Outcome of the HELCOM Stakeholder Conference 2020 "For a sustainable Baltic Sea: The Baltic Sea Action Plan beyond 2021"

Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

20 HELCOM 20 Stakeholder Conference

HELCOM Stakeholder Conference

March 2020

Outcome of the HELCOM Stakeholder Conference 2020

(as submitted to HELCOM 41-2020, document 3-1)

According to the 2018 HELCOM Ministerial Declaration, stakeholders are to be closely involved in the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP). The BSAP update should be "strongly communicated with stakeholders, enable knowledge sharing between science and policy across all levels, be developed in a participatory and transparent way at the regional and local levels, including all appropriate stakeholders."

The HELCOM Stakeholder Conference, held on 3 March 2020 in Helsinki, Finland, back-to-back with HELCOM 41-2020 and titled "For a sustainable Baltic Sea: The Baltic Sea Action Plan beyond 2021" provided such an opportunity, allowing stakeholders to voice their views on the BSAP update. The Conference was attended by over 120 people from a wide array of HELCOM stakeholder organizations such as governments, industry, business, municipalities, researchers, financing institutions and non-governmental organizations. The list of participants is included in **Annex 1.**

The 2020 HELCOM Stakeholder Conference was organized to collect views from a broader group of stakeholders on key issues for the updated BSAP, including the proposal of actions to be considered in the context of the update of the plan. Participation of stakeholder in the update process aims to ensure that the work is relevant and can be effectively implemented in practice.

The programme of the Conference is included in **Annex 6.**

1. Welcoming words and setting the scene

Mr. Rüdiger Strempel, HELCOM Executive Secretary, welcomed the participants.

Ms. Gun Rudquist, Moderator of the Stakeholder Conference, opened the Conference.

Ms. Ulla Li Zweifel, Project Manager for BSAP update, presented the process of updating the Baltic Sea Action Plan.

2. Recap on the state of the Baltic Sea

Mr. Lars Sonesten, Chair of the HELCOM Pressure Working Group, presented the state of the Baltic Sea concerning hazardous substances and litter.

Ms. Susanne Heitmüller, Chair of the HELCOM Maritime Working Group, presented the state of the Baltic Sea concerning sea-based activities.

Ms. Sari Luostarinen, Chair of the HELCOM Agri Group, presented the state of the Baltic Sea concerning eutrophication.

Ms. Marie-Louise Krawack, Co-Chair of the HELCOM State and Conservation Working Group, presented the state of the Baltic Sea concerning biodiversity.

Mr. Bo Gustafsson, Baltic Nest Institute, presented results on modelling of the effects of the BSAP on nutrient loads.

Mr. Nils Höglund, Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB), focused in his presentation on the ecosystem-based management (EBM) and the importance of the common understanding and implementation of EBM.

3. Parallel sessions

The participants of the Conference were divided into four parallel sessions on the main segments of the BSAP: biodiversity, sea-based activities, eutrophication and hazardous substances and litter. Each session started with pre-selected "setting-the-scene" presentations, as described below.

To support the selection of new measures and actions for the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan, an invitation to submit synopses on potential new HELCOM actions was issued in the spring of 2019. HELCOM 40-2019 agreed that such synopses could be submitted by the Contracting Parties, HELCOM subsidiary bodies, international projects and HELCOM Observers. The 100+ proposals that have been received were made available to the stakeholder conference for information. Participants in the parallel sessions were given the opportunity to consider the existing proposals, provide comments to them, and also prepare proposals on new actions. All comments and proposals will be recorded. The participants of the parallel sessions were furthermore invited to prioritize among the proposals, resulting in a set of proposals supported by a majority of attendants. All proposals will, however, be forwarded to HELCOM Working Groups for further consideration. The prioritized proposals and proposed new actions are listed in **Annexes 2-5**.

3.1. Biodiversity

The following presentations were given at the biodiversity parallel session:

Ms. Ida Carlén, CCB: With the purpose to #SavetheBalticPorpoise
The Baltic Sea harbour porpoise is critically endangered, and today there are only a few hundred individuals left. To save our only whale we need to urgently mitigate threats such as fisheries bycatch, underwater noise and ecosystem changes, both within and outside Marine Protected Areas.

