <p>Apply HELCOM criteria for deletion of municipal/industrial, agricultural and other hot spots to justify results of the investment projects</p>

*Theme: Climate change*

<b>Existing action</b>	<b>Proposal for rephrasing</b>
<p>AGREE that HELCOM should take action to bridge [scientific understanding of the impacts of climate change together with multiple other stressors on the Baltic Sea marine environment] knowledge to policy and practice.</p> <p>Origin: MD 2018, para. 48 HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p>Using the HELCOM/Baltic Earth Joint Expert Network on Climate Change as a platform, improve access to the latest scientific information on the impacts of climate change together with multiple other pressures on the Baltic Sea marine environment through periodic updates of the HELCOM Climate Change Factsheet, and incorporate the possible effect of climate change into the holistic assessment of status as well as effectiveness of measures by [2030] at latest.</p>
<p>Further assess in cooperation with the BALTEX community, the current and predicted effects of climate change on the pressures affecting the marine ecosystem.</p> <p>Origin: Status: Previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p>Identify the needs and possibilities to further adapt HELCOM's policies and recommendations to account for effects and impacts on the environment under the changing climate and to develop and carry out a climate change policy review process as part of the work of HELCOM, starting e.g. with indicators and open recommendations.</p>

*Theme: Economic and social analysis*

<b>Existing action</b>	<b>Proposal for rephrasing</b>
<p>WE RECOGNIZE that knowledge on the relationship between the state of the marine environment and human well-being is essential for applying the ecosystem approach to management of human activities and in maritime spatial planning in the region, as well as for implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention on Biological Diversity;</p> <p>Origin: MD 2018, para. 49 HELCOM group: Gear</p>	<p>By [2023], integrate economic and social analyses in HELCOM work strands to support the implementation of the ecosystem-based approach and allow for assessment of the linkages between the marine environment and human wellbeing.</p> <p>By [2028], improve the use of results from economic and social analyses in decision-making.</p> <p>By [2028], establish a set of indicators that describe the economic and social aspects of the marine environment.</p> <p>By [2030], integrate quantitative and qualitative economic values of the environment into the management of human activities and maritime spatial planning.</p>
<p>To this end, WE AGREE to further develop and carry out coordinated regional economic and social assessments, including mapping, valuation, and analysis of ecosystem services and natural capital accounting, taking advantage of improved methods and comparability of data;</p> <p>Origin: MD 2018, para. 50 HELCOM group: Gear</p>	<p>By [2023], identify potential uses of ecosystem services assessment and valuation and provide an initial demonstration of how they can be used in policy development.</p> <p>By [2028], apply the framework of ecosystem accounting to assess the contributions of marine ecosystems to economic activity (e.g. GDP) using values that are compatible with the system of national accounts and comparable with other economic sectors.</p> <p>By [2023], carry out regionally coordinated economic and social analysis of the use of the sea and the cost of degradation of the marine environment.</p>

<p>WE ALSO AGREE to encourage further coordinated research to support cost of degradation analyses, cost-effectiveness analyses of regional measures, and assessment of cost and benefits related to achieving GES covering the entire Baltic Sea region;</p> <p>Origin: MD 2018, para. 51 HELCOM group: Gear</p>	<p>By [2023], further develop and apply regionally coordinated methods in support of analyses of ecosystem services.</p> <p>By [2028], further develop and apply regionally coordinated methods for analyses of sufficiency of measures.</p> <p>By [2028], further develop and apply regionally coordinated methods for cost-effectiveness of measures and costs and benefits to achieve good status of the Baltic Sea marine environment</p>
<p>Further develop information provision from ecosystem models and to co-operate closely in doing so, bearing in mind the requirements of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan in developing targets for good ecological status, indicators for assessing the ecological status of the marine environment and in estimating future allowable nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea and its sub-regions without jeopardizing achievement of the good ecological and environmental status</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Status: Previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p><b>Comment by S&amp;C 12-2020:</b> <i>To use the submitted synopsis for further clarification on the model-based decision support tool. Reformulation to clarify text might be needed later in the process.</i></p> <p>Development of a model-based decision support tool by [XXXX], at latest, with the aim to plan and follow up the effect and cost of existing measure and to plan the need of new measures an ecosystem based management of human activities.</p> <p><b>HOD 58-2020: S&amp;C 13-2020 to consider the formulation of the action, using the relevant synopsis and the consequent evaluation as a basis.</b></p> <p>By [XXXX] analyse existing tools for analysing sufficiency of measures, with the aim to plan monitoring and assessment of the effect and cost of measures, in order to further make use of the experiences when the need of new measures occurs."</p>

