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

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME	PROGRESS/BARRIERS
Link to B. Coordir hazardo thereby Links to (10/1 A	Toring (Monitoring Session) ToR Duties: Provide technical and scientific support for the i strategies, guidelines and recommendations in t nate and implement the monitoring and assessme pus substances, including radioactive substances, implementing the HELCOM Monitoring and Asse recommendation(s): BNORMAL SITUATIONS IN THE MARINE ENVIRON SSESSMENTS OF THE EFFECTS OF POLLUTION ON	the area of its expertise ant activities of HELCOM marine litter and unde assment Strategy; MENT) (under consider	e according to the existing A related to biodiversity, erwater noise, as well as i ration for replacement by	priorities as well as requests by the He and status of and effects on the marine ntegrated assessment of human pressu <u>an automated service)</u>	eads of Delegations and environment with reg res and their impacts a	d subsidiary bodies; gards to eutrophication,
<u>19/3 M</u> <u>26/3 M</u> <u>37/1 CC</u> ACTIVIT	ANUAL FOR THE HELCOM JOINT COORDINATED N ONITORING OF RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES D-OPERATION AND COORDINATION OF RESEARCH	<u>IARINE MONITORING</u>				ITORING AND RESEARCH
HELCON	up on implementation of and reporting on A Recommendations under the Monitoring of State and Conservation	State and Conservatio	on		Continuous	
	o follow up systems and reporting schemes for ELCOM Recommendations under the Monitoring	State and Conservatio	on		Continuous	Overall S&C recommendation reporting scheme

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section yet avai	of State and Conservation for which such are not able					drafted for S&C 12- 2020. Reporting on 2/3 Monitoring recommendation not yet established.
	k 1: Implementation of the HELCOM Monitoring		egy, including developme	nt of necessary manuals and guidelines	i.a. related to quality	
assuran	ce, taking into account the existing international g	uidance 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.	 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	 Steady progress with several new guidelines published in the period 2019- 2020. Workload of lead countries hindering progress. Unclarity regarding the task from experts. Follow up on level of implementation needed? Accessibility limited by website structure and unclarity regarding internal relations of current Strategy, Manual,

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						Programmes, Guidelines and the pervious COMBINE setup.
1.2	Analyse cost-efficiency of joint monitoring.	State and Conservation		– Use FUMARI and SEAM as the basis.	2022-2023	 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 Tas	k 2: Functioning of the HELCOM Joint Coordinate	d Monitoring system c	overing all aspects from flo	ora and fauna of the Baltic Sea to water o	quality and human pres	ssures
	recommendation actions: links to recommendation(s):					
2.1a)	Development of a coordinated monitoring programme. When additional indicators have been further developed and coherent and adequate national monitoring programmes must be implemented. Explore and share experiences	State and Conservation	EG MAMA, ZEN, PEG, FISH-PRO III, JWG BIRD, IN BENTIC, EN LITTER, EN NOISE, EG MORS, EN HAZ Secretariat	 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 	Continuous	-Monitoring Programme and Manual reviewed in 2020. - workload and engagement of experts associated with the

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	on integrated monitoring. Develop harmonized monitoring methods.			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. –		review impeded the updated process.
2.1b)	Development of a coordinated monitoring programme. 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 macrophyte monitoring), marine litter, underwater noise, hydrography	State and Conservation	EG MAMA, ZEN, PEG, FISH-PRO III, JWG BIRD, IN BENTIC, EN LITTER, EN NOISE, EG MORS, EN HAZ Secretariat	 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 consistent dataflows for data strands for which functional dataflows are not yet established. By 2022 establish fully functional data flows for marine litter, seabirds and marine mammals (seals and opportunistic sightings of harbour porpoise) as well as improved data infrastructure for handling acoustic monitoring data of harbour porpoise data. 	Continuous	 Initial gap analysis and classification of HELCOM dataflows to guide improvements efforts conducted in 2019. HELCOM Biodiversity Database (BioBase) developed in 2019. Reporting deadlines and reporting frequency for existing fully functional dataflows reviewed and agreed in 2020.

