



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Tenth Meeting of the Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area

PRESSURE 10-2019

Tallinn, Estonia, 9-12 April 2019

Document title	Initial plans for SOM analyses for hazardous substances
Code	DS-6
Category	INF
Agenda Item	DS - Dedicated session on implementation of HELCOM agreements
Submission date	02.04.2019
Submitted by	Sweden, Denmark, Finland
Reference	

Background

HOD 55-2018 agreed to establish an *ad hoc* platform for analysing sufficiency of measures (SOM Platform) to support the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan ([Outcome HOD 55-2018](#)). The aim of the SOM analyses is to evaluate whether existing policies are sufficient to achieve good environmental status (GES) in the Baltic Sea. The framework for the SOM analyses is outlined in document DS-3 to the Pressure 10-2019. The approach was consolidated at the [Kick-off meeting of the SOM Platform](#) and an updated version will be submitted for approval by GEAR 20-2019 (15-17 May 2019).

To implement the framework and contribute with the required data and information for the analyses, topic teams will be established for each of the topics addressed by the SOM Platform. The topic teams will work intersessionally and report back to SOM Platform meetings and relevant Working Groups during the course of work. This document includes an initial plan for work to analyse the sufficiency of measures related to hazardous substances and information on how the work will be organized.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

Organization of work

The SOM analyses for hazardous substances is supported by a topic team (HZ Topic Team) consisting of Sweden (lead), Denmark (co-lead), Finland (support) and an ESA expertise also from Denmark. In addition to those core individuals, above, there are also persons following and contributing to the work the HZ Topic Team, from: Sweden, Germany, Estonia and Denmark, and relevant contact points at the Secretariat.

The team held its first online-meeting 29 March 2019. Discussion covered grouping of substances, the future work of the group, the various data and information required for the SOM analysis. The HZ Topic Team agreed to meet online in mid-later April to finalize discussion related to aspects from the [Guidance 1 to SOM Topic Teams](#) (e.g. geographical scales, groupings of substances), to get further guidance on the requirements of the SOM analyses, and to define roles within the group.

The Meeting of the HELCOM expert network on hazardous substances (EN-HZ 10-2019, 4-5 April 2019) will be used to introduce the work to the network and to discuss their contribution to the work. The work will also be introduced to the correspondence group on pharmaceuticals (CG PHARMA) at their next online meeting. These two expert groups will be utilized to request information as the work progresses.

Timetable

The timetable of work follows the preliminary timetable for action by the topic teams according to the below. Activities for 2020 are still to be outlined.

Task	Outcome/contribution	Timeline 2019
Identify relevant measures frameworks	Very short information document	April
Identify presence of time-lags between measures and pressures	Very short information document	April
Propose geographic scale of analysis	Proposal	April
Expert evaluation: activity-pressure matrix	Participate in survey	April/May
Pressure-state time-lags	Data (models, project outcomes, literature)	June/July
Measure-pressure time-lag verification	Verify time-lag effected measures from list provided by Secretariat	June-August
Measure list verification	Verify no missing relevant measures from list provided by Secretariat	June-August
Effect of measures data	Data (models, project outcomes, literature, national reports)	June-August
Expert evaluation: effectiveness of measures	Participate in survey/workshop	October
Expert evaluation: pressure-state linkage	Participate in survey/workshop	October
Development of future activities	Data (models, project outcomes, literature, national reports)	Late fall
Synopses on potential new measures	Information document	End of year

Initial plan for work

The general approach for the SOM analysis is described in [Document DS-3](#) for PRESSURE 19-2019. Here the HZ Topic Team outlines some initial approaches for their work related to the SOM analysis.

1) Guidance 1 to SOM Topic Teams

The issues requiring information during April 2019 will be addressed now and finalized at the next online meeting in April (date TBC). These include:

Providing options for grouping of hazardous substances:

A number of options exist for this grouping and further clarification is needed on how the grouping can be applied in the SOM analysis. Options, approaches and issues discussed to date include: substances known to be “problematic”, exclusion of substances that achieve GES in all areas, how to incorporate different

threshold value types, how to cover future/emerging issues, and grouping by type (e.g. organic, inorganic etc) – measure (e.g. legacy or not) – example substances.

[Providing a list of sources from where relevant existing measures are hosted:](#)

A short list of measures frameworks (e.g. international conventions, EU directives and regulations, regional action plans, etc.) detailing important sources where information on existing measures can be found will be collated.

[Identification of time-lags between measures and pressures:](#)

A list of potential time-lags based on expert knowledge will be collated that indicate where such time-lags can be expected or may occur.

[Providing suggestions on a suitable geographical scale for analysis of hazardous substances:](#)

The [revised proposals](#) set out in the SOM Platform workspace will be reviewed as part of this discussion and a proposal relevant to hazardous substances will be prepared. The groupings in the existing proposal will be considered to ensure compatibility where viable.

2) Measures

An inventory of all measures for all priority substances will be collated by the HELCOM ACTION project and secretariat. Research and select administrative measures (i.e. monitoring, coordination, developing indicators, setting targets, developing information systems/tools, etc.) will not be included in the analyses. A quantitative analysis of substance specific measures will then be carried out, where possible, to identify measures for which effectiveness has been estimated (e.g. by any HELCOM Contracting Party). A qualitative analysis of general measures, such as general regulations and controls, will be carried out to inform on aspects such as possible policy/legislative gaps (e.g. in relation to important sources and pathways) and to assess implementation status and time from implementation to reduced levels in the Baltic Sea (time-lags).

This information will be compiled via specific requests to relevant HELCOM groups (e.g. EH-HZ, CG PHARMA, PRESSURE) to gather relevant information from national and regional perspectives.

3) Sources, pathways, trends – and relative contributions to pressure

An overview of how hazardous substances enter and impact on the marine environment will be compiled. The later guidance and request from the SOM Platform regarding an evaluation/validation of relative importance of activities to specific pressures will also be accommodated at this stage. In addition to clarifying major sources and exposure pathways such information will guide the evaluation of measures, including new measures, by the identification of major entry routes and sources, the identification of data gaps, collating information on direction of time trends, and by the comparison with time trends in the physical environment/biota. This information will be collated from existing studies and resources. In cases where data are not available to make certain evaluations (e.g. on relative contributions of an activity to pressures) the expert-based opinion will be utilised to complement the existing data compilation.

Similar information, where available will also be compiled on emerging contaminants or aspects of know emerging concern. Where possible relevant information will be compiled to be compatible with the SOM approach and analysis. This information will be critical for later stages of the work, in particular when addressing new measures in the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan.

4) Overview

The gathered information will, where possible, represent synthesised collations of information linking sources-pathways-trends-measures, and ranking their relative contributions to pressures. Gaps in these areas of knowledge or information will also be highlighted to ensure confidence in any assessment can be provided. This information will directly support the SOM analysis and the overall update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan.