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<b>Document title</b>	Rephrasing of existing HELCOM actions
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<b>Category</b>	DEC
<b>Agenda Item</b>	3 - Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan
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## Background

RESPONSE 26-2019 discussed the existing HELCOM actions to be considered for further development and uptake in the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) and considered the proposals for concretized actions provided by the Secretariat. The Outcome of the discussions in this regard were detailed in Annex 2 of the Outcome.

HOD 57-2019 took note of the ongoing work by HELCOM Working Groups to review existing HELCOM actions (section 4, document 3-1). The Meeting made the following comments to guide the further review and tentative rephrasing of existing actions and follow-up of the HELCOM 2018 Ministerial Declaration:

- formulate actions as concretely as possible;
- propose target years for the implementation of actions;
- consider merging of actions and proposing actions to be left out if not found relevant.

For the update of the BSAP in general, the Meeting underlined the importance of proposing a limited number of focused and readily conveyable actions of political interest.

HOD 57-2019 further agreed with the conclusion by RESPONSE 26-2019, that the action to “*Integrate shoreline response into national contingency plans and conduct trainings and organize exchange programmes*” can be considered as fully accomplished by all countries. Consequently, there is no need to carry this action forward to the updated BSAP.

The existing BSAP actions that still may need consideration are set out in the annex to this document, based on the outcomes of RESPONSE 25-2018 and RESPONSE 26-2019. Taking into account the comments by HOD 57-2019, the Meeting is invited to continue the rephrasing of those actions and formulate new actions as appropriate.

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to continue the work on rephrasing of existing actions and formulating new actions, taking into account the Outcome of HOD 57-2019.

## Annex

## Rephrasing of actions in the Baltic Sea Action Plan

Table 1: Joint actions related to Response

Action (origin)	Comments from RESPONSE 25-2018	Proposal	Comments from RESPONSE 26-2019	Proposed formulation for the updated BSAP
Further develop regional preparedness and response related services including HELCOM SeaTrackWeb, HELCOM Automatic Identification System, HELCOM Pollution Reporting System (POLREP), HELCOM GIS and links to relevant EU systems towards a second generation of HELCOM oil response information system covering the whole Baltic Sea on an equal basis (MD 2013)	Following the expression of interest from Russia to use CECIS Marine Pollution, made through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism portal in spring 2018, the Meeting invited Russia to confirm their intention to use the system for HELCOM POLREP purposes.	<p><b>Category 3.</b> This action should be redrafted to include more concrete objectives and a new target year for completion.</p> <p>Russia to liaise with the EU regarding the use of CECIS Marine Pollution and inform Response as appropriate.</p>	<p>The Meeting <u>noted</u> that all the response related services mentioned in this action are in different stages of development, which makes them unsuitable for grouping into one action. The Meeting <u>agreed</u> that this action should be split into sub-actions or separate actions with different target completion dates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SeaTrackWeb was <u>considered</u> to be accomplished, but needs to be continuously developed.</li> <li>- AIS is more related to HELCOM Maritime, but of great importance for Response and working well. This part of the action was <u>considered</u> to be accomplished.</li> <li>- The Meeting <u>noted</u> that POLREP is a global system developed by IMO and is fully developed and working well. The relevant EU systems are in use by all CPs that are EU Member States, but involvement of Russia would also be important.</li> <li>- HELCOM GIS (MADS) contains good background data but is not adding value to response authorities. The Meeting consequently <u>agreed</u> that HELCOM GIS should not be included in the action.</li> <li>- The Meeting <u>noted</u> that links to relevant EU systems are not under the mandate of HELCOM Response and consequently no further concretization needed.</li> </ul> <p>The Meeting consequently <u>agreed</u> that this action belongs to <b>Category 3</b>.</p>	Further develop regional preparedness and response related services including SeaTrackWeb to have integrated live feed from online devices such as sea current monitoring bouys, radars etc. no later than [2027]. Work for full integration between satellite coverage and drift modelling by SeaTrackWeb.

