



Document title	Background and Provisional Annotated Agenda
Category	DEC
Submission date	22.1.2019
Submitted by	Secretariat

Kick-off meeting for the HELCOM Platform for sufficiency of measures (SOM Platform 1-2019)

Time: Thursday 28 February 09:00 - Friday 1 March 15:00

Venue: HELCOM Secretariat, Helsinki, Finland

Aims

The HELCOM SOM Platform will support the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan by analysing sufficiency of measures to reach good environmental status in the Baltic Sea. Topics to be covered by the SOM Platform are input of hazardous substances, marine litter, underwater sound, non-indigenous species, and biodiversity aspects that are not covered by Marine Protected Areas¹ (MPAs). The kick-off meeting of the SOM Platform will in particular:

- consider and further develop a proposal for a framework to carry out the analyses of sufficiency of measures,
- identify the need for data and information to support the analyses and propose how to collect the information,
- propose how to organize the implementation of analyses for the respective topics to be covered by the Platform,
- identify topics for development of syntheses to support the analyses and the identification of potential new HELCOM actions and come up with the format of syntheses,
- prepare a time-plan for further work in accordance with the work plan for the BSAP update.

¹ Marine Protected Areas as a measure to protect and conserve biodiversity, and other topics not listed here are covered by the EU co-funded HELCOM ACTION project.

Background

The 2018 HELCOM Brussels Ministerial Meeting agreed to update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan at the latest by 2021. The aim of the update of the BSAP is to adjust actions based on the newest scientific knowledge so that HELCOM's strategic goals and ecological objectives can be reached and relevant marine and water targets of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can be met in the Baltic Sea. The updated BSAP will include the existing commitments that may not be fulfilled by 2021 and also address new issues on the basis of the commitments made in the 2018 Ministerial Declaration and further deliberations during the BSAP update process.

HOD 54-2018 approved a [strategic plan for the BSAP update](#) and HOD-55-2018 agreed on a detailed work plan for the work (document 1). A dedicated project manager supports the tasks of the Secretariat in the BSAP update process. 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. The sufficiency of measures analysis entails assessing whether the implementation of existing measures is sufficient in achieving the good environmental status, taking into account the projected future changes in human activities. The proposed approach is presented in a separate meeting document.

Rationale for the established HELCOM Platform on sufficiency of measures (SOM Platform)

HOD 55-2018 agreed on the ToR for a HELCOM Platform on sufficiency of measures (document 2). The establishment of the SOM Platform had several motivations:

- 1) To create an interdisciplinary platform. Analysis of the sufficiency of measures requires involvement of different expertise (natural scientists, environmental economists and expertise on policies and their implementation) in a joint work process. The required expertise is to a large extent already available within HELCOM but experts are working in separate groups.
- 2) To ensure that a coherent and structured approach is used across topics and provide for a balanced input for decisions by HOD on new actions.
- 3) To make sure that best available knowledge is synthesized to support selection of new HELCOM actions. The ToR for the SOM Platform includes the task to synthesize existing knowledge to support the update of the BSAP, e.g. on the effectiveness of existing and potential new measures, available projections on development of human activities, etc. (cf. activity 1 of ToR).
- 4) To create opportunities for carrying out the required analyses in a cooperative manner. The development of BAU scenarios is a task that requires that experts have dedicated time and resources for the task, i.e. it is not a task that can be carried out only via workshops or existing meetings in the HELCOM working structure.

Organization of work

The update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan builds on the existing HELCOM working structure with two major *ad hoc* activities to support the update with comprehensive analyses (Figure 1):

- 1) The HELCOM SOM Platform
- 2) [The HELCOM ACTION project](#) which is co-funded by the EU and will run in 2019-2020.

The HELCOM ACTION project will consider measures related to by-catch of mammals and birds, impacts on the seafloor (primarily from fishing but not exclusively), MPAs as a conservation and protection measure, and eutrophication. The selection of topics for the ACTION project was based on priorities in the call for applications. For these topics, analyses of sufficiency of measures will be carried out as part of the project implementation. Consequently the SOM Platform will focus 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.

