

Annex 4 Work Plan 2020-2021 for the HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (Fish)

Follow-up, evaluation and revision: Progress in implementation will be followed-up annually by FISH and reported to HOD, highlighting any underlying reasons for lack of progress in meeting targets and how these may be addressed. The work programme will be evaluated and reviewed by the end of 2021. Any revisions to the Work Plan during the implementation period need to be motivated and agreed by FISH and HOD.

Emerging issues not mentioned in this Work Plan, as well as sharing of experiences related to the Terms of Reference of the group, may be raised at meetings of the Fish Group if they are communicated to the Secretariat in advance of meetings (so that such a topic can be included in a draft agenda in advance). Such items may also be raised under Any Other Business, in connection with the adoption of the agenda at meetings of the Fish Group, to be included on the agenda of the meeting subject to agreement and time permitting.

It is to be noted that some of the tasks described in the Work Plan are based on actions from the 2007 HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan and relevant Ministerial Declarations.

No.	TASK	STEPS/LEAD/TIMING	INTERLINKED ACTIVITIES	OUTCOME and TIME FRAME
Implementation and follow-up of actions in BSAP and Ministerial Declarations concerning fish and fisheries				
1.	Further development and implementation of common practices for breeding, rearing and releasing salmon and sea trout as reintroductions in potential salmonid rivers	2020 FISH-M workshop(s) /correspondence develop draft guidelines 2021 FISH review and agree 2021 HOD approve	WGBAST, WGTRUTTA, RETROUT, ongoing work with EU salmon plan	Common guidelines developed by 2021
2.	Further development and implementation of recommendations for riverine and estuarine management and conservation measures, such as fish ways for up and down migration, restoration and protection of spawning grounds, concerning fisheries within rivers and estuaries	2020 FISH to update recommendation 32/33-1, taking into account FISH-M 4-2017 and RETROUT outcomes 2021 FISH to review and agree 2021 HOD to approve Lead: Secretariat	RETROUT, FISH-M	Updated Recommendation 32/33-1 to be adopted in 2021
3.	Assess how far countries have come in implementing fisheries management measures in MPAs, how such measures are linked to other processes such as MSP, HOLAS, MSFD implementation and how information on impacts of fishing gear is used for management.	Dedicated session to be convened in 2020 Contracting Parties to report on development and implementation of fisheries management measures in MPAs. 2020- 2021 HELCOM MPA TG State&Conservation	Questionnaire on alternative fishing gears (HELCOM Meeting portal workspace) ICES 2015 advice on pressure from fishing activity in MPAs	Assessment of fisheries management measures in MPAs by 2021

4.	Further development and implementation of effective monitoring and reporting systems for by-caught birds and mammals inter alia by implementing the Roadmap on fisheries data.	2020-2021 EG Fishdata to follow up Roadmap on fisheries data Contracting Parties to implement monitoring and report to EG Fishdata Cooperation with EG MAMA on reporting of data on bycatch of mammals Lead:?	EG Fishdata ACTION Project	Results to be fed into relevant processes (e.g. State of the Baltic Sea Report and possible updates of the Roadmap) starting 2021
5.	Report on the development and implementation of fisheries management measures for fisheries inside marine protected areas	Secretariat to update the MPA Database to enable inclusion of data on measures (including fisheries management measures), subject to funding being available. Contracting Parties to report on measures inside MPAs already before update of MPA Database.	State & Conservation Working Group and the MPA Task Group to be involved.	Updated MPA database with reports from all Contracting Parties by 2021.
6.	Continue the efforts underway and enhance co-ordination of measures within the Baltic Sea as well as with other European countries, for the conservation of eel stocks, in line with national eel management plans.	2020-2021 FISH All Contracting Parties to implement national eel management plans by 2021	Outcome of Baltfish Workshop on eel 7-8 May 2019 (Gothenburg, Sweden), EU Eel Regulation, CMS	Implementation of eel management plans by all Contracting Parties by 2021
7.	Contribute to the update of the BSAP in accordance with the strategic plan and work plan for the update, as approved by HOD.	In accordance with Work Plan for the update of the BSAP	HELCOM SOM Platform ACTION Project	Updated BSAP by 2021
Development, review, follow-up and implementation of HELCOM Recommendations concerning fish and fisheries				
8.	Review and report on implementation of HELCOM Recommendations 32-33/1 and 19/2 on salmon and trout	2020 FISH-M workshop and correspondence to develop revise/merged draft 2021 FISH review and agree 2021 HOD adopt Contracting Parties to report by 2021 <u>Lead:</u> Secretariat to coordinate reporting	WGBAST, WGTRUTTA, RETROUT, ongoing work with an EU salmon plan	Report on implementation of HELCOM Recommendation 32-33/1 by 2021

Assessment of fish, cumulative impacts on fish and fisheries impacts on food webs				
9.	Review and contribute to the development and assessment of HELCOM indicators related to fish, cumulative impacts on fish, fisheries impacts on food webs, incidental bycatches and fisheries impacts on benthic biotopes	Communicate with relevant HELCOM Groups and projects regarding planning of development and assessment of indicators on fish (including threatened species), impacts on fish and fisheries impacts on foodwebs – and how FISH can contribute EG Fishdata to consider in follow up of Roadmap	Gear, State & Conservation, EG Fishdata, FISH-PRO, HELCOM Indicator Workshops, HOLAS III HOD ICES Fisheries Overviews	Contribution to updated HELCOM indicator catalogue by 2021
Cooperation between HELCOM and fisheries bodies				
10.	Improve cooperation, coordination and transparency with relevant fisheries bodies in the Baltic Sea (in particular BALTFISH, BSAC)	Steps: Communicate regularly with relevant fisheries bodies in the Baltic Sea (in particular BALTFISH and BSAC) on relevant HELCOM processes/meetings that might have an impact on or be impacted by fisheries and coordinate on issues of common concern. Consider at every FISH-meeting if relevant fisheries bodies should be invited or involved in upcoming HELCOM events or processes and how HELCOM can contribute to improved cooperation, coordination and transparency. Timing: Regularly by the Secretariat, and for consideration by FISH at every FISH meeting Lead: Secretariat	BALTFISH, BSAC	Improved cooperation, coordination and transparency as an ongoing activity.

Sustainable aquaculture				
11.	Develop and agree on BAT/BEP for Sustainable aquaculture	2020 CG Aquaculture to finalize 2020 FISH to agree 2020 HOD to approve Lead: Germany and Finland	CG Aquaculture	BAT/BEP descriptions for sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea by 2020
12.	Review and report on implementation of HELCOM recommendations 25/4 and 37-3 on sustainable aquaculture	Contracting Parties to report on implementation of Recommendation 25/4 2020 FISH to consider	CG Aquaculture	Reports on implementation of Recommendation 25/4 provided by all Contracting Parties by 2020.