



Document title	Follow-up of existing HELCOM actions
Code	DS-9
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	DS - Dedicated session on implementation of HELCOM agreements
Submission date	02.04.2019
Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	

Background

The PRESSURE 9-2018 meeting reviewed the existing actions from the Baltic Sea Action Plan and Ministerial Declarations 2010 and 2013 that have not been implemented yet and made initial remarks on how they could be taken forward or the need to clarify the actions.

This document includes information on progress on and proposals on how to proceed for remaining joint actions, and proposals on clarification of some of the national actions.

In the case that existing actions are not implemented by 2021 they will be transferred to the updated BSAP. An initial categorization of not yet accomplished actions has been made to indicate the need for possible rephrasing in case of transfer to the updated BSAP. Actual rephrasing will be initiated at a later stage.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- take note of the progress on joint actions and make further plans as needed for their implementation,
- consider and agree on the proposed clarification on interpretation of the national action to support a coherent reporting in 2020,
- consider and discuss the proposed categorization of actions regarding needs for rephrasing in case of transfer to the updated BSAP.

Follow-up of existing HELCOM actions

The below sections are divided by joint and national actions under the Pressure Group that have not been fully implemented yet.

For the remaining joint actions, the progress since PRESSUE 9-2018 is provided as well as proposed plans for further implementation of two actions.

The follow-up of existing agreements has also identified the need to clarify some actions to ensure a common understanding on the intention of the action and coherent reporting on accomplishment by countries. In the below sections a proposal on clarification of the national actions have been made.

Actions have also been categorized according to their need for rephrasing in case of transfer to the updated BSAP. In this regard it should be noted that Contracting Parties have agreed to, as a first priority, make an effort to achieve already agreed HELCOM actions (HELCOM Ministerial Declaration, paragraph 14). If however the existing actions from the BSAP and Ministerial Declaration from 2010 and 2013 are not fully implemented by 2021, they will be transferred to the updated BSAP. In case of transfer, rephrasing of the actions may be needed to ensure that they are up to date. Any major changes will be approved by HOD. A proposal for the categorization of not yet implemented actions with regard to need for rephrasing has been made according to the following:

- Category 1) The actions can remain with current formulation
- Category 2) Specification is needed e.g. smaller changes, adding deadline, but the action will basically remain the same
- Category 3) Major changes might be needed. In this regard it should be noted that the updated BSAP should maintain the ambition level of agreed objectives and actions (HELCOM Ministerial Declaration, paragraph 20). When rephrasing of such actions is initiated guidance will be provided to the Working Group.

In the below sections proposals for categorization has been made for two joint actions that were identified as not likely to be accomplished by 2021 by Pressure 9-2018. Proposed categorization according to need for rephrasing has also been done for national actions.

Joint actions

Progress on joint actions since PRESSURE 9-2018

Action (origin)	Comments from Pressure 9-2018	Progress
Not accomplished		
Update of HELCOM requirements for iron/steel industry (HELCOM Recommendation 24/4) (BSAP)	To analyse added value of the Recommendation compared to existing BREF. HAZBREF to evaluate.	for Pressure to decide based on the evaluation of Recommendations adopted before 2007 at Pressure 10
Partly accomplished		
Evaluation of the need to develop further requirements for reduction of heavy metals and other hazardous substances emissions from energy production and industrial combustion plants (BSAP)	Expert advice needed. BREF document is only a year old. Comparison with the BREF is the way forward.	evaluation of the BREF has not started yet

Proposed further plans for joint actions not resolved at PRESSURE 9-2018

Action (origin)	Comments from Pressure 9-2018	Proposed further plans
Not accomplished		
Identify the socio-economic and biological impacts of marine	Pressure Group has no expertise, but a specific group might be established.	Outcome of the Marelitt project could be utilized to identify socio-economic effect of lost fishing gear,

litter, also in terms of toxicity of litter (MD 2013)	Pressure could be involved into assessment of social-economic impact.	to be possible addressed at the proposed workshop back to back with Pressure 11-2019.
Partly accomplished		
Carry out the monitoring of the progress towards achieving the agreed goals and to gain an inventory of marine litter in the Baltic Sea as well as scientific sound evaluation of its sources (MD 2013)	Pressure Group will provide contribution related to sources of microlitter, riverine or other land-based loads.	There were many studies to identify land-based sources litter. Implementation of the action could be evaluated at the forth workshop on implementation of RAP ML back-to-back with PRESSURE 11-2019, if counties agree to arrange it.