Ms. Bettina Taylor, CCB: Silence please! It's too loud in the Baltic
Noise pollution in the oceans has been steadily increasing in the past decades and puts a growing pressure on the marine environment where many animals depend on sound for their survival. It is crucial to promptly put measures in place to reduce underwater noise in the Baltic Sea.

Ms. Sofia Wikström, Stockholm University: Effects of bottom trawling on seafloor integrity in the Baltic Sea
Bottom trawling affects benthic communities in parts of the Baltic Sea area, reducing abundance of sensitive species. In addition, it is an important driver for sediment resuspension and can affect nutrient cycling. These effects need to be considered in fisheries and MPA management.

Ms. Aimi Hamberg, CCB: The end of paper parks -Extending & improving marine protected areas
The network of Baltic Sea MPAs needs to be both extended and improved. New types of MPAs have to be designated and higher levels of protection established, thus ensuring that by 2030 at the latest we have a coherent, representative and resilient network of MPAs, covering at least 30 % of the Baltic Sea.

In the session, measures related to spatial conservation, species, restoration of habitats, climate change and supportive actions were discussed.

Of the synopses already submitted, the participants prioritized the following measures:

- 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

- 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
- Joint action to form a common understanding of ecosystem-based management by 2023.
- Follow-up and knowledge sharing to restore coastal fish communities
- Seasonal closures to restore coastal fish communities.
- Mandatory use of Acoustic Deterrent Devices or other effective mitigation measures to minimize bycatch of the Baltic Sea harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*)
- Restore functional populations of Baltic sturgeon by implementing HELCOM Baltic Sea Sturgeon Action Plan
- Prioritizing mitigation measures in rivers for eel and other fish migration.
- Nine synopsis covering restauration of habitats and biotopes (considered jointly).
- Enhanced protection of coastal fish habitats.
- Protection of habitats.
- Establishing a harmonized eDNA methodology and start a baseline monitoring system throughout the Baltic Sea.

Overall spatial protection measures met with the greatest interest of the participants (approx. half of all priority indications were placed under this topic). Of the existing synopses the synopsis outlining increasing the spatial coverage of the MPA network received most individual votes (more than ¼ of all votes). The synopsis on common understanding of the ecosystem-based management also received a significant proportion of the votes.

Following the prioritization exercise, the participants were given the opportunity to draft further actions for the updated Action Plan. In the biodiversity session it was agreed that emphasis was to be placed on elaborating proposals which did not yet have prepared synopses. The drafting exercise resulted in six new proposals for actions as outlined in **Annex 2**.

Generally, the participants recognized that there are strong links between several of the presented synopses related to biodiversity. They also acknowledged that climate change is a horizontal topic that needs to be taken into account for each action individually.

3.2. Sea-based activities

The following presentations were given at the sea-based activities parallel session:

Ms. Vanessa Ryan, WWF: "Shipshape and Baltic fashion? Reducing the impacts of maritime activities beyond 2021"
Reaching good environmental status of the Baltic Sea is still a long way off. The presentation focused on the management objectives listed for maritime activities in the BSAP and suggest measures that should be taken in order to step up the efforts of the maritime sector.

Ms. Elisa Mikkolainen, Baltic Sea Action Group (BSAG): BSAG Project on Gray Waters and Food Waste
Baltic Sea Action Group has launched a project to minimize discharges of gray water and food waste from ships into the Baltic Sea. The project combines voluntary efforts of the maritime cluster to reduce discharges and adds a new element to the BSAP goals on maritime activities and eutrophication.

Mr. Albert Willemsen, ICOMIA (also as part of the Navigation Task force Group): Reducing the transfer of harmful aquatic species
The GloFouling Partnerships project will address the transfer of aquatic species through biofouling. Invasive species are animals or plants from another region of the world that do not belong in their new environment. They can be introduced to an area by ship ballast water, biofouling, accidental release, and most often, by people.

Increase of IAS's = increase of Loss of Biodiversity!

It is now widely recognized by the UN but also by other international bodies that climate change and biodiversity are interconnected. Biodiversity is affected by climate change and, by means of ecosystem services, biodiversity makes an important contribution to both climate-change mitigation and adaptation. We can see that conserving and sustainably managing biodiversity is critical to addressing climate change.

