

# Review, revision, and development of new HELCOM objectives

- Strategic Plan for BSAP update: review of existing HELCOM objectives (activity nr 2.2)
- HOD 55-2018: agreed to develop new objectives for marine litter, underwater noise, loss and disturbance to the seabed
- Maritime Group:
  - Review management objectives for maritime activities
  - Consider proposals on management objectives for topics related to maritime activities (loss and disturbance to the seabed, underwater noise, eutrophication, hazardous substances, litter).
  - Take note of the proposed updated ecological objectives.

# Existing HELCOM ecological objectives

- Developed in 2003-2006
- Ecological objectives aimed to:
  - describe characteristics of a healthy sea
  - provide a link to HELCOM assessments
  - easy to communicate to the wider community

## Baltic Sea unaffected by eutrophication

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

## Baltic Sea undisturbed by hazardous substances

- Concentrations of hazardous substances close to natural levels
- All fish are safe to eat
- Healthy wildlife
- Radioactivity at the pre-Chernobyl level

## Favourable status of Baltic Sea biodiversity

- Natural marine and coastal landscapes
- Thriving and balanced communities of plants and animals
- Viable populations of species

# Existing management objectives

- So far only defined for the current Maritime segment
- Related to the desired effect of management measures or aspired target levels of the pressure

Environmentally friendly  
maritime activities

- Enforcement of international regulations – no illegal discharges
- Safe maritime traffic without accidental pollution
- Efficient emergency and response capabilities
- Minimum sewage pollution from ships
- No introductions of alien species from ships
- Minimum air pollution from ships
- Zero discharges from offshore platforms
- Minimum threats from offshore installations

# System of objectives and actions

## **Desired state**

- Communicated through ecological objectives
- Defined and assessed by indicators and associated threshold values (or trends)

## **Sustainable level of human activities**

- Communicated through management objectives
- Defined and assessed by indicators and associated pressure or conservation targets (or trends)

## **Ways of reaching the desired state and sustainable use**

- Agreement on HELCOM actions (and relevant measures taken elsewhere)
- Assessed through follow-up of agreements, effect of measures, SOM analyses, achievement of good status and targets

# Provisional agreement HOD 56-2019

## VISION:

A healthy Baltic Sea environment, with diverse biological components functioning in balance, resulting in good environmental/ecological status and supporting a wide range of sustainable human economic and social activities

## Provisional new structure:

### GOALS:

Baltic Sea unaffected  
by eutrophication

Baltic Sea undisturbed by  
hazardous substances  
and litter

Environmentally friendly  
maritime sea-based  
activities

Favourable status of  
Baltic Sea biodiversity

New objectives for

- Litter

New objectives for

- Underwater noise
- Loss and disturbance to the seabed

# Guidance

## *General guidance*

The objectives should be:

- linked to HELCOM assessments i.e. achievement should be possible to follow-up,
- easy to communicate to the wider community,
- not too many,
- with regard to the review of existing objectives the following should also be considered:
  - are objectives missing with respect to new developments in HELCOM since the current BSAP was adopted?
  - are the objectives up to date (e.g. are the terms used up to date)?

## *Management objectives*

- management objectives describe the desired effect of or aspirational targets of management measures,
- follow-up of management objectives by use of indicators and associated pressure target.

## *Ecological objectives*

- should reflect the desired state of the environment and be of aspirational character,
- should be possible to follow-up by use of indicators and associated threshold values,
- with regard to new topics (litter, underwater noise, loss and disturbance to seabed) the ecological objectives should focus on the state elements of these topics or on their **impacts** on the environment

# Existing management objectives, maritime activities

- Enforcement of international regulations – no illegal discharges
- Safe maritime traffic without accidental pollution
- Efficient emergency and response capabilities
- Minimum sewage pollution from ships
- No introductions of alien species from ships
- Minimum air pollution from ships
- Zero discharges from offshore platforms
- Minimum threats from offshore installations

The Meeting is invited to review the existing objectives and propose revisions as relevant.

# Proposals, loss and disturbance to the seabed

Ecological objectives under development:

‘Healthy seabed habitats’ OR ‘Maintaining natural seabed conditions’

Management objectives under development (to be discussed by other WGs):

- *To be discussed at State and Conservation 11-2019=*

The Meeting is invited to make a proposal on objective(s) related to loss and disturbance to the seabed in relation to shipping, as seen relevant



# Proposals, litter

Ecological objectives under development:

- ‘Wildlife safeguarded from marine litter’, OR ‘No harm to wildlife from marine litter’

Management objectives under development:

- ‘Products are designed, produced, used and discharged to minimize marine litter’
- ‘Amounts of litter are significantly reduced on beaches and in the sea’

The Meeting is invited to make a proposal on objective(s) related to litter in relation to sea-based activities, as seen relevant.

Possibility to reflect litter by revising one of the existing objectives? (e.g. the objective on sewage)

# Proposals, underwater noise

Ecological objectives under development:

- ‘No harm to wildlife from anthropogenic noise’ OR ‘Introduction of sound does not harm wildlife’

Management objectives under development

- No concrete proposals at this time
- Two guidelines
  - to make separate objectives for continuous and impulsive noise
  - to only reflect underwater noise

The Meeting is invited to make a proposal on objective(s) related to underwater noise.

# Proposals, eutrophication and hazardous substances

Management objectives under development :

## **Eutrophication**

- ‘Minimize input of nutrients from human activities’ OR
- ‘Minimize input from agriculture and...’

## **Hazardous substances**

- Minimize input of hazardous substances OR
- Minimize input from industry, households, agriculture ...

The Meeting is invited to consider, as seen relevant, an objective(s) for eutrophication and hazardous substances related to sea-based activities.

(Current objectives addressing this: Minimum sewage pollution from ships, Minimum air pollution from ships)