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<b>Document title</b>	Status update on the BSAP update process
<b>Code</b>	2J-2
<b>Category</b>	INF
<b>Agenda Item</b>	2J - Matters of relevance for the Meeting and information from the Secretariat
<b>Submission date</b>	27.9.2021
<b>Submitted by</b>	Secretariat

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### Background

The HELCOM Ministerial Meeting is to be held on the 20 October 2021, in Lübeck, Germany. The meeting's main focus is the adoption of the 2021 Baltic Sea Action Plan. As of 27 September 2021, the introduction and segment texts of the BSAP are provisionally approved. HOD 60A-2021 approved the finalized the formulation of remaining open actions, with the exception of actions SN28 and EN20/EE26. HOD 60A-2021 took note of the proposal by Finland to still include the following new action in the updated BSAP: "Cooperate to create and further develop sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea Region in order to implement Recommendation 37/3 also with an objective to enhance nutrient recycling, reduce environmental impacts, enhance innovation and sustainable business opportunities; and to improve policy coherence". The meeting invited Finland to provide a rationale for the action in writing and send it to the Secretariat to be circulated to the Contracting Parties.

HOD 60A-2021 further noted the comment by CCB that there is a discrepancy between the actions targeting migratory birds (B11, B12, B13 and B14) and HELCOM Recommendation 34E-1 regarding the term 'seabird/waterbird' which should be altered to 'birds' to be in line with HELCOM Recommendation 34E/1, as the aim should be to protect all birds, also migrating songbirds and breeding birds which are not migrating over the Baltic Sea. The meeting provisionally approved the change, noting a study reservation by Denmark, EU, Estonia and Latvia, and invited Denmark, EU, Estonia and Latvia to confirm their position by 17 September 2021. Following the deadline it could be concluded that no not all parties could lift their study reservations and the proposed change will be further discussed.

The Meeting agreed to continue the discussion of the open actions (SN28, EN20/EE26), including the proposals by Finland (new action on aquaculture) and CCB (B11, B12, B13, B14), with the aim of finalizing the formulation of the actions at the ad-hoc informal HOD drafting meeting 30 September 2021.

In addition to the BSAP a number of other documents will be submitted to the meeting. These documents are divided into three specific categories depending on their nature, as follows:

- **Associated action documents:** documents which directly relate to implementing actions and measures for achieving the overall visions and objectives of the updated BSAP e.g. roadmaps, topic specific regional action plans, strategies, Recommendations etc.
- **Supporting documents:** documents which function as support for implementing and achieving the overall visions and objectives of the updated BSAP, but which do not require specific and concrete actions, e.g. Additional information on the BSAP actions, the Climate Change Fact Sheet and the HELCOM Science Agenda.

- **Background documents:** material providing background information for the BSAP and the update process e.g. implementation report of the BSAP 2007-2021, rationale and process of the BSAP update etc.

The background documents are to provide background for the BSAP and the Ministerial Meeting and are not intended to be adopted with the updated BSAP. The supporting and associated action documents will have a stronger link to the BSAP since some of them will be adopted with the BSAP. As agreed by HELCOM 42-2021, the adoption of the documents will be included in the preamble of the BSAP. A list of the documents as well as the current status is provided in this document.

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

### [Associated action documents](#)

#### **HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Underwater Noise**

The Regional Action Plan on Underwater Noise was adopted by HOD 60-2021. Reference to the Regional Action Plan on Underwater Noise will be made in the Sea-based activities segment.

#### **Updated HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter**

Recommendation 36-1 on Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter was endorsed by HOD 60-2021 and will be submitted for adoption at the Ministerial Meeting. Adopting the revised Recommendation will be included in the overarching preamble of the BSAP.

#### **Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy**

The Strategy was endorsed by HOD 60-2021 and will be submitted for adoption at the Ministerial Meeting. Adopting the Strategy will be included in the overarching preamble of the BSAP.

