



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION
11-2019

Riga, Latvia, 21-25 October 2019

Document title	Draft work plan for the State and Conservation Working Group 2019-2020
Code	2N-1
Category	INF
Agenda Item	2N – Matters of relevance for the Meeting and information from the Secretariat
Submission date	30.9.2019
Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	HOD 55-2018 Outcome paragraph 4.10

Background

This document contains the work plan for the HELCOM Working Group on State of the Environment and Nature Conservation for the time period 2019-2020, agreed by STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018 and approved by HOD 55-2018 (outcome paragraph 4.10).

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- take note of the information.

Work Plan for HELCOM Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation (State and Conservation) 2019-2020

An excerpt of the convention articles specifically relating to the work of State and Conservation under the Terms of Reference duty A can be found in Annex 1.

A full list of Recommendation actions, including the level of implementation for those for which this information is available, at a given date can be found in Att. 4 to document 8-1 rev 1. in State and Conservation 9-2018.

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
Monitoring					
Link to ToR Duties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> B. Provide technical and scientific support for the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, Ministerial Declarations and HELCOM Recommendations as well as propose strategies, guidelines and recommendations in the area of its expertise according to the existing priorities as well as requests by the Heads of Delegations and subsidiary bodies; C. Coordinate and implement the monitoring and assessment activities of HELCOM related to biodiversity, and status of and effects on the marine environment with regards to eutrophication, hazardous substances, including radioactive substances, marine litter and underwater noise, as well as integrated assessment of human pressures and their impacts affecting the sea state, thereby implementing the HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy; 					
Links to recommendation(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>10/1 ABNORMAL SITUATIONS IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT</u> <u>10/2 ASSESSMENTS OF THE EFFECTS OF POLLUTION ON THE COASTAL AREAS OF THE BALTIC SEA</u> <u>19/3 MANUAL FOR THE HELCOM JOINT COORDINATED MARINE MONITORING</u> <u>26-3 MONITORING OF RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES</u> <u>29/2 MARINE LITTER WITHIN THE BALTIC SEA REGION</u> 					

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
<u>37/1 CO-OPERATION AND COORDINATION OF RESEARCH VESSEL BASED MONITORING IN OFF-SHORE AREAS AND PROCEDURES FOR GRANTING PERMITS FOR MONITORING AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES</u>					
Indirect links to recommendation(s):					
	Follow up on implementation of and reporting on HELCOM Recommendations under the Monitoring section of State and Conservation	State and Conservation			Continuous
	Develop follow up systems and reporting schemes for those HELCOM Recommendations under the Monitoring section of State and Conservation for which such are not yet available	State and Conservation			Continuous
ToR Task 1: Implementation of the HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy , including development of necessary manuals and guidelines i.a. related to quality assurance, taking into account the existing international guidance documents					
Links to recommendation actions:					
Indirect links to recommendation(s):					
1.1	Review existing HELCOM monitoring guidelines and develop new guidelines for new monitoring sub-programmes included in the HELCOM Monitoring Manual. The review and development should include QA/QC guidelines.	State and Conservation	EG MAMA, ZEN-ZIIM, PEG, FISH-PRO III, EG MORS, IN EUTRO, EN BENTHIC, JWG BIRD	Development of core indicators	continuous
BSAP 1	Analyse cost-efficiency of joint monitoring.	State and Conservation			Spring 2019
ToR Task 2: Functioning of the HELCOM Joint Coordinated Monitoring system covering all aspects from flora and fauna of the Baltic Sea to water quality and human pressures					

