



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

HELCOM Platform for sufficiency of measures

SOM Platform 1-2019

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Background

This document includes the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the HELCOM SOM Platform., approved by HOD 55-2018.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information for planning the work of the SOM Platform.

ToR for an ad hoc HELCOM Platform on sufficiency of measures (HELCOM SOM Platform)

The purpose of the platform is to support the update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) with regard to analysing sufficiency of measures to reach HELCOM objectives and targets, and to support identification of new actions (cf. activities 5 and 6 of the Strategic Plan for the BSAP update). Prioritized topics for the work of the SOM Platform are to be identified by GEAR 19-2018. The first meeting of the platform will be held in February 2019.

The SOM Platform will:

- Summarize existing knowledge that can support decision on HELCOM actions
- Identify need for collection of information on other measures than those agreed in HELCOM (for some topics through ACTION project)
- Further develop the regional BAU/sufficiency of measures approach under the guidance of GEAR and for approval by HOD (through ACTION project)
- Plan for regional BAU/sufficiency of measures for the prioritized topics for which a quantitative approach might be taken and for other topics for which an expert based evaluation is required or more suitable
- Carry out analyses of sufficiency of measures
- Make proposals on new actions based on analyses of sufficiency of measures and on synthesizing existing information on effectiveness of potential new measures
- Possibly, towards end of process, carry out analyses of cost-effectiveness of proposed new actions.

1) Syntheses of knowledge.

Time-line: February 2019 – December 2019

The work will start from synthesizing existing knowledge to support the regional analysis of sufficiency of measures and the identification of potential new HELCOM actions to be included in the updated BSAP (cf. page 3, Strategic Plan for the BSAP update). The syntheses could focus on potential new measures and their effectiveness, conservation approaches and impacts of climate change, and are anticipated to build e.g. on results of recent BONUS projects.

Task of the SOM Platform

- Identify for which of the prioritized topics that existing syntheses can be used to support the BSAP update and for which topics that new purpose-made syntheses should be developed.
- Develop instructions for carrying out the syntheses e.g. structure, content, type of information to be collected, indicative length.

The Task of the SOM Platform is to be carried out at the kick-off meeting. Contracting Parties will be invited to offer the lead for preparing the synthesis. The syntheses will be reviewed by relevant EGs and WGs.

2) Collection of information on existing measures.

Time-line: January – September 2019

HELCOM actions only represent part of the actions taken to mitigate pressures on the Baltic Sea. To support the analysis of sufficiency of measures a compilation of additional measures implemented through other policy requirements is needed (cf. Activity 4c in the Strategic Plan for the BSAP update). The collected information, together with information on the level of implementation of HELCOM agreements, will be used for establishing the regional BAU scenario (item 3).

Task of the SOM Platform:

- Identify relevant additional policies and propose how to carry out the collection of information on other (than HELCOM) existing measures and their level of implementation (cf. Activity 4c in the Strategic Plan for the BSAP update)

The task will be carried out at the kick-off meeting. The collection of information could be supported by a dedicated staff at the Secretariat. Contracting Parties will be offered to review and complement the information.

3) Establish a business as usual (BAU) scenario for the purposes of the BSAP update.

Timing: February 2019-end 2019

The analysis of sufficiency of measures will build on the regional BAU approach. BAU describes how the state of the marine environment would change over time due to changes in marine uses and implementation of the existing policy frameworks with an impact on the marine environment and can be used for assessing the sufficiency of planned measures for achieving HELCOM objectives and targets i.e. to estimate a potential gap between BAU and good environmental status.

The work on this task will build on the EU-funded HELCOM SPICE project deliverable “Development of a regional “business-as-usual” scenario (BAU) to be used as a baseline in the integrated assessment of the marine environment”. The report was presented to GEAR 18-2018, commented by CPs, and the next step will be to propose how the regional BAU work can be taken forward within HELCOM.

