



Document title	Outcome of FISH Data interests 1-2017
Code	Document 3
Submission date	12.2.2018
Submitted by	Secretariat

Background

Outcome of the intersessional online meeting for drafting a document of HELCOM data interests to assess incidental by-catches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes (FISH Data interests 1-2017) (HELCOM FISH 7-2017 document 5-1).

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the outcome.



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Meeting for drafting a document of HELCOM data interests to assess incidental by-catches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes

FISH Data interests 1-2017

Online, 29 September 2017

Outcome of the intersessional online meeting for drafting a document of HELCOM data interests to assess incidental by-catches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes (FISH Data interests 1-2017)

Introduction

The intersessional online meeting for drafting a document of HELCOM data interests to assess incidental by-catches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes (FISH Data interests 1-2017), was held **on 29 September 2017 at 9-12 CET**.

The Meeting was attended by representatives of Denmark, Finland, Germany, Sweden, Poland and CCB.

The Meeting was moderated by Poland, the Lead Party for the activity.

Mr. Hermanni Backer and Ms. Minna Pyhälä, HELCOM Secretariat, acted as secretaries for the meeting.

Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting adopted the agenda as contained in document 2-1.

Background information and comments

The Meeting considered of the lists of HELCOM Red listed species that are of relevance for the document on “HELCOM data interests to assess incidental by-catches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes”, including information about past, current and future threats as identified by the HELCOM Red List (document 3-2) and discussed it as follows:

- the process to select the specific species in the lists in documents 3-3 and 3-2 has to be defined in detail. In this work the relevant HELCOM groups but also ICES groups should be consulted if feasible.
- in addition, the recent developments in terms of fishing effort with gears such as gillnets (including commercial but recreational) should be better described and reflected. For this purpose the Contracting Parties should investigate possibilities to provide an overview of the recent developments (2-3 slides with spatial distribution, number of days at sea of gillnetters and number of gillnetters during the last 10 years) in gillnet fisheries in order to have a good starting point for further discussions to address data gaps if needed.

The Meeting took note of the results of a small questionnaire on data availability and possible pilot projects to collect data from incidental catches or data regarding fisheries impact on the sea bottom (document 3-1). The Meeting noted that the questionnaire aimed to estimate what kind of data regarding the impact of fisheries on marine environment already exists have and what could be/will be the cost of collecting such data.

The Meeting agreed that in-depth inventories of available monitoring data should take place only after the data needs have been identified. The Contracting Parties who wish to provide a quick review of the situation in advance and but have not yet responded to the questionnaire on national data availability and possible pilot projects to submit their responses to the Lead Country Poland (K.Kaminska@mgm.gov.pl).

Updated draft of the document 'HELCOM data needs to assess incidental by-catches, fisheries impact on benthic biotopes, non-commercially exploited and protected fish species in the Baltic Sea'

The Meeting considered the updated draft of the document 'HELCOM data needs to assess incidental by-catches, fisheries impact on benthic biotopes, non-commercially exploited and protected fish species in the Baltic Sea' which compiles comments received from Contracting Parties since the meeting of FISH 6-2017 (document 3-3).

The Meeting took note of the following overall comments to improve the document:

- Finland: Difficulties to comment the document as we have not discussed the institutional issues and the nature of the document – what is the aim of the document and who should use it?
- Sweden: The aim and the scope of the document should be better defined. The document should identify fish and fisheries related data needed to fulfill HELCOM commitments with a focus on operationalizing indicators. Indicator leads should look at them first, then STATE & CONSERVATION or other assessment side. This is a not a commitment document but an inventory. The commitments are the next step.
- Denmark: There are challenges with the document e.g. as cost efficiency and role of ICES not reflected. More discussion should take place at FISH in Copenhagen. Inventory is important.
- Germany: Germany welcomes the document and the initiative to match the data needs across marine and fisheries policies. This requires the participation of the regional seas conventions in the relevant processes for coordination of data needs at the level of the marine region.

The Meeting took note of the detailed comments to improve the document as contained in document 3-3-Rev.1):

- the comments provided by Sweden provided in advance of the meeting (document 4-2)
- the comments provided by Estonia provided in advance of the meeting (document 4-3)
- the comments provided by Germany provided in advance of the meeting (document 4-1)
- the comments from Denmark provided at the Meeting (DKM)
- the comments by Finland provided at the meeting (FIM)
- the comments by Germany provided at the meeting (DEM)
- the comments by Sweden (SWEM)

Next steps

The Lead has the task to prepare a submission of the document as an inventory of data needs for further discussion and consideration at upcoming meetings based on the input received during consultations by email and at this online meeting.

The Lead will submit the document to HELCOM STATE & CONSERVATION 7-2017 to be held in Sopot, Poland, 23-27 October 2017 to

- To identify the HELCOM data needs in relation to the two indicators mentioned
- Identify other data needs based on HELCOM commitments (BSAP, Ministerial Meeting decisions and Indicator developments) to be included in the scope of the document, if any

- Propose input for the aim, scope, development and use of the inventory document

With input from the STATE & CONSERVATION the document will be submitted to upcoming Seventh Meeting of HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (FISH 7-2017) 14-15 November 2017 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

A separate process document/roadmap on the aim, scope, development and use of the inventory should be drafted by Poland and discussed at FISH 7-2017 and STATE & CONSERVATION (intersessionally or in 2018) as well as HELCOM HODs.

Outcome of the Meeting

This Outcome was considered and adopted by the Meeting.

The Outcome, together with the documents considered by the Meeting are available in the [FISH Data interests 1-2017 meeting site](#) on the HELCOM Meeting Portal.