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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		 HELCOM DataFlow (2020-2021) to support the establishment of consistent dataflows for human activities/pressure data. Link to MSP needs. Exchange information with Pressure and HELCOM_VASAB MSP. Link to possible driver-indicators (indicators looking at trends in drivers of change, used to provide context to assessments). 	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		 Monitoring focused on identifying level of implementation, change in state and linking measures to change in state. A need to identify alternative/proxies (non-physical monitoring) ways of following up on the implementation and effect of measures, e.g. the level/strenght of implementation. Strong link to Sufficiency of Measures analysis (SOM) 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. 	Start in 2021	 First SOM methodology developed in 2019. First SOM analysis conducted in 2020. Further developments needed. Improved understanding and information on link between measures and state needed, including synergistic (and possible antagonistic effects).

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Assessi	ments and indicators (Joint Session)								
В.	Link to ToR Duties: Provide technical and scientific support for the i strategies, guidelines and recommendations in t Coordinate and implement the monitoring and eutrophication, hazardous substances, includin affecting the sea state, thereby implementing th	the area of its expertise assessment activities o g radioactive substance	e according to the existing f HELCOM related to bioc es, marine litter and unde	g priorities as well as requests by the He liversity, and status of and effects on th erwater noise, as well as integrated asse	eads of Delegations and e marine environment	l subsidiary bodies; with regards to			
(<u>21/3 SU</u> <u>24/10 R</u> Indirect <u>28E/9 D</u>	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 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								
HELCOM	o on implementation of and reporting on Recommendations under the Assessment and section of State and Conservation	State and Conservation	on		Continuous – Reporting for 24/10-R reporting to take place every 3 years, next reporting planned for 2022.	-Overall S&C recommendation reporting scheme drafted for S&C 12- 2020. -Reporting template for 16/3 developed and reporting finalised in 2019. -Reporting on 2/2 Monitoring			
Develop	follow up systems and reporting schemes for	State and Conservation	on		Continuous	recommendation not yet fully established. Overall S&C			
	LCOM Recommendations under the		-			recommendation reporting scheme			

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	ient and indicator section of State and ation for which such are not yet available				 Reporting template for 24/10-R to be developed by 2021. Establishment of reporting frequency for Recommendation 16/3 by mid 2021 	drafted for S&C 12- 2020. Reporting on 2/3 Monitoring recommendation not yet established.
Update	of the Baltic Sea Action Plan					
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	
	k 3: Development of operational HELCOM core in 1 Ministerial Declarations, and the EU Marine Stra				als and objectives of the E	Baltic Sea Action Plan,
	recommendation actions: links to recommendation(s):					
3.1	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 prioritization on how to fill the identified gaps.	State and Conservation	EG MAMA, ZEN, PEG, EN-HAZ, FISH-PRO III, JWG BIRD, EN BENTIC, EN LITTER, EN NOISE, EG MORS, Secretariat	-Improvement of dataflows for marine mammals and seabirds planned under HELCOM BLUES project.	2020-2021	-HELCOM DataFlow (2020-2021) and Baltic DataFlow (2020-2023) projects commenced in 2020.

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3.2	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.	
3.2.1	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.	State and Conservation	EN Marine Litter	-Possible link to litter indicator development under the HELCOM BLUES project.	Ongoing. Beach litter and seafloor litter indicators ready to be included in HOLAS III.	 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) Litter on the seafloor in the HELCOM area- analyses of data from BITS trawling hauls 2012-2016 (deliverable from SPICE project) Indicator workplan developed and approved in 2019. Further work on the HELCOM microlitter indicator agreed in 2020.

