



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

HELCOM Platform for sufficiency of measures

SOM Platform 2-2019

Helsinki, Finland, 16-17 September 2019

Document title	Extracts from meetings of relevance for the HELCOM SOM Platform
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Background

This document contains extracts from relevant HELCOM meetings held since the last meeting of the SOM Platform.

- [HELCOM 40-2019](#), 6-7 March 2019, Helsinki, Finland
- [HELCOM VASAB-MSP 18-2019](#), 27-28 March, Hamburg
- [EN ESA 3-2019](#), 9 April 2019, Helsinki, Finland
- [PRESSURE 10-2019](#), 9-12 April 2019, Tallinn, Estonia
- [STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019](#), 6-10 May, Hamina, Finland
- [GEAR 20-2019](#), 15-17 May, Berlin, German
- [EN ESA 4-2019](#), 3 June 2019, Online
- [HOD 56-2019](#), 18-19 June, Helsinki, Finland
- [FISH 10-2019](#), 25-26 June, Copenhagen, Finland

Upcoming meetings that will contribute to the SOM analyses

Note that HOD 56-2019 agreed to organize HELCOM workshops to support the SOM analysis related to biodiversity. Already planned workshops are:

- Mammals: 26-27 September, back-to-back with EG MAMA 13-2019, (24-26 September), Helsinki, Finland
- Birds: tentatively one day during the week 30 September-4 October, linked to HELCOM-OSPAR-ICES JWGBird, 2019, Tartu, Estonia
- Benthic habitats: 14 November incorporated in the agenda of EN-BENTHIC 3-2019, Helsinki, (14-15 November 2019), Finland
- Fish: FISH 10-2019 agreed to convene a workshop, tentatively in November 2019 in Warsaw, Poland, to support the analyses of sufficiency of measures and update of the BSAP with regard to fish. Planning has been initiated.

Note also the proposal to convene a SOM workshop on hazardous substances 22 October, linked to PRESSURE 11-2019 which is held 23-25 October in Brussels, Belgium. The workshop is pending approval by HOD.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

Extracts from meetings of relevance for the HELCOM SOM Platform

HELCOM 40-2019

Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

- The Meeting took note of the status of work on the implementation of the analyses of sufficiency of measures (SOM), including the kick-off meeting of the SOM Platform held on 28 February – 1 March 2019 (document 2-7).
- The Meeting took note that Mr. Urmas Lips, Estonia, was elected as Chair and Ms. Soile Oinonen, Finland, as Vice-Chair of the SOM Platform and congratulated Mr. Lips and Ms. Oinonen for their election.
- The Meeting took note that the approach for analysing sufficiency of measures was discussed in depth at the kick-off meeting of the SOM Platform and that it will be updated by the Secretariat and ACTION project (work package 6) **by 31 March 2019**. The updated approach will be circulated for comments to the SOM Platform before submission for endorsement at GEAR 20-2019. The technical work packages of the ACTION project will be presented for discussion at relevant HELCOM Working Groups in spring 2019.
- The Meeting encouraged the Contracting Parties to make offers to lead the work on specific topics **by 27 March 2019** (susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi). Questions related to the role of lead countries and the possibility to take on the lead on a more limited scope, as mentioned in document 2-7, can be directed to the Secretariat (ullali.zweifel@helcom.fi).
- The Meeting took note that Heads of Delegation will be kept informed of the offers on lead and co-lead countries, which expert groups that will be involved in the work, and progress overall and specifically for different topics of the SOM Platform and the ACTION project. Based on this approach the Meeting agreed to proceed with the plans of work for the SOM Platform including making plans for the next meeting.
- The Meeting recalled that a task for the SOM Platform is to prepare synopses to support identification of potential new HELCOM actions to be included in the updated BSAP. The Meeting took note that the SOM Platform has prepared a format for the synopses. The Meeting agreed that synopses on potential new HELCOM actions can be submitted by the Contracting Parties, HELCOM subsidiary bodies, international projects and HELCOM Observers.
- The Meeting took note of the progress in the work by the Secretariat to make use of an activity-pressure matrix for the purposes of the BSAP update, in line with the HOD 55-2018 request (document 2-4).
- The Meeting took note that the further mapping will be aligned with and contribute to the analyses of sufficiency of measures. The information will also be included in the updated database for HELCOM agreements (HELCOM Explorer).