The aim is that these two activities will prepare analyses of sufficiency of measures for topics addressed by HELCOM through a coordinated approach. The HELCOM ACTION project will prepare a proposal for the approach to be presented for consideration and input at the SOM Platform kick-off meeting. GEAR will specifically guide the SOM analyses, according to the mandate of the group, towards a coherent regional approach. HELCOM Working Groups will guide the theme-wise activities and review the results during the course of work. In 2020 HELCOM thematic workshops are foreseen to be held to discuss the results of the analyses and to support the identification of new HELCOM actions for potential uptake in the updated BSAP (cf. activity 4 of ToR).

BSAP UP

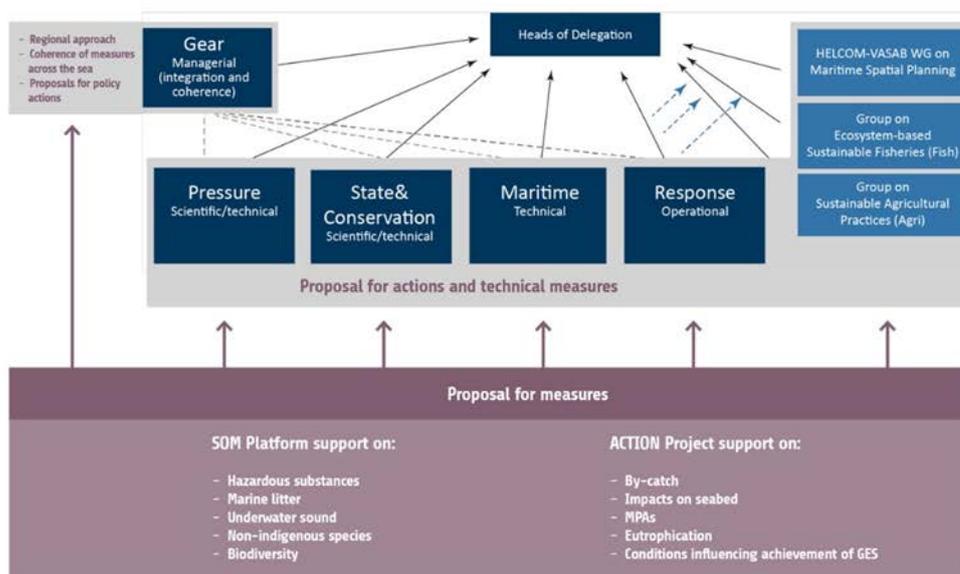


Figure 2. Outline of the SOM Platform and the tentative HELCOM ACTION project in the HELCOM working structure.

It is foreseen that once the HELCOM framework for the SOM approach is in place, the work by the SOM Platform will continue in thematic teams with timely reconvening meetings of the Platform/holding joint workshops with the relevant WGs. The ToR of the SOM Platform includes a Lead Country approach for the analyses of sufficiency of measures for the topics (cf. “working method”). All countries will, however, be requested to supply information to support the analyses as needed. The implementation of analyses for the respective topic will be supported by the ESA expertise (as decided by HODs, the HELCOM ESA Network is part of the Platform). As of 22 January 2019 Germany has offered to lead the analyses on marine litter and

Denmark on underwater noise. Denmark has furthermore offered to co-lead the analyses on hazardous substances. Multiple national co-leads could be the basis for sharing different kinds of needed analyses between countries. To make a plan for how to organize the work per thematic area is an issue for the kick-off meeting to consider, including a proposal for contributions from relevant HELCOM expertise, e.g. expert groups and networks.

Also for the planned production of syntheses, a Lead Country approach is taken. The draft syntheses will then be reviewed through the HELCOM working structure. Based on a proposal by the Secretariat and contributions by GEAR and participants to EN ESA 2-2018, a proposed list of topics has been prepared that will be submitted in a separate document as a basis for further discussions at the meeting.

