Interreg Baltic Sea Region

Co-funded by the European Union

SUSTAINABLE WATERS EMPEREST

HELCOM

Regional policy for hazardous substances – Baltic Sea

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Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission - HELCOM

The Baltic Sea

Unique but fragile ecosystem

Catchment area: 4x area of the sea

Population (catchment): 85 million

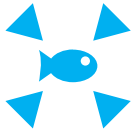
Multitude of pressures



HELCOM is a regional…



environmental policy maker *e.g. Baltic Sea Action Plan*



environmental focal point *e.g. holistic assessments of the state of the sea*



body for developing regional recommendations *e.g. HELCOM Recommendations and regional Guidelines*



supervisory body *e.g. nutrient reduction scheme with MAI and NIC*



coordinating body *e.g. HELCOM Response & BALEX DELTA excercises*



▲ Signing of the Helsinki Convention in 1974

12000 t *in 1910*

Phosphorus (P) input to the Baltic Sea (waterborne)

71295 t *in 1981*

22749 t *in 2020*

1972
UN Conference on the Human Environment

1974
Signing of the Helsinki Convention (7 members)

1980
Establishment of HELCOM Secretariat

1992
Revision of the Helsinki Convention (expanded to 10 members)

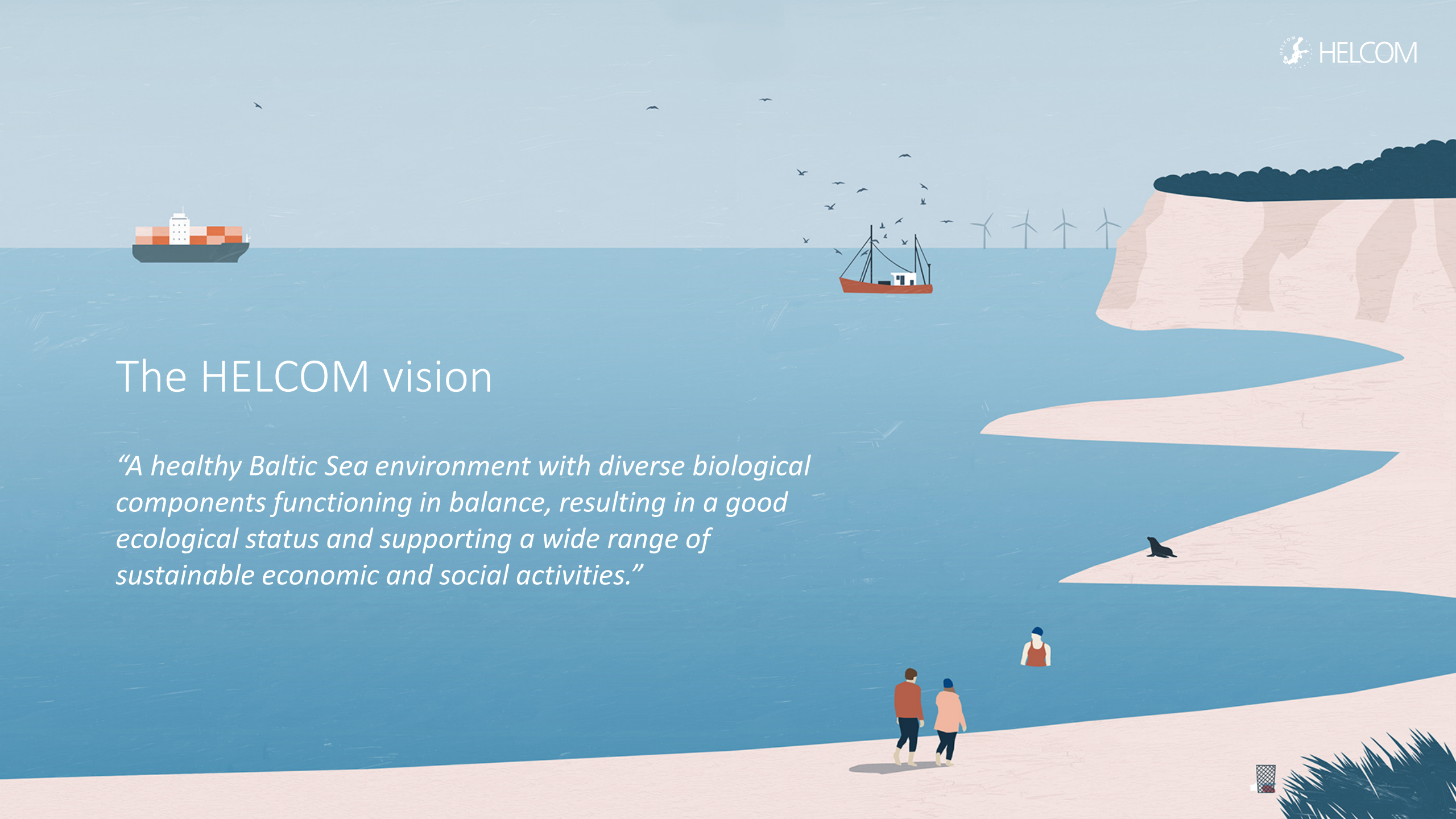
2000
Ratification of the 1992 Helsinki Convention

