



Outcome of the 58th Meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation (HOD 58-2020)

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Outcome of the 58th Meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation (HOD 58-2020)

Introduction

0.1 The 58th Meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation was held online on 9-10 June 2020, in line with HELCOM policy on COVID-19.

0.2 The Meeting was attended by participants from all Contracting Parties, Observers from Baltic Farmers' Forum on Environment (BFFE), Baltic Sea Action Group (BSAG), Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC) & CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB), Cruise Lines International Association Europe (CLIA Europe), European Dredging Association (EUDA), Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP), Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) - Baltic Ecoregion Programme and invited guests. The List of Participants is contained in **Annex 1** to this Outcome.

0.3 The Meeting was chaired by the Chair of the Helsinki Commission, Ms. Saara Bäck.

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

Documents: 1-1, 1-2

1.1 The Meeting adopted the Agenda as contained in document 1-1 with the addition of two items under Agenda Item 7 proposed by Sweden and EU.

Agenda Item 2 Outgoing and incoming chairmanship of HELCOM

Documents: 2-1, 2-1-Rev.1

2.1 The Meeting recalled that the Finnish chairmanship of HELCOM is coming to an end on 30 June 2020 and took note of the account by Finland on accomplishing its chairmanship priorities.

2.2 The Meeting recognized the accomplishments achieved under the Finnish chairmanship, particularly on advancing the BSAP update process, the reduction of nutrient inputs through the implementation of the regional nutrient reduction scheme and BSAP actions, work on understanding the effects of climate change, and the synergetic links between HELCOM and the UN Agenda 2030, especially the integration of SDG 14 in HELCOM processes.

2.3 The Meeting thanked Finland and the outgoing Chair, Ms. Saara Bäck, Finnish Ministry of the Environment, for the successful chairmanship.

2.4 The Meeting took note of and appreciated the video statement by Ms. Svenja Schulze, German Federal Minister for the Environment.

2.5 The Meeting further took note of the introduction of the German chairmanship team by Ms. Heike Imhoff, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and welcomed the incoming German chairmanship team consisting of Ms. Lilian Busse, Chair of HELCOM, German Environment Agency (UBA); Mr. Johannes Oelerich, Vice-Chair of HELCOM 2020-2021, Ministry of Energy, Agriculture, the Environment, Nature and Digitalization (Schleswig-Holstein); and Mr. Andreas Röpke, Vice-Chair of HELCOM 2021-2022, Ministry for Agriculture and Environment (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern).

2.6 The Meeting took note of the introductory video by the incoming Chair and the two Vice-Chairs highlighting that the decision by Germany to have a Vice-Chair from each the two German federal states bordering the Baltic Sea, Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern was related to the particular structure of Germany as a federal state, due to which the competency for marine environmental protection was divided between the federal level and the federal states.

2.7 The Meeting welcomed the priorities of the German chairmanship (document 2-1-Rev.1).

Agenda Item 3 Next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting

Documents: none

3.1 The Meeting confirmed the earlier decision to arrange the next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in 2021 (cf. Work Plan for the BSAP update (approved by HOD 55-2018)).

3.2 The Meeting discussed the timing of the next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in 2021, tentatively set for October 2021, and took note that Germany, the upcoming Chair of HELCOM for 2020-2022, is planning to hold the meeting in October 2021 and will inform HELCOM of the exact date and venue as soon as such information becomes available.

3.3 The Meeting considered the need for additional preparatory meetings prior to the Ministerial Meeting and agreed that any such meetings and their timing should be decided by HOD 59-2020 to allow for the inclusion of any further developments on the BSAP update process and the Ministerial Meeting 2021.

Agenda Item 4 Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

Documents: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-5, 4-6, 4-7, 4-8, 4-9, 4-9-Rev.1, 4-10, 4-11, 4-12,

Work Plan for BSAP update

4.1 The Meeting took note of the ongoing work to implement the Strategic Plan and Work Plan for the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) update (document 4-10, **Presentation 1**).

4.2 The Meeting suggested to make the following changes to the work plan:

- The Gear Group should have a more prominent role in coordinating across topics and this needs to be discussed with the Chair of the Gear Group;
- In Activity 1.1. the concretizations of actions should extend to HOD 59-2020;
- In Activity 2.5 the involvement of HOD should be included;
- In Activity 2.6 the wording should be changed to clarify that the final approval of the proposed new actions is done by HOD;
- In Activity 2.6. the aim should be to approve the full BSAP already during HOD 60-2021 in June 2021;
- The drafting process should be a separate activity in the Work Plan.

4.3 The Meeting endorsed the updated Work Plan for the BSAP update, incorporating the changes suggested by the Meeting (**Annex 2**).

4.4 The Meeting took note that the Contracting Parties will need time for national consultations once the first full draft of the BSAP is available and that the final adoption will be by the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in 2021.

4.5 The Meeting suggested that, time allowing, the remaining gaps in the set of measures could be identified already in the BSAP UP workshops in August-September 2020, and not only in the autumn HELCOM Working Group meetings.

Drafting of BSAP

4.6 The Meeting discussed the detailed plan for drafting of the updated BSAP and the preliminary timetable (document 4-11).

- 4.7 The Meeting agreed on the year 2030 as the target year for implementing the BSAP. With regard to the target year for achieving good environmental status for the Baltic Sea, the Meeting further agreed to include in the updated BSAP a reference to the 2007 BSAP and the HELCOM assessments.
- 4.8 The Meeting reiterated that the updated BSAP should be short and concise, the information easily accessible and the content written in clear, simple language, while ensuring that the Plan retains political interest. The Meeting highlighted that the lowest suggested number of pages for each section as proposed in document 4-11 should not be exceeded.
- 4.9 The Meeting considered the view by Sweden that the updated BSAP would benefit from the inclusion of environmental targets for the new topics (e.g. marine litter), and the possibility to use the outcomes of the SOM analysis as a contribution to the process of identifying targets. The Meeting acknowledged that this needs to be considered in more detail when the results of the SOM analysis and the associated background information are available. In this context, the Meeting noted that the setting of environmental targets is typically a demanding political process.
- 4.10 The Meeting encouraged the Chairs of the HELCOM Working Groups to take part in the work of the Drafting Group for the Updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (DG BSAP).
- 4.11 The Meeting invited the DG BSAP to reflect on the level of detail to be included in, and the format of, the operative sections of the updated BSAP.
- 4.12 The Meeting supported the inclusion of an additional segment focusing on horizontal actions in the updated BSAP, to be divided by subheadings representing the various identified horizontal topics (including actions on socio-economics and financing, climate change etc.) and invited the DG BSAP to develop a proposed structure for the segment.
- 4.13 The Meeting invited Mr. Rüdiger Stempel, HELCOM Executive Secretary, to chair the DG BSAP.
- 4.14 The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to nominate representatives for the DG BSAP and to inform the Secretariat (rudiger.stempel@helcom.fi) by **12 June 2020** of the nominations. The Meeting agreed that the first online meeting of the DG BSAP will be held on 18 June 2020.
- 4.15 The Meeting clarified that the DG BSAP is also open to HELCOM Observers.
- 4.16 The Meeting approved the detailed plan for drafting of the updated BSAP and the preliminary timetable (**Annex 3**).
- 4.17 The Meeting considered and discussed the proposals on updating the financing segment of the BSAP (document 4-3). The Meeting agreed to consider the drafting of the socio-economics and financing segment in an online HOD meeting in September and invited the Secretariat to find a suitable date.
- 4.18 The Meeting took note of the comments by CCB and WWF as presented in document 4-12 on the Shadow Plan, proposed actions with references to related synopses and thanked CCB and WWF for the document.
- 4.19 With respect to comments made in document 4-12 regarding various maritime activities, the Meeting noted clarifications that the intention by the Maritime Working Group is not to reduce the level of ambition. Rather it aims to find the most suitable measures to address the issues, such as underwater noise, and take action as a second step, while taking into consideration developments within the IMO.
- 4.20 The Meeting took note of the proposal of rephrased and concretized existing HELCOM actions to be transferred to the updated BSAP (document 4-9, **Presentation 2**).
- 4.21 The Meeting agreed that all proposed action-specific target years in document 4-9 should be considered as provisional. The Meeting further agreed that once all proposed target years are in place the overall division and distribution of target years will be reviewed and, where needed, target years might be amended to better distribute upcoming work and ensure that work is planned to take place in a logical order.