*Theme: Monitoring and assessment, evaluation*

<b>Existing action</b>	<b>Proposal for rephrasing</b>
<p>Already initiated revision of the HELCOM monitoring programmes be finalized by 2013 and that it results in cost-effective joint monitoring, which fully supports the indicator-based assessment approach and monitoring of the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, and is in line with other international monitoring and reporting requirements</p> <p>Origin MD 2010 Implementation: <b>Joint</b> Status: Accomplished HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p>Regularly revise HELCOM monitoring programmes (once per 6 years), including the level of regional coordination, in line with the MSFD reporting cycle, to adjust them to the latest technical and scientific developments for a cost-effective joint monitoring, which fully supports the indicator-based assessment approach and monitoring of the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, and is in line with other international monitoring and reporting requirements.</p> <p>The validity of HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy and Data and Information Strategy should be reviewed within 2 years after updating the BSAP and revised as needed.</p> <p>Ensure all HELCOM monitoring programs are regionally coordinated by [2026].</p>
<p>WE ENDEAVOUR to explore further synergies of HELCOM Monitoring System with other relevant monitoring activities</p> <p>Origin: MD 2018, para. 55 HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p>By [2024] develop a roadmap to fullfil the needs of a holistic assessments for all relevant ecosystem</p>



<p>marine environment including in the next holistic assessment; to advance mapping and assessment of the extent and intensity of human activities in the Baltic Sea region and improve the understanding of their impacts, including the cumulative effects on the ecosystem; and to use this information for strengthening the implementation of ecosystem-based management;</p> <p>Origin: MD 2018, para. 21 HELCOM group: S&amp;C</p>	<p>components, food webs and pressures and by [2030] at the latest develop a fully operationalise a set of indicators fulfilling HELCOM's needs, which include the need to provide a regional platform for the MSFD.</p> <p>Develop common indicators, threshold values to evaluate the status of food webs by [2026], where applicable and implement a holistic assessment of food webs no later than [2030].</p>
---	--

## Annex 1. Existing HELCOM actions from BSAP, MD 2010 and MD 2013 proposed not to be transferred to updated BSAP

The following actions are included in the HELCOM follow-up system and are not fully accomplished but they are proposed not to be transferred to the updated BSAP.

### Theme: Agriculture

Action	Justification
<p>Establish national guidelines or standards for nutrient content in manure with the view to fully utilize nutrient content of manure in fertilization practices and to avoid overfertilization</p> <p>Origin: BSAP, MD2013 Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (5/9 countries) HELCOM group: Agri</p>	<p><b>AGRI 9-2020:</b> The draft Recommendation recommends to establish and update national standards and advises how they should be implemented. The action is proposed to be set aside when the Recommendation is adopted.</p> <p><b>Comment by the Secretariat:</b> The HELCOM Recommendation on the use of national manure standards was adopted by HELCOM 41-2020 and can be included in the follow-up system. Reporting has been set for every four years.</p>

