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<b>Document title</b>	Proposal on an approach for the selection of new actions for the updated BSAP
<b>Code</b>	4-3
<b>Category</b>	CMNT
<b>Agenda Item</b>	4 - Preparation of thematic BSAP UP workshops in spring 2020
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## Background

According to the work plan for the BSAP update, proposals on new actions for the updated BSAP will take place in spring 2020. The activities and results that will contribute to this selection are outlined in [document 4-1](#). Importantly, synopses on proposed on new actions and the initial results of the SOM analysis (BAU state and gap to GES) will provide supporting information to the selection.

The review and selection of proposed new actions will take place at various HELCOM Working Group Meetings and during a set of thematic BSAP UP workshops. Thus, a coherent and structured approach is needed that can be used across different work strands.

This document presents a proposal to develop a set of criteria and an approach for the selection of new actions. It is suggested that the criteria, when further developed, are submitted for approval at HOD 57-2019. It is furthermore proposed that a two-step approach is used where HELCOM Working Groups carry out a technical review of the proposals while a more specific selection of new actions is carried out at the planned workshops.

The document has been prepared by Sweden in communication with HELCOM ACTION project WP6 and the Secretariat, as a basis for discussion.

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- consider the proposed two-step review and selection approach,
- consider and further develop the proposed criteria for selection of new actions for the updated BSAP,
- agree on next steps to finalize the criteria.

## Background

An invitation to submit proposals on new actions for the update of BSAP has gone out broadly to HELCOM subsidiary bodies, HELCOM observers, and to coordinators of previous or ongoing BONUS projects.

Proposals should be submitted according to the format for synopses on new actions with a deadline set at end of 2019 ([document 4-2](#)). The synopses are meant to create a record, a 'long-list', of potential new actions to be reviewed and selected from in the further process.

The BSAP workplan for HELCOM Working Groups indicates that a review of the synopses will take place at their regular meetings in spring 2020. The work plan furthermore outlines a set of thematic workshops where first proposals on new actions for the updated BSAP will take place ([document 4-1](#)).

To support the selection of new actions it is proposed that the review and scrutiny of proposed new actions takes place as follows:

Step 1: Review by Working Groups, focusing on a technical review and substance of the proposals, e.g.

- a. to evaluate if the proposals are sufficiently substantiated, i.e. if appropriate supporting references and evidence of effect have been provided, (e.g. using a scale low-medium-high)
- b. if it is technically feasible to implement the proposed actions, e.g. is a proposed technique sufficiently developed to be considered for practical implementation. (e.g. yes/no)
- c. identify potential gaps in the proposed new actions.

The review should document the conclusions and motivations to whether a proposal is recommended for further consideration.

Step 2: Thematic workshops in spring 2020 makes a more elaborate selection of proposed new actions based on a set of agreed criteria that consider the outcome of the SOM results as well as the supporting information that has been developed during the course of work, creating a short-list of proposed actions.

Step 3: Cost-effectiveness of new actions is an activity of the ACTION project and also indicated in the ToR for the SOM Platform. A more elaborate analysis of cost-effectiveness will only take place for actions selected by use of the criteria, i.e. for the 'short-list' of actions. A separate meeting document outlines guidance for providing available cost data on proposed new actions to support the cost-effectiveness analyses (document to be submitted).

More specific guidance should be developed for the review by Working Groups This document however focuses on the second step to develop criteria for the thematic workshops.

## Selection of new actions for the updated BSAP

The selection of new actions for the updated BSAP is proposed to be based on:

- collation of supporting information, which already is taking place,
- the application of criteria on the proposed new actions that has passed the review step by Working Groups.