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3.2.2	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.	Plans for further work on the HELCOM beach litter indicator agreed in 2020. Barriers: decisions on HELCOM database to host beach litter data
3.2.3	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.
3.2.4	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	2021	-First draft of threshold values presented in 2020.
3.2.5	Develop regionally coordinated quantitative targets for the reduction of physical disturbance caused by human activities, and for habitat loss.	State and Conservation	EN BENTHIC	Link to pressures under Pressure and activities under FISH and Maritime. Target development dependent on the indicator evaluations and establishing threshold values.	2022-XXXX	-TG Seabed has established the definitions of loss and disturbance, these should be used.
3.2.6	Elaborate regional actions and suggested national actions, aiming at delivering the necessary reductions in adverse effects of	State and Conservation	EN BENTHIC	Link to pressures under Pressure and activities under FISH and Maritime	2022-	-Initial proposals for displacement of fisheries prepared

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	physical disturbance caused by human activities.			Dependent on the targets for reduction.		under the HELCOM ACTION project 2020.
3.2.7	Development HELCOM core indicator: Harbor porpoise abundance and distribution	State and Conservation	EG MAMA	Possible link to planned work on indicator development under the HELCOM BLUES project. Work linked to tasks planned under SAMBAH II.	2019-(2026) Development under SAMBAH II, ready for HOLAS IV.	-Indicator workplan developed and approved in 2019. - Work started but resource limitations have slowed progress.
3.2.8	Development HELCOM core indicator(s) for assessing state of pelagic habitats)	State and Conservation	PEG, ZEN	Possible link to planned work on indicator development under the HELCOM BLUES project.	2019-2021 First approach ready for 2021, further development will be needed for HOLAS IV.	-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.
3.2.9	Improvement of HELCOM core indicator: Number of drowned mammals and birds	State and Conservation, FISH	JWG BIRD, EG MAMA, CG FISHDATA	Possible link to planned work on indicator development under the HELCOM BLUES project.	2021 Improved approach ready for 2021, further development will be needed for HOLAS IV.	-Indicator workplan developed and approved in 2019. -OSPAR-HELCOM joint workshop on bycatch held in 2019.

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						-Lack of monitoring and data on bycatch rates.
3.3	Link indicators with loads and sources	State and Conservation, Pressure	Relevant EG's under State and Conservation and Pressure	 -Dedicated S&C and Pressure WS (including relevant EG experts) for how this could be done for HOLAS III. - Look into how cross-cutting work at the EU level has touched on this. 	2022 Minimum qualitative approach for HOLAS III, could focus on the pressure indicators, e.g. input of nutrients or hazardous substances.	-Secretariat has instigated considerations on how this could be done.
3.4	Development of driver indicators	State and Conservation, Pressure, Fish, Agri, Maritime	EN ESA	Driver (/activity) indicators are trend indicators focused on drivers of changes, developed to provide context to the status assessment result and improve the holistic approach.	2022 First approach ready for 2022, further development will be needed for HOLAS IV.	- Included in the HELCOM MetDev project proposal

ToR Task 4 Periodic assessments of:

- 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

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Links to	recommendation actions:	·	·			
Indirect	t links to recommendation(s):					
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	Biodiversity assessments, including developing methods and tools to support future assessments.	State and Conservation	EG MAMA, ZEN, PEG, EN-HAZ, FISH-PRO III, JWG BIRD, EN BENTHIC	 Possible link to work planned to improve the BEAT assessment tool under the HELCOM BLUES project. Possible link to improved pressures and impact assessment, with biodiversity element specific pressure and impacts deliverables being produced to support the assessment results. Possible link to development of driver indicators to provide context to assessment results. Link to improved assessment of foodwebs. possible link to expanded number of biodiversity indicators 	2021-2022	
4.1.2	Work on thematic assessment on coastal fish	State and Conservation	FISH-PRO IIII		2023	

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					2022 for thematic content for the Thematic Assessment of Biodiversity for HOLAS III.	
4.1.3	Assessment of status of pelagic habitats	State and Conservation	ZEN, PEG		2021-2022 -reporting to be approved in 2023	 -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.
4.1.4	Assessment of status of commercial fish	State and Conservation		-Thematic WS planned, will consider approach for assessment for HOLAS III	2021-2022 -reporting to be approved in 2023	-Indicator workplan developed and approved in 2019. -Approval for arranging a thematic workshop at HOD 58- 2020.
4.1.5	Assessment of status of Baltic Sea foodwebs	State and Conservation	CG		2021-2022 -reporting to be approved in 2023	-Indicator workplan developed and approved in 2019.

