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<b>Document title</b>	Progress on the analysis of sufficiency of measures (SOM)
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## Background

Analyzing the sufficiency of measures is one of the activities agreed through the [Strategic Plan for the BSAP update](#) (cf. activity 2.5). The analysis is guided by the HELCOM SOM Platform, established by HOD 55-2018, and carried out through the HELCOM ACTION project<sup>1</sup> and through the lead by Contracting Parties on specific topics covered by the analysis (see e.g. HOD 56-2019, [document 2-2](#)).

The analysis of sufficiency of measures (SOM) will identify gaps in existing measures to reach good environmental status and contribute to identifying needs for new actions for the updated BSAP.

Preliminary results of the SOM analysis will be prepared by March 2020 and an initial evaluation of the results is planned for at the 3<sup>rd</sup> HELCOM SOM Platform meeting, taking place 24-26 March 2020, Helsinki, Finland.

This document presents the ongoing work and progress of the SOM analysis and how the results will be used in further BSAP update process.

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- [take note](#) of the progress on the SOM analysis.

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<sup>1</sup> HELCOM ACTION project is co-financed by the EU and coordinated by HELCOM.

## Analysis of sufficiency of measures

### 1) Background

The aim of the sufficiency of measures (SOM) analysis is to assess improvements in environmental state and pressures that can be achieved with existing measures by 2030-2035, and whether these are sufficient to achieve good environmental status (GES) in the Baltic Sea. The SOM analysis is carried out for the main environmental themes in the HELCOM [‘State of the Baltic Sea’ report](#), including birds, mammals, fish, benthic habitats, non-indigenous species, hazardous substances, marine litter, underwater noise and input of nutrients. The same overall approach is applied across all topics to ensure comparability and coherence of the results.

The SOM analysis relies on estimating the status of the marine environment at a specific future point in time, given measures in existing policies, their implementation status and predicted development of human activities over time (Figure 1).

In addition to supporting the identification of gaps to good status, the analysis provides information, for example, on the relative contribution of activities to pressures, effectiveness of measures types in reducing pressures from activities, most significant pressures affecting state components, pressure reductions required to achieve GES/status improvements, status improvements/pressure reductions from existing measures, and time lags between measures and environmental state.

More information on the SOM analysis is available on a dedicated page at the [HELCOM website](#), as well as a [webinar](#) given in January 2020.

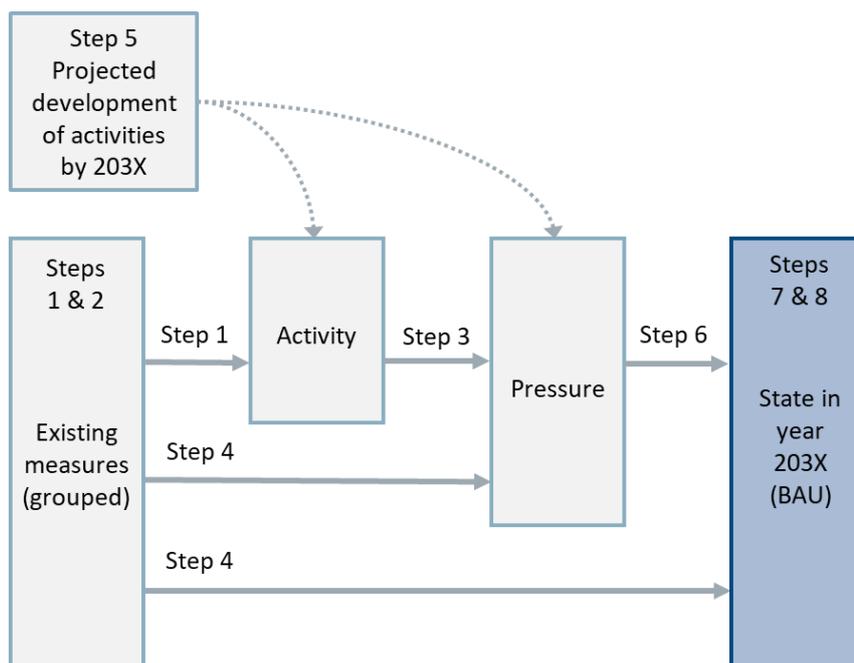


Figure 1. Recollection of the main components and steps of the SOM analysis

- Step 1. Existing measures, including activity-measure links
- Step 2. Estimating time-lags for measure effects on pressures
- Step 3. Identifying main pathways for pressures using activity-pressure linkages
- Step 4. Estimation of effects of measures
- Step 5. Projected development of human activities/pressures
- Step 6. Linking reduced pressures with state components
- Step 7. Comparison of BAU and GES and assessing sufficiency of measures
- Step 8. Assessment of the effect of time-lags to recovery on state components

## 2) Collection of input to the analysis - ongoing

The collation of data for the SOM analysis is ongoing and anticipated to be ready by end of February 2020. This includes data on activity-pressure contributions (step 3), effectiveness of measures (step 4), state-pressure linkages (step 6) and projections of human activities (step 5).