### What is meant with new HELCOM actions?

'HELCOM actions' is used as a broad term to refer to agreements of the current BSAP, Ministerial Declarations and of HELCOM Recommendations. 'HELCOM actions' thus comprise direct measures to improve the Baltic Sea as well as knowledge enhancing activities and strategic decisions. While the Baltic Sea Action Plan is foreseen to include actions in this broader sense, the SOM analysis is focused on measures to improve state of the Baltic that have a measurable (positive) effect. The need for such

measures will be identified through the synopses and SOM analysis, and proposals for new actions can be rather specific (measures), or rather general, as long as there is a clear link to the improvement in the environment. The SOM analyses will include a step where an assessment is made of the sufficiency of measures with the new proposals included (i.e. BAU + new measures). This means that at this stage of the analyses all type of measures with an anticipated measurable effect, also those to be implemented nationally or by third party, need to be considered.

At a later stage however, it is foreseen that the proposed measures may have to be reformulated to a more general shape to fit the update of the BSAP i.e. to allow for regional adoption at political level of the updated BSAP, and national implementation. The same applies to situations where an action is needed by a third party. A discussion on actions suitable for the update of the BSAP, and their formulation, will therefore also be needed, including considerations of competency and suitability of actions on a regional level (efficiency, priority etc.).

Note that the HODs are informed of all steps of work on the BSAP update and will thus follow the progress over time and be able to give guidance as needed.

### Supporting information

In time for the thematic BSAP UP workshops several types of supporting information will be in place. This includes:

- Initial results from the SOM analyses, i.e. gaps to GES that need to be addressed by new actions (February 2020)
- Major contributing activities/sectors to pressures on the Baltic Sea identified (almost completed)
- The synopses with proposals on new actions (end of 2019, by time of workshops tentatively already reviewed from technical perspective by HELCOM Working Groups as proposed above)
- Lists of existing measures on national, regional and global level (almost completed)
- For EU Member States: reports from the EC on MSFD PoMs (existing)

This information can be further elaborated by the SOM Platform and Secretariat in advance of the workshops, e.g. through:

- Analysing how well the proposed new actions address the problems that have been identified in the SOM analyses (gaps),
- Identifying if there are proposals where HELCOM does not have the possibility to influence, but can raise the question with third party,
- Analysing what type of measures that exists today (based on measures list) and that have been proposed. Are there substantial gaps in palette of types of measures existing or proposed? Are the measures addressing the appropriate sector or actor?

Important background information is also to identify where a measure is best located in the causal chain to result in an improvement of the environment. Could the pressure be more efficiently reduced by action in a different part of the DPSIR cycle, or closer to the source? Such analyses have not been carried out yet, but the issue is proposed to be raised by Topic Teams, HELCOM ACTION partners and, if time allows, at upcoming workshops where effectiveness of measures will be discussed.