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						-Approval for establishing an expert Correspondence Group on foodwebs at HOD 58-2020.
4.1.6	Eutrophication assessment, including developing methods and tools to support future assessments.	State and Conservation	IN EUTRO	Work on linking loads and sources more closely to the assessment of status, cooperation needed with PRESSURE, for HOLAS III.	2021-2022 -reporting to be approved in 2023	- Improvements to the HEAT tool in 2019
4.1.7	Hazardous substances assessments, including developing methods and tools to support future assessments.	State and Conservation	EN HAZ	Work on linking loads and sources more closely to the assessment of status, cooperation needed with PRESSURE, for HOLAS III.	2021-2022 -reporting to be approved in 2023	- Operationalization and improvement of hazardous substances assessment system.
4.1.8	Marine litter assessment, including developing methods and tools to support future assessments.	State and Conservation	EN Marine Litter	Link to work planned under HELCOM BLUES project	2021-2022 -reporting to be approved in 2023	Initial proposal for the scale of the assessment on beach litter submitted to S&C in 2020
4.1.9	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.	State and Conservation	EN Marine Litter	-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.	ASAP	- It is to be considered whether ongoing work on the topic at EU level can be utilized at HELCOM level.
4.1.10	Underwater noise assessment, including developing methods and tools to support future assessments.	State and Conservation	EN Noise	-Aim to identify preliminary risk areas through the use of updated noise maps and distribution of noise sensitive species for HOLAS III.	2021-2022 -reporting to be approved in 2023	-Noise sensitive species identified in 2019 -Continuous noise database and

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				-Possible link to developing noise maps and noise assessment under HELCOM BLUES project.		soundscape planning 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.	2021 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) Dependent on the success of the LIFE project application	
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, MPA MANET	Links to possible HELCOM LIFE project	(2022-20XX) Dependent on the success of the LIFE project application	
4.5	HELCOM Red List of Baltic Sea Species	State and Conservation	EG MAMA, FISH-PRO III, JWG BIRD, EN BENTHIC	 Biodiversity and pressure data for a large number of species/pressures to be reported in 2022 for HOLAS III purposes, clear synergies. 	2022-2024	 HELCOM Biodiversity Database (BioBase) developed in 2019, reporting and data

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				- Relevant for reporting on the SDGs.		 infrastructure in place. 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	 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	-Needed to support BSAP.	2018-2021	-EN CLIME established in 2018.

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				-Needed for HOLAS III (both State of the Baltic Sea report and indicator assessments).		 -Expertise secured for most topics (100+ experts). -Working structure established.
4.7.1	Produce a Fact sheet on Climate Change	State and Conservation with Baltic Earth	EN CLIME		2021	-Agreement on format and content. -Draft Fact sheet prepared.
4.7.2.	Produce supporting material for fact sheet	Baltic Earth	EN CLIME		2021-2022	
4.7.3	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	State and Conservation	EN CLIME	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.	Continuous	HELCOM Climate Change fact sheet links effects with impacts for a large number of ecosystem and societal components.
4.7.4	Increase HELCOM's preparedness to respond to climate change impacts, by taking foreseen climate change impacts into account when updating the BSAP.	State and Conservation with Baltic Earth	EN CLIME	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.	Spring 2021	
4.8	Improving assessment of the effectiveness of measures for limiting sources, distribution, amounts and impacts of marine litter	State and Conservation	EN LITTER	Should be included under PRESSURE (as it doesn't deal with monitoring, indicators or assessment of litter).		Links to the work on sufficiency of measures for the BSAP update.

