



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION
10-2019

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Background

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

In this document the work plan for the BSAP update has been adjusted to the tasks and expected meetings of the State and Conservation Working Group. The planned work of the HELCOM SOM Platform 1-2019 and associated consultations and involvement of the State and Conservation Working Group are also reflected. Timetables for addressing the individual activities of the strategic plan by the State and Conservation Working Group are provided as well as a timetable with milestones for the BSAP update process.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

Work plan for State and Conservation 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 State and Conservation 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 [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 State and Conservation Working Group.
- 'HOD' refers to when concrete proposals will be put forward to HOD meetings that follows the regular State and Conservation meetings. HOD are also continuously informed on activities related to the BSAP update.
- 'X' refers to activities that have already been considered by the State and Conservation 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 of 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 State and Conservation: The activity is progressed through the regular working group meetings. State and Conservation 10-2019 will initiate 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 (document 8J-4). The outcome of discussions will be continuously reported to HOD and final proposals on actions to be transferred to the updated BSAP are envisioned presentation to HOD 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											
Initiate rephrasing of existing actions											
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. Point b) and c) is to be carried out by Working Groups.

Tasks for State and Conservation: Review existing ecological objectives for eutrophication and hazardous substances. Propose new management objectives for marine litter, underwater noise and seabed damage and disturbance. State and Conservation 10-2019 will initiate the review and development (document 8J-6).

YEAR	2018		2019				2020				2021
STEPS	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
Prepare for the review (Secretariat, Chair)			X								
Initial proposal on revised and new objectives				HOD							
Final proposal on revised and new objectives to HOD						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 State and Conservation: 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. State and Conservation 10-2019 will consider the outcome of the reporting (document 8J-7).

YEAR	2018		2019				2020				2021
STEPS	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
Propose HELCOM Recs to be reported by CPs		X									
Quality control the reporting				HOD							

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. The most recent 2018 Ministerial commitments will be integrated into the work.

Tasks for State and Conservation: All actions that were previously categorized as “too general” will be considered at State and Conservation 10-2019 as well as paragraphs from the 2018 Ministerial Declaration related to the State and Conservation Group (document 8J-3). Final proposals on concretized actions will be put forward to HOD 57-2019 (December).

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											
Initiate work to define targets for MD 2018 commitments											
Finalize proposal on concretized targets for existing actions						HOD					

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, 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. 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 State and Conservation: Review and guide the work carried out under SOM Platform and ACTION project, primarily with regard to biodiversity and marine protected areas, but also contribute to the review of work on loss and disturbance to seabed habitats. Review of synopses on potential new measures. HELCOM Working Groups are also proposed to validate the data and information input to the analyses at autumn meetings in 2019 and take part of expert-based evaluations to support the analyses.

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											

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 State and Conservation: Take part in thematic meetings and workshops, make proposals on new (or strengthened) HELCOM actions to HOD.

YEAR	2018		2019				2020				2021
STEPS	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								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

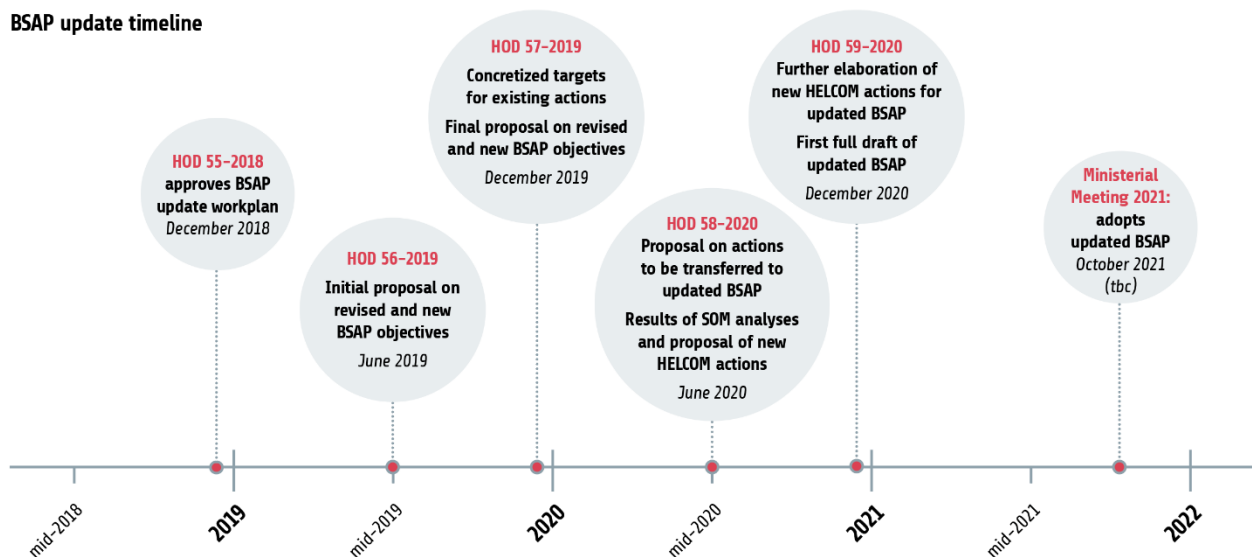


Figure 1. Milestones for consideration by HOD based on tasks prepared by HELCOM Working Groups and associated activities.

