



Document title	Proposal on thematic BSAP UP workshops in spring 2020
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Background

The timetable for preparing the SOM analysis is governed by the overall work plan for the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan. At HELCOM SOM Platform 1-2019 the timing of activities for the SOM analyses was roughly outlined in accordance to the BSAP update. The timetable for the SOM analysis has been included as part of the BSAP update work plan ([Outcome of HOD 56-2019, Annex 2](#)) and is also included in Annex 1 to this document for reference. In 2020 the following steps critically need to follow the timetable:

- 1) first results of the SOM analysis should be prepared by March 2020 so that it can be considered at the 3rd SOM Platform meeting. This will be a first possibility to discuss results and evaluate how they can be used in the further process.
- 2) Working Groups have been assigned to review proposed new actions and measures (synopses) and this review is to be concluded at regular Working Group meetings in spring 2020. Dates for WG meetings in spring 2020 have in some cases already been set.
- 3) in the latter part of spring 2020 a set of thematic BSAP UP workshops are planned to be held where combined contributions to support a selection of new actions and measures for the updated BSAP will be evaluated (results of SOM analysis and mapping exercises, synopses, lists of existing HELCOM actions etc). The outcome of these workshops is expected to provide first proposals of new actions for the updated BSAP.
- 4) autumn 2020 will be used for further deliberations of proposed new actions. Such deliberations are planned to take place through regular Working Groups meetings. This will be supported by continued work of the SOM Platform and ACTION project through a) re-running the SOM analyses including the proposed new actions and b) by analysing cost-effectiveness of proposed new actions
- 5) a full draft of the updated BSAP should be ready for consideration by HOD in December 2020. HOD will be informed of and have the possibility to guide all the steps leading up to the draft updated BSAP.
- 6) 2021 is planned to be used for deliberations and finetuning of the BSAP content, primarily by HOD.

This document includes a proposal for how the thematic BSAP UP workshops in spring 2020 could be arranged, both in time and terms of topics to be covered. Since calendars for HELCOM meetings and other fora are filling quickly it is important to set the dates for such workshops as soon as possible.

Action requested

The Meeting is requested to:

- discuss and agree on topics to be covered by the thematic BSAP UP workshops.
- propose dates for convening the thematic workshops,
- agree on a date for the 3rd meeting of the SOM Platform (proposal during week 13, 2020).

Background to activities that support the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

There are multiple ongoing activities to support the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan. Figure 1 illustrates how some of the main activities are contributing to the agreement on the content of the updated BSAP. The plan is that the thematic BSAP UP workshops are held when these activities have delivered initial results that can be used to support the selection of new actions for the updated BSAP.

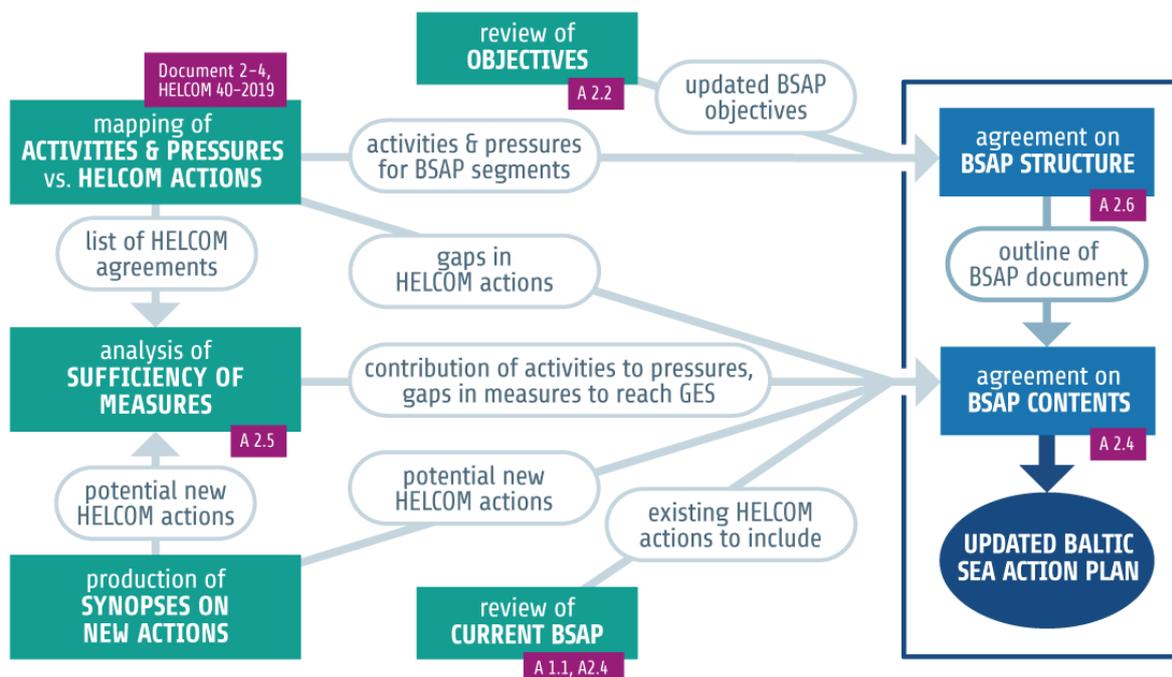


Figure 1. Ongoing activities that contributes directly to the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan.