### Theme: Response

Action	Justification
<p>Integrate the subject of oiled wildlife response into oil pollution contingency plans either on a national or sub-national/local level</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (5/9) HELCOM group: Response</p>	<p><b>RESPONSE 26-2019:</b> The Meeting <u>agreed</u> that the intention of the action has been fulfilled, but formally it cannot be reported as such for all Contracting Parties, e.g. as the word “integrate” is interpreted in different ways in different countries.</p> <p>The Meeting consequently <u>agreed</u> that this action should not be carried forward to the updated BSAP. The Meeting, however, <u>agreed</u> that completely new actions may be proposed to the updated BSAP, regarding oiled wildlife response</p> <p><b>RESPONSE 27-2020:</b> The Meeting <u>proposed</u> a new action on holistic/integrated management of marine pollution incidents for the updated BSAP as set out in Annex 3, using the template for synopsis that had been made available by the Secretariat.</p>
<p>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</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (5/9) HELCOM group: Response</p>	<p><b>RESPONSE 26-2019:</b> The Meeting <u>agreed</u> that the action in its current form is unclear and formulated in a way that makes it very difficult to fully accomplish. Especially the word “quantification” causes problems in the national interpretations. The Meeting consequently <u>agreed</u> that the action is to be revised.</p> <p><b>RESPONSE 27-2020:</b> The Meeting <u>proposed</u> a new action on holistic/integrated management of marine pollution incidents for the updated BSAP as set out in Annex 3 of the Outcome of RESPONSE 27-2020, using the template</p>

	for synopsis that had been made available by the Secretariat.
--	---

*Theme: Conservation and restocking of fish stocks, restoration of habitats*

Action	Justification
<p>Consider additional measures if necessary, such as reducing fishing mortality in accordance with the ICES advice, removing migration barriers, and re-stocking in eel-safe river systems, e.g. utilising the outcomes of co-operation between ICES, HELCOM and other stakeholders on this issue</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Partly accomplished (3/9) countries HELCOM group: Fish</p>	<p><b>FISH 11-2020:</b> The Meeting <u>agreed</u> with the conclusion by SOM-FISH WS 1-2019 that the measures detailed in this action would be key elements for consideration by the HELCOM programme to ensure successful eel migrations, and that there would consequently be no need for this action in the updated BSAP. The Meeting also <u>noted</u> that a number of other existing and proposed new actions also cover this action.</p>

*Theme: Management plans for fish stocks*

Action	Justification
<p>Competent authorities to take action to implement existing long-term management plans for eel</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: On-going HELCOM group: Fish</p>	<p><b>FISH 11-2020:</b> The Meeting <u>agreed</u> with the conclusion by SOM-FISH WS 1-2019 that this action is already covered by the above joint and national actions related to eel, and that there is no need for it to be included in the updated BSAP.</p>
<p>Implement existing long-term management plans for eel to improve their distribution size/age-range</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>National</b> Status: Future target year (2021) HELCOM group: Fish</p>	<p><b>FISH 11-2020:</b> The Meeting <u>agreed</u> with the conclusion by SOM-FISH WS 1-2019 that this action is already covered by the above joint and national actions related to eel, and that there is no need for it to be included in the updated BSAP</p>

*Theme: Monitoring and assessment*

Action	Justification
<p>Development and implementation of effective reporting systems for by-caught birds and mammals (BSAP)</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: <b>Joint</b> Status: Partly accomplished HELCOM group: Fish</p>	<p><b>FISH 11-2020:</b> The Meeting noted that the reformulated action above covers this action and that data collection in line with ICES needs already includes reporting. The Meeting therefore agreed that a separate action on the matter is not needed in the updated BSAP.</p>

## Annex 2. Actions from MD 2018 that are likely to be implemented by end of 2020 or are considered overlapping or too general for transfer to the updated BSAP