Joint actions: categorization for joint actions identified as likely to remain in the updated BSAP by PRESSURE 9-2018

Action (origin)	Comments from Pressure 9-2018	Categorization/Need for rephrasing
Partly accomplished		
Collect more information and assess the state of contamination with pharmaceuticals and their degradation products of the aquatic environment and to develop measures, as appropriate, to prevent pharmaceuticals from reaching the Baltic Sea (MD 2013)	The implementation will be significantly advanced, but the action should remain in the new BSAP. May be specified based on new knowledge.	3 (based on the ongoing projects further recommendations can be given on collection of data as well as specific measures could be proposed)
Develop common indicators and associated targets related to quantities, composition, of marine litter, including riverine inputs, in order to gain information on long-term trends (MD 2013)	The implementation will be significantly advanced, but the action should remain in the new BSAP. May be specified based on new knowledge.	2
Initiate joint activities to address transboundary nutrient inputs from non-Contracting Parties according to the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme (MD 2013) (Implementation by 3/9 countries)	Evaluation can be done by PLC and RedCore DG, move to regional actions.	2 (specification of possible joint activities could be added)

National actions

Proposed clarification of national actions

Action (origin)	Comments from Pressure 9-2018	Proposal
Partly accomplished		
National programmes to achieve nutrient reductions (BSAP) (Implementation by 5/9 countries)	Should be specified in the updated BSAP.	“National programmes” could be interpreted as any programme or set of measures including under other policies than HELCOM as long as they are sufficient to reach the targets9. PLC-7 and ACTION projects will provide some information on the implementation of the action. This links to the action below.

Categorization of national actions with regard to need for rephrasing in case of transfer to the updated BSAP

NATIONAL ACTIONS

Action (origin)	Comment from Pressure 9-2018	Categorization/Need for rephrasing
Not accomplished		
Progress towards reaching of country-wise allocated nutrient reduction targets (CARTs) to diminish nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea to the maximum allowable level: Phosphorus (BSAP)	No need to report; Assessment is done by PLC and RedCore.	2 (adjust the wording based on the 2018 Ministerial Meeting re. ceilings)
Partly accomplished		
National programmes to achieve nutrient reductions (BSAP) (Implementation by 5/9 countries)	Should be specified in the updated BSAP.	3 (amended based on the common interpretation)
Evaluation of effectiveness of national programmes for reduction of nutrients and need for additional measures, in order to reach the country-wise reduction targets (BSAP) (Implementation by 4/9 countries)	Should be also specified in the updated BSAP and probably merged with the previous one.	2 (update of wording needed e.g. reference to ceilings)
Progress towards reaching of country-wise allocated nutrient reduction targets (CARTs) to diminish nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea to the maximum allowable level: Nitrogen (BSAP) (Implementation by 1/9 countries)	No need to report; Assessment is done by PLC and RedCore.	2 (adjust the wording based on the 2018 Ministerial Meeting re. ceilings)
Target the elimination of phosphorus in laundry detergents for consumer use as soon as possible, but not later than by 2015 (MD 2010) (Implementation by 8/9 countries)	To follow up. It can be further developed including other users of detergents e.g. industrial users or dishwashers for the updated BSAP.	- accomplishment of the action is pending the implementation by Russia; 3 (possible development of the action)
Enhance the recycling of phosphorus (especially in agriculture and wastewater treatment) and to promote development of appropriate methodology (MD 2013) (Implementation by 3/9 countries)	Put on hold pending elaboration of the regional strategy on P- recycling.	3 (the action will be specified by a future Baltic Sea nutrient recycling strategy)
Establishment of chemical product registers to be built upon e.g. the EU REACH (EC1907/2006) framework (2010) (BSAP) (Implementation by 6/9 countries)	To follow up.	1

Action (origin)	Comment from Pressure 9-2018	Categorization/Need for rephrasing
Ratification of the UNEP 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury (BSAP) (Implementation by 7/9 countries)	To follow up. It can remain in the updated BSAP in a new wording.	1 (no changes if it is not implemented)
Agree to develop in 2008 specific efficiency requirements and emission limit values for small scale combustion appliances in relation to HELCOM Recommendation 28E-8 (BSAP) (Implementation by 3/9 countries)	To follow-up and keep as it is.	2 (decision on a date is needed)
National programmes to eliminate hazardous substances (BSAP) (Implemented by 6/9 countries)		3
Evaluation of effectiveness of national programmes to eliminate hazardous substance (BSAP) (Implementation by 5/9)	Should be specified in the updated BSAP.	3
Elimination of remaining hot spots from the JCP List (municipal and industrial) (MD 2013)		2 (e.g. decision on deadlines needed)
Implementation of the UNEP 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury (MD 2013)	The implementation has not been assessed	2 or 3 (if there is a need for regional support of the implementation)