



Outcome of HELCOM workshop on fisheries data (CG FISHDATA 3-2018)

Organized as part of the activities of the HELCOM FISH Correspondence Group on fisheries data for operationalizing indicators used for the purposes of MSFD implementation, for the CPs which are also EU members (CG FISHDATA)

Introduction

Following the decision by CG FISHDATA 2-2018 (Outcome), the third Workshop of the HELCOM FISH Correspondence Group on fisheries data for operationalizing indicators used for the purposes of MSFD implementation for the CPs which are also EU members (CG Fishdata), was held in Copenhagen, Denmark, at the premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Fisheries Policy (Asiatisk Plads 2, DK-1448, Copenhagen), on 21 November 2018.

The objective of the Workshop was to consider:

- the finalization of the Roadmap on collection of fisheries data in order to assess incidental by-catches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes in the Baltic Sea; and
- the future work and format for continuation of the group.

Opening of the Workshop

Ms. Anja Gadgård Boye, Chair of CG Fishdata, declared the Workshop opened and welcomed the participants to the meeting. Mr. Markus Helavuori, HELCOM Professional Secretary, welcomed the Meeting on behalf of the HELCOM Secretariat.

The Workshop was attended by representatives from the following Contracting Parties: Denmark, Finland, Poland and Sweden, and an observer from ICES. Consent for publication of the list of participants and the information contained therein (**Annex 1**) was received by all participants.

The Workshop was chaired by Ms. Anja Gadgård Boye, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark. Mr. Markus Helavuori, Professional Secretary and Mr. Henri Jokinen, HELCOM Project manager, acted as secretaries for the Workshop.

Following a round of introductions and practical information by the Chair, the Workshop adopted the agenda as provided in Document 1.

Re-cap of Outcome of the last meeting and other matters arising from HELCOM work of relevance of the group

The Workshop recalled the [Outcome of CG FISHDATA 2-2018](#) (22 May 2018). In this regard, the Workshop recalled that Denmark and Poland had offered to update the draft Roadmap based on the discussions at CG FISHDATA 2-2018, and that the revised draft Roadmap with the templates as annexes was then to be circulated by the Secretariat to the CG FISHDATA and Fish Group contacts, as agreed.

It was further recalled that after collecting comments, a revised draft of the Roadmap was to be circulated with a view for agreement by CG Fishdata followed by submission to STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018 for comments that could be taken into account by CG FISHDATA 3-2018 before finalization and submission to the Fish Group for approval. The Workshop further recalled that the last workshop agreed that changing the status of the Correspondence Group to an Expert Group would provide more clarity to the scope and methods of work of the group.

It was noted that the aim of the third Workshop was to finalize the Roadmap on collection of fisheries data in order to assess incidental by-catches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes in the Baltic Sea, and to discuss and plan the future work and format for continuation of the group.

Matters arising from HELCOM work

The Workshop took note of the attached extracts from the outcomes of relevant HELCOM meetings (Document 2), as presented by the Secretariat, and agreed to use the information as appropriate. The Workshop specifically took note of the Outcome of FISH 8-2018, which encouraged all Contracting Parties to participate in the work of the Correspondence Group, invited Contracting Parties to formally nominate experts to the Group, and opened up for a potential revision of the group's Terms of Reference, recognizing that an Expert Group may be a more appropriate format for continuation of the work. FISH 8-2018 had also agreed that the Heads of Delegation are to be informed on the progress within CG Fishdata.

The Workshop took note of the strategic plan for the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan approved by HOD 54-2018, as presented by the Secretariat (Document 3). The Workshop further noted the discussion at HOD 54-2018 concerning the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan being a priority for the HELCOM working groups, and that the update of the BSAP will be based on the existing expertise in the HELCOM working structure according to the mandates of the working groups and will be overseen by the Heads of Delegation.

In this context the Workshop also noted that HOD 55-2018 (4-5 December 2018) is expected to agree on a Work Plan for the BSAP update. To support the BSAP update an interdisciplinary platform with representatives of the Contracting Parties will be established in autumn 2018, with Terms of Reference still to be agreed upon by HOD. In addition to all HELCOM working groups, it is also expected that many of the expert groups will be requested to contribute to the work as appropriate.

