



Document title	Draft proposed working structure of HOLAS III assessment phase 2.0
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Background

This document contains the second draft proposal for the working structures associated with the third Holistic Assessment of the State of the Baltic Sea. The proposed working structure contained in this document is based on the agreed detailed timeline for the HOLAS III assessment, as approved by HOD 58-2020. No changes in timing have been made. Please note that there are still identified gaps and unclarities included in the structure presented in this document, these are expected to be filled as the process progresses (e.g. in relation to leads on the thematic assessments).

While a process of the complexity of the holistic assessment by nature contains an element of the dynamic the plan contained in this document is intended to help guide preparations and implementation for the HOLAS III assessment phase, both at the national and regional level, including securing and timing the necessary resources for each of the steps of the process. It also functions as a basis for guiding work currently ongoing under the preparatory phase.

STATE&CONSERVATION 13-2020 and GEAR 23-2020 considered the proposed working structure of the HOLAS III assessment phase and endorsed the submission of the proposed working structure to HOD 59-2020 for approval, however acknowledged that the question regarding the possible need for overarching, strategic steer of the process remains open.

HOD 59-2020 took note of the comments by Contracting Parties on the proposed working structure of the HOLAS III assessment phase (document 6-14 to that meeting), which were received prior to the meeting, and took note of consequent clarifications by the Secretariat. However, due to the time limitations at the meeting it was not possible to consider all the amendments in detail and the meeting agreed to come back to the approval of the working structure of the HOLAS III assessment phase at HELCOM 42-2020 and invited the Secretariat to prepare an updated proposal, taking into account the comments received prior to and at HOD 59-2020.

Please note: There are currently a number of indicators for which no lead is identified to date (e.g oxygen debt). Should leads not be found for these indicators the evaluation for the HOLAS III process will be problematic, and it cannot be guaranteed that they can be included in the HOLAS III assessment.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- consider the proposed setup of the HOLAS III assessment working structure, including proposal for which HELCOM meetings would be invited to endorse and approve the various deliverables;
- consider the alternatives presented for securing support for the holistic aspects of the assessment.

- consider the establishment of a core team consisting of national focal points for the HOLAS III assessment, to support steer, management and information flow nationally;
- take note that there are a number of indicators for which there are currently no leads and consider taking lead on the indicators;
- approve the proposed working structure as contained in this document, noting that modifications may be needed as the process progresses.

Draft proposed working structure of HOLAS III

A. General considerations

Approval processes

For the working structure of the HOLAS III assessment a nested approach for approval, capitalizing on the existing meeting schedule and structure, is proposed. This implies that for each product the approval moves increasingly higher in the HELCOM hierarchy, while still allowing the relevant underlying groups the possibility to provide input and comments, within the same process (see Figure 1 for a visualization). It also means that to the extent possible each process builds on already approved results from the previous steps. This should significantly reduce redundancy within the approval process. An overview of the indicative timing and length of the review and approval processes for each set of products are presented in the timeline is available in Table 1.