2007
Baltic Sea Action Plan

2007
HOLAS I
Assessment of the ecosystem health of the Baltic Sea

2021
Baltic Sea Action Plan update

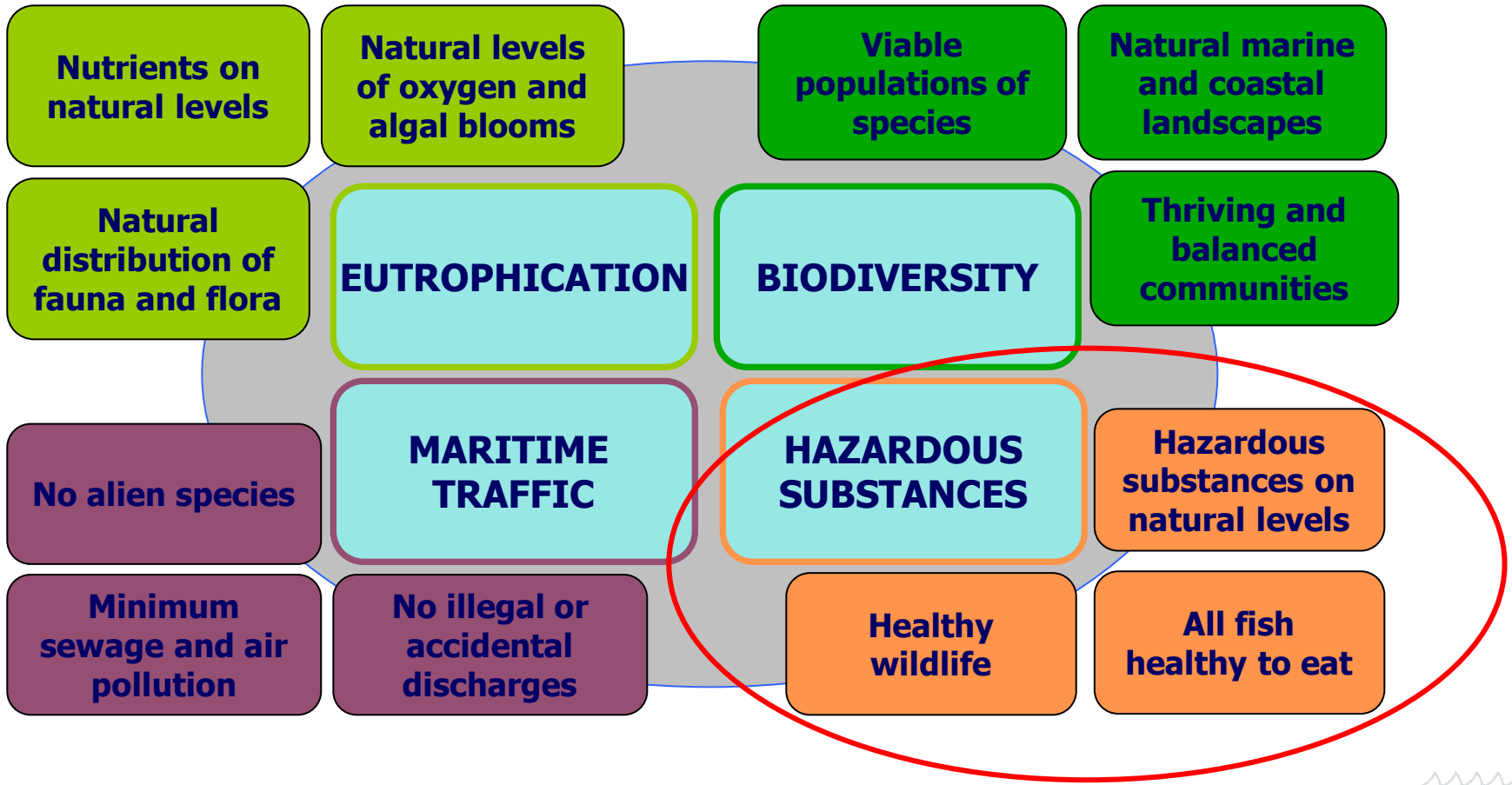
1900 1950 2000 2020



The HELCOM vision

“A healthy Baltic Sea environment with diverse biological components functioning in balance, resulting in a good ecological status and supporting a wide range of sustainable economic and social activities.”

HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan – adopted 15 November 2007



STATUS OF BSAP IMPLEMENTATION AS OF 2017

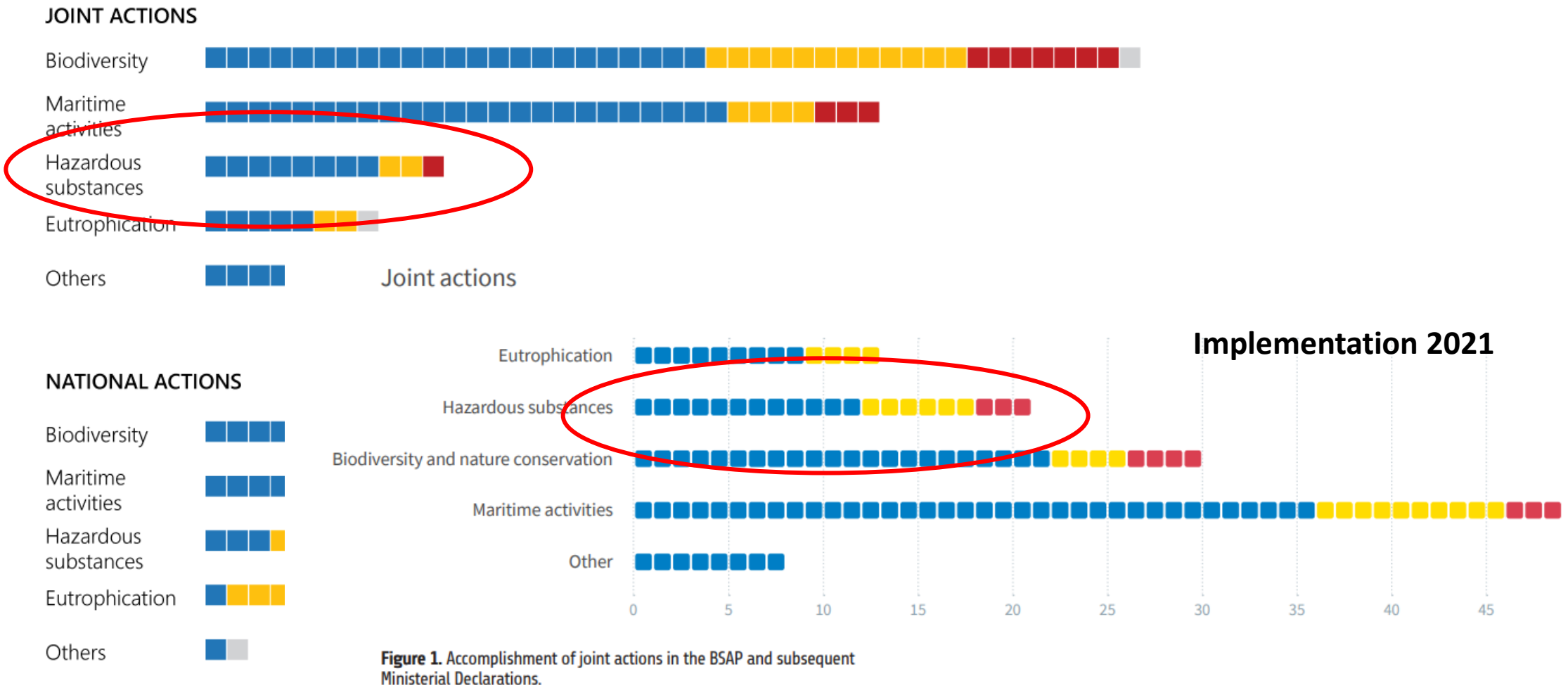


Figure 1. Accomplishment of joint actions in the BSAP and subsequent Ministerial Declarations.

Each square represents one action in the BSAP:

= Accomplished = Partly accomplished = Not accomplished = Future target year

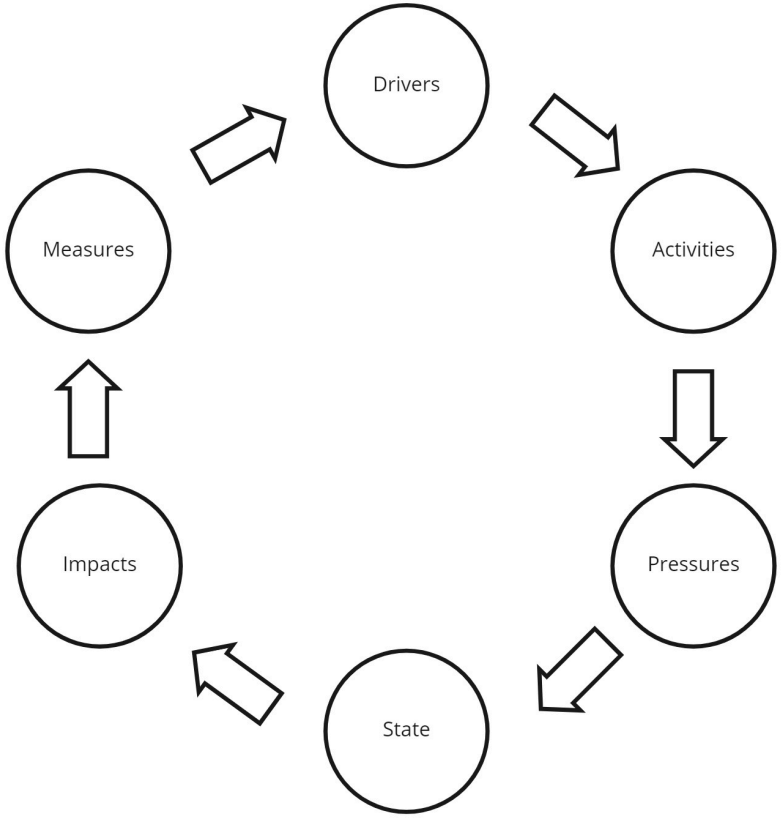
New measures - the 2021 BSAP

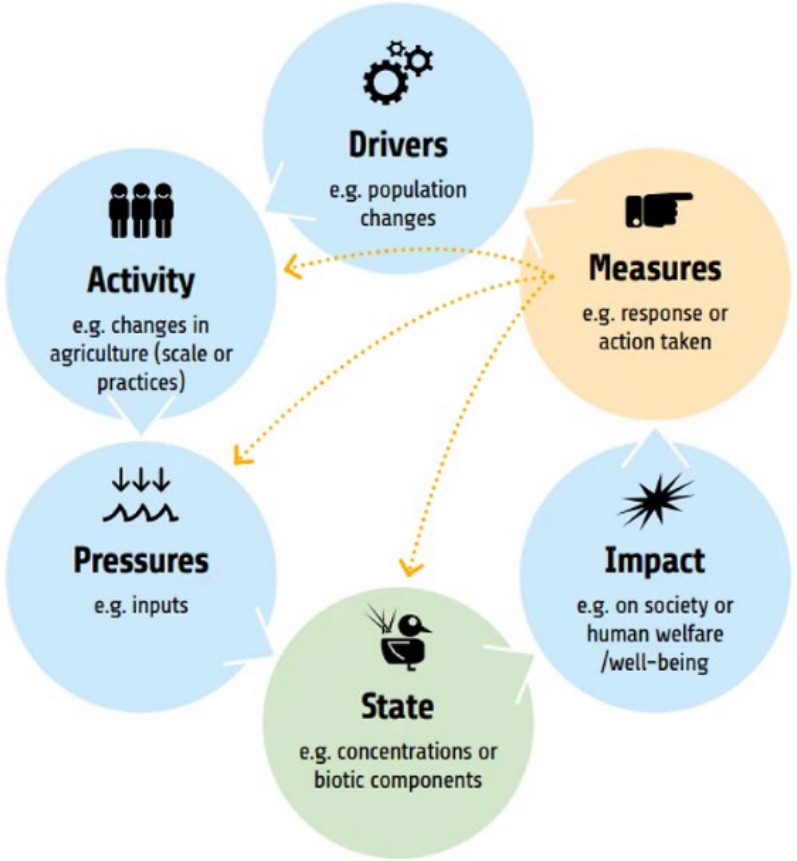


Lübeck Ministerial Meeting 20 October 2021:

"AGREE to implement all actions and commitments in the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan by the dates specified in the plan, with a view to finalizing implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan as a whole by 2030 at the latest"

DAPSIM/R Framework and measures





2021 Baltic Sea Action Plan: structure & goals



Vision

a healthy Baltic Sea environment with diverse biological components functioning in balance, resulting in a good ecological status and supporting a wide range of sustainable economic and social activities

Goal

Baltic Sea **ecosystem** is healthy and resilient

Goals

Baltic Sea unaffected by **hazardous substances and litter**

Environmentally sustainable **sea-based activities**

Baltic Sea unaffected by **eutrophication**

Horizontal topics

Climate change; monitoring; maritime spatial planning; economic and social analysis; financing; hot spots; knowledge exchange and awareness raising