Reducing IASs in the Baltic means upgrading GES (Good Environmental Status) of the Baltic. Possible with implementing the IMO GloFouling measures.

Ms. Jana Moldanova, IVL, Swedish Environmental Research Institute: Are we going to achieve sustainable shipping in the Baltic Sea?
Environmental impacts of shipping under current situation and in future in several abatement scenarios were presented. How much does the current and future shipping contribute to air pollution, contamination of marine environment and to underwater noise levels in the Baltic Sea? Results from BONUS SHEBA, CSHIPP, SCIPPER and EMERGE projects

In the session issues related to a variety of sea-based activities and pressures on the environment caused inter alia by nutrients, greenhouse gases, fisheries, seabed disturbance, non-indigenous species, and underwater noise were discussed. From a more holistic point of view, maritime spatial planning and knowledge needs were also addressed.

Having considered the synopses previously submitted on proposed new BSAP actions, participants were given the opportunity to draft further new actions. In total, twelve such actions were drafted and briefly presented during the session. The topics ranged from scrubber washwaters to fisheries and greenhouse gases. In addition, a proposal was made for a new management objective on zero tolerance for discharges of any pollutants from ports. A list of all proposed actions is set out in **Annex 3**.

After prioritization of actions, the following were selected for further discussion and presentation at the plenary session:

- Identifying and implementing Best available Technique (BAT) and Best Environmental Practice (BEP) to mitigate noise emitting activities, including operational measures and their co-benefits to the ecosystem
- Adoption and implementation of a HELCOM Roadmap on biofouling management
- Work towards prohibiting the release of scrubber waste water from open and half open systems into the Baltic Sea
- Initiate the process to conclude a more complete set of criteria to indicate the health of a fish stock, besides fishing pressure and biomass criteria also including size and age distribution
- Updating the efforts to limit the impacts of bottom disturbing activities
- Analysis of pressures affecting fish stocks
- Contribute in enhancing the use of alternative fuels and sources of energy in shipping as well as enhance the use of digitalization and other innovations in technology to optimize energy efficiency in the Baltic Sea area. Actively follow and contribute to discussions at IMO and ensure the Baltic Sea area meets targets of the IMO´s initial GHG strategy and its future update
- A holistic systems perspective for all HELCOM BSAP measures

One of the key messages from the Sea-based parallel session was the importance of a holistic perspective for all HELCOM BSAP measures by a social-ecological systems point of view, which is both cross-sectoral and incorporates multi-level governance.

3.3. Eutrophication

The following presentations were given at the eutrophication parallel session:

Ms. Pernille Nielsen, DTU Aqua: Mussel cultivation as a marine mitigation measure
New results on mitigation mussel cultivation show nutrient extraction potential is higher than previously reported, due to optimized production methods. The presentation reported on thorough field-studies of ecological impacts to quantify the ecosystem services and risks, assess cost effectiveness and economic conditions and how mussels can consolidate circular economic structure.

Mr. Antti Iho, Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke): A new metric for BSAP targets to improve efficiency
BSAP targets should be given in eutrophying units, in a similar manner as GHG targets are expressed in CO_2 equivalents. This would improve cost-efficiency. The relative share of agricultural nutrient loading will continue to increase, increasing the importance of a precise metric. Similar work is ongoing in Chesapeake Bay protection in the US.

Mr. Kaj Granholm, Baltic Sea Action Group (BSAG): Integrated approach and multiple benefit measures needed to achieve eutrophication objectives
Optimal drainage, soil health and nutrient-balanced farming must be promoted as the basis of sustainable agriculture. In addition, landscape-level measures should be implemented in a complementary way across the river basin management and agricultural frameworks.

Mr. Erik Sindhöj, Research Institutes of Sweden (RISE): Sustainable manure use to reduce eutrophication of the Baltic Sea
Nutrient loss from livestock manure is a significant source of nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea. Required use of BATs for manure handling would reduce ammonia emissions and aerial loading of N. Implementation of field-level fertilizer plans, farm-level nutrient balances and national recommendations for economic optimum fertilizer rates for crops would lead to decreased riverine inputs.

