



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

HELCOM expert network on economic and social analyses
meeting

Helsinki, Finland, 9 April 2019

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Excerpts of SOM platform 1-2019 Notes relevant to EN ESA 3-2019

Background

This document provides excerpts of the official notes of SOM platform 1-2019. The complete [SOM platform 1-2019 Notes](#) are also available for additional context if needed. Included excerpt topics include the arrangement of SOM topic work, potential analysis of the benefits of BSAP update, the forthcoming update to the SOM approach, and ESA expert participation in the SOM platform.

The aim is to provide background information for the presentations and discussions in the meeting.

Action requested

The meeting is invited to

- take note of the information as background for the discussion in the meeting

Excerpts of SOM platform 1-2019 Notes

3.34 The Meeting split into groups to discuss how to arrange the work for topic teams for hazardous substances, non-indigenous species, marine litter, underwater sound, and biodiversity. The groups also considered if there is a need to group the analyses for the respectively topics as well as relevant geographic scale for analyses. An overview of proposals is presented in Annex 2, Table 1. The groups furthermore discussed the availability of data required for the SOM analyses i.e.; pressure-activity linkages, relative contribution of activities to pressures, pressure-state response, effectiveness of measures, and time-lags in response of measures. The outcome of the respective discussion group is contained in Annex 2. Participants to the discussion groups does not reflect the anticipated composition of topical teams.

5.2 The Meeting recalled the proposal to assess the benefits of the updated BSAP (Outcome of HOD 55-2018, para 3.29, Outcome of EN ESA 2-2018, para 4.5), based on the methodology developed for the State of the Baltic Sea report (HOLAS II) and new and ongoing studies on the benefits of achieving good environmental status in Contracting Parties. The Meeting noted that such analyses could be carried towards the end of the 2020, pending resources, and agreed to come back to the proposal at a later stage.

5.3 The Meeting took note that an updated version of the SOM approach will be submitted by end of March to the SOM Platform participants for comments before submission for endorsement of the approach by GEAR 20-2019.

6.2 The Meeting took note that the Secretariat will set up a workspace for the SOM platform, including a list indicating national offers to lead the work, and where contributions of ACTION project and the Secretariat is expected. The Meeting encouraged the Contracting Parties to offer to lead or co-lead the topics, or components of topics, where this is currently missing. The Meeting noted that the required ESA expertise need to be appointed to each of the topical teams as well and invited the Contracting Parties to also assign ESA experts accordingly.

Annex 2. Notes from groups discussion

Table 1. Overview of outcome of group discussion with regard to lead parties, organization of work, proposals to group or focus the analyses, and the suitable geographic scale.

Topic	Lead parties	Organization of work	Focus/Grouping of analyses	Geographic scale
Biodiversity	No lead country No ESA expert assigned	Working Groups: State and Conservation, Fish HELCOM expertise to involve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HELCOM EG MAMA - HELCOM Migratory fish task force - HELCOM FISH-PRO III (coastal fish) - ICES/OSPAR/HELCOM JWG Birds - HELCOM EN benthic - PEG, ZEN, in some of the expert-based evaluations that are foreseen. - RETROUT project (HELCOM partner) Working mode not proposed due to lack of lead.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Birds; functional groups as used in the HELCOM bird indicators. - Mammals: by species (grey seal, harbor seal, ringed seal, harbor porpoise) - Fish: coastal fish as group, for migratory fish focus is proposed to be placed on selected species e.g. salmon, seatrout, sturgeon, eel - Benthic habitats: HUB level 5 	Ecologically relevant scale as used for HELCOM core indicators
Hazardous substances	DK co-lead FI and SE can support ESA expert (tentatively SE)	Working Groups: Pressure and State and Conservation. HELCOM expertise to be involve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EN-Hazardous Substances - CG PHARMA - MORS - EN-DREDS - CG Aquaculture (antibiotics) Several projects and PA Hazards are also relevant to approach. Working mode: primarily on-line meetings and correspondence. Occasional physical meetings, possibly back-to-back with scheduled meetings of expert groups.	Divide substances into manageable groups (initial ideas presented in notes)	Scale will vary between substances. Possibly use sub-basins and aggregations thereof.
Marine litter	EE co-lead No ESA expert assigned	Working Group: Pressure Group Expert groups to involve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EN Litter. 	By the current core indicators; beach litter, litter on the seafloor. For beach litter, possibly group by top litter items.	Tentatively sub-basins
Non-indigenous species	No lead country No ESA expert assigned	Working Groups: Maritime, Pressure (antifouling) Expertise to be involved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TG Ballast - Expert Group on target species list may be included as well. - CG Aquaculture to consider the aquaculture vector. - Pressure and State & Conservation to be involved, as necessary. 	Group by vectors (ballast water, biofouling, aquaculture...).	Baltic Sea

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Topic	Lead parties	Organization of work	Focus/Grouping of analyses	Geographic scale
		<p>The Inter-reg project COMPLETE, with HELCOM as partners, is also relevant. Working mode: Proposed to be carried out mainly by correspondence and if needed by online meetings.</p>		
Underwater sound	DK lead No ESA expert assigned	<p>Working Groups: Pressure, Maritime Expertise to be involved: - EN Noise.</p> <p>Working mode: Correspondence and online meetings used as working mode and at least one physical meeting is envisaged.</p>	By activities producing noise affecting specific receptor group (marine mammals, fish).	Sub-basins