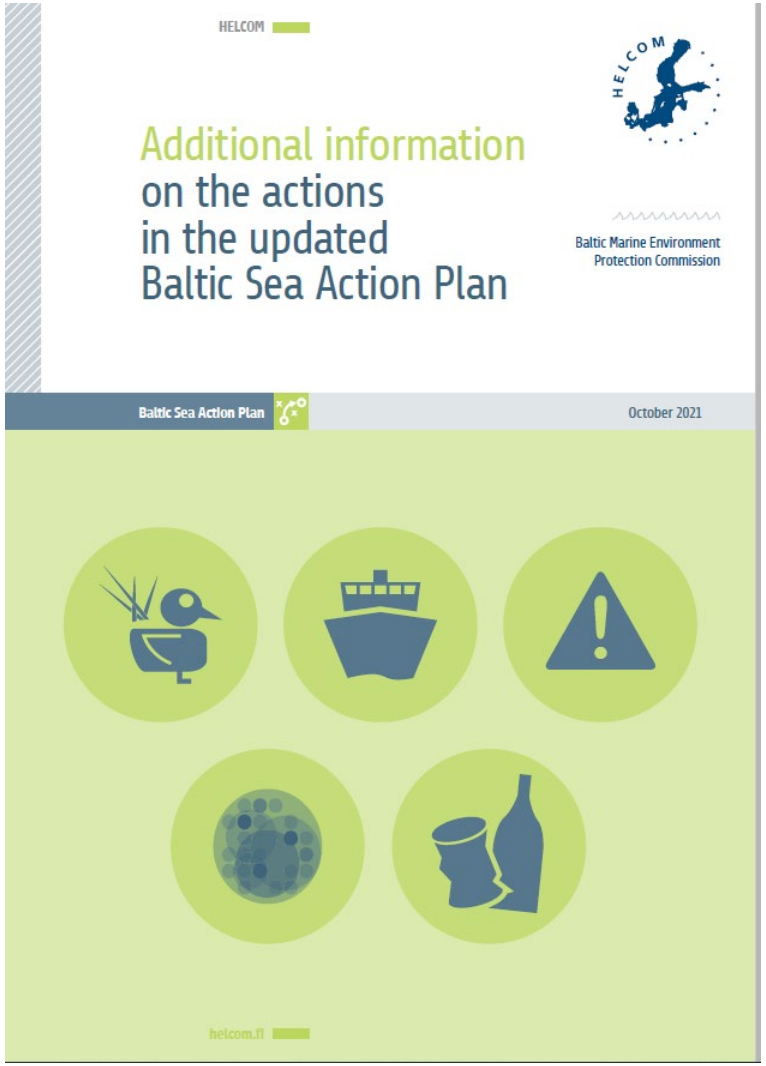
Logic in the structure:
Chain of consequence, whereby human activities result in pressures on the environment, which in turn affect the state of biodiversity, which has been used as a basis when elaborating the updated BSAP

Associated action documents

- HELCOM Recommendation 42-43/1 on Regional Action Plan on **Underwater Noise**
- HELCOM Recommendation 42-43/2 on Amendments to Part II Annex III "Criteria and Measures Concerning the Prevention of **Pollution from Land-Based Sources**" of the 1992 Helsinki Convention
- HELCOM Recommendation 42-43/3 on Regional Action Plan on **Marine Litter**
- Baltic Sea Regional **Nutrient Recycling** Strategy
- Regional **Maritime Spatial Planning** Roadmap 2021-2030
- Guidelines for Sea Based Measures to Manage **Internal Nutrient Reserves** in the Baltic Sea Region

Supporting documents

- Additional information on the actions in the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan
- Baltic Sea Climate Change Fact Sheet 2021
- HELCOM Science Agenda



Hazardous substances & litter

Hazardous substances and litter goal

"Baltic Sea unaffected by hazardous substances and litter"

Ecological objectives

Hazardous substances
- *Marine life is healthy;*
- *Concentrations of hazardous substances are close to natural levels;*
- *All sea food is safe to eat;*
- *Minimal risk to humans and the environment from radioactivity.*

Marine litter
- *No harm to marine life from litter.*

Management objectives

Hazardous substances
- *Minimize input and impact of hazardous substances from human activities.*

Marine litter
- *Prevent generation of waste and its input to the sea, including microplastics;*
- *Significantly reduce amounts of litter on shorelines and in the sea.*



