



Document title	Outcomes of EUTRO-OPER project
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Agenda Item	4 – Matters arising from the subsidiary bodies
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Background

The 'Project on making HELCOM eutrophication assessments operational (EUTRO-OPER)' (January 2014 – December 2015) aimed towards a regularly updated high-quality thematic assessment of eutrophication status, produced through an operational and streamlined process. It was a continuation to the CORE EUTRO process, stemming from the EUTRO-, EUTRO PRO- and TARGREV projects, which have since 2005 developed the HELCOM core set of eutrophication indicators, with boundaries of good environmental status and assessment methodology.

This document provides a summary of the main deliverables and links to products of the EUTRO-OPER project.

HOD 49-2015 took note that the pre-core indicators developed by EUTRO-OPER will not be finalized by end of the project and that in order to finalize them Lead Countries are needed to ensure their continued development as well as resources for modelling to develop GES-boundaries for three of the indicators. The Meeting noted the view of Finland, Germany and Sweden to continue the project in 2016 with support of a part-time project manager. The Meeting agreed to continue the project for a limited period 3-6 months and welcomed the offer by Germany to contribute to the work financially (para 4.119).

The development of GES-boundaries for eutrophication pre-core indicators is planned to continue as decided by HOD 49-2015 as "EUTRO-OPER EXTENDED", and some funding support has been offered Germany. The description of activities under EUTRO-OPER EXTENDED is currently being developed.

Action required

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

Outcomes of EUTRO-OPER project

The EUTRO-OPER project piloted the production of assessment products through efficient data flow processes. During the project, the entire assessment process, from monitoring and data aggregation to assessment calculation, was defined and documented, together with the protocols as well as responsibilities of QA/QC guidance and review. The project continued to improve the quality of the existing eutrophication status core indicators through enabling use of remote sensing and ship-of-opportunity data. Gaps in the present set of core indicator were investigated and new indicators were proposed. In addition, steps toward coordination of harmonizing the coastal and open sea eutrophication assessment were taken.

The new work flow combines and calculates automatically monitoring data such as on nutrients, into resulting indicators and assessments. Importantly, the system also incorporates an online review by nominated experts for improved quality check and transparency. The HELCOM assessment system, is hosted by and developed together with the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES).

The system pilots similar automated procedures foreseen by HELCOM for assessments of hazardous substances and biodiversity.

The online [workspace](#), established for testing the new assessment process, has been published for demonstration purposes (see screenshot). The site includes a [dataview](#) of the data submissions, data stations and calculated indicators, providing a platform form review and documentation. The dataview also shows details on country-specific submissions of data on eutrophication-related parameters – phosphorus, nitrogen, chlorophyll-a and Secchi depth as well as assessment products.



HELCOM Meeting Portal

EUTRO-OPER Data reporting workspace: Test assessment 2007-2011

EUTRO-OPER Data reporting workspace

Eutrophication Manual

Dataview

National data check-up

DE

DK

EE

FI

LV

LT

PL

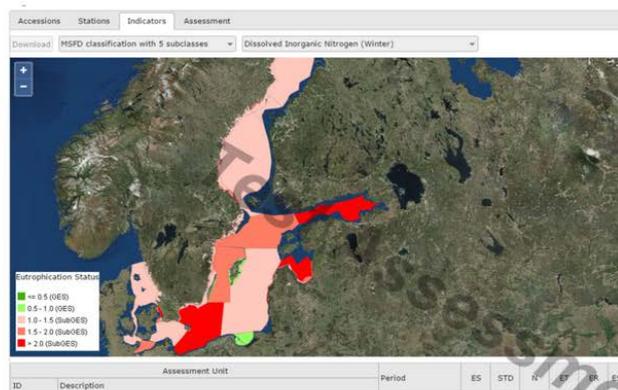
RU

SE

Core indicators

HEAT

Test assessment produced by the HELCOM project on making eutrophication assessments operational (EUTRO-OPER)



This workspace and dataview has been used for testing purposes when developing the HELCOM eutrophication assessment database and workflow under the project HELCOM EUTRO-OPER. It has been made public in order to be able to present the tool and review process also to experts outside the project.

The automated assessment workflow is the main deliverable. Other outcomes include a concise [assessment manual](#) providing a step-wise explanation of the assessment of eutrophication. The project has also developed HELCOM pre core indicators on eutrophication; proposed how to combine assessment of coastal and open waters stemming from different legislative frameworks; proposed for improved usage of satellite data along with the in-situ samples collected from monitoring points; and suggested a method on harmonizing coastal and open-sea assessments, among others.

A description of project activities and results is available in the [EUTRO-OPER project report](#).