



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Twelfth Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area

PRESSURE 12-2020

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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 sessions on eutrophication, hazardous substances and litter considered Pressure related activities for the updated BSAP, among other topics. Those suggested actions are outlined in this document.

The outcome from the Conference is available [via this link](#) on the HELCOM website.

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 the Pressure group, proposed at the 2020 Stakeholder Conference as outlined in this document.

Actions on proposed at 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 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. The synopses on new actions that were previously been submitted to HELCOM (see document 6-4) were available to the participants that could provide comments to them, and also prepare proposals on new actions. The participants of the parallel sessions were furthermore invited to prioritize among the proposals through voting (each participant was to give three votes to the favourite proposal, two to the second, and one to the third), resulting in a set of proposals supported by a majority of attendants to the respective session.

The outcome of the sessions was presented in a summarized way during the closing plenary session of the Conference and a more detailed [outcome](#) was presented to HELCOM 41-2020.

Annexes 1 and 2 provide a summary of the proposed new actions related to Pressure group as well as the prioritization by stakeholders of the synopses and the new actions suggested at the conference.

Annex 1. Summarized consideration of the eutrophication related proposals by the HSC2020

‘Synopsis’ proposal refers to proposals submitted to the Secretariat prior to the HSC during the call for synopses in 2019. ‘New’ proposal refers to proposals given by stakeholders at the HSC parallel sessions.

‘Votes’ refers to the number of priority stickers that the proposals received in the sessions.

Proposal	Synopsis/New	Votes	Comments
“BAT” for crop production farms	New	3	
Animals with efficient nutrient keeping	New	1	
Ban on broadband spreading, combine with subsidies for better technologies	New	1	
Buffer strips	New	1	Similar to the next
River wetlands (Buffer zones) efficiency/importance for nutrient pollution (in agricultural catchments)	New	1	Similar to previous
Calcium filters to reduce P runoff	New	2	
Include horse manure in the mitigation measures for manure management	New		
Promote holistic land farm management and multi-benefit measures for soil health, climate resilience and reduced dependency on external mineral inputs	New	5	
Structure liming a farmland	New	2	
Subsidize nutrient measures equipment for farmers	New		
To reduce manure processing by aerobic fermentation	New		
Continued support for upgrading wastewater treatment plants (WWTP)	New		
Mandatory nutrient recycling at large WWTP	New	13	suitable for Nutrient Recycling strategy
More control in nutrients concentrations in household products (e.g. less P in washing detergents)	New	2	
Need for indicator substances to monitor hazardous substances	New		The suggestion was made in the eutrophication session although topic is hazardous substances.
Promote water reuse in industry	New	8	The measure is more related to resource efficiency rather than land based sea pollution
Unified limits for hazardous substances in effluent and sludge at wastewater treatment plants (WWTps)	New	1	The suggestion was made in the eutrophication session although topic is hazardous substances.
Explore new and innovative compensation measures	New		
Floating islands with plans to remove nutrients	New	3	
International fund for measures	New		
Allow compensation measures among HELCOM countries to ensure cost effectiveness	New	1	
Improve assessment of waterborne N, P and C from all land-uses and in particular, forestry and drained peatlands	New	2	
Allow coordination of abatement measures among HELCOM countries to ensure cost-effective nutrient abatement at the basin and Baltic scales	Synopsis	2	

Proposal	Synopsis/News	Votes	Comments
Annual field-level fertilization planning and farm-gate nutrient balancing for nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) should be a requirement for all farms in the Baltic Sea Region	Synopsis	15	
Cost effectiveness should be the guiding principle for designing nutrient abatement plans	Synopsis		
Definition of "New Hot Spots" of nutrient input into the Baltic and subsequent targeted measures to reduce the source	Synopsis	3	
Develop Best Available Techniques (BAT) lists for reducing ammonia and GHG emissions from livestock housing, manure storage and spreading	Synopsis	7	
Develop national strategy and consequent measures to secure sustainable use of recyclable nutrients with potential inclusion of simultaneous bio-fuel production	Synopsis		
Develop recommendations to support national strategies for manure management in the BSR specifically from horses, sheep, goats, and fur farming	Synopsis		
Facilitating the selection of cost-effective measures by creating national catalogues of abatement measures and their unit abatement costs.	Synopsis	1	
Improve knowledge transfer between farmers, authorities and decision makers	Synopsis	+5	New overlapping action suggested at HSC received 5 votes
Incentives to support the use and the production of manure based recycled nutrients	Synopsis	2	
Increase organic farming to reduce the inputs of nutrients and hazardous substances to the Baltic Sea	Synopsis	4	
Levy on mineral phosphorus in animal fodder and on mineral fertilizer P	Synopsis	1+5	New overlapping action "tax on mineral fertilizers" suggested at HSC received 5 votes
Levy on nitrogen in mineral fertilizer	Synopsis	5+5	New overlapping action "tax on mineral fertilizers" suggested at HSC received 5 votes
Mutual learning among farmers on best practices and innovative technologies	Synopsis	5	
Nutrient-balanced fertilization to control nutrient surplus on farmland	Synopsis	7	
Prohibition of post harvest application of manure and other organic fertilizers	Synopsis	2	
Recycling of nutrients and carbon in agricultural residues by use of anaerobic digestion	Synopsis	9	
Reducing livestock densities and coupling livestock to the area of available farmland	Synopsis	12	
Reporting estimates on the effects of agri-environmental measures on the main phosphorus (P) fractions	Synopsis		
Use of gypsum to reduce phosphorus loads from agricultural land	Synopsis	3	
Strengthening of HELCOM Recommendation 28E/5 on MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT	Synopsis	4	
Removal of nutrients from the coastal zone by the use of mussel mitigation cultures	Synopsis	+6	The votes were given to an overlapping new