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
Links to recommendation actions:					
Indirect links to recommendation(s):					
2.1a)	Development of a coordinated monitoring programme. When additional indicators have been further developed and coherent and adequate national monitoring programmes must be implemented. Explore and share experiences on integrated monitoring. Develop harmonized monitoring methods.	State and Conservation	EG MAMA, ZEN-ZIIM, PEG, FISH-PRO III, JWG BIRD, IN BENTIC, EN LITTER, EN NOISE, EG MORS Secretariat	Base the analysis on information of national monitoring programmes and requirements for core indicators. Initiate in 2018.	Continuous
2.1b)	Development of a coordinated monitoring programme. Review data arrangements for existing components of HELCOM monitoring and develop data arrangements for those components without existing reporting structure e.g. for biodiversity (including birds, coastal fish, seals, benthic fauna and macrophyte monitoring), marine litter, underwater noise, hydrography	State and Conservation	EG MAMA, ZEN-ZIIM, PEG, FISH-PRO III, JWG BIRD, IN BENTIC, EN LITTER, EN NOISE, EG MORS Secretariat	BaltiCheck project on biodiversity database	Continuous
2.2	Develop a reporting system on prioritized human activities and pressures, building on the existing HELCOM reporting, to regularly collect harmonized data for HELCOM assessments	State and Conservation Other WGs Secretariat		Link to MSP needs. Need to find functioning working structure. Exchange with Pressure and HELCOM_VASAB MSP.	Identification of priorities for regular reporting using HOLAS II BSPI BSII information
BSAP 2	Review and if needed further develop monitoring to follow-up implementation and effect of measures under the Baltic Sea Action Plan.	State and Conservation		Possible link to BONUS FUMARI and BONUS SEAM	Start in 2020

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
Assessments and indicators					
<p>Link to ToR Duties:</p> <p>B. Provide technical and scientific support for the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, Ministerial Declarations and HELCOM Recommendations as well as propose strategies, guidelines and recommendations in the area of its expertise according to the existing priorities as well as requests by the Heads of Delegations and subsidiary bodies;</p> <p>C. Coordinate and implement the monitoring and assessment activities of HELCOM related to biodiversity, and status of and effects on the marine environment with regards to eutrophication, hazardous substances, including radioactive substances, marine litter and underwater noise, as well as integrated assessment of human pressures and their impacts affecting the sea state, thereby implementing the HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy;</p>					
<p>Links to recommendation(s): <i>21/3 SUSTAINABLE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY TOURISM IN THE COASTAL ZONES OF THE BALTIC SEA AREA (suggested for removal)</i> <i>24/10 IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED MARINE AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA</i></p> <p>Indirect links to recommendation(s): <i>28E/9 DEVELOPMENT OF BROAD-SCALE MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING PRINCIPLES IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA</i> <i>17/3 INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION WITH REGARD TO CONSTRUCTION OF NEW INSTALLATIONS AFFECTING THE BALTIC SEA</i></p>					
Follow up on implementation of and reporting on HELCOM Recommendations under the Assessment and indicator section of State and Conservation		State and Conservation		Continuous	
Develop follow up systems and reporting schemes for those HELCOM Recommendations under the Assessment and indicator section of State and Conservation for which such are not yet available		State and Conservation		Continuous	
Implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (please see respective sections, task directly linked to BSAP implementation are coded with BSAP-xx)					
Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan					

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
BSAP UP 1	Proposals on revised and new ecological objectives.	State and Conservation			Spring 2019
BSAP UP 2	Consider the reports by Contracting Parties on main agreements/recommendations not covered by the current BSAP follow up as identified and agreed at autumn meeting 2018.	State and Conservation			spring 2019
BSAP UP 3	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 – to be concluded at autumn meetings 2019..	State and Conservation			first half of 2019
BSAP UP 4	Agree on how to propose actions and define targets for MD 2018 commitments; this could take place intersessionally e.g. through proposal by Lead countries – to be concluded at autumn meetings 2019.	State and Conservation			first half of 2019
BSAP UP 5	Prepare proposals on uptake of HELCOM actions in the updated BSAP that were previously evaluated as too general to follow up and on measurable targets for those actions.	State and Conservation			autumn 2019
BSAP UP 6	Prepare proposals of actions and measurable targets to follow-up on the MD 2018 commitments and open discussion on potential new measures.	State and Conservation			autumn 2019

