

## Work Plan of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (Pressure) 2021-2022

No.	ACTION	LEAD/RESPONSIBLE IN HELCOM	INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
<b>Action 1 Guide Pollution Load Compilations (PLCs) and prepare related reports meeting policy needs, including core indicators<sup>1</sup></b>				
1.1	Annual compilation of air- and waterborne inputs of nitrogen, phosphorus and hazardous substances to the Baltic Sea: - Produce annual report and BSEFS <sup>2</sup> - Consider inclusion of new and/or rotation of already covered substances in accordance with the HELCOM priorities and data availability	Data reporting by CPs PLC-Air Centre EMEP RedCore DG and EMEP		- Annually - Continuously
1.2	Compilation of PLC 8 data reporting. Producing assessment reports: - Update of the PLC-water Guidelines and statistic report. Finalizing remaining PLC-7 products: - sources and pathways of nutrient inputs; - nutrient input by major rivers; - evaluation of effectiveness of measures; - thematic report on hazardous substances.	PLC-8 project RedCore DG		In accordance with PLC-8 project work plan.
1.3	Regular update of the HELCOM information resources to collect, store and provide access to the data on input of nutrients and selected hazardous substances into the Baltic Sea including reporting web applications and relevant HELCOM GIS map services.	BNI (Database Host) PLC Data Manager Secretariat RedCore DG		Continuous
1.4	Improve PLC data on background losses of nutrients based on the most recent scientific knowledge.	PLC-8 project RedCore DG	Regional and bilateral projects	2022

<sup>1</sup> Coordinate and organize the monitoring and assessment activities of HELCOM related to waterborne and airborne discharges, emissions and inputs of nutrients and hazardous substances: Guide Pollution Load Compilations (PLCs) (Water, and Air in cooperation with EMEP) and continuous work on improving data reporting and quality, as well as prepare assessment reports meeting policy needs, and in relation to PLC be responsible for that:

- HELCOM core indicators for pressures on marine environment are developed and operationalized (in cooperation with EMEP) to serve e.g. holistic assessments according to the goals and objectives of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, HELCOM Ministerial Declarations, and the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive for those Contracting Parties also being EU Member States;
- PLC-associated technical guidelines for quality assurance are developed and updated to ensure confident monitoring and assessment results for inputs of nutrients and hazardous substances, taking into account the existing international guidance documents;
- PLC database is developed and maintained;

Further develop and maintain additional pressure indicators, e.g. concerning inputs to the marine environment of noise, litter and hazardous substances and other emerging issues

<sup>2</sup> Baltic Sea Environment Fact Sheet

1.5	Elaboration of guidance to improve national data on effectiveness of measures and consequent HELCOM reporting based on the outcomes of PLC-7 project.	PLC-8 project RedCore DG		2022
<b>Action 2 Follow-up of HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme<sup>3</sup></b>				
2.1	Update the core pressure indicator on nutrient inputs for assessing progress towards the maximum allowable inputs (MAI)	PLC-8 RedCore DG, BNI and DCE		Annually
2.2	Assess progress towards nutrient input ceilings, both scientific assessment and policy document.	BNI Sweden DCE Denmark RedCore DG PLC-8		2022
2.3	Organize cooperation with RBMA to follow up implementation of the nutrient input ceilings for transboundary river basins and their integration in the river basin management plans. Involvement of the representatives of non-HELCOM countries in the work of PLC-8 project.	RedCore DG PLC-8 BNI Sweden	[PA Nutri]	PLC-8 project meetings according to project implementation plan. Workshop 2022
2.4	Follow up further improving of the knowledge base regarding the nature and dynamics of internal nutrient reserve and potential of measures to manage internal nutrient reserves.	IN MINUTS	[PA Nutri]	Continuous Workshop 2021
2.5	Elaborate regional principles and risk assessment framework for management of internal nutrient reserves.	IN MINUTS		2021
2.6	Update of the HELCOM Nutrient Reduction Scheme as a part of the work on BSAP update.	PLC-8 RedCore DG		2021

<sup>3</sup> Monitor and assess the implementation of the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme, as well as support the review of the scheme based on the best available scientific knowledge in cooperation with other relevant subsidiary bodies and institutes and modelling centres, as may be necessary: Develop and maintain a system to evaluate progress by the HELCOM countries in meeting their country-allocated nutrient reduction targets of the HELCOM nutrient reductions scheme, follow-up on the progress and prepare reports and recommendations for improved implementation; Cooperate to address nutrient emissions and inputs from non-Contracting Parties to meet the expected reductions according to the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme, e.g. in relation to the Gothenburg Protocol under the UN ECE CLRTAP as well as EU NECD, the work of river basin management commissions/bodies; Identify and prioritize needs for further reduction of nutrients, with the aim to bridge the gap in translating the nutrient reduction scheme into area or site-specific implementation, with a view to, among others, pointing to investment needs.