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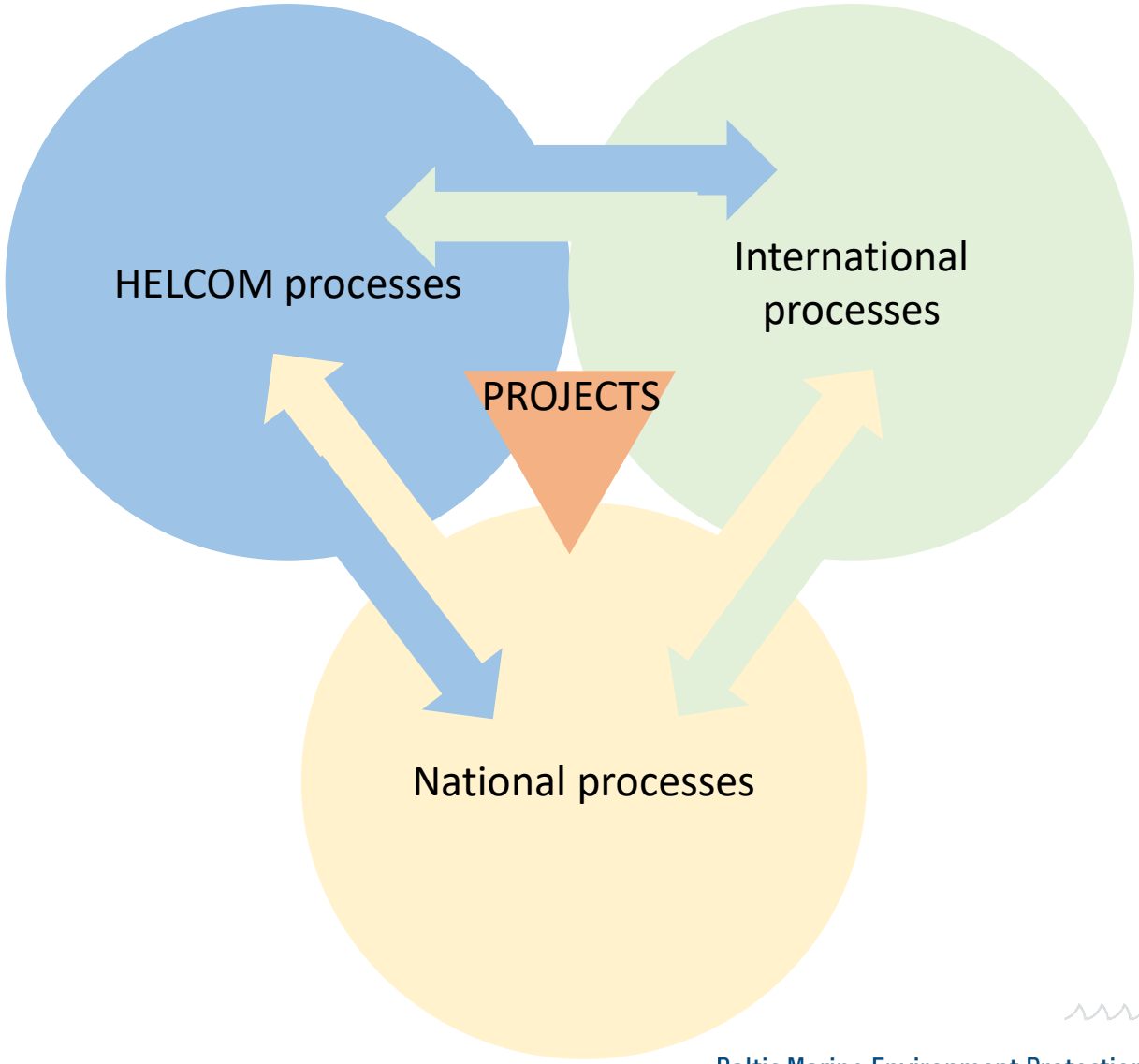


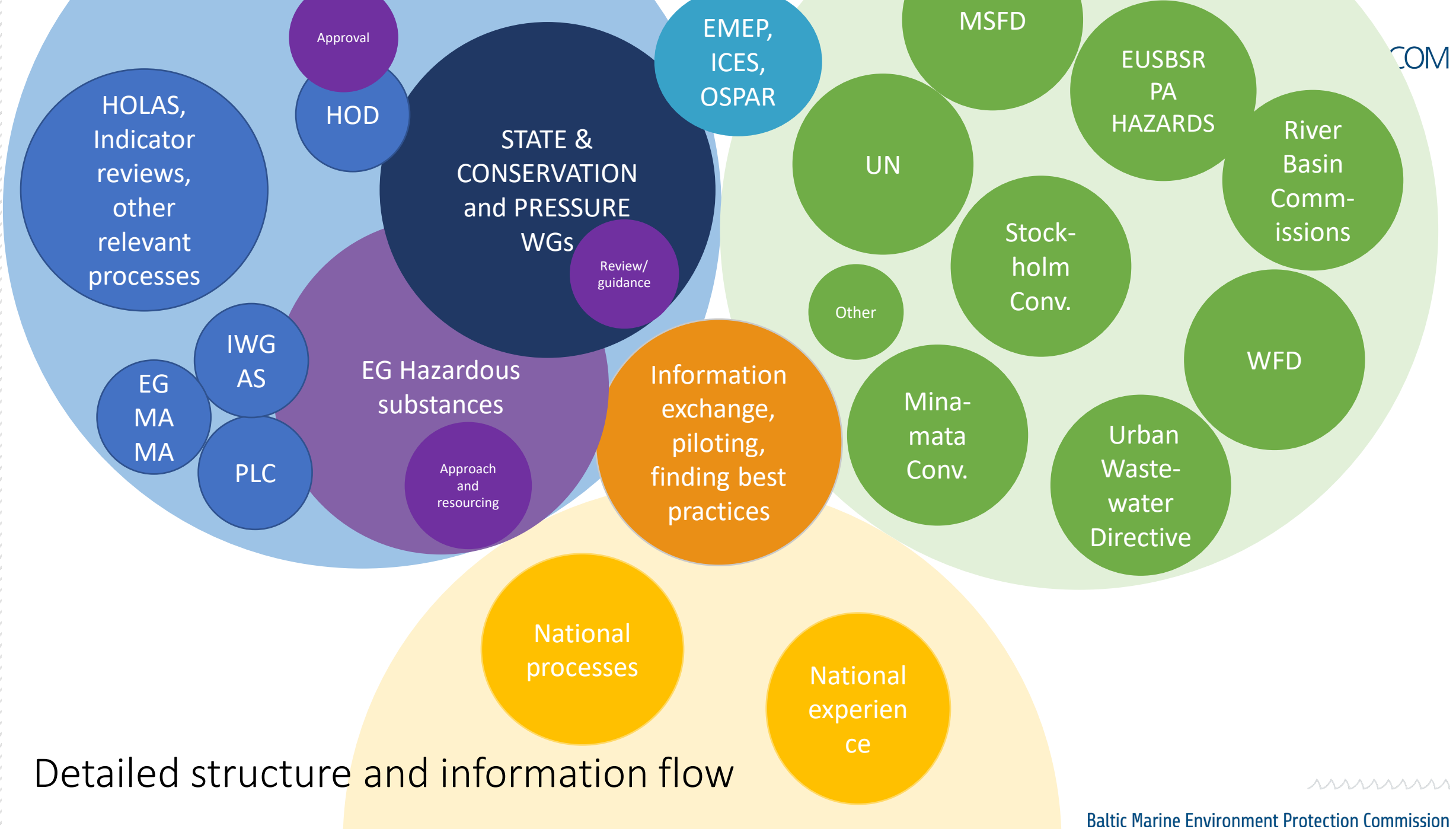
To reduce inputs, further measures were agreed upon:

- 32 Actions
- Themes:
  - Hazardous substances
    - Legacy pollutants – *e.g. heavy metals, dioxins, organotins*
    - Contaminants of emerging concern – *e.g. pharmaceuticals or certain groups of PFASs*
  - Marine litter

HELCOM Expert Group on Hazardous substances (2022-2024) – General structure and information flow

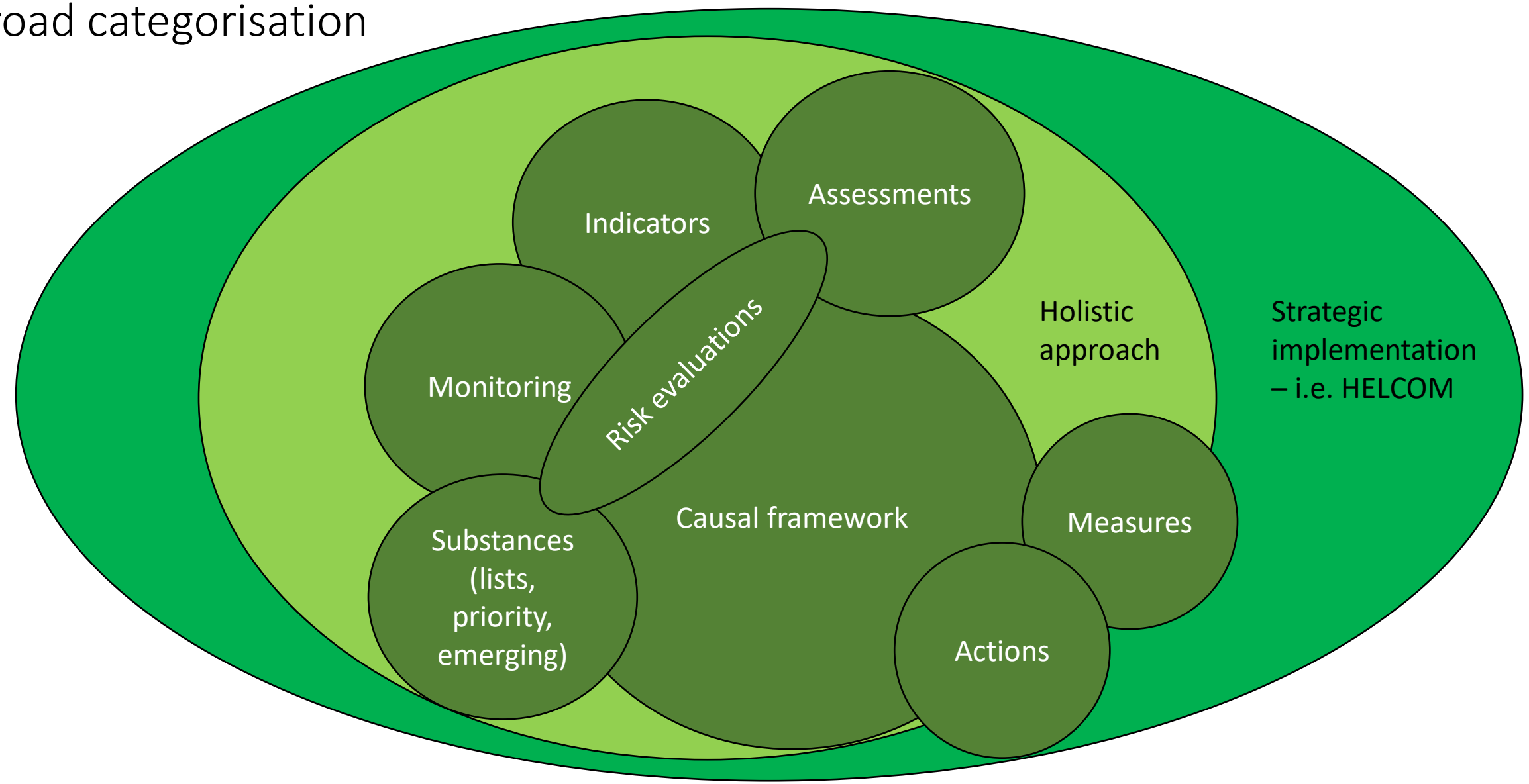
- ✓ facilitate regional cooperation towards the vision, goals and objectives of the BSAP, including identifying and specifying necessary projects according to the needs under the BSAP and subsequent commitments
- ✓ build towards a holistic regional approach for addressing hazardous substances in the Baltic Sea region
- ✓ platform for exchange of experiences and harmonization of methods