4.22 The Meeting acknowledged that the final formulation of actions may need to be modified to account for overlap or links to new actions. The final approval of formulations will take place when all actions are in place.

4.23 The Meeting took note of the actions where HELCOM Working Groups have identified open issues or need for further work (cf. Presentation 1).

4.24 The Meeting agreed that for actions closely tied to the CBD post-2020 process and associated targets, the final formulations, targets and target years of the actions should be considered once the new CBD targets are available.

4.25 The Meeting took note that Denmark and Germany have, as requested by STATE & CONSERVATION 12-2020, drafted a new proposal for a concretized action “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.”

4.26 The Meeting invited DG BSAP and HELCOM Working Groups to continue work, in line with what is outlined in document 4-9-Rev.1, on those actions where the need for further work has been identified.

4.27 The Meeting noted views that provisions of Minamata Convention should not be repeated in the operational part of the updated BSAP but that some regionally specific measures strengthening prevention of contamination of the Baltic Sea marine environment by mercury could be proposed. The Meeting took note that Russia is not a Party to the Minamata Convention, being a signatory, and thus considers it premature to include the implementation of the Convention as a measure in the updated BSAP. Views by Contracting Parties presented at the Meeting will be taken into account in the further development of measures for the related segment of the BSAP.

4.28 The Meeting instructed 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.

4.29 The Meeting noted the study reservation by Denmark and Sweden on certain actions and invited Contracting Parties to provide concrete proposals for rephrasing of specific actions to the Secretariat (susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi) **by 19 June 2020**, to be considered in the further development of the actions. The Meeting agreed in principle on the rephrased and concretized existing HELCOM actions to be transferred to the updated BSAP with the understanding that further drafting based on the written comments will take place.

MSP in BSAP and the new Regional MSP Roadmap

4.30 The Meeting considered the proposals by the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG) to integrate MSP in the updated BSAP and on the new Regional MSP Roadmap (document 4-6) and in general supported the proposed way to reflect MSP in the updated BSAP, pointing out that the proposal should be further developed in line with overall drafting of the BSAP.

4.31 The Meeting welcomed the proposal to coordinate the development of the Regional MSP Roadmap and the BSAP update ensuring coherence and synergy between the documents. However, the Meeting stressed the need to strengthen integration and interlinkage between the documents, particularly, recognizing the ultimate goal of the BSAP to achieve good environmental status of the Baltic Sea; HELCOM findings on the state of the Baltic Sea and cumulative environmental impact; the role of MPAs and other aspects of ecosystem-based management in the new Roadmap. The Meeting requested the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG to submit a draft MSP Roadmap for consideration of relevant HELCOM Working Groups e.g. Gear Group.

4.32 The Meeting noted that MSP might be considered for inclusion as one of the topics under the segment of horizontal actions in the updated BSAP.

Nutrient input reduction scheme

4.33 The Meeting considered the updated draft of the HELCOM nutrient input reduction scheme (document 4-7).

4.34 The Meeting expressed general support for the proposed draft of the document, taking note that Estonia placed a reservation on document 4-7 and on any conclusions that could be drawn from that document. The Meeting took note of the Estonian comments on Annex 1 of document 4-7, which express disagreement on the paragraphs referring to nutrient input ceilings for HELCOM countries.

4.35 The Meeting noted that most of the countries supported the ambitious target of implementing all required measures to reduce nutrient loads to the maximum allowable input (MAI) by 2027, stressing that due to a delayed effect of the applied measures, the target year for achieving MAI should not be set in the document.

4.36 The Meeting took note of the concern that inclusion of input ceilings for individual rivers in the HELCOM nutrient input reduction scheme should not be recognized as an additional requirement but as an integral part of the national net input ceiling and that countries should be free to implement measures where they are most appropriate to meet their national net input ceilings.

4.37 The Meeting stressed that the nutrient input reduction scheme is an essential part of the HELCOM work and requested the DG BSAP to identify how best to incorporate the updated scheme in the updated BSAP, bearing in mind the reservation by Estonia.

4.38 The Meeting took note that several Contracting Parties have specific comments on the proposed draft of the HELCOM nutrient input reduction scheme and invited the Contracting Parties to provide written comments on the document 4-7 to the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi) **by 19 June 2020**.

Analysis of sufficiency of measures

4.39 The Meeting took note of the methodology and progress of the analysis of sufficiency of measures (SOM) of existing measures and analyses for new measures, and the timeline for these analyses in 2020 (document 4-2). The Meeting took note that the SOM results will be submitted to the BSAP UP workshops, and also for review to HELCOM Working Groups and Expert Groups/Networks in the autumn. The Meeting took note that the cost estimates and results of the cost-effectiveness analysis for new measures will likely be available in October-November 2020.

4.40 The Meeting considered the proposed presentation of the SOM results (document 4-2). The Meeting noted the importance of presenting the uncertainties related to the results and took note that accuracy of the results is depicted using standard deviations, distributions, probabilities, information on experts' confidence and number of experts contributing to the assessments for each data component. The Meeting proposed that an example of the presentation of the results is prepared for review by the Gear Group before HOD 59-2020.

4.41 The Meeting took note of the Notes from the Third Meeting of the HELCOM SOM Platform (SOM Platform 3-2020), held on 24-26 March 2020 as an online meeting (document 4-1) and agreed to convene SOM Platform 4-2020 on 15 September 2020 and SOM Platform 5-2020 in November 2020, as needed.

HELCOM Explorer

4.42 The Meeting considered the proposal for reporting on the implementation of HELCOM actions in autumn 2020 (document 4-5).

4.43 The Meeting agreed that the reporting templates will be sent out in the end of September 2020 with a two-month reporting time to a nominated national contact point(s) and invited the Contracting Parties to inform the Secretariat (susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi) of their national contact point(s) **by 10 September 2020**.

4.44 The Meeting also agreed that the implementation of the joint actions will be reported by the HELCOM Working Groups in their autumn 2020 meetings and that the concretized actions from the Ministerial Declaration 2018 under the Pressure Working Group, endorsed by HOD 57-2019, can be included in the updated HELCOM Explorer for assessment of accomplishment at PRESSURE 13-2020.

4.45 The Meeting further agreed that the actions in the current HELCOM Explorer that originate from HELCOM Recommendations can be replaced with the more detailed reporting done by countries in 2019.