HELCOM VASAB MSP 18-2019

Building up future common regional MSP framework

- The Meeting discussed whether MSP could be considered as a measure. The Meeting emphasized the difference in national MSPs which might be legally binding or have a character of a strategic plan. Some regulations in legally binding MSPs can be considered as measures and even have quantifiable effect.
- The Meeting recalled a case study within the Pan Baltic Scope project which had shown that quantitative evaluation of the effects of MSP was almost impossible. But some MSPs requirements could be linked to MSFD programmes of measures and, thus, resulted in practical activities affecting the environmental status of the sea.

- The Meeting suggested that the existing plans should be taken into account in the formulation of the Business As Usual (BAU) scenario along with other existing commitments.
- The Meeting encouraged participation of experts on MSP in the SOM Platform, noting that participation is based on nomination by the Contracting Parties.

ESA EN 3-2019

SOM approach

- Liisa Saikkonen, SYKE, presented information on the SOM approach developed by the ACTION project and in particular the approach for the activity-pressure linkage matrix and measure-pressure link evaluation (Presentation 3).
- The Meeting recommended not to include prior data with poor geographic or spatial relevance to the activity-pressure survey.
- The Meeting discussed SOM Litter and ongoing efforts in Latvia on the topic. The meeting agreed with the approach for a Baltic scale analysis of the topic but noted a key role for national scale efforts in identifying new measures and further supporting BSAP update.
- The Meeting discussed the proposed activity-pressure surveys. Concern was expressed that experts won't have the necessary information to complete the proposed activity-pressure surveys by assessing activities' contribution into the total pressure in terms of concrete percentages. However, the ability to provide confidence intervals was seen as helpful. The Meeting noted the need for very good guidance to accompany the survey.
- The Meeting discussed the proposed measures-pressures survey and recommended that the simpler format, option C, be used, but that option B could be considered as well. Option A was not recommended for further consideration. The proposed survey pilot occurring in May was strongly endorsed by the Meeting.
- The Meeting noted that priors will be valuable for helping respondents understand the effect of individual measures in measure groups during the measures-pressures survey.
- The Meeting agreed that the Network could evaluate survey guidance developed by ACTION.

PRESSURE 10-2019

Dedicated session on implementation of HELCOM agreements

- The Meeting took note of the approach for analyses of sufficiency of measures as presented by SYKE Finland, lead partner on SOM analyses in the HELCOM ACTION project (Document DS-3, Presentation DS_3).
- The Meeting took note that expert-based surveys and validation of data for the SOM analyses will be directed to HELCOM working groups and expert groups. The Meeting noted the request from Denmark to have a clarification on the procedure for the engagement of experts and that Denmark wished to have a possibility to review the input from Danish national experts to the SOM Platform and the ACTION project before it is included in the SOM analyses.
- The Meeting took note that Germany is not in favour of the SOM approach which is found highly ambitious and time consuming and that is heavily relying on data that might be difficult to get even for long-standing topic such as eutrophication. Germany highlighted the importance of the development of

synopses on new HELCOM actions and encouraged the Contracting Parties and Observers proactively present proposals to PRESSURE 11-2019 in order to allow sufficient time for discussion.