### Actions from MD 2018 proposed not to be transferred to updated BSAP by GEAR 21B-2020

Paragraph from Ministerial Declaration 2018	Comment by GEAR 21B-2020
52. <b>WE EMPHASIZE</b> that the implementation of the ecosystem approach will enable the transition towards a sustainable use of ecosystem goods and services by present and future generations, to the benefit of the effective implementation of marine policies as well as maritime spatial planning, and will lay the grounds for a sustainable blue economy;	Not to be included as an action in updated BSAP. The ecosystem approach is a central concept of the BSAP and should function as a horizontal theme in the Plan. Thus, EA is to be considered in the preamble of the update BSAP and as such does not require a separate action.
53. <b>WE RECOGNISE</b> that BONUS, the joint Baltic Sea Research and Development programme, has enhanced research capacity in the Baltic Sea region and provided an important platform for cooperation in research activities as well as useful research for science based decision-making and <b>WELCOME</b> further cooperation to strengthen joint research programmes, under the umbrella of JPI (Joint Programming Initiative) Oceans.	Due to its general nature this paragraph cannot be considered an action or a measure and should not be included in the updated BSAP. However, can be considered for inclusion in the HELCOM Science Agenda.

### Actions from MD 2018 proposed not to be transferred to updated BSAP by MARITIME 19-2019 and considered by HOD 57-2020

Paragraph from Ministerial Declaration 2018	Concretized action
57. <b>WE WELCOME</b> the entry into force of the Ballast Water Management Convention on 8 September 2017 and <b>COMMIT</b> to regionally supporting its ratification by Baltic Sea States which have not done yet so, and to enhancing harmonized implementation of this Convention and other relevant IMO instruments, including MARPOL, in the region	<p>The Meeting <u>noted</u> a comment that meeting the requirements of regulation D-2 of the BWM Convention may be technically challenging for certain ship types. The Meeting <u>agreed</u> that HELCOM could be used as a forum for exchanging information as part of the IMO BWM Experience Building Phase, thereby contributing to the work in IMO, aiming ultimately at harmonized implementation of the BWM Convention. The Meeting also <u>agreed</u> that cooperation with OSPAR should be strengthened in the general implementation of the BWM Convention, in addition to the current cooperation related to exemptions and risk assessments.</p> <p>The Meeting <u>concluded</u> that these matters would be covered by TG BALLAST, pending approval of its new Terms of Reference, and that <b>an action in the updated BSAP is consequently not needed.</b></p>

	<p><b>Comment by the Secretariat:</b> The ToR for TG BALLAST was approved by HOD 57-2019.</p>
<p>59. Part of para that is bolded: <b>WE AGREE</b> to strengthen the fruitful cooperation with OSPAR on transboundary issues and common challenges to gain efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of SDGs such as <b>ballast water management and introduction of invasive alien species</b>, the issue of underwater noise, micro-plastic, migratory birds, MPA network and management, and threatened and endangered species</p>	<p>The Meeting <u>noted</u> that this action is linked to the above action. The Meeting <u>noted</u> that a proposal to widen the scope of the Terms of Reference for the HELCOM/OSPAR TG BALLAST to also include biofouling will be considered under Agenda Item 4 (document 4-4).</p> <p>The Meeting <u>concluded</u> that these matters related to ballast water and introduction of invasive species would be covered by TG BALLAST, pending approval of its new Terms of Reference, and that an action on these matters is consequently <b>not needed in the updated BSAP</b>. However, the Meeting was not tasked to consider possible needs for actions related to other issues mentioned in this commitment.</p> <p><b>Comment by the Secretariat:</b> The ToR for TG BALLAST was approved by HOD 57-2019.</p>

