



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION
13-2020

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Document title	Draft workplan for State and Conservation Working Group 2021-2022
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Submitted by	Secretariat

Background

This document contains the draft updated workplan for HELCOM State and Conservation 2021-2022. A column identifying stepwise progress and possible barriers related to the tasks has been added to the workplan.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to

- consider and approve the proposal that the next iteration of the workplan be updated on a shorter time schedule, in spring 2022 rather than autumn 2022 to account for changes in tasks and content following the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, expected to take place in the second half of 2021;
- consider and approve the Work Plan for the State and Conservation Working Group 2021-2022;
- endorse the submission of the updated workplan for submission to HOD 59 for approval.

Work Plan for HELCOM Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation (State and Conservation) 2021-2022

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.

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME	PROGRESS/BARRIERS
Monitoring (Monitoring Session)						
<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; 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):</p> <p><i><u>10/1 ABNORMAL SITUATIONS IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT</u></i> <i>(under consideration for replacement by an automated service)</i></p> <p><i><u>10/2 ASSESSMENTS OF THE EFFECTS OF POLLUTION ON THE COASTAL AREAS OF THE BALTIC SEA</u></i> <i>(under consideration for transfer to PRESSURE WG)</i></p> <p><i><u>19/3 MANUAL FOR THE HELCOM JOINT COORDINATED MARINE MONITORING</u></i></p> <p><i><u>26/3 MONITORING OF RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES</u></i></p> <p><i><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></i></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	PROGRESS/BARRIERS
	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	Overall S&C recommendation reporting scheme drafted for S&C 12-2020. Reporting on 2/3 Monitoring recommendation not yet established.
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, PEG, FISH-PRO III, EG MORS, IN EUTRO, EN BENTHIC, JWG BIRD, EN HAZ, EN LITTER, EN NOISE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Linked to the development of core indicators. – Statement on purpose and intended use of Guidelines to be included in the Monitoring guideline template. – Schedule and system for review of existing guidelines to be developed. – Review and amendments to be done by relevant HELCOM EG at EG meetings. 	Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Steady progress with several new guidelines published in the period 2019-2020. – Workload of lead countries hindering progress. – Uncertainty regarding the task from experts.

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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Follow up on level of implementation needed? – Accessibility limited by website structure and unclarity regarding internal relations of current Strategy, Manual, Programmes, Guidelines and the pervious COMBINE setup.
BSAP 1	Analyse cost-efficiency of joint monitoring.	State and Conservation		– XXXX	XXXX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Not included as part of BSAP update work. – Partially done under BONUS projects FUMARI and SEAM (e.g. review of cost effectiveness of current programmes, identification of gaps, proposals for novel methods and potential for joint approaches).
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						

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<p>Links to recommendation actions:</p> <p>Indirect links to recommendation(s):</p>						
2.1.a)	<p>Development of a coordinated monitoring programme.</p> <p>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.</p>	State and Conservation	EG MAMA, ZEN, PEG, FISH-PRO III, JWG BIRD, IN BENTIC, EN LITTER, EN NOISE, EG MORS, EN HAZ Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Base the analysis on information of national monitoring programmes, including gaps, and requirements for core indicators. – Gap analysis and proposed improvements to regional monitoring programmes provided by the BONUS FUMARI and SEAM projects. – Where needed new monitoring programmes may need to be developed and approved based on core indicators approved for HOLAS III. – Next full review planned for 2025/2026. – 	Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Monitoring Programme and Manual reviewed in 2020. - workload and engagement of experts associated with the review impeded the updated process.
2.1.b)	<p>Development of a coordinated monitoring programme.</p> <p>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</p>	State and Conservation	EG MAMA, ZEN, PEG, FISH-PRO III, JWG BIRD, IN BENTIC, EN LITTER, EN NOISE, EG MORS, EN HAZ Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – In-depth review of HELCOM data flows commenced through the HELCOM DataFlow (2020-2021) and BalticDataFlow (2020-2023) projects. – Projects will also look at improving exiting, not fully established data flows, increasing reporting capacity and establishing 	Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Initial gap analysis and classification of HELCOM dataflows to guide improvements efforts conducted in 2019.