- The Meeting took note of that also Estonia is of the view that eutrophication is well covered with information for actions and that the analyses should focus on new challenges and problems.
- The Meeting took note of the plans for work package 4 of the HELCOM ACTION project, focusing on supporting SOM on eutrophication, as presented by the lead country Sweden (Document DS-4, Presentation DS_4). The Meeting noted that work package 4 will contribute to the SOM analyses by developing and evaluating approaches to determine the effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient loads to the Baltic Sea. For this purpose, a number of catchments will be used as test cases to better understand where measures have had a positive effect or where no effect is found. Another key activity is to evaluate the compatibility of nutrient reduction targets between WFD and BSAP. PLC data will be utilized for these activities. A workshop with River Basin Management Authorities and HELCOM will be held on 18-20 September 2019 to address potential discrepancies in the targets between the two policies. A second workshop will be held to share experiences between countries with regard to the development of national programme of measures to reduce nutrient input. The progress of work will be presented to and reviewed at upcoming Pressure meetings.
- The Meeting took note that Germany appreciated the approach and that there is a national catalogue of measures and their effectiveness related to eutrophication which can be shared. With regard to test cases Germany is of the view that their national catchment areas are likely not best suited due to their relatively small size. Germany furthermore proposed to explore sharing of information with the nutrient Working Group under ECOSTAT (WFD CIS) since they have a similar new task in their work programme 2019-2021 on investigating WFD nutrient reduction targets and they could contribute with information from previous work on comparing nutrient boundaries.
- The Meeting took note of the initial plans for the SOM analyses on hazardous substances and underwater noise (Document DS-6 and DS-12), noting that HELCOM EN hazardous substances and EN Noise will be engaged in the work. The Meeting took note of the initial plans for SOM analyses for marine litter as introduced by the lead country Estonia (Document DS-7) and noted that outstanding issues addressed in the document will be addressed at an upcoming online meeting in April.

Measures to reduce nutrient loads

- The Meeting recalled the HELCOM ACTION project inception report (document 7-2) and discussed the aspects from WP4 and WP6 in relation to the further work on evaluation of effectiveness of measures taking place within the Pressure Group.
- Finland introduced the report Draft evaluation of effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient input (document 7-12, **Presentation 2**). The Meeting took note of the report and agreed that the compiled information is a valuable contribution to the work to evaluate the effectiveness of measures and provides a background for decision making.
- The Meeting recommended to utilize the document as background information for planning further work to evaluate the sufficiency of measures under ACTION project. The Meeting also recommended to utilize the EMEP data on reduction of nitrogen deposition achievable by implementing the Gothenburg Protocol and the EU NEC Directive to evaluate future reduction potential.
- The Meeting welcomed the report pointing out that the evaluation contains a lot of assumptions which cause high uncertainty of the calculated figures and, thus, they have indicative character.
- The Meeting agreed that written comments on the draft evaluation of effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient input should be sent **by 3 May 2019** to Finland (seppo.knuuttila@ymparisto.fi) with a copy to the Secretariat (dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi). The Meeting also invited the Contracting Parties to propose a new approach to implement the task to compile information on effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient input.

- The Meeting considered the draft Questionnaire on effectiveness of measures (document 7-5) and the brief evaluation, while taking note of the comments by HELCOM Agri Group. The Meeting noted that it contains the same questionnaire as used for PLC-6.
- The Meeting took note that the analysis of the effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient inputs is a task in both the PLC-7 project and the HELCOM ACTION project supporting the BSAP update, and that a single questionnaire has been planned to obtain information serving both projects.
- The Meeting concluded that using the same questionnaire as in PLC-6 will likely not result in obtaining additional information from the countries.
- The Meeting was of the view that a new approach to a task on effectiveness of measures in PLC-7 is needed and suggested that PLC-7 could focus on filling in the possible gaps from the analysis to be carried out by the ACTION project.
- The Meeting requested RedCore DG and PLC-7 Implementation Group to enhance collaboration with the HELCOM ACTION project on the issue of effectiveness of measures and invited Sweden as leader of ACTION project WP4 to cooperate with PLC-7 project and RedCore DG. The immediate aim is to discuss and conclude whether the existing information from PLC-6 could be utilized to prepare sufficient input to the SOM analysis under the BSAP update, and what additional information might be needed from the countries
- Further, the Meeting invited PLC-7 to develop a proposal, which could also include a targeted questionnaire, on addressing the effectiveness of measures within the project for PRESSURE 11-2019.
- The Meeting took note of the preparations for the Workshop with river basin authorities (document 7-1), recalling that it is a joint activity with the ACTION project WP4. The dates for the Workshop are fixed to 18-20 September 2019 in order to ensure synergy with the Project and efficiency of the resource use.
- The Meeting suggested to include into the agenda of the Workshop information on the reduction which can be achieved under WFD. The Meeting also suggested to invite representatives of the relevant working group of ECOSTAT to the Workshop.