## Concretized actions proposed by PRESSURE 11-2019 and endorsed by HOD 57-2019

### Theme: Eutrophication

Paragraph from Ministerial Declaration 2018	Concretized action
<p>22. <b>WE ACKNOWLEDGE</b> that due to improved data on nutrient inputs in the reference period<sup>1</sup>, the Country-Allocated Reduction Targets for nutrients are no longer always sufficient to achieve GES of the Baltic Sea with regard to eutrophication and that, therefore, the follow-up of the nutrient reduction requirements of the BSAP should focus on national commitments based on Maximum Allowable Inputs and that this should be taken into consideration when updating the BSAP;</p>	<p><i>To utilize national input ceilings to assess progress and to discuss the possibilities of incorporating nutrient input ceilings in the BSAP update</i></p>
<p>23. WE DECIDE ....., as well as to engage with the relevant river basin authorities to better align national and international nutrient reduction requirements of the BSAP with those of coastal waters, whilst seeking synergies between relevant regimes</p>	<p><i>To organize a workshop with river basin management authorities</i></p> <p><i>To make a trail calculation of the indicative reduction needs for individual river basins and discuss at the Workshop with river basin management authorities</i></p>
<p>26. <b>WE ENCOURAGE</b>, as a second step, undertaking research on the potential of measures to manage internal nutrient reserves that have accumulated in the sediments due to anthropogenic activities in the last decades; <b>WE EMPHASIZE</b> that the risks to ecosystem and human health stemming from measures to manage internal nutrient reserves, as well as the long-term sustainability of their effects, need to be considered and thoroughly evaluated; <b>WE ALSO ENCOURAGE</b> in parallel developing and applying a risk assessment framework in HELCOM to meet the necessary environmental requirements for</p>	<p><i>To elaborate the regional principles and the risk assessment framework to manage internal nutrient reserves and incorporated to the HELCOM acquis</i></p>

<sup>1</sup> Pre-BSAP period (1997-2003).

measures planned for the open sea and any other measures having potentially significant transboundary effects; <b>WE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE</b> the need to elaborate in line with the Helsinki Convention commonly agreed regional principles as guidance for internal nutrient reserves management.	
27. <b>WE COMMIT</b> to elaborating by 2020 a Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy that aims for reduced nutrient inputs to and eutrophication of the Baltic Sea	The work on the strategy is ongoing jointly with AGRI group.
28. <b>WE DECIDE</b> to also develop, as a follow-up to the Strategy, possible nutrient recycling measures to be included in the updated BSAP	PRESSURE contributes to the work with regard to nutrient recycling in waste water sector.

*Theme: Marine Litter*

Paragraph from Ministerial Declaration 2018	Concretized action
32. <b>WE ALSO COMMIT</b> to strengthening regional research and <b>developing harmonised monitoring methods on the sources, distribution</b> , amounts and impacts of marine litter including micro-plastics, in coherence with similar work undertaken by Contracting Parties in other relevant fora, and <b>to improving assessment of the effectiveness of measures</b> ;	<p>“developing harmonised monitoring methods” is to be considered by State and Conservation.</p> <p>A method to quantify effectiveness of measures to prevent littering of the marine environment will be developed by SOM platform.</p>
31. <b>WE RE-COMMIT</b> to preventing and reducing marine litter from land and sea-based sources and to achieving a significant quantitative reduction by 2025. To that end <b>WE COMMIT</b> to regional work on developing baselines and threshold values for maximum levels of marine litter in the Baltic Sea, in close coordination with work undertaken by Contracting Parties in other relevant fora. <b>If additional efforts are needed to achieve those levels, WE COMMIT to developing ambitious, regionally coordinated, quantitative targets to reduce input of litter</b> ;	<p>“developing baselines and threshold values for maximum levels” is to be considered by State and Conservation.</p> <p>A concrete action could be formulated as it is stated in the Recommendation 36/1: <i>The Contracting Parties review and, if necessary, update this Recommendation and its action plan in 2021.</i></p> <p>The results of SOM could be utilized for quantification of potential reduction by 20XX.</p>

