



## Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature  
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION  
13-2020

Online, 5-9 October 2020

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<b>Document title</b>	Updated Work Plan for the update of the BSAP
<b>Code</b>	3J-1
<b>Category</b>	INF
<b>Agenda Item</b>	3J – Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) and associated activities
<b>Submission date</b>	14.9.2020
<b>Submitted by</b>	Secretariat

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### Background

The attached document contains the updated Work Plan for the update of the BSAP, endorsed by HOD 58-2020.

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the updated Work Plan.

## Updated work plan for the BSAP update

As approved by HOD 58-2020.

Significant changes since the work plan approved at HOD 55-2018 are indicated by *Add HOD 56-2019*. Already completed tasks are marked with a diagonal strike-out and green highlight. Updates endorsed by HOD 58 are included **in red color**.

### 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 as contained in this document clarifies the timing and more detailed steps of activities from the Strategic Plan.

The work plan will be updated by the Secretariat as more agreements come in to place, e.g. timing of workshop, timing of reporting by Contracting Parties, agreement on approaches etc.

The titles of activities refer to adopted activities of the Strategic plan for the BSAP update.

'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 an ad hoc interdisciplinary platform on analyses of sufficiency of measures, as agreed by HOD 55-2018. This group would replace the 'Task Force' as agreed by HELCOM 39-2018 ([Outcome of HELCOM 39-2018](#), para 2.6).

Strike-out text denotes steps that have already been considered.

### Work plan

#### I. Strengthening the implementation of the BSAP by 2021

##### Activity 1:1. Discussion on reasons for not yet accomplishing BSAP actions (autumn 2018 - mid 2020)

2018		2019				2020				2021
3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
		As needed								

**Tasks according to the 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 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 BSAP by 2021 and beyond.

*Add HOD 56-2019:* The task has been extended to mid-2020 to also cover the need of rephrasing of actions that tentatively will be transferred to the updated BSAP. Such rephrasing may concern addition of a new target year but also more substantial rewrites to be in line with recent developments in HELCOM. The spring meetings of Working Groups 2019 have initiated this task. The aim is to have concrete proposal on tentatively rephrased actions ready for presentation at HOD in June 2020.

<p><u>Autumn 2018</u></p> <p>Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Prepare compilation of not accomplished HELCOM actions for each WG autumn/spring* meeting 2018 (*end of full meeting cycle of HELCOM WGs is March 2019).</li> </ul> <p>Working Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identify if some additional joint actions can be assessed as accomplished.</li> <li>○ Discuss if all 'not accomplished' actions are still valid. If actions are found redundant or no longer relevant they could be proposed for deletion.</li> <li>○ Propose how valid joint actions not yet accomplished can be fulfilled (e.g. type of process such as project or lead country approach, type of product e.g. guideline, assessment report etc., and proposed timeline – as a matter of priority by 2021 but otherwise as proposed by the WG).</li> <li>○ Initial discussion on reasons for not achieving national actions and what would be the most important national actions to achieve for improving the state of the Baltic Sea by 2021.</li> </ul> <p>HOD 55-2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Consider compilation of proposals from autumn 2018 WG meetings.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Spring 2019</u></p> <p>Working Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Remaining Working Groups (Fish, Agri) to complete the request.</li> <li>○ Categorize actions not accomplished yet to identify need of rephrasing in case of transfer to the updated BSAP.</li> </ul> <p>HOD June 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Consider compilation of proposals on the implementation of existing actions from remaining WGs.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Autumn 2019</u></p> <p>Working Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Initiate rephrasing of existing actions as relevant</li> </ul>
<p><u>Spring 2020</u></p> <p>Working Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Proposal to HOD on actions to be transferred to updated BSAP</li> </ul> <p>HOD June 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Proposal on tentatively rephrasing of actions to be transferred to the updated BSAP</li> </ul> <p><u>Autumn 2020</u></p> <p>HOD December 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Consideration of the first full draft of the updated BSAP including the rephrased actions</li> </ul>

**Activity 1.2. Preparing information for the Ministerial Meeting 2021 (spring 2019 - end 2020)**

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

**Tasks according to the Strategic plan:** Technical update of the HELCOM Explorer and organizing the reporting by CPs in 2020.