Main components of Figure 1

Agreement on BSAP structure

The 'BSAP structure' refers to the strategic goals and objectives of the BSAP. HOD are currently reviewing the goals of the BSAP and HELCOM Working Groups are reviewing existing ecological and management objectives and proposing additional objectives for new topics covered by HELCOM work. The 'BSAP structure' is primarily meant to communicate HELCOM aims and main areas of work to the wider community and it will also be used to organize the final BSAP document. The structure is not directly relevant to consider for the SOM analysis, but it indicates how the updated plan will be presented. Information on a provisional 'BSAP structure' that will be used for further work by Working Groups is available as [document 2-4, HOD 56-2019](#).

Agreement on the content of the updated BSAP

Three main activities will contribute to the agreement on the content of the updated BSAP; a) the SOM analysis, b) the production of synopses on new actions, and c) the review of the current BSAP.

a) Analysis of sufficiency of measures

The analysis of sufficiency of measures (SOM) will contribute to identifying gaps in measures to reach good environmental status. Such gaps will be possible to identify for a number of state components (mammals, birds, fish) and pressures (input of nutrients, hazardous substances, litter, underwater noise, non-indigenous species, loss and disturbance to the seabed, by-catch). Several sub-products of the analyses can also in themselves provide support for identifying and selecting new actions:

- list of existing agreements, including HELCOM actions and other relevant national and international measures to improve the Baltic Sea environment agreed under other policies. These lists will be used to support the evaluation of effectiveness of measures but can also provide good examples on measures that may be considered for uptake also at the regional level.
- an estimate of the relative contribution of different activities to specific pressures. This analysis will indicate which activities that are of main concern in the Baltic Sea region and will provide support for identifying how new actions and measures are best directed to improve the environmental status.
- effectiveness of measures. The main mode for retrieving estimated effectiveness of measures will likely be an expert evaluation based on grouping of measures (document to be submitted). Information on individual measures is however also collected and will provide quantitative information on effectiveness for at least a sub-set of measures.
- activities and pressures of main concern to the Baltic Sea environment are furthermore mapped against existing HELCOM agreements and actions. This work will contribute to identifying qualitative gaps in HELCOM actions, i.e. to identify areas of work where HELCOM is currently less active. A progress report on this mapping was presented to HELCOM 40-2019 ([HELCOM 40-2019, document 2-4](#)).

b) Production of synopses on new actions of the updated BSAP

An invitation to make proposals on new actions for the updated BSAP was in spring 2019 extended to HELCOM Working Groups, expert groups and networks, observers, BONUS projects, and a general invitation to international projects (document 4-2). The synopses on potential new HELCOM actions and measures will contribute directly to proposals on new HELCOM actions. The deadline for submitting synopses is end of 2019. A technical review of the synopses is proposed to take place by Working Groups in spring 2020.

c) Review of the current BSAP

In addition to new actions, the updated BSAP document will include existing HELCOM actions that are not fully implemented by 2021. HELCOM Working Groups are currently reviewing the implementation of the existing BSAP and HELCOM Ministerial Declarations 2010 and 2013 and will propose actions to be transferred to the updated BSAP. In this step the Working Groups are also considering potential needs to rephrase existing actions, e.g. to ensure that they are up to date or to clarify the intention of the action.

The results of above activities will jointly form the basis for a first selection of new actions for the BSAP, to take place at the planned thematic BSAP UP workshops.

Grouping and timing of BSAP UP thematic workshops

Optimally, the selection of actions for the updated BSAP should take place through one joint effort to ensure full coordination between proposals. It is however not perceived as practically feasible to convene one mega-workshop to cover all topics of relevance for HELCOM work. Too limited scope is also not suggested since a focus on single pressures or specific biodiversity components could easily end up with dozens of workshops. It is therefore proposed to aim for a grouping of particularly interlinked topics. Two alternative groupings are presented below as a starting point for discussion. Some cross-cutting themes are expected to be dealt with by all workshops, e.g. climate change.



Figure 1. Main activities and meetings related to SOM analysis in spring 2020.

The 3rd meeting of the SOM Platform is proposed to take place through a 2.5-day meeting in the week period 23-27 March 2020.

When planning the timing of thematic workshops, the already set dates for upcoming HELCOM meetings need to be considered. The following dates have already been agreed:

- Pressure 20-25 April 2020
- S&C 11-15 May 2020

The thematic BSAP UP workshops furthermore need to be placed after central Working Group meeting to allow for some steps to be carried out before the workshops (e.g. review of synopses, review of existing HELCOM actions).