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
BSAP UP 7	Review of ongoing work on synthesis of existing knowledge to support the analysis of sufficiency of measures and identification of potential new measures.	State and Conservation			2019-mid 2020
BSAP UP 8	Develop and consider and proposals on new measures, including based on syntheses of knowledge.	State and Conservation		Consider the timeframe for the MSFD PoMs, initial consideration could start in fall 2019.	spring 2020
BSAP UP 9	Further elaboration of possible actions, including an evaluation of effect of proposed new measures (at WG meetings or HELCOM workshops to be decided).	State and Conservation			autumn 2020
ToR Task 3: Development of operational HELCOM core indicators , with associated targets to serve e.g. holistic assessments according to the goals and objectives of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, HELCOM Ministerial Declarations, and the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive for those Contracting Parties also being EU Member States					
Links to recommendation actions:					
Indirect links to recommendation(s):					
3.1	Review the current state of core indicators, policy relevance, integration methods and identify gaps.	State and Conservation, Gear		Link Pressure and Fish to the work.	2019
3.2	Review the data flows for each indicator and consider how these could be improved. State and Conservation to provide thematic guidance to the work and provide initial prioritization on how to fill the identified gaps.	State and Conservation	EG MAMA, ZEN-ZIIM, PEG, EN-HAZ, FISH-PRO III, JWG BIRD, EN BENTIC, EN LITTER, EN NOISE, EG MORS Secretariat		2019-2020

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
3.3	Development new HELCOM core, pre-core and candidate indicators, based on gaps identified under the review process.	State and Conservation Pressure	EG MAMA, ZEN-ZIIM, PEG, EN-HAZ, FISH-PRO III, JWG BIRD, EN BENTIC, EN LITTER, EN NOISE, EG MORS Secretariat		Ongoing.
3.4	Link indicators with loads and sources	State and Conservation, Pressure	Relevant EG's under State and Conservation and Pressure	Chairs of State and Conservation and and Pressure to attend the relevant sessions of the respective meetings to support information exchange.	Starting in 2019
3.5	Operationalization of hazardous substances assessment system	State and Conservation	EN HAZ		Ongoing activity under EN-HAZ.
3.6	Further regional work on developing baselines and threshold values for maximum levels of marine litter in the Baltic Sea, in close coordination with work undertaken by Contracting Parties in other relevant fora.	State and Conservation	EN LITTER		ongoing
BSAP 7	Ensure that biological impact of marine litter is adequate covered, as a first step collate a review of existing knowledge on biological impacts of marine litter relevant for the Baltic Sea.	State and Conservation	EN LITTER	Such review should be carried out in cooperation with EU TG Marine Litter. Overall this task might not be accomplished by 2021.	
3.7	Developing ambitious, regionally coordinated, quantitative targets to reduce input of litter into the marine environment.	State and Conservation	EN LITTER		

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
3.8	Developing scientifically sound threshold values for underwater noise that are consistent with GES for species identified as sensitive to noise in the Baltic Sea, in close coordination with work undertaken by Contracting Parties in other relevant fora including UNEP Regional Seas Programme	State and Conservation	EN NOISE, EG MAMA, FISH	Begin by identifying species	ongoing
3.9	Developing threshold values for the adverse effects of anthropogenic physical disturbance, based on the best available scientific information in close coordination with other relevant fora, e.g. TG Seafloor.	State and Conservation	EN BENTHIC	Link to pressures under Pressure	
3.10	Develop regionally coordinated quantitative targets for the reduction of physical disturbance caused by human activities, and for habitat loss.	State and Conservation	EN BENTHIC	Link to pressures under Pressure and activities under FISH and Maritime	
3.11	Elaborate regional actions and suggested national actions, aiming at delivering the necessary reductions in adverse effects of physical disturbance caused by human activities.	State and Conservation	EN BENTHIC	Link to pressures under Pressure and activities under FISH and Maritime	
<p>ToR Task 4 Periodic assessments of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - biodiversity, eutrophication, hazardous substances, marine litter and underwater noise, thereby providing building blocks for HELCOM Holistic assessments; - threat status of Baltic Sea species and habitats/biotopes; - the status and progress towards an ecologically coherent and effectively managed network of HELCOM coastal and marine Protected Areas (MPAs¹), and strive for - harmonized approach in reporting, including its timing taking into account the work on global and European level; - regional climate change and its implications on the Baltic Sea ecosystem in cooperation with Baltic Earth, and recommend actions as appropriate 					
<p>Links to recommendation actions:</p> <p>Indirect links to recommendation(s):</p>					

