



Document title	BSAP Update Work Plan for Maritime Group
Code	3-3
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	3 – Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan
Submission date	06.08.2019
Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	

Background

The [Strategic plan](#) for the BSAP update identifies the phases and activities in the BSAP update and the main responsible bodies. The Work plan for the BSAP update, approved by [HOD 55-2018](#) and updated by [HOD 56-2019](#), clarifies the timing and more detailed steps of activities from the Strategic Plan.

In this document the work plan for the BSAP update has been adjusted to the tasks and expected meetings of the Maritime Working Group. Timetables for addressing the individual activities of the strategic plan by Maritime are provided as well as an outline of how the activities will contribute to the update of the BSAP. The analyses of sufficiency of measures (SOM) to support the BSAP update (see activity 2-5) will be presented in more detail in a separate meeting document to be submitted. Since the Maritime Working Group usually convenes only one meeting per year it is proposed that an extra meeting/workshop is considered in spring 2020.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to

- take note of the information; and
- discuss and consider the need for an extra meeting/workshop in spring 2020.

Work plan for Maritime Group

Timetables for each activity

Use of terms and symbols in tables

The titles of activities refer to the adopted activities of the Strategic plan for the BSAP update. Activity 1.2 and 2.1 of the Strategic plan are not included in the work plan for the Maritime Group since their implementation will not be carried out by Working Groups.

'Tasks' are short version of tasks adopted through the Strategic plan for the BSAP update – for the full text, see the [Strategic plan](#).

'SOM Platform' refers to the *ad hoc* interdisciplinary platform on analyses of sufficiency of measures that was established by HOD 55-2018 and 'HELCOM ACTION project' refers to a HELCOM coordinated projected that is co-financed by the EU. They are contributing mainly to activity 2.5.

Annotations in tables:

- Grey-shaded boxes indicate quarter of the year when the task will be carried and coincides in general with expected regular meetings of the Maritime Working Group.
- 'HOD' refers to when concrete proposals will be put forward to HOD meetings that follows the regular Maritime meetings. HOD are also continuously informed on activities related to the BSAP update.
- 'X' refers to activities that have already been considered by the Maritime Group.

I. Strengthening the implementation of the BSAP by 2021

Activity 1:1. Discussion on reasons for not yet accomplishing BSAP actions

Tasks according to Strategic Plan: The working groups are requested to identify the reasons for lagging behind with the implementation of BSAP. For joint actions forward planning or stock taking is to be carried out with the aim of accomplishing of the actions by 2021. The discussion aims at supporting the strengthening of efforts to implement the BSAP by 2021 and beyond as agreed by the Ministerial Declaration. Actions not implemented by 2021 will be transferred to the updated BSAP.

Task for Maritime: The activity is progressed through the regular working group meetings. Maritime 19-2019 will initiate work to identify existing actions in need of a new target year or rephrasing in the case they are not implemented by 2021 and thus will be transferred to the updated BSAP (document 3-1). The outcome of discussions will be continuously reported to HOD and final proposals on actions to be transferred to the updated BSAP are envisioned to be presented to HOD in June 2020. If the task is not completed at MARITIME-19-2019 the Group may wish to consider convening an additional meeting in spring 2020 (see also activity 2.5)

YEAR	2018		2019				2020				2021
STEPS	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
Initial discussion and plans		X									
Progress on joint actions, identify actions in need of rephrasing											
Initiate rephrasing of existing actions											
Proposal to HOD on actions to be transferred to updated BSAP								HOD			

Activity 2:2. Adjustment to the overall structure of BSAP

Tasks according to the Strategic plan: a) create a nested system of the BSAP strategic goals and objectives mapped against the SDGs and other policy goals and objectives, b) reviewing the existing HELCOM ecological objectives and proposing possible amendments, to be carried out via working/expert groups, c) proposing new ecological objectives for marine litter, underwater noise and seabed damage and disturbance, to be carried out via working/expert groups, and d) identifying other possible additional issues of relevance to the overall BSAP structure.

The aim is to agree on the structure of the updated BSAP by HOD in December 2019. Point b) and c) is to be carried out by Working Groups and was initiated in spring 2019 (e.g. by Pressure, State and Conservation, Response, and the Fish Group).

Tasks for Maritime: Review management objectives related to the existing maritime segment of the BSAP (document 3-4), noting the proposal by HOD 56-2019 that in the updated BSAP the segment will be broadened to also include other sea-based activities (e.g. fisheries, mineral exploration, constructions works). Tentative new management objectives for additional topics (e.g. underwater noise, disturbance to the seabed) will be proposed also by other relevant Workings Groups and presented for consideration by Maritime.

YEAR	2018		2019				2020				2021
STEPS	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
Initial proposal on revised and new objectives											
Final proposal on revised and new objectives to HOD						HOD					

Activity 2:3. Status of implementation of the current measures and agreements

Tasks according to the Strategic plan: a) identifying HELCOM agreements, not covered by the current BSAP follow-up system, for which additional reporting by CPs will be needed, b) organizing additional reporting by CPs on main agreements - focusing on measures - not covered by the current BSAP follow up; c) proposing a collection of information on other (than HELCOM) existing measures in the countries and their level of implementation. Point c) which refers to collection of information on measures taken e.g. under WFD and MSFD, will take place under the ACTION project and SOM Platform.

