



23 June 2021

To: HELCOM Heads of Delegation
HELCOM Observers
Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the HELCOM Groups
Nominated experts for ComFish WS 1-2021
HELCOM Fish Contacts and Observers
HELCOM FISH-M Contacts and Observers
HELCOM GEAR Contacts and Observers
HELCOM Pressure Contacts and Observers
HELCOM State and Conservation Contacts and Observers
ICES nominated contact points

Re. Invitation to the HELCOM Workshop on Status Assessment of Commercial Fish, HELCOM ComFish WS 1-2021, online, 28-29 September 2021

Dear colleagues,

With reference to the [Outcome](#) of the 59th Meeting of the Heads of Delegation (HOD 59-2020, para 6.7 and 6.10), I have the pleasure to invite you to HELCOM Workshop on Status Assessment of Commercial Fish (HELCOM ComFish WS 1-2021), to be held online on 28-29 September 2021. The Workshop will start at 10.00 (EEST) and end by 17.00 (EEST) each day.

This Workshop will aim to bring together regional experts on the topic and synthesise information into a solid plan ahead, the ultimate goal of the process being an improved and functional assessment of commercial fish for the Third Holistic Assessment of the Baltic Sea (HOLAS III). The Workshop will be chaired by Sweden and context as well as introductions will be given by the HELCOM Secretariat based on the ToRs and preparations towards HOLAS III. The workshop will more particularly look into:

- 1) The current work on Indicators related to commercial fish species (i.e. [Fish work plan](#)) and HOLAS III;
- 2) The policy requirements for an assessment of commercial fish and the data availability (i.e. ICES);
- 3) Devise and review a list of species of relevance in the Baltic Sea – including review of ICES recommendations and national species lists;
- 4) The feasibility of a full assessment of commercial fish (including in ecological terms) to provide status assessment in HOLAS III and its financial implications;
- 5) Establish valid indicators/assessment approaches that can be viable long-term components of HELCOM assessments.

In addition to nominations from HELCOM Contracting Parties the Secretariat will contact ICES to directly invite participation in the Workshop and preparatory work and thereby ensure that relevant experts and knowledge are incorporated.

Relevant documents for this Workshop will be made available via the HELCOM Meeting Portal on the [Meeting Site](#) for HELCOM ComFish 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) **by 20 September 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 September 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).

Jannica Haldin
Professional Secretary