<p><u>Autumn 2019</u></p> <p>Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Prepare a proposal for an overall update of the information in the BSAP follow-up system (HELCOM Explorer) and how to organize the reporting by CPs on national actions.</li> </ul>
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<p><u>Autumn 2019</u></p> <p>GEAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Review the proposed update to the BSAP follow-up system e.g. taking into account similar work CPs might have undertaken on national level.</li> </ul> <p>HOD Dec 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Agreement on update of the BSAP follow-up system, including on presentation of results.</li> <li>○ Agreement on the scope of the reporting by Contracting Parties to the BSAP follow-up system (reporting to take place in 4Q of 2020).</li> </ul>
<p><u>Spring 2020</u></p> <p>Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Prepare reporting forms for the BSAP follow-up on national actions.</li> <li>○ Implement technical solutions for update of the BSAP follow-up system (Jan-Sept).</li> </ul> <p>HOD June 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Preview of the reporting forms to the BSAP follow-up system.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Autumn 2020</u></p> <p>Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Organize the reporting of the BSAP follow-up on national actions.</li> </ul> <p>Contracting Parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reporting on the implementation of HELCOM national actions to the BSAP follow-up system (Oct-Dec 2020).</li> </ul> <p><b>Working groups:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Reporting on implementation of joint actions to the BSAP follow-up system (Sept-Dec 2020).</b></li> </ul>

## II. Mandate to update the BSAP

### Activity 2:1. BSAP update Work Plan Overview (autumn 2018 – HOD 55-2018)

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

<p><b>Tasks according to the Strategic plan:</b> Development and agreement on the first version of this document.</p>
<p><u>Autumn 2018</u></p> <p>Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Prepare work plan proposal by first WG meeting in autumn 2018: the work plan preparation will be advancing with time, leading to a first full draft at the GEAR meeting, which is just before HOD 55-2018, and utilizing input from WGs.</li> </ul> <p>Workings Groups (MARITIME 18-2018, PRESSURE 9 -2018, STATE&amp;CONSERVATION 9-2018, and GEAR 19-2018):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Review draft proposal prepared by the Secretariat, and consider how to best arrange the work requested by the Working Group (e.g. through sessions during ordinary WGs meetings, workshops, intersessional activities etc.).</li> <li>○ Propose EGs and networks to be engaged in the work.</li> </ul> <p>HOD 55-2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Work plan proposal for agreement</li> </ul>

**Activity 2.2. Adjustment to the overall structure of BSAP (autumn 2018 – early 2020)**

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

**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.

Autumn 2018

## Secretariat:

- Prepare document with potential alignment/gaps of current BSAP structure with SDG goals, Aichi targets and MSFD descriptors.

## GEAR 19-2018:

- Provide feedback on a proposal on new BSAP segments and goals (and possible revision of existing ones).
- Guidance for Working Groups on possible new ecological objectives i.e. the narrative description of desired state (e.g. clear water) (level of detail, relation to other policies).

## HOD 55-2018:

- Proposal on new overarching structure (level of segments and goals) for agreement.

Spring 2019

## Working Groups:

- Intersessional preparatory step for the review of ecological objectives at spring meetings 2019
- Review and potentially propose revised and new ecological objectives at spring meetings 2019.

## GEAR 20-2019:

- Provide feedback on a proposal new BSAP structure based on mapping of activities and pressure to be considered under the segment

## HOD June 2019:

- Draft proposals on revised and new ecological objectives.
- Further consideration of structure of the updated BSAP

Autumn 2019

## Working Groups:

- Further elaboration of revised and new ecological objectives

## HOD Dec 2019:

- Endorsement of overall structure, including ecological objectives, of BSAP UP.

March 2020 (HELCOM Meeting)

- Adoption of overall structure of BSAP update at HELCOM 2020 (at High-level Segment of HELCOM).
- Stakeholder conference.

**Activity 2.3. Status of implementation of the current measures and agreements (autumn 2018 - mid-2019)**

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

**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; [tentatively early 2019]; c) proposing a collection of information on other (than HELCOM) existing measures in the countries and their level of implementation-

Autumn 2018

## Secretariat:

- Make list/proposal of recommendations or other commitments, (e.g. part of the Convention) that could be reported by Contracting Parties to support the assessment of implementation of HELCOM agreements. Focus is primarily on recommendations related to measures.
- Arrange for reporting by Contracting Parties on recommendations and other relevant HELCOM commitments.

## Workings Groups:

- Identify other HELCOM commitments that could be relevant to support the assessment of HELCOM agreements, e.g. recommendations or part of the Convention. Meeting to agree on how the follow-up of the recommendation should be carried out e.g. questions, reporting forms, based on proposal by Secretariat.

