



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

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

FISH-PRO III 2-2020

Vilnius, Lithuania, 11-13 February 2020

Document title	Provisional Annotated Agenda
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The Second Meeting of the Continuation of the Project for Baltic-wide assessment of coastal fish communities in support of ecosystem-based management (FISH-PRO III 2-2020) will be held at the premises of the Ministry of Environment (A. Jakšto g. 4/9, 5th floor) in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 11-13 February 2020.

The Meeting will start on Tuesday 11 February 2020 at 13:00 and is expected to end on Thursday 13 February 2020 by 15:00.

The Meeting will be chaired by Jens Olsson, Sweden, Project Manager of FISH-PRO III.

Documents and registration

Documents for the Meeting will be made available on the [meeting Document Library](#) of the FISH-PRO III 2-2020 [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 Assisting Professional Secretary, Petra Kääriä (petra.kaaria@helcom.fi) for further submission to the Meeting, **on 3 February 2020 at the latest**. The Participants are kindly invited to register to the Meeting by answering the [Participation Survey](#) **by 4 February 2020**.

The Meeting will focus on:

- Further developing indicators and assessment methods (current and size related indicators, possible indicator for habitat extent and quality)
- Preparation for HOLAS III (time plan, contribution from FISH PRO III 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)

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 III 1-2019 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, to be presented by the Secretariat.

The Meeting is invited to take note of a presentation on the update of Baltic Sea Action Plan focusing on fish and suggestions for measures for coastal fish under the HELCOM Platform for sufficiency of measures (SOM), work related to fish under HELCOM-Baltic Earth Expert network on climate change (EN CLIME), achievements from the ACTION project as well as the outcome of HELCOM knowledge and research needs to be presented by Sweden.

The 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.

Sweden is invited to inform the Meeting on the revised coastal fish monitoring program in Sweden.

The Meeting is invited to note that the updated HELCOM monitoring guideline for coastal fish is available on the HELCOM website.

Agenda Item 3 Information on the process and timeline for HOLAS III including contribution from FISH-PRO III

The Meeting is invited to take note of the provisional timeline and preparation for HOLAS III (document to be submitted later) and consider the contribution from FISH-PRO III.

Agenda Item 4 Indicators and assessment

HELCOM core indicators for coastal fish

The Meeting is invited to take note of the future work on HELCOM indicators, including an indicator work plan for fish (document to be submitted later) and to implement the plan regarding coastal fish.

The Meeting is invited to agree on the process for intermediate status assessment for the core indicators with data until 2019 using the EATS assessment tool.

Sweden is invited to give a presentation on controlling temperature effects in monitoring data for coastal fish.

Size-related indicators

FISH-PRO III 1-2019 agreed that size-based indicators, especially L90, have large potential to provide valuable added knowledge on coastal fish, and the matter should progress intersessionally by initial work on national data to be reported and further considered by FISH-PRO III 2-2020.

The Contracting Parties are invited to present national data and progress of work regarding size-related indicators.

Additional indicator work

Potential indicator: Habitat status and extent

FISH-PRO III 1-2019 concluded that developing indicators for fish habitats is a very difficult task, with identified challenges regarding inter alia habitat and threshold definitions in a dynamic system. The Meeting agreed not to explicitly focus on this but, recognizing the generally positive response from most Contracting Parties, agreed to start investigating possibilities for taking the work forward. The Meeting welcomed the offer by Lithuania to take the lead on this activity and agreed to revisit the matter by sharing the progress done at the next meeting in 2020.

Lithuania and co-Lead Denmark are invited to share progress on developing a potential indicator on habitat status and extent.

Sweden is invited to present recent work on developing regional maps on essential fish habitats by HELCOM and the Pan Baltic Scope project.

Agenda Item 5 Monitoring and data

The Contracting Parties are invited to describe in detail what kind of data they can include in the future coastal fish assessments, as agreed by FISH-PRO III 1-2019.

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 data updating for 2019 data.

Sweden is invited to present a proposed new Swedish monitoring program for coastal fish.

The Meeting is invited to recall that FISH-PRO III 1-2019 took note of a general suggestion by Finland to also focus on catches of the coastal fish species in addition to concentrate on abundance from monitoring. The meeting considered the suggestion worth being investigating further, and welcomed the offer by Antti Lappalainen, LUKE, Finland to send a request to Contracting Parties about commercial catch data as a first step. The meeting further noted that the catch and effort data could potentially also be used as a pressure factor for assessing fish habitat status but that the data for such purposes would need to be spatially explicit.

Finland is invited to present outcomes from the commercial catch data request.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the new [HELCOM Biodiversity database](#), which was created by the HELCOM BaltiCheck project.

The Meeting is invited to consider alternative data sources, additional monitoring areas and trends in commercial catches in relation to coastal fish monitoring and assessments.

Agenda Item 6 Other activities

Recreational fisheries

The Meeting is invited to recall that FISH-PRO III 1-2019 agreed to continue sharing information about national projects and advancements related to recreational fisheries, and to consider updating [document 6-1](#) 'Compiled information on coastal recreational fisheries in HELCOM countries' in the future by adding an overview of existing data and expanding to address which potential impacts are known to exist.

Poland is invited to present updated information on coastal recreational fisheries in HELCOM countries.

The Contracting Parties are invited to share information on projects and other activities related to recreational fisheries.

Relevant projects related to coastal fish

The Meeting is invited to take note of relevant presentations by the coastal fish experts, including 'Preliminary study on restoring wetland for successful reproduction of anadromous pike (*Esox lucius*)', by Mr. Roland Svirgsden, Estonia, as well as 'Juvenile fish habitat across the inner Danish waters: Habitat association models and habitat growth models from direct observation and historical data' by Mr. Elliot Brown, Denmark.

Agenda Item 7 Future work

The Meeting is invited to review and possibly update the work plan.

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

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

Agenda Item 8 Any other business

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 (petra.kaaria@helcom.fi).

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