



Document title	Progress on the BSAP update
Code	2-2
Category	INF
Agenda Item	2- Information by the Chair, Secretariat and Contracting Parties
Submission date	28.1.2020
Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	

Background

This document includes up to date information on the progress made on the BSAP update and builds on document 2-3 to HOD 56-2019. Note that the information is extracted from document 3-1 of HOD 57-2019, which includes also sections on proposals from working group meetings for approval by HOD 57-2019, making existing HELCOM actions more concrete and review of not yet implemented actions from the BSAP and ministerial declarations 2010 and 2013.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- take note of the ongoing work to implement the Strategic Plan and Work Plan for the BSAP update (section 1).

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1. Implementation of the Strategic Plan for the BSAP update

HELCOM working Groups initiated the implementation of the [Strategic Plan](#) for the BSAP update in autumn 2018 and have continued to implement the [Work Plan](#) at spring and autumn meetings in 2019.

In accordance with the Strategic Plan, the BSAP update has now completed the ‘formulation phase’ which for HELCOM Working Groups have focused on evaluating the status of implementing the current BSAP (as reported in [document 3-4 HOD 55-2019](#), [document 2-1 HOD 56-2019](#)). As part of the formulation phase the structure of the BSAP has also been reviewed (cf activity 2.2) and HOD 56-2019 agreed on a provisional adjustment to the BSAP structure ([document 2-4 HOD 56-2019](#)). The adjustment of the BSAP structure also includes the review and revision of HELCOM objectives which has been carried out by Working Groups and is presented for consideration by HOD 57-2019 (document 3-3).

The work has now moved into the ‘creating the content phase’ which includes the analyses of sufficiency of existing measures to improve the state of the Baltic Sea. This work was initiated already in early 2019 with the establishment of the HELCOM SOM Platform and the on-set of the HELCOM ACTION project.

Finally, in 2020 the ‘Renaissance phase’ will be initiated which is the main phase for proposing new actions for the updated BSAP.

The ongoing work is well in accordance with the Strategic Plan with some prolonged activities by the Working Groups to review existing HELCOM actions as indicated in section 4.

The Strategic Plan is further structured according to six main activities as outlined below.

Three phases of the BSAP update

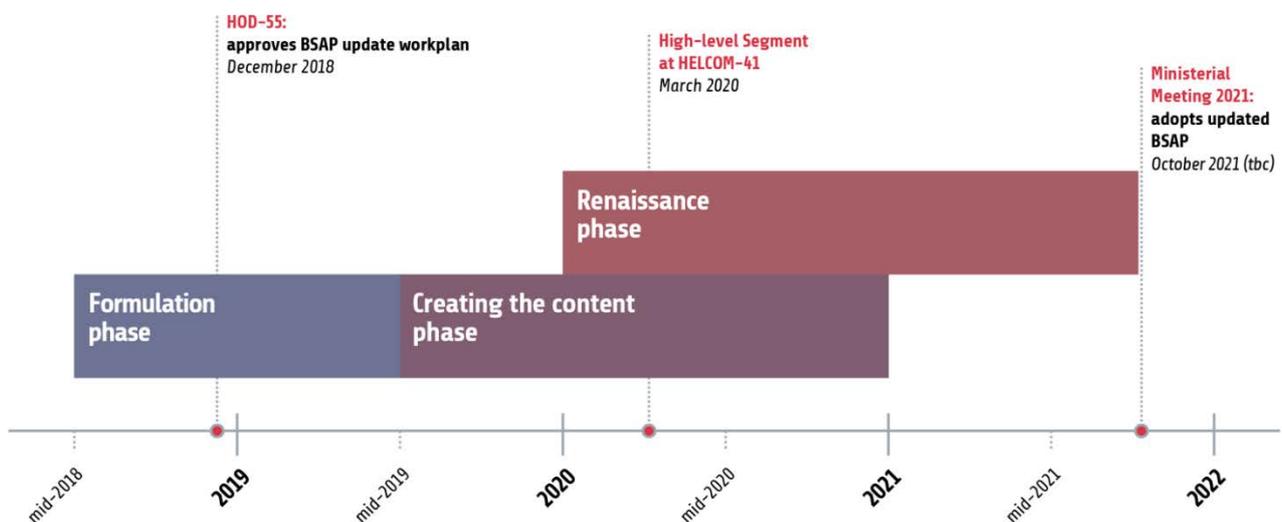


Figure 1. The three phases of the BSAP update according to the Strategic Plan for the BSAP update, agreed at HOD 54-2018.