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	including micro-plastics, in coherence with similar work undertaken by Contracting Parties in other relevant fora					
	k 5: Assess human pressures and impacts as part ardous substances, oils spills, etc.	of the Holistic assessme	ents, e.g. utilizing inputs fr	om other HELCOM subsidiary bodies on o	e.g. waterborne and air	borne inputs of nutrients
	recommendation(s): 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. -Technical development workshop held in 2020.

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5.4	Cooperation with HELCOM-VASAB MSP group and the EMSP project, EBA work package	State and Conservation, HELCOM-VASAB MSP working group		 Work on improving and mapping green infrastructure. 	2021-mid 2023	
5.5	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	
5.6	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	
	k 8: Cooperate with, and seek synergies with rele Convention on Biological Diversity, MSFD Commo			ganizations and institutions and process	es relevant for the grou	up such as ICES, EEA, JRC,
	recommendation(s): 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

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						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	Should be further considered when the reporting for the recommendation is available and when the need to update the recommendation is discussed. Linked to update of the content of the MPA database.	2021 for first step once the first reporting on the Recommendation in available.				
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.			
	k 9: Develop and maintain the regional data and i	nformation systems n	needed to carry out its tasks	1					
	Links to recommendation(s): Indirect links to recommendation(s):								

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME	PROGRESS/BARRIERS
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
9.2	Develop detailed marine habitat and biotope maps (including broad habitat types under the MSFD)	State and Conservation	EN BENTHIC	Aim to base maps on HUB through initiatives by Contracting Parties. make an updated inventory of national mapping through EN BENTHIC. Links to possible HELCOM LIFE	(2022-20XX) Dependent on the success of the LIFE project application	
				project		
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.
Conse	rvation and Biodiversity					
B. D.	ToR Duties: Provide technical and scientific support for the strategies, guidelines and recommendations in Review, develop and promote the implementat p, propose and follow-up measures for protectio	the area of its expertis ion of HELCOM goals f	e according to the existing or biodiversity protection,	priorities as well as requests by the He	ads of Delegations and	d subsidiary bodies;

Links to recommendation(s):

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME	PROGRESS/BARRIERS
16/3 PR 17/2 PR 21/4 PR 27-28-CC 34E/1 SJ 35/1 SY 37/2 CO Indirect 19/2 PR	OTECTION OF THE COASTAL STRIP ESERVATION OF NATURAL COASTAL DYNAMICS OTECTION OF HARBOUR PORPOISE IN THE BALTI OTECTION OF HEAVILY ENDANGERED OR IMMEL ONSERVATION OF SEALS IN THE BALTIC SEA ARE/ AFEGUARDING IMPORTANT BIRD HABITATS AND STEM OF COASTAL AND MARINE BALTIC SEA PRO INSERVATION OF BALTIC SEA SPECIES CATEGORIZ Inks to recommendation(s): OTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE WILD SA CONSERVATION OF BALTIC SALMON (SALMO SA ES	DIATELY THREATENED	MARINE AND COASTAL BI IN THE BALTIC SEA FROM OM MPAS) ACCORDING TO THE 2013 F	<u>NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF WIND AND WAY</u> IELCOM RED LIST BALTIC SEA AREA		
HELCON	up on implementation of and reporting on A Recommendations under the Biodiversity and ration section of State and Conservation	State and Conservat	ion		Continuous	-Overall S&C recommendation reporting scheme drafted for S&C 12- 2020.
those H Biodiver	follow up systems and reporting schemes for ELCOM Recommendations under the rsity and Conservation section of State and ration for which such are not yet available	State and Conservat	ion	-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
order t Links to	 sk 6: Prepare proposals for measures for the constoninitiate protection of highly endangered species or recommendation(s): t links to recommendation(s): 	-		and marine habitats and biotopes and fo	llow up on implem	entation of measures, e.g. in
6.1	Share information on how the MPA network could contribute to mitigating the effects of climate change.	State and Conservation	EN CLIME, TG MPA	-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. -Link to the EU Biodiversity Strategy.	ongoing	 -restoration targets to be established at EU level (for those CPs who are also EU member states). - targets for spatial conservation established at EU level (for those CPs who are also EU member states).
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. -Could be linked to the MSP work and green infrastructure. 	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	

