



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Making the HELCOM eutrophication assessment operational (EUTRO-OPER)
Video Meeting, 8 September 2015

EUTRO-OPER 5-2015

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Background

With the finalization of the HELCOM EUTRO-OPER project by end of 2015, there will no longer be any project activity to continue the work on eutrophication assessments in HELCOM. Still, core indicator reports will require regular updates and for the production of the 2nd Holistic Assessment of the Ecosystem Health of the Baltic Sea (HOLAS II project) an updated eutrophication assessment is required by mid-2017 as well as mid-2018. In the project plan, EUTRO-OPER was tasked to

Action required

The Meeting is invited to comment the draft proposal for an HELCOM Intersessional network on eutrophication.

Proposal for establishment of inter-sessional network on eutrophication

The HELCOM EUTRO and EUTRO PRO projects on developing an eutrophication assessment, TARGREV project on eutrophication target setting, CORE EUTRO process on core eutrophication indicators and assessment, as well as the MORE project on monitoring revision have delivered during 2010-2014 the basic components of an operational regional monitoring and assessment of eutrophication. The components include an agreement on eutrophication status targets and core parameters that are to be monitoring and addressed by indicators.

The HELCOM EUTRO-OPER has continued by making operational the production of regional assessments of eutrophication for the Baltic Sea, aiming toward a documented and structured process. The developed structure is able to serve the needs of HELCOM in updating indicators and thematic assessments, serving the holistic assessment as well as the needs of the MSFD for Contracting Parties being EU Member States. Though the process is partly automatized, it is dependent of expert supervision.

Terms of reference for HELCOM Intersessional network on eutrophication

The duties of the expert network are to:

- Update core indicator reports and eutrophication assessments at intervals as decided in HELCOM. This includes regular review of the data and assessment products ;
- Update the eutrophication assessment manual at regular intervals
- Have responsibility for QA/QC guidance of the full eutrophication assessment process from monitoring to assessment products;
- Further development of the eutrophication assessment methodology, including regular scientific review of the agreed GES boundaries

To fulfill these duties the expert network will in the period 2016-2018:

- Ensure the quality of updated data products, provide reports for core indicators and carry out an eutrophication assessment by early 2017, or as otherwise agreed by the HOLAS II project;
- Ensure the quality of updated data products, provide reports for core indicators and carry out an eutrophication assessment by early 2018, or as otherwise agreed by the HOLAS II project

The network will consist of experts nominated by the Contracting Parties and will be open to Observers according to HELCOM procedures. The network will report to and receive guidance from State and Conservation Working Group.

The mode of work for the expert network will be mainly via correspondence and on-line meetings facilitated by the Secretariat, with physical meetings being organized as needed. A Chair for the network will be elected. The products will be handled at HELCOM Meeting Portal workspaces dedicated for the aim. The HELCOM Secretariat will provide administrative support to the network.

Expected results

The network will initiate and carry out regular assessments of eutrophication for the Baltic Sea, at intervals decided in HELCOM. It will continue the cooperation between HELCOM and ICES to maintain the full process that leads from data to assessment products. The network will ensure the high quality of the assessment tools and methodology.