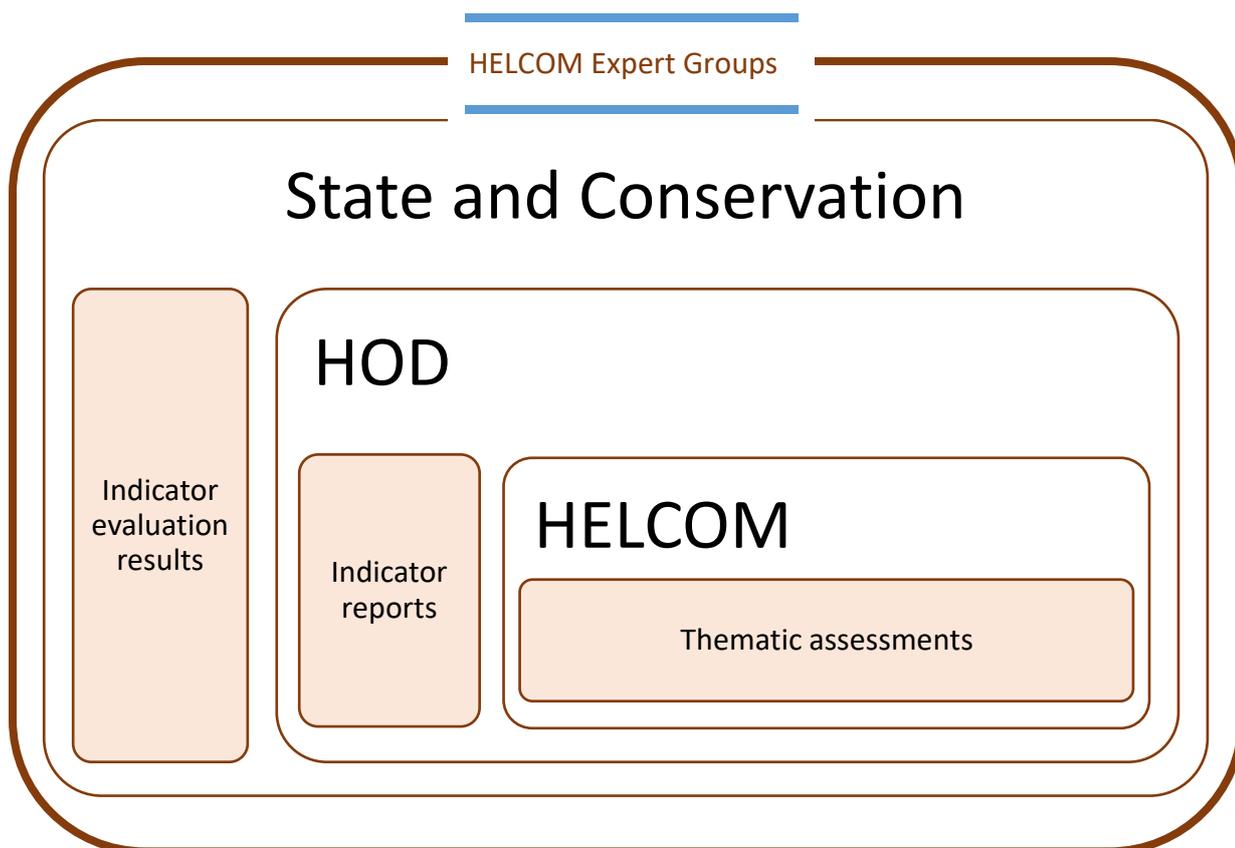


Figure 1. Nested approval approach proposed for HOLAS III. Each consecutive product is approved at a higher level in the HELCOM structure, indicative of the type of product in question i.e. if the product is primarily technical or of more direct policy or strategic relevance. The setup capitalizes on existing planned meetings, while incorporating a review by the preceding levels (e.g. Expert Groups or/and Working Groups).

Review of products

At each step of the approval process relevant WGs and EGs are invited to intersessionally review and provide input to the products from a technical and scientific perspective, in order to ensure that all relevant expertise is harnessed, as well as equal treatment of the Working Groups is ensured,. The reviews are proposed to follow the same basic structure. The material, i.e. the content to review, a dedicated table for proposed amendments as well as guidance, will be made available online simultaneously to all reviewers (all relevant EGs, WGs and the target meeting), using a site dedicate for this purpose. This is to ensure that all parties are reviewing the latest version of the documents and aims to avoid overlapping but disjointed review processes.

Input is to be provided using a dedicated amendment table prepared by the Secretariat, and all input from the review is to be uploaded to the review site 10 days prior to the target meeting, allowing the Secretariat and the contributors to consolidate the information and provide proposed amendments. One consolidated national position per EG and WG is strongly recommended. Please note that for the sake of the integrity of the process, which is extremely time-dependent, late input or input provided in formats other than the table will regrettably not be considered. For a visualisation of the process please see Figure 2.

