



Document title	Update of the Response workplan for the BSAP update
Code	3-3
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	3 – Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan
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Reference	

Background

The [Strategic plan](#) for the BSAP update identifies the phases and activities in the BSAP update and the main responsible bodies. The [workplan](#) for the BSAP update, agreed by HOD 55-2018, clarifies the timing and more detailed steps of activities from the Strategic Plan.

This document is an update of the work plan of the Response Working Group including timetables for addressing the individual activities of the plan. The formulation of new actions for the updated BSAP and the upcoming BSAP UP workshops in May 2020 are also reflected. It should be noted that a workshop that will address proposed new actions for the updated BSAP related to maritime activities, response actions, underwater noise and non-indigenous species will be held 18-20 May 2020, tentatively in Helsinki, Finland.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information and use it as appropriate to plan for the contribution by the Response Group to BSAP update.

Work plan for the Response Working Group

Timetables for each activity

Use of terms and symbols in tables

The titles of activities refer to the adopted activities of the Strategic plan for the BSAP update. Activity 1.2 and 2.1 of the Strategic plan are not included in the work plan for the Response Group since their implementation will not be carried out by Working Groups.

'Tasks' are short version of tasks adopted through Strategic plan for the BSAP update – for full text, see the [original Strategic plan](#).

'SOM Platform' refers to the *ad hoc* interdisciplinary platform on analyses of sufficiency of measures that was established by HOD 55-2018 and '[HELCOM ACTION project](#)' refers to a HELCOM coordinated project that is co-financed by the EU.

Annotations in tables:

- Grey-shaded boxes indicate quarter of the year when the task will be carried and coincides in general with expected regular meetings of the Response Working Group.
- 'HOD' refers to when concrete proposals will be put forward to HOD meetings, following the regular Response meetings. HOD are also continuously informed on activities related to the BSAP update.
- 'X' denotes steps that have already been considered by the Response Group.

I. Strengthening the implementation of the BSAP by 2021

Activity 1:1. Discussion on reasons for not yet accomplishing BSAP actions

Tasks according to Strategic Plan: The working groups are requested to identify the reasons for lagging behind with the implementation of BSAP. For joint actions forward planning or stock taking is to be carried out with the aim of accomplishing the actions by 2021. The discussion aims at supporting the strengthening of efforts to implement the BSAP by 2021 and beyond as agreed by the Ministerial Declaration. Actions not implemented by 2021 will be transferred to the updated BSAP.

Task for Response: The activity is progressed through the regular working group meetings. RESPONSE 26-2019 initiated the work to identify actions in need of new target years or rephrasing in the case they are not implemented by 2021 and thus will be transferred to the updated BSAP as reflected in document 3-1. The task aims to be completed at RESPONSE 27-2020. The final proposals on actions to be transferred to the updated BSAP should be presented to HOD 58-2020 in June 2020.

YEAR	2018		2019				2020				2021
STEPS	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
Initial discussion and plans		X									
Progress on joint actions, identify actions in need of rephrasing				X							
Rephrasing of existing actions				X							
Proposal to HOD on actions to be transferred to updated BSAP								HOD			

Activity 2:2. Adjustment to the overall structure of BSAP

Tasks according to the Strategic plan: a) create a nested system of the BSAP strategic goals and objectives mapped against the SDGs and other policy goals and objectives, b) reviewing the existing HELCOM ecological objectives and proposing possible amendments, to be carried out via working/expert groups, c) proposing new ecological objectives for marine litter, underwater noise and seabed damage and disturbance, to be carried out via working/expert groups, and d) identifying other possible additional issues of relevance to the overall BSAP structure. The aim is to agree on a new structure of the BSAP by HOD in December 2019.

BSAP ecological objectives and management objectives

A review of the existing HELCOM ecological objectives and management objectives is to be carried out by HELCOM Working Groups and Expert Groups as part of this activity. The aim of the review of existing objectives is to ensure that they are up to date and reflect the current topics and approach of addressing environmental status and pressures in HELCOM.