1.1 Progress on the Work Plan for the BSAP update

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

The review of existing HELCOM actions that are not fully implemented yet started at the autumn meetings of Working Groups in 2018 and has continued in 2019. Plans for their implementation and proposals on actions to be omitted from future work has been considered continuously by HOD and is also presented for consideration to this meeting as outlined in section 2.

The activity has been extended to mid-2020 to also consider the tentative need to rephrase actions that may not be implemented by 2021 and that, in accordance to the Strategic Plan for the BSAP update, will be considered as the basis for the updated BSAP. The ongoing work by HELCOM Working Group in this regard is summarized in section 4 of this document.

Activity 1:2. Preparing information for the Ministerial Meeting 2021 (spring 2019 - end 2020)

This activity entails the update and improvement of the data base and associated visualisation of status of implementation of HELCOM actions through the HELCOM Explorer. A proposal on functionality and interactive design is presented in document 3-2 to this Meeting. As indicated in the Work Plan for the BSAP update, Contracting Parties will be requested to report in 2020 on the status of national actions from the BSAP and Ministerial Declarations 2010 and 2013. The updated HELCOM Explorer will be finalized by end of 2020.

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

The first version of the [Work Plan](#) was adopted by HOD 55-2018 and updated by HOD 56-2019.

Activity 2:2. Adjustment to the overall structure of BSAP (autumn 2018 – early 2020)

HOD 56-2019 made a provisional agreement to adjust the overarching structure of the updated BSAP, i.e. the segments and goals of the updated BSAP, and to which segments that new the objectives on marine litter, underwater noise, and loss and disturbance to the seabed will be associated. The review and revision on HELCOM objectives by Working Groups has taken place in autumn 2018 and throughout WG meetings in 2019. Proposals on new and revised objectives are presented in document 3-3.

Activity 2:3. Status of implementation of the current measures and agreements (autumn 2018- mid-2019)

HOD 55-2018 agreed on the reporting of a sub-set of HELCOM Recommendations to support the BSAP update. HOD 56-2019 agreed to endorse the reporting intersessionally. As separate summary document on the implementation level of Recommendations will be submitted at a later stage.

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

HELCOM Working Groups have initiated the review of actions from the HELCOM Ministerial Declaration 2018 and also looked into the possibility to re-address actions that were previously labelled as 'too general' to be included in the follow-up system of HELCOM actions. If the actions are evaluated as relevant for inclusion in the updated BSAP, the Working Groups will propose more concrete targets, e.g. to specify aims and outputs or by when the actions should be implemented. Actions from this list that are not implemented by 2021 could be included in the updated BSAP.

The Pressure Group has come to an agreement at the Working Group level on how to implement the Ministerial Declaration 2018 as presented in section 3. Maritime Working Group has initiated the review of the Ministerial Declaration 2018 and actions previously assigned as too general. Proposed concretization exists for some actions as presented in section 3 while a Correspondence Group has been established to continue the work by March 2020.

State and Conservation Working Group decided to consider all actions that are under review jointly since there are considerable overlaps between actions from the current BSAP and Ministerial Declarations, i.e. activities 1.1. and 2.4 have been combined. Progress of work is presented in section 4. The Working Group has agreed on an intersessional to carry out the task by March 2020.

For other HELCOM Groups the Ministerial Declaration 2018 does not include associated paragraphs or the related paragraphs are of general character.