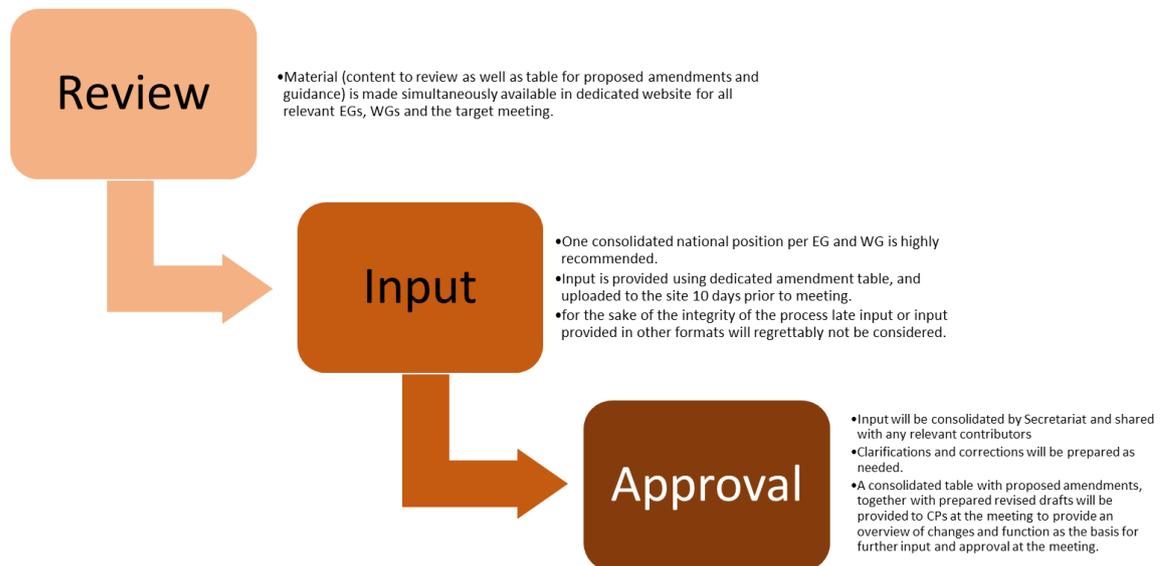


Figure 2. Steps and flow of review and approval process for each step in the HOLAS III workflow. Indicative timing and length of review processes can be found in the timeline in Table 1.

The review will be targeted as outlined in Figure 1 and reviewers will be identified based on the nature of the content to be reviewed. This implies that for review and approval of data, information of purely technical nature, nominated experts and EGs will be invited while for the review of indicator evaluation results (step 2.2 in section Structure of HOLAS III assessment work presented later in the document) both EGs and WGs will be invited.

From step 2.4 (review and approval of indicator reports, see section Structure of HOLAS III assessment work), the first step where information of strategic relevance is generated, and onward the GEAR group will join in the review process and review the products from a policy/strategic perspective. The review by GEAR will take place intersessionally, simultaneously with the technical/scientific review of the WGs and EGs. See Figure 3 for a conceptualization of the process.

For more specific information on the workflows under the various steps of the HOLAS III assessment please see the section *Structure of HOLAS III assessment work*.

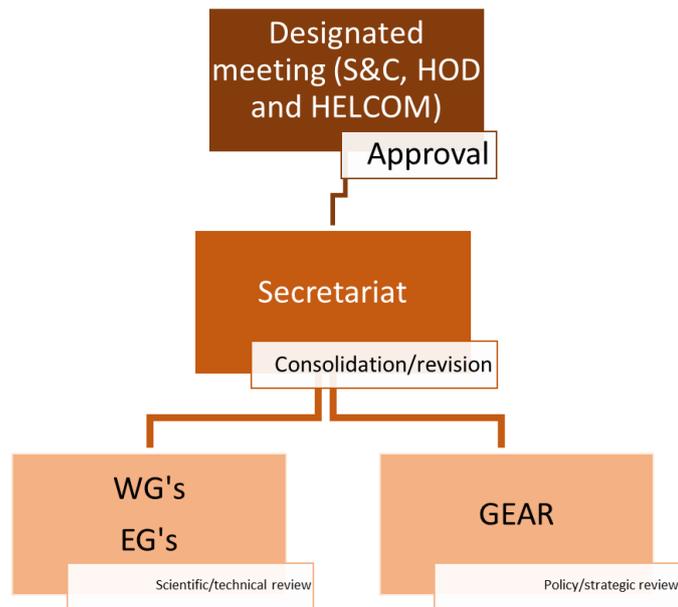


Figure 3. Process of simultaneous scientific/technical and policy/strategic review, consolidation of input and approval

Timelines for HOLAS III assessment processes

The timeline for the HOLAS III assessment has already been specified and approved by HOD 58-2020. The information contained here does not differ from the approved timeline but rather provides indicative dates for specific deadlines within the process.

Quick overview of provisional deadlines for HOLAS III:

- **Indicator evaluation results** submitted to Secretariat by **31 August 2022**.
- **Indicator reports for HOLAS III** submitted to Secretariat by **27 September 2022**.
- **Thematic reports of integrated assessments and analyses** (ESA, Biodiversity, Hazardous substances etc) submitted to Secretariat by **5 December 2022**.
- **State of the Baltic Sea report content** submitted to Secretariat **8 May 2023**.
- Layout and website need to be ready, and published by end of 2023.