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	macrophyte monitoring), marine litter, underwater noise, hydrography			<p>consistent dataflows for data strands for which functional dataflows are not yet established.</p> <p>– By 2022 establish fully functional data flows for marine litter, seabirds and marine mammals.</p>		<p>– HELCOM Biodiversity Database (BioBase) developed in 2019.</p> <p>– Reporting deadlines and reporting frequency for existing fully functional dataflows reviewed and agreed in 2020.</p>
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		<p>- HELCOM DataFlow (2020-2021) to support the establishment of consistent dataflows for human activities/pressure data.</p> <p>- Link to MSP needs. Exchange information with Pressure and HELCOM_VASAB MSP.</p> <p>- Link to possible driver-indicators (indicators looking at trends in drivers of change, used to provide context to assessments).</p>	By mid-2021 agree on a list of prioritized human activities and pressures for which consistent dataflows should be established, to ensure data is available for HOLAS III.	– Lack of established dataflows and reporting infrastructure.
2.3	Review and if needed further develop monitoring to follow-up implementation and effect of measures under the Baltic Sea Action Plan.	State and Conservation		<p>– Monitoring focused on identifying level of implementation, change in state and linking measures to change in state.</p> <p>– Strong link to Sufficiency of Measures analysis (SOM)</p>	Start in XXXX	<p>– First SOM methodology developed in 2019.</p> <p>– First SOM analysis conducted in 2020.</p>

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Use gaps identified under SOM analysis as the basis for a targeted approach. – Set up regular reporting on level of implementation, using HELCOM Explorer and Recommendations reporting. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Further developments needed. – Improved understanding and information on link between measures and state needed, including synergistic (and possible antagonistic effects).
Assessments and indicators (Joint Session)						
<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; 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): (21/3 SUSTAINABLE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY TOURISM IN THE COASTAL ZONES OF THE BALTIC SEA AREA) (suggested for replacement with guidelines) 24/10 R IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED MARINE AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA</p> <p>Indirect links to recommendation(s): 28E/9 DEVELOPMENT OF BROAD-SCALE MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING PRINCIPLES IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA 17/3 INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION WITH REGARD TO CONSTRUCTION OF NEW INSTALLATIONS AFFECTING THE BALTIC SEA</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 – Reporting for 24/10-R	-Overall S&C recommendation reporting scheme drafted for S&C 12-2020.		

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					reporting to take place every 3 years, next reporting planned for 2022.	-Reporting template for 16/3 developed and reporting finalised in 2019. -Reporting on 2/2 Monitoring recommendation not yet fully established.
	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 – Reporting template for 24/10-R to be developed by 2021. – Establishment of reporting frequency for Recommendation 16/3 by mid 2021	Overall S&C recommendation reporting scheme drafted for S&C 12-2020. Reporting on 2/3 Monitoring recommendation not yet established.
Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan						
BSAP UP 1	Proposals on revised and new ecological objectives.	State and Conservation			Spring 2019	Completed

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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	Completed
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	Completed
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	Completed
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	Completed
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	Completed

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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	Completed
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	Completed
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	Completed
BSAP UP 10	Preparation of the segment specific annex information for actions included in the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan.	State and Conservation			Spring 2021	
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	Completed
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	State and Conservation	EG MAMA, ZEN, PEG, EN-HAZ, FISH-PRO III, JWG BIRD, EN BENTIC,	-Improvement of dataflows for marine mammals and seabirds planned under HELCOM BLUES project.	2020-2021	-HELCOM DataFlow (2020-2021) and Baltic DataFlow (2020-2023)

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	prioritization on how to fill the identified gaps.		EN LITTER, EN NOISE, EG MORS, Secretariat			projects commenced in 2020.
3.3	Development new, and adjustment of exiting, HELCOM core, pre-core and candidate indicators, based on gaps identified under the review process.	State and Conservation Pressure	EG MAMA, ZEN, PEG, EN-HAZ, FISH-PRO III, JWG BIRD, EN BENTIC, EN Marine Litter, EN Noise, EG MORS Secretariat		Continuous, Indicators to be included in HOLAS III to be ready by end of 2021.	
3.3.1	<i>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.</i>	<i>State and Conservation</i>	<i>EN Marine Litter</i>	<i>-Possible link to litter indicator development under the HELCOM BLUES project.</i>	<i>ongoing.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>– Report on the analysis of compiled beach litter data and proposals for setting preliminary beach litter baselines in the Baltic Sea (deliverable from SPICE project)</i> <i>– Litter on the seafloor in the HELCOM area- analyses of data from BITS trawling hauls 2012-2016 (deliverable from SPICE project)</i>

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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Indicator workplan developed and approved in 2019. – Further work on the HELCOM microlitter indicator agreed in 2020.
3.3.2	Developing ambitious, regionally coordinated, quantitative targets to reduce input of litter into the marine environment.	State and Conservation	EN Marine Litter	Possible link to EU threshold value on beach litter	Ongoing. Beach litter and seafloor litter indicators ready to be included in HOLAS III.	Plans for further work on the HELCOM beach litter indicator agreed in 2020. Barriers: decisions on HELCOM database to host beach litter data
3.3.3	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	Possible link to noise assessment development under the HELCOM BLUES project EN-Noise contribution to ongoing discussion on threshold values and assessment on noise at EU level (TG Noise)	Ongoing Impulsive and continuous noise indicators ready to be included in HOLAS III.	Noise sensitive species identified in 2019. Plans for further work on the noise indicators agreed in 2020.
3.3.4	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		-First draft of threshold-values presented in 2020.

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3.3.5	<i>Develop regionally coordinated quantitative targets for the reduction of physical disturbance caused by human activities, and for habitat loss.</i>	<i>State and Conservation</i>	<i>EN BENTHIC</i>	<i>Link to pressures under Pressure and activities under FISH and Maritime</i>		
3.3.6	<i>Elaborate regional actions and suggested national actions, aiming at delivering the necessary reductions in adverse effects of physical disturbance caused by human activities.</i>	<i>State and Conservation</i>	<i>EN BENTHIC</i>	<i>Link to pressures under Pressure and activities under FISH and Maritime -Possible inclusion of further work on displacement of human activities under the HELCOM BLUES project.</i>		<i>-Initial proposals for displacement of fisheries prepared under the HELCOM ACTION project 2020.</i>
3.3.7	<i>Development HELCOM core indicator: Harbor porpoise abundance and distribution</i>	<i>State and Conservation</i>	<i>EG MAMA</i>	<i>Possible link to planned work on indicator development under the HELCOM BLUES project.</i>		<i>-Indicator workplan developed and approved in 2019</i>
3.3.8	<i>Development HELCOM core indicator(s) for assessing state of pelagic habitats)</i>	<i>State and Conservation</i>	<i>PEG, ZEN</i>	<i>Possible link to planned work on indicator development under the HELCOM BLUES project.</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>-Indicator workplan developed and approved in 2019. -Approval for establishing an expert Correspondence Group on pelagic habitats at HOD 58-2020. -assessment approach not in place.</i>
3.3.9	<i>Improvement of HELCOM core indicator: Number of drowned mammals and birds</i>	<i>State and Conservation, FISH</i>	<i>JWG BIRD, EG MAMA, CG FISHDATA</i>	<i>Possible link to planned work on indicator development under the HELCOM BLUES project.</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>-Indicator workplan developed and approved in 2019.</i>

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						<p><i>-OSPAR-HELCOM joint workshop on bycatch held in 2019.</i></p> <p><i>-Lack of monitoring and data on bycatch rates.</i></p>
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 Pressure to attend the relevant sessions of the respective meetings to support information exchange.	XXXXX	-Secretariat has instigated considerations on how this could be done.
3.5	Development of driver indicators	State and Conservation, Pressure, Fish, Agri, Maritime	EN ESA	Driver indicators are trend indicators focused on drivers of changes, developed to provide context to the status assessment result and improve the holistic approach.	Continuous, 2022?	
<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	PROGRESS/BARRIERS
4.1	Planning and executing the Third Holistic Assessment of the State of the Baltic Sea (HOLAS III)	State and Conservation, Pressure, Fish, Maritime,	EG MAMA, ZEN, PEG, EN-HAZ, FISH-PRO III, JWG BIRD, EN BENTHIC, EN LITTER, EN NOISE, EG MORS, EN DREGE		2019-2023	-Developments taking place under the HELCOM Indicators, HELCOM DataFlow, Baltic DataFlow and possible HELCOM MetDev and HELCOM BLUES projects
4.1.1	<i>Biodiversity assessments, including developing methods and tools to support future assessments.</i>	<i>State and Conservation</i>	<i>EG MAMA, ZEN, PEG, EN-HAZ, FISH-PRO III, JWG BIRD, EN BENTHIC</i>	<p><i>-Possible link to work planned to improve the BEAT assessment tool under the HELCOM BLUES project.</i></p> <p><i>-Possible link to improved pressures and impact assessment, with biodiversity element specific pressure and impacts deliverables being produced to support the assessment results.</i></p> <p><i>-Possible link to development of driver indicators to provide context to assessment results.</i></p> <p><i>Link to improved assessment of foodwebs.</i></p> <p><i>-possible link to expanded number of biodiversity indicators</i></p>	2021-2022	
4.1.2	<i>Work on thematic assessment on coastal fish</i>	<i>State and Conservation</i>	<i>FISH-PRO IIII</i>		XXXX	

