



Document title	Organization of work for the SOM analyses
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Agenda Item	5 – Implementation and update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan
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Reference	

Background

According to the [Strategic plan](#) for the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, agreed by HOD 54-2018, analyses of sufficiency of measures to reach HELCOM goals and objectives should be carried out to support the selection of new and strengthened HELCOM actions for the updated BSAP. These analyses will be carried out through two coordinated activities:

- 1) The HELCOM platform for analyzing sufficiency of measures (SOM Platform), established by HOD 55-2018. The first meeting of the SOM Platform was held 28-29 February 2019 ([HELCOM SOM Platform 1-2019](#)).
- 2) The HELCOM ACTION project which is co-funded by the EU and will run in 2019-2020. The kick-off meeting of the project was held 25-27 February 2019. An overview of the project and the inception report of the project are addressed in [Document 5-3](#).

The HELCOM SOM Platform and ACTION project will contribute to the analyses of sufficiency of measures for topics addressed by HELCOM through a common methodological framework. HELCOM Working Groups will guide the work, contribute to validation of input data to the analyses, and participate in expert-based evaluations. The results of the analyses will indicate whether existing policies are sufficient to achieve good environmental status (GES) in the Baltic Sea.

This document presents the organization of work and the coordination that will take place between the SOM Platform and ACTION project. The document also outlines how the results will be used in the BSAP update process. [Document 5-6](#) to the Meeting presents the approach for analyses of sufficiency of measures.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to

- take note of and consider the information.

Organization of work for the analyses of sufficiency of measures (SOM)

According to the Strategic plan for the BSAP update, an analysis of sufficiency of measures should be carried out to support the selection of new and strengthened HELCOM actions (cf. activity 2.5). The sufficiency of measures analysis entails assessing whether the implementation of existing measures is sufficient in achieving good environmental status in the Baltic Sea, taking into account the projected future changes in human activities.

The implementation of the SOM analyses is carried out by the *ad hoc* HELCOM SOM Platform, agreed by HOD 55-2018 (Outcome, para 3.23) and the HELCOM ACTION project which is co-funded by the EU. The development of an approach for analyzing sufficiency of measures was initiated by the HELCOM SPICE project¹ and the HELCOM ESA network and has been further developed by the ACTION project with contribution from the SOM Platform. The proposed approach is presented for endorsement in [document 5-6](#).

The HELCOM ACTION project addresses measures related to by-catch of mammals and birds, impacts on the seafloor, MPAs as a conservation and protection measure, and eutrophication. The SOM Platform focuses its work on complementary topics to the ACTION project, i.e. hazardous substances, non-indigenous species, marine litter, underwater noise, and biodiversity aspects not covered by the ACTION project (Figure 1).

Role of the SOM Platform

The role of the SOM Platform is outlined in the [Terms of Reference](#) agreed by HOD 55-2018. Mr. Urmas Lips, Estonia, is elected as Chair and Soile Oinonen, Finland, as vice-Chair of the SOM Platform ([HELCOM SOM Platform 1-2019](#)). At the kick-off meeting the role was further clarified by identifying the SOM Platform as having the leading role in overseeing the analysis of joint effect of measures, i.e. for topics addressed by both the ACTION project and the SOM Platform, and in the preparation for HELCOM Working Group meetings and thematic HELCOM workshops that will be convened during the BSAP update process ([Notes, para 2.3](#)). The SOM Platform also has an important role in ensuring coherency and coordination across topics and participation of Chairs of Working Groups is therefore encouraged to ensure interactions across workings strands in HELCOM.

The next Meeting of the SOM Platform will be held 16-17 September 2019 with the preliminary objectives to follow progress of work of SOM Platform and ACTION project, elaborate on the approach for analysing cost-effectiveness of potential new HELCOM actions, prepare for Working Group meetings in autumn 2019, e.g. the planned validation of input to the SOM analyses, as well as to plan for how to arrange or group HELCOM thematic workshops in spring 2020.

Role of the Topic teams under the SOM Platform

The contribution to the SOM analyses under the ACTION project will be carried out by the project partners and a dedicated work package for analyzing sufficiency of measures (WP 6) ([Document 5-3](#)). For the analyses under the SOM Platform, 'Topic teams' have been established based on a lead country approach, expertise on economic and social analyses (ESA), and engagement of relevant HELCOM expert groups and networks. The topic teams will mainly work intersessionally and will contribute with data and information to the analyses as outlined in [Document 5-6](#) on the SOM approach. The SOM approach will be implemented through a model that will be run for all topics by SYKE, Finland, based on the data and information from Topic teams, ACITON project, and expert-based evaluations.

Lead countries (or other arrangements for work) and more detailed plans of work for the topic teams under the SOM Platform are available for:

- [Hazardous substances](#) (Lead Sweden, Co-lead Denmark, Support Finland)

¹ the [SPICE project](#) was coordinated by HELCOM and co-funded by the EU that was implemented in 2017.

- [Underwater noise](#) (Lead Denmark)
- [Marine Litter](#) (Lead Estonia)
- [Non-indigenous species](#) (currently lead by Secretariat)

Meetings with lead countries have been held for all topics as well as with the HELCOM expert networks on hazardous substances and underwater noise and a meeting with the marine litter network will be convened in June (date still to be set).

With regard to biodiversity aspects to be considered under the SOM Platform, as of 23 April 2019 Sweden had offered to lead work related to fish but other topics to be addressed (birds, mammals, commercial fish) was lacking a lead. A lead country approach is still desirable but if there are no offers provided by end of April the Secretariat will start orienting the input to the SOM analyses to be mainly based on expert-based evaluations.