STATE AND CONSERVATION 10-2019

Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP)

- The Meeting took note of the presentation of the approach for the SOM analyses as presented by SYKE, Finland (document 8J-9, **presentation 10**).
- The Meeting acknowledged that the SOM analyses will provide a structured approach for identifying gaps in current measures and contribute to the collation of information on the impacts of activities and pressures on the Baltic Sea environment and the effect of measures to improve the status while also identifying gaps and uncertainties in current knowledge.
- The Meeting noted that the pressure-state response included in the SOM approach is new and partially relies on expert judgement. The Meeting looks forward to seeing the outcome of the analysis but also acknowledges that this is a new method and will contain some uncertainties.
- The Meeting took note that the expert-based evaluations that will be carried out to support the SOM analyses will draw expertise from HELCOM networks and expert groups, Working Groups, partners of the ACTION project, other projects where HELCOM is a partner (e.g. COMPLETE project related to non-indigenous species), and HELCOM workshops arranged under the ACTION project or arranged specifically to support the BSAP update. The outcome of expert-based evaluations and other data and information sources used in the SOM analyses will be presented for validation by HELCOM Working Groups, aiming at taking place at autumn meetings in 2019.

- The Meeting took note that with regard to the HELCOM ACTION project all work packages will be presented for review and discussion at Working Group meetings during the course of the project and for some work packages HELCOM workshops will be held (WP2, WP3 and WP4). Contracting Parties which are interested in more close interaction with ACTION project can contact the Secretariat for establishing contact with partners of the ACTION project.
- The Meeting recalled that the implementation of the topics under the SOM platform relies on a lead country approach and the formation of topic teams. The Meeting further noted that for biodiversity, a lead is only offered for fish (Sweden). The Meeting took note of the proposal by the Secretariat to arrange a HELCOM workshop to collate the required information for the SOM analyses on pressure-state response and for evaluating effect of measures that impact directly on the state variables. The Meeting noted that the Contracting Parties are still encouraged to take the lead on all or part of biodiversity topics as outlined in document 8J-10.
- The Meeting supported the proposal to convene an expert workshop to meet the needs of the SOM analyses on biodiversity, either as one dedicated workshop in late autumn 2019, or alternatively to set up workshops in connection to upcoming meetings in autumn 2019 of HELCOM expert groups on e.g. mammals, birds, benthic habitats. The Secretariat will explore the two possibilities further and inform the State and Conservation Working Group on the outcome.
- The Meeting took note of the proposal to make use of the HELCOM red list assessments as an information source on pressures to threatened species and biotopes. The Meeting also noted that red listed species and benthic habitats can partly be considered through the planned analyses on these topics but that a more elaborate assessment will require contribution from Lead Countries and national experts.
- The Meeting took note of the information on work package 3 of the HELCOM ACTION which will focus on developing a method to assess effectiveness of marine protected areas and tested in the Baltic Sea as presented by the Secretariat (**Presentation 12**).
- The Meeting took note of the information from Germany on the Workshop on effective MPA management, organized by German federal agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz, BfN) at the Isle of Vilm, Germany, in the week starting with the 18 November 2019. The Meeting further noted that the workshop is targeted to international experts and has overall objective to develop guidelines for and exchange experiences in the assessment of management effectiveness in MPAs. The Meeting invited partners of work package 3 of the ACTION project to participate in the workshop and also members of the proposed future HELCOM Expert Network on MPA management, via the Secretariat.