Action 3 Pollution prevention from wastewater treatment, including sustainable handling of sewage sludge <sup>4</sup>				
3.1	Follow-up implementation and update, if needed, of HELCOM Recommendations related to waste water management	CPs reporting		Continuous
3.2	Launching of the regional dialog on set regional limit values for hazardous substances in sewage sludge and related products utilizing the HELCOM Recommendation on sustainable handling of sewage sludge as a starting point.	[Lead countries]		2022
3.3	Promotion policy recommendations on the best available solution to utilize nutrients and other valuable properties of sewage sludge minimising a potential adverse environmental effect. Contribution to the regional Nutrient recycling strategy	Cooperation with HELCOM Agri Ggroup in the work on the Nutrient recycling strategy	PA Nutri BSR-WATER project platform	Workshops and other events 2020-2021
3.4	Finalizing the new HELCOM action on Micropollutants in effluents from wastewater treatment plants.		BSR-WATER project platform CW PHARMA Contribution by Baltic Eye through project PA Hazards	2021
3.5	Consider policy relevant proposals raised by PA Nutri of EUSBSR	Finland and Poland are leading		Continuous
3.6	Contribute to the update of the BSAP.			In line with the BSAP update process

<sup>4</sup> Cooperate on pollution prevention from waste water treatment, including sustainable handling of sewage sludge

<b>Action 4 Solutions for limiting emissions and losses of hazardous substances<sup>5</sup></b>				
4.1	Revision of the HELCOM framework based on the regional policy document on hazardous substances in cooperation with State&Conservation, MARITIME and PA Hazards.	[Lead countries] Projects CG PHARMA HAZBREF	PA Hazards	2020-2022
4.2	Cooperate with State&Conservation to further advance HELCOM indicators on hazardous substances integrating into them information on loads, pathways and sources of the pollutants. Contribute to the HOLAS III process in line with the implementation plan	[Lead country] Projects RedCore CG PHARMA EN-Hazards State & Conservation EMEP, PLC-7	PA Hazards	2020-2022 and further on
4.3	Identification of emerging pollutants, evaluation of the scale of problems and suggestion of mitigation measures. Consideration of the results of regional and national screening campaigns.	State & Conservation PA Hazards CW PHARMA HAZBREF BEST BSR-WATER project platform	Watch list of the WFD; National and international screening campaigns.	Continuous
4.4	Assessing the state of threat to the Baltic Sea marine environment posed by input of pharmaceuticals, filling in data and knowledge gaps, prioritization of measures with aim to elaborate regional policy in terms of pharmaceuticals in the region.	[HELCOM CG PHARMA] Sweden in the capacity as Coordinator for PA Hazards [Lead country(s)] Projects	Cooperation with the other RSCs.	Workshop(s) 2020 and further on
4.5	Identify and assess further hazardous substances and contaminants from offshore sources, which may give rise to pollution effects, and develop appropriate mitigation measures.	CPs to provide relevant information HELCOM Maritime group		2022

<sup>5</sup>Share best practices and solutions for limiting emissions and losses of hazardous substances from existing sources and exchange information of EU BAT, BEP, REACH and other legislation and of activities concerning new and emerging substances (e.g. pharmaceuticals)

4.6	Consider policy relevant proposals raised by PA Hazards of EUSBSR	Sweden leading in the capacity as Coordinator for PA Hazards		Continuous
4.7	Contribute to the BSAP update with regard to objectives for hazardous substances.			2021
<i>Action on assessing of sea-bed damage</i>				
4.8	Regularly compile data on dredging/depositing operations at sea reported in accordance with the Guidelines for Management of Dredged Material at Sea. Regular assess environmental pressure caused by dredging/depositing operations at sea. Further develop methodology to evaluate pressure caused by dredging/depositing operations at sea and, if possible, exploitation of mineral resources on the sea bed. Contribute to assessment of sea floor integrity and cumulative impact on ecosystem. Consider measures to mitigate this pressure where it's needed.	CPs to report Secretariat HELCOM Expert Network on dredging/ depositing operations at Sea EN DREDS) To seek cooperation with ongoing projects evaluating cumulative impact.	Coordination with OSPAR Cooperation with IMO	Continuous
4.9	Contribute to the HOLAS III process with regard to sea-floor integrity	HELCOM EN DREDS [Project]	In cooperation with OSPAR	2022
4.10	Contribute to the BSAP update with regard to measures to minimise pressure caused by dredging/depositing operations and exploitation of mineral resources on the sea floor.	HELCOM EN DREDS		2021
<b>Action 5 Coordinate implementation of Regional Marine Litter Action Plan <sup>6</sup></b>				
5.1	Contribute to the development of HELCOM core indicator(s) related to marine litter in the Baltic Sea environment in cooperation with State&Conservation.	Indicator leads: Poland-beach litter (DK and SE co-leads); Finland-microliter (DK and DE co-leads). Denmark a -lead litter on the seafloor HELCOM EN-Marine litter	STATE related to development of core indicators and joint monitoring In cooperation with OSPAR and EU TG Litter	2021 and 2022 depending on the indicator
5.2	Coordinate and follow up implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter to achieve a significant quantitative reduction by 2025. Develop ambitious, regionally coordinated, quantitative targets to reduce input of litter.	Leads countries, PRESSURE (HELCOM EN-Marine Litter) in cooperation with	Exchange information with OSPAR and the other RSCs.	Continuous

