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Background

The HELCOM Stakeholder Conference focusing on the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) was held on 3 March 2020 in Helsinki, Finland. The Conference was organized to collect views from a broader group of stakeholders on key issues for the updated BSAP, including the proposal of actions to be considered for the update of the plan.

The Conference had four parallel sessions of which the session on Sea-based activities considered, among others, Maritime related activities for the updated BSAP. In addition, one action on marine litter (action n. 15) was dealt with on the dedicated session on Hazardous substances and marine litter.

Participants to the parallel session provided comments to the synopsis of new actions related to the Maritime Group and proposed new actions. Finally, they prioritized all the new actions available.

One of the key messages from the Sea-based parallel session was the importance of a holistic perspective for all HELCOM BSAP measures by a social-ecological systems point of view, which is both cross-sectoral and incorporates multi-level governance.

The outcome from the Conference is available via this link on the HELCOM website.

The Annex to document contains the full list of proposed BSAP actions related to the Maritime Working Group including five new additions from the 2020 HELCOM Stakeholder Conference, where the comments from the participants to the parallel session as well as their voting are included in Annex 1. Synopsis of the new proposed actions are included in Annex 2.

If the Meeting finds the new proposals from the Conference relevant for consideration as a new action for the updated BSAP, additional background information would be required as in the format for synopses. This could be achieved either by drafting at the Meeting or contacting the person or organization that made the proposal at the HSC.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to consider the actions of relevance to HELCOM Maritime, proposed at the 2020 Stakeholder Conference as outlined in this document.

Annex

Maritime related actions from the 2020 HELCOM Stakeholder Conference

The HELCOM Stakeholder Conference 2020 provided the opportunity to collect views from a broader group of stakeholders on key issues for the updated BSAP. Besides the plenary sessions, the HELCOM Stakeholder Conference (HSC) also featured four parallel sessions on the main segments of the Baltic Sea Action Plan. The parallel sessions offered stakeholders the possibility to actively participate in the BSAP update process. The four sessions were: 1) Biodiversity, 2) Sea-based activities, 3) Eutrophication and 4) Hazardous substances and litter.

The parallel sessions sought to make use of the knowledge of HELCOM stakeholders to provide valuable insights and inspiration for the BSAP update process. In the parallel sessions the stakeholders were able to share their views on the BSAP update and propose recommendations, concrete actions or any other valuable inputs supporting the implementation of the updated BSAP.

Having considered the synopses previously submitted on proposed new BSAP actions, participants of the Sea-based activities section were given the opportunity to draft further new actions. In total, twelve such actions were drafted and briefly presented during the session, from which four are linked to the scope of the Maritime group. In addition, a proposal was made for a new management objective on zero tolerance for discharges of any pollutants from ports.

After prioritization of actions (each participant was to give three votes to the favourite proposal, two to the second, and one to the third), the following Maritime related actions were selected for further discussion and presentation at the plenary session:

- Identifying and implementing Best available Technique (BAT) and Best Environmental Practice (BEP) to mitigate noise emitting activities, including operational measures and their co-benefits to the ecosystem. For example:
    - Slow Steaming,
    - Re-routing of recreational boating,
    - Mitigation of all impulsive sound events,
    - Support the development and implementation of alternative techniques for seismic surveys.
- Adoption and implementation of a HELCOM Roadmap on biofouling management:
    - Biofouling roadmap will take into account the balance of the toxicological effects on the biota, shipping emissions and the transfer of NIS to define best practices on biofouling management for both recreational boating and shipping (including super yachts),
    - It is envisaged to take into account the emerging new antifouling systems,
    - designed for the special circumstances of the Baltic Sea while alignment with global developments e.g. GloFouling project,
    - Monitoring of biofouling to be mandatory as part of the PSC procedures.
- Work towards prohibiting the release of scrubber wastewater from open and half open systems into the Baltic Sea:
    - Sulfur oxide emissions to the air have successfully been reduced with the designation of the Baltic Sea SECA,
    - With increased use of scrubbers, the effects of scrubber wash water from open loop and hybrid systems (which contains substances like PAHs and heavy metals), should be quantified for evidence-based decision making.
- Contribute in enhancing the use of alternative fuels and sources of energy in shipping as well as enhance the use of digitalization and other innovations in technology to optimize energy efficiency in the Baltic Sea area. Actively follow and contribute to discussions at IMO and ensure the Baltic Sea area meets targets of the IMO´s initial GHG strategy and its future update:

    - these measures and innovations could contribute specially to improving the energy efficiency of the logistics chain,
    - supporting first movers,
    - investigation, especially taking into account the peculiarities of Baltic Sea shipping and transport,
    - short sea shipping,
    - shipping vs. land transport,
    - biomass residues used as fuels,
- Actively follow and contribute to discussions at IMO and ensure the Baltic Sea area meets targets of the IMO´s initial GHG strategy and its future update:
    - Initiate discussions in the HELCOM GREEN TEAM to take the goals of the IMO`s initial GHG Strategy and its future update into account in all its activities
    - Ensure that ice navigation and its special requirements are taken duly into account in IMO discussions on GHG emission reduction
    - work towards unified Helcom approaches to relevant discussions in IMO bearing in mind especially topics addressed in action 1
- A holistic systems perspective for all HELCOM BSAP measures:
    - Departing in:
        - Integrative Coastal and Ocean Management and marine spatial planning thinking
        - Land-sea interactions both ways
        - both strategic & general and specific & managerial
        - Analytical systems perspective to understand and describe the management issues
        - Continuous general principles
        - Regularly revised measures
        - Regularly revised data collection and checklists
    - Implying:
        - Social-ecological systems view
        - Differentiated in time and space (aware of 4-dimensional time-space)
        - Including past and future needs
        - Scale sensitivity
        - Cross-sectoral
        - Multi-level governance
        - Continuous participatory process - dialogue/integrative societal debate and learning
        - Adaptive/agile management/constant checking and learning
        - Evaluation
        - Knowledge and learning - group/level specific communication (facilitation of learning)

One of the key messages from the Sea-based parallel session was the importance of a holistic perspective for all HELCOM BSAP measures by a social-ecological systems point of view, which is both cross-sectoral and incorporates multi-level governance.

The outcome of the sessions was presented in a summarized way during the closing plenary session of the Conference and a more detailed summary was presented during HELCOM 41-2020 (document 3-1).

Annex 1 Comments and voting to the Maritime related actions in the 2020 HELCOM Stakeholder Conference

In blue, new actions from the 2020 HELCOM Stakeholder Conference.

Title	Submitted by	Initial categorization	Comments	Voting
1. Ship's ballast water and sediments management (BWM) by the HELCOM parties' domestic merchant fleets and naval forces as a supplementary measure to control introductions and secondary spread of Harmful Aquatic Organisms and Pathogens (HAOP) in the Baltic Sea.	CCB	Measure	_	_
2. Proposal to regulate sewage discharges from cargo ships to reduce nutrient input into the Baltic Sea	Finland	Measure (regulation)	- Action needed on sewage treatment plants on board – if they work properly, if they are used, what is their effect on nutrient/bacteria content.	_
3. Hydrographic surveys in HELCOM Re-Survey Scheme Cat III areas	Finland	Mapping	_	8
4. Measures to minimize the discharge of food waste from ships in the Baltic Sea	Finland	Step towards Measure	- According to MARPOL it is prohibited to discharge unshredded food waste on distances less than 12 km in the Baltic Sea as special area under Annex V of MARPOL. It means that a slurry of food particles and water that washes easily through the required 25 mm screen. The impact of such discharges has not been investigated yet.	4
5. Proposal to develop a roadmap for managing grey water discharges from ships to reduce nutrient input into the Baltic Sea	Finland	Step towards Measure	- The requirements of the Baltic Sea as special area under MARPOL Annex IV will be put into force since 1.1.2021. We have not any experiences and results of the above. This proposal is premature and more linked to the availability of PRF in the region.	_
6. Enhance mitigation measures to decrease GHG emissions from shipping- Alternative fuels and sources of energy	Finland	Measure	- Must include also recreational boating. - LNG not first in the proposed examples. - Looking at co-benefits with other impacts – air pollution - Aim should be 100% reduction by 2050.	16
7. More Research on underwater noise	Finland	Knowledge	- Very important	2