*Theme: Hazardous substances*

Paragraph from Ministerial Declaration 2018	Initial evaluation
35. <b>WE AGREE</b> to re-examine the effectiveness of measures and recommendations for legacy pollutants and to identify the scale of problems of contaminants of emerging concern, including micro-pollutants in coastal and marine waters and, based on this knowledge, to consider possible cost-effective mitigation measures. <b>WE WELCOME</b> the joint HELCOM-UNESCO-EUSBSR status report on pharmaceuticals in the aquatic environment in the Baltic Sea Region as the information basis for developing measures, as appropriate, to prevent pharmaceuticals from reaching the Baltic Sea, and also <b>WELCOME</b> the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) regional cooperation platform to reduce pharmaceuticals in the Baltic Sea;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to revise the regional priority pollutants;</li> <li>- to advance the HELCOM indicators including information on sources and pathways of pollutants to identify emerging pollutants;</li> <li>- to develop measures to prevent pharmaceuticals from reaching marine environment, including source control measures;</li> <li>- to develop a framework for responding to the emergent/alarming pollutants. to make use of analyses of cost-effectiveness on mitigation measures to reduce hazardous substances carried out under the SOM Platform</li> </ul>

<p>36. <b>WE ALSO AGREE</b> to identify and assess further hazardous substances and contaminants from offshore sources, which may give rise to pollution effects, and develop appropriate mitigation measures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to identify sources of offshore legacy pollutants;</li> <li>- to make a regional inventory of substances from offshore sources and identify priority contaminants from offshore sources.</li> <li>- to update HELCOM Recommendation 20/4 on antifouling systems. (depending on cooperation with Maritime Working Group)</li> </ul>
--	---

*Theme: Underwater noise*

Paragraph from Ministerial Declaration 2018	Concretized action
<p>39. <b>WE AGREE</b> to develop an action plan, preferably by 2021, and regionally coordinated actions on underwater noise, aiming, in the long-term, at addressing adverse effects of underwater noise on marine species identified as sensitive to noise, whilst safeguarding the potential of the Baltic Sea for sustainable human activities;</p>	<p>Ongoing and anticipated to be adopted before or as part of the updated BSAP.</p>

*Theme: Loss and disturbance to the seabed*

Paragraph from Ministerial Declaration 2018	Initial evaluation
<p>41. <b>WE AGREE</b> to do regional work on developing threshold values for the adverse effects of anthropogenic physical disturbance and, based on the best available scientific information in close coordination with other relevant fora, if needed to achieve GES, <b>to develop the necessary regionally coordinated quantitative targets for the reduction of physical disturbance caused by human activities and habitat loss;</b></p>	<p>“developing threshold values for the adverse effects” is to be considered by State and Conservation. To develop the targets a contribution of HELCOM FISH group is vital.</p> <p>Under Pressure Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to develop a method to evaluate losses and disturbance caused by handling dredged material at sea and thus, contribute to regional quantitative targets, however awaiting cross-cutting discussion in HELCOM on how to address the agreements.</li> </ul>
<p>42. <b>WE AGREE</b>, based on best available scientific advice, to work together to elaborate regional and national actions aiming at delivering the necessary reductions in adverse effects of physical disturbance caused by human activities.</p>	<p>to propose actions to avoid and reduce adverse effect dredging and handling of dredged material at sea</p>

*Theme: Ocean Governance*

Paragraph from Ministerial Declaration 2018	Concretized action
<p>59. <b>WE AGREE</b> to strengthen the fruitful cooperation with OSPAR on transboundary issues and common challenges to gain efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of SDGs such as ballast water management and introduction of invasive alien species, <b>the issue of underwater noise, micro-plastic,</b> migratory birds, MPA network and management, and threatened and endangered species;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to organise a workshop with OSPAR on the development of a microliter indicator on sediments in coordination with EU TG Litter. (It is now a candidate indicator in OSPAR, and the HELCOM network indicated that it would be good to cooperate with them on this, and maybe not to advance on microlitter in the water column).</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>to organise a follow up meeting (following the one organised in 2017) with the OSPAR ICG Noise and in coordination with EU TG Noise to advance on the assessment of underwater noise indicators.</i></li><li>- <i>to work together with OSPAR and Arctic Council especially related to hazardous substances</i></li></ul>
--	--