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
4.1	Thematic assessment on radioactivity for the period 2016-2020	State and Conservation	MORS EG		2019-2020, possibly to be finalized after 2020
4.2	Planning for biodiversity assessments, including developing methods and tools to support future assessments.	State and Conservation			2019-2020
4.2.1	Work on thematic assessment on coastal fish	State and Conservation	FISH-PRO IIII		to be finalized post 2020
4.3	Planning for eutrophication assessment, including developing methods and tools to support future assessments.	State and Conservation	IN EUTRO		2019-2020
4.4	Planning for hazardous substances assessments, including developing methods and tools to support future assessments.	State and Conservation	EN HAZ		2019-2020
4.5	Planning for marine litter assessment, including developing methods and tools to support future assessments.	State and Conservation	EN LITTER		2019-2020
4.5.1	Improving assessment of the effectiveness of measures for limiting sources, distribution, amounts and impacts of marine litter including micro-plastics, in coherence with similar work undertaken by Contracting Parties in other relevant fora	State and Conservation	EN LITTER		2019-2020

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
4.6	Planning for underwater noise assessment, including developing methods and tools to support future assessments.	State and Conservation	EN NOISE		2019-2020
4.6.1	Further improve the understanding of the adverse impacts of underwater noise on those identified noise sensitive marine species and in particular the cumulative impacts of impulsive noise from multiple activities	State and Conservation	EN NOISE		2019-2020
4.7	MPA coherence assessment, including developing methods and tools to support future assessments.	State and Conservation			2019-2020
4.8	Support the future work on MPA management effectiveness assessments by streamlining and making available identified aspects of the management plan.	State and Conservation		Follow up on OSPAR initiative	2019-2020
4.9	Climate change assessment	State and Conservation with Baltic Earth	EN CLIME		2018-
4.9.1	Produce a Fact sheet on Climate Change	State and Conservation with Baltic Earth	EN CLIME		2019-mid 2020
4.9.2.	Produce supporting material for fact sheet	State and Conservation with Baltic Earth	EN CLIME		2019-2021
4.9.3	Further adapt HELCOM's policies and recommendations to maximise the capacity of the Baltic Sea ecosystem to	State and Conservation	EN CLIME		2019-2020, ongoing process

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
	contribute to mitigation of climate change through blue carbon storage				
4.9.4	Increase HELCOM's preparedness to respond to climate change impacts, by taking foreseen climate change impacts into account when updating the BSAP.	State and Conservation with Baltic Earth	EN CLIME		2019-mid 2020
ToR Task 5: Assess human pressures and impacts as part of the Holistic assessments, e.g. utilizing inputs from other HELCOM subsidiary bodies on e.g. waterborne and airborne inputs of nutrients and hazardous substances, oils spills, etc.					
Links to recommendation(s):					
Indirect links to recommendation(s):					
5.1	Keep up to date a list of non-indigenous and cryptogenic species for the Baltic S	State and Conservation		Feed into the HELCOM Maritime work on updating the list of HELCOM Target Species for ballast water management	Continuous
BSAP 6	Collate information on national implementation of monitoring guidelines for NIS and create an overview.	State and Conservation		State and Conservation 10-2019	2019
5.2	Communicate to relevant authorities and institutions the needs for adequate knowledge on by-caught birds, mammals and threatened fish species, in particular sturgeon, including monitoring and reporting systems	State and Conservation EG MAMA	Activities under Fish Group ICES and ASCOBANS by-catch groups		Continuous
ToR Task 8: Cooperate with, and seek synergies with relevant work carried out in other international organizations and institutions and processes relevant for the group such as ICES, EEA, JRC, OSPAR, Convention on Biological Diversity, MSFD Common Implementation Strategy, etc.					
Links to recommendation(s):					