8. Work for the harmonized implementation of the IMO Biofouling Guidelines and Guidance documents, and further work toward the International Biofouling Convention by contributing to the work carried out in the International Maritime Organization (IMO)	Finland		- Recreational fishing is growing and so is the practice of using trailer boats. This is a growing vector for AIS and should be specifically highlighted and mitigated (awareness raising, guidelines, etc.). - It is premature taking into account IMO activities.	_
9. Reducing the impact of **continuous underwater sound** on marine biodiversity [from shipping]	CCB	Measure	_	4
10. Reducing the impact of **continuous underwater sound** from recreational boating on marine biodiversity	CCB	Measure	- Not all frequencies are the same. Please take into account MSFD Descriptor 11 and ISO standards (how to measure).	_
11. Adoption and implementation of a HELCOM Roadmap on Biofouling Management	COMPLETE (project)	Measure	- New and emerging antifouling technologies, combination of several. - Monitoring of biofouling should be made mandatory (PSC). - Best practice of in-water cleaning of importance (e.g. filtering of organic material; type of pressure used in the cleaning).	11
12. Develop an adequate network of Port Reception Facilities (PRFs) in Baltic ports to receive ship hold washing water	CCB	Measure	- It is necessary more clear formulation of this proposal.	5
13. Develop a HELCOM joint submission to IMO with the intention to recognize nutrients in cargo hold washing water as Harmful for the Marine Environment in the Baltic Sea.	CCB	Step towards measure	_	_
14. Reduce nutrient losses to zero from dry bulk fertilizer storage and handling in Baltic ports	CCB	Measure	_	_
15. Ensure no-special-fee system for marine litter applies to all passive fished waste, as well as all other wastes captured or generated in the Baltic Sea.	CCB	Measure	_	1
16. Speed limits for recreational boating in shallow coastal areas and larger boats near shore	ACTION project WP2	Measure	- Link with measures on continuous noise? and effect to minimise pressures.	1
17. Shipping operational measure for slow speed steaming to reduce GHG	CSHIPP project		- Take into account the review of RCD (fuels + exhaust)	4

18. Implementation of IMO's Biofouling Guidelines (and HELCOM participation in the IMO GloFouling project)	Albert Willemsen (ICOMIA) GloFouling project		–	–
19. Limit the discharge of cargo residues in the HELCOM PSSA area (include oil, fertilizers, any pollutants)	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management		–	3
20. Prohibit release of scrubber wastewater of open and half open systems to the Baltic Sea	CCB/WWF		–	8

Annex 2 Synopsis of the new Maritime related actions from the 2020 HELCOM Stakeholder Conference

Title **17. Shipping operational measure for slow speed steaming to reduce GHG**
Submitted by: CSHIPP project
Description of measure Evaluate the possibility for slow steaming by developing the logistic chain. Ro-ros very inefficient, but fast. Transporting trucks also not environmentally friendly.
Activity: *[Drop-down list: Activity that the measure is addressing. Additional drop-down lists can be copy/pasted as necessary.]* Transport – shipping (incl. anchoring, mooring)
Pressure: CO2, underwater noise, air pollution [*Drop-down list: Pressure that the measure is addressing. Additional drop-down lists can be copy/pasted as necessary.*] Choose an item.
State: Climate, air pollution, underwater noise [*Drop-down list: State component that the measure is addressing. Additional drop-down lists can be copy/pasted as necessary.* *Add further specification as free text e.g. if the measure will contribute to an improvement 1) of a specific element (e.g. species, habitat, substance, type of litter) and 2) of a specific parameter/feature (e.g. abundance, concentration, amount, population condition)]* Choose an item.
Extent of impact:
Effectiveness of measure
Cost, cost-effectiveness of measure:
Feasibility:
Follow-up of measure:
Background material:
References

