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<b>Document title</b>	Implementation of the 2021 Baltic Sea Action Plan
<b>Code</b>	2-1
<b>Category</b>	CMNT
<b>Agenda Item</b>	2 - Outcome of and follow-up to the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2021
<b>Submission date</b>	12.11.2021
<b>Submitted by</b>	Executive Secretary
<b>Reference</b>	

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## Background

The HELCOM Ministerial Meeting held on 20 October 2021 adopted the updated [HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan](#) (BSAP) containing almost 200 actions to reach the vision and objectives of the BSAP. HOD 60B-2021 approved the supporting document “[Additional information on the actions in the updated Baltic Sea Action Plans](#)”, which supports the implementation of the BSAP actions by providing the criteria for achievement, assigning the responsible HELCOM bodies for implementation and indicating whether the actions are implemented nationally, jointly or both. It has been agreed that the first reporting on the implementation of the actions to the HELCOM Explorer online tool is to take place in 2025.

The HELCOM Working Groups have had initial discussions on the implementation of the actions in autumn 2021, depending on the timing of the meetings, and the 2021 BSAP has been taken into account in revising the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Expert Groups that have been submitted to HOD 61-2021.

More detailed discussions on the implementation of the actions are planned for the spring 2022 Working Group meetings. The following approach is proposed:

- The detailed planning will focus on the joint actions that have the earliest target years (2025 or earlier) as well as actions with later target years that require long term consideration. In addition, there can be a general discussion on the implementation of the national actions and the other joint actions that have later target years.
- Leads and concrete steps for implementation to meet the criteria for achievement will be identified for the joint actions with the earliest target years.
- The roles of the Working Groups will be clarified for the actions that are the shared responsibility of several groups. Also, the role of the expert groups in implementing the actions will be made clear.

The detailed planning for the implementation of the BSAP actions will be utilized in revising the ToRs and Work Plans of the Working Groups by the end of 2022. Possible changes to the HELCOM structure as well as the decision to continue the time-limited mandates of the Agri and Fish Groups beyond 2022 (c.f. Agenda Item 7) will affect sharing the responsibility between the Working Groups and the renewal of the ToRs and Work Plans. However, this should not affect planning the concrete steps or finding the leads for the implementation of the actions.

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to discuss the implementation of the BSAP and provide guidance for the Working Groups to plan their future work.