GEAR 20-2019

Implementation and update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan

- The Meeting took note of the agreement to develop synopses on potential new HELCOM actions for the updated BSAP and further noted that HELCOM 40-2019 agreed that such synopses can be submitted by Contracting Parties, subsidiary bodies, international project and observers.
- The Meeting took note of the clarification that the term “synopses” refers to proposals on new HELCOM actions for the updated BSAP while the collection of data and information required for the SOM analyses is carried out by Topic Teams under the SOM Platform as agreed by the kick-off meeting of the SOM Platform ([Outcome HELCOM SOM Platform 1-2019](#)) as well as by partners of the ACTION project
- The Meeting noted that the Working Groups will review the incoming proposals on new HELCOM actions and underlined the need for Working Groups to be prepared to identify gaps and complement the proposed actions as needed. The Meeting further noted that HELCOM Working Groups will validate the data and information used in the SOM analyses, tentatively at autumn meetings 2019.

- The Meeting took note that for the SOM analyses on biodiversity a lead country is only available for fish. The Meeting noted that STATE&CONSERVATION 10-2019 supported to gather the required information for the SOM analyses by convening either one dedicated biodiversity workshop or a series of workshops back-to-back with upcoming meetings of HELCOM expert groups (e.g. EG MAMA, JWG Birds, IN Benthic in autumn 2019).
- The Meeting took note of the lack of a lead country to support the SOM analyses for non-indigenous species. The Meeting appreciated the proposal that the topic could be led by the Secretariat and the initial plans for work for the topic (**document 5-4**).
- The Meeting supported the proposals for continued work on biodiversity and non-indigenous species, however encouraged countries to still consider leading them.
- The Meeting considered the approach for analysing sufficiency of measures and welcomed the development of a structured approach to support the development of the updated BSAP (**document 5-6 and Presentation 5**).
- The Meeting took note that there are two type of time lags to consider in the analyses; the time lag between implementation of a measure and the reduction in a pressure and the time required for the state to recover after the reduction of a pressure. The Meeting noted that the measure-pressure time lag will be considered as part of the analyses as outlined in step 2 in document 5-6 while time lags between pressure-state will foremost be addressed in the interpretation of results.
- The Meeting took note that Germany would prefer if the methodology could consider alternative approaches to estimating effect of measures, in particular with regard to eutrophication, since not all countries will be able to contribute to the quantitative approach presented in document 5-6.
- The Meeting took note that WP4 of the ACTION project, which focuses on eutrophication, is currently preparing an approach to collating input to the SOM analysis, utilizing the results from HELCOM PLC6 that would require less information from countries on the effect of measures. The SOM Platform will be informed on the outcome of the ongoing discussion and countries which are not partners of the ACTION project are also welcomed to contact the Secretariat for further interaction with the project. The two planned ACTION WP4 workshop, one for WFD and another for MSFD can also be used as platforms to discuss these.
- The Meeting took note that analyses of cost and cost-effectiveness of measures will only take place once a first selection of potential actions has been made, i.e. after mid-2020.
- The Meeting discussed how MSP can be considered in the SOM analyses and noted the proposal that draft MSP plans could be used to support the projection of human activities. Some MSP plans also include e.g. restrictions to activities in certain areas which can be considered as a measure to protect and improve the environment and included as such in the SOM analyses. The Meeting proposed to consider further how to integrate MSP in the SOM analyses.
- The Meeting acknowledged that the approach will be associated with considerable uncertainties due to lack of data and information but recognized that as long as the methodology, use of data and display of resulting uncertainties is transparent the approach will provide a valuable contribution to the BSAP update. Based on the results and accompanying evaluation of probabilities it will be possible to evaluate if the results are certain enough to support the selection of new HELCOM actions.
- The Meeting discussed the tentative end year of the BAU scenario, noting that three tentative targets years are of interest to consider; 2027 which is the end year of the third management cycle of the EU Water Framework Directive, 2030 to coincide with the target year for the majority of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or 2033 to coincide with development of PoMs of the EU MSFD cycle. The Meeting did not come to a conclusion on the target year.
- The Meeting endorsed the use of the approach as presented in document 5-4 for continued work to analyse sufficiency of measures in HELCOM.