Activity 2:5. Analysing sufficiency of measures to reach HELCOM objectives and targets

The analysis of sufficiency of measures (SOM) was initiated in March 2019. HELCOM SOM Platform held its second meeting 16-17 September 2019. The outcome of the Meeting and issues for approval by HOD with regard to the SOM analysis are included in document 3-4. The organization of the work for the SOM Platform is implemented as presented in [document 2-2 to HOD 56-2019](#).

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

While this activity has not started yet there is an [agreed format](#) for the synopses on potential new actions and measures for the updated BSAP. HELCOM 40-2019 agreed that such synopses can be submitted by Contracting Parties, HELCOM subsidiary bodies, international projects, Observers. Such synopses will be prepared by end of 2019. The HELCOM ACTION project will also contribute to proposals on new actions for the updated BSAP.

1.2 Linkages between activities to support the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan
(recollection from HOD 56-2019, document 2-1)

Figure 2 illustrates how the activities outlined in the Strategic Plan, together with more specific activities under the SOM Platform, are contributing to the decision on the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan.

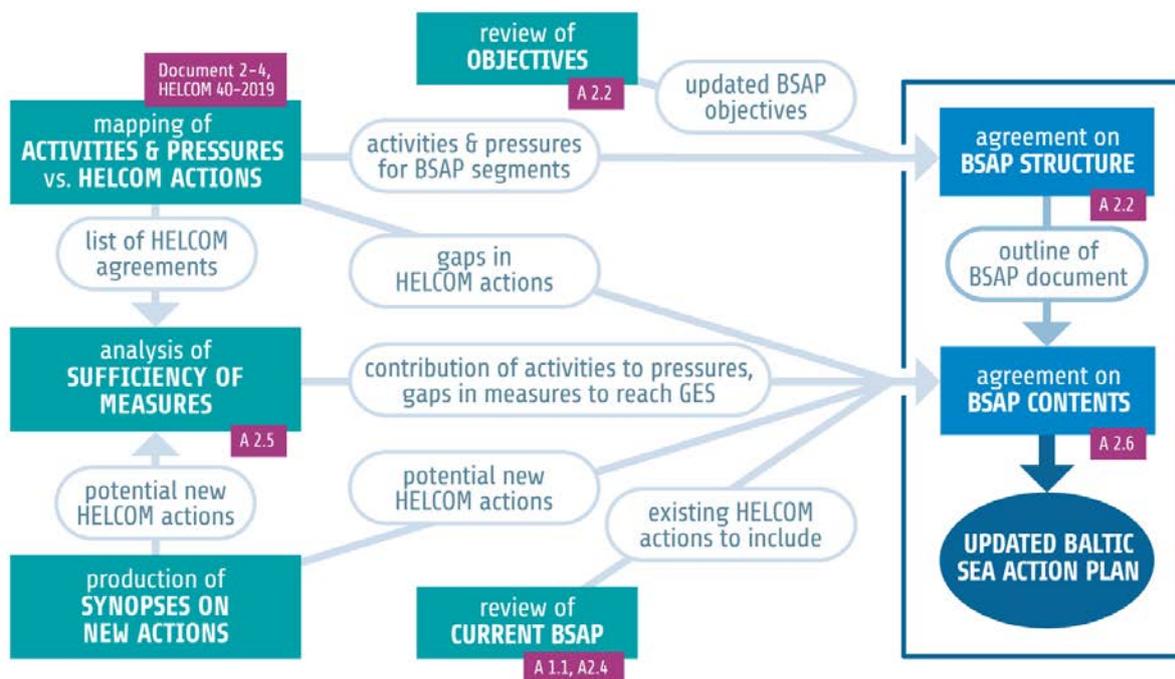


Figure 2. Ongoing activities that contributes directly to the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan.

Agreement on BSAP structure

The agreement on the structure of the updated BSAP is supported by the ongoing activity by HELCOM Working Groups to review, revise and propose new ecological objectives and management objectives. The

agreement is furthermore supported by ongoing mapping of activity and pressures that would be linked to the different segments updated BSAP.

