

# Implementation of BSAP actions and recommendations: 2020 update

## ↗ The Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP)

The HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP), adopted in 2007, is an ambitious and comprehensive regional programme of action for a healthy marine environment.

Since 2007, the BSAP has resulted in a number of environmental improvements such as a reduction in nutrient inputs to the sea, a better state of biodiversity and a decrease in maritime incidents and spills.

## ↗ Goals of the BSAP

The overarching aim of the current BSAP is to reach good environmental status by 2021, and, more specifically, to achieve the following:

- a Baltic Sea unaffected by eutrophication,
- a Baltic Sea undisturbed by hazardous substances,
- environmentally friendly maritime activities,
- a favourable status of Baltic Sea biodiversity.

## ↗ Update of the BSAP

Despite environmental improvements, the State of the Baltic Sea report, published in 2018, shows that the goals of the BSAP will not be reached by 2021. The HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2018 therefore agreed to update the BSAP by 2021. The Ministers further agreed to maintain, at least, the same level of ambition.

The BSAP update offers the possibility to increase the relevance and effectiveness of the plan by allowing us to adjust its current actions for better results, and to incorporate new measures and actions.

From the Ministerial Declaration 2018: *“WE DECIDE to update the BSAP by 2021 at the latest, with the aim to set out a robust action plan for continuous achievement of the agreed HELCOM vision of a healthy Baltic Sea environment. WE ALSO DECIDE that the updated BSAP will, in addition to existing commitments to be fulfilled by 2021, address new issues, on the basis of the commitments made in this Ministerial Declaration and further deliberations during the BSAP updating process.”*

## ↗ HELCOM Recommendations

One of the most important duties of the Helsinki Commission is to make Recommendations on measures to address certain pollution sources or areas of concern. Since the beginning of the 1980s HELCOM has adopted some 260 HELCOM Recommendations for the protection of the Baltic Sea.

In 2019 the implementation of a total of 52 recommendations were reported by the Contracting Parties in support of the Baltic Sea Action Plan.

## ↗ Implementation of the BSAP

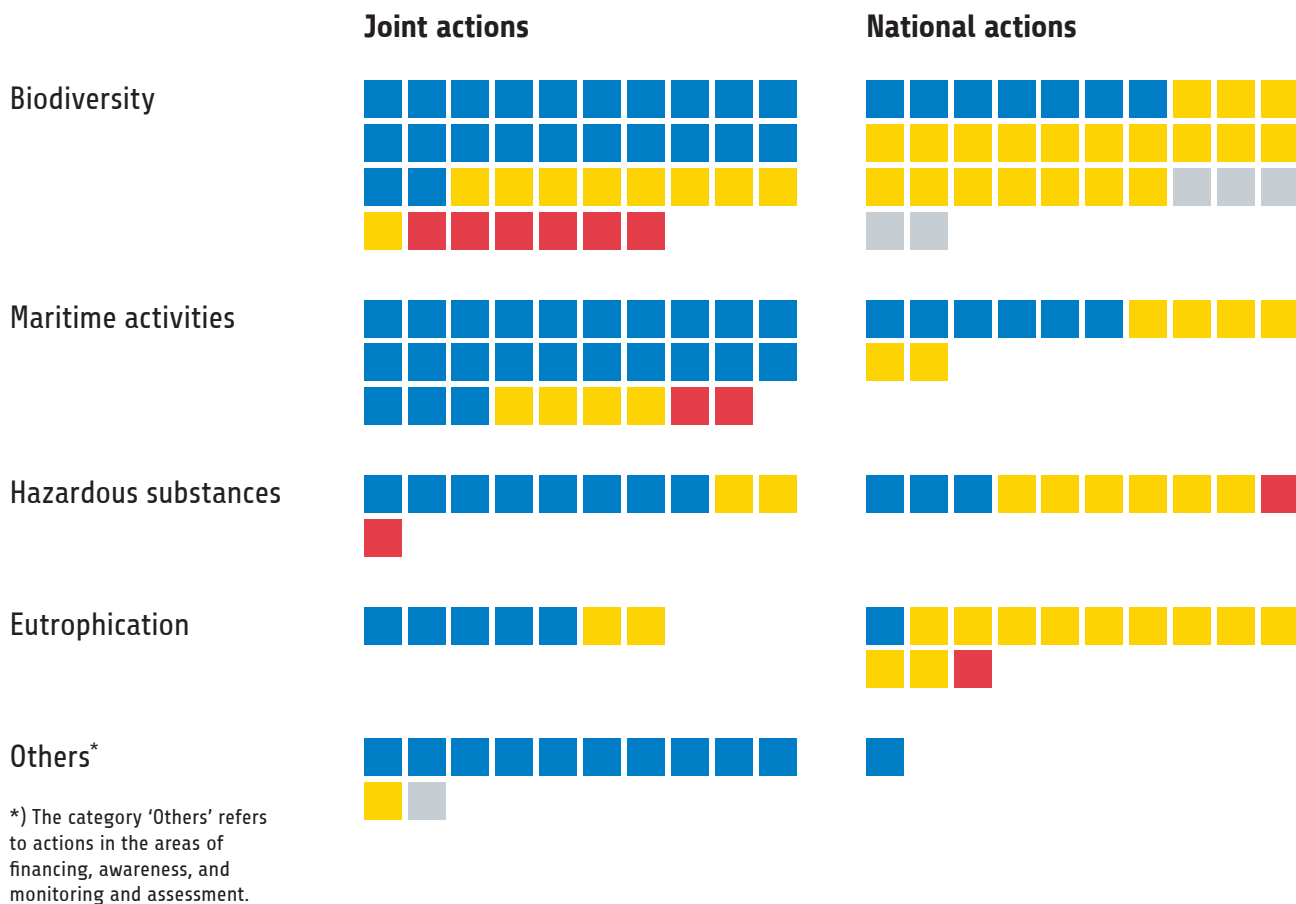
Currently, as of February 2020, about 70 percent of the joint regional actions and 26 percent of the national actions from the BSAP have been fully implemented by all Contracting Parties.

Many of the Recommendations are not yet fully implemented by all countries. It is worthy of notice that the reporting has not been completed by all countries, and that some Recommendations were only recently adopted or revised, hence not fully implemented yet.

Also, some of the actions may have a more significant positive impact on the state of the Baltic Sea than others. The joint actions included in Recommendations were not considered. Based on the reporting, many HELCOM Working Groups identified the need to review and revise some of the older Recommendations.

## Implementation status of BSAP actions

As of February 2020. One square represents one action. The categorization of actions is based on the main segments of the BSAP.



## Implementation status of HELCOM recommendations

As of February 2020. One square represents the implementation status of one recommendation by all countries. The categorization is based on the HELCOM Working Groups issuing the recommendations.