When nominating participants to the workshops the Contracting Parties are proposed to encourage Working Group representatives to participate to ensure a strong link to the subsidiary bodies. as well as expertise that on specific topics covered by the workshops. To guide the selection of new actions a set of criteria will be developed (document to be submitted)

Proposal 1 for thematic BSAP UP workshops

Topics	Comment	Dates
Hazardous substances, litter	These are two topics that have been placed together in the provisional structure of the BSAP. They are interlinked by mainly stemming from land-based activities, and through partly overlapping type of measures (e.g. regulation of production and use, reducing output from industries and waste water). The two topics are also dealt with under the mandate of Pressure Working Group.	2 days in the period 4-9 May.
Eutrophication	Being a major theme for HELCOM work and having a significant impact on the Baltic Sea, it is proposed that eutrophication is addressed through a separate workshop, possibly held back-to-back with workshops on hazardous substances and marine litter. The link is mainly to the HELCOM Pressure WG and Agri Group.	1.5 days in the period 4-9 May.
Maritime activities Underwater noise Non-indigenous species Response actions	This thematic workshop is proposed to cover topics that are primarily related to shipping. Underwater noise and NIS will also require expertise on e.g. aquaculture and activities that generate impulsive noise. The topics are mainly linked to the HELCOM Maritime and Response Group. While underwater noise is mainly under the mandate of the Pressure group this would give an opportunity to discuss the matter in more detail in relation to shipping.	2 days in the period 18-22 May.
Biodiversity Loss and disturbance to the seabed	These are topics where nominated participants are expected to have over-lapping expertise with regard to status of ecosystem components and impacts thereon. Loss and	3 days in the period 25-29 May.

Extraction of species (including by-catch, hunting) Spatial measures (MPA, MSP)	disturbance the seabed and by-catch are also two major pressures on biodiversity. It can be expected to be a relatively large workshop in terms of expertise required. Practically it could be arranged with parallel as well as joint sessions, for a total of 3 days. The link to HELCOM Working Groups is primarily to State and Conservation, Fish, MSP, and some issues dealt with by Pressure (extraction of non-living resources, dredging).	
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Proposal 2 for thematic BSAP UP workshops

Topics	Comment	Dates
Hazardous substances, litter	These are two topics that have been placed together in the provisional structure of the BSAP. They are interlinked by mainly stemming from land-based activities, and through partly overlapping type of measures (e.g. regulation of production and use, reducing output from industries and waste water, and limited application of MSP). The two topics are also dealt with under the mandate of Pressure Working Group.	2 days in the period 4-9 May.
Eutrophication	Being a major theme for HELCOM work and having a significant impact on the Baltic Sea, it is proposed that eutrophication is addressed through a separate workshop, possibly held back-to-back with workshops on hazardous substances and marine litter. The link is mainly to the HELCOM Pressure WG and Agri Group.	1.5 days in the period 4-9 May.
Sea-based activities: -Maritime activities -Underwater noise -Non-indigenous species -Response actions -Loss and disturbance to the seabed -MSP	This thematic workshop is proposed to cover topics that are primarily related to sea-based activities. The proposed topics are covered by a number of HELCOM Working Groups including Maritime, Response, Pressure, MSP, and Fish Group. This grouping allows for a concentration of topics resulting in physical disturbance and noise generation and topics where MSP is most applicable. It can be expected to be a relatively large workshop in terms of expertise required. Practically it could be arranged with parallel and as well as joint sessions, for a total of 3 days.	3 days in the period 18-22 May.
Biodiversity: -Extraction of species (including by-catch, hunting) -Biodiversity -MPAs	These are topics that more directly relate to biodiversity and maintenance of healthy populations. The link to HELCOM Working Groups is primarily to State and Conservation and Fish.	2 days in the period 25-29 May.

Annex 1. Timetable for Tasks of the SOM Platform (as of HELCOM SOM Platform 1-2019)

YEAR	2019				2020			
Indicative steps	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Approach	ACTION/ SOM proposal 2nd version end of March	GEAR agreement 15-17 May 2019						
Collation of data and information input to analyses		SOM Platform/ ACTION End of June						
Synopses on potential new measures		Lead countries, international projects, NGOs	Lead countries, international projects, NGOs	Lead countries, international projects, NGOs				
2 nd meeting SOM Platform			16-17 September 2019					
Expert-based input to SOM analyses. review of synopses			WGs, EGs, (SOM Platform, ACTION project)	WGs, EGs (SOM Platform, ACTION project)				
Running BAU on existing measures				SOM Platform/ ACTION	SOM Platform/ ACTION			
3 rd SOM Platform meeting					March 2020 (joint meeting ACTION WP6)			
Thematic workshops, to discuss results and propose potential new actions						WGs, EGs, experts May/June 2019		
Assess status with potential new HELCOM actions							SOM Platform/ ACTION	
Cost-effectiveness analyses							SOM Platform/ ACTION	
4 th SOM Platform meeting							September 2020	
Continued elaboration and endorsement of new/strengthened HELCOM actions							WGs	WGs
[Benefits of the BSAP as a whole]							SOM Platform	SOM Platform