HELCOM Science Agenda

4.46 The Meeting took note of the ongoing work on the HELCOM Science Agenda, thanked the Task Group Science Agenda for their work and considered the draft report as presented in document 4-8.

4.47 The Meeting emphasized the importance of linking the prioritized science needs to the management of human activities and pressures on the marine environment, the implementation of HELCOM commitments and of ensuring that the needs represent applied science.

4.48 The Meeting invited the Task Group to cross-check the prioritized science needs with the actions preliminarily proposed for inclusion in the updated BSAP to identify and ensure concrete links between the Science Agenda and the updated BSAP.

4.49 The Meeting also invited the Task Group to add a section on knowledge needs on the application of HELCOM instruments in relation to other legal frameworks, e.g. various international regulations and instruments such as the Espoo Convention.

4.50 The Meeting reiterated the importance of the Science Agenda retaining a strong link to the work of BANOS CSA and the BANOS Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA).

4.51 The Meeting invited the Task Group to ensure that knowledge needs which are directly included in the BSAP actions do not overlap with the Science Agenda.

4.52 The Meeting took note that the next meeting of the Science Agenda TG will take place on 16 June 2020 and encouraged all Contracting Parties to take active part in the work of the Task Group.

Agenda Item 5 Matters arising from the HELCOM Groups

Documents: 4-4, 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5, 5-6, 5-7, 5-8, 5-9, 5-10, 5-11, 5-12, 5-13, 5-14, 5-15

Gear Group

5.1 The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the 22nd Meeting of the HELCOM Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (GEAR 22-2020), which was held online on 27-28 April 2020 (document 5-7) and approved that GEAR 23-2020 will be held in Berlin, Germany on 9-11 November 2020 (dates already approved by HOD 57-2019), that GEAR 24-2021 will be held on 18-20 May 2021 (venue TBD) and that GEAR 25-2021 will be held on 8-10 November 2021 (venue TBD).

5.2 The Meeting took note of the alternative arrangement agreed on in relation to the cumulative impacts assessment scoping exercise.

Maritime Working Group

5.3 The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the Intersessional online Meeting of the HELCOM Maritime Working Group (MARITIME 19A-2020), which was held on 14-15 April 2020 in order to further the work on existing actions and review proposals on new actions for the BSAP and the addendum to the Outcome of MARITIME 19A-2020 with the outcome of the follow up online meeting held on 28 April 2020 held in order to finalize the technical review of proposals for new BSAP actions initiated by MARITIME 19A-2020 (document 5-3).

5.4 The Meeting took note of the discussion regarding the tentative illustration of the structure of the updated BSAP in MARITIME 19A-2020 document 3-5 (page 7), where it was noted that the base level

represents a mixture of land-based pressures (eutrophication, hazardous substances and litter) and activities (sea-based activities), as well as of the agreement by MARITIME 19A-2020 that some adjustment may be needed to this illustration in order to present it in a more balanced way.

5.5 The Meeting noted that MARITIME 19A-2020 had recognized the importance of cooperation between HELCOM Working Groups, as a number of objectives and measures fall under the responsibility of more than one Working Group.

5.6 The Meeting took note of the work on rephrasing of existing BSAP actions and of the results of the technical review of synopses for proposed new BSAP actions.

5.7 The Meeting noted that MARITIME 19A-2020 had agreed to undertake the technical review on one new BSAP action proposed at the 2020 HELCOM Stakeholder Conference, and that the Meeting had agreed on the development of a synopsis for a new proposal on a roadmap to possibly reduce the discharge of hazardous substances from scrubber wastewater.

5.8 The Meeting noted the view of MARITIME 19A-2020 that one of the key messages from the Sea-based parallel session of the 2020 HELCOM Stakeholder Conference was the importance of a holistic perspective for all HELCOM BSAP measures by a social-ecological system point of view, which is both cross-sectoral and incorporates multi-level governance, and that this may be appropriate in the introductory part of the updated BSAP.

5.9 The Meeting noted the view of Russia that although shipping is an activity which is relatively easy to control by enforcing national and international regulations, the ability to control it should not be used as a reason to introduce new measures. The Meeting further noted that, as shipping is the cleanest mode of transport, Russia is of the view that new pollution reduction measures should only be introduced following an assessment of effects of pollution from other sources as compared to the effects of shipping.

5.10 The Meeting approved that MARITIME 20-2020 will be held for 4 days in the week starting 19 October 2020, in Norrköping, Sweden.

Response Working Group

5.11 The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the 27th Meeting of the HELCOM Response Working Group (RESPONSE 27-2020), which was held on 26-28 February in Vejle, Denmark (document 5-1) and approved that RESPONSE 28-2020 will be held on 3-5 November 2020 in Tallinn, Estonia.

5.12 The Meeting took note of the work on rephrasing of existing BSAP actions as well as the proposal by RESPONSE 27-2020 for a new BSAP action on holistic/integrated management of marine pollution incidents.

5.13 The Meeting noted that RESPONSE 27-2020 had supported the intentions of two proposed new BSAP actions regarding submerged hazardous objects in the Baltic Sea but had noted that the Working Group does not have the competence needed for undertaking a technical review of the proposals, in particular when it comes to submerged munitions and other warfare material and the environmental consequences of the hazardous substances involved. The Meeting further noted that RESPONSE 27-2020 agreed that it would be more appropriate for the Pressure Working Group to review these proposals in detail.

5.14 The Meeting took note of the progress regarding the review of existing HELCOM Recommendations in the response field.

5.15 The Meeting took note of the ongoing work on fully revising the HELCOM Response Manual, the final draft of which is expected to be submitted to RESPONSE 28-2020 for agreement, HOD 59-2020 for approval and HELCOM 42-2021 for adoption.

5.16 The Meeting adopted the Terms of Reference of the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR) by 2021, as contained in **Annex 4** to this Outcome.

State and Conservation Working Group

5.17 The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the Twelfth Meeting of the HELCOM Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation (STATE & CONSERVATION 12-2020), which was held online on 11-14 May 2020 (document 5-14) and approved that STATE & CONSERVATION 14-2021 will be held on 3-7 May 2021, likely in Sweden, and that an intersessional STATE&CONSERVATION meeting will be held online on 15 February 2021, focused on review and approval of the key messages for the HELCOM Climate Change Fact Sheets.

5.18 The Meeting approved the proposed way forward for filling gaps in expertise for the HOLAS III assessment

5.19 The Meeting took note of the information relating to the draft project plan for the HELCOM Holistic Assessment Methodology Development Project (HELCOM MetDev) (document 5-4).

5.20 The Meeting considered and approved the elaborated timeline for the HOLAS III assessment process (document 5-5), acknowledging that adjustments to the timeline may occur as the process progresses.

5.21 The Meeting took note of the provisional outline of foreseen resource needs for the production of the Third State of the Baltic Sea report (document 5-6), noting that the estimates provided regarding the amount of time required by the national expert and the estimated resource need at the Secretariat can change as the process develops.

Agri Group

5.22 The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the Ninth Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (AGRI 9-2020), which was held online on 30-31 March 2020 and the Dedicated Meeting of the Agri group (AGRI 9a-2020), which was held online on 14 May 2020 (document 5-10) and approved that AGRI 10-2020 will be organized on 4-5 November 2020 in Uppsala, Sweden.

