Document title	Document 4 – Preparation of syntheses to support the BSAP update
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Background

Both the Strategic Plan for the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) update and the ToR for the SOM Platform outlines the production of syntheses as a step to support the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan. The syntheses are meant to provide input to the planned analyses of sufficiency of measures, as well as to support identification of potential new HELCOM actions to be included in the updated BSAP.

The ToR for the SOM Platform identifies the kick-off meeting as the instance to:

- Identify for which [of the prioritized[1]] topics existing syntheses can be used to support the BSAP update and for which topics 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 Secretariat prepared a list with initial ideas for syntheses that has been circulated for comments by GEAR 19-2018 and ESA EN 2-2018 prior to the kick-off meeting of the SOM Platform. Tentative topics are listed in this document.

The aim of such syntheses is that they should be purpose-made to meet the needs of the planned analyses. While larger environmental projects (e.g. BONUS, Life+, Interreg, national) often summarize the results, such reports are still often lengthy and do not necessarily highlight aspects or results of direct use in the planned analyses for the BSAP update. Single scientific articles, on the other hand, are often relatively narrow in scope and present results of single studies except in the case of review articles. For the production of syntheses to serve its purpose it is therefore important to agree more precisely on the type of information to be summarized to support the BSAP work plan. In the planning of work for the BSAP update, the syntheses have conceptually been foreseen as relatively brief and meant to be communicated within the HELCOM working structure, e.g. as background information for BSAP update workshops and working group meeting. As such the term "synopsis" possibly better reflects the intended content and use.

Focus is proposed to be on two types of syntheses/synopses: 1) direct input to the analyses of sufficiency of measures through the collection of information as exemplified in this document and 2) summarizing information on potential new measures or on the potential to strengthen existing measures.

Action requested

- <u>consider</u> and <u>agree</u> on the type of information to be collated to support the analysis of sufficiency of measures and <u>agree</u> on the format and the approach for collation the needed information
- <u>consider</u> and <u>agree</u> on the topics to be addressed in synopses with the aim to support the identification of new HELCOM actions and <u>agree</u> on the format and the approach for preparing such synopses

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[1] At this time there has not been any prioritization of topics for SOM Platform.

Preparation of syntheses for the BSAP update

1) To support BAU and analysis of sufficiency of measures (SOM)

This would entail the collation of existing data and information for use in the planned analyses, e.g. results on evaluating effectiveness of implemented measures or estimating cost-effectiveness of measures. Such information is anticipated to be available from national reports from management authorities, project reports, as well as scientific literature. Two modes of collating the information is proposed:

- a request to countries to provide information on estimates of effectiveness of measures used in the preparation of e.g. HELCOM BSAP, WFD and MSFD
- to synthesize information from peer-reviewed articles or from recent research project reports.

Information requested from countries, as well as synthesized information, could have a relatively brief format, e.g. including information on the type of evaluation (quantitative, semi-quantitative, qualitative), numeric values when available, summary of method and a reference to the original study. It could be considered case by case if type and unit of numeric values should be specified. The collected data is proposed to be validated by HELCOM expertise through Working Group and Expert Group meetings (see document 3).

The above-mentioned collation of information or syntheses of existing results is relevant for all topics to be addressed by the SOM Platform:

- Hazardous substances (proposal to first prioritize substance groups)
- Marine litter
- Underwater noise
- Non-indigenous species
- Measures directed at biodiversity that are not covered by the HELCOM ACTION project (e.g. direct measures such as restoration activities not covered by the ACTION project, restocking).

For other topics relevant for HELCOM work the ACTION project will contribute with estimates on effectiveness of measures.

In addition to compiling results on the effects of measures and cost-effectiveness of measures for the topics listed above, the following information is also central to support the analyses as outlined in document 3:

- Estimation of time lags in the effect of measures (to be coordinated with ACTION project)
- Information on the relative contribution of activities to pressures
- Projections on development of human activities (or alternatively on projected changes in pressures) in the Baltic Sea region.
- Responses of indicators/state components to changes in pressures

2) To support the selection of new HELCOM actions

The other type of information proposed to be collated to support the BSAP update are synopses of results from testing of new measures (e.g. from recent development and innovation projects), as well as of successful implementation of existing measures in the countries. In some areas of work, e.g. hazardous substances, it could also be relevant to screen current literature for information on potential emerging issues. The following list illustrates potential topics of interest:

- Results from projects on the implementation of new measures and techniques and successful examples from countries (effects, costs, methods, technical feasibility, administrative efforts/obstacles) related to measures to reduce:
  - o input of nutrients and organic matter (could be split between e.g. agriculture, forestry, wastewater treatment, shipping etc)

- o input of hazardous substances (could be split between e.g. waste water treatment, shipping, release from industrial processes etc)
  - o introduction [and spreading] of non-indigenous species
  - o input of marine litter. This could e.g. entail a review list of actions listed in the HELCOM RAP ML to evaluate which actions are likely to achieve significant and quantitative reduction of marine litter as a whole or to achieve e.g. significant reduction of the single use plastic items.
  - o emission of sound from human activities at sea and effect of techniques to reduce the emission. A starting point for such compilation could be to update and make use of compilation of measures from the BalticBOOST project, developments under EU TG Noise on mitigation measures to impulsive events, ongoing activities to model emissions of continuous noise from shipping.
  - o potential actions targeting maritime activities.
- Collation of information on emerging issues of concern
  - o hazardous substances, e.g. micropollutant and pharmaceuticals
- Results from recent projects and successful examples from countries related to:
  - o restoration of habitats and restocking of species. The HELCOM RETROUT project could contribute with regard to seatrout and the ACTION project will address restoration of coastal habitats.
  - o improvement of protection and conservation through MPAs; measures most successfully used in MPAs, methods for successful management of MPAs, evidence for shifting from species/habitat-based conservation objectives (e.g. Natura 2000) to ecosystem-based conservation (e.g. no take MPAs, reserves).
  - o measures to reduce pressures *in situ* (e.g. management of internal nutrient reserves, mussel farming etc)
  - o maritime spatial planning related to sector and cross-sectorial planning and management based on the ecosystem approach.

The format for such synopses needs in depth consideration to ensure a structured and substantiated approach but also to avoid the production and submission of an overwhelming amount of information that may not be possible to digest within the time and scope of the BSAP update process.

Proposed working mode

The ToR of the SOM Platforms outlines that syntheses are to be prepared by Contracting Parties through a lead country approach.

With regard to the collation of data and information on effectiveness to be used in the analyses of sufficiency of measures it is proposed to also make a request to Contracting Parties to submit information that is available nationally (relevant information still to be defined). The collation of information needs to be in place as soon as possible and not later than August 2019 (see document 3 on the Proposal for the SOM).

With regard to preparation of synopses of recent or ongoing projects it is proposed that e.g. BONUS project partners could be invited to prepare brief synopses according to the specification made by the SOM Platform. Such offers to HELCOM have already been made by some projects (e.g. SHEBA (shipping), RETURN (nutrient recycling)).

The syntheses/synopses on potential new measures should according to the ToR for the SOM Platform and work plan for the BSAP update be prepared by end of 2019 at the latest. If possible the draft material should be presented for review already by Working Group meetings in autumn 2019. This will also give an opportunity for Working Groups to complement with additional cases or national information.