

Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Task Group on
Ballast Water Management Convention (BWMC) and Biofouling
Online, 2-3 December 2021

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| Document title | Actions in the 2021 BSAP with particular relevance to JTG BALLAST & BIOFOULING |
| Code | 2-3 |
| Category | CMNT |
| Agenda Item | 2- Feedback from Relevant Bodies, including HELCOM, OSPAR and IMO MEPC |
| Submission date | 18.11.2021 |
| Submitted by | HELCOM Secretariat |
| Reference | |

Background

The 2021 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting (20 October 2021) adopted the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP). The full 2021 BSAP can be found through [this link](#).

The List of Decisions of the Ministerial Meeting can be found in the HELCOM Meeting Portal through [this link](#). Additional information associated with the BSAP actions, which specifies further details about the implementation of the actions, can be found through [this link](#).

The Annex to this document contains the actions of particular relevance for JTG BALLAST & BIOFOULING, as well as the additional information associated with those actions.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information and to exchange views on how to contribute to their implementation of relevant actions in the 2021 BSAP, in alignment with the Terms of Reference of the Group

Annex Actions in the BSAP UP of particular relevance for JTG BALLAST & BIOFOULING as identified by the Secretariat

| Code | Action | Target year | Type of action | Rationale | Potential effect | Implemented by | Overseeing WG/EG | Criteria for achievement | Cross-reference to actions in other segments |
|-----------|---|-------------|----------------|---|---|----------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| S7 | Establish by 2024 and subsequently implement the early warning system in case of the introduction of invasive species in ports. | 2024 | Measure | An early warning system (EWS) facilitates timely communication of findings of non-indigenous species (NIS) to all relevant authorities in the Baltic Sea region and international shipping in the Baltic Sea. | The measure will facilitate informed and quick decision-making in order to minimize further introductions of NIS and undertake possible eradication measures. | National/Joint | MARITIME ; JTG BALLAST & BIOFOULING | An early warning system (EWS) is established and being implemented (Joint and national). | |
| S8 | Work for the harmonized implementation of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Biofouling Guidelines and Guidance, taking into account e.g. the proposed Biofouling Management Roadmap, and further contribute to the work carried out in the IMO. | Ongoing | Measure | Biofouling is one of the main vectors for introductions and spread of non-indigenous species to and within the Baltic Sea. However, no legally binding international regulations exist to reduce such introductions. The proposed Biofouling Management Roadmap can be seen as a tool for harmonized implementation of the IMO Biofouling Guidelines and Guidance, taking into account the conditions in the Baltic Sea. It was also noted that the Biofouling Roadmap can support the work in IMO to review the Biofouling Guidelines. | Harmonized implementation of the IMO Biofouling Guidelines and its possible future developments would reduce the risk of spreading non-indigenous fouling organisms in the Baltic Sea and beyond, as well as reducing the input of biocides and microplastics from antifouling systems and as an indirect effect also reducing the energy | National/Joint | MARITIME ; JTG BALLAST & BIOFOULING | Ongoing harmonized implementation of the IMO Biofouling Guidelines and Guidance in the Baltic Sea and ongoing active contribution of HELCOM or HELCOM Contracting Parties to the work carried out in the IMO. Implementation by HELCOM and OSPAR Contracting Parties of the IMO Biofouling Guidelines and Guidance is harmonized. Contribution to work carried out in IMO (e.g. | HL30 |

