

Extracts of HELCOM State & Conservation Workplan

S&C work outlined for 2019-2020: MA session

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					
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					
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

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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
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

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ToR Task 4 Periodic assessments of: <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 					
4.2	Planning for biodiversity assessments, including developing methods and tools to support future assessments.	State and Conservation			2019-2020
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
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
4.9.1	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
4.9.4	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

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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.					
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
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.					
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
ToR Task 9: Develop and maintain the regional data and information systems needed to carry out its tasks					
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 Parties. make an updated inventory of national mapping through EN BENTHIC. In cooperation with EMODNET.	2019-2020
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

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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

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. Habitats may include reefs, flads etc.	2019
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

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ToR Task 7: Further develop the system of coastal and marine protected areas and promote monitoring and research in these areas					
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-management frameworks, nesting etc. TG MPA to consider ideas for taking the work forward.	2020
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

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Thank you for your attention!

