



Notes from the HELCOM BSAP UP workshop on eutrophication for the consideration of proposed new actions (HELCOM BSAP UP WS-EUTRO 2020), 26 – 27 August 2020, online

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Agenda Item 1 Introduction

- 1.1. The HELCOM BSAP UP workshop on eutrophication for the consideration of proposed new actions (HELCOM BSAP UP WS-EUTRO 2020) was held online on 26 – 27 August 2020.
- 1.2. All Contracting Parties, as well as Observers from BFFE, CCB, CLIA Europe, EUCC, EurEau, FEAP, OSPAR Commission, Race For the Baltic and WWF, took part in the workshop. The list of participants is contained in **Annex 1**. The workshop was moderated by Mr. Lars Sonesten, Chair of HELCOM Pressure Working Group.
- 1.3. The HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan adopted in 2007 is currently being updated and the updated BSAP is to be adopted in autumn 2021. To support the selection of new measures and actions for the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan, an invitation to submit synopses on potential new HELCOM actions was put forward in spring 2019 to the Contracting Parties, HELCOM subsidiary bodies, international projects and HELCOM Observers. The aim of the workshop was to evaluate proposed new actions for the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (Documents 1-1, 1-2 and 1-3, **Presentation 1**).

Agenda Item 2 Results of the prior analyses

- 2.1 The workshop took note of the results of the technical review of synopses related to eutrophication conducted by HELCOM Working Groups (Document 2-1, 2-1-Rev.1, 2-1-Att.1, 2-1-Att.1-Rev.1) and the information on which element of the DPSIR (activities, pressures, or state components) the proposed action is targeting.
- 2.2 The workshop took note of the results of the sufficiency of measures (SOM) analysis for eutrophication (Document 2-2, 2-2-Rev.1., **Presentation 2**).
- 2.3 The workshop took note of information on the effectiveness of the proposed new measures, based on the effectiveness data collected for the SOM analysis, and from synopses, literature reviews and project outputs provided by the ACTION project (Document 2-3, 2-3-Att.1).
- 2.4 The following comments and clarifications were given after the presentation:
 - The workshop expressed a concern about the lack of a link between the input of nutrients and effects of eutrophication in the SOM analysis. The workshop emphasized that the data on the link exist and have been used e.g. when deriving nutrient input reduction targets. The workshop took note of the clarification that, unfortunately, the data cannot be used in the current assessment due to lack of time. In this respect the workshop recommended to look into this issue more thoroughly in the future noting that this link is of high importance.
 - In general, the workshop welcomed the results of the analysis, noting that the findings seem to indicate that strong measures aimed at reduction of phosphorus input may be needed with particular focus on some basins.
 - The workshop proposed to include more information on existing measures considered in the analysis for specific activities and sectors. It was also pointed out that information on exact existing measures taken into account in the analysis (e.g. which measures from WFD) is missing in the presented material. This information is crucial when considering new measures and their effectiveness as well as identification of major gaps in measures and remaining potential for reduction.
 - The workshop took note of the clarification that the information on effect of measure types was aggregated by sector e.g. reduction in wastewater sector was based on related HELCOM

Recommendation and reduction of airborne input was provided by EMEP. The workshop took note of the information that estimates of the effectiveness of measures are not available for agricultural measures, as most of the estimates were given as total reductions in runoff from agriculture.

- Atmospheric deposition of phosphorus is included in the table of sectors with available reduction. The workshop pointed out that deposition of P is considered as natural background and there are no measures which can influence it. The difference of P deposition between basins is based on their surface area. The workshop recommended the SOM team to check how phosphorus deposition is accounted in the analysis. The workshop also pointed out that atmospheric deposition of P is negligible compared to the input from other P sources and the effect of activities to reduce deposition (e.g. prevention of soil erosion) is minimal.

Agenda Item 3 Evaluation of the synopses

3.1 The workshop took note of the Criteria for evaluation of new actions' that have been developed by the SOM Platform and endorsed by the Gear Group, and the guidance for their implementation (Document 3-1, **Presentation 3**).

3.2 The workshop noted that, in the evaluation, the focus is on the environmental effectiveness of the proposed new actions while political and economic aspects will be considered at a later stage.

3.3 As part of the evaluation, the participants were invited to express their expert views on supporting and prioritization of proposed measures through a voting procedure.

3.4 The workshop discussed the proposals for new actions and evaluated them based on the criteria as included in **Annex 2**.

Agenda Item 4 Conclusions

4.1 The workshop concluded that good progress has been achieved prioritizing measures to reduce nutrient input, especially in the agricultural sector. Participants highlighted that the holistic picture addressing all sectors contributing to the total nutrient load on the Baltic Sea is to become visible after all BSAP UP workshops to assure that there are no gaps remaining and that all significant sources of nutrients are address in the updated BSAP.

4.2 The workshop raised the issue of whether measures with limited geographical area of application are to be included in the updated BSAP e.g. application of gypsum or structural liming on agricultural land.

4.3 The workshop pointed out that harmonization of BSAP and WFD targets is to be reflected in the updated BSAP. Though, that is not surprising that the targets are different as the WFD is dealing with the current targets when the BSAP is focused on the long sustaining effect. The workshop recommended to take the issue up in the nutrient reduction scheme broadening its scope and specifying details.

4.4 The workshop noted that several synopses related to cost efficiency of measures concern all segments of the updated BSAP but not only eutrophication. Thus, it might be better to reflect cost efficiency of measures as a guiding principle in the general preamble to the updated BSAP.

4.5 With regard to the proposed synopses, the workshop suggested the following:

- both synopses related to levy on nitrogen and phosphorus in mineral fertilizers are to be equally prioritized;
- the proposal to strengthen wastewater treatment requirements would consider not only nutrients but also removal of hazardous substances and microplastics as it was discussed at the BSAP workshop on HS and ML;
- the proposal on establishing an updated hotspot list is also applicable for hazardous substances and litter.

4.6 The workshop discussed remaining gaps in the proposed actions and recommended the following:

- fertilizer handling in ports is one of the land-based sources of nutrients and is to be addressed in the updated BSAP;
- knowledge transfer and mutual learning is very important activity which should not be underestimated in the updated BSAP;
- maritime sector, especially ship traffic, is significant contributor to the total nutrient load on the Baltic Sea, thus, should be addressed in the updated BSAP;
- another sector which has to be addressed is aquaculture and input from this sector is to be properly addressed as one of the key issues to achieve environmental targets;
- reduction of nitrogen emissions has not been sufficiently considered and addressed so far in the process of the BSAP update;
- transboundary pollution is one of the remaining gaps which has not so far been addressed in the BSAP.

4.7 The workshop emphasised that large reduction of P inputs to Baltic Proper has to be achieved and that existing and proposed measures might not be sufficient. The workshop also highlighted the need of harmonization of HELCOM work and other policies contributing to the achieving of the BSAP goals.

4.8 The workshop encouraged participants to propose actions addressing identified gaps in the format of synopsis for consideration at PRESSURE 13-2020 and AGRI 10-2020.

Annex 1. List of participants

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