Joint OSPAR-HELCOM Workshop for indicators for incidental bycatch

The Workshop then took note of the Draft ToR for a joint OSPAR-HELCOM workshop for indicators for incidental bycatch, as presented by the Secretariat (Document 4). It was recalled that HELCOM FISH 8-2018 noted information on the ongoing process under OSPAR Meeting of the Biodiversity Committee (BDC), which in February 2018 had agreed that proposals should be developed for a workshop to examine needs and possibilities for developing indicators for incidental by-catch of birds, seals, cetaceans, turtles and non-commercial fish, linked to related work by HELCOM and ICES as relevant. Further, GEAR 18-2018 followed by FISH 8-2018 supported organizing a joint HELCOM/OSPAR workshop on bycatch indicators, including fisheries data issues, which was later welcomed by STATE & CONSERVATION 8-2018 and noted by HOD 54-2018.

It was noted that the attached draft Terms of Reference for a joint OSPAR/HELCOM bycatch indicator workshop have been drafted by the Secretariats of OSPAR and HELCOM. The draft Terms of Reference have been submitted also to STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018 and GEAR 19-2018, as well as OSPAR ICG-COBAM for comments, and will be revised by the HELCOM and OSPAR Secretariats based on the comments received from all relevant meetings. A date for the workshop has not yet been set.

The Workshop reviewed the attached draft Terms of Reference for the OSPAR-HELCOM workshop and agreed that such a joint workshop will be very useful, especially in order to align the targets of the two organizations regarding bycatch indicators and to avoid duplication of efforts. The Workshop also recommended that the Roadmap should be considered by the joint workshop.

Furthermore, the Workshop noted with appreciation the willingness by Denmark to host the workshop, scheduled for late spring 2019.

Discussion on the Draft Roadmap on collection of fisheries data in order to assess incidental by-catches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes in the Baltic Sea

The Workshop recalled that as established by FISH 7-2017, CG Fishdata has worked, according to its Terms of Reference (Annex 3, FISH 7-2017 Outcome), for developing a draft Roadmap on fisheries data for operationalizing the two indicators ('Number of drowned mammals and waterbirds in fishing gears' and 'Cumulative impact on benthic biotopes') used for the purposes of MSFD implementation for the Contracting Parties which are also EU Member States. The Workshop hence noted that the drafting of the Roadmap on collection of fisheries data is the central task of the Group and needs to be finalized.

It was further recalled that a draft Roadmap was considered by the CG FISHDATA 2-2018 and FISH 8-2018 meetings. As agreed by FISH 8-2018, Denmark and Poland updated the draft Roadmap based on a version provided in Document 8 of CG FISHDATA 2-2018. The updated draft was circulated to the CG Fishdata Contacts, with a request to fill in the data templates and provide comments. The draft was also submitted to STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018 for comments, which are provided in Document 6.

The Workshop took note of an introductory presentation by Ms. Katarzyna Kaminska (Poland) on the background and the progress made so far (**Presentation 1**). The Presentation also included proposals on how to proceed with the work.

Denmark and Poland presented latest version of the draft Roadmap (Document 5 + Att. 1-5) for consideration and finalization by the Workshop before submission to the Fish Group for approval. The Workshop considered and discussed the Roadmap at length.

Recognizing that the aim was to finalize the Roadmap at this Workshop, it was noted that a significant amount of work still remains in order to finalize the Roadmap for approval by the Fish Group. The Workshop further agreed that it may not be appropriate to try to finalize the Roadmap at this meeting, as Estonia, Germany, Latvia and Lithuania were not present.

The Workshop discussed whether the "Inventory of HELCOM data needs to assess incidental by-catches, fisheries impact on benthic biotopes, in the Baltic Sea to support HELCOM indicator assessment work" (Document 5 Att. 5), should be included as part of the Roadmap, developed further by using elements of the Roadmap or abandoned altogether. The Meeting noted that one option could be that the initial inventory could serve a function as a supporting document to the Roadmap.

The Meeting noted that there were different views among participants with regard to what the Roadmap is, what its status should be, what it should be used for and what it should contain. The Workshop noted that the current draft set out in Document 5 now emphasizes the previous work and processes, instead of mapping the way ahead. It was considered, that it may be necessary for the Workshop to focus its discussions on what the objective is.

The Workshop agreed that while the draft Roadmap set out in Document 5 contains much of the information needed, the current structure is not fit for purpose. The Workshop consequently developed a new structure for the Roadmap, as set out in **Annex 2**. The Workshop agreed that the Chair will develop a first draft Roadmap using the new structure, utilizing as much as possible text from the current draft, as well as the

outcome of this Workshop. The Workshop further invited interested parties to liaise directly with the Chair and to contribute to the development of the Roadmap.

The Workshop discussed the Template for description of recreational gill net fisheries (Document 5 Att. 2) which has been filled in only by Denmark, Germany, Poland and Sweden, and agreed that this matter should be addressed by the Roadmap. In addition, the Workshop invited FISH 9-2019 to once again encourage those countries that have not participated in the work of the Correspondence Group, to do so. The Workshop agreed that the national Heads of Delegation for the Fish Group should be the Fishdata contact points for the for those Contracting Parties that have not nominated official contact points for the Correspondence Group.

The Workshop agreed that it is premature to decide which annexes should be included in the Roadmap.

The Workshop agreed to invite FISH 9-2019 to consider the possibilities of also including Russia into the scope of the Roadmap as well as Fishdata.

The Workshop considered the comments from STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018 set out in Document 6, as presented by the Secretariat. In this context the Workshop noted that Germany (in absence) supports the request from STATE & CONSERVATION 9-2018 to incorporate a timeline with associated task deadlines into the roadmap. The Workshop agreed that the possible inclusion of a timeline and task list should be further considered in the further development of the Roadmap.

Further discussions with relevance for the Roadmap

The Workshop took note of a presentation by Denmark about the work on population and bycatch data within ICES (**Presentation 2**). In this context, the Workshop noted the importance of knowing the population sizes of harbour porpoises and other focus species, in order to be able to assess whether possible changes in bycatch rates are due to changes in the population sizes. The Workshop noted that ICES is collecting many kinds of data, which is relevant also with regard to the purposes of the Roadmap, and that all the ICES data are made openly available. The Workshop also noted that the importance of good quality data, as well as how to interpret it correctly, should not be underestimated.

The Workshop agreed that the Roadmap should reflect also the work of ICES. It was further agreed that the Roadmap should reflect that efforts for monitoring bycatches should be done taking into consideration effective use of resources. The Workshop further agreed that the Roadmap should address the lack of data for fishing vessels below 12 metres in length.

The Workshop took note of a presentation by Denmark on ICES VMS data and issues related to data confidentiality as a result of the GDPR (**Presentation 3**). The Workshop noted the challenges related to publishing VMS data due to the GDPR, as in many areas the number of fishing vessels is so low that individual vessels/owners can be identified if the data is published. However, ICES is able to aggregate data from different countries for areas where at least three fishing vessels are part of the data, which reduces the amount of data that has to be discarded due to confidentiality issues. The Workshop further noted information regarding the ongoing work in ICES working groups on calculating fisheries indicators and benthic impact indicators.

The Workshop discussed the use of AIS in addition to VMS data, and noted that in Sweden there is a proposal for mandatory use of AIS for fishing vessels in Kattegat in relation to Natura 2000 management measures. The Workshop also noted that EU Member States might have different approaches when it comes to the use of electronic monitoring systems.

Future work / format for continuation and potential revision of the Group's ToR

As a background for the discussions on the future of the Correspondence Group, the Workshop recalled that FISH 7-2017 established CG Fishdata with the dual objective to draft a roadmap and further consider the inventory document of HELCOM data needs to assess incidental by-catches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes in the Baltic Sea.

It was recalled that FISH 8-2018 had recognized that a more appropriate format for continuation of the work would be an Expert Group rather than a Correspondence Group.

The Workshop took note of current Terms of Reference for CG Fishdata, as agreed by FISH 7-2017 (Document 7). The Workshop discussed the way forward for CG Fishdata, and agreed on the draft Terms of Reference for the "Expert Group on fisheries data for operationalizing indicators used for the purposes of MSFD implementation (EG Fishdata)" as set out in **Annex 3**, for approval by FISH 9-2019.

In this context the Workshop noted that with respect to the future work/format of the Group and the potential revision of its ToR, Germany (in absence) had informed the Secretariat that they will submit a statement to FISH 9-2019 elaborating their positions on these issues.

Any other business

The Workshop noted information that BSAC is inviting countries to provide information on fisheries management measures in their Natura 2000 sites.

The Workshop reviewed and updated the list of nominated contacts for the HELCOM CG Fishdata (Document 8). Taking into account the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR, (EU) 2016/679), the Workshop agreed that the contact address list will be made publically available on the HELCOM Meeting Portal upon receipt of consent for publication by all contact persons.

The Workshop invited Contracting Parties and Observer organizations to inform of any new, or changed, nominations to the Secretariat (henri.jokinen@helcom.fi).

The Workshop participants thanked Denmark for hosting the meeting.

Outcome

The Workshop adopted the Outcome of the Workshop. The Outcome of the Workshop, together with the documents and presentations considered by the Workshop are available on the [CG FISHDATA 3-2018 meeting site](#).