Actions related to agriculture, sea-based mitigation measures, wastewater treatment as well as policies and strategies were discussed in the session. Of the synopses already submitted, the participants prioritized the following actions:

- Annual field-level fertilization planning and farm-gate nutrient balancing for N and P
- Develop BAT lists for reducing ammonia and greenhouse gas emissions from livestock housing, manure storage and spreading
- Reducing livestock densities and coupling livestock to the area of available farmland
- Levy/tax on mineral fertilizers
- Improved integration of BSAP targets with WFD targets
- Strengthening of HELCOM Recommendation 28E/5 on municipal wastewater treatment
- Removal of nutrients from the coastal zone by the use of mussel mitigation cultures

In addition to the synopses already submitted, there were also 22 suggestions for new actions (**Annex 4**). Out of these actions, the participants highlighted:

- "BAT" for crop production farms
- Holistic land and farm management and multi-benefit measures for soil health, climate resilience and reduced dependency on external mineral inputs
- Mandatory nutrient recycling at large wastewater treatment plants
- Promote water reuse and recirculation in industry
- Floating islands with plants to remove nutrients
- Improve assessment of water and airborne N, P and C from all land uses and in particular forestry and drained peatland

The participants emphasized that the measures should be cost-effective. Regarding agriculture, there is a need to improve the knowledge transfer between science, policy and the farming sector and to recognize the importance of financial sustainability of farming.

As far as sea-based mitigation measures are concerned, there is no one-size-fits-all solution that could be applied in all circumstances but there could be a variety of measures that are applicable in different areas and conditions.

An important take-home message was also that climate change needs to be taken into account when planning the measures for eutrophication and for all other segments of the BSAP.

3.4. Hazardous substances and marine litter

The following presentations were given at the hazardous substances and marine litter parallel session:

Mr. Jacek Bełdowski, Instytut Oceanologii PAN: Control the sources of historical contamination
Historical pollution of the Baltic Sea includes substances deposited on the seafloor bottom in the past, that can be reemitted to the bottom water and create uncontrolled point sources of contamination. This includes munitions, wrecks and hazardous substances. Risk assessment, decision support, and remediation readiness are urgently needed.

Ms. Ann-Marie Kamper, KIMO Sweden: Ghost nets in the Baltic Sea
The MARELITT Baltic project, summarized in The Baltic Sea Blueprint, resulted in a plan of action throughout the chain from mapping of occurrence to recycling of the ghost nets. The recommendation for the BSAP is: expand and implement the action plan for the entire Baltic Sea.

Mr. Mikhail Durkin, CCB: Constructed wetlands - a potential win, win, win solution
Constructed wetlands are known as well-functioning nutrient capture facilities. New evidence shows that wetlands can also be highly effective in tackling other wicked problems we are facing, such as micro plastics and active pharmaceutical residues. Constructed wetlands represent a verified end of pipe solution that should be given higher priority.

Participants discussed presented actions expressing high concern about the state of the submerged objects and their negative impact on the Baltic Sea environment. Participants also prioritized the proposed actions related to submerged objects including mapping and assessment of impact from dumping sites, control of threats posed by munitions, wrecks and other hazardous submerged objects and development of Best Environmental Practice to remove them.

The experts further discussed construction of wetlands as a measure to prevent microplastic and chemicals from leaching into the aquatic environment, reflecting on positive and negative aspects of this measure. The ability of constricted wetlands to prevent releases of pharmaceuticals was noted. In general, participants prioritized various types of actions aimed at minimizing the input of pharmaceuticals into the Baltic Sea.

In relation to marine litter, participants highlighted the importance of actions related to management to handle derelict fishing gear, including mapping and removal; reduction of single-use plastics consumption at major events.

Altogether, stakeholders proposed ten new actions (**Annex 5**), primarily addressing various aspects of prevention of contamination of the marine environment by hazardous substances. Among these were the following:

- Decrease releases form small and diffuse industrial and municipal sources;
- Waste resource management strategy should focus on reduction, reuse and recycling – not waste combustion for energy;
- Control of firefighting foam use related to (PFAS and other compounds).

But some actions related to marine litter were also proposed:

- Harmonization of assessment methods and databases relate litter;
- Fishing for litter in the Baltic Sea.

One of the key issues raised at the session was a holistic approach to advancement of wastewater treatment technologies, which should not only consider hazardous substances but the advancement of the whole treatment process. Experts also pointed out that additional treatment implies additional application of chemicals and use of energy, which increases the footprint of the wastewater treatment plant in general.

4. Closing plenary and key messages

Key messages from each parallel session were presented by the respective session Chair, followed by a panel discussion featuring the Chairs and moderated by Ms. Rudquist.

The panel discussion highlighted that, due to its comprehensive nature, the effective and efficient implementation of measures in the Baltic Sea Action Plan necessitates coordination between ministries and other authorities at the national level. Institutional exchange and close cooperation between HELCOM working groups was another aspect that was highlighted.

In conclusion, it was noted that developing and agreeing on measures at the regional level is the first step in the process. Full commitment to implementation of the measures by the Contracting Parties is needed in order to ensure that good environmental status of the Baltic Sea is achieved.

The following presentations were given at the closing plenary:

Mr. Andris Andrusaitis, BONUS EEIG, presented the main achievements of BONUS as a contributor of knowledge for restoring the Baltic Sea environment and sustainable use of its services as well as the progress with the BANOS coordination and support action, which constitutes the future joint research and innovation programme for the Baltic and North Seas, and on development towards a pan-EU partnership on climate-neutral, sustainable and productive blue economy.

Mr. Dennis Hamro-Drotz, NEFCO, presented instruments to finance BSAP related projects and activities such as the BSAP fund.

The Conference was closed by Mr. Rüdiger Strempel.

Annex 1 List of Participants

First name	Last name	Organisation	Country
Vitalijus	Agulys	Ministry of the Environment	Lithuania
Mariia	Andreeva	Union of the Baltic Cities Sustainable Cities Commission	Finland
Andris	Andrusaitis	BONUS/BANOS	Finland
Karina	Barquet	Stockholm Environment Institute	Sweden
Jacek	Bełdowski	Instytut Oceanologii PAN	Poland
Mats	Björkendahl	Suomen Varustamot ry	Finland
Penina	Blankett	Ministry of the Environment	Finland
Natalia	Bobyleva	State Company "Mineral"	Russia
Ingrida	Bremere	Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia	Latvia
Lilian	Busse	German Environment Agency	Germany
Ann-Marie	Camper	Marine center, Simrishamn municipality but I will represent KIMO Sweden	Sweden
Ida	Carlén	Coalition Clean Baltic	Sweden
Jolanta	Cesiulienė	The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania	Lithuania
Larisa	Danilova	Scientific and Research Institute of Maritime Spatial Planning Ermak NorthWest	Russia
Mikhail	Durkin	Coalition Clean Baltic	Sweden
Dmitry	Frank-Kamenetsky	HELCOM	Finland
Johan	Genestig	Swedish Coast Guard	Sweden
Meike	Gierk	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	Germany
Kaj	Granholm	Baltic Sea Action Group (BSAG)	Finland
Bo	Gustafsson	Baltic Nest Institute	Sweden
Juuso	Haapaniemi	HELCOM	Finland
Jacob	Hagberg	Swedish Ministry of the Environment	Sweden
Blomberg	Hakan	HELCOM	Finland
Jannica	Haldin	HELCOM	Finland
Aimi	Hamberg	Coalition Clean Baltic	Denmark
Dennis	Hamro-Drotz	NEFCO	Finland
Norbert	Häubner	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	Sweden
Leena	Heikkilä	HELCOM Secretariat	Finland
Susanne	Heitmüller	Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH)	Germany
Markus	Helavuori	HELCOM	Finland
Janne	Helin	Luke	Finland
Nils	Höglund	Coalition Clean Baltic	Sweden
Laura	Hoikkala	HELCOM	Finland
Antti	Iho	Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)	Finland
Raul	Ilisson	Ministry of the Environment of Estonia	Estonia
Agnieszka	Ilola	Union of the Baltic Cities	Finland
Henri	Jokinen	HELCOM	Finland
Petra	Kääriä	HELCOM	Finland
Susanna	Kaasinen	HELCOM	Finland
Joni	Kaitaranta	HELCOM Secretariat	Finland
Kamińska	Katarzyna	Ministry of maritime Economy and Inland Navigation	Poland
Riina	Kero	HELCOM Secretariat	Finland
Anna	Klemelä	Baltic Sea Action Group	Finland

