



Document title	Online review of synopses on new HELCOM actions
Code	3-8
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	3 - Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan
Submission date	17.03.2020
Submitted by	Secretariat
Reference	Documents 3-1, 3-2 (and Addendums) and 3-3

Background

This document provides more information regarding the Guidance for the technical review of synopses on new HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) actions, as presented in document 3-3.

As the Intersessional MARITIME 19A-2020 Meeting will be held online 14 – 15 April 2020 (10:00h to 16:00h EET (9:00h to 15:00h CET) each day), arrangements have been made in order to facilitate achieving the objectives of the Meeting.

One of the most time-consuming and complicated tasks of the Meeting will be the technical review of synopses on proposed new actions for the updated BSAP. Seventeen such proposals are set out in documents 3-2, 3-2 Add.1 and 3-2 Add.2 for consideration by the Meeting.

Technical review of synopses

The Meeting will be invited to answer a set of questions, as per the Guidance set out in document 3-3, using an Excel table. The original Excel table (document 3-3 Add. 1. Attachment) has been updated to add new columns, including one with the comments and conclusions from the Correspondence Group (c.f. document 3-1). In addition, the proposals in the Excel table have been numbered as in document 3-1, for easier reference.

Although the Secretariat has filled in provisional responses to questions 1, 2 and 4, experience from the first HELCOM Working Group undertaking the technical review has shown that completing the entire table may take time. Delegations are therefore invited to fill in the table in advance and submit their responses and possible comments to the Secretariat (markus.helavuori@helcom.fi and marta.ruiz@helcom.fi) **by 31 March 2020** at the latest. The Secretariat will thereafter compile all responses and comments into an updated Excel table, which will be the basis of discussion at the Meeting. If all respondents have provided the same response to some questions/synopses, those will require no further discussion by the Intersessional Meeting and will be considered agreed. Also, including comments related to the specific questions in advance is expected to save considerable time as well as facilitate timely and accurate drafting of the Outcome of the Meeting.

As reflected in document 3-3, the technical review of synopses should, in this first step, be a preliminary evaluation focusing on the technical aspects and substance of the proposals. The review should be carried out from a scientific and technical point of view and focus on technical feasibility of the measures, but not legal, political or economic aspects of feasibility. Note that no proposals will be excluded at this stage; the aim is to identify how the proposal is placed in the framework of existing HELCOM actions and make a qualitative evaluation of the technical soundness of the synopses.

The results of this review will serve as a basis for further deliberation by the BSAP UP Workshop on maritime activities, underwater noise, non-indigenous species, response actions (scheduled for 18-20 May 2020 in Helsinki, Finland). It is considered important that national representatives of HELCOM Working Groups attend the BSAP UP workshops for founding the validity of the outcome.

This document contains a separate Excel table provided as an attachment.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to make use of the Excel table together with the guidance (document 3-3) for the technical review of the synopses on proposed new actions for the updated BSAP under Maritime.