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The location, time, agenda and provisional timetable have been revised to accommodate for an online meeting, arranged instead of a physical meeting due to [HELCOM policy on COVID-19](#). Revisions are marked in red.

Background

The HELCOM SOM Platform supports the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan by analysing sufficiency of measures (SOM) to reach good environmental status in the Baltic Sea and identify gaps in existing measures. The approach for the SOM analysis has been developed by the HELCOM ACTION project under the guidance of the HELCOM SOM Platform and Gear Group and agreed by HOD 56-2019. At HELCOM SOM Platform 2-2019, additional steps of the approach were considered and supported, including how to assess the effect of measures. In autumn 2019 and early 2020, expert surveys have been conducted to retrieve input to the SOM analysis e.g. estimate the effect of existing measures and the improvement in state as a result of reduction of pressures. At SOM Platform 3-2020, the preliminary outcome of the SOM analysis will be presented, and the Meeting will consider how the results can be used in the further BSAP update process.

Information on the meeting

As agreed by HOD 57-2019 (Outcome, para 3.16), the 3rd Meeting of the SOM Platform (HELCOM SOM Platform 3-2019) will take place on 24-26 March 2020. **The meeting is arranged online.** The Meeting is held in cooperation with the HELCOM ACTION¹ WP6 Workshop where the project will present the SOM work undertaken.

The Meeting will start on **Tuesday 24 March 2020 at 13.00 EET** and is expected to end on **Thursday 26 March 2020 at 12.00 EET.**

The Meeting will be Chaired by Mr. Urmas Lips. The Meeting will focus on:

- considering the implementation of the SOM approach and associated methodological details, e.g. how to address projections of human activities in the SOM model, how to integrate results from expert based surveys and data from literature, how to assess costs and effects of measures;
- considering the data collection and preliminary results of the analysis of the sufficiency of existing measures to achieve good state of the Baltic Sea marine environment and the format of the SOM reports;
- agreeing on analyses to be conducted prior to the BSAP UP workshops in May 2020;
- agreeing on how to carry out the BSAP UP workshops in spring 2020.

¹ The HELCOM ACTION Project is an EU co-financed project on Actions to evaluate and identify effective measures to reach GES in the Baltic Sea marine region.

Please note that because the Meeting is organized as an online meeting, document 3-1 and Agenda Item 4 are considered via correspondence instead of in the Meeting. Additionally, the treatment of Agenda Items 5 and 6 in the Meeting will be more concise, and some actions for document 5-2 will be handled via correspondence (to be agreed in the Meeting).

Documents for the Meeting will be made available in the SOM Platform 3-2020 [Meeting Site](#) in the HELCOM Meeting Portal. The basic documents and documents requiring action or a decision to the Meeting should be submitted in electronic form to the Secretariat (susanna.kaasinen@helcom.fi) **by 2 March 2020**. Documents containing comments to the basic documents as well as information documents should be provided to the Secretariat **by 16 March 2020**.

The participants are kindly requested to register to the Meeting by answering the [Participation Survey](#) not later than **by 16 March 2020**. Please note that you need to be a registered user with relevant rights to access the restricted meeting documents and to register to the meeting. [Instructions](#) for the use of the Meeting Portal are available on the HELCOM website.

Provisional Annotated Agenda

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting is invited to adopt the agenda of the meeting (document 1-1).

Agenda item 2 SOM approach: data collection, integration and uncertainties, projection of human activities

SOM Platform 2-2019 supported that steps 4 and 6 of the SOM approach, estimating the effect of measures and linking reduced pressures with improvement in state components, should be carried by use of expert surveys and supplemented with data from literature. Results from the expert surveys and literature review will be presented to the Meeting as well as a methodology on how to combine the two types of results in the SOM model.

The Meeting is invited to agree on the methodology for using the expert-based and literature-based data in the SOM model.

The SOM analysis includes as step 5 the consideration of development of human activities during the timeframe of the BAU. A review of literature on existing projections of human activities and the methodology for how to incorporate the projections to the SOM model will be presented to the Meeting.

The Meeting is invited to agree on the methodology of incorporating development of human activities to the SOM model.

An update of the complete SOM approach and relevant portions of the SOM methodology will be made available as a meeting document.

Agenda item 3 Preliminary results of the SOM analysis

HELCOM ACTION project will implement the SOM model based on the data available prior to the Meeting and present a proposal on how the results can be presented and visualized, as well as how uncertainty will be incorporated in the model and addressed in presenting the results.

The Meeting is invited to consider the preliminary results of the SOM analysis and agree on how they can be used and presented in the further BSAP update process.

The SOM analysis is organized around a set of topics including both pressures and state components. Each topic included in the analysis has been considered from viewpoint of the specific topics e.g. in the choice of variables and geographic scale for the analysis. Also, the compilation of existing measures and activity-pressure and pressure-state surveys have been linked to specific topics. It is proposed that background material and results are prepared for each topic², to be published as separate or a combined report, as supporting material to the BSAP update. An example of how such report could be structured will be presented to the Meeting.

The SOM Platform is invited to agree on the format for the general and topic-specific background reports from the SOM analysis (Document 3-1 Proposal for a generic SOM topic report structure with 3-1 Att 1. Draft NIS topic report). This will take place via correspondence, and comments are requested by 31 March 2020.

² e.g. Nutrients, Hazardous substances, litter, noise, non-indigenous species, benthic habitats, birds, mammals, fish, benthic habitats.

Agenda item 4 Results from HELCOM ACTION project

The HELCOM ACTION project is designed to support the SOM analysis and BSAP update with regard to by-catch, impacts on the seafloor, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and input of nutrients.

The SOM Platform is invited to **take note** of intermediate results from the project and how the results will be included in the SOM analysis, and provide potential comments via correspondence by 31 March 2020.

Agenda item 5 Preparation of thematic BSAP UP workshops in spring 2020

HELCOM has received a number of proposals on new actions for the updated BSAP presented as 'synopses' for new actions. As agreed by SOM Platform 2-2019, the proposals will as a first step be considered by HELCOM Working Groups from technical point of view followed by an evaluation at BSAP UP workshops in May 2020 as agreed by HOD 57-2019. The evaluation at workshops will be guided by a set of criteria that has been developed by the SOM Platform and that will be considered for intersessional approval by the Gear Group as agreed by HOD 57-2019.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the set of criteria and advise on their use at the BSAP UP workshops and agree the format for the output of discussion at the workshops.

SOM Platform 2-2019 supported that analyses made prior to the BSAP UP workshops could support the evaluation of proposed new measures. A proposal for prior analysis will be presented to the Meeting.

A proposal for how to organize and carry out the workshops will be presented to the Meeting.

The Meeting is invited to agree on a procedure for carrying out the BSAP UP workshops.

Agenda item 6 Evaluation of the effectiveness and costs of new measures

Once the evaluation of new actions for the updated BSAP has been carried out, an evaluation of the effect and cost of potential new measures is required to perform the cost-effectiveness analysis of new measures. Some information is expected to be available through the synopses, but in other cases it will be necessary to complement the information.

The ACTION project and ToR for the HELCOM SOM Platform includes the step of analysing cost-effectiveness of proposed new measures. A preliminary plan for evaluating the costs and effects of new measures was presented in the SOM Platform 2-2019 meeting ([Document 2-4](#)). SOM Platform 2-2019 took note that cost-effectiveness calculations will be conducted in the ACTION project but that contributions will be needed from countries, SOM Platform topic teams, or other parties that suggest new measures, and that semiquantitative or quantitative assessment will be possible using existing data and methodology.

A more detailed proposal on how to evaluate the costs and effects of new measures will be presented to the Meeting.

The Meeting is invited to guide the development of the approach for evaluating the effects and costs of new measures.

Agenda item 7 Next steps

The Meeting is invited to agree on next steps for the SOM Platform, including in the preparation of the BSAP update workshops and when to convene the next meeting.

Agenda item 8 Notes from the Meeting

Notes will be finalized after closure of the Meeting and circulated for approval in writing by the participants in a time frame as agreed by the Meeting.

Provisional timetable HELCOM SOM Platform 3-2020

Note: All times EET (Finnish time)

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|-----------------------|---|
| Tuesday 24 March | |
| 13.00-14.30 | Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda Agenda item 2 SOM approach: data collection, integration and uncertainties, projection of human activities |
| 14.30-15.00 | <i>BREAK</i> |
| 15.00-16.00 | Agenda item 2 SOM approach: data collection, integration and uncertainties, projection of human activities, continued, Agenda item 3 Preliminary results of the SOM analysis |
| 16.00-16.15 | <i>SHORT BREAK</i> |
| 16.15-17.00 | Agenda item 3 Preliminary results of the SOM analysis |
| Wednesday 25 March | |
| 10.00-11.30 | Agenda item 3 Preliminary results of the SOM analysis, continued |
| 11.30-12.00 | <i>BREAK</i> |
| 12.00-13.00 | Agenda item 3 Preliminary results of the SOM analysis, continued |
| 13.00-14.00 | <i>LUNCH BREAK</i> |
| 14.00-15.30 | Agenda item 5 Preparation of thematic BSAP UP workshops in spring 2020 |
| 15.30-16.00 | <i>BREAK</i> |
| 16.00-17.00 | Agenda item 5 Preparation of thematic BSAP UP workshops in spring 2020, continued |
| Thursday 26 March | |
| 10.00-11.00 | Agenda item 6 Evaluation of the effectiveness and costs of new measures |
| 11.00-11.15 | <i>SHORT BREAK</i> |
| 11.15-12.00 | Agenda item 7 Next steps |
| 12.00 | Meeting ends |