Table 1 provides an annual overview of the work processes by month (for the more specified weekly overview please see the [specified timeline for the HOLAS III assessment phase](#) approved in HOD 58-2020). Although not separately indicated in Table 1, for each step efforts have been made to secure time between submission of products to the Secretariat and the consequent submission for review by CPs to enable the Secretariat to prepare the documents and conduct initial proofreading etc. Note that exact dates of submission etc are still provisional for the meetings for which date are not yet set. These are indicated with an asterisk (*). To the extent possible the indicated deadlines have been set according to the earliest expected meeting dates in an effort to avoid that submission deadlines would be adjusted to bring submission earlier than indicated in this table.

Table 1. Overview of work process for each step of the HOLAS III assessment process, with indicative deadlines. Timeline do not differ from the specific timeline for HOLAS III approved by HOD 58-2020. Meetings for which no dates have yet been agreed are indicated with an asterisk (*), for these meeting dates presented here are provisional and are based on previous years schedule.

	Process
	Submission (with provisional date)
	Review/endorsement
	Approval (with provisional date)

2021

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Data reporting												

2022

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Data reporting						6.6-1.7						
Indicator evaluation results								31.8		10-14.10*		
Indicator reports										17.10		8-9.12*
Integrated assessments										17.10		
Thematic assessment reports												5.12

2023

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Thematic assessment reports			7.3*									
Summary report, content					8.5	13-14.6*						
Summary report, layout and website						15.6						15.12

Incorporating climate change considerations into HOLAS III

In 2007, 2010 and 2018 HELCOM Ministerial Meetings noted that climate change will have impacts on the marine environment and this should ultimately be reflected in HELCOM policies. The Helsinki Commission in turn has stressed the importance of taking concrete steps to, e.g., make the issue of climate change more prominent overall in HELCOM work.

The first step is to have a clear picture of what climate-driven changes have occurred and can be expected to occur in the future in the Baltic Sea. Such information is now available in the HELCOM Climate Change Fact Sheet (CCFS). The CCFS contains concise and easily accessible information in the form of key messages on climate change effects for 34 parameters, varying from parameters directly affected by climate change, e.g. sea temperature, to those indirectly affected by climate change, e.g. benthic habitats. These parameters will be cross-referenced with the HELCOM indicators, with the main emphasis being on the direct parameters, and the relevant parameter information included in the indicator reports. The indicator leads will be invited to, where possible, draw conclusions on what implications the climate information might have for the indicator as well as and present recommendations on how this information could be

considered when further developing or modifying indicators. For the integrated assessments, as a minimum, the list of relevant climate change parameters (i.e. those parameters identified as relevant for the indicators included in the integrated assessment in question) (see Figure 4 for a conceptual overview). In the summary report, i.e. the State of the Baltic Sea report, it is foreseen that climate change considerations will be included for each topic, as well as a section on general climate change consideration for the Baltic Sea.

