



Document title	Initial plans for SOM analyses for non-indigenous species
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Background

HOD 55-2018 agreed to establish an *ad hoc* platform for analysing sufficiency of measures (SOM Platform) to support the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan ([Outcome HOD 55-2018](#)). The aim of the SOM analyses is to evaluate whether existing policies are sufficient to achieve good environmental status (GES) in the Baltic Sea. The SOM approach was presented to HELCOM [SOM Platform 1-2019](#), based on a proposal prepared by the HELCOM ACTION project. Based on deliberations at the meeting, some of the outstanding issues raised were clarified and the approach will be finalized and submitted for approval to this Meeting.

To implement the framework and contribute with the required data and information for the analyses, topic teams were established for each of the topics addressed by the SOM Platform. The topic teams will work intersessionally and report back to SOM Platform meetings and relevant Working Groups during the course of work. This document includes an initial plan for work to analyse the sufficiency of measures related to non-indigenous species and information on how the work will be organized.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

Organization of work

The SOM analyses for non-indigenous species (NIS) lacks lead country, thus the Secretariat will take this role. Ms Kristine Pakalniete (Latvia) is nominated as an ESA representative. Since there is no HELCOM expert network on the topic it is envisaged to utilize the expertise gathered in the frame of the COMPLETE project. Also, contribution is expected from the Maritime, State & Conservation and Pressure Working Groups, as appropriate, as well as TG Ballast, EG on Target Species List as well as CG Aquaculture in relation to different vectors of NIS considered. It is proposed to carry out the work mainly by correspondence and holding on-line meetings if the need arises.

Timetable

The timetable of work follows the preliminary timetable for action by the topic teams as below. Activities for 2020 are still to be outlined.

Task	Outcome/contribution	Timeline 2019
Identify relevant measures frameworks	Very short information document	April
Identify presence of time-lags between measures and pressures	Very short information document	April
Propose geographic scale of analysis	Proposal	April
Expert evaluation: activity-pressure matrix	Participate in survey	April/May
Pressure-state time-lags	Data (models, project outcomes, literature)	June/July
Measure-pressure time-lag verification	Verify time-lag effected measures from list provided by Secretariat	June-August
Measure list verification	Verify no missing relevant measures from list provided by Secretariat	June-August
Effect of measures data	Data (models, project outcomes, literature, national reports)	June-August
Expert evaluation: effectiveness of measures	Participate in survey/workshop	October
Expert evaluation: pressure-state linkage	Participate in survey/workshop	October
Development of future activities	Data (models, project outcomes, literature, national reports)	Late fall
Synopses on potential new measures	Information document	End of year

Initial plan for work

The general approach for the SOM analysis will be submitted in a separate document to GEAR 20-2019 under Agenda Item 5. Below are initial ideas on some of these issues for aquatic non-indigenous species.

1. Measures

The SOM non-indigenous species team sees the measures addressing different pathways of NIS introductions (ballast water, biofouling, aquaculture...) as those actions to be considered. At a global level the main measure to consider is the IMO Ballast Water Management Convention which entered into force in September 2017. However, the implementation of the Convention is still being phased in over the next few years. Regionally, the [Roadmap for regional implementation of the outstanding issues on Ballast Convention in the Baltic Sea](#) (adopted as Annex 6 of the Outcome of HOD 51-2016) aims to facilitate a regionally harmonized implementation of the Convention. This new Roadmap replaces the earlier HELCOM roadmap from 2007 which has been largely accomplished as of today. Also, the [HELCOM Recommendation 37/3](#) on Sustainable Aquaculture in the Baltic Sea Region is to be considered.

[Regulation \(EU\) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species](#) will also be important to consider for those countries being EU members. These measures will need to be supplemented by other

sources e.g. national Programme of Measures and other new developments such as information on new measures, or results of ongoing or finished projects dealing with NIS.

2. Activities introducing aquatic NIS

Several activities are pathways of aquatic NIS introduction: ballast water, biofouling, aquaculture, industrial and ferry ports (harbours, bunkering points at sea; oil terminals), passage of ships/boats (passenger shipping; shipping density), mooring, anchoring, beaching, launching, as well as canals and aquarium industries. However, there is a need to group these activities to better identify appropriate measures addressing them: shipping, aquaculture, canals, natural spread and others ([Ojaveer et al. 2016](#)).

3. Contributions of activities causing introduction of non-indigenous species

The State of the Baltic Sea report contains validated data regarding the new introduction of NIS during the period 2011-2016, whereas data analysed are further detailed in the [HELCOM indicator report](#), July 2018, both, for the whole Baltic Sea and nationally. However, it is challenging to accurately obtain information on the contribution of each group of activities to NIS introduction since this information is highly related to the early detection of the species.

For SOM analyses it is important to accurately receive percentage contributions of each activity to a define pressure, in this case introduction of NIS. The AQUANIS database has been and is compiling validated NIS introduction events across the Baltic Sea identifying, in several cases, the activity responsible for the introduction, the origin of the species and the harbour where the species was first detected. Moreover, recent scientific publications are addressing the reliability of the NIS introduction contribution of the main activities associated (shipping, aquaculture, etc.). Regarding the level of certainty to link introductions to pathways, in many cases, this can only be an assumption.

4. Comparison to targets

The ultimate goal is to minimize anthropogenic introductions of NIS to zero. The threshold value between good status and not good status is 'no new introductions of NIS per assessment unit through human activities during a six year assessment period'. For SOM analyses it is proposed to use this pressure target value to evaluate the sufficiency of existing measures.

5. Geographic scope

The request in the document [Guidance 1 to SOM topic teams](#) is recognized and to analyse the NIS topic on the Baltic Sea wide scale (HELCOM scale 1) is suggested as also agreed by the breakout group on NIS at SOM Platform 1-2019 (Annex 2 of the [Notes of SOM Platform 1-2019](#)).