Fish Group

5.23 The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the Eleventh Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (FISH 11-2020), which was held from 11 to 12 March 2020 in Gothenburg, Sweden (document 5-2) and approved that FISH 12-2020 will be held 11-12 November 2020, welcoming the confirmation by Denmark that they are able to host the Meeting.

5.24 The Meeting took note of the work on rephrasing of existing BSAP actions as well as the results of the technical review of synopses for proposed new BSAP actions by FISH 11-2020.

5.25 The Meeting noted that FISH 11-2020 had agreed to undertake the technical review of three new BSAP actions proposed at the 2020 HELCOM Stakeholder Conference, as well as an additional new BSAP action proposed by FISH-M 7-2020.

5.26 The Meeting welcomed the increased cooperation between HELCOM and BALTFISH and noted the engagement by BSAC in the update process of the BSAP.

5.27 The Meeting further noted that the Secretariat had attended the BALTFISH Forum online meeting on 8 June 2020, raising issues such as the update of the BSAP and the HELCOM Roadmap on fisheries data in order to assess incidental bycatches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes in the Baltic Sea, which was adopted by HELCOM 41-2020, as requested by FISH 11-2020.

5.28 The Meeting recognized that details of the further cooperation between HELCOM and BALTFISH are also addressed by existing as well as proposed new BSAP actions.

HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group

5.29 The Meeting took note of the Outcome of the 20th Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 20-2020), which was held online on 1 -

2 April 2020 (document 5-11) and approved that HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 21-2020 will be held tentatively on 12-13 November 2020 in Gothenburg, Sweden back-to-back with the Capacity4MSP project partner and planners' Forum on 10-11 November 2020.

Pressure Working Group

5.30 The Meeting took note that the Twelfth Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (PRESSURE 12-2020) was held online on 21 – 24 April 2020 (document 5-13) and approved that PRESSURE 13-2020 will be held on 13-16 October 2020 in Finland and that PRESSURE 14-2020 will be held during the week from 12 to 16 April 2021, tentatively in Sweden.

5.31 The Meeting approved the publication of the ENIRED II (Estimation of Nitrogen Deposition reduction by 2030) report as HELCOM BSEP as recommended by PRESSURE 12-2020.

5.32 The Meeting approved that the kick-off meeting of PLC-8 will be held on 7-10 September 2020 in Berlin, Germany.

5.33 The Meeting supported the proposal by PRESSURE 12-2020 to update the HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP ML) and the proposed revision process including the BSAP workshop on hazardous substances and litter as a starting point, with further continuation of the discussion projected for the Fifth Workshop on implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (WS RAP ML 5-2020).

5.34 The Meeting approved that the WS RAP ML 5-2020 will be held back-to-back with PRESSURE 13-2020 on 12 October 2020 in Helsinki, Finland .

5.35 The Meeting supported HELCOM participation in the SAICM High Ambition Alliance taking into account that OSPAR is also considering participation (document 5-15).

5.36 The Meeting supported the development of regular wide-scope screening of hazardous substances, covering also land-based sources and pathways of contaminants, in cooperation with OSPAR.

5.37 The Meeting considered the draft policy message on progress towards nutrient input ceilings (NICs) (document 4-4), welcomed the results of the assessment and thanked the PLC-7 implementation group and the Reduction Scheme Core Drafting Group (RedCore DG) for their work.

5.38 The Meeting approved document 4-4 in general, pointing out that the message is to be as simple and clear as possible; findings of the assessment in the message are to be grouped by countries; higher requirements for phosphorus reduction are to be illustrated; reduction needs for Baltic Sea and North Sea shipping and non-HELCOM countries are to be reflected. The Meeting also noted that some countries need both tables with and without reallocation of extra reduction in the policy message for the development of national programmes of measures.

5.39 The Meeting requested the PLC-7 project to update the message accordingly and to circulate it **by 19 June 2020** for tacit approval by Heads of Delegations **by 26 June 2020**.

5.40 The Meeting approved the publication of the following thematic reports in the HELCOM BSEP series, as listed in document 5-12:

- PFOS and other PFASs in the Baltic Sea;
- Dioxins and PCBs in the Baltic sea;
- Diclofenac in the Baltic Sea – Sources, transport routes and trends;
- Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) in the Baltic Sea - sources, transport routes and trends.

5.41 The Meeting took note that PBDE is imported and used in Russia and that this should be mentioned in the respective report.

5.42 The Meeting considered the progress report on the development of risk assessment framework for management of internal nutrient reserves (document 5-8) and welcomed the work done by the Group to

draft the regional principles and risk assessment framework for management of internal nutrient reserves (*ad hoc* Group MINUTS).

5.43 The Meeting discussed the progress report with a focus on two major open issues: 1) application of the precautionary principle and 2) the role of HELCOM in relation to application of sea-based measures. The Meeting emphasized that the role of HELCOM is to be clearly identified in the risk assessment framework and that all used terms have to be precisely defined in the respective documents constituting the framework.

5.44 The Meeting was of the opinion that no permitting role of any kind should be granted to HELCOM, but instead the organization is to serve as a platform for exchange of information and views. National permitting procedures and authorities should remain independent and not be overruled by HELCOM processes. In this context, the Meeting took note of the proposal that the draft Recommendation might include formulation in line with that “national permitting procedures will seek for the view of HELCOM and its Contracting Parties”.

5.45 The Meeting exchanged views on the application of the precautionary principle in the risk assessment framework, pointing out that the principle requires generation of knowledge where it is missing, should not prevent research and small-scale tests of measures in coastal waters and close lagoons but serve for building and improving the knowledge. On the other hand, the Meeting noted that the principle shall be applied to prevent introduction of energy and substances as well as any other intervention in the marine environment which presumably cause harmful effect even when this effect is not clearly proven.

5.46 The Meeting recommended to carefully look into definition of significant environmental impact as well as definition of open-sea measures, bearing in mind that there are no water areas beyond national economic zones in the Baltic Sea. The Meeting further recommended to consider in the draft recommendation such provisions of the Helsinki Convention related to exchange of information, exploitation of marine resources as well as international regulations related to sea-floor integrity and environmental impact assessment.

5.47 The Meeting took note of the view that large-scale measures are unlikely to be implemented in the Baltic Sea in the coming years, thus the risk assessment framework is mainly addressing potential future activities.

5.48 The Meeting concluded that the paragraphs of the draft recommendation specifically related to the interaction of HELCOM and national permitting systems and the precautionary principle are to be further developed in line with given guidance and invited Contracting Parties to provide written comments on the document 5-8 to the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi) **by 17 July 2020**. The Meeting encouraged Contracting Parties to delegate experts to participate in the *ad hoc* Group MINUTS. The Meeting also agreed to involve the Maritime Working Group in the development of the risk assessment framework.

5.49 The Meeting considered the draft Action Plan on Underwater Noise as presented by Mr. Jakob Tougaard, Chair of the HELCOM Expert Network on Underwater Noise (EN-Noise) (document 5-9, **Presentation 3**) and welcomed progress achieved by the expert group drafting the document.

5.50 The Meeting took note that most of the Contracting Parties supported the endorsement of the draft Action Plan, noting the study reservation by Russia.

5.51 The Meeting took note of a number of comments raised on the draft Action Plan with regard, among other things, to the development of threshold values for underwater noise, consideration of windfarms in the sea as noise sources, relation with third parties, particularly, IMO.

