



Document title	Organization of work for the SOM analyses
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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 ([Outcome 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.

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 2-3 to the Meeting presents the approach for analysing sufficiency of measures for endorsement by HOD 56-2019.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to

- take note of and consider the information;
- agree to convene the next meeting of the HELCOM SOM Platform 16-17 September 2019;
- agree to organize HELCOM workshop(s), tentatively in autumn 2019, to contribute to the SOM analyses related to biodiversity.

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 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). 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 collected under the SOM Platform, ACTION project, and expert-based evaluations. The approach is presented for endorsement in document 2-3 to HOD 56-2019.

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 work 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 expert-based evaluations as input to the SOM analyses, as well as to plan for how to arrange or group HELCOM thematic workshops on the BSAP update planned for in spring 2020 (cf activity 2.6 of the work plan for the BSAP update, document 2-1).

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 to the SOM analyses.

Lead countries 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)
- [Underwater noise \(Lead Denmark\)](#)
- [Marine Litter \(Lead Estonia\)](#)
- [Non-indigenous species](#) (currently lead by Secretariat)
- [Biodiversity – coastal fish](#) (Lead Sweden)

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 7 June 2019.

With regard to biodiversity aspects to be considered under the SOM Platform, as of 22 May 2019 Sweden had offered to lead work related to coastal fish but other topics to be addressed (e.g. birds, mammals, migratory fish) was lacking a lead. The required information is mainly related to an evaluation of much a pressure needs to be reduced to reach good status for different ecosystem components. It is expected that only limited data will be available to support this estimation and in the absence of a Lead Country the information is proposed to be collected through expert-based evaluations. State&Conservation 10-2019 supported that such expert-based evaluations could be carried out by convening either one dedicated HELCOM SOM Biodiversity workshop or by convening a set of workshops in association to upcoming meeting of e.g. HELCOM WG MAMA, JWG Birds, EN Benthic. Such workshop(s) would be convened in autumn 2019. A proposal for a workshop related to migratory fish will also be submitted to the upcoming meeting of Fish 10-2019.

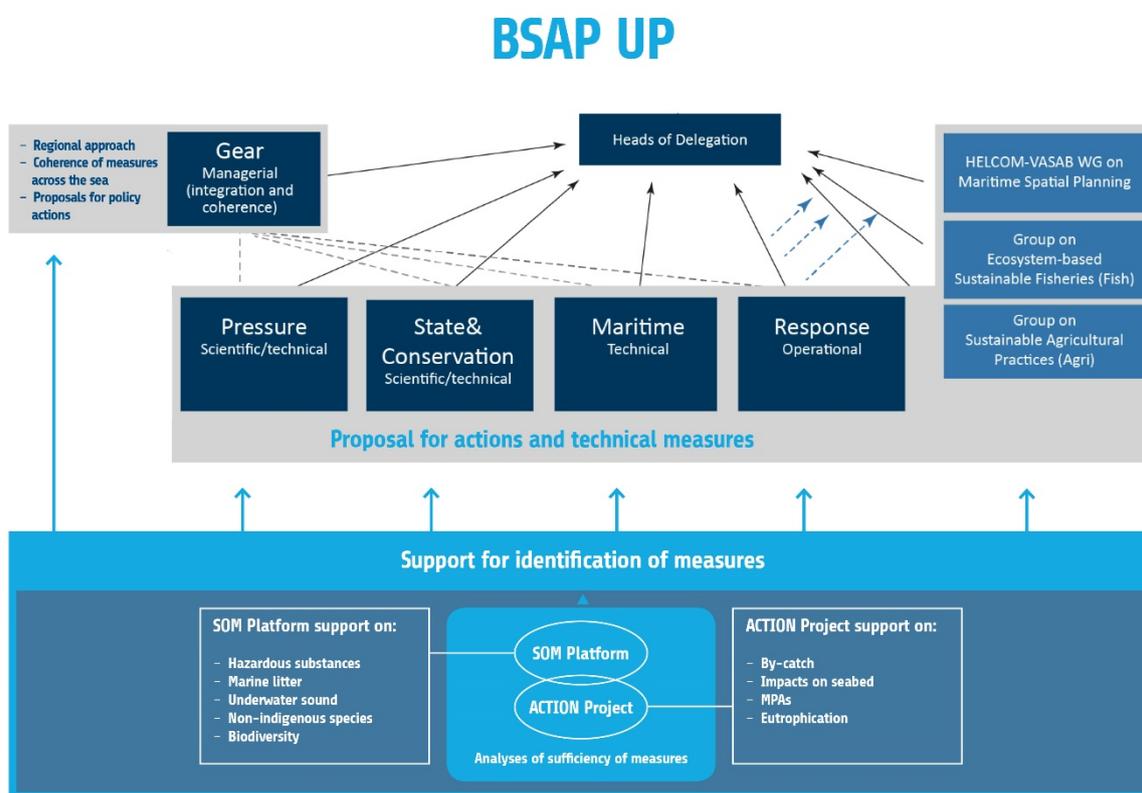


Figure 1. Outline of the SOM Platform and the HELCOM ACTION project in the HELCOM working structure.

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 document 2-3, and has also been included in the updated Work Plan for the BSAP update (document 2-1).

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 such synopses ([Outcome of HELCOM SOM Platform 1-2019](#), Annex 4) and HELCOM 40-2019 agreed that 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. The Secretariat has circulated the format to HELCOM Working Groups and Expert Groups and made it available through the HELCOM web-site to also reach external contributors i.e. international projects. The synopses will provide a collation of potential new actions for the updated BSAP.

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 selecting and 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.