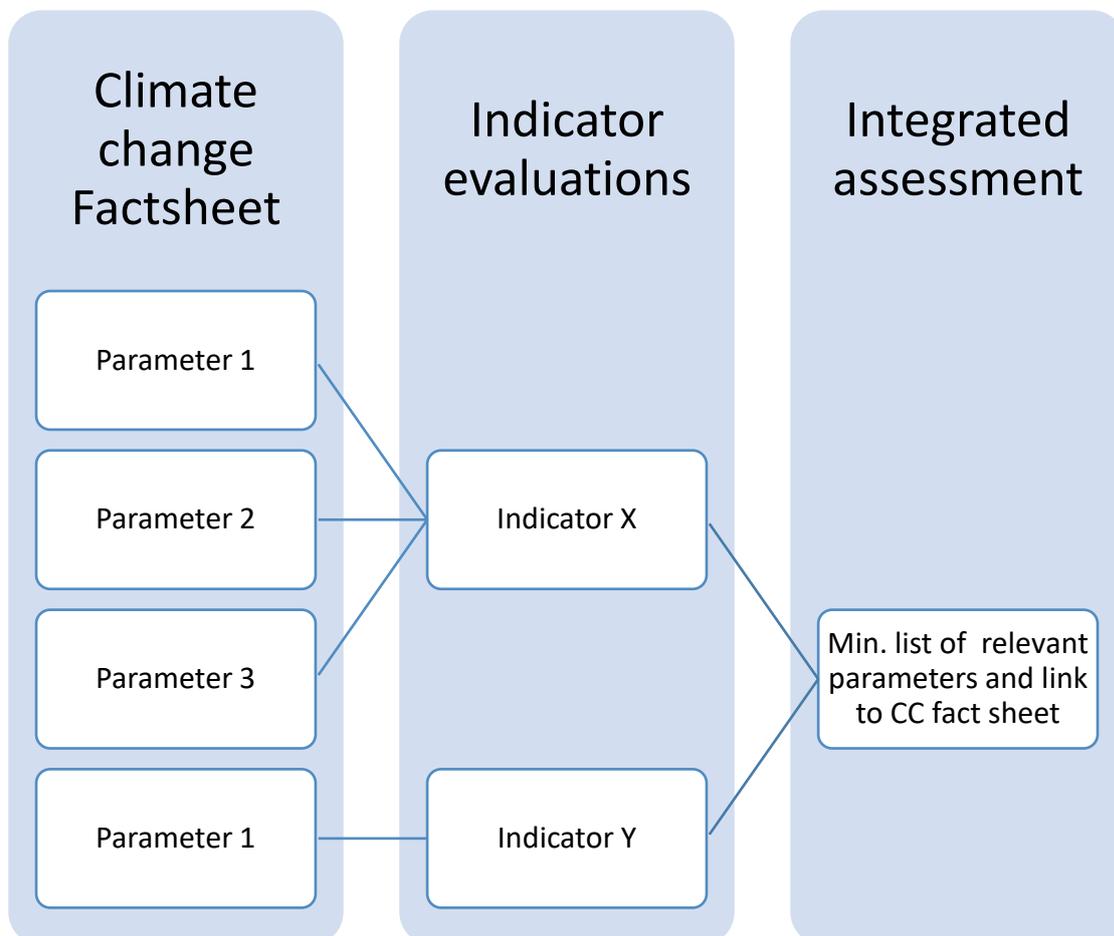


Figure 4. Conceptual overview of how to include climate change considerations into the indicator driven HOLAS III processes.

Secretariat working structure for HOLAS III assessment

An internal core team will be set up at the HELCOM Secretariat with each member focused on a dedicated topic/tasks based on expertise. The division of work will be linked to the work done under the preparatory process/in the supporting project so as to capitalize on existing knowledge and ensure optimal flow of information. Preliminary resource needs foreseen at the Secretariat are outlined in [document 5-6](#) to HOD 58-2020. The work will be coordinated by the Professional Secretary.

As outlined in document 5-6 there is a need to secure additional resources at the Secretariat to cover the foreseen tasks. Contracting Parties are therefore invited to provide contributions to support the HOLAS III work and ensure sufficient resources are available to enable the work to take place as planned.

Ad Hoc working structures

Correspondence Group of national HOLAS III focal points (CG HOLASIII)

In order to ensure clear, transparent and directed flow of information between the Secretariat, the CPs and national experts within the HOLAS III process it is proposed to establish a time-bound correspondence group of national HOLAS III focal points as outlined below.

Mandate: Time-bound CG, the group would not have a mandate to approve any products.

Task: functioning as support with regards to management and coordination of the HOLAS III-related activities at the national level (e.g. data reporting, review processes etc.) to ensure that the integrity of the process is maintained. Would also function as the natural communication point for the information flow to and from the Secretariat (and would be included in all relevant HOLAS III correspondence) and would help to ensure that CPs can stay informed on progress of the overall work. Should clearly conflicting input be provided as part of the review processes, by experts either representing the same CP or different CPs, the relevant focal points can be contacted and informed by the Secretariat and invited to clarify the position nationally and thus facilitate the approval process.

Membership: consisting of one or two national focal points for HOLAS III. The focal point is envisioned to be a person who manages the national coordination of HOLAS III work (e.g. engages experts in the various processes, organises reviews, collates input etc.), and who would thus benefit from a more in depth overview of the progress of the HOLAS III process as a whole.

