



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

Document title	Finalizing the rephrasing and concretization of existing HELCOM actions
Code	3J-10
Category	DEC
Agenda Item	3J – Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) and associated activities
Submission date	14.9.2020
Submitted by	Secretariat

Background

HOD 58-2020 agreed in principle on the rephrased and concretized existing HELCOM actions to be transferred to the updated BSAP with the understanding that further drafting based on the written comments will take place. The actions agreed in principle and comments by HOD 58-2020 can be found [here](#).

HOD 58-2020 invited DG BSAP and HELCOM Working Groups to continue work on those actions where the need for further work has been identified. The actions relevant for State & Conservation Working Group are included in the attached document.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to finalize the remaining open actions, in line with what has been agreed by HOD 58-2020 and endorse them for submission to HOD 59-2020 for provisional agreement.

Finalizing the rephrasing and concretization of existing HELCOM actions

HOD 58-2020 agreed in principle on the rephrased and concretized existing HELCOM actions to be transferred to the updated BSAP with the understanding that further drafting based on the written comments will take place.

HOD 58-2020 invited DG BSAP and HELCOM Working Groups to continue work on those actions where the need for further work has been identified. The actions relevant for rephrasing by State & Conservation Working Group are highlighted below in yellow and the request by HOD 58-2020 is included in red font color. Other actions related to the same original action are included for context but only actions highlighted in yellow are to be re-considered by the group. Please note that the division of actions into segments, themes and sub-themes is provisional.

Segment: Sea-based activities

Sub-theme: Bycatch

<p>Evaluation of the effectiveness of existing technical measures to minimise by-catch of harbour porpoises</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: Joint Status: Not accomplished HELCOM group: S&C</p>	<p>Invite the competent authorities, such as BALTFISH, to immediately, but no later than 2022, implement mitigation measures in the Baltic proper, in order for by-catch of harbour porpoise to be significantly reduced with the aim to reach by-catch rates close to zero.</p>
<p>Take decisive action to work towards a favourable conservation status of the harbor porpoise based on implementation of the CMS (Convention on Migratory Species) ASCOBANS (Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans in the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas) Jastarnia Plan for the harbor porpoise in the Baltic Sea, in particular by addressing the pressing problem of by-catch.</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Implementation: Joint Status: Not accomplished HELCOM group: S&C</p>	<p>Continually test new by-catch mitigation measures, with evaluation of measures every 5 years starting in [2022], continually introduce new technical and operational by-catch mitigation measures, in cooperation with competent authorities and regularly update HELCOM questionnaire on trials of alternative fishing gears and fishing techniques.</p> <p>At the latest by [2023] enhance monitoring efforts for more reliable data on fishing effort, number of by-caught individuals and by-catch rates, as stipulated in the HELCOM Roadmap on collection of fisheries data in order to assess incidental bycatches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes in the Baltic Sea and for the status of populations by [2025].</p> <p>Note by the Secretariat: This action overlaps with an action on by-catch from Fish.</p> <p>HOD 58-2020 instructed the Fish and State & Conservation groups to consider the overlapping actions under environmentally sustainable sea-based activities related to incidental by-catch, and to submit a proposal for merging or further differentiation of these actions to HOD 59-2020 for agreement. DK and FI supported the formulation by the Fish group.</p>

	Invite the competent authorities to implement operational conservation measures for the Western Baltic population by [2024] such as permanent and/or spatial-temporal closures for relevant fishing métiers in risk areas where technical mitigation measures are insufficient to reach conservation goals.
<p>Development and implementation of effective monitoring for by-caught birds and mammals</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: Joint Status: Partly accomplished HELCOM group: Fish</p>	<p>Development and implementation of effective data collection for by-caught birds and mammals in line with the needs identified by ICES and the identified data-gaps outlined in the HELCOM Roadmap on fisheries data</p> <p>Note by the Secretariat: This action overlaps with an action on by-catch from S&C.</p> <p><i>HOD 58-2020 instructed the Fish and State & Conservation groups to consider the overlapping actions under environmentally sustainable sea-based activities related to incidental by-catch, and to submit a proposal for merging or further differentiation of these actions to HOD 59-2020 for agreement. DK and FI supported the formulation by the Fish group.</i></p>

