



Biodiversity synopses for the update BSAP

-What new actions and measures have been suggested?

Species Measures



- Coastal fish:
 - Restoration of coastal spawning habitats
 - Restoration of stony reefs
 - Enhanced protection of coastal fish habitats



- Birds:
 - Identify and limit the negative effects on migratory birds from wind and wave energy production at sea

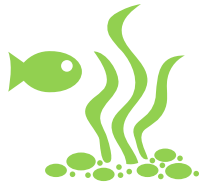


- Mammals, by-catch reduction:
 - Mandatory use of Acoustic Deterrent Devices or other effective mitigation measures to minimize bycatch of the Baltic Sea harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*)
 - Guidelines and regulation of the design and use of acoustic deterrent devices



- Migratory fish
 - Prioritising mitigation measures in rivers for eel and other fish migration
 - Restore functional populations of Baltic sturgeon by implementing HELCOM Baltic Sea Sturgeon Action Plan
 - *Phase out all recreational fishing on eel by 2022*
 - *Restocking of marine areas with fry of European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*)*

Habitat measures



- Coastal habitats:
 - Restoration of eelgrass, *Zostera marina*
 - Restoration of soft bottom macrophytes (other than eelgrass)
 - Restoration of brown macroalgae, mainly *Fucus vesiculosus*
 - Restoration of blue mussel reefs
 - Restoration of stony reefs
 - Restoration of soft bottoms free of vegetation
 - Restoration of coastal wetlands
 - Rehabilitation of hard bottoms by establishment of artificial reefs
 - Biomanipulation to remove cyprinds and sticklebacks and rehabilitate coastal ecosystem function
 - Protection of habitats
 - Strengthening piscivorous fish to rehabilitate coastal ecosystem function
- Seabed habitats:
 - Management plan for haploops species and biotope
 - Rehabilitation of anoxic, nutrient rich or polluted sediments by removal or coverage



Spatial conservation measures



- MPA:
 - Establish an effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected system of highly protected marine protected areas (MPAs), covering a minimum of 30 % of the Baltic Sea area by 2030.
 - Protect functionally important ecosystem elements and ecologically significant areas in order to create a regionally coherent network.
 - Designate no-use marine protected areas, that also function as scientific reference areas
 - Strengthening the management of the Baltic Sea MPA network by introducing key management elements to increase effectiveness of protection
- Possible other spatial conservation measures:
 - *Establishment of no-take areas (coastal fish)*
 - *Seasonal closures (coastal fish)*



Other proposed actions:

- Other (not direct measures):
 - Joint action to form a common understanding of ecosystem based management by 2023
 - Establishing a harmonized eDNA methodology and start a baseline monitoring system throughout the Baltic Sea
 - Follow-up and knowledge sharing coastal fish measures (Other)
 - Produce sensitivity maps for threatened wintering and breeding bird species according to the HELCOM Red List 2013 for the whole Baltic Sea region (Other)
 - Follow-up and knowledge sharing restoration of coastal habitats (Other)
 - Establishment of a regionally agreed method for assessing in what ways loss and disturbance is causing negative effects on the marine environment. (Other)
 - Development of standards for quality of seafloor habitat mapping and products (Other)

Existing actions: Biodiversity



Protect seabirds in the Baltic Sea, taking into consideration migratory species. (MD 2013)

Evaluation of the effectiveness of existing technical measures to minimise by-catch of harbour porpoises (BSAP)

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. (MD 2013)

Increasing the protection and restoration of biodiversity, to intensifying regional, sub-regional and cross-sectoral cooperation, and to preserving and promoting the ecological balance of the Baltic Sea area with strengthened resilience, also as streamlined response to adaptation needs stemming from human-induced climate change; (MD 2018, para.43)

Take actions to prevent the loss of biodiversity in the Baltic Sea and to improve the status of species, biotopes and habitats that are threatened according to the 2013 HELCOM Red Lists , inter alia, by establishing conservation plans or other relevant programmes or environmental measures for species, biotopes and habitats at risk of extinction; (MD 2018, para. 44)

Increase positive incentives to enhance reduction of pressures on biodiversity and to work towards elimination by 2020 of incentives and subsidies which could be harmful to biodiversity in order to improve the buffering capacity of the marine and coastal ecosystems for a better resilience.