Tasks for Maritime: This activity was initiated in autumn 2018 with the identification of HELCOM Recommendations to report on to support the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan. Reporting by countries was initiated in February 2019. Maritime-2019 will consider the outcome of the reporting (c.f. document 3-5). The reporting will be approved intersessionally by HOD.

YEAR	2018		2019				2020				2021
STEPS	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
Propose HELCOM Recs to be reported by CPs		X									
Quality control the reporting											

Activity 2:4. Review of the current BSAP

Tasks according to Strategic plan: As agreed in the BSAP update guidance (HELCOM 39-2018), the Working Groups will review HELCOM actions where targets were previously evaluated as too general to follow up and propose measurable targets for those actions found relevant for possible uptake in the BSAP update. The most recent 2018 Ministerial commitments will be integrated into the work.

Tasks for Maritime: All actions that were previously categorized as “too general” will be considered at Maritime 19-2019 as well as paragraphs from the 2018 Ministerial Declaration related to the Maritime Working Group (document 3-2). Final proposals on concretized actions will be put forward to HOD 57-2019.

YEAR	2018		2019				2020				2021
STEPS	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
Identify actions assigned as “too general” for uptake in updated BSAP											
Initiate work to define targets for MD 2018 commitments											
Finalize proposal on concretized targets for existing actions						HOD					

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

Tasks according to the Strategic plan: HELCOM has agreed to carry out an analysis of sufficiency of measures to reach HELCOM objectives and targets, to support selection of new actions for the updated BSAP (see e.g. [para 3.23, HOD 55-2018](#)). The activity is organized topic by topic and the analyses will be carried out by the HELCOM SOM Platform and the HELCOM ACTION project. A supporting activity for the selection of new actions is the development of synopses on potential new and strengthened measures as agreed by HELCOM 40-2019.

Tasks for Maritime: Review and guide the work carried out under SOM Platform and ACTION project, primarily with regard to input of non-indigenous species and pollutants from maritime activities, and also to validate relevant data and information input to the analyses. The Maritime Working Group will furthermore contribute to and review of synopses on potential new measures to reduce pressures from Maritime activities (a separate document with more information on synopses will be submitted at a later stage. Since this activity will mainly take place in spring 2020 the Group may wish to consider convening an additional meeting or workshop to address the matter.

YEAR	2018		2019				2020				2021
STEPS	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
Guidance and review of analyses of SOM analyses											
Validation of input to the SOM analyses											
Review of synopses on potential new actions for the updated BSAP											

Activity 2:6. Proposing new actions and improvement of the existing actions

Tasks according to the Strategic plan and Work plan: The analysis of sufficiency of measures (SOM) will be used to identify gaps between the current measures and the measures needed to reach GES. Proposals for new measures and actions will emerge via the regular work of HELCOM and its WGs, the preparation of

synopses, and as an outcome of the assessment of the sufficiency of measures. In spring 2020 thematic workshops/meetings will be held to discuss the results of the SOM analyses and synopses and use it as a basis for proposing new or strengthened actions for the BSAP. A full draft of the updated BSAP is to be prepared by last quarter 2020.

Tasks for Maritime: Take part in thematic meetings and workshops, make proposals on new (or strengthened) HELCOM actions to HOD.

YEAR	2018		2019				2020				2021
STEPS	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
Thematic workshops/meetings* to consider results of SOM analyses and synopses and to propose new HELCOM actions								HOD			
Further elaboration of new HELCOM actions for updated BSAP										HOD	

*themes for the workshops/meetings have not been agreed yet but they are likely to take place in addition to the regular Working Group meetings.

Linkages between activities to support the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

Figure 1 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.