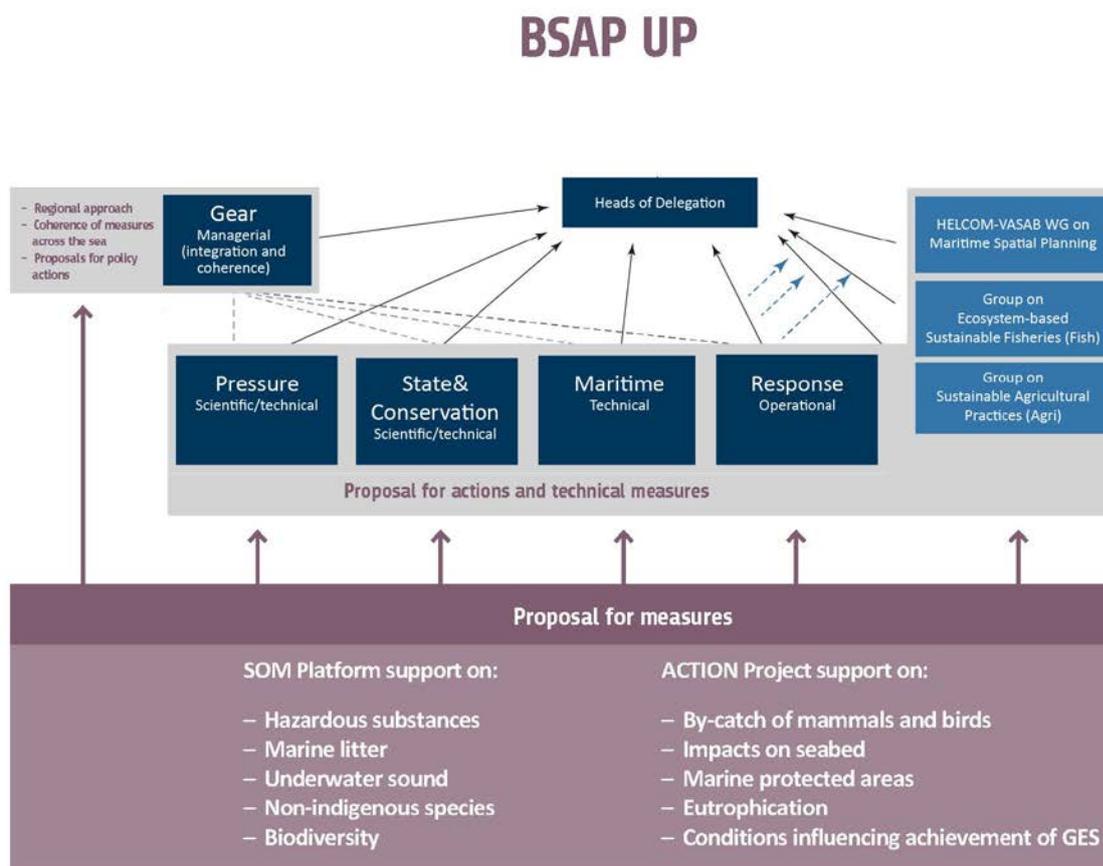


Figure 1. Outline of the SOM Platform and the HELCOM ACTION project in the HELCOM working structure.

Role of Working Groups in SOM analyses

HELCOM technical Working Groups will guide and review the ACTION project and SOM Platform during the course of work in accordance with the work plan for the BSAP update (cf. activity 2.5). HELCOM Working Groups will also contribute to the analyses through validation of the data input to the analyses and with expert-based evaluations. The validation and expert-based evaluations will likely take place at the autumn meeting of Working Groups in 2019. A time-table for the SOM approach with indication of timing of contributions from Working Groups is available in [Outcome of HELCOM SOM Platform 1-2019](#), Annex 4. GEAR is specifically indicated in the endorsement of the SOM approach.

The outcome of the analysis will indicate if existing measures to improve the Baltic Sea are sufficient to reach good environmental status, should they be fully implemented. The results of the SOM analysis are expected to be ready in early spring 2020.

Preparation of synopses

The Terms of Reference for the SOM Platform further outlines the preparation of syntheses on potential new actions based on e.g. recent innovation and development projects or successful measures carried out on a national level. The HELCOM SOM Platform 1-2019 proposed a format for the synopses ([Outcome of HELCOM SOM Platform 1-2019](#), Annex 4) and HELCOM 40-2019 agreed that such synopses can be submitted by Contracting Parties, HELCOM subsidiary bodies, international projects, and HELCOM observers. The synopses should be prepared by end of 2019 and will be reviewed by HELCOM Working Groups. Preparation of synopses are however encouraged to be initiated as soon as possible.

Proposal on new HELCOM actions

The results of the SOM analyses and the synopses on potential new actions will form the basis for HELCOM workshops/meetings to be held in spring 2020 with the aim of drafting proposals on new actions and measures, or strengthening of existing actions, for the updated BSAP (cf [Work plan for the BSAP update](#), activity nr 2.5). The next meeting of the HELCOM SOM Platform (16-17 September 2019) will make further plans for these workshops/meetings.

The Terms of Reference for the SOM Platform also outlines analyses of cost-effectiveness to support the selection of new HELCOM actions. Such analyses will take place after the initial proposal on new actions have been made in spring 2020. The SOM analysis will then be re-run to evaluate the joint effect of proposed new measures (i.e. how they will contribute to reaching GES) as well as the cost-effectiveness of proposed new measures. Preliminary results of such analyses are anticipated to be ready in autumn 2020 and can be used for further elaboration of actions for the updated BSAP at autumn meetings of Working Groups in 2020.