



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION
10-2019

Hamina, Finland, 6-10 May 2019

Document title	Information on the progress on Recommendations and actions related to the HELCOM Fish Group
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Agenda Item	2N – Matters of relevance for the Meeting and information from the Secretariat
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Background

This document contains information regarding the discussions at FISH 9-2019 regarding current Fish related actions that are also relevant for State & Conservation.

Furthermore, it contains information on the progress on two HELCOM Recommendations under the mandate of the HELCOM Fish Group, but which are to be considered also by State & Conservation: (19/2 Protection and improvement of the wild salmon (*Salmo salar* L.) populations in the Baltic Sea area and 32-33-1 Conservation of Baltic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) and Sea Trout (*Salmo trutta*) populations by the restoration of their rivers habitats and management of river fisheries).

As agreed by HOD 55-2018, the Secretariat has circulated reporting templates on these and other Fish related recommendations, to support the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan. However, to date responses have been received only from four countries, as set out in the attached Excel file (Attachment 1). The validation process for the reporting is still partly ongoing. Remaining responses will be reported directly to FISH 10-2019 in due course.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

Table 1. Plans for implementation of not yet implemented actions under the Fish Group with relevance also for State & Conservation

Action (origin)	Reflections and proposed process
<p>Development and implementation of effective monitoring for by-caught birds and mammals (BSAP)</p> <p>Current status: not accomplished/partly accomplished</p>	<p>The HELCOM roadmap on collection of fisheries data is under way. It was however noted that implementation of such monitoring may not be in place by 2021.</p> <p>The Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>agreed</u> to change the status of accomplishment to partly accomplished. - <u>proposed</u> as a first step to finalize the roadmap on collection of fisheries data. - <u>agreed</u> to change the wording to the supporting information in column F of the excel-file to: "...is not considered as sufficient data for assessments of by-catch"
<p>Development and implementation of effective reporting systems for by-caught birds and mammals (BSAP)</p> <p>Current status: partly accomplished</p>	<p>Reporting on by-catch takes place by EU MS to the EC and is further submitted to ICES. The reporting is however done in different ways by the countries and there is a need to further develop existing reporting systems. If a fit for purpose reporting system to support HELCOM work (e.g. indicator assessment) is in place it is however not necessary for HELCOM to set up a separate reporting system.</p> <p>The Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>agreed</u> to specify what the reported data should be used for within HELCOM. - <u>proposed</u> to change the wording of the action to "Further development of existing reporting systems".
<p>Development and implementation of fisheries management measures for fisheries inside marine protected areas (BSAP)</p> <p>Current status: partly accomplished</p>	<p>A relevant HELCOM action where several countries mentioned their implementation of such measures. The Meeting <u>was however of the view</u> that it is not suitable to assess the action in terms of being accomplished or not. It was furthermore proposed to label the action as 'national'. The Meeting <u>noted</u> that BALTFISH will also consider management measures in MPAs in the Baltic Sea.</p> <p>The Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>agreed</u> to consider the action as "national" and to request countries to report on the implementation of fisheries management measures in MPAs. The Secretariat will explore if it is suitable to use the HELCOM MPA database for this reporting purpose. Since the action is not suitable for assessing the level of accomplishment this should be indicated in the follow-up system with a link to relevant source of information.
<p>Implementation of non-lethal mitigations measures for seals-fisheries interactions (HELCOM Recommendation 27-28/2)</p>	<p>No conclusions on this national action were made at FISH 9-2019 but it has been reported as accomplished for Latvia and Sweden, on-going for Denmark and Finland and not accomplished for Estonia, Germany, Lithuania, Poland and Russia.</p>

Current status: partly accomplished	It may also be noted that Recommendation 27-28/2 is part of the reporting of HELCOM Recommendations under State & Conservation.
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