Implement on a regional level the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the 2011-2020 period of the UN Convention of Biological Diversity, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, taking into account the special characteristics of the Baltic Sea, bearing in mind that the implementation of the Plan in the EU and its Member States is carried out through the EU Biodiversity Strategy

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

Develop long-term management plans by 2012 for protecting, monitoring and sustainably managing coastal fish species, including the most threatened and/or declining, including anadromous ones, according to BSEP109

Finalisation of national management plans for seal species

Implementation of national management plans for seal species

Protect the ringed seal in the Gulf of Finland, including to significantly reduce by-catch and to improve the understanding of the other direct threats on the seals, and urge transboundary co-operation between Estonia, Finland and Russia to support achieving a viable population of ringed seals in the Gulf

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For a sustainable Baltic Sea:
The Baltic Sea Action Plan beyond 2021

Existing actions: Habitats

Regional work on developing threshold values for the adverse effects of anthropogenic physical disturbance and, based on the best available scientific information in close coordination with other relevant fora, if needed to achieve GES (MD 2018, para. 41)

Further development of detailed landscape maps.

Speed up sea bed habitat/biotope mapping for nature protection and maritime spatial planning purposes, and with HELCOM as the regional node for data and information sharing

Take measures so that by 2020, regionally, a) the loss of all red listed marine habitats and biotopes in the Baltic Sea will be halted

Take measures so that by 2020, regionally b) red listed marine habitats and biotopes have largely recovered, and that degradation and fragmentation have been significantly reduced, the progress of which will be measured with a core indicator to be produced



Existing actions: Spatial Conservation

Reach the target set by the HELCOM 2010 Moscow Ministerial Declaration that at least 10% of the marine area in all sub-basins of the Baltic Sea including the EEZ areas beyond territorial waters is covered by MPAs where scientifically justified (MD 2010/Rec 35/1)

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; (MD 2018, para 45)

Ensure that HELCOM MPAs inter alia provide specific protection to those species, habitats, biotopes and biotope complexes included in the HELCOM Red Lists, as agreed in the HELCOM 2013 Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration, by considering these in the site selection procedure (MD 2013/Rec 35/1)

Ensure when selecting new areas, that the network of HELCOM MPAs is ecologically coherent and takes into account connectivity between sites including for example migration routes, species mobility and areas of special ecological significance such as spawning areas

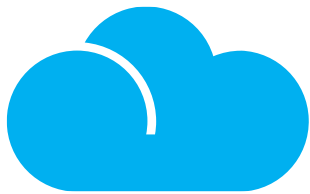
Develop and apply by 2015 management plans or measures for all existing HELCOM MPAs

Establish management plan or measures for every new MPA within five years after its designation. [first target year 2019 – five years after adoption of Rec 35/1]

Designate new sites as HELCOM MPAs where ecologically meaningful especially in offshore area beyond territorial waters [counting from 2014 – when rec 35/1 was adopted]



Existing actions: Climate change



Increase HELCOM's preparedness to respond to climate change impacts, by taking foreseen climate change impacts into account when updating the BSAP and by exploring the needs and possibilities to further adapt HELCOM's policies and recommendations 1) in line with existing objectives of protection of the marine environment and sustainable use of marine resources, also under the changing climate, and 2) to maximise the capacity of the Baltic Sea ecosystem to contribute to mitigation of climate change through blue carbon storage; (MD 2018, para.47)

HELCOM should take action to bridge [scientific understanding of the impacts of climate change together with multiple other stressors on the Baltic Sea marine environment] knowledge to policy and practice. (MD 2018, para. 48)

Further assess in cooperation with the BALTEX community, the current and predicted effects of climate change on the pressures affecting the marine ecosystem.