<sup>6</sup> Lead regional implementation of the Regional Marine Litter Action Plan and coordinate its implementation with relevant subsidiary bodies to enable their substantial contribution.

		State&Conservation, Maritime and Fish		
	Update of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in alignment with the BSAP update objectives on marine litter matter	PRESSURE (HELCOM EN-Marine Litter)		2021
5.3	Consider potential amendments of relevant Recommendations as well as drafting new ones to address marine litter including microlitter	In cooperation with State&Conservation, Maritime and Fish		Continuous
5.4	Contribute to the update of the BSAP with regard to specific actions aimed at mitigation of input of plastics, including micro-plastics into the marine environment, addressing also micro-plastics in riverine inputs, urban wastewater effluents and storm water.	In cooperation with State&Conservation, Maritime and Fish Contribution by projects EN-Marine litter		2021
5.5	Contribute to the HOLAS III process in relation to marine litter	PRESSURE (HELCOM EN-Marine Litter)		2022
<b>Action 6 Lead the work on underwater noise<sup>7</sup></b>				
6.1	Develop an action plan on underwater noise. Contribute to the update of the BSAP with regard to specific actions aimed at mitigation of input of energy and underwater, particularly, noise into the marine environment	PRESSURE (HELCOM EN-Noise) in coordination with State&Conservation and Maritime	Contribute to MSFD for EU Member States, and relevant legislation of Russian Federation Cooperation with OSPAR Intersessional group on noise and EU TG Noise IMO work	2021
6.2	Contribute to development of core indicators on underwater noise	PRESSURE (HELCOM EN-Noise) in coordination with State&Conservation Indicator Leads: Poland-continuous sound; Germany-impulsive sound.	In coordination with OSPAR to the extent it is appropriate. IMO work	2021

<sup>7</sup> Lead the work on underwater noise, including evaluating inputs of noise to the marine environment with the view to developing regional action on underwater noise as far as necessary, in coordination with relevant subsidiary bodies.

5.3	Contribute to the HOLAS III process in relation to underwater noise	PRESSURE (HELCOM EN-Noise)		2022
<b>Action 7 Assess individual or newly identified point sources of pollution<sup>8</sup></b>				
7.1	Consider, and where applicable agree on deletion of remaining hot spots from the JCP list in accordance with HELCOM procedures.	Contracting Parties		Continuous
7.2	Organize regional dialog on identification of new hot spots and update of the criteria for their identification and deletion from the hot spot list.	German lead in the frame of the Chairmanship In cooperation with all relevant HELCOM working groups		2022
7.3	Identify current and emerging issues related to point sources of land based and other pollution and assess the effectiveness of the measures being adopted and the need for any additional or different measures			On-going
<b>Action 8 Climate change</b>				
8.1	Contribute to scientific understanding of the impacts of climate change together with multiple other stressors on the Baltic Sea marine environment and environmental pressures in cooperation with State&Conservation	State&Conservation EN CLIME Projects	PA Nutri	2021
8.2	Develop suggestions, within the group's mandate, to increase HELCOM's preparedness to respond to climate change impacts by taking foreseen climate change impacts into account when updating the BSAP and by adaptation of relevant policies and recommendations.	State&Conservation EN CLIME		continues
<b>Action 9 Reporting on implementation of BSAP and HELCOM Recommendations in the remit of PRESSURE</b>				
9.1	Regular reviewing the state of implementation of the HELCOM agreements; follow up implementation of national actions; reviewing of the existing Recommendations Further contribute to the HELCOM Explorer (indicator-based follow up system for BSAP) as may be decided	CPs to report		Continuous
9.2	Revision of the other sections of BSAP by request of HOD and in cooperation with other HELCOM groups			2021
9.3	Revise current working plan in line with the decisions related to the BSAP update			2021

<sup>8</sup> Respond to the requests to assess individual or newly identified point sources of pollution as may be needed; Identify current and emerging issues related to point sources of land based pollution and assess the effectiveness of the measures being adopted and the need for any additional or different measures, including in relation to remaining hot spots from the list of the Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme