



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

HELCOM BalticBOOST Workshop on the development of joint principles to define environmental targets for pressures affecting the seabed habitats

Helsinki, Finland, 28-29 November 2016



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HELCOM BalticBOOST Workshop on the development of joint principles to define environmental targets for pressures affecting the seabed habitats

Time: Monday 28 November 13:00 - Tuesday 29 November 16:30

Venue: HELCOM Secretariat, Helsinki, Finland

Aims

The workshop will further the development work on a common set of guidelines on how to define environmental targets for pressures affecting seabed habitats, carried out under the BalticBOOST project.

More specifically the workshop will:

- evaluate results of the project test cases on effects of different human activities and pressures on benthic habitats,
- consider and further develop the draft guidelines for setting environmental targets for pressures affecting benthic habitats.

Contracting Parties are welcome to invite participants to the Workshop as needed in order to meet the aims of the Workshop.

The Workshop will be chaired by Mr. Samuli Korpinen, Finland.

Background

BalticBOOST project is a HELCOM coordinated EU co-financed project aimed to develop assessment tools and set up data arrangements to support indicator-based assessments of the state of and pressures on the Baltic Sea (Baltic Sea project to boost regional coherence of marine strategies through improved data flow, assessments and knowledge base for development of measures, September 2015-December 2016).

Within Theme 3, BalticBOOST addresses physical loss and impacts to the sea floor. This theme explores ways to determine how much disturbance from different activities that specific seabed habitats can tolerate while remaining in Good Environmental Status (GES) and will develop guidance on how to define environmental targets for pressures affecting benthic habitats. A tool for assessing the impacts of fishing gear on specific habitat types and species is also being developed. Guidance for Theme 3 is provided by HELCOM groups GEAR and FISH.

Preparations and expected contributions

Workshop participants are advised that **background documents** will be sent out before the workshop, and that participants are assumed to be familiar with the content of these in order to meet the aims of the workshop.

Participants are invited to **inform further on how they can contribute to the workshop** by contacting the HELCOM Secretariat (marco.milardi@helcom.fi).

Registration

The participants are kindly requested to register to the Workshop by answering the [Participation Survey](#) by **November 21, 2016**. Please note that only registered users of the [HELCOM Meeting Portal](#) with relevant rights are able to fill in the Participation Survey and to access the restricted documents. Please find [here](#) instructions for first time Meeting Portal users.

Annotated Agenda and Schedule

Monday November 28	
13:00-16:00	<p>Setting the scene:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrival, words of welcome and practicalities, - Short introduction to the HELCOM 2nd Holistic Assessment process, the BalticBOOST project and its Theme 3. <p>Test cases of the BalticBOOST Theme 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effects of fishery on benthic habitats; - What is the basis for environmental targets for fishery pressures affecting benthic habitats?
16.00-16.20	- <i>Coffee break</i>
16.20-18.00	<p>Test cases of the BalticBOOST Theme 3 (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effects of other sea-floor disturbance on benthic habitats; - What are the basis for environmental targets for other activities affecting benthic habitats?
Tuesday November 29	-
9:00-11.00	<p>Comparing pressure magnitudes and effect levels from different human activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data-based comparison from the case studies; - Literature-based comparison.
11.00-12.30	<p>Draft guidelines for setting environmental targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of proposed guidelines for setting environmental targets for pressures affecting the benthic habitats - Discussion on most relevant pressures for setting environmental targets
12:30-13:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:30-16:30	<p>Draft guidelines for setting environmental targets; continued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion on relevant scale for setting environmental targets - Further development of guidelines for setting environmental targets. <p>Wrap up</p> <p>Any other business</p>
16:30	<i>Meeting ends</i>