



## Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature  
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION  
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<b>Document title</b>	Draft Data Call for HOLAS III
<b>Code</b>	4J-1
<b>Category</b>	DEC
<b>Agenda Item</b>	4J – Progress of relevant HELCOM expert groups and projects
<b>Submission date</b>	14.9.2020
<b>Submitted by</b>	Secretariat

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### Background

Preliminary gap analysis of HOLAS II and HELCOM data flow summaries have been started in HELCOM Data Flows project (Described in [S&C 12-2020 Document 3MA-8](#)). This analysis focuses on identifying data flows which require additional actions beyond regular annual data reporting activities to be able to provide complete raw data set for assessment period 2016-2021 for HOLAS III assessment. The analysis also compared the HOLAS III timeline ([HOD 58-2020 Document 5-5](#)), the reporting deadlines of various data strands ([S&C 12-2020 3MA-7-Rev1](#)) for data period 2016-2021 to be reported by May 2022 and the status of HELCOM Data flows ([S&C 12-2020 3MA-14](#)).

The Data flows are divided into 4 different tables (Attachments 1-4):

- Attachment 1: Core indicators,
- Attachment 2: pre-core, candidates and supplementary indicators,
- Attachment 3: BSPI / BSII Ecosystems components,
- Attachment 4: BSPI / BSII Human activities

Data flows requiring additional actions are listed in this document. The additional actions are grouped in to 3 categories by action type:

- **TIME:** Data flow contains regular (annual) reporting but reporting of 2021 data by May 2022 is problematic.
- **EXISTENCE:** Data flow is not regular. Thus, data will not be in place for HOLAS III without data flow arrangements and targeted data call.
- **COMPLETENESS: The completeness of the Data flows (i.e. the regularity of the reporting and gaps) will be assessed at a later stage.**

This document suggests actions to fill in the data reporting gaps by targeted HOLAS III Data Call focusing on action types on TIME and EXISTENCE. The document contains draft outline of the content of the data call. Issues with COMPLETENESS of regular data flows would be further investigated and communicated directly with relevant expert groups/indicator leads.

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- review the draft data call for HOLAS III
- take note of the planned data calls and inform national data hosting organization about approaching HOLAS III data calls and reporting deadlines
- take note of the need to prioritize which BSII/BSPI layers are to be updated via data call
- recommend which data flows should be regularly annually reported.
- Endorse the submission of the draft data calls to GEAR 23-2020 for review and endorsement and HOD 59-2020 for approval.

## Introduction

Preparation for the Third State of the Baltic Sea report (HOLAS 3) according to preliminary time table ([HOD 58-2020 Document 5-5](#)) outlines that data collection for the assessment period of 2016-2021 is carried out during 2021- Week22/2022 (end of May). This poses a timeline challenge for all data collection as well as completeness challenge due to lack of regular annual reporting of certain HELCOM data flows.

This document contains categorization of HELCOM data flows by their status and the need for a data call in order to be able to have sufficient data in time for HOLAS III assessment.

The Data flows are divided into 4 different tables (Attachments 1-4):

1. Attachment1: Core indicators
2. Attachment2: Pre-core, candidates and supplementary indicators
3. Attachment3: BSPI / BSII Ecosystems components
4. Attachment4: BSPI / BSII Human activities

For the indicators (Attachments 1 and 2), the column “Status for HOLAS III” is highlighting the issues for each Data flows:

- **TIME:** Data flow contains regular (annual) reporting but reporting of 2021 data by May 2022 is problematic due to established data reporting routines and deadlines.
- **EXISTENCE:** Data flow is not regular. Thus data will not be in place for HOLAS III without data flow arrangements and a targeted data call.

## Draft data call content

Resulting from the analysis of existing HELCOM Data flows, following content is suggested for the HOLAS III data call.

Due to varying establishment statuses of the data flows, the data call is suggested to be divided into two data calls.

