



Baltic Marine Environment  
Protection Commission



24 June 2021

To: HELCOM Heads of Delegation  
Chair and Vice-Chairs of the HELCOM Groups  
HELCOM Observers  
HELCOM State and Conservation Contacts and Observers  
HELCOM GEAR Contacts and Observers  
Nominated experts for CG FOODWEB  
Nominated experts for PELAGIC WS  
Contacts and Observers of the Expert Group on Marine Mammals  
Contacts of Baltic expert of the HELCOM-OSPAR-ICES Joint Working Group on Seabirds  
Contacts of PEG and ZEN  
Contacts and Observers of FISH PRO III  
Contacts expert Network on Benthic habitats  
Contacts of HELCOM BLUES Project (Activity 2)  
Contacts of Baltic Data Flows Project  
HELCOM indicators leads and co-leads

**Re. Invitation to the expert Workshop on the HELCOM Integrated biodiversity assessment tool (BEAT), BEAT WS 1-2021, online, 26 August 2021**

Dear colleagues,

With reference to the [Outcome](#) (paras 4J.178 to 4J.184) of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation (STATE & CONSERVATION 14-2021), I have the pleasure to invite you to the expert Workshop on the HELCOM Integrated biodiversity assessment tool, BEAT (BEAT WS 1-2021), to be held online on **26 August 2021**. The date was chosen based on a doodle poll sent by the Secretariat on 18 June 2021 to relevant contacts. This event will be a joint Workshop with HELCOM experts organized by the HELCOM BLUES and Baltic Data Flow projects. The Workshop will start at **10.00 (EEST)** and end by **17.00 (EEST)**.

The Workshop will aim to bring together relevant experts to get a deeper understanding of the BEAT tool, the ultimate goal being an improved and functional integrated biodiversity assessment for the Third Holistic Assessment of the Baltic Sea (HOLAS III) and beyond. The workshop will more particularly be focused on:

1. Presentation of the current BEAT tool with current integrated indicators;
2. Discussion on each ecosystem component to address open issues (cf. [document 4J-84](#) submitted to STATE & CONSERVATION 14-2021) and any other relevant issues raised (e.g. comparability with MSFD Article 8 Guidance);
3. Planning the next steps for further developments for the use of BEAT in HOLAS III (eg. Endorsement at STATE & CONSERVATION 15-2021, etc.).

Relevant documents for this Workshop will be made available via the HELCOM Meeting Portal on the [Meeting Site](#) for BEAT WS 1-2021. Please note that you need to be a registered user to access the restricted Workshop documents. Instructions for the use of the Meeting Portal are available on the [HELCOM website](#).

The participants are invited to submit any relevant information document to the Workshop in electronic form via e-mail to the Secretariat ([florent.nicolas@helcom.fi](mailto:florent.nicolas@helcom.fi)) by **19 August 2021**. The Secretariat has prepared a document template which is available on the [Meeting Site](#) (section "Related information") and would like to encourage the participants to use the template when submitting documents to the Secretariat.

Participants of the Workshop are requested to **register** by **23 August 2021** with answering the [Participation Survey](#). The Workshop will be held via Zoom, Meeting link and instructions will be sent to the **registered participants only**.

In case of any questions, please contact the HELCOM Secretariat ([florent.nicolas@helcom.fi](mailto:florent.nicolas@helcom.fi)).

Jannica Haldin  
Professional Secretary