Detailed structure and information flow

Broad categorisation



Strategic/holistic approach

HL1 – Regional strategic approach – J - 2024

HL6 Chemicals register – N– 2025

HL9 Utilise other policy – J– 2025

Priority subst.

HL10 Priority substances review method – J– 2025

Biol. Eff.

HL11 Follow up international/global – J– 2024

HL12 From 2023 participate in SAICM HAA – J

HL16 Minamata Convention – N - 2023

HL4 Strengthen/update recommendations – J - 2030

Measures

HL3 Measures overview – N/J - 2023

HL7 Awareness, household – N/J - 2025

HL8 Public procurement – N/J - 2025

HL15 Firewood– N - 2025

HL20 Hg waste handling – N - 2030

HL25 What not to flush – J - 2025

HL2 – Programmes to regulate – N - 2030

HL5 Small scale emitters – N/J – 2030

HL14 Lead – hunting/fishing – N/J - 2030

HL17 Hg from energy sector – N - 2028

HL18 Hg dredging – N - 2030

HL19 Hg dentistry – N - 2030

HL30 Biocides/ antifouling– J - 2027

HL21 PFAS restrictions – J - 2027

HL26 Pharma collection – N - 2026

Pharm.

HL27 Health care awareness – J - 2030

Pharm.

HL29 Firefighting foams – J - 2027

Biological effects

HL13 Biological effects –N/J - 2028

Monitoring, indicators,

Sediment cores

HT6 Regular monitoring review– J – 2030

MEASURE, JOINT

SUPPORTING ACTION

HELCOM

Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Priority substances, substances of emerging concern and screening

Pharma-ceuticals

Monitoring, indicators and assessment

HL10 Priority substances review – J– 2025

HL22 Pharmaceuticals occurrence and effects – J - 2025

Strategic

HL23 Pharmaceuticals of priority – J - 2024

HL23 Pharmaceuticals indicators – J - 2030

HL9 Utilise other policy – J– 2025

HL25 What not to flush – J - 2025

HL24 Pharma monitoring guides – J - 2025

Measure

HL26 Pharma collection – N - 2026

HL28 Emerging concern and screening – J – 2021 onwards

Monitoring, indicators,

HT8 Coordinated monitoring– N – 2026

HT6 Regular monitoring review– J – 2030

Informal consultation for EG HAZ 2-2023: 7-8 February

Projects to support regional policy work…

HL1 - Develop a regional strategic approach and, on the basis of that approach, an action plan for HELCOM work on hazardous substances by 2024

- Holistic Action Plan – Hazardous substances (HAPhazard)
- HELCOM project with NEFCO BSAP Fund, Sweden and Germany co-funding
- Project started in October 2022, project researcher Vasileios Koulompos
- Criteria for achievement:
- Regional strategic approach on hazardous substances is developed
- Regional action plan on hazardous substances is adopted
- Kick off informal consultation workshop online on 23 January 2023

HL13 - develop further relevant monitoring for the biological effects of hazardous substances… (Project on biological effects – H-BEC)

- part of the NEFCO co-funding
- Started in November 2022, project researcher Gastón Alurralde
- Developing monitoring for the biological effects

Projects to support regional policy work…

EMPEREST - Eliminating Micro-Pollutants from Effluents for REuse Strategies



- Interreg Baltic Sea co-funding, January 2023, Markus Raudkivi
- Supports BSAP actions
  - HT6 - Regularly review, and as necessary revise HELCOM monitoring programmes… (once per six years)
  - B33 – …develop a roadmap to fill gaps to enable a holistic assessment for all relevant ecosystem components and pressures… by 2024
  - HL1 - Develop a regional strategic approach and … an action plan for HELCOM work on hazardous substances by 2024
  - HL10 Establish a mechanism for managing the HELCOM list of priority substances starting from 2025…
  - HL21 on measures to restrict use and prevent releases of perfluorinated alkyl substances, phenolic compounds with endocrine disrupting effects and chlorinated paraffins … by 2027
  - HL29 on limiting PFAS containing firefighting foams …by 2027

Implementation of the 2021 BSAP

- The actions have:



individual target years



been identified as supporting action or measure



been linked to relevant pressures and activities



been assigned one or several HELCOM bodies responsible for taking the work on the action forward.



been dedicated criteria for achievement

...and the level of implementation of each action has been identified as national or joint.

HELCOM

Thank you!