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
Indirect links to recommendation(s):					
8.1	Identify areas of further cooperation and operationalize co-operation with ASCOBANS,	State and Conservation EG MAMA		Reporting of harbour porpoise observations annually at the EG MAMA meeting	Continuous
8.2	Identify areas of further cooperation and operationalize cooperation with OSPAR, e.g. on issues relating to assessments, indicators and conservation	State and Conservation			Continuous
8.3	Initiate cooperation with IUCN regarding action n under rec 35/1: Follow-up of action 'apply the newest IUCN categorization system when describing the HELCOM MPAs'	State and Conservation	TG MPA		first half of 2019
8.4	Identify areas of further cooperation and operationalize cooperation with EU technical groups related MSFD descriptors 1-11 and Habitats Directive	State and Conservation			continuous
ToR Task 9: Develop and maintain the regional data and information systems needed to carry out its tasks					
Links to recommendation(s):					
Indirect links to recommendation(s):					
9.1	Map and review data flows related to assessments and indicators, and further streamline and develop data flow infrastructure, as needed.	State and Conservation	All EG's	Striving for INSPIRE compliance.	2019-2020
9.2	Develop detailed marine habitat and biotope maps (including broad habitat types under the MSFD)	State and Conservation	EN BENTHIC	Aim to base mapping on HUB through initiatives by Contracting	2019-2020

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
				Parties. make an updated inventory of national mapping through EN BENTHIC. In cooperation with EMODNET.	
9.3	Review and update Baltic Sea Environmental Fact Sheets (BSEFS).	State and Conservation	BSEFS authors (e.g. EG MAMA, PEG, FISH-PRO II, MORS, Response, HELCOM data consultants and responsible national institutes etc.)	Where possible, as identified in document 6J-1 rev.1. to State and Conservation 9-2018, the information will be merged with the relevant indicator reports.	Annually or when new data is available
9.4	Develop a database for biodiversity data, to support indicators evaluation etc.	State and Conservation, Secretariat	BaltiCheck		2019

Conservation and Biodiversity

Link to ToR Duties:

- B. Provide technical and scientific support for the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, Ministerial Declarations and HELCOM Recommendations as well as propose strategies, guidelines and recommendations in the area of its expertise according to the existing priorities as well as requests by the Heads of Delegations and subsidiary bodies;
- D. Review, develop and promote the implementation of HELCOM goals for biodiversity protection, nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources;
- E. Develop, propose and follow-up measures for protection of biodiversity and nature conservation.

Links to recommendation(s):

[15/1 PROTECTION OF THE COASTAL STRIP](#)

[16/3 PRESERVATION OF NATURAL COASTAL DYNAMICS](#)

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
<p><u>17/2 PROTECTION OF HARBOUR PORPOISE IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA</u></p> <p><u>21/4 PROTECTION OF HEAVILY ENDANGERED OR IMMEDIATELY THREATENED MARINE AND COASTAL BIOTOPES IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA</u></p> <p><u>27-28-CONSERVATION OF SEALS IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA</u></p> <p><u>34E/1 SAFEGUARDING IMPORTANT BIRD HABITATS AND MIGRATION ROUTES IN THE BALTIC SEA FROM NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF WIND AND WAVE ENERGY PRODUCTION AT SEA</u></p> <p><u>35/1 SYSTEM OF COASTAL AND MARINE BALTIC SEA PROTECTED AREAS (HELCOM MPAs)</u></p> <p><u>37/2 CONSERVATION OF BALTIC SEA SPECIES CATEGORIZED AS THREATENED ACCORDING TO THE 2013 HELCOM RED LIST</u></p> <p>Indirect links to recommendation(s):</p> <p><u>19/2 PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE WILD SALMON*) (Salmo salar L.) POPULATIONS IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA</u></p> <p><u>32-33-1 CONSERVATION OF BALTIC SALMON (SALMO SALAR) AND SEA TROUT (SALMO TRUTTA) POPULATIONS BY THE RESTORATION OF THEIR RIVER HABITATS AND MANAGEMENT OF RIVER FISHERIES</u></p>					
Follow up on implementation of and reporting on HELCOM Recommendations under the Biodiversity and Conservation section of State and Conservation		State and Conservation		Continuous	
Develop follow up systems and reporting schemes for those HELCOM Recommendations under the Biodiversity and Conservation section of State and Conservation for which such are not yet available		State and Conservation		Continuous	
<p>ToR Task 6: Prepare proposals for measures for the conservation and protection of species and coastal and marine habitats and biotopes and follow up on implementation of measures, e.g. in order to initiate protection of highly endangered species and threatened habitats and biotopes</p>					
<p>Links to recommendation(s):</p>					