Overall, the SOM Platform has important tasks in coordinating the approach and analyses across topics, and together with the ACTION project, to provide ESA expertise for the implementation of analyses, and also to maintain an overview of the work and of the whole package of proposed new actions that will be formulated through the BSAP update process. The main analyses should be prepared by mid-2020 and to form the basis for HELCOM workshops. The ToR for the SOM Platform, however, indicate the possible extension of work of the SOM Platform until end of 2020, in particular if analyses of cost-efficiency are added to the list of work (cf. activity 4 of ToR).

Resources needs for the planned work

The Secretariat made a rough estimation of resources for the planned work for HOD 55-2018 according to the below. The more detailed planning of required meetings and type of meetings (physical or online) will be discussed by the meeting.

- **Preparation of syntheses:** Time required to prepare a purpose-made syntheses to support the BSAP update may vary considerably. If experts are requested to synthesize results from projects in which they have participated (e.g. BONUS projects) it would possibly only require a few days. If however the topic will require to go through numerous articles or reports or to carry out computations, it is estimated that up to one month work may be required. Thus, the resources required for the syntheses will depend both on selected topics and expertise involved in the work.
- **Participation in the development of BAU/analyses of sufficiency of measures:** For these analyses a minimum 2 month contribution to the expert group has been estimated, whether for an ESA expert or a topical expert. If an in-depth analysis is to be carried out for a topic like hazardous substances, where several different substances and activities will need to be considered, the resource requirements may be even higher.
- **Participation in SOM Platform meetings:** Participation in the SOM Platform will involve circa three physical meetings during 2019-2020 (to be discussed by the meeting). The work will otherwise mainly take place intersessionally through on-line meetings and via correspondence.
- **HELCOM thematic workshops.** Such workshops foreseen to be held in 2020 to discuss potential new measures based on the results. These workshop will involve a broader participation of HELCOM experts. Participation in workshops will require time for preparation (consider workshop documents in advance) and attendance for 1-2 day workshops.

Provisional Annotated Agenda for SOM Platform 1-2019

Thursday 28 February	
09.00-10.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Words of welcome and roundtable - Election of Chair and Vice-Chair - Introduction to the BSAP update, tasks of the SOM Platform, organization in relation to HELCOM ACTION project (documents Work Plan for the BSAP update and ToR for SOM Platform) - Presentation on a framework for carrying out the analyses of sufficiency of measures (cf. activity 3 of ToR) (document to be submitted later) <p><i>Coffee at 10.45</i></p>
11.00-12.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion on the framework and how it can be implemented for the topics to be covered by the SOM Platform
12:30-13.30	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:30-18:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussions on the framework continued as needed <p>Tentatively split into groups to discuss per topic (marine litter, underwater noise, hazardous substances, non-indigenous species, biodiversity)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify the need for collection of data and information for the respective topic and discuss best way for how to carry out the collection of needed information, e.g. via literature reviews, official reporting, request to countries, expert surveys (cf. activity 2 of the ToR) - Plan for how to organize the work for the respective topic, including. role of Lead countries, co-lead countries, contributions from expertise in HELCOM, required communication and meetings <p><i>Coffee at 15:00</i></p> <p><i>Reception at 18:00</i></p>
Friday 1 March	
9.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plenum presentations and discussion on proposed implementation of work for the respective topic from previous day - Presentation on purpose of syntheses to support the planned analyses and ideas for topics (cf. activity 1 of the ToR) (document to be submitted later) - Agree on suitable topics for development of syntheses - Prepare guidelines on content and format for the syntheses <p><i>Coffee at 10:30</i></p>
12:00-13:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
13.00-15:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare a time-plan for further work in accordance with the work plan for the BSAP update - Propose meeting frequency and date for the next physical meeting of the Platform

- **Conclusions and further steps**

Notes will be prepared after closure of the meeting and circulated for comments in writing.

Coffee at 15:00