1. One targeted for speeded schedule of 2021 for HOLAS III for existing data flows (“**Speeded schedule data call**”)
2. One targeted for non-existing data flows (“**Ad hoc data call**”)

## Speeded schedule data call

Speeded schedule data call would request Contracting Parties to report 2021 monitoring data earlier than official reporting deadlines outlined in the Monitoring Manual. This would allow full data coverage for HOLAS III.

When preparing this document, it has been signaled by experts and data providers that for certain data flows and Contracting Parties the reporting of monitoring data for 2020 by May 2022 is foreseen to be problematic or impossible. To circumvent this, it is recommended that Contracting Parties look into available options of speeded data delivery and aim to make national arrangements to enable data reporting by end of May 2022.

According to HOLAS III timeline, the monitoring data for 2021 should be reported by end of May 2022. The Speeded schedule data call would be targeted to following core indicator data flows which will have issues with timely data delivery:

#### Biodiversity:

- Biological community data (reported to ICES)
  - o Phytoplankton
  - o Zooplankton
  - o Zoobenthos

#### Eutrophication:

- Oceanographic data (reported to ICES)
  - o Nutrients
  - o Chlorophyll-a

#### Contaminants:

- Concentrations of contaminants in biota, sediment and water (reported to ICES)
- Radioactive substances (MORS)

#### Human Activities/Pressures:

- Impulsive noise
- Continuous noise (once established)
- Beach litter (once established)
- Management of dredged material at sea
- Inputs of nutrients

#### Ad hoc data call

Ad hoc data call would be targeted to those data types which feed established core indicators and do not have established data flows.

It has been emphasized by experts that specifically for the ad-hoc data call under HOLAS II, much time was lost due to delays in forwarding the data call from national delegations to the data hosting institutions. To circumvent this, it is recommended that Contracting Parties inform the national data holders well in advance about the approaching HOLAS 3 ad hoc data call and its planned scope and content. This would enable proper time for preparing and compiling data before the official data call is received.

It should be noted that updating most of the BSII/BSPI input datasets would require ad hoc data call since those are not in the scope of regular annual HELCOM data collection activities. Therefore it should be decided on which BSII/BSPI datasets should be prioritized and updated for HOLAS 3 and thus included in the ad hoc data call.

Ad-hoc data call will focus on following data:

#### Biodiversity:

- Seals: Abundance and distribution, other indicators.
- Birds: Breeding and wintering abundance.
- BSII prioritized ecosystem components

#### Human Activities/Pressures

- Trends in arrival of new non-indigenous species
- BSII/BSPI prioritized human activities/pressure datasets

## Annex I. Draft speeded schedule data call

### Data call – speeded schedule data call for regular HELCOM data collection activities

#### **RATIONALE FOR DATA REQUEST**

HELCOM Secretariat requests Contracting Parties of HELCOM to report monitoring data in speeded schedule for usage in the Third Holistic Assessment of the ecosystem health of Baltic Sea (HOLAS III) and for other HELCOM purposes.

Following the decision by HOD 58-2020 ([Outcome para. 5.20](#)) on HOLAS III timeline, **HELCOM Secretariat request Contracting Parties to report all available monitoring data for the assessment period 2016-2021 to be reported to the respective data hosts by 31 May 2022.**

#### **DATA USE POLICY**

The requested national data will be compiled to a Baltic wide HELCOM dataset by the respective data host and extracted for use in HOLAS III.

According to [HELCOM data and information strategy](#), all data collected for HELCOM assessment purposes should be openly accessible. The underlying unrestricted spatial datasets submitted by national data providers will be made publicly available as a HELCOM dataset using [HELCOM Map and Data service](#). For transparency and replicability of the assessment, the underlying data should be openly available and documented with proper metadata on lineage and sources. Each compiled dataset will contain a metadata sheet containing lineage information on national data providers.

#### **REQUESTED DATASET: SCOPE AND SPECIFICATIONS**

HELCOM Secretariat requests monitoring data to be reported following the existing data reporting formats and reporting routines.

