



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Continuation of the project on Baltic-wide assessment of coastal fish communities in support of an ecosystem-based management

FISH-PRO III 1-2019

Helsinki, Finland, 12-14 February 2019

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The first Meeting of the Continuation of the Project for Baltic-wide assessment of coastal fish communities in support of an ecosystem-based management (FISH-PRO III 1-2019), to be held at the premises of the HELCOM Secretariat (Katajanokanlaituri 6 B), in Helsinki, Finland, on 12-14 February 2019.

The Meeting will start on Tuesday 12 February 2019 at 13:00 and is expected to end on Thursday 14 February 2019 by 12:00.

Documents and registration

Documents for the Meeting will be made available on the [Document Library](#) of the FISH-PRO III 1-2019 [Meeting Site](#) on [HELCOM Meeting Portal](#). Please note that you need to be a registered user with relevant rights to access the restricted meeting documents. Instructions for use of the HELCOM Meeting Portal are available on the [HELCOM Website](#).

Those Meeting participants that wish to provide their contributions for the Meeting are requested to submit meeting documents using the online [document template](#) to HELCOM Project Manager, Henri Jokinen (henri.jokinen@helcom.fi) for further submission to the Meeting, **on 29 January 2019 at the latest**. The Participants are kindly invited to register to the Meeting by answering the [Participation Survey](#) **by 5 February 2019**.

The Meeting will focus on:

- finalizing the update of the coastal fish monitoring guidelines
- indicators (updating existing ones with 2018 data, size related ones, potential future work on indicators for habitat status and extent)
- recreational fisheries impact evaluation
- planning the activities and work for the FISH-PRO III project
- general information from the HELCOM secretariat on topics of relevance for the group

Provisional Annotated Agenda

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

The Provisional Annotated Agenda has been prepared based on the outcome of the FISH-PRO II 5-2018 meeting and consultations between the Chair and the Secretariat.

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

Agenda Item 2 Information of relevance to FISH-PRO III

The Meeting is invited to take note and discuss as appropriate the outcomes of recent HELCOM meetings of relevance for FISH-PRO III (document 2-1).

The Meeting is invited to note information on the ongoing work within HELCOM to review the catalogue of HELCOM indicators, particularly those used in the 2018 State of the Baltic Sea report or those pressures and gaps identified within the report – including matching of the existing indicators to policy requirements (e.g. the Baltic Sea Action Plan, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive).

In this respect, the Meeting is invited to note that a workshop for detailing the planned work on indicators and the relevant milestones tentatively planned for 13-15 May 2019.

The Meeting is invited to take note that the planning for a joint OSPAR-HELCOM bycatch indicator workshop is progressing and note that it will tentatively take place in September 2019, hosted by Denmark.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the updated publication of the HELCOM State of the Baltic Sea report – Second holistic assessment 2011-2016 ([BSEP 155](#)) available on the website <http://stateofthebalticsea.helcom.fi/>. The Meeting is also invited to be reminded that the third thematic assessments on coastal fish, prepared by FISH-PRO II, contributed to the final HOLAS II report.

In this regard, the Meeting is invited to take note of the publication of the final version of the Status of coastal fish communities in the Baltic Sea during 2011-2016 – the third thematic assessment (BSEP 161; document 2-2), available on the HELCOM [website](#).

The Meeting is invited to take note of information on a project entitled “Actions to evaluate and identify effective measures to reach GES in the Baltic Sea marine region” (HELCOM ACTION), which is co-funded by the EU and will run in 2019-2020 (document 2-3), and use the information as appropriate.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the Regional expert workshop on essential fish habitats, organized by Pan Baltic Scope project and HELCOM (HELCOM Pan Baltic Scope EFH WS 2018), in Riga, Latvia, on 12-13 December 2018 (document 2-4).

On this note, the Meeting is further invited to consider and comment on the revised essential fish habitat maps from HELCOM Pan Baltic Scope EFH WS 2018 meeting (document 2-5).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information on the ongoing revision of the coastal fish monitoring programme in Sweden.

Contracting Parties are invited to provide information of relevance for the work of FISH-PRO III, including recent national activities related to monitoring of coastal fish.

Agenda Item 3 Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan

The Meeting is invited to take note of the strategic plan for updating the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) approved by HOD 54-2018 as well as the work plan approved by HOD 55-2018 (document 3-1). The Meeting

is invited to note that the update of the BSAP is a priority for the HELCOM working groups, and that the update 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.