Title

18. Implementation of IMO's Biofouling Guidelines (and HELCOM participation in the IMO GloFouling project)

Submitted by:

Albert Willemsen (ICOMIA) GloFouling project

Description of measure

Besides implementation of IMO guidelines (Recreational craft IMO guidelines) what would be better is for HELCOM being involve with developments of new recreational guidelines and best practices.

Comment from the Stakeholder Conference

Add impact of antifouling from recreational boating as a clear separate measure.

Activity:

[Drop-down list: Activity that the measure is addressing. Additional drop-down lists can be copy/pasted as necessary.]
Tourism and leisure activities (boating, beach use, water sports, etc.)

Pressure:

[*Drop-down list: Pressure that the measure is addressing. Additional drop-down lists can be copy/pasted as necessary.*]
Input or spread of non-indigenous species

State:

[*Drop-down list: State component that the measure is addressing. Additional drop-down lists can be copy/pasted as necessary.*
Add further specification as free text e.g. if the measure will contribute to an improvement 1) of a specific element (e.g. species, habitat, substance, type of litter) and 2) of a specific parameter/feature (e.g. abundance, concentration, amount, population condition)]
Choose an item.

Extent of impact:

[*Free text. Include, as relevant, information on the extent of impact of the measure, e.g. if the impact is local, within coastal waters, sub-basins, Baltic wide scale. Provide physical units if possible*]

Effectiveness of measure

[*Free text: **Indicative length 300 words**. Summary of results of testing/implementing the measure and any quantitative information on its effectiveness. In the case of conservation measures; indicate which species, habitats, functions etc that the measure will contribute to preserving. Include if available estimations on the effect of implementing the measure on a region-wide scale*.]

Cost, cost-effectiveness of measure:

[*Free text: indicate any known or likely sources of cost and/or effectiveness data of the measure*]

Feasibility:

[*Optional: provide views on feasibility of implementing the actions e.g. technical, economic, social*]

Follow-up of measure:

[*Optional: indicate information potential or existing follow-up system for the measure, e.g. indicators, monitoring programme*]

Background material:

[*Free text: Clarify choice of background material for the synopses, e.g. does it represent a comprehensive overview of results with regard to the measure or a sub-selection*]

References

[*As many references as needed to support the information summarized in the document*]

Title

19. Limit the discharge of cargo residues in the HELCOM PPSA area (include oil, fertilizers, any pollutants)

Submitted by:

Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management

Description of measure

Applies to both cargo residues of fertilizers and other types of oils besides mineral oil

- ➔ Eutrophication
- ➔ Sea-birds

Activity:

[Drop-down list: Activity that the measure is addressing. Additional drop-down lists can be copy/pasted as necessary.]

Choose an item.

Pressure:

[*Drop-down list: Pressure that the measure is addressing. Additional drop-down lists can be copy/pasted as necessary.*]

Choose an item.

State:

[*Drop-down list: State component that the measure is addressing. Additional drop-down lists can be copy/pasted as necessary.*

Add further specification as free text e.g. if the measure will contribute to an improvement 1) of a specific element (e.g. species, habitat, substance, type of litter) and 2) of a specific parameter/feature (e.g. abundance, concentration, amount, population condition)]

Choose an item.

