



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

22 January 2016

7	By 2016	2 leads, 1 co-lead, 5 no lead
10	By 2017	5 leads, 2 co-leads, 3 no lead
5	By 2018	2 leads, 1 co-lead, 2 no lead
6	No deadline specified	2 leads, 4 no lead
1	Action by 2020	1 lead

It is to be pointed out that the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter identifies two specific actions to tackle the issue of micro particles, including micro plastics:

establish an overview of the importance of the different sources of primary and secondary microplastics in the Baltic Sea. Evaluate products and processes that include both primary and secondary micro plastics, such as fibres from clothing, assess if they are covered or not by legislation, and act, if appropriate, to influence the legal framework, or identify other necessary measures; and

Investigate and promote best available techniques as well as research and develop additional techniques in waste water treatment plants to prevent micro particles entering the marine environment.

The implementation of such actions will contribute to dimension the problem of micro particles in the whole Baltic Sea.

Moreover, cooperation with other Regional Seas Conventions, e.g. OSPAR, Barcelona Convention and Bucharest Convention, has already been initiated on joint implementation of common actions. Thus, a meeting to discuss strategic possibilities for cooperation on actions to combat marine litter took place in September 2015 in France. The next meeting between the Regional Seas Conventions on this topic is envisaged for spring 2016.

Additionally the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter will benefit from the joint efforts conducted through the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, specifically in the fields of microplastics and abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear.

The HELCOM [HOLAS II project](#) (project for The Development of the Second Holistic Assessment of the Baltic Sea) aims to provide an update on the overall environmental status of the Baltic Sea. The assessment will follow up on the goals of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and support the 2018 reporting under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) by those HELCOM members that are also EU member states.

The HOLAS II project includes developing common tools and concepts for status assessment and performing assessments at regional scale. HELCOM core indicators form the basis for the assessment of environmental status. Aggregated results are produced using assessment tools, which are developed and tested as part of HOLAS II and supporting projects.

The assessment will address the eleven MSFD descriptors for good environmental status as well as human activities and pressures in line with its proposed revised Annex III. Work on descriptor 10, marine litter, is currently ongoing on both the pre-core beach litter and candidate microlitter in the watercolumn and litter on the seafloor indicators. The development work is to be taken forward by the Lead and co