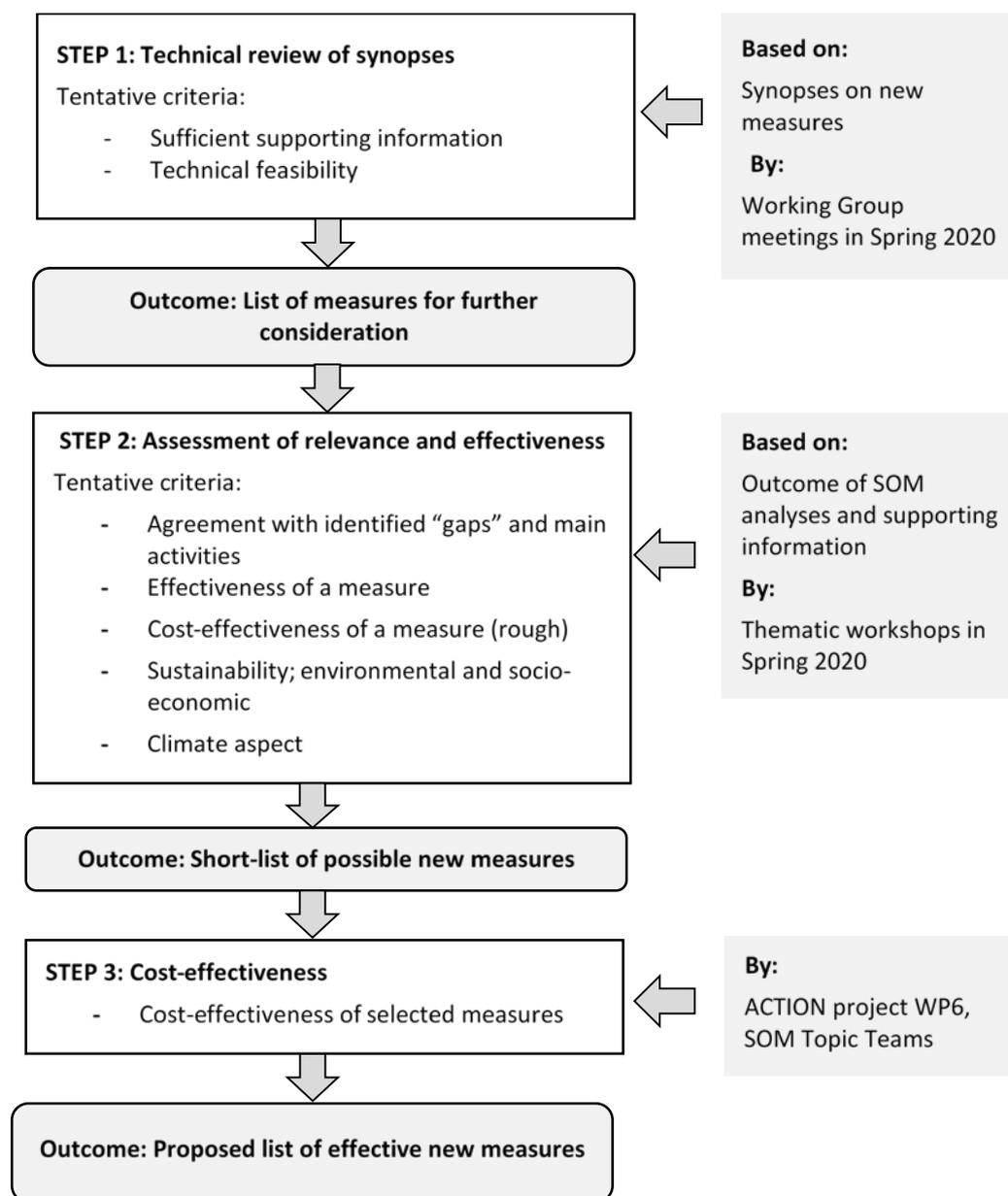


Figure 1. Proposals on steps and draft criteria for the review and selection of new actions for the updated BSAP.

### Draft proposal on criteria for selection of new actions to be implemented at workshops (step 2)

This list below presents draft criteria for the first selection of new actions at the thematic workshops and are meant to serve a basis for discussion. All or several criteria could be linked to a scale of assessment (e.g. low-medium-high). These criteria are meant to support the selection of a 'short-list' of most relevant actions to close the gap to GES. The assessment approach needs to be detailed, e.g. to further specify the criteria, the tentative assessment scale for each criterion, and how to evaluate the results.

<b>Draft criteria</b>	<b>Comments and clarifications</b>
Agreement between proposed new actions and problems identified in the SOM analyses	This can be based on prior analysis to the workshops as indicated above.
Agreement between proposed new actions and the main activity contributing to a pressure, or main pressures contributing to an activity	This can be based on prior analysis to the workshops as indicated above.
Effectiveness in reducing a pressure or improvement the state of the environment	Such information has been requested in the format for synopses.
Cost-effectiveness; rough estimate	Available information has been requested in the format for synopses.
Sustainability	<p>Are there negative side effects to consider? (yes/no, motivate). This refers both to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- environmental aspects; e.g. on biodiversity, local environments</li> <li>- socio-economic aspects, e.g. cost-benefit considerations, impacts on sectors, employment, access to raw material</li> </ul>
Climate aspect	Will the measure be effective given the expected climate changes? Does climate change motivate the measure?
Relevance for HELCOM	Identify whether the proposed new action requires implementation by a third party. This criterion should not exclude the action from the SOM analysis but can support the further selection of actions for the updated BSAP.
Others? e.g. Policy acceptance, Legal considerations and obstacles.	