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME	PROGRESS/BARRIERS
6.5	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		 Highlight the identified habitat restoration priorities as important e.g. for funding mechanisms. Links to HD and HD reporting. Habitats may include reefs, flads etc. -Link to possible HELCOM LIFE project. -Link to the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the targets for restoration. 	Continuous	-work done under the HELCOM ACTION Project -restoration measures proposed as new measures for the update BSAP
6.6	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 Will need review following an update of the Red list, planned for 2024.	ongoing	
6.7	Where possible link red listed species to specific habitats/substrates based on scientific information.	State and Conservation	TG MPA, EN BENTHIC, FISH PRO III	-Link to possible HELCOM LIFE project.	Ongoing	-Initial analysis prepared and shared with S&C in 2019.

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME	PROGRESS/BARRIERS
6.X	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	REMOVE, should be included in the FISH plan.	Continuous	 List of technical measures maintained by FISH
6.8	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	- Included in the SAMBAH II project application.	(2021-2027)	Work started in 2019 under EG MAMA.
ToR Tas	k 7: Further develop the system of coastal and m	arine protected area	s and promote monitoring	and research in these areas		
	recommendation(s): i 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 the actions of the BSAP regarding the management, ecological representativeness and connectivity of the HELCOM MPAs network.	State and Conservation		Direct subtasks to be identified -Link to the CBD targets and the EU Biodiversity strategy. -Link to possible HELCOM LIFE project.	2021-2030	
7.3	Identify the sub-basins with less than 10% MPA (HELCOM MPAs, N2000 and national protected areas) coverage, and provide any	State and Conservation		-Link to possible HELCOM LIFE project.	Ongoing	Overview prepared and presented to S&C in 2019.

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME	PROGRESS/BARRIERS
	scientific justification of why coverage would not need to be 10% or more.			 -Link to the CBD targets and the EU Biodiversity strategy. -Link to OECM process. -link to the update of Recommendation 35/1, is this an ecologically valid approach when considering the need to conserve areas of high biodiversity and viewing the marine environment holistically the Biodiversity strategy and CBD targets etc? 		Likely to be updated after 2021.
7.4	Improve 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.	State and Conservation		 Use recent tools recommended by IUCN (e.g. INVEST). Finland to present their initial work with the tool based on IUCN workshop. -Link to possible HELCOM LIFE project. 	2021-	Improved understanding on ecosystem services and ecosystem accounting in the Baltic Sea region planned under HOLAS III (2022-2023).
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	continuous	Project on identifying joint and shared measures taking place in the Bothnian Bay between SE and FI.

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME	PROGRESS/BARRIERS
7.6	Increase capacity for developing multi- management plans for marine protected areas.	State and Conservation	TG MPA, MPA MANET	Explore zoning, multi-management frameworks, nesting etc. TG MPA to consider ideas for taking the work forward. How to develop unified management plans and measure in areas under various conservation schemes. -Link to possible HELCOM LIFE project.	continuous	
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	continuous	Providing information on green infrastructure for MSP progressed under the PanBaltic Scope project for essential fish habitats and under ACTION for bycatch risk.
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. Specified subtasks needed. -Link to possible HELCOM MPA project	2021-	Progress on assessment done under HELCOM ACTION Project WP3
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.	State and Conservation	TG MPA	-Link to possible HELCOM MPA project	2022-[2024] Dependent on when the next assessment will take place.	

No.	ACTION	LEAD/ RESPONSIBLE	Link to Expert Networks (to be included in their ToRs/workplans)	COMMENTS and INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME	PROGRESS/BARRIERS
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.	Continuously Update of the database dependent on project funding (e.g. LIFE MPA)	-Reporting to the database considered by S&C in 2019. -Pressure assessment instructions under preparation.