5.52 The Meeting invited Contracting Parties and Observers to provide comments to the Chair of EN-Noise (jat@bios.au.dk) and to the Secretariat (marta.ruiz@helcom.fi) **by 17 July 2020**. The Meeting requested EN-Noise to consider the received comments and further develop the document accordingly. The Meeting also encouraged Contracting Parties to engage national experts in the work of EN-Noise to assure that all comments are properly integrated in the updated draft Action Plan and that proposed solutions are

suitable for all Contracting Parties. The Meeting further recommended that the draft Action Plan would be submitted for consideration by the Maritime Working Group in October 2020 prior to HOD 59-2020.

5.53 The Chair thanked all HELCOM Working Groups for their hard work and progress made since HOD 57-2019.

Agenda Item 6 HELCOM institutional and organisational matters

Documents: 6-1, 6-2, 6-2-Rev.1

6.1 The Meeting considered and approved the post description, vacancy announcement and the timetable for the recruitment of Professional Secretary for the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (Pressure), the Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (Agri) and the HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (MSP WG) (document 6-1) as well as advised the Executive Secretary on further actions.

6.2 The Meeting nominated the following three members: Estonia, Finland and Russia (in addition to the ex officio members, i.e., the Chair and the Executive Secretary of the Commission) to the Recruitment Panel to conduct the selection process of the Professional Secretary for Pressure, Agri and Maritime Spatial Planning groups. The Meeting decided that the recruitment panel will be held online on 4 December 2020.

6.3 The Meeting took note of the HELCOM Observer Review 2020 (document 6-2-Rev.1), agreed to maintaining the observer status of observer NGOs and took note of the decision by the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC) to renounce its observer status. The Meeting further took note of comments by Russia to be particularly mindful when granting status to observers in order to ensure observers are active in HELCOM processes.

6.4 The Meeting further took note of the additional information clarifying the relationship between observer applicant Nordic Boat Council (NBC) and existing observer European Boating Association (EBA) as requested by HELCOM 41-2020. The decision on granting observer status to NBC will be made by HELCOM 42-2021 as agreed by HELCOM 41-2020.

Agenda Item 7 Any other business

Documents: 7-1, 7-1-Rev.1, 7-2

7.1 The Meeting took note of the information by Russia that the XXI International Environmental Forum "Baltic Sea Day", originally planned to be held on 19-20 March 2020 and initially postponed to 16-18 September 2020 due to COVID-19, has been postponed again. The Meeting further took note of the new dates for the forum, now to be held in St Petersburg, Russia on 23-24 March 2021.

7.2 The Meeting took note of the information by the EU on the "Our Baltic Conference", which is planned to be held on 28 September 2020 in Palanga, Lithuania which will be attended by the Executive Secretary on behalf of HELCOM. The Conference will primarily focus on stepped up implementation of key EU legislation and gather Baltic Ministers of Environment, Fisheries and Agriculture. Given the good cooperation in HELCOM, it is planned to invite to this event the relevant Russian Ministers. The outcome of the Ministerial conference is expected to be an ambitious Ministerial Declaration. The Meeting took note that more information will follow closer to the date.

7.3 The Meeting took note of the overview of planned meetings and exercises within HELCOM and other forums and external projects in 2020 (document 7-1-Rev.1), requested the Secretariat to update the list based on the outcome of this meeting and further requested the Contracting Parties to check their possibility of hosting and propose venue/date for meetings that have not yet been confirmed.

7.4 The Meeting took note of the HELCOM Activities Report 2019, which presents all major HELCOM activities that took place in 2019, along the lines of the HELCOM Action Areas (document 7-2).

7.5 The Meeting took note of the information provided by Denmark on a planned wastewater discharge to the Sound, clarifying that the discharge of mechanically treated wastewater by the plant to the Sound was authorised by the local authorities without information of local or national politicians. The Meeting further took note that the discharge was deemed necessary by local authorities, since the planned construction of a new city district on top of the existing main sewage pipe required the pipe to be inspected. The Meeting also took note of information by Denmark that an estimated 2t of phosphorous, 12t of nitrogen and 120 t of organic matter was planned to be discharged, corresponding to less than 1 percent of Danish discharge to the Sound. The Meeting also took note of the authorised discharge being postponed until autumn, with external investigation currently taking place and scheduled to terminate in August 2020 to search for alternative solutions.

7.6 The Meeting also took note of concerns by WWF on the volume of the discharge in relation to the importance of protecting the area as one of the last highly functioning marine ecosystems in the Baltic Sea needing to be preserved for its vital ecosystem services.

7.7 The Meeting also noted a comment by CLIA Europe, referring to the designation of the Baltic Sea as a Special Area under MARPOL Annex IV (sewage). The proposal to the IMO for this area stated that all ships in Baltic Sea carry around 120 tonnes of phosphorous and 340 tonnes of nitrogen, which will be required to be discharged to port reception facilities or treated to remove nutrients in accordance with MARPOL Annex IV and the Baltic Sea Special Area. This was the basis for the Special Area regulations and thus discharges to the Baltic Sea are of high interest for the cruise sector. The news item on discharge by Copenhagen also mentioned incidental discharges 2014-2018 and CLIA Europe appreciated the confirmation that such amounts are included in the reports to HELCOM.

7.8 The Meeting took note of the information by CCB that 2020 Greener Agriculture for a Sustainable Sea Conference (GRASS) is planned to take place in Lviv, Ukraine in the beginning of October 2020 and further information will be forwarded.

7.9 The Meeting took note of the statement by the European Union on financing and legislation as included in **Annex 5** to this Outcome.

Agenda Item 8 Next meeting(s)

Documents: none

8.1 The Meeting decided that the next meeting of Heads of Delegation (HOD 59-2020) will be held on 7-8 December 2020 in Helsinki, Finland. The Meeting decided that HOD 60-2020 will be held on 3-4 June 2021 in Germany (to be confirmed by German Chairmanship).

Agenda Item 9 Outcome of the Meeting

Documents: 9-1

The Meeting adopted the draft Outcome of the Meeting as contained in document 9-1. The final Outcome, incorporating the comments by the Meeting, has been prepared by the Secretariat and made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal.

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Annex 2. Updated work plan for the BSAP update

As approved by HOD 58-2020

Significant changes since the work plan approved at HOD 55-2018 are indicated by *Add HOD 56-2019*. Already completed tasks are marked with a diagonal strike-out and green highlight. Updates endorsed by HOD 58 are included in red color.

Background

The Strategic plan for the BSAP update identifies the phases and activities in the BSAP update and the main responsible bodies. The Work plan for the BSAP update as contained in this document clarifies the timing and more detailed steps of activities from the Strategic Plan.

The work plan will be updated by the Secretariat as more agreements come in to place, e.g. timing of workshop, timing of reporting by Contracting Parties, agreement on approaches etc.

The titles of activities refer to adopted activities of the Strategic plan for the BSAP update.

'Tasks' are short version of tasks adopted through Strategic plan for the BSAP update – for full text, see the Strategic plan.

'SOM Platform' refers to an ad hoc interdisciplinary platform on analyses of sufficiency of measures, as agreed by HOD 55-2018. This group would replace the 'Task Force' as agreed by HELCOM 39-2018 ([Outcome of HELCOM 39-2018](#), para 2.6).

Strike-out text denotes steps that have already been considered.