Spring 2019 1Q

## Contracting Parties:

- Reporting on recommendations and main agreements [via Working Groups or national contact point to be agreed]

## SOM Platform (first meeting):

- Identify how to collect other existing measures in the countries (other than HELCOM commitments) to support analysis of sufficiency of measures

## Secretariat:

- Arrange for collection and search of additional information on measures (other than HELCOM commitments)

Spring 2019 2Q

## Working Groups:

- 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.

## Contracting Parties:

- Review the collected information on other existing measures in the countries.

## HOD June 2019:

- Results from additional reporting on HELCOM commitments (e.g. recommendations) endorsed

**Activity 2:4. Review of the current BSAP (early- end 2019)**

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

**Tasks according to the Strategic plan:** As agreed in the BSAP update guidance (HELCOM 39-2018), the actions that do not have measurable and clear targets will be identified, with the aim to develop them into a more specific actions or set of actions for the updated BSAP. The most recent 2018 Ministerial commitments will be integrated into the work.

*Add HOD 56-2019:* This task has been extended to end of 2019.

Spring meeting 2019

## Working Groups:

- 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 (see 2.6).
- 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 (see 2.6).

**Activity 2:5. Analysing sufficiency of measures to reach HELCOM objectives and targets (2019-mid-2020)**

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

**Tasks according to the Strategic plan:** The guidance document on the BSAP update (cf. document 2-6/REV, HELCOM 39-2018) states HELCOM will carry out an analysis of sufficiency of measures to reach HELCOM objectives and targets, to support selection of new actions. In order to estimate whether current actions (HELCOM actions and measures implemented under other policies) are sufficient to reach good status, information on the impact of the actions is required. This is particularly relevant for those actions aimed at reducing pressures to a level that is consistent with good environmental status. The activity will involve substantial work and will be organized topic by topic. In addition to identifying tentative gaps in measures the activity will also identify knowledge and data needs for effective implementation of measures. This work is to be based on newest scientific findings and knowledge, including from BONUS projects and related to climate change.

*Add HOD 56-2019:* Time-table and steps for work under the SOM Platform has been updated as proposed by HELCOM SOM Platform 1-2019.

**Planning:** Main responsible for planning the work: GEAR 19-2018. Additional working arrangement might be necessary to carry out the task e.g. via the thematic workshops and jointly with the working groups. Such an additional working arrangement proposed is a new interdisciplinary platform on sufficiency of measures (SOM Platform). The HELCOM ACTION project (pending the final approval as of 13.11.2018) will carry out analysis of sufficiency of measures for a number of topics.

Autumn 2018

## Secretariat:

- Come up with initial proposal for areas for synthesis of existing knowledge and for sufficiency of measures; liaison with experts/lead countries to be appointed for work of the SOM Platform.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Estimate expert and resource needs for sufficiency of measures analyses.</li> </ul> <p><b>GEAR 19-2018:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Propose focal areas for synthesis of existing knowledge to support the analysis of sufficiency of measures and identification of potential new measures (priority areas).</li> <li>○ Propose focal areas for analyses of sufficiency of measures (priority areas).</li> <li>○ Consider the experts needs for sufficiency of measures analyses and development of business-as-usual (BAU) scenarios.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Analyses:</b> To estimate whether current actions (HELCOM actions and measures implemented under other policies) are sufficient to reach good status. The activity will be organized topic by topic as outlined in the organization of work for SOM analyses, HOD 56-2019, document 2.2).</p>
<p>Secretariat: Support, e.g. arrangement of SOM Platform meetings, HELCOM thematic workshops</p>
<p><u>Spring 2019 1Q</u></p> <p>SOM Platform (first meeting – February 2019):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Plan for how to structure syntheses of existing knowledge to support the BSAP update.</li> <li>○ Plan for regional analysis of sufficiency of measures and development of BAU scenarios according to priority areas agreed by HOD. Plans for the assessment of effectiveness of measures by OSPAR to be considered.</li> <li>○ Work on syntheses started (to be carried out by appointed experts/lead country by end of 2019).</li> </ul> <p>Contracting Parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Assignment of resources, identification of lead countries and appointment of experts to carry out syntheses and analyses - by early 2019.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Autumn 2019</u></p> <p>SOM Platform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Second meeting 16-17 September 2019</li> <li>○ Prepare regional “business as usual” scenario.</li> <li>○ Analysis of sufficiency of measures initiated by lead countries and Topic teams under the SOM Platform and by partners of the ACTION project</li> </ul> <p>Workings Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Contribution to expert based evaluations</li> <li>○ Initiate review of ongoing work on synopses</li> </ul>
<p><u>Spring 2020</u></p> <p>SOM Platform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Third meeting 24-26 March 2020</b></li> <li>○ <b>Results of the SOM analysis ready in June 2020</b> Prepare material for meetings/workshops to discuss results of SOM analysis and proposals on new measures from synopses</li> </ul>
<p><u>Autumn 2020</u></p> <p>Workings Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Validation of input data to the SOM analyses (September)</b></li> </ul> <p>SOM Platform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Fourth meeting 15 September 2020</b></li> <li>○ <b>Potential fifth meeting in November 2020</b></li> <li>○ <b>Prepare overall and topic-specific SOM reports to support BSAP update</b></li> </ul> <p>HOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Consideration of the results of the SOM analysis</b></li> </ul>