Segment: Biodiversity

Theme: Spatial Conservation Measures and Management

Existing action	Proposal for rephrasing
<p>WE ALSO COMMIT to improving 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. WE ALSO AGREE to strive for full achievement of Aichi Target 11 regarding the management, ecological representativeness and connectivity of the HELCOM MPAs network;</p> <p>Origin: MD 2018, para 45 HELCOM group: S&C</p>	<p>Support Baltic Sea MPA managers by building capacity including by updating the HELCOM Guidance for MPA Management, including arranging annual capacity building workshops.</p> <p>Comment by S&C 12-2020: <i>Will need further elaboration in the autumn STATE&CONSERAVTION 13-2020 meeting Conservation session, TG MPA will also discuss and provide input. Update and strengthen Recommendation 35-1 by [2025] at the latest, including but not limited to....[developing and applying management plans for existing and new MPAs]</i></p> <p>HOD 58-2020: Further elaboration by STATE&CONSERVATION 13-2020.</p>
<p>Develop and apply by 2015 management plans or measures for all existing HELCOM MPAs</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: National Status: Partly accomplished HELCOM group: S&C</p>	<p>By [2026] nationally ensure that MPA management plans and/or measures are legally binding and ensure appropriate structures are in place to enforce compliance.</p>
<p>Establish management plan or measures for every new MPA within five years after its designation. <i>[first target year 2019 – five years after adoption of Rec 35/1]</i></p> <p>Origin: BSAP Implementation: National Status: Future target year (2019)</p>	

HELCOM group: S&C	
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Theme: Protection of species

Existing action	Proposal for rephrasing
<p>Protect seabirds in the Baltic Sea, taking into consideration migratory species</p> <p>Origin: MD 2013 Implementation: Joint Status: Partly accomplished HELCOM group: S&C</p>	<p>By [2022] establish a sub-group of experts to maintain an updated map of the sensitivity of seabirds to threats such as wind energy facilities, wave energy installations, shipping and fisheries</p> <p>Complete, as a first step, the mapping of migration routes and staging areas with existing data by [2022] and ensure that appropriate resources are made available by the Contracting Parties to finalize this task</p> <p>Further develop maps of migration routes and staging areas by [2025] and ensure that appropriate resources are made available by the Contracting Parties to finalize this task</p> <p>By [2023] and onwards with new findings [or knowledge instead of findings] and on the basis of produced maps propose mitigation measures and potential exclusion areas for offshore wind farms and other installations with barrier effect. EIA procedure finally decides upon individual wind/wave energy installation projects that affect a proposed exclusion area. (for this action no agreement on formulation was reached at S&C 12-2020. Consequently DE, DK, PL and SE placed study reservations on the action and the meeting invited DK and DE to continue the clarification regarding the formulation bilaterally)</p> <p>HOD 58-2020: Took note of new proposal by lead countries DE and DK</p> <p><i>“By 2023 and onwards with new findings use the produced maps in EIA procedures with the aim to protect migratory birds against potential threats arising from new offshore wind farms and other installations with barrier effect.”</i></p> <p>S&C 13-2020 to further work on the proposal. SE study reservation</p> <p>To by the next update cycle of the marine spatial plans seek to incorporate the produced maps in the work concerning maritime spatial planning to avoid that maritime activities impair seabirds and their habitats.</p> <p>DK study reservation</p> <p>S&C 11C-2020: <i>Sensitive species should be included under a more general action for MSP for HELCOM-VASAB. If not covered by HELCOM-VASP MSP group then it should be considered as a possible gap for S&C 13.</i></p>

	By [2027] assess the effectiveness of conservation efforts to protect seabirds against threats and pressures
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Theme: Economic and social analysis

Existing action	Proposal for rephrasing
<p>Further develop information provision from ecosystem models and to co-operate closely in doing so, bearing in mind the requirements of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan in developing targets for good ecological status, indicators for assessing the ecological status of the marine environment and in estimating future allowable nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea and its sub-regions without jeopardizing achievement of the good ecological and environmental status</p> <p>Origin: BSAP Status: Previously deemed too general for follow-up HELCOM group: S&C</p>	<p>Comment by S&C 12-2020: <i>To use the submitted synopsis for further clarification on the model-based decision support tool. Reformulation to clarify text might be needed later in the process.</i></p> <p>Development of a model-based decision support tool by [XXXX], at latest, with the aim to plan and follow up the effect and cost of existing measure and to plan the need of new measures an ecosystem based management of human activities.</p> <p>HOD 58-2020: S&C 13-2020 to consider the formulation of the action, using the relevant synopsis and the consequent evaluation as a basis.</p> <p>By [XXXX] analyse existing tools for analysing sufficiency of measures, with the aim to plan monitoring and assessment of the effect and cost of measures, in order to further make use of the experiences when the need of new measures occurs."</p>