Eveliina	Klemola	Wega	Finland
Agnė	Kniežaitė-Gofmanė	Ministry of Environment	Lithuania
Karoliina	Koho	BONUS Secretariat/BANOS CSA	Finland
Marie-Louise	Krawack	Ministry of Environment and Food	Denmark
Katarzyna	Krzywda	Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation	Poland
Sakari	Kuikka	University of Helsinki	Finland
Natalia	Kutaeva	FSBI "Marine Rescue Service" (MRS)	Russia
Maria	Laamanen	Ministry of the Environment	Finland
Jolanta	Lapinskiene	Ministry of agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania	Lithuania
Andrei	Lappo	Ermak North-West	Russia
Heikki	Lehtinen	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Finland
Clémentine	Leroy	European Commission-DG Environment	EU
Ewa	LEŚ	Coalition Clean Baltic	Sweden
Paula	Lindell	Helsinki Region Environmental Services Authority HSY	Finland
Fredrik	Lindgren	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	Sweden
Dominik	Littfass	HELCOM	Finland
Malin	Lönnroth	The Baltic Sea Advisory Council	Denmark
Sari	Luostarinen	Natural Resources Institute Finland Luke	Finland
Jaakko	MANNIO	Finnish Env. Inst. SYKE	Finland
Laura	Meski	HELCOM	Finland
Elisa	Mikkolainen	Baltic Sea Action Group	Finland
Vladislav	Minin	Institute for Engineering and Environmental Problems in Agricultural Production	Russia
Jana	Moldanova	IVL, Swedish Environmental Research Institute	Sweden
Andrea	Morf	Swedish Institute for the Marine Environment & Nordregio (PanBalticScope & BASMATI)	Sweden
Pernille	Nielsen	DTU Aqua, Danish Shellfish Center	Denmark
Alda	Nikodemusa	VASAB Secretariat	Latvia
Heli	Nõmmsalu	Baltic Environmental Forum Estonia	Estonia
Marek	Nurmik	Estonian Ministry of the Environment	Estonia
Federica	Pastore	Coalition Clean Baltic	Sweden
Anders Branth	Pedersen	Aarhus University	Denmark
Mikko	Peltonen	John Nurminen Foundation	Finland
Riitta	Pöntynen	University of Turku, Centre for Maritime Studies	Finland
Marjukka	Porvari	John Nurminen Foundation	Finland
Markus	Raudkivi	University of Tartu	Estonia
Sari	Repka	University of Turku	Finland
Stefan	Rettig	Technische Universität Berlin	Germany
Ville	Rinkineva	Ministry of Transport and Communications	Finland
Owen	Rowe	HELCOM Secretariat	Finland
Gun	Rudquist	Stockholm University/Baltic Sea Centre	Sweden
MARTA	RUIZ	HELCOM Secretariat	Finland
Vanessa	Ryan	WWF	Finland
Laura	Saijonmaa	Ministry of the Environment of Finland	Finland
Maurizio	Sajeva	Pellervo Economic Research PTT	Finland
Manuel	Sala	HELCOM	Finland

Erik	Sindhöj	RISE - Research Institutes of Sweden	Sweden
Hanna	Sjölund	Stockholm University Baltic Sea Centre	Sweden
Lone	Søderberg	Danish Environmental Protection Agency	Denmark
Lars	Sonesten	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences	Sweden
Rüdiger	Strempel	HELCOM	Finland
Nardine	Stybel	EUCC - The Coastal Union Germany	Germany
Agata	Święcka	Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation	Poland
Bettina	Taylor	BUND, Coalition Clean Baltic	Germany
Ottilia	Thoreson	WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme	Sweden
Natalia	Tretiakova	Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment	Russia
Emmi	Vähä	Finnish Environment Institute	Finland
Matilda	Valman	South Baltic Water District Authority	Sweden
Riku	Varjopuro	HELCOM Secretariat	Finland
Eduard	Vasilev	Institute for Engineering and Environmental Problems in Agricultural Production	Russia
Riikka	Venesjärvi	Natural Resources Institute Finland	Finland
Ekaterina	Vorobyeva	IEEP	Russia
Aaron	Vuola	HELCOM	Finland
Matleena	Vuola	HELCOM	Finland
Jutta	Vuolamo	Pidä Saaristo Siistinä ry	Finland
Reita	Waara	HELCOM	Finland
Torben	Wallach	Dansk Akvakultur	Denmark
Andrea	Weiss	German Environment Agency	Germany
Mikael	Wennström	Government of Åland	Finland
Sofia	Wikström	Stockholm University	Sweden
Albert	Willemsen	ICOMIA (also as part of the Navigation Task force Group)	UK
Peter	Wiwen-Nilsson	Race For The Baltic	Sweden
Jana	Wolf	HELCOM	Finland
Baiba	Zasa	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Latvia	Latvia
Nadja	Ziebarth	BUND, German member of Coalition Clean Baltic, CCB	Germany
Ulla Li	Zweifel	HELCOM	Finland