For activity-pressure contributions (Step 3), a data-driven approach has been used for loss and disturbance to the seabed (data collated during HOLAS II project), introduction of non-indigenous species (based on entries to the AquaNIS database) and input of nutrients (ACTION WP4, based on PLC-6). For the remaining relevant topics, an expert-based approach has been employed and activity-pressure surveys have been distributed to relevant HELCOM expert bodies and SOM topic teams. Additional responses have still been sought in early 2020 for some of the topics. An overview of responses received per topic and country will be collated for SOM Platform 3-2020.

Expert surveys on effectiveness of measures (Step 4) and pressure-state linkages (Step 6) have been implemented in December 2019 – February 2020. The expert pool was formed from the representatives of the relevant HELCOM expert networks and groups, as well as additional experts nominated by Contracting Parties (representatives of HELCOM Working Groups and SOM Platform) specifically for the task. Altogether, 469 experts (unique cases) were identified as potential respondents to the surveys, with 35-114 experts per topic. An overview of responses received per topic and country will be collated for SOM Platform 3-2020. Expert data on the effectiveness of measures will be complemented with the results of a literature review carried out by the ACTION project and the Secretariat.

Projected development of human activities (Step 5) is also based on compiling relevant national and regional literature and the report will be reviewed by SOM Platform 3-2020.

The data from the expert surveys on activity-pressure contributions, effectiveness of measures and pressure-state linkages, as well as the literature review on the effectiveness of measures will be validated by HELCOM Working Groups in spring 2020. The validation will take place intersessionally (via correspondence or online meeting) or through the WG spring meetings ([follow link for details](#)), depending on the timing of the meeting. Topic-specific summary statistics and distributions of the responses will be presented for validation. The data will also include summary information of the background of the respondents, i.e. their country, organization type, field and years of experience.

## 3) SOM Platform 3 – March 2020

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the HELCOM SOM Platform, to be held 24-26 March, Helsinki, Finland, will make an initial evaluation of the SOM results and prepare for the BSAP UP workshops that will be held in May 2020, as agreed by HOD 57-2019. The following focal areas have been outlined in the Provisional Annotated Agenda for the Meeting:

- consider the implementation of the SOM approach and associated methodological details, e.g. how to address projections of human activities in the SOM model, how to integrate results from expert based surveys and data from literature, how to assess costs and effects of measures;
- consider the data collection and preliminary results of the analysis of the sufficiency of existing measures to achieve good state of the Baltic Sea marine environment and the format of the SOM reports;
- agree on analyses to be conducted prior to the BSAP UP workshops in May 2020;
- agree on how to carry out the BSAP UP workshops in spring 2020.

SOM Platform 3-2020 will thus take fundamental steps towards finalizing the implementation of the SOM analysis and plan for how the results will be used in the BSAP update process.

#### 4) Use of primary SOM results – May 2020

The results of the SOM analysis will show how far existing measures can contribute to reducing pressures and improving the status of selected ecosystem components and thus also indicate potential gaps in reaching good environmental status. As outlined above, the analysis will also provide other results, such as an evaluation of how much different activities are contributing to the pressures in the Baltic Sea region and thus provide support for identifying how new actions and measures are best directed to improve the environmental status.

The results will be an important input to the BSAP UP workshops to be held in May 2020. The workshops will evaluate proposals on new actions for the updated BSAP with the help of the following background material:

- List of existing actions to be included in the updated BSAP, based on proposals by HELCOM Working Groups. Existing HELCOM actions are already considered in the SOM analysis, and assumed to be implemented during the timeframe of the SOM analysis.
- Results of the SOM analysis and associated results, tentatively identifying gaps in existing measures.
- Proposals on new actions based on the submission of synopses from Contracting Parties, HELCOM Observers, and international projects. The proposals will in a first step be reviewed by HELCOM Working Groups in spring 2020, including to identify possible gaps in the proposals. [73 synopses](#) on proposed new actions were received by 31 January 2020.

To support the evaluation of proposals on new actions, common criteria will be used during the workshops as developed by the SOM Platform and currently considered for endorsement by the GEAR Group (by 14 February 2020).

The HELCOM ACTION project and SOM Platform will also support the workshops by preparing background information and basic analysis in advance of the workshop, for example to establish the link between proposed new actions and gaps identified in the SOM analysis.

HOD 58-2020 will be informed on the outcome of the workshops while the autumn meetings of HELCOM Working Groups will work further on the formulation of potential new actions for the update BSAP and prepare a consolidated proposal for HOD in December 2020.

#### 5) Update of SOM analyses, cost-effectiveness of measures – autumn 2020

The SOM analysis will continue after the workshops to prepare two additional analyses for the selection of new actions for the updated BSAP that can support the continued deliberations by Working Groups in autumn 2020.

- 1) The SOM analysis is planned to be re-run with the proposed new actions included. This requires that the effectiveness of the tentative new actions can be estimated. Such re-run can indicate how far that the updated BSAP can contribute to reaching good environmental status.
- 2) Analysis of cost-effectiveness of proposed new actions that can have a measurable effect in the marine environment. In addition to information on the effectiveness of new actions, this requires assessing their costs, either qualitatively, semi-quantitatively or quantitatively. The approach is under development and will be considered at HELCOM SOM Platform 3-2019 and GEAR 22-2020.