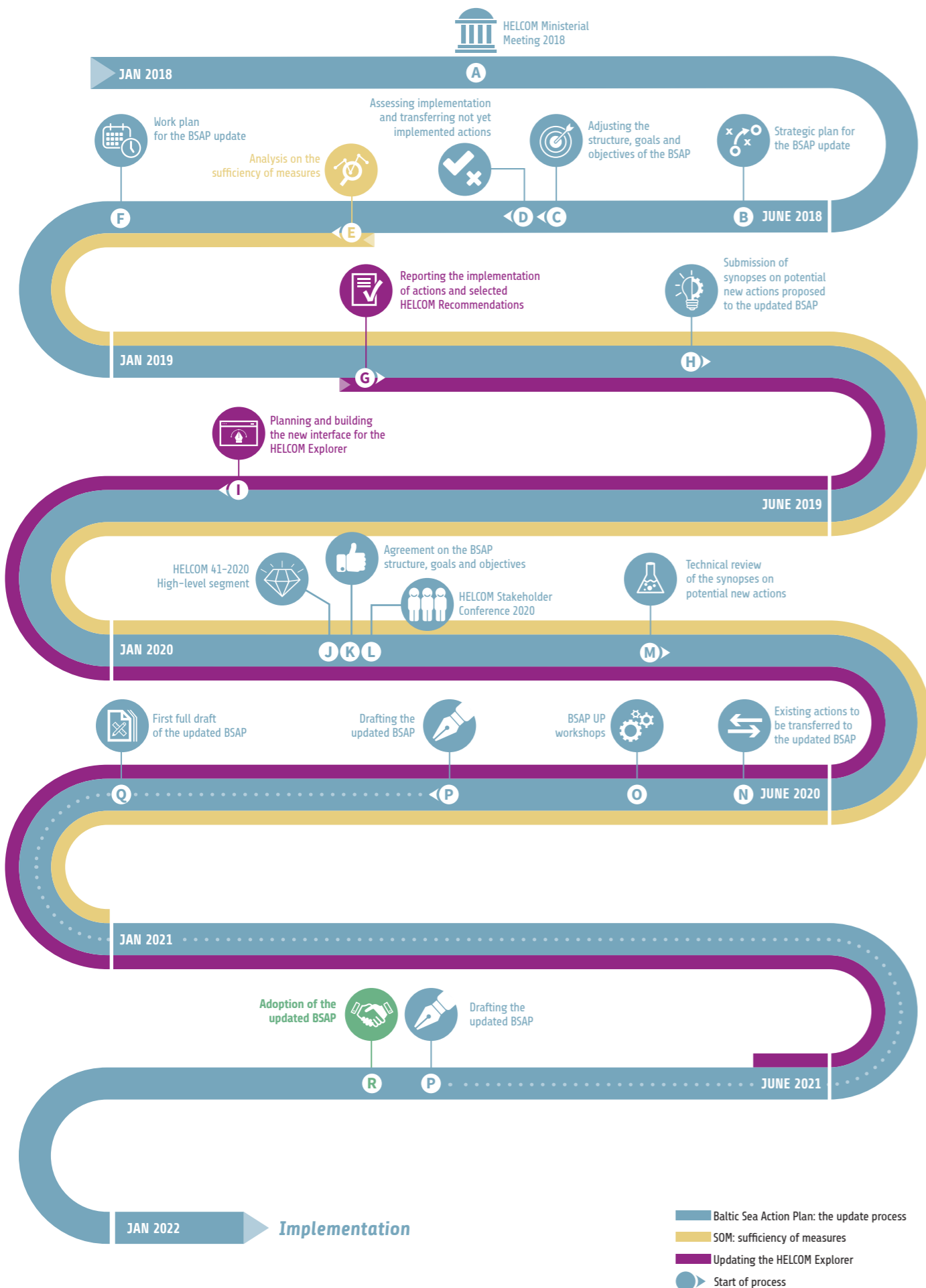


Baltic Sea Action Plan: the update process



Updating the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP)

A 6 MARCH 2018 The update of the BSAP by 2021 was decided during the **HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2018**, with the aim to set up a robust plan for achieving the agreed HELCOM vision of a healthy Baltic Sea environment. The Ministers decided that the updated BSAP will, in addition to maintaining the yet to be fulfilled existing commitments, also address new and emerging issues affecting the Baltic Sea.

B JUNE 2018 The **Strategic plan for the BSAP update** was agreed by HOD 54-2018, setting out the activities, tentative timetable and responsible bodies for the update.

C AUTUMN 2018–MARCH 2020 The **overall structure, goals and objectives of the 2007 BSAP** were reviewed and adjusted by the relevant Working Groups and Heads of Delegation.