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4.1.3	<i>Assessment of status of pelagic habitats</i>	<i>State and Conservation</i>	<i>ZEN, PEG</i>		<i>2021-2022 -reporting to be approved in 2023</i>	<i>-Indicator workplan developed and approved in 2019. -Approval for arranging a thematic workshop at HOD 58- 2020. -Approval to further explore setting up a platform for cooperation from HOD 58-2020.</i>
4.1.4	<i>Assessment of status of commercial fish</i>	<i>State and Conservation</i>		<i>-Thematic WS planned, will consider approach for assessment for HOLAS III</i>	<i>2021-2022 -reporting to be approved in 2023</i>	<i>-Indicator workplan developed and approved in 2019. -Approval for arranging a thematic workshop at HOD 58- 2020.</i>
4.1.5	<i>Assessment of status of Baltic Sea foodwebs</i>	<i>State and Conservation</i>	<i>CG</i>		<i>2021-2022 -reporting to be approved in 2023</i>	<i>-Indicator workplan developed and approved in 2019. -Approval for establishing an expert Correspondence Group</i>

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						<i>on foodwebs at HOD 58-2020.</i>
4.1.6	<i>Eutrophication assessment, including developing methods and tools to support future assessments.</i>	<i>State and Conservation</i>	<i>IN EUTRO</i>		<i>2021-2022 -reporting to be approved in 2023</i>	<i>- Improvements to the HEAT tool in 2019</i>
4.1.7	<i>Hazardous substances assessments, including developing methods and tools to support future assessments.</i>	<i>State and Conservation</i>	<i>EN HAZ</i>		<i>2021-2022 -reporting to be approved in 2023</i>	<i>- Operationalization and improvement of hazardous substances assessment system</i>
4.1.8	<i>Marine litter assessment, including developing methods and tools to support future assessments.</i>	<i>State and Conservation</i>	<i>EN Marine Litter</i>	<i>Link to work planned under HELCOM BLUES project</i>	<i>2021-2022 -reporting to be approved in 2023</i>	<i>Initial proposal for the scale of the assessment on beach litter submitted to S&C in 2020</i>
4.1.9	<i>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.</i>	<i>State and Conservation</i>	<i>EN Marine Litter</i>	<i>-Such review should be carried out in cooperation with EU TG Marine Litter. Overall, this task might not be accomplished by 2022 Link to EU work on the topic under EU TG Litter.</i>	<i>tbd</i>	<i>It is to be considered whether ongoing work on the topic at EU level can be utilized at HELCOM level.</i>
4.1.10	<i>Underwater noise assessment, including developing methods and tools to support future assessments.</i>	<i>State and Conservation</i>	<i>EN Noise</i>	<i>-Aim to identify preliminary risk areas through the use of updated noise maps and distribution of noise sensitive species for HOLAS III.</i>	<i>2021-2022 -reporting to be approved in 2023</i>	<i>-Noise sensitive species identified in 2019 -Continuous noise database and soundscape planning</i>

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				-Possible link to developing noise maps and noise assessment under HELCOM BLUES project.		tool up and running in 2020. -Barriers: new soundscape maps are needed.
4.1.11	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	Included as part of the draft Action Plan on Underwater Noise.	Approval of the Action Plan on Underwater Noise envisaged by 2021	
4.2	Thematic assessment on radioactivity for the period 2016-2020	State and Conservation	MORS EG		2019-2020, possibly to be finalized after 2020	
4.3	MPA coherence assessment, including developing methods and tools to support future assessments.	State and Conservation	TG MPA	Links to possible HELCOM LIFE project	2022-20XX	
4.4	Support the future work on MPA management effectiveness assessments by streamlining and making available identified aspects of the management plan.	State and Conservation	TG MPA	Links to possible HELCOM LIFE project	XXXX	
4.5	HELCOM Red List of Baltic Sea Species	State and Conservation	EG MAMA, FISH-PRO III, JWG BIRD, EN BENTHIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biodiversity and pressure data for a large number of species/pressures to be reported in 2022 for HOLAS III purposes, clear synergies. - Relevant for reporting on the SDGs. 	2022-2024	- HELCOM Biodiversity Database (BioBase) developed in 2019, reporting and data infrastructure in place.