Work plan

I. Strengthening the implementation of the BSAP by 2021

Activity 1:1. Discussion on reasons for not yet accomplishing BSAP actions (autumn 2018 - mid 2020)

2018		2019				2020				2021
3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
		As needed								

Tasks according to the Strategic plan: The working groups are requested to identify the reasons for lagging behind with the implementation of BSAP. For joint actions forward planning or stock taking to be carried out with the aim of accomplishing of the actions by 2021. The discussion aims at supporting the strengthening of efforts to implement BSAP by 2021 and beyond.

Add HOD 56-2019: The task has been extended to mid-2020 to also cover the need of rephrasing of actions that tentatively will be transferred to 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. The spring meetings of Working Groups 2019 have initiated this task. The aim is to have concrete proposal on tentatively rephrased actions ready for presentation at HOD in June 2020.

<p><u>Autumn 2018</u></p> <p>Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prepare compilation of not accomplished HELCOM actions for each WG autumn/spring* meeting 2018 (*end of full meeting cycle of HELCOM WGs is March 2019). <p>Working Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify if some additional joint actions can be assessed as accomplished. ○ Discuss if all 'not accomplished' actions are still valid. If actions are found redundant or no longer relevant they could be proposed for deletion. ○ Propose how valid joint actions not yet accomplished can be fulfilled (e.g. type of process such as project or lead country approach, type of product e.g. guideline, assessment report etc., and proposed timeline – as a matter of priority by 2021 but otherwise as proposed by the WG). ○ Initial discussion on reasons for not achieving national actions and what would be the most important national actions to achieve for improving the state of the Baltic Sea by 2021. <p>HOD 55-2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider compilation of proposals from autumn 2018 WG meetings.
<p><u>Spring 2019</u></p> <p>Working Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Remaining Working Groups (Fish, Agri) to complete the request. ○ Categorize actions not accomplished yet to identify need of rephrasing in case of transfer to the updated BSAP. <p>HOD June 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider compilation of proposals on the implementation of existing actions from remaining WGs.
<p><u>Autumn 2019</u></p> <p>Working Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Initiate rephrasing of existing actions as relevant
<p><u>Spring 2020</u></p> <p>Working Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proposal to HOD on actions to be transferred to updated BSAP <p>HOD June 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proposal on tentatively rephrasing of actions to be transferred to the updated BSAP <p><u>Autumn 2020</u></p> <p>HOD December 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consideration of the first full draft of the updated BSAP including the rephrased actions

Activity 1.2. Preparing information for the Ministerial Meeting 2021 (spring 2019 - end 2020)

2018		2019				2020				2021
3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q

Tasks according to the Strategic plan: Technical update of the HELCOM Explorer and organizing the reporting by CPs in 2020.

<p><u>Autumn 2019</u></p> <p>Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prepare a proposal for an overall update of the information in the BSAP follow-up system (HELCOM Explorer) and how to organize the reporting by CPs on national actions. <p><u>Autumn 2019</u></p>
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<p>GEAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review the proposed update to the BSAP follow-up system e.g. taking into account similar work CPs might have undertaken on national level. <p>HOD Dec 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agreement on update of the BSAP follow-up system, including on presentation of results. ○ Agreement on the scope of the reporting by Contracting Parties to the BSAP follow-up system (reporting to take place in 4Q of 2020).
<p><u>Spring 2020</u></p> <p>Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prepare reporting forms for the BSAP follow-up on national actions. ○ Implement technical solutions for update of the BSAP follow-up system (Jan-Sept). <p>HOD June 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Preview of the reporting forms to the BSAP follow-up system.
<p><u>Autumn 2020</u></p> <p>Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Organize the reporting of the BSAP follow-up on national actions. <p>Contracting Parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reporting on the implementation of HELCOM national actions to the BSAP follow-up system (Oct-Dec 2020). <p>Working groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reporting on implementation of joint actions to the BSAP follow-up system (Sept-Dec 2020).

II. Mandate to update the BSAP

Activity 2:1. BSAP update Work Plan Overview (autumn 2018 – HOD 55-2018)

2018		2019				2020				2021
3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q

<p>Tasks according to the Strategic plan: Development and agreement on the first version of this document.</p>
<p><u>Autumn 2018</u></p> <p>Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prepare work plan proposal by first WG meeting in autumn 2018: the work plan preparation will be advancing with time, leading to a first full draft at the GEAR meeting, which is just before HOD 55-2018, and utilizing input from WGs. <p>Workings Groups (MARITIME 18-2018, PRESSURE 9 -2018, STATE&CONSERVATION 9-2018, and GEAR 19-2018):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review draft proposal prepared by the Secretariat, and consider how to best arrange the work requested by the Working Group (e.g. through sessions during ordinary WGs meetings, workshops, intersessional activities etc.). ○ Propose EGs and networks to be engaged in the work. <p>HOD 55-2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work plan proposal for agreement

Activity 2.2. Adjustment to the overall structure of BSAP (autumn 2018 – early 2020)

2018		2019				2020				2021
3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q

Tasks according to the Strategic plan: a) create a nested system of the BSAP strategic goals and objectives mapped against the SDGs and other policy goals and objectives, b) reviewing the existing HELCOM ecological objectives and proposing possible amendments, to be carried out via working/expert groups, c) proposing new ecological objectives for marine litter, underwater noise and seabed damage and disturbance, to be carried out via working/expert groups, and d) identifying other possible additional issues of relevance to the overall BSAP structure.

Autumn 2018

Secretariat:

- Prepare document with potential alignment/gaps of current BSAP structure with SDG goals, Aichi targets and MSFD descriptors.

GEAR 19-2018:

- Provide feedback on a proposal on new BSAP segments and goals (and possible revision of existing ones).
- Guidance for Working Groups on possible new ecological objectives i.e. the narrative description of desired state (e.g. clear water) (level of detail, relation to other policies).

HOD 55-2018:

- Proposal on new overarching structure (level of segments and goals) for agreement.

Spring 2019

Working Groups:

- Intersessional preparatory step for the review of ecological objectives at spring meetings 2019
- Review and potentially propose revised and new ecological objectives at spring meetings 2019.

GEAR 20-2019:

- Provide feedback on a proposal new BSAP structure based on mapping of activities and pressure to be considered under the segment

HOD June 2019:

- Draft proposals on revised and new ecological objectives.
- Further consideration of structure of the updated BSAP

Autumn 2019

Working Groups:

- Further elaboration of revised and new ecological objectives

HOD Dec 2019:

- Endorsement of overall structure, including ecological objectives, of BSAP UP.

March 2020 (HELCOM Meeting)

- Adoption of overall structure of BSAP update at HELCOM 2020 (at High-level Segment of HELCOM).
- Stakeholder conference.

Activity 2.3. Status of implementation of the current measures and agreements (autumn 2018 - mid-2019)

2018		2019				2020				2021
3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q

Tasks according to the Strategic plan: a) identifying HELCOM agreements, not covered by the current BSAP follow-up system, for which additional reporting by CPs will be needed, b) organizing additional reporting by CPs on main agreements - focusing on measures - not covered by the current BSAP follow up; [tentatively early 2019]; c) proposing a collection of information on other (than HELCOM) existing measures in the countries and their level of implementation-

Autumn 2018

Secretariat:

- Make list/proposal of recommendations or other commitments, (e.g. part of the Convention) that could be reported by Contracting Parties to support the assessment of implementation of HELCOM agreements. Focus is primarily on recommendations related to measures.
- Arrange for reporting by Contracting Parties on recommendations and other relevant HELCOM commitments.

