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<b>Document title</b>	Commitments from the 2018 Ministerial Declaration related to Maritime
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## Background

The 2018 HELCOM Ministerial Declaration includes a number of paragraphs related to activities under the mandate of the Maritime Group (Annex 1). These paragraphs give the direction for HELCOM work in the upcoming years but some need further specification in order to be turned into concrete tasks for the Working Group and associated Experts Groups, projects, or networks. This could include e.g. to define type of development work and products (e.g. targets for indicators, guideline, assessment) required to reach the goals of the Declaration and target years for achieving them. The aim is that the concretized actions that are not carried out by end of 2020 will be included in the updated BSAP to be agreed in 2021.

The Meeting is invited to make proposals for how to concretize the commitments listed in Annex 1

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to discuss the paragraphs from the 2018 HELCOM Ministerial Declaration and to make proposals for concretized actions for uptake in the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan.

## Annex 1. Paragraphs from the 2018 Ministerial Declaration related to the Maritime Group

This annex contains paragraphs from the 2018 HELCOM Ministerial Declaration which are related to the Maritime Group. Comments by the Secretariat are provided in italics, for consideration by the Meeting.

### Theme: Ocean governance

54. p1. In particular, **WE WELCOME** the progress made in addressing the environmental impact of the maritime transport sector in the Baltic Sea via (a) the collaborative long-term effort to designate the Baltic Sea as a NO<sub>x</sub> Emission Control Area (NECA), (b) HELCOM commitment at the UN Ocean Conference on NECA and to promote green shipping technology and use of alternative fuels, including LNG, and (c) the recent International Maritime Organization (IMO) decision on the date of enforcement of the Baltic Sea as a special area under MARPOL Annex IV ; *Secretariat comment: This is mostly already covered by other accomplished actions or commitments. The elements about promoting green technologies led to the establishment of GREEN TEAM and is listed as accomplished (MD 2013). However, but work is still ongoing, especially in the implementation of the MARPOL Annex IV and VI special areas, as well as within GREEN TEAM. It is therefore proposed that more concrete actions/targets should be developed for the BSAP update to reflect this.*

55. p1 in maritime transport, **WE COMMIT** to improving the availability of adequate port reception facilities in the region for delivery of sewage and other ship-generated waste; *Secretariat comment: There other actions in the BSAP that partially or fully address this matter (two national actions on sewage PRF and one "too general" action). Consideration could be given to developing a new action focusing on improving the availability of adequate port reception facilities in the region for delivery of sewage and other ship-generated waste, including marine litter and derelict fishing gears. The Roadmap for upgrading the availability of port reception facilities for sewage in major passenger ports, the Technical Guidance for the handling of wastewater in Ports of the Baltic Sea Special Area under MARPOL Annex IV should also be considered in this context.*

55. p3 **WE AGREE** to strengthen cooperation on ship hull fouling solutions with regard both to preventing the introduction of invasive alien species and to hazardous substances in anti-fouling systems; *Secretariat comment: It is proposed that a concrete action is drafted based on this commitment. The work of the COMPLETE Project in developing a Biofouling Roadmap for the Baltic Sea should be considered. Also, the energy efficiency aspect of reducing biofouling may be incorporated.*

57. **WE WELCOME** the entry into force of the Ballast Water Management Convention on 8 September 2017 and **COMMIT** to regionally supporting its ratification by Baltic Sea States which have not done yet so, and to enhancing harmonized implementation of this Convention and other relevant IMO instruments, including MARPOL, in the region; *Secretariat comment: There are other more concrete actions on the BWMC (and MARPOL) in the BSAP, many of which are accomplished and the rest are partly so. However, this (and the other related actions) is proposed to be developed into something new and more concrete, especially in light of the ongoing phase-in period of the BWMC and associated experience building phase.*

59. Part of para that is bolded: **WE AGREE** to strengthen the fruitful cooperation with OSPAR on transboundary issues and common challenges to gain efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of SDGs such as **ballast water management and introduction of invasive alien species**, the issue of underwater noise, micro-plastic, migratory birds, MPA network and management, and threatened and endangered species; *Secretariat comment: Cooperation with OSPAR regarding ballast water management is already ongoing, however, a new framework for cooperation on biofouling is needed. It is proposed that a new concrete action is developed in this regard.*