D AUTUMN 2018–JUNE 2020 The HELCOM Working Groups started with **assessing the implementation of the current BSAP and identifying transferrable actions**, focussing on the existing HELCOM actions from the 2007 BSAP as well as the Ministerial Declarations from 2010, 2013 and 2018 that were likely not to be implemented by 2021 but still valid, and were thus proposed to be transferred to the updated BSAP. Those actions that did not have measurable and clear targets were adjusted to be more concrete.

E AUTUMN 2018–END OF 2020 An **analysis on the sufficiency of measures (SOM)** was carried out by the HELCOM ACTION project and the HELCOM SOM Platform in 2019 – 2020. It supported the update of the BSAP by assessing what kind and level of improvements regarding the environmental state and pressures could be achieved with the existing measures by 2030, and whether these would be sufficient to achieve good environmental status (GES) in the Baltic Sea. The first SOM results were presented in the BSAP UP workshops where they contributed to the evaluation of the proposed new actions.

F DECEMBER 2018 The **Work plan for the BSAP update**, agreed on by HOD 55-2018, elaborated on the activities from the Strategic plan and included a more detailed timetable for the work. The work plan was updated by HOD 56-2010 and HOD 58-2020.

G SPRING 2019–JUNE 2021 A **reporting on the implementation of HELCOM actions and selected HELCOM Recommendations** by the HELCOM Contracting Parties in 2019 further supported the update of the BSAP. The focus was on recommendations with a direct link on reducing pressures or improving the state of the Baltic Sea. In the period 2020-2021, the Contracting Parties and Working Groups also reported on the implementation of the actions from the 2007 BSAP, Ministerial Declarations 2010, 2013 and 2018. The reporting was included in the updated HELCOM Explorer.

H MAY 2019–MAY 2020 To support the selection of new measures and actions for the updated BSAP, an invitation to submit **synopses on potential new HELCOM actions to be included in the updated BSAP** was put forward in spring 2019 to the Contracting Parties, HELCOM subsidiary bodies, international projects and HELCOM observers.

I AUTUMN 2019–SEPTEMBER 2020 **Planning and building the new interface for the HELCOM Explorer:** The HELCOM Explorer online tool tracks the progress for the implementation of HELCOM actions. Launched in September 2021, it was upgraded as part of the BSAP update, to meet future reporting needs and be easily accessible for the Contracting Parties and stakeholders.

J MARCH 2020 High-level representatives of the Baltic Sea countries and EU met on the occasion of the **high-level segment of the 41st Meeting of the Helsinki Commission** to discuss the BSAP update and HELCOM's contributions and outreach on global ocean matters.

K MARCH 2020 An **agreement on the BSAP structure, goals and objectives of the updated BSAP** was reached at HELCOM 41-2021. The overall structure of four segments remained, while some themes were shifted to other segments and new ones introduced. Ecological and management objectives were also included in each segment.

L MARCH 2020 The **HELCOM Stakeholder Conference 2020** was organized to collect the views and ideas from a broader group of partners, including the proposal of actions to be considered for the update of the BSAP.

M SPRING 2020 The Working Groups carried out a **technical review of the synopses on potential new actions**. The aim of the review was to provide a preliminary evaluation focusing on the technical aspects and substance of the proposals as well as identify possible overlap with existing HELCOM actions. This first review was carried out from a scientific point of view and solely focussed on the technical feasibility of the measures, excluding all legal, financial, political or other aspects.

N JUNE 2020 At HOD 58-2020, an **agreement on the existing actions to be included in the updated BSAP** was found, encompassing the existing HELCOM actions from the 2007 BSAP and the 2010, 2013 and 2018 Ministerial Declarations that had not been fully implemented yet.

O AUGUST–SEPTEMBER 2020 The evaluation of the effectiveness of the potential new actions was carried out at the **BSAP UP Workshops**.

P SUMMER 2020 TO MM2021 The **drafting the updated BSAP** began in summer 2020, starting with the overarching preamble and the segment introductions. The Ad hoc Drafting Group for the Updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (DG BSAP) and four Segment Teams focusing respectively on biodiversity, eutrophication, hazardous substances and litter, and sea-based activities, were established to facilitate the drafting. The results of the BSAP UP workshops were reviewed by the Working Groups, which preselected the most suitable proposed new actions to be further submitted to HOD 59-2020. In spring 2021, the drafting of the preamble, introductions and actions continued in DG BSAP and the Segment Teams. Some of the proposed new actions were rephrased, merged or combined with the existing actions. Any remaining gaps in the set of actions were identified and filled with new actions. Target years were also added.

Q DECEMBER 2020 The **first full draft of the updated BSAP** was presented at HOD 59-2020 where guidance was given for the further drafting in DG BSAP and the Segment Teams.

R 20 OCTOBER 2021 **Adoption of the updated BSAP** at the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2021.

- ▶ Baltic Sea Action Plan: the update process
- ▶ SOM: sufficiency of measures
- ▶ Updating the HELCOM Explorer
- ▶ Start of process