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
Indirect links to recommendation(s):					
6.1	Share information on how the MPA network could contribute to mitigating the effects of climate change.	State and Conservation	EN CLIME		ongoing
6.2	Increasing the protection and restoration of biodiversity	State and Conservation			ongoing
6.3	Intensifying regional, sub-regional and cross-sectoral cooperation to support measures for the conservation and protection of species and coastal and marine habitats and biotopes.	State and Conservation			ongoing
6.4	Promote the preservation of ecological balance of the Baltic Sea area to strengthen resilience, including under a changing climate	State and Conservation			ongoing
6.5	New HELCOM Recommendation on conservation plans for habitats and biotopes at risk of extinction	State and Conservation Lead country Germany			
6.6	Identify and share information on methods and national work on ecosystem restoration in the Baltic Sea, and use the information to identify regional priorities.	State and Conservation		Highlight the identified habitat restoration priorities as important e.g. for funding mechanisms. Links to HD and HD reporting.	2019

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				Habitats may include reefs, flads etc.	
6.7	Activities to support conservation of Baltic Sea species and biotopes/habitats categorized as threatened according to the HELCOM Red List.	State and Conservation		First step of the action has been carried out to make an inventory of existing measures that will contribute to the improved status of threatened species and biotopes/habitats and analyze if they are sufficient to improve the state of those species	ongoing
BSAP 5	Where possible link red listed species to specific habitats/substrates based on scientific information.	State and Conservation	TG MPA, EN BENTHIC, FISH PRO III	Starting point be HD habitats/biotopes, if possible expand to HUB and MSFD broad habitat types	2019
BSAP 8	Identify and collate information on which technical measures are available to minimise bycatch of harbour porpoise	State and Conservation	Harbour porpoise team of EG MAMA		2019-2020
BSAP 9	Collate available information on and define “favourable conservation status” (e.g. threshold value) for harbour porpoise, considering also IUCN red-list criteria.	State and Conservation	Harbour porpoise team of EG MAMA		2019-2020
ToR Task 7: Further develop the system of coastal and marine protected areas and promote monitoring and research in these areas					
Links to recommendation(s): Indirect links to recommendation(s):					

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
7.1	Instigate an Expert Network for Marine Protected Area Managers in the Baltic Sea Region (EN MPAM).	State and Conservation	EN MPAM	To work intersessionally and through workshops as approved by State and Conservation and HOD. Possibility for cooperation with e.g. MedPAN and the Nature Protection Unit under DG Env.	2019
7.2	Full achievement of Aichi Target 11 regarding the management, ecological representativeness and connectivity of the HELCOM MPAs network.	State and Conservation		Direct tasks to be identified	2020
BSAP 4	Identify the sub-basins with less than 10% MPA (HELCOM MPAs, N2000 and national protected areas) coverage, and provide any scientific justification of why coverage would not need to be 10% or more.	State and Conservation			2019
7.3	Improve the understanding of the role of MPAs for ecosystem services, in order to enhance cost-effectiveness of MPAs management and yield the greatest environmental benefits.	State and Conservation		Use recent tools recommended by IUCN (e.g. INVEST). Finland to present their initial work with the tool based on IUCN workshop.	2019-2020
7.4	Coordination of management measures of pressures and impacts on MPAs, in particular for adjacent transnational MPAs	State and Conservation		Update of the MPA data base needed to show objectives and measures for MPA's in a structured way using a template.	no timeline set
7.5	Increase capacity for developing multi-management plans for marine protected areas.	State and Conservation	TG MPA	Explore zoning, multi-managment frameworks, nesting etc. TG MPA to consider ideas for taking the work forward.	2020

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
7.6	Collate and provide information on how to consider nature conservation needs, ecologically significant areas (also outside the protected areas) and ecosystem function in Maritime Spatial Planning and vice versa.	State and Conservation HELCOM-VASAB MSP		Share information from Finnish project in S&C 10-2019	2019-2020
7.7	Explore possibility to develop joint approach for assessing effectiveness of spatial protection measures for individual sites as well as network level.	State and Conservation		OSPAR working on similar task.	2019-2020
BSAP 10	Identify data needs to fulfil the criteria used in HELCOM when assessing ecological coherence of the MPA network. Consider development of sub-criteria e.g. coverage of genetic diversity.	State and Conservation	TG MPA		2020
7.8	Update of national information in the MPA database. Produce guidance for using and updating the MPA Database (2019-2020).	Contracting Parties		Possibly using a lead country approach.	Annually

Annex 1. Articles of the Convention of particular importance for State and Conservation Working Group

Article 3 Fundamental principles and obligations

1. The Contracting Parties shall individually or jointly take all appropriate legislative, administrative or other relevant measures to prevent and eliminate pollution in order to promote the ecological restoration of the Baltic Sea Area and the preservation of its ecological balance.
2. The Contracting Parties shall apply the precautionary principle, i.e., to take preventive measures when there is reason to assume that substances or energy introduced, directly or indirectly, into the marine environment may create hazards to human health, harm living resources and marine ecosystems, damage amenities or interfere with other legitimate uses of the sea even when there is no conclusive evidence of a causal relationship between inputs and their alleged effects.
3. In order to prevent and eliminate pollution of the Baltic Sea Area the Contracting Parties shall promote the use of Best Environmental Practice and Best Available Technology. If the reduction of inputs, resulting from the use of Best Environmental Practice and Best Available Technology, as described in Annex II, does not lead to environmentally acceptable results, additional measures shall be applied.
4. The Contracting Parties shall apply the polluter-pays principle.
5. The Contracting Parties shall ensure that measurements and calculations of emissions from point sources to water and air and of inputs from diffuse sources to water and air are carried out in a scientifically appropriate manner in order to assess the state of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area and ascertain the implementation of this Convention. Helsinki Convention July 2014
6. The Contracting Parties shall use their best endeavours to ensure that the implementation of this Convention does not cause transboundary pollution in areas outside the Baltic Sea Area. Furthermore, the relevant measures shall not lead either to unacceptable environmental strains on air quality and the atmosphere or on waters, soil and ground water, to unacceptably harmful or increasing waste disposal, or to increased risks to human health.

Article 7 Environmental impact assessment

1. Whenever an environmental impact assessment of a proposed activity that is likely to cause a significant adverse impact on the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area is required by international law or supra-national regulations applicable to the Contracting Party of origin, that Contracting Party shall notify the Commission and any Contracting Party which may be affected by a transboundary impact on the Baltic Sea Area.
2. The Contracting Party of origin shall enter into consultations with any Contracting Party which is likely to be affected by such transboundary impact, whenever consultations are required by international law or supra-national regulations applicable to the Contracting Party of origin.
3. Where two or more Contracting Parties share transboundary waters within the catchment area of the Baltic Sea, these Parties shall cooperate to ensure that potential impacts on the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area are fully investigated within the environmental impact assessment referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article. The Contracting Parties concerned shall jointly take appropriate measures in order to prevent and eliminate pollution including cumulative deleterious effects.

Article 11 Prevention of dumping

1. The Contracting Parties shall, subject to exemptions set forth in paragraphs 2 and 4 of this Article, prohibit dumping in the Baltic Sea Area.