HOD 57-2019 made a provisional agreement on revised and new objectives for the updated BSAP. This includes that the goal related to maritime activities has been broadened to reflect other sea-based activities and that the formulation of the goal has been adjusted to: "Environmentally sustainable sea-based activities". The objective related to Response Working Group has been slightly revised to: "Effective emergency and response capabilities".

The task can be considered as completed by the Working Group.

YEAR	2018		2019				2020				2021
	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
Consider objectives				X							
Initial proposal on revised and new objectives				X HOD							
Final proposal on revised and new objectives to HOD						X HOD					

Activity 2:3. Status of implementation of the current measures and agreements

Tasks according to the Strategic plan: a) identifying HELCOM agreements, not covered by the current BSAP follow-up system, for which additional reporting by CPs will be needed, b) organizing additional reporting by CPs on main agreements - focusing on measures - not covered by the current BSAP follow up; c) proposing a collection of information on other (than HELCOM) existing measures in the countries and their level of implementation. Point c) which refers to collection of information on measures taken e.g. under WFD and MSFD, will take place under the ACTION project and SOM Platform.

Tasks for Response: This activity was initiated in autumn 2018 with the identification of HELCOM Recommendations to report on to support the updated of the Baltic Sea Action Plan. Reporting by countries was initiated in February 2019 and the reporting will be endorsed intersessionally by HOD. **The task can be considered as completed by the Working Group**, although reporting from some countries are still missing. An overview of the implementation of recommendations under the Response Group is available in document [3-10 Att1 to HOD 57-2019](#).

YEAR	2018		2019				2020				2021
	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
STEPS											

Propose HELCOM Recs to be reported by CPs		X									
Quality control the reporting				X							

Activity 2.4. Review of the current BSAP

Tasks according to Strategic plan: As agreed in the BSAP update guidance (HELCOM 39-2018), the Working Groups will review HELCOM actions where targets were previously evaluated as too general to follow up and propose measurable targets for those actions found relevant for possible uptake in the BSAP update.

Tasks for Response: All actions that were previously categorized as “too general” were considered at RESPONSE 26-2019 (document 3-1, Annex 2). The Meeting agreed that they should not be included in the updated BSAP but that they could be used e.g. when developing project proposals. **The task can thus be considered as completed by the Working Group.**

YEAR	2018		2019				2020				2021
STEPS	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
Identify actions assigned as “too general” for uptake in updated BSAP				X							
Finalize proposal on concretized targets for existing actions						N/A*					

*Not applicable since no proposal will be put forward by the Group.

Activity 2.5. Analysing sufficiency of measures to reach HELCOM objectives and targets

Tasks according to the Strategic plan: HELCOM has agreed to carry out an analysis of sufficiency of measures to reach HELCOM objectives and targets, to support selection of new actions for the updated BSAP (cf. document 2-6 Rev.1, HELCOM 39-2018). The activity is organized topic by topic and the analyses will be carried out by the HELCOM SOM Platform and the HELCOM ACTION project (recall RESPONSE 26-2019, [document 3-4](#)). A supporting activity for the selection of new actions is the development of synopses on potential new and strengthened measures as agreed by HELCOM 40-2019.

Tasks for Response: The Response Working Group is not directly involved in the SOM analysis, but Contracting Parties are nevertheless encouraged to follow the work undertaken in the SOM Platform and ACTION project.

All HELCOM Working Groups, countries, observers and international projects with a regional perspective have been invited to submit synopses on potential new actions for the updated BSAP (see also document 3-2). RESPONSE 27-2020 has the task to review the synopses received that are linked to the mandate of the Group.

YEAR	2018		2019				2020				2021
STEPS	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
Guidance and review of analyses of SOM analyses*											
Validation of input to the analyses*											

Review of synopses on potential new actions for the updated BSAP														
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*Not relevant for the Response Group

Activity 2:6. Proposing new actions and improvement of the existing actions

Tasks according to the Strategic plan and Work plan: The analysis of sufficiency of measures (SOM) will be used to identify gaps between the current measures and the measures needed to reach GES. Proposals for new measures and actions will emerge via the regular work of HELCOM and its WGs, the preparation of synopses, and as an outcome of the assessment of the sufficiency of measures. In spring 2020 thematic workshops/meetings will be held to discuss the results of the SOM analyses and synopses and use it as a basis for proposing new or strengthened actions for the BSAP. A full draft of the updated BSAP is to be prepared by last quarter 2020.