It is foreseen that the analysis of effectiveness of existing measures, which is part of the BAU analyses, may for some topics be based on a quantitative approach and that such analyses will require extended time (months) in order to collect required data and carry out the analyses. For other (most) topics an expert based evaluation will likely be the most practical approach considering lack of existing information on effectiveness of measures as well as time constraints.

Task for the SOM Platform:

- Further develop the regional BAU approach under the guidance of GEAR and for approval by HOD (through ACTION project), considering the use of both quantitative and expert-based approaches,
- Carry out the BAU scenario for prioritized topics to support analyses of sufficiency of measures.

The further development of the BAU approach should take place during spring 2019 and analyses are to take place by the end of 2019. Work could be organized in smaller interdisciplinary groups and Contracting Parties will be invited to allocate time of experts appointed to the group.

4) Carry out analyses of sufficiency of measures to reach HELCOM objectives and targets (cf. Activity 5 and 6 in the Strategic Plan for the BSAP update).

Timing: late 2019- mid 2020

Analyses of sufficiency of measures will build on the regional business as usual (BAU) scenario for the purposes of the BSAP update. The first step in the planning of work on sufficiency of measures will be carried out as part of the preparation of the BSAP update Work Plan, to be taken up at GEAR 19-2018. This is to be followed by the planning in the SOM project group.

Task for the SOM Platform:

- Plan for and carry out thematic workshops to discuss and conclude on the need for additional measures.

- Provide information to support the identification of new measures, .e.g. through synthesising information on effects of potential new measures, and make proposals on new actions based on analyses of sufficiency of measures and on synthesising existing information on effectiveness of potential new measures. Such proposals could e.g. be based on reviewing the list of measures implemented in the respective countries.

The analysis of sufficiency of measures will involve working/expert groups e.g. joint workshop arrangements. The analyses of sufficiency of measures may will also generate proposals on potential new or complementary HELCOM actions that could fill gaps towards the goals of the BSAP.

Tentatively, towards end of process, carry out analyses of cost-effectiveness of proposed new actions. This would require that the work of the SOM Platform is extended until end of 2020.

5) Any other tasks as may be decided by the HELCOM Heads of Delegation.

Working method

The SOM Platform is of an ad hoc character, meaning it has a time limited mandate. It will be established as soon as decided by HODs and finish its work by mid-2020.

The group will include expertise in environmental economy and natural scientists. The group will consist of:

- the HELCOM network on social and economic analysis (ESA network); HODs should ensure their representatives in the ESA network are nationally assigned this new task;
- experts assigned to the work by the countries in their lead country role or contributing role;
- chairs and vice-chairs of HELCOM working groups (WGs) and relevant expert groups (EGs) will be invited to become members of the group;
- WGs and relevant EGs will be invited to co-organize and join thematic workshops;
- CPs (HODs) are invited to nominate any additional experts as they deem appropriate, including technical experts e.g. from the existing working and expert groups and including for kick-off meeting and thematic workshops.

Secretariat will evaluate the situation and communicate with HODs on any additional need for expertise in the group. The aim is to ensure sufficient expertise for all areas prioritized for the analysis.

Participation in the SOM Platform is open to HELCOM Observers.

The group will act as an interdisciplinary platform to harmonize the approach on analysis of sufficiency of measures, particularly for topics where an expert based evaluations will be used.

Contracting Parties will be invited to offer resources for preparing syntheses and carrying an analysis i.e. take up the leading role, assign national experts or institutes, and provide funding to the HELCOM budget.

The Secretariat and BSAP update Project Manager will support the work of the SOM Platform. The SOM Platform will utilise physical meetings and intersessional and online interaction. It will elect a chair and a vice-chair at its kick-off meeting.

The SOM Platform will communicate its proposals and results to WGs in line with the mandates of the WGs. The specific role of the Working Groups will be to provide guidance to the SOM Platform on how to carry out the analyses, support the collection of required data for analyses, review the results before submission for consideration by HODs.

Progress of work under the SOM Platform will be regularly reported to HODs.

Administrative support to the SOM Platform will be provided by the Secretariat.