



Document title	Provisional Annotated Agenda
Code	1-1
Category	DEC
Agenda Item	1 - Adoption of the Agenda
Submission date	9.11.2021
Submitted by	Secretariat and Chair
Reference	EN-BENTHIC7-2021, outcome para. 6.2

Background

The Eight Meeting of the HELCOM Expert Network on Benthic Habitats (EN Benthic 8-2021) will be held online on 30 November 2021. The Meeting will start at 9.00 CET/10.00 EET and will end by 16.00 CET/17.00 EET.

The Meeting will be chaired by Antonia Nyström Sandman, Chair of the Expert Network on Benthic Habitats.

Meeting documents will be submitted by the Secretariat to the document library of the [EN Benthic 8-2021 meeting site](#) via the HELCOM Meeting Portal. The Secretariat has prepared a [document template](#) and recommends using the template when submitting documents to the Secretariat.

Those Meeting participants who wish to provide their contributions for the Meeting are requested to submit the documents in electronic format to Associate Professional Secretary Florent Nicolas (florent.nicolas@helcom.fi) by **23 November 2021**.

Please register for the Meeting by answering the [Participation Survey](#) in the HELCOM Meeting Portal by **26 November 2021**. Instructions for the use of the Meeting Portal are available on the [HELCOM Website](#).

Provisional Annotated Agenda

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda, as contained in document 1-1.

Agenda Item 2 Information by the Chair, Secretariat and Contracting Parties

The following items will be briefly introduced, and discussion taken, if required.

- Information related to the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP 2021).
- Further information, regional or national, to share with EN BENTHIC. *Please provide information in advance of or at the meeting.*

Agenda Item 3 Progress on indicator and assessment work

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the outcomes of the review of benthic indicators by STATE&CONSERVATION 15-2021 and discuss any relevant follow up.

Assessment of benthic habitats

STATE&CONSERVATION 15-2021 considered the proposed approach for assessing the state of benthic habitats in the HOLAS III assessment (document 3J-26 to that meeting) and agreed that a key contributor meeting will be held in November 2021 to further elaborate approach for the assessment. The meeting agreed that an improved document should be submitted to HoD 61-2021 outlining the approach, providing context on the proposed use of the indicators and other sources, and presenting the proposed way forward for the benthic habitats assessment in HOLAS III.

The Meeting will be invited to consider the outcomes of the key contributor meeting and further guidance by State&Conservation on finalizing the methodology and to agree on the division of the tasks.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the any other progress on other indicator and assessment work and support further development of this with the HOLAS III process and deadlines in mind.

Agenda Item 4 Election of Chair and workplan for 2022-2024

The Terms of Reference and workplan for the Expert network for years for 2022-2024 were reviewed by EN BENTHIC 7-2021 and further endorsed by State&Consevation. EN BENTHIC 7-2021 supported denoting which tasks are of priority in the workplan and supported having the workplan as a living document that can be updated throughout the duration of the ToRs.

The Meeting will be invited to discuss the prioritisation of the tasks and to agree on the timelines to carry out the workplan.

The Meeting is invited to consider possible candidate(s) for chairmanship of the group and elect a Chair for the next three-year period (2022-2024).

Agenda Item 5 Any other business and next meeting

The Meeting is invited to consider any other business presented by the participants.

The Meeting is invited to agree on the time of the next meeting.

Agenda Item 6 Outcome of the Meeting

A draft Outcome of the Meeting will be shared with the participants after the meeting and published online once finalized.