			<p>EU informed that the Russian expression of interest in using CECIS Marine Pollution was from Kaliningrad authorities. Progress has not been made since RESPONSE 25-2018. EU: some formal invitation to Russia may be needed. All benefits of the system should be listed and an explanation should be included on what limited efforts would be needed. The Meeting <u>agreed</u> to draft an appendix listing benefits and procedures related to Russia gaining access to CECIS. The Meeting further <u>agreed</u> to invite HOD 56-2019 to instruct the Secretariat to use the appendix to draft a letter addressed to Russia, inviting them to formally request access to CECIS Marine Pollution and use if for response purposes.</p> <p>The Meeting further noted <u>that</u> for SafeSeaNet there is a workshop coming up related to POLREP, that Russia has not used POLREP, and is not expected to be granted access.</p>	
<p>Produce a one-off HELCOM thematic assessment on environmental risks of hazardous submerged objects covering contaminated wrecks, lost or dumped dangerous goods (e.g. containers), and other objects, also utilizing the 2013 report on dumped chemical munitions (MD 2013)</p>	<p>The Meeting agreed to recommend to HOD 55-2018 that the mandate of the Submerged Expert Group should be prolonged until the end of 2020, with a view to finalizing the HELCOM Thematic Assessment on Hazardous Submerged Objects in the Baltic Sea.</p>	<p><b>Category 3.</b> This work is ongoing but the idea is no longer to have a one off assessment, but that it should be updated in the future with new information and developments (agreed by HOD 54).</p> <p>The aim is to complete the work before the end of 2020.</p> <p>The action should be redrafted to focus on keeping the thematic assessment up to date, and consideration may also be given to measures to manage the</p>	<p>The Meeting <u>agreed</u> that the action should be retained even after the Submerged Assessment has been finalized. The Meeting <u>agreed</u> that the action should be revised to reflect the agreed status of the Submerged Assessment as a living document to be updated once more information on submerged hazardous objects in the Baltic Sea is received. The Meeting also <u>proposed</u> that information on submerged hazardous objects should also be included in the HELCOM MADS.</p> <p>The Meeting consequently <u>agreed</u> that this action belongs to <b>Category 2</b>.</p> <p>The Meeting <u>agreed</u> to urge all CPs to participate in the work on developing the Submerged Assessment, as currently information on submerged hazardous objects is missing from a number of countries. The Meeting also <u>emphasized</u> the importance of the Submerged Expert Group completing the work soon.</p>	<p>Produce a HELCOM thematic assessment on hazardous submerged objects covering contaminated wrecks, lost or dumped dangerous goods (e.g. containers), and other objects, also utilizing the 2013 report on dumped chemical munitions, as a living document to be updated once more information on submerged hazardous objects in the Baltic Sea is received. Include information on submerged hazardous objects in the HELCOM MADS.</p>

		identified hazardous submerged objects.	The Meeting <u>noted</u> that any elements related to environmental assessment of submerged hazardous objects in the Baltic Sea should not be tasked to the Response Working Group.	
Update HELCOM Manual on Co-operation in Combatting Marine Pollution Volume II, focusing on response to accidents at sea involving spills of hazardous substances and loss of packaged dangerous goods (MD 2013)	A joint project application to DG ECHO on updating regional response manuals on chemical spills has been submitted. The project, to which HELCOM is a Project Partner is entitled Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil and HNS Pollution Cooperation (WestMOPoCo) and is presented in more detail in RESPONSE 25-2018 document 13-3. Of key interest for HELCOM is the development of a joint inter-regional HNS response manual, which is envisaged to replace the HELCOM Response Manual Volume 2.	Work towards completing this action is on-going, with a view to finalizing it by 2021. Therefore no further measures are proposed at this stage.	The Meeting <u>agreed</u> that this action does not need to be included in the updated BSAP.  The Meeting <u>emphasized</u> the importance of the Secretariat and CG HNS Manual ensuring that the joint inter-regional HNS response manual will be fit for purpose taking into account Baltic Sea conditions. The Meeting <u>noted</u> that it could be possible to seek approval from the WestMOPoCo Project Manager at DG Echo for flexibility in how the joint manual is developed, by e.g. developing three customized manuals for the Baltic Sea, North Sea and Mediterranean, respectively.	

Table 2: National actions related to Response

Action (origin)	Comments from RESPONSE 25-2018	Proposal	Comments from RESPONSE 26-2019	New action
Integrate the subject of oiled wildlife response into oil pollution contingency plans either on a national or sub-national/local level (BSAP)	Latvia informed that a national Oiled Wildlife Response Plan is under development and that there is a scheme for cooperation and a list of the main responsible authorities in case oiled wildlife response is to be included within the National Contingency Plan. In addition, national authorities and relevant NGOs have jointly	Remaining Contracting Parties are encouraged to accomplish the action by 2021, in which case the action can be deleted. If this is not accomplished, the action could remain ( <b>Category 1</b> ).	The Meeting <u>agreed</u> that the intention of the action has been fulfilled, but formally it cannot be reported as such for all Contracting Parties, e.g. as the word “integrate” is interpreted in different ways in different countries.  The Meeting consequently <u>agreed</u> that this action should not be carried forward to the updated BSAP. The Meeting, however, <u>agreed</u> that completely new actions may be proposed	New actions to be developed.

	prepared Guidelines for Oiled Wildlife Care at Marine and Inland Water Oil Spills.		to the updated BSAP, regarding oiled wildlife response  Poland informed the Meeting that they have now accomplished this action.	
Based upon sensitivity mapping, to identify the need for and to finalise the quantification of countermeasures for shoreline response, and to prepare concrete plans/programmes for fulfilling them by 2013 (BSAP)		Remaining Contracting Parties are encouraged to accomplish the action by 2021. If this is not done, the target year is to be revised for the updated BSAP ( <b>Category 2</b> ).	The Meeting <u>agreed</u> that the action in its current form is unclear and formulated in a way that makes it very difficult to fully accomplish. Especially the word “quantification” causes problems in the national interpretations. The Meeting consequently <u>agreed</u> that the action is to be revised ( <b>Category 3</b> ).	New proposal to be developed referring to the preparations of national or sub-regional plans for shoreline response.