Agreement on the content of the updated BSAP

Three main activities contribute with supporting information for the agreement on new HELCOM actions for the updated BSAP.

- The ongoing work by HELCOM Working Groups to review the existing BSAP will identify a set of actions that will form the basis also for the updated BSAP, e.g. actions that are not fully implemented by 2021.
- The analyses of sufficiency of measures (SOM) that will contribute to identifying gaps in measures to reach good environmental status. This analysis includes not only HELCOM actions but also relevant measures to improve the Baltic Sea environment agreed also under other policies. One step of the SOM work is to estimate the relative contribution of different activities to specific pressures. This analysis will indicate which activities that are of main concern in the Baltic Sea region and will in itself provide support for identifying how new actions and measures are best directed to improve the environmental status.
- The planned synopses on potential new HELCOM actions and measures will contribute directly to the proposal on new HELCOM actions and will also provide input to the SOM analyses. Once new actions have been selected, tentatively at BSAP UP workshops in spring 2020 (see document 3-4), the SOM analyses will be re-run to include the new actions and thereby provide an estimate on how far they can contribute to reach good status.

The background analyses and proposals on new actions will together provide background material to agree on the content for the updated BSAP.

1.3 Milestones for consideration by Heads of Delegation

Figure 3 outlines when the output from HELCOM Working Groups will be considered by HELCOM Heads of Delegation and by when central decisions are planned. This includes inter alia a proposal on segments and objectives of the updated BSAP by HOD 57-2019, a full draft of the updated BSAP prepared by end of 2020, and the adoption of the BSAP by the Ministerial Meeting in 2021, tentatively in October. In 2021 further deliberations by Heads of Delegation on the updated BSAP are anticipated while no activities by HELCOM Working Groups have so far been scheduled for 2021.

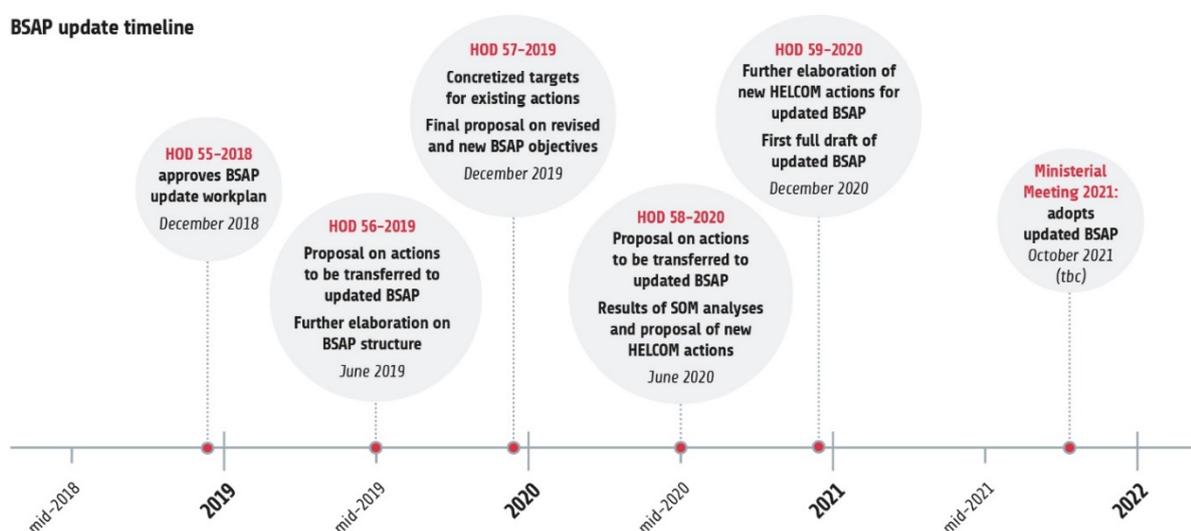


Figure 3. Milestones for consideration and decisions by Heads of Delegation.