The temporal coverage of the sampling should be from 1.1.2016 until 31.12.2021. Following the existing annual data reporting routines, data for years 2016-2020 should have been reported by 2021. **Therefore the scope of the data request is any monitoring data for 2016-2020 that has not yet been reported and all available data for monitoring year 2021.**

**The data should be reported by 31 May 2022.**

The scope of the dataset is all HELCOM Monitoring data that is regularly collected and reported annually to HELCOM database (to assigned data host or Secretariat).

## Annex 2. Draft Ad hoc data call

### **RATIONALE FOR DATA REQUEST**

HELCOM Secretariat requests Contracting Parties of HELCOM to report requested data (as specified below) for usage in the Third Holistic Assessment of the ecosystem health of Baltic Sea (HOLAS III) and for other HELCOM purposes.

Following the decision HOD 58-2020 ([Outcome para. 5.20](#)) on HOLAS III timeline, **HELCOM Secretariat request Contracting Parties to report all available data for the assessment period 2016-2021 to be reported to the secretariat ([ioni.kaitaranta@helcom.fi](mailto:ioni.kaitaranta@helcom.fi)) by 31 May 2022.**

### **DATA USE POLICY**

The requested national data will be compiled to a Baltic wide HELCOM dataset.

According to [HELCOM data and information strategy](#), all data collected for HELCOM assessment purposes should be openly accessible. The underlying unrestricted spatial datasets submitted by national data providers will be made publicly available as a HELCOM dataset using [HELCOM Map and Data service](#). For transparency and replicability of the assessment, the underlying data should be openly available and documented with proper metadata on lineage and sources.

Each compiled dataset will contain a metadata sheet containing lineage information on national data providers.

In case reuse and redistribution of national data has to be restricted according to conditions applied by the data provider, the restrictions should be flagged by the national data provider in both metadata and attribute of spatial object which it applies to.

### **REQUESTED DATASET: SCOPE AND SPECIFICATIONS**

The temporal coverage of the activity should last from 1.1.2016 until 31.12.2021.

The data call focuses on following datasets:

Monitoring data:

- Seal abundance and distribution
- Seal nutritional and reproductive status data
- Bird abundance (breeding and wintering)

Ecosystem components:

- Prioritized ecosystem components

Distribution of human activities:

- Prioritized human activities datasets

Requested format is dataset specific and will be outlined below per each dataset:

[Requested formats to be described per dataset]

<b>Metadata template</b>		
For each requested Ecosystem component and Human activities dataset, a metadata record should be filled in.		
<b>Metadata fields</b>		<b>Content</b>
<b>Title</b>	Title of the dataset	[Insert text]
<b>Abstract</b>	Short description of dataset (including e.g. modelling approach, if applicable)	[Insert text]
<b>Data provider information</b>	Organisation name	[Insert text]
	Contact person name	[Insert text]
	Contact person email	[Insert text]
<b>Lineage</b>	Lineage (history and/or overall quality of the spatial data set. Where appropriate it may include a statement whether the data set has been validated or quality assured)	[Insert text]
<b>Spatial data information</b>	Spatial data format (ESRI shapefile, MapInfo TAB, GML, Excel)	[Insert text]
	Data type (point / line / polygon / raster)	[Insert text]
	Coordinate reference system (EPSG: code)	ETRS89LAEA (EPSG: 3035)
	Minimum scale range	1:5,000
	Maximum scale range	1:150,000,000
<b>Temporal extent</b>	Start date (DD.MM.YYYY)	01.01.2016
	End date (DD.MM.YYYY)	31.12.2021
<b>Access and use</b>	Conditions applying to access and use	Data can be used freely given that the source is cited (following creative commons license <a href="#">CC-BY</a> ). The source should be cited as: "Organisation: Name of dataset (Year)".
	Limitations on public access (Yes/No/Partly)	No
<b>Attribute specification and units</b>	Description of attributes of each spatial object (Attribute name (data type): Description)	Attribute: Attribute description [Units]