Annex 2 New actions proposed at HELCOM Stakeholder Conference - Biodiversity

Climate change

- Monitor the effect of sea ice loss on ecosystem functioning
- Ensure climate change is incorporated into all HELCOM monitoring and measures.

Habitats and biotopes

- Prepare action plans for threatened habitats

Species

- Transboundary management plan for critically endangered sea spawning grayling
- Active restoration and restocking of candidate species (populations)

Other

- Stronger cooperation between BALTFISH and relevant HELCOM working groups (HELCOM Fish and State and Conservation including relevant EGs)

Annex 3 New actions proposed at HELCOM Stakeholder Conference - Sea-based activities

Non-indigenous species (shipping)

- Implementation of IMO's Biofouling Guidelines (and HELCOM participation in the IMO GloFouling project)

Nutrients (shipping)

- Prohibit release of scrubber wastewater of open and half open systems to the Baltic Sea

Fisheries management

- Operationalize all criteria of GES/healthy stocks to all fish stocks (commercial and non-commercial, non-regulated)

MSP

- A holistic systems perspective for all HELCOM BSAP measures

GHG

- Shipping operational measure for slow speed steaming to reduce GHG

Other

- Limit discharge of cargo residues in the HELCOM PSSA area (include oil, fertilizers, any pollutants)
- Decreasing of oil spill risks (awareness on environmental, social and economic impacts of oil spills, public knowledge of companies that operate in oil transport business but does not apply BAT, awareness of compensation costs to operators by sensitivity of areas)
- Ensuring that all aspects of oil spill response are fully acknowledged
- Further develop sensitivity mapping of wildlife to oil spills (including areas outside of marine protected areas)
- Ensure up-to date data sharing regarding transport of oil products
- Ensure national and regional response preparedness to oil spills

Annex 4 New actions proposed at HELCOM Stakeholder Conference - Eutrophication

Agriculture

- "BAT" for crop production farms
- Animals with efficient nutrient keeping
- Ban on broadband spreading, combine with subsidies for better technologies
- Buffer strips
- Calcium filters to reduce P runoff
- Include horse manure in the mitigation measures for manure management
- Promote holistic land farm management and multi-benefit measures for soil health, climate resilience and reduced dependency on external mineral inputs
- Structure liming a farmland
- Subsidize nutrient measures equipment for farmers
- To reduce manure processing by aerobic fermentation

Wastewater treatment

- Continued support for upgrading wastewater treatment plants (WWTP)
- Mandatory nutrient recycling at large WWTP
- More control in nutrients concentrations in household products (e.g. less P in washing detergents)
- Need for indicator substances to monitor hazardous substances
- Promote water reuse
- Unified limits for hazardous substances in effluent and sludge at wastewater treatment plants (WTTPs)

Sea-based mitigation

- Explore new and innovative compensation measures
- Floating islands with plans to remove nutrients
- International fund for measures

Other measures

- Allow compensation measures among HELCOM countries to ensure cost effectiveness
- Improve assessment of waterborne N, P and C from all land-uses and in particular, forestry and drained peatlands
- River wetlands (Buffer zones) efficiency/importance for nutrient pollution (in agricultural catchments)

Annex 5 New actions proposed at HELCOM Stakeholder Conference – Hazardous substances and litter

Hazardous substances

- Legislation on WWTP to reduce pharmaceuticals
- Effectiveness evaluation of HZ regulation with sediment core analysis
- Electricity as primary energy source for passenger ships at harbour
- Waste resource management strategy should focus on reduction, reuse and recycling – not waste combustion for energy
- Information campaign on what compounds/substances not to flush
- Control of firefighting foam use related to (PFAS and other compounds)

