Workplan of the Expert Group on Economic and Social Analysis 2024-2025

Approved via correspondence by WG GEAR in December 2023

No	Task	Lead, responsible bodies and interlinked activities	Next steps and comments	Output
ESA supporting ecosystem-based management				
1	Integrate economic and social analyses in HELCOM work strands to support the implementation of the ecosystem-based approach and allow for assessment of the linkages between the marine environment and human wellbeing, including carrying out regionally coordinated economic and social analysis of the marine environment.	Lead: EG ESA Responsible: WG GEAR Contributing: EG ESA Interlinked activities: PROTECT BALTIC and BLUE4ALL projects	Contribute to HOLAS 4 planning to improve the integration of economic and social analyses. Review the opportunities for better integration of ESA into the thematic assessments. Demonstrate the integration with an example topic e.g., cost of degradation. Prepare illustrations on the use of ESA for policy support.	Example on integration developed. Illustrations on the use of ESA for policy support developed.
2	HT16 By 2028, improve the use of results from economic and social analyses in decision-making, including through establishing a set of indicators that describe the economic and social aspects of the marine environment.	Lead: EG ESA	Scope possible indicators for HOLAS 4, including welfare indicators and driver indicators, taking into account the work done in the MetDev project and HOLAS 3 ESA, and make proposals for WG GEAR. Consider the future use of driver indicators as well as alternative (less quantified) approaches for scenario development. Seek additional funding for development of ESA indicators.	A set of indicators for measuring economic and social aspects of the marine environment has been established.
3	HT17 By 2030, integrate quantitative and qualitative economic values of the environment into the management of human activities and maritime spatial planning (national).	Responsible: Contributing: EG ESA	Shared meeting or workshop with HELCOM-MSP WG on needs for socioeconomic assessments of the marine environment linked to MSP, focusing on e.g. MPAs, ecosystem services' assessments.	Quantitative and qualitative values of the marine environment are expressed in relevant documentation/documents for the management of human activities and maritime spatial planning
Mapping and assessment of ecosystem services and ecosystem accounting				
4	HT19 By 2028, apply the framework of ecosystem accounting to assess the contributions of marine ecosystems to economic activity (e.g. Gross domestic	Lead: EG ESA (for the economic component of the accounting frameworks) Responsible:	Clarify the scope of the action (focus on ecosystem accounting and also ecosystem services accounting) and	Pilot studies on physical and monetary ecosystem services as well as ecosystem asset

No	Task	Lead, responsible bodies and interlinked activities	Next steps and comments	Output
	product, GDP) using values that are compatible with the system of national accounts and comparable with other economic sectors.	Interlinked activities: BSAP action B25; PROTECT BALTIC and BLUE4ALL projects	identify the data availability, data and resource requirement for pilot studies. Seek funding to support the work. Follow results of relevant research projects and works from peer groups, working on further development of the approaches, data and tools for ecosystem (services) accounting, to support information exchange and coordination.	accounts have been developed and/or compiled.
Sufficiency and efficiency of measures				
5	BSAP HT20: By 2024 assess existing tools for analysing sufficiency of measures, with the aim to plan monitoring and assessment of the effect and cost of measures, in order to further make use of the experiences when the need of new measures occurs. By 2028, further develop and apply regionally coordinated methods for analyses of sufficiency of measures as well as for cost-effectiveness of measures and costs and benefits to achieve good environmental status of the Baltic Sea marine environment (Joint).	Lead: EG ESA Responsible: WG GEAR Contributing: EG ESA Interlinked activities: PROTECT BALTIC, BLUE 2.3 project	Review existing tools for SOM analysis, including other approaches such as gap analyses, in cooperation with the PROTECT BALTIC project. Encourage CPs to seek resources for and implement national valuation studies on cost of degradation of the marine environment and benefits of achieving GES and seek finances for an international project for such sea region wide valuation study. Organize a scoping session with WG GEAR regarding cost-effectiveness analysis of measures and assessment of costs of measures.	By 2024, existing tools for analysing sufficiency of measures have been analysed. By 2028, updated, regionally coordinated methods and tools for analysing sufficiency of measures, cost-effectiveness of measures and costs and benefits to achieve good environmental status of the Baltic Sea marine environment have been created and tested. By 2028 regionally coordinated methods for analyses of sufficiency of measures as well as for cost-effectiveness of measures and costs and benefits to achieve good environmental status have been applied.
Incentives and subsidies				
6	BSAP HT21: By 2025 identify incentives to reduce pressures on the marine environment, including public and private economic and regulatory incentives, and by 2030 increase the use of incentives and fill possible gaps (National/joint).	Lead: EG ESA Responsible: WG GEAR Contributing: Interlinked activities:	Select two test topics for a pilot study on identifying incentives to reduce pressure on the marine environment and scope the approach for the study. One test topic should be regional/EU-wide incentive, and another one should be an incentive that various at the national level.	By 2025, a study on incentives to reduce pressures on the marine environment has been finalized, including proposals for action (Joint supporting action). By 2030, the use of incentives should have been increased (at

No	Task	Lead, responsible bodies and interlinked activities	Next steps and comments	Output
			Based on the pilot study, recommend an approach for the full study.	least one relevant example given). (National measure) These added incentives should preferably be filling a gap where this type of tool was missing. (National measure)
7	BSAP HT22: By 2025, HELCOM should identify subsidies or incentives which are harmful for the marine environment and, by 2030 ,work in cooperation with relevant international organizations, on phasing out such subsidies or incentives (Joint).	Lead: EG ESA Responsible: WG GEAR Contributing: Interlinked activities:	Select two test topics for a pilot study on subsidies and incentives which are harmful for the marine environment and scope the approach for the study One test topic should be a regional/EU-wide incentive, and another one should be an incentive that various at the national level. Based on the pilot study, recommend an approach for the full study.	By 2025, finalize an analysis on what subsidies or incentives can be considered harmful and propose actions to reduce these (Supporting action). By 2030, cooperative action should have been undertaken on phasing out such subsidies or incentives (Measure).