Agenda Item 4 Updated coastal fish monitoring guideline

With reference to FISH-PRO II 5-2018 the Meeting is invited to take note of the final draft of the updated coastal fish monitoring guidelines, as presented by Sweden (document 4-1).

The Meeting is invited to review the draft guideline and agree on further tasks for the update work, with the view of sending the updated guidelines for approval to STATE & CONSERVATION 10-2019, and with the goal to publish the guideline during spring 2019.

Agenda Item 5 Indicators

HELCOM core indicators for coastal fish

The Meeting is invited to take note of the latest versions of the core indicators 'Abundance of coastal fish key functional groups' (document 5-1) and 'Abundance of key coastal fish species' (document 5-2) for the assessment period 2011-2016.

The Meeting is invited to note that FISH-PRO III is expected to continue the work to develop and fully operationalise indicators in line with the decisions taking place within the indicator project (HOD 54-2018 [Outcome](#) para. 4.25-4.27 and [document 4-5](#); GEAR 19-2018 [Outcome](#) Agenda Item 4).

Recalling the agreement that data updating for the indicators will be done annually to the [COOL database](#), the Meeting is invited to take note of the latest updates to the coastal fish database (COOL), and agree on the schedule for the next data updating for 2018.

Size-related indicators

FISH-PRO II 4-2017 was of the opinion that it is relevant to continue the work on developing size related indicators, and that it would be good to test the indicators developed by Sweden using data from the other countries as well. The topic was further discussed at FISH-PRO II 5-2018, and was agreed to be considered again at FISH-PRO III 1-2019 to review potential new results from the analyses and to discuss more in detail what to do as regards size related in indicators in the future.

In this regard, the Meeting is invited to take note of the recent activities as regards the development of size related indicators, consider the information as appropriate, and discuss how the matter can be brought forward.

Additional indicator work

The Meeting is invited to discuss how and if indicators for habitat status and extent for coastal fish should be developed by FISH-PRO III.

The Meeting is invited to take note of information of the status classification concept *EATS*, as been developed by Sweden.

Based on the information to be presented, the Meeting is invited to consider and discuss the matter of developing a new concept for status classification of coastal fish.

Agenda Item 6 Other activities

As background for discussions on recreational fisheries impact evaluation, the Meeting is invited to be reminded of the compiled information on coastal recreational fisheries in the HELCOM countries (document 6-1) collected and prepared by the HELCOM FISH-PRO II group and considered by [FISH 6-2017](#).

The Meeting is invited to take note of the Polish pilot study on development of methods for monitoring recreational fisheries.

Based on the information to be provided, the Meeting is invited to discuss the matter of recreational fisheries impact evaluation, and consider how and if this should be incorporated in the work of FISH-PRO III.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the pilot studies using Danish traps in Tvärminne (Finland) with the purpose of comparisons with gill-net catches, as presented by Finland.

Agenda Item 7 Future work

The Meeting is invited to discuss and consider how and to what extent anadromous species should be incorporated within the work of FISH-PRO III.

The Meeting is invited to plan for the future work of FISH-PRO III, based on the project proposal approved by [HOD 53-2017](#) (document 7-1) as well as the current work plans of HELCOM State and Conservation and HELCOM Fish Groups (document 7-2).

The Meeting is invited to agree on the topics to be discussed at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 8 Any other business

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information on analysis of efficiency of methods for catching low-valued fish species and alien species, as presented by Estonia.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information on using eelpout as indicator for the status of coastal ecosystem health, as presented by Denmark.

The Meeting is invited to review, and update as needed, the list of contacts and observers for FISH-PRO III (document 8-1). Contracting Parties and Observer organizations are invited to inform of any new, or changed, nominations to the Secretariat (henri.jokinen@helcom.fi). Taking into account the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR, (EU) 2016/679), the FISH-PRO III contact address list will be published on the HELCOM Meeting Portal after the Meeting only upon receipt of consent for publication by all contact persons. Otherwise the list will be kept as a restricted document.

Contracting Parties and Observers are invited to present any other business of relevance for the FISH-PRO III.

The Meeting is invited to agree on the time and place for the next meeting of FISH-PRO III.

Agenda Item 9 Outcome of the meeting

The Meeting will be provided with draft Outcome of the Meeting for adoption. The final Outcome, incorporating corrections by the Meeting, will be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Meeting and made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal.

Meeting participants will be asked for permission of sharing their contact details in the Meeting Outcome in the form of a list of participants.