2. Dumping of dredged material shall be subject to a prior special permit issued by the appropriate national authority in accordance with the provisions of Annex V.
3. Each Contracting Party undertakes to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Article by ships and aircraft: a) registered in its territory or flying its flag; b) loading, within its territory or territorial sea, matter which is to be dumped; or c) believed to be engaged in dumping within its internal waters and territorial sea.
4. The provisions of this Article shall not apply when the safety of human life or of a ship or aircraft at sea is threatened by the complete destruction or total loss of the ship or aircraft, or in any case which constitutes a danger to human life, if dumping appears to be the only way of averting the threat and if there is every probability that the damage consequent upon such dumping will be less than would otherwise occur. Such dumping shall be so conducted as to minimize the likelihood of damage to human or marine life.
5. Dumping made under the provisions of paragraph 4 of this Article shall be reported and dealt with in accordance with Annex VII and shall be reported forthwith to the Commission in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 4 of Annex V.
6. In case of dumping suspected to be in contravention of the provisions of this Article the Contracting Parties shall co-operate in investigating the matter in accordance with Regulation 2 of Annex IV.

Article 13 Notification and consultation on pollution incidents

1. Whenever a pollution incident in the territory of a Contracting Party is likely to cause pollution to the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area outside its territory and adjacent maritime area in which it exercises sovereign rights and jurisdiction according to international law, this Contracting Party shall notify without delay such Contracting Parties whose interests are affected or likely to be affected.
2. Whenever deemed necessary by the Contracting Parties referred to in paragraph 1, consultations should take place with a view to preventing, reducing and controlling such pollution.
3. Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall also apply in cases where a Contracting Party has sustained such pollution from the territory of a third state.

Article 15 Nature conservation and biodiversity

The Contracting Parties shall individually and jointly take all appropriate measures with respect to the Baltic Sea Area and its coastal ecosystems influenced by the Baltic Sea to conserve natural habitats and biological diversity and to protect ecological processes. Such measures shall also be taken in order to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources within the Baltic Sea Area. To this end, the Contracting Parties shall aim at adopting subsequent instruments containing appropriate guidelines and criteria.

Article 16 Reporting and exchange of information

1. The Contracting Parties shall report to the Commission at regular intervals on:
 - a) the legal, regulatory, or other measures taken for the implementation of the provisions of this Convention, of its Annexes and of recommendations adopted thereunder;
 - b) the effectiveness of the measures taken to implement the provisions referred to in sub-paragraph a) of this paragraph;
 - and c) problems encountered in the implementation of the provisions referred to in subparagraph a) of this paragraph.

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2. On the request of a Contracting Party or of the Commission, the Contracting Parties shall provide information on discharge permits, emission data or data on environmental quality, as far as available.

Article 24 Scientific and technological co-operation

1. The Contracting Parties undertake directly, or when appropriate through competent regional or other international organizations, to co-operate in the fields of science, technology and other research, and to exchange data and other scientific information for the purposes of this Convention. In order to facilitate research and monitoring activities in the Baltic Sea Area the Contracting Parties undertake to harmonize their policies with respect to permission procedures for conducting such activities.
2. Without prejudice to Article 4, paragraph 2 of this Convention the Contracting Parties undertake directly, or when appropriate, through competent regional or other international organizations, to promote studies and to undertake, support or contribute to programmes aimed at developing methods assessing the nature and extent of pollution, pathways, exposures, risks and remedies in the Baltic Sea Area. In particular, the Contracting Parties Helsinki Convention July 2014 undertake to develop alternative methods of treatment, disposal and elimination of such matter and substances that are likely to cause pollution of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area.
3. Without prejudice to Article 4, Paragraph 2 of this Convention the Contracting Parties undertake directly, or when appropriate through competent regional or other international organizations, and, on the basis of the information and data acquired pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, to co-operate in developing inter-comparable observation methods, in performing baseline studies and in establishing complementary or joint programmes for monitoring.
4. The organization and scope of work connected with the implementation of tasks referred to in the preceding paragraphs should primarily be outlined by the Commission.