Annex 1. List of Participants

	Name	Organization	E-mail
Chair			
Denmark	Anja Gadgård Boye	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	anjboy@um.dk
Contracting Parties			
Denmark	Janne Palomino Dalby	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	jadalb@um.dk
Denmark	Lotte Kindt-Larsen	DTU Aqua	lol@aqua.dtu.dk
Denmark	Josefine Egekvist	DTU Aqua	jsv@aqua.dtu.dk
Finland	Heikki Lehtinen	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	heikki.lehtinen@mmm.fi
Poland	Katarzyna Kaminska	Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation, The Fisheries Department	k.kaminska@mgm.gov.pl
Poland	Paweł Łazarski	Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation, The Fisheries Department	pawel.lazarski@mgm.gov.pl
Sweden	Anna Hasslow	Swedish Agency of Marine and Water Management	anna.hasslow@havochvatten.se
Observer organizations			
ICES	Lotte Worsøe Clausen	ICES	lotte.worsoe.clausen@ices.dk
HELCOM Secretariat			
Secretariat	Markus Helavuori	Secretariat	markus.helavuori@helcom.fi
Secretariat	Henri Jokinen	Secretariat	henri.jokinen@helcom.fi

Annex 2. Structure of the Roadmap on collection of fisheries data in order to assess incidental by-catches and fisheries impact on benthic biotopes in the Baltic Sea

Introduction

- aim for Roadmap (operationalize the two indicators)
- intelligent / fit for purpose approach for the two indicators (note to us: taking into account population sizes, fishing effort fishing gear, general knowledge level of species concerned etc.)
- guide the reader to and setting the context for the 'Roadmap' section (in the end)

Background

- MSFD
- related commitments

Data need

- by-catch indicator
- indicator for impact on benthic biotopes in the Baltic Sea

Existing data and data sources

- available data sources
- data quality
- GDPR
- ICES advice and associate data products

Data gaps (fill in the data gaps identified in the CG FISHDATA 1-2018)

- lack of VMS for vessels < 12 m and lack of AIS for vessels < 15 m
- lack of logbook data for vessels < 8 m
- lack of bycatch data
- data gaps of populations (e.g. birds)
- access to data and data availability at national level

Possible sources to fill the gaps

- revision of the Control Regulation (VMS, AIS, REM, GPS, etc.)
- landing obligations
- data collection framework
- relevant directives (Birds and Habitat directives)

Roadmap to deliver and actions fill the data gaps

- taking into account the ICES work

- relevant EU legislative procedures (technical measures, EMFF, Control Regulation, etc.)
- cooperation with OSPAR

Closing remark/Summary

- how can this work feed into other processes (e.g., update of the State of the Baltic Sea report)
- identifying future needs for updating the Roadmap

Annex 3. Draft Terms of Reference for the Expert Group on fisheries data for operationalizing indicators used for the purposes of MSFD implementation (EG Fishdata)

The Expert Group on fisheries data should work on fisheries data for operationalizing indicators used for the purposes of MSFD implementation. The work supports the implementation of HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, with regard to *'the development and implementation of effective monitoring and reporting systems for by-caught birds and mammals'*, and specifically links to HELCOM indicators *'Number of drowned mammals and waterbirds in fishing gear'* and *'Cumulative impact on benthic biotopes'*. The Expert Group work is needed to create a robust process to further define the fisheries data needs of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) including HELCOM indicator data needs, to identify available data sources, and to identify possible measures to improve the availability of the needed data.

The task of the group consisting of representatives of competent technical authorities of Denmark, Estonia, European Union, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden is to:

1. Draft a roadmap on fisheries data for operationalizing the two indicators, used inter alia for the purposes of MSFD implementation (for the Contracting Parties which are also EU members), covering – e.g. procedures, steps to be taken, roles of different institutions/bodies, data needs specifying related legal obligations, identifying existing data sources and recommending potential methods and steps to fill the identified data gaps taking into account the legislative framework.
2. Submit a draft roadmap on fisheries data for operationalizing indicators used for the purposes of MSFD implementation to HELCOM FISH 9-2019.
3. Follow up on the Roadmap addressing the identified data gaps. Feed into other relevant processes (e.g. update of the State of the Baltic Sea Report) and identify future needs for updating the Roadmap.

The Expert Group reports to the HELCOM Group on ecosystem-based sustainable fisheries (Fish).

The Group will meet as necessary (maximum twice per year), taking into account any window of opportunities for contributing to or interacting with developments and instructions from the Fish Group. The ToR of the Group will be time limited (2 years) and could be extended upon agreement of the HoDs.