



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

HELCOM Platform for sufficiency of measures

SOM Platform 2-2019

Helsinki, Finland, 16-17 September 2019

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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. To implement the framework and contribute with the required data and information for the analyses, topic teams were established for each of the topics addressed by the SOM Platform. The topic teams work intersessionally and report to SOM Platform meetings and relevant Working Groups during the course of their work.

The SOM Topic Team for marine litter submitted an [initial work plan](#) to PRESSURE 10-2019 describing the work before them and how it was to progress. This document is an update of that work plan, outlining the progress and ongoing work of the topic team.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to consider the document and guide the topic team's ongoing work

Organization of work

The SOM analyses for marine litter is supported by a Topic Team led by Estonia with an ESA expert from Latvia. The team has been active, holding two meetings since the Platform kick-off (18.4 and 24.5) but also working by correspondence and engaging the HELCOM expert network on marine litter (on-line meetings 7.6 and 26.8).

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 (step 1 SOM approach)	Very short information document	Complete
Identify presence of time-lags between measures and pressures (step 2 SOM approach)	Very short information document	Complete
Propose geographic scale of analysis	Proposal	Complete
Expert evaluation: identifying main pathways for pressures (step 3 SOM approach)	Participate in survey	October, EN-Litter
Pressure-state time-lags	Data (models, project outcomes, literature)	September-November
Measure-pressure time-lag verification	Verify time-lag effected measures from list provided by Secretariat	September, ongoing
Measure list verification	Verify no missing relevant measures from list provided by Secretariat	September, ongoing
Effect of measures data	Data (models, project outcomes, literature, national reports)	September-November
Expert evaluation: effectiveness of measures (step 4 SOM approach)	Participate in survey	September-October
Expert evaluation: pressure-state linkage (step 6 SOM approach)	Participate in survey	Not relevant
Projected development of human activities/pressures (step 5 SOM approach)	Data (models, project outcomes, literature, national reports)	Late fall
Synopses on potential new measures	Information document	End of year

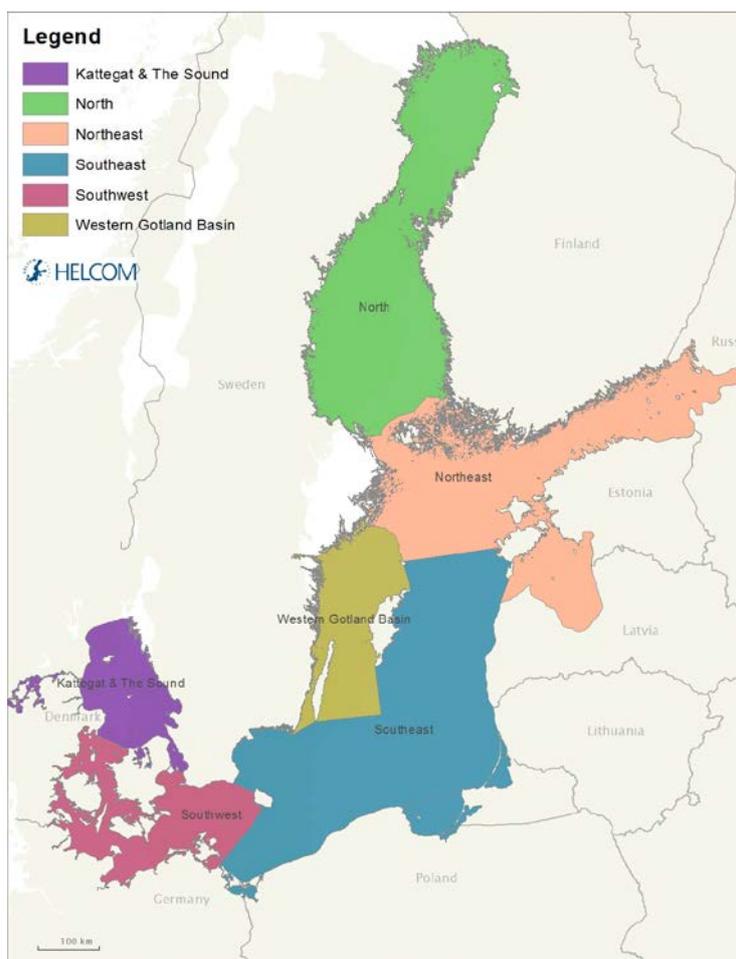
Updated plan for work

The general approach for the SOM analysis is described in [Document 2-3](#) for HOD 56-2019. Here the Litter Topic Team outlines their ongoing work related to the SOM analysis.

1) Analysis structure

Following discussion of marine litter as one joint pressure or as individual litter types, it was decided that the individual litter type approach was too complex for the SOM analysis and to approach the topic as a single pressure. An additional survey focusing on the activity-pressure relationship for top litter items was designed to provide supplementary information that could then be used to place the general litter results into a litter item context for further interpretation of model results.

EN Litter was consulted when choosing a geographic scope for analysis and the six sub-basin map below was agreed on.



2) Measures

An inventory of measures has been developed by the Secretariat and the Topic Team and distributed to the national contact points of the SOM Platform on 12 July. Responses were requested by 15 September. The initial measures lists include national EU MSFD reporting, HELCOM measures reporting, and online searches of global and regional measures frameworks.

The Topic Team will be involved in the final preparation of the measures lists once responses are received from the Contracting Parties. Contributions will primarily include issues of data completeness and measure-pressure time-lags.

3) Contributions of activities causing marine litter

There is relatively little quantitative information of the amounts of litter originating from different activities/sources. Growing number of publications can, however, be used to indicate the relative roles of the activities/sources. Moreover, the State of the Baltic Sea report includes the ten most frequent litter items at Baltic Sea level at different types of beaches, categorized into urban, peri-urban and rural beaches. These findings indicate that the most frequently occurring beach litter items at Baltic Sea scale are attributed to eating, drinking or smoking activities, such as food wrappings, bottles or lids, as well as plastic pieces of different sizes. These items are common in all parts of the Baltic Sea, together with items related to industrial packaging, such as sheeting, strapping bands and masking tape (based on data from fifteen sub-basins). Derelict fishing gear are among the twenty most common items in the Eastern Gotland Basin, Gdansk Basin and Kiel Bay.

A survey covering the contribution of different activities to marine litter was distributed to EN Litter on 30 August with responses requested by 10 September. To account for the uncertainty of activities contributing

marine litter from land-based sources, all land-based activities have been combined in the survey. However, should data or expert knowledge allow, it is possible to provide additional subdivision of this combined group into the standard SOM activities.

4) Effectiveness of Measures and Pressure-state

For analysing SOM for marine litter, it is proposed not to go into specific 'state level' variables, such as 'amount of beach litter' or 'amount of ingested litter'. Additionally, because of the lack of a GES threshold, '% pressure reduction' is suggested as viable metric to evaluate the sufficiency of existing measures.

An online survey will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of measures. It will be distributed as soon as possible following SOM Platform 2-2019.