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| | | | | | consumption of ships. | | | submission of proposals developed within or based on HELCOM work, incorporation of HELCOM approaches to IMO Guidelines or Conventions etc.) has taken place. | |
| S9 | Promote the development and use of effective, environmentally sustainable biofouling management techniques and antifouling systems on ships and recreational craft, including biocide-free alternatives to prevent biofouling by supporting related research and development activities in the Baltic Sea region. | Ongoing | Supporting action | Biofouling is one of the main vectors for introductions of non-indigenous species to the Baltic Sea. However, no legally binding international regulations exist to reduce such introduction. Also, apart from international regulations prohibiting the use of organotin compounds and cybutryne in antifouling systems (AFS), there is no standard or consensus on which biofouling management techniques or AFS are considered the most appropriate and effective. Promotion of the use of environmentally sustainable biofouling management options which are already on the market, and the development of new tools and products would help minimizing both biosecurity and pollution risks. | N/A | National/Joint | MARITIME ; JTG BALLAST & BIOFOULING | Research and development activities related to the development and use of effective, environmentally sustainable biofouling management techniques and antifouling systems, including biocide-free alternatives, are ongoing and the results are communicated with users/shippers through appropriate channels (joint and national). | HL30 |
| S10 | Strengthen cooperation with stakeholders in the development and implementation of sustainable biofouling management options by 2026 to minimize the introduction | 2026 | Measure | Biofouling is one of the main vectors for introductions of non-indigenous species to the Baltic Sea. In addition to being effective, biofouling management options need to be sustainable with minimal release of hazardous substances and | Reduced introductions of non-indigenous species to the Baltic Sea via biofouling. Reduced harmful effects on the environment | National | MARITIME ; JTG BALLAST & BIOFOULING | Cooperation with stakeholders in the development and implementation of sustainable biofouling management options in place, by e.g. | HL30 |

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| | of invasive aquatic species, the release of hazardous substances and microplastics from anti-fouling systems, as well as enhancing energy efficiency. | | | microplastics and increased energy efficiency. Due to the prohibition of antifouling systems (AFS) containing organotin compounds and cybutryne, there is still a need for new, effective and sustainable solutions that work for various ship types in a range of conditions. The cooperation of all concerned stakeholders (such as shipowners/operators, paint and equipment manufacturers, shipyards etc.) is the central prerequisite to achieve development and use of sustainable biofouling management options. Thereby, practical applicability is considered from the start of their development. | through release of hazardous substances, microplastics and increased energy efficiency of ships. | | | networks and communication channels (outreach) established. | |
| S11 | Implement the Joint Harmonised Procedure for the Contracting Parties of OSPAR and HELCOM on the granting of exemptions under the Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention, Regulation A-4, and keep the Ballast Water Risk Assessment Tool up to date with data from conducted port surveys. | Ongoing | Supporting action | The Joint Harmonized Procedure (JHP) and Risk Assessment (RA) Tool provide the means for a harmonized and informed decision making in granting exemptions in accordance with the BWM Convention. Harmonization is important in order to maintain a level playing field among HELCOM and OSPAR Contracting Parties, while ensuring that exemptions do not increase the risk of species invasions and at the same time taking a pragmatic approach from the point of view of the shipping industry. Furthermore, up to date data in the RA Tool is essential for making informed decisions on exemptions. Contracting Parties may still issue an exemption based on the "Same Risk | N/A | National/Joint | MARITIME ; JTG BALLAST & BIOFOULING | The JHP is implemented among Contracting Parties. Evaluation of the sufficiency of the data from port surveys in the Ballast Water Exemptions Decision Support Tool has been carried out. | |

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| | | | | Area” concept as described in “Guidelines for risk assessment under regulation A-4 of the BWM Convention “(G7). | | | | | |
| S12 | Continue close cooperation with OSPAR on the implementation of the Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention and the issue of biofouling management at the regional and inter-regional level. | Ongoing | Supporting action | In order to effectively prevent introductions of non-indigenous species (NIS) to the Baltic Sea, coordinated implementation of the Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Biofouling Guidelines and Guidance is needed between HELCOM and OSPAR. NIS that have been introduced in the North Sea pose a significant risk of invading also the Baltic Sea. | N/A | Joint | MARITIME ; JTG BALLAST & BIOFOULING | Progress in implementing this ongoing action can be reviewed through assessing what new recommendations, guidelines, tools, principles or publications related to the implementation of the BWM Convention or the Biofouling Guidelines have been developed between HELCOM and OSPAR through JTG BALLAST & BIOFOULING. | |