Litter

- Consistent approach and databasing for litter to provide solid assessment
- Fishing for litter in the Baltic Sea
- Decrease small and diffuse sources of HZ + Substitution of HZ to decrease contamination from small and diffuse sources

Annex 6

Programme

v2 - 28 February 2020

20 HELCOM 20 Stakeholder Conference

Helsinki • 3 March 2020

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

08:30–09:30 **Registration and breakfast**

09:30–11:00 **Opening plenary session**

- **Welcoming words** by Rüdiger Strempel, HELCOM Executive Secretary
- **Opening of the Conference** by Gun Rudquist, Moderator of the Stakeholder Conference
- **Updating the Baltic Sea Action Plan** by UIla Li Zweifel, Project Manager BSAP update

Recap on the state of the Baltic Sea

- **Hazardous substances and litter** by Lars Sonesten, Chair of the HELCOM Pressure working group
- **Sea-based activities** by Susanne Heitmüller, Chair of the HELCOM Maritime working group
- **Eutrophication** by Sari Luostarinen, Chair of the HELCOM Agri group
- **Biodiversity** by Marie-Louise Krawack, Co-Chair of the HELCOM State and Conservation working group

- **Modelling the effects of the BSAP** by Bo Gustafsson, Baltic Nest Institute
- **Ecosystem based management and why we must change management structure** by Nils Höglund, CCB

11:00–11:30 **Group picture and coffee break**

11:30–13:00 **Parallel sessions**

Biodiversity	Sea-based activities	Eutrophication	Haz. substances and litter
Moderator: Marie-Louise Krawack **Venue:** HELCOM Lobby (HELCOM, 3rd floor)	**Moderator:** Susanne Heitmüller **Venue:** HELCOM Meeting Room (HELCOM, 3rd floor)	**Moderator:** Sari Luostarinen **Venue:** Fennia I (Marina Congress Centre)	**Moderator:** Lars Sonesten **Venue:** Baltica (Marina Congress Centre)
Pecha Kucha presentations (order may change)			
• Baltic Sea harbour porpoise and bycatch mitigation *by Ida Carlén, CCB* • Silence please! It's too loud in the Baltic *by Bettina Taylor, CCB* • Effects of bottom trawling on seafloor integrity in the Baltic Sea *by Sofia Wikström, Stockholm University* • Establish a system of highly protected marine protected areas (MPAs) *by Aimi Hamberg, CCB*	• Shipshape and Baltic fashion? *by Vanessa Ryan, WWF* • Gray Waters and Food Waste, *by Elisa Mikkolainen, BSAG* • IMO Glo Fouling project and potential effects on Marine Biodiversity, *by Albert Willemsen, ICOMIA* • Are we going to achieve sustainable shipping in the Baltic Sea?, *by Jana Moldanova, IVL*	• Mussel cultivation as a marine mitigation measure, *by Pernille Nielsen, DTU Aqua* • A new metric for BSAP targets to improve efficiency, *by Antti Iho, Luke* • Integrated approach and multiple benefit measures needed to achieve eutrophication objectives, *by Kaj Granholm, BSAG* • Sustainable Manure Handling and Use, *by Erik Sindhöj, RISE*	• Control the sources of historical contamination, *by Jacek Beldowski, Instytut Oceanologii PAN* • Ghost nets in the Baltic Sea, *by Ann-Marie Kamper, KIMO Sweden* • Constructed wetlands - a potential win, win, win solution, *by Mikhail Durkin, CCB*

Presentations of synopses of potential actions and measures (by HELCOM Secretariat)

Workshop (part I): Voicing proposals for new BSAP actions and measures. Pitching and prioritizing

13:00–14:00 **Lunch break**

14:00–15:15 **Parallel sessions (continued)**

Workshop (part II): Elaborating on the proposals

Workshop (part III): Preparing the outcome

15:15–16:00 **Coffee break**

16:00–17:00 **Closing plenary session**

- **Presentation of the outcomes of each parallel session** by the session moderators
- **BONUS programme: making connections to the future** by Andris Andrusaitis, BONUS EEIG
- **Financing BSAP projects** by Dennis Hamro-Drotz, NEFCO
- **Closing remarks** by Gun Rudquist