Tasks for Response: Take part in relevant thematic workshops. As agreed by HOD 57-2019 a workshop covering maritime activities, response actions, underwater noise, and non-indigenous species, will be held for 2 working days in the period 18-20 May 2020. Location is tentatively the premises of the HELCOM Secretariat, Helsinki. The workshops will further evaluate proposals on new actions for the updated BSAP based on the following main material:

- List of existing actions to be included in the updated BSAP, based on proposals by HELCOM Working Groups.
- Results of the SOM analysis and associated results, tentatively identifying gaps in existing measures.
- Proposals on new actions based on the submission of synopses from Contracting Parties, HELCOM Observers, and international projects. The proposals will in a first step be reviewed by HELCOM Working Groups in spring 2020, as indicated under activity 2.5.

HOD 58-2020 will be informed on the outcome of the workshops and Working Groups will further deliberate of the outcome and make a final proposal for new (or strengthened) HELCOM actions for the updated BSAP to HOD in December 2020.

YEAR	2018		2019				2020				2021	
	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	
Thematic workshops/meetings* to consider results of SOM analyses and synopses and to propose new HELCOM actions								18-20 May HOD				
Further elaboration of new HELCOM actions for updated BSAP											HOD	

*themes for the workshops/meetings have not been agreed yet but they are likely to take place in addition to the regular Working Group meetings.

Milestones for the BSAP update process

BSAP update timeline

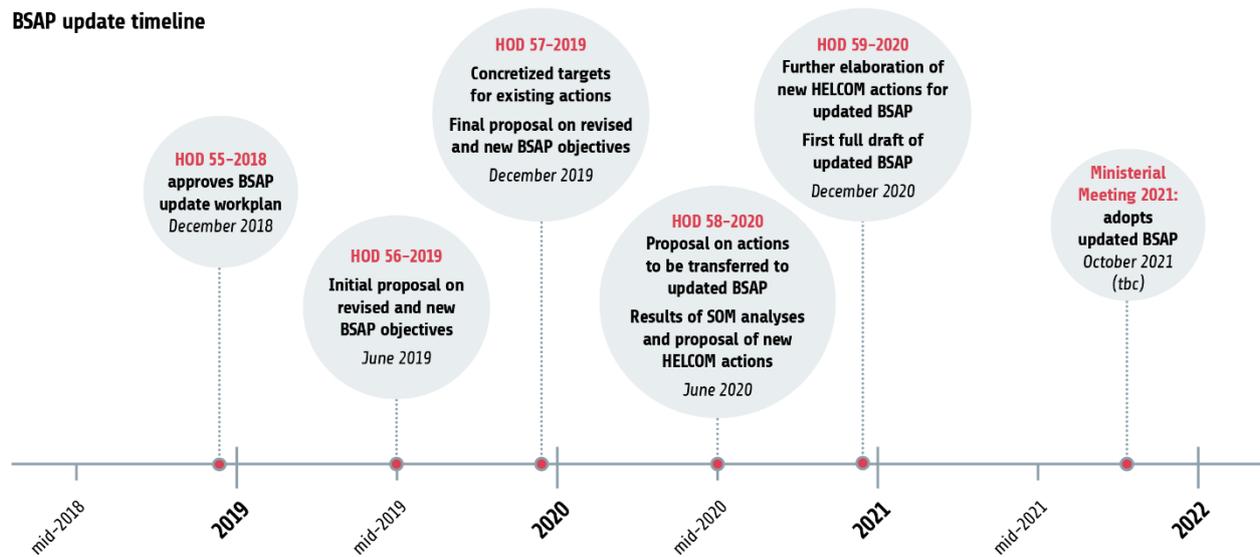


Figure 1. Milestones for consideration by HOD based on tasks prepared by HELCOM Working Groups and associated activities.