Extent of impact:

[*Free text. Include, as relevant, information on the extent of impact of the measure, e.g. if the impact is local, within coastal waters, sub-basins, Baltic wide scale. Provide physical units if possible*]

Effectiveness of measure

[*Free text: **Indicative length 300 words**. Summary of results of testing/implementing the measure and any quantitative information on its effectiveness. In the case of conservation measures; indicate which species, habitats, functions etc that the measure will contribute to preserving. Include if available estimations on the effect of implementing the measure on a region-wide scale*.]

Cost, cost-effectiveness of measure:

[*Free text: indicate any known or likely sources of cost and/or effectiveness data of the measure*]

Feasibility:

[*Optional: provide views on feasibility of implementing the actions e.g. technical, economic, social*]

Follow-up of measure:

[*Optional: indicate information potential or existing follow-up system for the measure, e.g. indicators, monitoring programme*]

Background material:

[*Free text: Clarify choice of background material for the synopses, e.g. does it represent a comprehensive overview of results with regard to the measure or a sub-selection*]

References

[*As many references as needed to support the information summarized in the document*]

Title

20. Prohibit release of scrubber wastewater of open and half open systems to the Baltic Sea

Submitted by:

CCB/WWF

Description of measure

Activity:

[Drop-down list: Activity that the measure is addressing. Additional drop-down lists can be copy/pasted as necessary.]

Choose an item.

Pressure:

[*Drop-down list: Pressure that the measure is addressing. Additional drop-down lists can be copy/pasted as necessary.*]

Choose an item.

State:

[*Drop-down list: State component that the measure is addressing. Additional drop-down lists can be copy/pasted as necessary.*

Add further specification as free text e.g. if the measure will contribute to an improvement 1) of a specific element (e.g. species, habitat, substance, type of litter) and 2) of a specific parameter/feature (e.g. abundance, concentration, amount, population condition)]

Choose an item.

Extent of impact:

[*Free text. Include, as relevant, information on the extent of impact of the measure, e.g. if the impact is local, within coastal waters, sub-basins, Baltic wide scale. Provide physical units if possible*]

Effectiveness of measure

[*Free text: **Indicative length 300 words**. Summary of results of testing/implementing the measure and any quantitative information on its effectiveness. In the case of conservation measures; indicate which species, habitats, functions etc that the measure will contribute to preserving. Include if available estimations on the effect of implementing the measure on a region-wide scale*.]

Cost, cost-effectiveness of measure:

[*Free text: indicate any known or likely sources of cost and/or effectiveness data of the measure*]

Feasibility:

[*Optional: provide views on feasibility of implementing the actions e.g. technical, economic, social*]

Follow-up of measure:

[*Optional: indicate information potential or existing follow-up system for the measure, e.g. indicators, monitoring programme*]

Background material:

[*Free text: Clarify choice of background material for the synopses, e.g. does it represent a comprehensive overview of results with regard to the measure or a sub-selection*]

References

[*As many references as needed to support the information summarized in the document*]

Title
21. Zero tolerance of discharges of pollutants and nutrients at port reception facilities
Submitted by: CCB
Description of measure Update conservation objectives and add to existing zero discharge from platform objective.
Activity: *[Drop-down list: Activity that the measure is addressing. Additional drop-down lists can be copy/pasted as necessary.]* Transport – shipping (incl. anchoring, mooring)
Pressure: [*Drop-down list: Pressure that the measure is addressing. Additional drop-down lists can be copy/pasted as necessary.*] Choose an item.
State: [*Drop-down list: State component that the measure is addressing. Additional drop-down lists can be copy/pasted as necessary.* *Add further specification as free text e.g. if the measure will contribute to an improvement 1) of a specific element (e.g. species, habitat, substance, type of litter) and 2) of a specific parameter/feature (e.g. abundance, concentration, amount, population condition)]* Choose an item.
Extent of impact:
Effectiveness of measure
Cost, cost-effectiveness of measure:
Feasibility:
Follow-up of measure:
Background material:
References