**Activity 2:6. Proposing new actions and improvement of the existing actions (end 2019- end 2020)**

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

**Tasks according to the Strategic plan:** The analysis of sufficiency of measures will be utilized for identifying 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 and as an outcome of some of the other activities within this strategic plan, in particular the assessment of the sufficiency of measures. A full draft of the updated BSAP to be available last quarter 2020.

*Add HOD 56-2019: Expansion on how the process to consider results of SOM analyses and proposals on new actions for the updated BSAP will take place based on outcome of HELCOM SOM Platform 1-2019. Further elaboration and proposal for this step will take place at second meeting of the SOM Platform.*

Autumn 2019

## Working Groups:

- 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.
- Prepare proposals of actions and measurable targets to follow-up on the MD 2018 commitments and open discussion on potential new measures.

## HOD Dec 2019:

- Based on outcome Activity 1:1, 2:3, 2:4 and 2:6 of previous WG meetings, consider proposals on:
  - not yet implemented existing HELCOM actions to be considered for uptake in the updated BSAP,
  - actions and measurable targets for MD 2018 commitments (draft proposals).

Spring 2020

## SOM Platform:

- Prepare material for HELCOM meetings/workshops on new actions based on analyses of sufficiency of measures, the submission of synopses on potential new HELCOM actions, proposals from ACTION projects, proposals based on reviewing the list of measures implemented in the countries.

## Working Groups:

- **Technical review of the proposals for new actions that were submitted as synopses and identifying possible gaps in the set of synopses**
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Autumn 2020

## SOM Platform:

- Re-run analyses of sufficiency of measures including proposed new HELCOM actions
- Prepare analyses of cost-effectiveness of potential new HELCOM actions

**BSAP UP workshops:**

- **Assessment of relevance and effectiveness of the proposed new actions**

## Working Groups:

- **Further elaboration and endorsement for submission to HOD 59-2020 of possible new actions based on the outcome of the BSAP UP workshop in the WG autumn meetings and, if needed, intersessional online meetings,**
- **Identifying possible gaps in the set of measures for the updated BSAP and proposing measures to fill the gaps. Assessing the effectiveness of the proposed measures to fill the gaps.**

- Consideration of the results from the analyses of sufficiency of measures

HOD Dec 2020:

- Further consideration of measures (first complete draft of the updated BSAP presented).

### Activity 2:7. Drafting the updated BSAP (mid 2020 – autumn 2021)

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

#### Autumn 2020

Secretariat:

- Proposal for separating the measures that can contribute directly to improving the state of the Baltic Sea from those actions that are aimed at supporting implementation of actions or other HELCOM activities (e.g. actions related to databases, mapping, assessments, guidelines).
- First drafts of the segment preambles as well as drafts for the description of current and desired state in the operative sections

Working groups:

- Review of the first drafts of the segment preambles as well as drafts for the description of current and desired state in the operative sections

BSAP Drafting group:

- Drafting of the overarching preamble
- Further drafting of the segment preambles as well as the description of current and desired state in the operative sections as needed

GEAR:

- Review of the first draft of the overarching preamble and segment specific preambles

#### Spring 2021:

BSAP Drafting group:

- Drafting further the preambles and operative sections based on guidance from HOD 59-2020

Working groups

- Drafting further the supplementary information for actions

HOD

- Intersessional meetings on drafting if needed
- Approval of the updated BSAP in June 2021

#### Autumn 2021

HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2021

- Adoption of the updated BSAP