Workings Groups:

- Identify other HELCOM commitments that could be relevant to support the assessment of HELCOM agreements, e.g. recommendations or part of the Convention. Meeting to agree on how the follow-up of the recommendation should be carried out e.g. questions, reporting forms, based on proposal by Secretariat.

Spring 2019 1Q

Contracting Parties:

- Reporting on recommendations and main agreements [via Working Groups or national contact point to be agreed]

SOM Platform (first meeting):

- Identify how to collect other existing measures in the countries (other than HELCOM commitments) to support analysis of sufficiency of measures

Secretariat:

- Arrange for collection and search of additional information on measures (other than HELCOM commitments)

Spring 2019 2Q

Working Groups:

- Consider the reports by Contracting Parties on main agreements/recommendations not covered by the current BSAP follow up as identified and agreed at autumn meeting 2018.

Contracting Parties:

- Review the collected information on other existing measures in the countries.

HOD June 2019:

- Results from additional reporting on HELCOM commitments (e.g. recommendations) endorsed

Activity 2:4. Review of the current BSAP (early- end 2019)

2018		2019				2020				2021
3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q

Tasks according to the Strategic plan: As agreed in the BSAP update guidance (HELCOM 39-2018), the actions that do not have measurable and clear targets will be identified, with the aim to develop them into a more specific actions or set of actions for the updated BSAP. The most recent 2018 Ministerial commitments will be integrated into the work.

Add HOD 56-2019: This task has been extended to end of 2019.

Spring meeting 2019

Working Groups:

- Review HELCOM actions where targets were previously evaluated as too general to follow up and propose measurable targets for those actions found relevant for possible uptake in the BSAP update – to be concluded at autumn meetings 2019 (see 2.6).
- Agree on how to propose actions and define targets for MD 2018 commitments; this could take place intersessionally e.g. through proposal by Lead countries – to be concluded at autumn meetings 2019 (see 2.6).

Activity 2:5. Analysing sufficiency of measures to reach HELCOM objectives and targets (2019-mid-2020)

2018		2019				2020				2021
3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q

Tasks according to the Strategic plan: The guidance document on the BSAP update (cf. document 2-6/REV, HELCOM 39-2018) states HELCOM will carry out an analysis of sufficiency of measures to reach HELCOM objectives and targets, to support selection of new actions. In order to estimate whether current actions (HELCOM actions and measures implemented under other policies) are sufficient to reach good status, information on the impact of the actions is required. This is particularly relevant for those actions aimed at reducing pressures to a level that is consistent with good environmental status. The activity will involve substantial work and will be organized topic by topic. In addition to identifying tentative gaps in measures the activity will also identify knowledge and data needs for effective implementation of measures. This work is to be based on newest scientific findings and knowledge, including from BONUS projects and related to climate change.

Add HOD 56-2019: Time-table and steps for work under the SOM Platform has been updated as proposed by HELCOM SOM Platform 1-2019.

Planning: Main responsible for planning the work: GEAR 19-2018. Additional working arrangement might be necessary to carry out the task e.g. via the thematic workshops and jointly with the working groups. Such an additional working arrangement proposed is a new interdisciplinary platform on sufficiency of measures (SOM Platform). The HELCOM ACTION project (pending the final approval as of 13.11.2018) will carry out analysis of sufficiency of measures for a number of topics.

Autumn 2018

Secretariat:

- Come up with initial proposal for areas for synthesis of existing knowledge and for sufficiency of measures; liaison with experts/lead countries to be appointed for work of the SOM Platform.
- Estimate expert and resource needs for sufficiency of measures analyses.

<p>GEAR 19-2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Propose focal areas for synthesis of existing knowledge to support the analysis of sufficiency of measures and identification of potential new measures (priority areas). ○ Propose focal areas for analyses of sufficiency of measures (priority areas). ○ Consider the experts needs for sufficiency of measures analyses and development of business-as-usual (BAU) scenarios. 										
<p>Analyses: To estimate whether current actions (HELCOM actions and measures implemented under other policies) are sufficient to reach good status. The activity will be organized topic by topic as outlined in the organization of work for SOM analyses, HOD 56-2019, document 2.2).</p>										
<p>Secretariat: Support, e.g. arrangement of SOM Platform meetings, HELCOM thematic workshops</p>										
<p><u>Spring 2019 1Q</u></p> <p>SOM Platform (first meeting – February 2019):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plan for how to structure syntheses of existing knowledge to support the BSAP update. ○ Plan for regional analysis of sufficiency of measures and development of BAU scenarios according to priority areas agreed by HOD. Plans for the assessment of effectiveness of measures by OSPAR to be considered. ○ Work on syntheses started (to be carried out by appointed experts/lead country by end of 2019). <p>Contracting Parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assignment of resources, identification of lead countries and appointment of experts to carry out syntheses and analyses - by early 2019. 										
<p><u>Autumn 2019</u></p> <p>SOM Platform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Second meeting 16-17 September 2019 ○ Prepare regional “business as usual” scenario. ○ Analysis of sufficiency of measures initiated by lead countries and Topic teams under the SOM Platform and by partners of the ACTION project <p>Workings Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contribution to expert based evaluations ○ Initiate review of ongoing work on synopses 										
<p><u>Spring 2020</u></p> <p>SOM Platform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Third meeting 24-26 March 2020 ○ Results of the SOM analysis ready in June 2020 Prepare material for meetings/workshops to discuss results of SOM analysis and proposals on new measures from synopses 										
<p><u>Autumn 2020</u></p> <p>Workings Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Validation of input data to the SOM analyses (September) <p>SOM Platform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fourth meeting 15 September 2020 ○ Potential fifth meeting in November 2020 ○ Prepare overall and topic-specific SOM reports to support BSAP update <p>HOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consideration of the results of the SOM analysis 										

Activity 2:6. Proposing new actions and improvement of the existing actions (end 2019- end 2020)

2018		2019				2020				2021
3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q

Tasks according to the Strategic plan: The analysis of sufficiency of measures will be utilized for identifying gaps between the current measures and the measures needed to reach GES. Proposals for new measures and actions will emerge via the regular work of HELCOM and its WGs and as an outcome of some of the other activities within this strategic plan, in particular the assessment of the sufficiency of measures. A full draft of the updated BSAP to be available last quarter 2020.

Add HOD 56-2019: Expansion on how the process to consider results of SOM analyses and proposals on new actions for the updated BSAP will take place based on outcome of HELCOM SOM Platform 1-2019. Further elaboration and proposal for this step will take place at second meeting of the SOM Platform.

Autumn 2019

Working Groups:

- Prepare proposals on uptake of HELCOM actions in the updated BSAP that were previously evaluated as too general to follow up and on measurable targets for those actions.
- Prepare proposals of actions and measurable targets to follow-up on the MD 2018 commitments and open discussion on potential new measures.

HOD Dec 2019:

- Based on outcome Activity 1:1, 2:3, 2:4 and 2:6 of previous WG meetings, consider proposals on:
 - not yet implemented existing HELCOM actions to be considered for uptake in the updated BSAP,
 - actions and measurable targets for MD 2018 commitments (draft proposals).

Spring 2020

SOM Platform:

- Prepare material for HELCOM meetings/workshops on new actions based on analyses of sufficiency of measures, the submission of synopses on potential new HELCOM actions, proposals from ACTION projects, proposals based on reviewing the list of measures implemented in the countries.