Proposal	Synopsis/New	Votes	Comments
			proposal on mussels.
Mussels to limit eutrophication from land and marine based sources	Synopsis		
Reducing nutrient loading by farming and harvesting blue mussels	Synopsis		
Rehabilitation of hypoxic areas by oxygen pumping	Synopsis		
Reducing internal phosphorus loads by metal bounding	Synopsis		
Improved integration of BSAP targets with WFD targets	Synopsis	6	
National implementation plans to meet HELCOM's Nutrient Input Ceilings (NIC)	Synopsis	3	

Annex 2. Summarized consideration of the hazardous substances and litter related proposals by the HSC2020

'Synopsis' proposal refers to proposals submitted to the Secretariat prior to the HSC during the call for synopses in 2019. 'New' proposal refers to proposals given by stakeholders at the HSC parallel sessions. 'Votes' refers to the number of priority stickers that the proposals received in the sessions.

Proposal	Synopsis/New	Votes	Comments
Decrease release of HZ from small and diffuse sources	New	5	
Substitution of HZ to decrease contamination from small and diffuse sources	New	4	
Legislation on WWTP to reduce pharmaceuticals	New	3	
Electricity as primary energy source for passenger ships at harbors	New	3	To consider also at MARITIME. Might also be a measure to reduce NOx emissions.
Effectiveness evaluation of HZ regulation with sediment core analysis	New/synopsis	10	Now also submitted as a synopsis
Waste resource management strategy should focus on reduction, reuse and recycling – not waste combustion for energy	New	5	
Control of firefighting foam use related to (PFAS and other compounds)	New	7	
A common marine litter monitoring database	New	2	
Fishing for litter in the Baltic Sea	New	2	
Safe manure nutrient recycling	Synopsis		
Prioritising the use of constructed wetlands to mitigate nutrient, microplastic and pharmaceutical residue leakage to the Baltic Sea and its water bodies	Synopsis	4	
Ban on import and sale of metallic lead in fishing equipment	Synopsis		
Set a regional binding roadmap to achieve a climate neutral Baltic Sea region by 2040 and just transition to align with the 1.5°C threshold	Synopsis		Relevant for climate change mitigation but not HS
Strengthening the existing HELCOM recommendations for industrial releases of hazardous substances by utilizing existing information produced under the EU Industrial Emissions Directive	Synopsis	9	
Implement restrictions on over-the-counter pharmaceuticals that are persistent and have an impact on the environment by making prescription by physicians compulsory	Synopsis	8	The two actions on pharmaceuticals were suggested to be combined.
Prioritization of pharmaceuticals in the Baltic Sea region for efficient risk reduction	Synopsis	9	The two actions on pharmaceuticals were suggested to be combined.

Proposal	Synopsis/News	Votes	Comments
Development of Best Environmental Practice and control of threats posed by munitions, wrecks and other hazardous submerged objects in the Baltic Sea	Synopsis	16	The two actions on dumped munitions were suggested to be combined: "Mapping, monitoring and development of Best Environmental Practice to control threats posed by munitions, wrecks and other hazardous submerged objects in the Baltic Sea and remediate dumpsite."
Preparation for remediation of munitions dumps and munitions contaminated areas to support the achievement of conservation objectives	Synopsis	2	The two actions on dumped munitions were suggested to be combined.
Ban (phasing-out) on non-degradable shot wads and information campaigns targeted at hunters	Synopsis		suitable for the revision of RAP ML
Ban on handing out free carrier bags	Synopsis		suitable for the revision of RAP ML
Ban on mass balloon (>50 balloons) releases	Synopsis		suitable for the revision of RAP ML
Development of a HELCOM guideline on establishment and operation of artificial turfs	Synopsis		suitable for the revision of RAP ML
Information campaign on what not to flush	Synopsis	1	suitable for the revision of RAP ML
Reduction of single-use plastics consumption at major events	Synopsis	5	suitable for the revision of RAP ML
Development of strategies for preventing fishing gear loss in the Baltic Sea by analyzing the fishing strategic context and available options for fishing gear marking	Synopsis	3	
Development of national and regional ALDFG mitigation policy papers and recommendations on how to approach ALDFG problem in the Baltic Sea in a systemic way.	Synopsis	4	
Integration of work regarding mapping of ALDFG host areas and hot spots in the Baltic Sea region, based on the results of mapping activities held within national and international initiatives	Synopsis	1	suitable for the revision of RAP ML
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.	Synopsis	1	