#### **The Regional MSP Roadmap 2021-2030**

The Regional MSP Roadmap is a regional document developed for joint implementation by HELCOM and VASAB member states and, thus, should be adopted by both HELCOM and VASAB. The document is closely linked to the HELCOM BSAP and VASAB Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region. The Roadmap contains concrete activities in maritime spatial planning aimed at supporting the achievement of the BSAP objectives. The document was endorsed by HOD 60-2021 and will be submitted for adoption at the Ministerial Meeting. Adopting the Roadmap will be included in the overarching preamble of the BSAP.

#### **Revised Annex III part II of the Helsinki Convention**

The changes to the Annex will be implemented via a Recommendation which was endorsed by HOD 60-2021 and will be submitted for adoption at the Ministerial Meeting. Adopting the Recommendation will be included in the overarching preamble of the BSAP.

#### **Guidelines for Sea-Based Measures to Manage Internal Nutrient Reserves in the Baltic Sea Region**

HELCOM 42-2021 agreed that the risk assessment framework will be developed in the format of a single Guideline that will be adopted together with the updated BSAP. The guidelines were endorsed by HOD 60-2021 and will be submitted for adoption by the Ministerial Meeting. Adopting the guidelines will be included in the overarching preamble of the BSAP and a reference to the guidelines will be made in the Eutrophication segment.

### [Supporting documents](#)

#### **Climate change fact sheet**

HELCOM 42-2021 provisionally approved the publication of the Climate Change Fact Sheet under the Baltic Sea Environment Proceedings and HOD 60-2021 approved the remaining open key messages for publication. Reference to the Fact Sheet will be made under each of the segments.

#### **HELCOM Science Agenda**

HOD 59-2020 provisionally approved the final draft of the HELCOM Science Agenda, noting that amendments to selected topics may take place in spring 2021 based on ongoing HELCOM processes. The intersessional HOD 60A-2021 approved the changes to the remaining open topics. The Agenda will be submitted for adoption alongside the updated BSAP. Adopting the Agenda will be included in the overarching preamble of the BSAP.

#### **Additional information on the BSAP actions**

The document was submitted to HOD 60-2021 for review, followed by intersessional commenting and review of changes at HOD 60A-2021. HOD 60A-2021 agreed to the following way forward with regard to ensuring the approval of the additional information on the actions prior to the Ministerial Meeting 2021:

- Secretariat to prepare a revised and cleaned version of the document and submit it to HODs **by 10 September**. For actions for which no comments have been received after submission to HOD 60A-2021 and for which no changes were introduced at HOD 60A-2021, track changes and comments will be removed to facilitate review. For the actions or for the additional information on the actions which were discussed or amended at HOD 60A-2021, as well as for the actions lifted for which consequent changes have been introduced, relevant track changes and comments will be presented.
- Secretariat to check that the overseeing Working Groups and Expert Groups are included in the document in a consistent way and amend as needed.
- Contracting Parties are invited to review all provisionally approved additional information on actions **by 17 September 2021**, and the provisionally approved additional information for all actions where the action text has been discussed in HOD 60A-2021 **by 24 September 2021**.
- Following the indicated deadlines, all additional information for which no comments are received during the review process will be considered approved.
- Following the indicated deadlines, the Secretariat will propose targeted ways forward for handling any remaining open issues with regards to the additional information aiming to solve the issues by correspondence prior to the Ministerial Meeting 2021.

### Background documents

#### Implementation of the 2007-2021 BSAP

HOD 60A-2021 considered the draft report on the implementation of the 2007-2021 BSAP and approved the document for submission as a background document to the Ministerial Meeting 2021. The report will be published on the HELCOM website and printed for the Ministerial Meeting 2021 participants.

#### BSAP update process

A summary of the BSAP update process was approved by HOD 60A-2021 in September 2021 and will be submitted to the Ministerial Meeting.