EN ESA 4-2019

SOM approach

- The Meeting took note of the presentation by Finland on information regarding the SOM approach developed by the ACTION project and in particular the outcome of the WP2 workshop held in Helsinki 22 – 23 May 2019 (**Presentation 2**).
- The Meeting took note of the suggestion by Latvia that a synthesis document of relevant measures could aid expert workshops on the effectiveness of measures and invited Latvia to share a Latvian example of similar work for consideration.
- The Meeting discussed the issues identified by the WP2 workshop and suggested that a completed measures request and the small changes requested by WP2 should solve many of the issues.
- The Meeting took note of the introduction by Finland to the Guidance for providing available cost data on proposed/new BSAP measures (**Document 6**).
- The Meeting took note of the comment by Latvia that Latvia uses different cost categories than those presented and invited Latvia to share the relevant Latvian documents. Furthermore, the Meeting noted that Latvia had difficulty gathering quantitative data during a similar national effort and suggested a more semi-quantitative/qualitative approach be also considered.
- The Meeting took note of the suggestion by Denmark that the guidance should be shared with colleagues participating in the SOM Hazardous Substance topic team to determine their views on the availability of the data outlined in the guidance. The Meeting agreed to do so.

HOD 56-2019

Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

- The Meeting took note of the organization of work under the HELCOM SOM Platform and the HELCOM ACTION project (document 2-1).
- The Meeting noted the lack of Lead countries on biodiversity and agreed to organize HELCOM workshops, in autumn 2019, to contribute to the SOM analyses. The Meeting noted that the workshops will likely be held in association to planned meetings for EG MAMA, EN Benthic and JWG Birds, either as part of the planned meetings or by extending the meetings by one day. The Meeting noted that a dedicated workshop on migratory fish will be proposed at FISH 10-2019.
- The Meeting welcomed that Finland is looking into the possibility to take the lead on migratory fish.
- The Meeting took note of the request by Russia to clarify which expertise is required for participation in the SOM Platform meetings. Russia, furthermore, emphasized the importance for Chairs of HELCOM Working Groups to participate in the SOM Platform meetings and that Working Groups should have a clear role in reviewing the progress of work on the SOM analyses. The Meeting noted that Russia is seeking support for participating more actively in the ACTION project.
- The Meeting agreed to convene the next meeting of the HELCOM SOM Platform 16-17 September 2019.
- The Meeting discussed the proposed approach for analyzing sufficiency of measures to support the BSAP update (document 2-3).
- The Meeting took note that Russian experts have raised considerations regarding the scientific basis for the approach.

- The Meeting took note of the remark by Finland that HELCOM is a forerunner in developing and implementing analyses of sufficiency of measures of marine policies and that while the approach is broad and demanding it will provide a basis for the selection of new actions for the BSAP update.
- The Meeting took note of the view by the EU that the SOM analyses is a necessary and welcomed step to support the update of the BSAP. The Meeting noted that the EU will provide information on the Blue2 project, which is making a socio-economic assessment of freshwater and marine policies, at the upcoming meeting of the SOM Platform.
- The Meeting took note of the view of Germany that while the approach is challenging and needs to seek a balance between being pragmatic and scientific, it is recognized as a first attempt to develop a methodology for analyzing sufficiency of measures in HELCOM that can be further developed and used also in the future.
- The Meeting underlined that full transparency in the methodology is required and will facilitate countries to follow the process and evaluate the results of the analyses.
- The Meeting endorsed the approach for analyzing sufficiency of measures and its use to support the BSAP update as presented in document 2-3, taking note of the following specific comments:
 - proposals by Finland 1) with regard to when GES can be reached, that the analyses related to eutrophication should be carried out through the level of status 2) clarify how climate change will be considered in the analyses 3) to make use of the recommendation that Contracting Parties being EU Member States received with regard to the PoMs under the MSFD;
 - request by Denmark 1) to clarify how uncertainty in the analyses will be accounted for, including for steps that will make use of expert-based judgement 2) clarify the method for analyzing the response in status linked to pressures, noting pressures-state curves as presented in document 2-3 will not be possible to provide for all elements included in the analyses;
 - request from Germany to clarify what is expected in terms of data from national authorities.
- The Meeting took note that countries will be requested to check lists of national measures and complement them with additional information as needed. Such lists will be circulated to appointed contacts of the SOM Platform by the end of July 2019 at the latest. HELCOM experts will in autumn 2019 also be requested to provide any available information on the effect of already implemented measures.
- The Meeting discussed the end year for the analyses and was of the view that it should be set to a year between 2030-2035 but did not come to a conclusion.