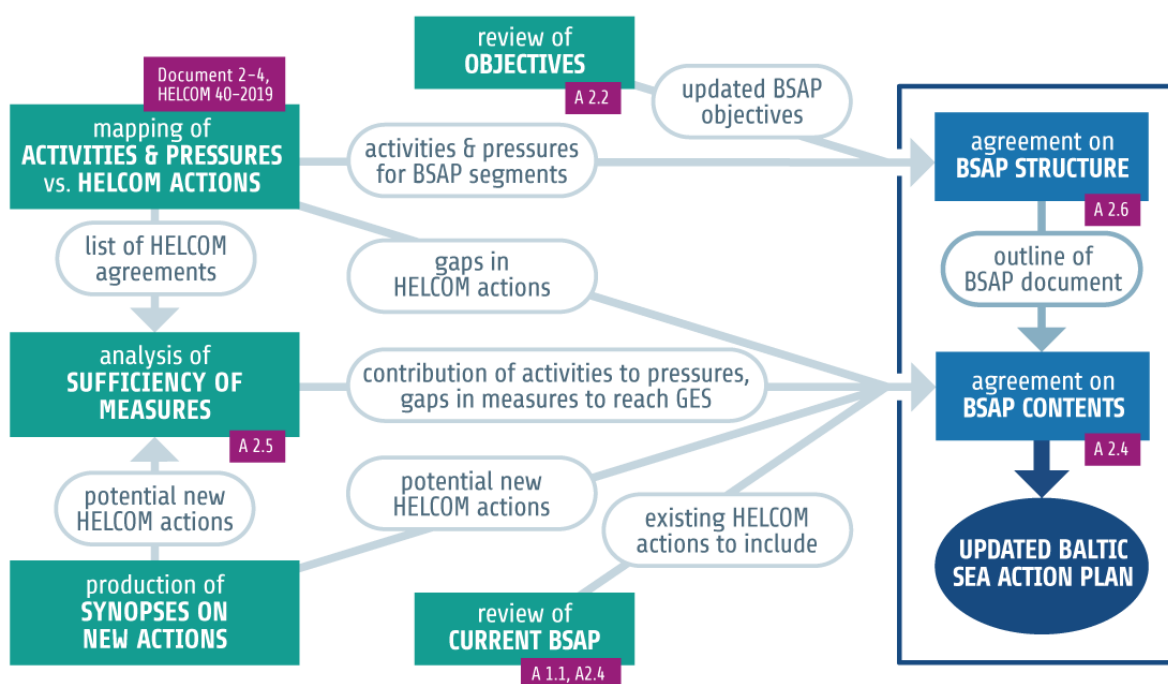


Figure 1. Ongoing activities that contributes directly to the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan.

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 the mapping of activities and pressures that will be linked to the different segments updated BSAP ([document 2-4, HOD 56-2019](#)).

Agreement on the content of the updated BSAP

The activities and pressures of main concern to the Baltic Sea environment is furthermore mapped against existing HELCOM agreements and actions. This work will contribute to identifying qualitative gaps in HELCOM actions, i.e. to identify areas of work where HELCOM is currently less active. A progress report on this mapping was presented to HELCOM 40-2019 ([HELCOM 40-2019, document 2-4](#)).

The analyses of sufficiency of measures (SOM) will contribute to identifying gaps in measures to reach good environmental status (a separate document with further details will be submitted under this Agenda Item). This analysis includes not only HELCOM actions but also relevant measures to improve the Baltic Sea environment agreed 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 in spring 2020, 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 three activities mentioned above will provide supporting information for the agreement on new HELCOM actions for the updated BSAP. In addition, the ongoing work by HELCOM Working Groups to review the implementation of the existing BSAP will identify a set of actions that will be transferred from the current to the updated BSAP, e.g. actions that are not fully implemented by 2021. The information will together provide the background material to agree on the content for the updated BSAP.

Milestones for consideration by Heads of Delegation

Figure 2 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 final proposal on segments and objectives of the updated BSAP by end of 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 in 2021.

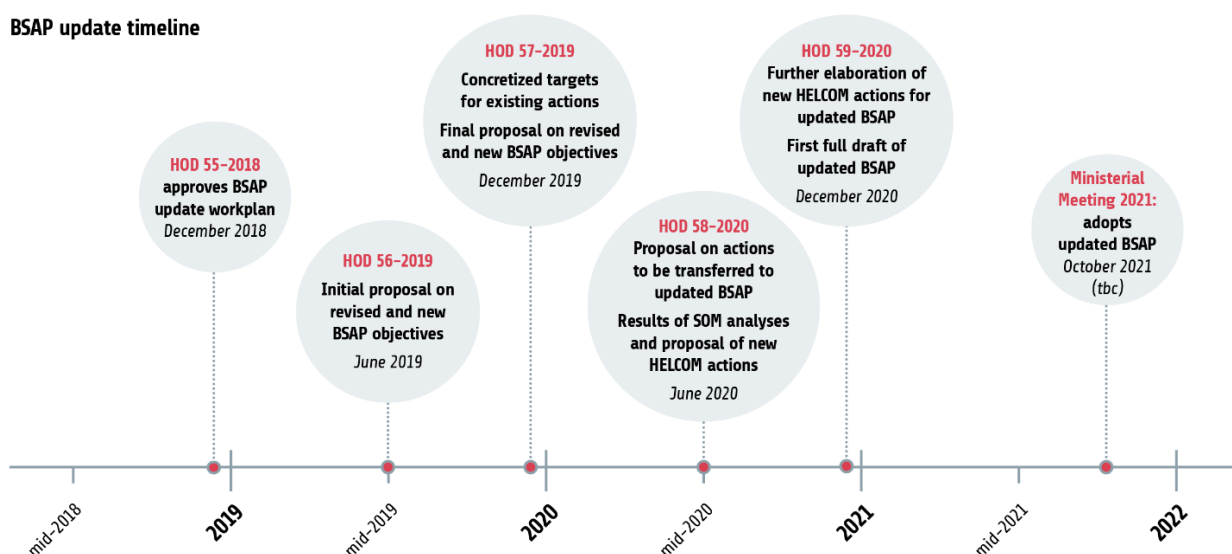


Figure 2. Milestones for consideration by HOD based on tasks prepared by HELCOM Working Groups and associated activities.