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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – HELCOM Checklist reviewed and updated in 2019. – Biodiversity and pressure dataflows improved through HELCOM DataFlow and Baltic DataFlow projects – Improved IUCN guidance for marine species assessment. – Improved IUCN guidance for regional assessments.
4.6	HELCOM Red List of Baltic Sea habitats and biotopes	State and Conservation	ZEN, PEG, EN BENTHIC	-Relevant for reporting on the SDGs.	2022-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Improved IUCN guidance for marine species assessment. – Improved IUCN guidance for regional assessments. – Improved data availability.
4.7	Climate change assessment	State and Conservation with Baltic Earth	EN CLIME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Needed to support BSAP. -Needed for HOLAS III (both State of the Baltic Sea report and indicator assessments). 	2018-2021	-EN CLIME established in 2018.

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME	PROGRESS/BARRIERS
						-Expertise secured for most topics (100 experts). -Working structure established.
4.7.1	<i>Produce a Fact sheet on Climate Change</i>	<i>State and Conservation with Baltic Earth</i>	<i>EN CLIME</i>		<i>2021</i>	<i>-Agreement on format and content. -Draft Fact sheet prepared.</i>
4.7.2.	<i>Produce supporting material for fact sheet</i>	<i>Baltic Earth</i>	<i>EN CLIME</i>		<i>2021-2022</i>	
4.7.3	<i>Further adapt HELCOM's policies and recommendations to maximise the capacity of the Baltic Sea ecosystem to contribute to mitigation of climate change through blue carbon storage</i>	<i>State and Conservation</i>	<i>EN CLIME</i>	<i>Use and link the fact sheet information to HELCOM policies in order to ensure they are sufficiently precautionary and that the strongest links between effects and impacts are accounted for. To be done for each policy and recommendation opened for revision, and for all new policies and recommendations.</i>	<i>Continuous</i>	<i>HELCOM Climate Change fact sheet links effects with impacts for a large number of ecosystem and societal components.</i>
4.7.4	<i>Increase HELCOM's preparedness to respond to climate change impacts, by taking foreseen climate change impacts into account when updating the BSAP.</i>	<i>State and Conservation with Baltic Earth</i>	<i>EN CLIME</i>	<i>Relevant climate change information from the fact sheets will be included for each segment and further work on climate change is proposed to be included under the horizontal actions segment.</i>	<i>Spring 2021</i>	

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME	PROGRESS/BARRIERS
4.8	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		XXXX	Links to the work on sufficiency of measures for the BSAP update
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 Sea	State and Conservation		Feed into the HELCOM Maritime work on updating the list of HELCOM Target Species for ballast water management	Continuous	
5.2	Further development to support assessment of human pressures	State and Conservation		-Developments to be guided by CIA scoping process (under GEAR). -Development to take place under the MetDev project	2021-2022 -reporting will be in 2023	-Scoping CIA survey in 2020. -Scoping CIA workshop held in 2020 -Technical development workshop held in 2020
5.3	Further development to support assessment of impact	State and Conservation		-Developments to be guided by CIA scoping process (under GEAR). -Development to take place under the MetDev project	2021-2022 -reporting will be in 2023	-Scoping CIA survey in 2020. -Scoping CIA workshop held in 2020

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME	PROGRESS/BARRIERS
						-Technical development workshop held in 2020
5.4	Assessment of human pressures and impacts, as well as contextual assessment products to support the status assessments under HOLAS III	State and Conservation		-Assessment deliverables to be guided by CIA scoping process. -Expand scope of assessment deliverables to provide support and context to other parts of the (State of the Baltic Sea report).	2022 -reporting will be in 2023	
5.5	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):						
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	– Jastarnia Group Chair reports on activities at every EG MAMA meeting – Secretariat takes part and reports on activities in the

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME	PROGRESS/BARRIERS
						Jastarnia group meetings.
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		-possible joint publication stemming from Bycatch Workshop	Continuous	-consistent communication between Secretariats established. -Joint Workshop on bycatch in 2019
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			
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	EN LITTER, EN NOISE, EN BENTHIC		continuous	-Secretariat participation on TG Litter, TG Noise, TG Seabed, as well as related workshop, throughout 2019-2020.
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.	2019-2023	HELCOM DataFlow, Baltic DataFlow projects