FISH 10-2019

Implementation and update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

- The Meeting took note of the information on updated plans for SOM analyses for biodiversity component fish (document 3-7 and **Presentation 4**). The Meeting took note that the Fish Group will be involved in the contribution and validation of data to be used in the SOM analyses. The time and form of the contribution will be clarified by the Secretariat by the end of August 2019.
- The Meeting recognized that the matter of EU competency needs to be considered and discussed before selection of actions for the updated BSAP, as the Contracting Parties that are also EU Member States have limited possibilities to take action on their own with regard to fisheries.
- The Meeting also noted the view by Finland that coastal fish species are difficult to assess in a coordinated manner and that measures related to those would mainly be national.
- The Meeting took note that measures included in the business as usual (BAU) scenario in the context of the SOM analysis are existing measures, e.g. existing HELCOM actions and the latest MSFD programme of measures and existing national measures, and that the BAU will identify the potential need for new measures

to reach good status in the Baltic Sea. Later on in the process new HELCOM actions as proposed through the BSAP update process will be included in an updated model run to assess the sufficiency of measures if including the new actions in the updated BSAP.

– The Meeting took note of the information on planned work to evaluate the effect of spatial fishery regulation measures on seafloor integrity and by-catch in the HELCOM coordinated ACTION Project, utilizing the DISPLACE model (document 3-6-Rev.1) which can be used to evaluate the effect of closure of areas for fishing, both in terms of impact on benthic habitats and impacts on catch/revenue/profit for fisheries (Bastardie et al 2014). The results are meant to support the identification of areas most suitable for implementing spatial fishery regulations.

– The Meeting took note of the information on Work Package 1 of the ACTION Project regarding by-catch (**Presentation 6**). This Work Package is also cooperating with Work Package 2, e.g., with regard to assessing the cost and effectiveness of fisheries closures or displacements. The Meeting noted that with regard to harbour porpoises the focus is currently on Danish and Swedish waters due to better availability of density data, but the project will also make efforts to assess the situation elsewhere in the Baltic Sea, e.g. using data from the SAMBAH Project.

– The Meeting took note that measures to reduce by-catch may be expensive (in particular the development of alternative fishing gears) and that coordination between countries is necessary to optimize resources.

– The Meeting took note of the view that ongoing HELCOM work on by-catch, including the Roadmap on fisheries data, should be coordinated and developed to contribute to the update of the BSAP.

– The Meeting noted that preparations are being made for a possible SAMBAH II Project, with HELCOM as coordinator, which would be important considering future data needs on harbour porpoise by-catch in the Baltic Sea.

– In concluding the discussions related to document 3-6-Rev.1 and Presentations 5 and 6, the Meeting discussed the possibilities of implementing spatial fisheries closures in the Baltic Sea. It was recognized that such restrictions may be feasible if they are sufficiently justified and that with regard to spatial management, fisheries closures in essential fish habitats could in the long term lead to increased stocks in surrounding areas.

– The Meeting noted the scenarios described in document 3-6 Rev.1 and was invited to provide suggestions on additional scenarios that could be tested using the model used. The Meeting agreed that assessing the effect of fisheries restrictions imposed in MPAs would be an important addition to the work.

– The Meeting agreed to convene a workshop, tentatively in November 2019 in Warsaw, Poland, to support the analyses of sufficiency of measures and update of the BSAP with regard to fish. The Meeting further agreed that careful consideration should be given to the planning of the workshop, as appropriate, in order to achieve an outcome that will support these ongoing processes.