



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach

GEAR 20-2019

Berlin, Germany, 15-17 May 2019

Document title	Request for HELCOM to join joint workshop on marine ecosystem accounting
Code	4-3
Category	DEC
Agenda Item	4 – Activities of relevant HELCOM projects or processes
Submission date	25.4.2019
Submitted by	Secretariat/EN ESA
Reference	

Background

The HELCOM Ministerial declaration 2018 includes a commitment to the analysis of ecosystem services and natural capital accounting:

49. WE RECOGNIZE that knowledge on the relationship between the state of the marine environment and human well-being is essential for applying the ecosystem approach to management of human activities and in maritime spatial planning in the region, as well as for implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention on Biological Diversity;
50. To this end, WE AGREE to further develop and carry out coordinated regional economic and social assessments, including mapping, valuation, and analysis of ecosystem services and natural capital accounting, taking advantage of improved methods and comparability of data;

In relation to these statements, a joint workshop on marine ecosystem accounting is planned for 10.10.2019 in Helsinki, Finland. Workshop partners are:

- 2018-FI-ECOSYSTEMS funded by Eurostat (primary funding source);
- Mapping and Assessment for Integrated ecosystem Accounting (MAIA) – a Horizon 2020 project running 2018-2022;
- Finnish Environmental Institute (SYKE)

The HELCOM expert network on Economic and Social Analysis supported the request from Finland that HELCOM engage in the workshop and suggested that the meeting be organized back to back with a HELCOM ESA meeting ([Outcome EN ESA 2-2018, para. 2.1](#)). The workshop was subsequently scheduled immediately preceding the WG POMESA meeting on 11.10.2019. Workshop partners are inviting HELCOM to join the current workshop partners in hosting this event. HELCOM's contribution would be limited to providing a meeting place for the workshop. No other funds or additional resources for HELCOM are foreseen.

Action requested

The meeting is invited to

- agree that HELCOM joins in hosting the workshop on marine ecosystem accounting, making it a joint HELCOM event;
- consider nominating national experts to take part in the workshop.