



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Sixth Meeting of the Eight Baltic Sea Pollution Load
Compilation (PLC-8) Project Implementation Group

PLC-8 IG 8-2021

Online, 15-17 December 2021

Document title	BSAP actions relevant for the PLC-8 IG
Code	2-1
Category	INF
Agenda Item	2- Matters arising from other HELCOM work
Submission date	8.12.2021
Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	

Background

The HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2021 held on 20 October 2021 in Lübeck, Germany, adopted the updated [Baltic Sea Action Plan](#) and a number of associated action documents and supporting documents. This document includes the actions relevant for the PLC-8 IG as well as the [additional information](#) for these actions.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of and discuss the actions of relevance for PLC-8 IG.

Eutrophication segment

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
<i>Theme: Follow-up of the implementation of nutrient input targets</i>									
E1	Submit an account listing, as detailed as possible, the planned and implemented measures in different sectors and catchments alongside an estimation of their effectiveness to HELCOM by 2023 in order to demonstrate whether national net nutrient input ceilings can be achieved with these measures.	2023	Supporting action	Better information on measures and their cost-effectiveness will allow improvements in coordination to achieve the BSAP targets in terms of input of nutrients. For the EU Member States the account list should include relevant measures from the Water Framework Directive (WFD), Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and other EU policies as well as global treaties for all Contracting Parties. The list will be used in an analysis of effectiveness of measures and contribute to the related work of PLC-8 project. The analysis will guide Contracting Parties to what further measures are necessary to achieve the BSAP nutrient input targets.	N/A	National/ Joint	PRESSURE; REDCORE DG	Lists of measures and available knowledge on costs and effects is submitted by each Contracting Party. (National) PLC-8 thematic report on effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient inputs is published. (Joint)	
E2	Assess progress towards maximum allowable inputs annually and national input ceilings every second year, to follow up implementation of regional and national targets for inputs of nutrients.	Annually, every second year	Supporting action	The BSAP nutrient reduction scheme includes maximum allowable inputs (MAI) per sub-basin and the corresponding nutrient input ceiling (NIC) for countries/sources to fulfil in order to achieve the goal of a Baltic Sea unaffected by eutrophication. Regular follow-up informs whether nutrient inputs will be reduced in time to fulfil MAI and NIC by the agreed deadlines. Information on nutrient losses from individual catchments can	N/A	Joint	PRESSURE; REDCORE DG	Annual core indicator on progress toward MAI including assessment data is published. Policy message on progress towards NIC including technical annexes and assessment data is published every	

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				be also used for analysis of river basin management plans.				second year.	
E3	Provide timely sufficient and consistent data on nutrient loads to the Baltic Sea, ensuring reliability of the follow-up system, by maintaining and enhancing monitoring programmes and networks striving for harmonized methods to estimate nutrient inputs, including from unmonitored areas.	Annually	Supporting action	Timely delivered datasets on annual inputs of nutrients are a prerequisite for timely assessments of progress towards maximum allowable inputs (MAI) and nutrient input ceilings (NIC). Updated PLC guidelines shall ensure monitoring programmes and quantification of inputs from unmonitored areas provide consistent, comparable data on nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea covering the entire catchment area, and standardised assessment methodology.	N/A	National/ Joint	PRESSURE; REDCORE DG	The PLC database is updated annually. (National/joint) Baltic Sea Environmental Fact Sheet (BSEFS) on waterborne nutrient inputs and annual BSEFS on atmospheric nitrogen inputs are published annually. (Joint)	
E4	Strengthen cooperation with river basin management authorities of non-HELCOM countries through official agreements addressing transboundary waterborne nutrient inputs from non-Contracting Parties.	2030	Measure	Transboundary waterborne nutrient inputs constitute a substantial part of the nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea and need to be addressed to reach the HELCOM nutrient input reduction targets. The purpose would be also to ensure integrating work towards HELCOM's targets at all relevant levels of water management.	5561 tons of waterborne nitrogen and 930 tons of waterborne phosphorus since the reference period (1997-2003) assuming that non-Contracting Parties take the same responsibility to reduce nutrient input as the Contracting Parties	National/ Joint	PRESSURE	Agreements addressing transboundary waterborne nutrient inputs from non-Contracting Parties are adopted. (National) Common workshops/expert meetings are arranged and all levels of river management are included in this cooperation (National/joint)	HT26

Hazardous substances and litter segment

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
<i>Theme: Hazardous substances</i>									
HL3	Submit to HELCOM by 2023 an account listing, as detailed as possible, the planned and implemented measures to reduce releases of hazardous substances in the environment, including available knowledge on their effects.	2023	Supporting action	Better information on measures and their cost-effectiveness will allow improvements in coordinated work on hazardous substances. For the EU Member States the account list should include relevant measures from Water Framework Directive (WFD), Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and other EU policies as well as global treaties for all Contracting Parties. The list will be used in an analysis of effectiveness of measures.	N/A	National/ Joint	PRESSURE	Lists of measures and available knowledge on costs and effects is reported to HELCOM. (National) An analysis of the reported information is published by HELCOM. (Joint)	
HL9	Establish procedures by 2025 to utilize information obtained under various policies and policy frameworks addressing the use of chemicals (e.g. Stockholm Convention, SAICM successor, REACH Regulation, Water Framework Directive, Industrial Emissions Directive etc) to prioritize measures targeting regional	2025	Supporting action	Coordinated procedures are needed to make work related to hazardous substances as efficient as possible. This action is part of the implementation of HL1 and HL11. The action is linked also with action HL2.	N/A	Joint	PRESSURE	Analysis of measures implemented under other policies, including their effectiveness is conducted. Summary of international work and identified measures on contaminants of emerging concern, e.g screening campaigns, is presented every two years for Pressure Working Group and for	

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	contaminants and to identify emerging pollutants of high concern.							other relevant HELCOM bodies for planning and prioritizing further the HELCOM work on hazardous substances.	
HL10	Establish a mechanism for managing the HELCOM list of priority substances starting from 2025 and respond to screening and assessment results pointing out regional challenges for the Baltic Sea environment and contaminants of emerging concern.	2025	Supporting action	<p>A structured approach is needed to manage the list of priority substances since an ad hoc substance by substance approach is too inefficient in order to function adequately.</p> <p>This action is part of the implementation of action HL1.</p>	N/A	Joint	PRESSURE	<p>A group working in collaboration with relevant other actors (e.g. global treaties, OSPAR, EU NORMAN network) aiming to further risk-based prioritisation tools for the needs of Regional Seas Conventions is formally established.</p> <p>A prioritisation mechanism, which is used for continuous update of the priority list based on reported data and prioritisation criteria is in place.</p>	
HL28	Address substances of emerging concern by commencing recurrent screening campaigns starting from 2021 including broad analytical techniques such as suspect	Starting from 2021	Supporting action	<p>The aim of the action is to identify substances previously unknown in the Baltic marine environment which occur in elevated concentration.</p> <p>The aim is also to follow up on the occurrence and trends of substances of emerging concern to identify</p>	N/A	Joint	PRESSURE	The HELCOM hazardous substances screening project is implemented.	

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	screening and non-target screening methods.			substances of relevance for the Baltic Sea in a timely manner. The results of the screening campaigns can support European and international work on chemical regulation as findings in the marine environment are important indications about behaviour and properties of substances.					