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME	PROGRESS/BARRIERS
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.		
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. -consider which BSEFS might be suited as drive indicators.	Annually or when new data is available	-Overarching review done in 2019.
9.4	Develop a database for biodiversity data, to support indicators evaluation etc.	State and Conservation, Secretariat	BaltiCheck		2019	Completed

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;

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	PROGRESS/BARRIERS
<u>17/2 PROTECTION OF HARBOUR PORPOISE IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA</u>						
<u>21/4 PROTECTION OF HEAVILY ENDANGERED OR IMMEDIATELY THREATENED MARINE AND COASTAL BIOTOPES IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA</u>						
<u>27-28-CONSERVATION OF SEALS IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA</u>						
<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>						
<u>35/1 SYSTEM OF COASTAL AND MARINE BALTIC SEA PROTECTED AREAS (HELCOM MPAs)</u>						
<u>37/2 CONSERVATION OF BALTIC SEA SPECIES CATEGORIZED AS THREATENED ACCORDING TO THE 2013 HELCOM RED LIST</u>						
Indirect links to recommendation(s):						
<u>19/2 PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE WILD SALMON*) (Salmo salar L.) POPULATIONS IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA</u>						
<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>						
Follow up on implementation of and reporting on HELCOM Recommendations under the Biodiversity and Conservation section of State and Conservation	State and Conservation		Continuous	-Overall S&C recommendation reporting scheme drafted for S&C 12-2020.		
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	-Develop templates for recommendations 15/2, 17/1,35/1, 40/1.	Continuous	-Reporting template for 37/2 developed -Reporting scheme agreed for all recommendation in 2020.		

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME	PROGRESS/BARRIERS
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						
Links to recommendation(s):						
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	-Link to possible HELCOM LIFE project	ongoing	
6.2	Increasing the protection and restoration of biodiversity	State and Conservation		-Link to possible HELCOM LIFE project	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		-Link to possible HELCOM LIFE project	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		-Link to possible HELCOM LIFE project	ongoing	
6.5	New HELCOM Recommendation on conservation plans for habitats and biotopes at risk of extinction	State and Conservation Lead country Germany				Complete

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME	PROGRESS/BARRIERS
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		<p>Highlight the identified habitat restoration priorities as important e.g. for funding mechanisms.</p> <p>Links to HD and HD reporting.</p> <p>Habitats may include reefs, flads etc.</p> <p>-Link to possible HELCOM LIFE project</p>	Continuous	<p>-work done under the HELCOM ACTION Project</p> <p>-restoration measures proposed as new measures for the update BSAP</p>
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	
6.8	Where possible link red listed species to specific habitats/substrates based on scientific information.	State and Conservation	TG MPA, EN BENTHIC, FISH PRO III		20XX	-Initial analysis prepared and shared with S&C in 2019.
6.9	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		Continuous	

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME	PROGRESS/BARRIERS
6.10	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		xxxx	Work started in 2019 under EG MAMA
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):						
7.1	Instigate an Expert Network for Marine Protected Area Managers in the Baltic Sea Region (EN MANET).	State and Conservation	EN MANET	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.	Continuous	-Network established in 2019. -Workshop on stakeholder interaction in 2019. -Workspace established in 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	XXXX	
7.3	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		-Link to possible HELCOM LIFE project	20XX	Overview prepared and presented to S&C in 2019.
7.4	Improve the understanding of the role of MPAs for ecosystem services, in order to enhance cost-effectiveness of MPAs	State and Conservation		Use recent tools recommended by IUCN (e.g. INVEST). Finland to	20XX	

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME	PROGRESS/BARRIERS
	management and yield the greatest environmental benefits.			present their initial work with the tool based on IUCN workshop. -Link to possible HELCOM LIFE project.		
7.5	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. -Link to possible HELCOM LIFE project	no timeline set	
7.6	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. -Link to possible HELCOM LIFE project.	XXXX	
7.7	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		Link to OECMs Link to EBM	XXXX	
7.8	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. -Link to possible HELCOM MPA project	20XX	Progress on assessment done under HELCOM ACTION Project WP3

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME	PROGRESS/BARRIERS
7.9	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	-Link to possible HELCOM MPA project	20XX	
7.10	Update of national information in the MPA database. Produce guidance for using and updating the MPA Database.	Contracting Parties		Possibly using a lead country approach. -Link to possible HELCOM MPA project. -Guidance to be developed concomitantly with updating of the database.	Annually	-Reporting to the database considered by S&C in 2019. -Pressure assessment guidance under preparation.

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. Helsinki Convention July 2014

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.