Working Groups:

- **Technical review of the proposals for new actions that were submitted as synopses and identifying possible gaps in the set of synopses**
-

Autumn 2020

SOM Platform:

- Re-run analyses of sufficiency of measures including proposed new HELCOM actions
- Prepare analyses of cost-effectiveness of potential new HELCOM actions

BSAP UP workshops:

- **Assessment of relevance and effectiveness of the proposed new actions**

Working Groups:

- **Further elaboration and endorsement for submission to HOD 59-2020 of possible new actions based on the outcome of the BSAP UP workshop in the WG autumn meetings and, if needed, intersessional online meetings,**
- **Identifying possible gaps in the set of measures for the updated BSAP and proposing measures to fill the gaps. Assessing the effectiveness of the proposed measures to fill the gaps.**
- **Consideration of the results from the analyses of sufficiency of measures**

HOD Dec 2020:

- Further consideration of measures (first complete draft of the updated BSAP presented).

Activity 2:7. Drafting the updated BSAP (mid 2020 – autumn 2021)

2018		2019				2020				2021		
3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q

Autumn 2020

Secretariat:

- Proposal for separating the measures that can contribute directly to improving the state of the Baltic Sea from those actions that are aimed at supporting implementation of actions or other HELCOM activities (e.g. actions related to databases, mapping, assessments, guidelines).
- First drafts of the segment preambles as well as drafts for the description of current and desired state in the operative sections

Working groups:

- Review of the first drafts of the segment preambles as well as drafts for the description of current and desired state in the operative sections

BSAP Drafting group:

- Drafting of the overarching preamble
- Further drafting of the segment preambles as well as the description of current and desired state in the operative sections as needed

GEAR:

- Review of the first draft of the overarching preamble and segment specific preambles

Spring 2021:

BSAP Drafting group:

- Drafting further the preambles and operative sections based on guidance from HOD 59-2020

Working groups

- Drafting further the supplementary information for actions

HOD

- Intersessional meetings on drafting if needed
- Approval of the updated BSAP in June 2021

Autumn 2021

HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2021

- Adoption of the updated BSAP

Annex 3. Preliminary timeline and division of tasks for drafting of BSAP

BSAP Section	2020							2021			
	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January-May	June	June-October	October
BSAP Preamble	BSAP Drafting Group, assisted by Secretariat					GEAR 23-2020	HOD 59-2020, comments	BSAP Drafting Group and Secretariat	HOD 60-2021, approval		Ministerial Meeting 2021, adoption
Segment preamble	Secretariat				WG meetings	Secretariat/BSAP Drafting Group lead country	HOD 59-2020, comments	BSAP Drafting Group and Secretariat	HOD 60-2021, approval		Ministerial Meeting 2021, adoption
Operative section: current state	Secretariat				WG meetings	Secretariat/BSAP Drafting Group lead country	HOD 59-2020, comments	BSAP Drafting Group and Secretariat	HOD 60-2021, approval		Ministerial Meeting 2021, adoption
Operative section: desired state	Secretariat				WG meetings	Secretariat/BSAP Drafting Group lead country	HOD 59-2020, comments	BSAP Drafting Group and Secretariat	HOD 60-2021, approval		Ministerial Meeting 2021, adoption
Operative section actions	HOD 58-2020	Working Groups, assisted by Secretariat					HOD 59-2020, comments	BSAP Drafting Group and Secretariat	HOD 60-2021, approval		Ministerial Meeting 2021, adoption
Annex Segment supplementary information	HOD 58-2020	Working Groups, assisted by Secretariat					HOD 59-2020, comments	Working Groups, assisted by Secretariat	HOD 60-2021, approval		Ministerial Meeting 2021, adoption

Annex 4 Terms of Reference for HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR) 2019-2021¹

1. Background

In 2010 the Contracting Parties adopted HELCOM Recommendation 31E/6 on integrated wildlife response planning in the Baltic Sea Area. It recommends the Contracting Parties to apply Guidelines for their wildlife response planning attached to the Recommendation, and requests the Contracting Parties to develop a wildlife response plan integrated into oil pollution contingency plans either on a national or sub-national/local level and exchange the details about its contents with other Contracting Parties.

The 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting agreed to develop and adopt national wildlife response plans by 2016 and agreed to strengthen the work on OWR under HELCOM Response Working Group (WG) through a targeted expert working group and by enhancing cooperation with NGOs and the private sector, inter alia in order to accommodate the involvement of volunteers.

The work of the HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR) is carried out under the supervision of HELCOM RESPONSE and is based on this framework terms of reference

2. Tasks and working mode of the EWG OWR

The EWG OWR will aim to strengthen the cooperation between HELCOM Contracting Parties in the field of oiled wildlife response. It will act as a forum for the exchange of information on progress and best practices, and facilitate the creation of joint standards and cross-border cooperation in oiled wildlife response. It will also, where possible, facilitate the training of national experts and exchange of training materials.

As a sub-group reporting to HELCOM Response WG, the EWG OWR has the following tasks:

1. To facilitate the development of national oiled wildlife response plans in cooperation with other authorities and NGOs;
2. To arrange regular (at least once a year) meetings involving all members of the group, allowing for training and information sessions that would provide added value to the national processes;
3. To produce using the Self-Assessment Tool (SAT) approved by RESPONSE 25-2018 as a reporting tool for OWR, at the end of each calendar year, annual reports covering the OWR activities in the Contracting Parties and submit it to HELCOM Response WG for adoption. Based on the results from the reports to provide necessary support and encouragement to countries where OWR activities are less developed.
4. To arrange training and information exchange activities to support and promote work of EWG OWR
5. To contribute to involvement of NGOs and private sector in OWR activities.
6. Other tasks according to the group's needs and vision

Working mode:

To ensure resource efficiency, the group will arrange online meetings and work via correspondence and using the HELCOM Workspace. These meetings shall take place at least once a year but can be arranged more often if necessary. When necessary, face-to-face meetings shall be organized back-to-back with other HELCOM Response WG related events.

The Chair may invite relevant experts to attend online meetings with presentations on specific topics.

The group (Chair) will report to HELCOM Response WG on progress made.

¹ HOD 56-2019 approved the prolongation of the mandate of EWG OWR until the end of 2021

Prolongation of the EWG OWR should be considered at the end of the period of its mandate and based on the results of the work progress.

3. Members of the EWG OWR

Each Contracting Party shall nominate at least one representative of the appropriate state body (government or agency) to the Group. The Contracting Parties may choose to nominate further members as they see appropriate.

Annex 5 Statements by the European Commission

Statement by the European Commission Regarding Financing and the Implementation of EU Legislation

The EU is an important financing body for potential projects being considered within the context of HELCOM. In order to avoid any interference with the independent decision-making procedures established under the various financing instruments, the EU does, as a matter of principle, not take any position as regards any project proposal intended for submission to EU financing bodies. This should not be interpreted in any way as prejudging the position of the EU when taking financing decisions.

The responsibility for implementing EU legislation is solely with the EU Member States. The role of the European Commission in accordance with EU Treaties is, inter alia, to assess compliance with EU legislation, for instance once a Member State has submitted its report under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Hence, any statement or position taken by the EU within the context of HELCOM should not be construed to give any assessment of whether the work done by HELCOM or by its contracting parties that are EU Member States is compliant with Union legislation.