



HELCOM FISH PRO III

11-13th February, Vilnius

Objectives of the meeting

- Further **developing indicators and assessment methods** (current and size related indicators, indicator for habitat extent and quality)
- **Preparation for HOLAS III** (time plan, contribution from FISH PRO including updated status assessment and thematic assessment)
- **Update of indicator data in coastal fish database COOL** (potentially also data from additional areas)
- **Intermediate status assessment** (data until 2019)
- **Alternative data sources, additional monitoring areas and trends in commercial catches** in relation to coastal fish monitoring and assessments.
- **Dissemination of projects of interest to FISH PRO III** (e.g. SOM, ACTION, Pan Baltic Scope and EN CLIME, recreational fisheries, ecosystem services valuation)

- Some interesting presentations and hopefully an enjoyable time!

AI 2

HELCOM knowledge and research needs



HELCOM knowledge and research needs questionnaire

- Submitted to HELCOM in mid November
- Input from FISH PRO III on knowledge and research needs:
 - **Evaluation of measures and development of novel measures**
 - **Impact of pressures** on coastal fish communities (rec. and comm fishing; haz. substances; microplastics; climate; hypoxia; apex predators; cumulative impacts)
 - **Functional traits and habitat connectivity** (freshwater-sea)
 - **Indicator development** (size and age; habitat; distribution; D3)
 - **Assessment methodologies**
 - **Monitoring** (expansion of current network; alternative methods)

AI 3

HOLAS III and contribution from FISH PRO III

HOLAS III in general

Two parts:

1. **Preparatory phase:** development and refinement of indicators, data flows, assessment methodology. **2020-2021**
2. **Assessment phase:** data collection, indicator evaluations, integrated assessments and report production. Late **2021-2023** (reporting ready by end of 2022)

General context:

- Assessment period **2016-2021** (is this possible for coastal fish?)
- Only one iteration of assessment
- Where possible **follow the general structure outlined under HOLAS II**
- Consider the **timeline for MSFD** article 8 reporting.

HOLAS III report to be published by the end of 2023

HOLAS III – FISH PRO Contribution

FISH PRO should provide:

- **Operational indicators and assessment methodologies** (including principles for aggregation) -> ready by 2021
- **Supporting indicators** (habitat and distribution) -> ready by 2021
- **Increased spatial coverage** -> ready by 2021
- **Updated data in COOL** -> ready by spring 2022 (data until 2020?)

- **Indicator based status assessments** -> ready by early fall 2022
- **Updated indicator reports** -> ready by end of 2022
- **Review assessment results** concerning coastal fish -> early fall 2022
- Produce a **fourth the thematic assessment report** -> ready by end of 2022

- **Review the final HOLAS III report** -> early fall 2023

Timeline HOLAS III preparatory phase

		2020				2021			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Preparatory phase	Indicator development/consolidation								
	Establishing and ensuring dataflows								
	Refining and further developments of assessments								

Any indicator not ready by the end of 2021 will not be included in HOLAS III.

Timeline HOLAS III assessment phase

		2022				2023			
		Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	C	
HOLAS III	Indicators	Data collection							
		Data approval							
		Indicator evaluations							
		Approval of indicator evaluation results							
		Update indicator reports							
		Updating indicator report metadata and maps							
		Approval of indicator reports							
		Prepare supplementary information							
		Approval of report content							
	Indicator based integrated assessments	Run integrated assessments							
		Validating and approving results							
		Prepare supplementary information							
		Approval of report content							
	Cumulative facts assessment	Data collection							
		Data approval							
		Running indices							
		Metadata descriptions							
		Validating and approving results							
		Prepare supplementary information							
		Approval of report content							
	Economic and social analysis assessment	Data collection							
		Data approval							
		Analysis							
		Validation and approval							
		Prepare supplementary information							
		Approval of report content							
	Report	Collate and write summary report text							
		Create synthesized figures							
		Approval of report content							
		Website production							
		Layout							
		Publication							

Data ready by Q2 2022. Data for coastal fish 2016-2020?

Status assessment by Q3 2022.

Updated indicator reports by Q4 2022.

Thematic Assessment ready by Q4 2022.

Integrated assessment by Q4 2022.

HOLAS III report published by Q3 2023.

AI 4

Indicators and assessments

Issues for discussion

- **Which indicators** should we include in HOLAS III?

-> Key species, functional groups (piscivores, cyprinids, mesopredators), L90 key species, habitat?

- Which of these **needs development** and to what extent?

- **Which species** should we assess? (agree on a species list)

- **Under which descriptor** should coastal fish be assessed?

-> D1 and/or D3?

Issues for discussion (cont)

- **Are we happy with the current assessment methodology?**
EATS/ASCI?

-> how to do with shorter timeseries and changes in gears over time?

- **Which data** should we use?

-> gillnet monitoring, commercial catch data and recreational fishermen survey? To what extent?

- **Which areas** should we include?

-> the ones included in HOLAS II? Additional ones (Estonia, Latvia, Swedish coast of the Sound and Kattegat, Poland, Germany and Denmark including refinement of data)?

All this should be ready, developed and decided by the end of 2021

Fourth Thematic Assessment for Coastal fish

- Should be ready by the end of 2022
- Structure and outline?
-> same as the 3rd assessment (Pressures, status and measures)
- Responsible countries and experts?
-> Sweden offers to take the lead

Intermediate status assessment in 2020

- Data until 2019
- Assessment during the fall 2020
- An opportunity to check and validate methodology (EATS and trends) and data (including Poland and Germany, new Danish data)
- Is this something we should execute?
- If so one assessment for all data (in COOL by SLU), or individual national assessments using a common R-script?

AI 5

Monitoring and data

Data update COOL

- All 2018 data are now uploaded in COOL

- Timeline for 2020 (2019 data)?

-> submission of data to Jens by the 31st of June?

- If additional areas and indicators should be included in the HOLAS III assessment, this data (until 2020?) needs to be uploaded to COOL by 31st of June 2022.

Development work (until 2021)

Indicators

- **Key species**
- **Functional groups**
- **L90 key species (and other size/demographic indicators)** – as discussed earlier today (data compilation all countries, impact from fishing, threshold value)
- **Habitat** – skip it for now?
- **Distribution** – skip it for now?

Development work (until 2021)

D1 and/or D3

How to get forward? Needs of new indicators on F and SSB?

Assessment methodology

EATS and trend-based approach for abundance indicators ->
intermediate assessment

L90?



What data use and areas to include in future assessments?

Data

- Gill net monitoring (all countries except Denmark?)
- Citizen science (only Denmark?)
- Commercial catches (only Finland? Additional countries?)

Areas

- Additional areas (in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Denmark and Sweden)

A need for further intersessional work until the 2021 meeting?

Needs to be decided and ready by the end of 2021.

AI 7

Revision of workplan and topics for the next meeting

Topics for the next meeting

- Presentations of intersessional work on size indicators, habitat indicator, assessment methodology and data sources for status assessments
- Further discussion on what to include for coastal fish in HOLAS III (indicators, assessment methodologies, species, areas, data sources)
- Data update in COOL (data until 2020)
- Start drafting 4th Thematic Assessment for Coastal fish
- Project dissemination (recreational fisheries, ecosystem valuation,)