Mode of working: The CG would be a formalized communication channel between the Secretariat and the CPs regarding the practical processes surrounding HOLAS III. It is not foreseen that the CG would have any meetings. However, should any major changes in the agreed process occur the focal points may jointly be briefed on the proposed way forward, to ensure structured and direct flow of information.

Securing expertise to support the holistic perspective

To improve the holistic aspects of the assessment, and thus increase the ecological and policy relevance of the work, there is a need to further improve consideration of the holistic aspects not just within themes but across topics and themes, identify linkages and place the individual results within a larger assessment framework.

The initial proposal for an expert-level platform to secure expertise to support the holistic aspects of the assessments presented to HOD 59-2020 was not supported by all Contracting Parties. However, HOD 59-2020 recognized that improving the integration across topics is beneficial and invited the Secretariat to explore alternative and flexible ways of achieving this (e.g. dedicated workshops) and to include alternative proposals in the updated version of the draft working structure for HOLAS III submitted to HELCOM 42-2022 (i.e. this document). The meeting agreed to come back to the discussion and approval of the working structure at HELCOM 42-2020. This section contains one core proposal for the way forward, linked to two alternatives for support.

Securing dedicated support for the holistic perspective at the Secretariat

The holistic perspective will be the focus of the Summary Report (see section 4 under B. *Structure of HOLAS III assessment work* for more detailed information on the work planned for the summary report). However, in order to ensure that the needed information is prepared and included in the earlier steps of the assessment process there is a need to secure dedicated support for the holistic perspective from mid-2022, when the work on the indicator reports and thematic assessments underpinning the summary report commences. For the sake of ease of process and consistency the person coordinating the holistic aspects of the work should be the same person who will work on collating the summary assessment report. The need to secure such resources at the Secretariat was provisionally flagged in document 5-6 to HOD 58-2020 where a total of 12 months (mid 2022-mid 2023) were indicated for coordination of the holistic perspective and report writing.

Due to the broad scope of the holistic assessment it is, however, not possible to secure expertise for all relevant topics through securing a single expert. It is thus foreseen that a larger expert base will be needed to tackle horizontal and cross-cutting topics relevant for the holistic perspective. Currently two alternatives are identified for such ad-hoc working structures, as presented below. It is proposed that the expert hired

to coordinate the holistic aspects would also function as the resource at the Secretariat coordinating and supporting the ad-hoc working structure below, together with the Professional Secretary.

Alternative supporting structure 1: Targeted Workshops

Mandate: One-off workshops based on identified needs, no approval or process decision mandate.

Task: To support and further strengthen the holistic aspect and the ecological relevance of the work by, at the expert level, ensure improved cooperation and linkage between the thematic and topical work strands. The conclusions to be incorporated into the products of the HOLAS III process.

Membership: technical/scientific experts representing the various topics included in HOLAS III, based on national nominations.

Mode of working: The workshops would be targeted to tackle one or a small number of identified challenges or horizontal/cross-cutting questions touching on more than one topic or theme per workshop. The workshops would thus target expertise on the identified topics only. The workshops would be individual one off events, likely taking place online and focus on explore linkages and synergies across topics, as well as how to best include and present these aspects in the report.

Alternative supporting structure 2: Holistic Expert Platform

Mandate: Time-bound platform, no approval or process decision mandate.

Task: To support and further strengthen the holistic aspect and the ecological relevance of the work by, at the expert level, ensure improved cooperation and linkage between the thematic work strands. The conclusions to be incorporated into the products.

Membership: technical/scientific experts representing the various topics included in HOLAS III. It is envisioned the platform would consist of relevant leads for the various work strands (chairs/leads from relevant WGs and EGs), the indicator leads and Secretariat representatives.

Mode of working: It is envisioned that the platform would be dynamic (i.e. relevant experts contribute in various constellations depending on the topics and question) and meet as necessary (likely online) to explore linkages, synergies across segments and how to best include and present these aspects in the reporting. The inclusion of the HELCOM group Chairs would provide a direct link to the WGs and EGs and enable the possibility to consult their experts on specific topics as needed.

B. Structure of HOLAS III assessment work

This section outlines the plan for each of the steps of the HOLAS III assessment process as indicated in figure 5, which in turn is built on the process approved by HELCOM 41-2020 (as available in figure 2 in [document 5-12](#) to that meeting) and the [specified timeline for HOLAS III](#) approved by HOD 58-2020. This section addresses each of the steps of the process individually and in greater detail, with the steps numbered to facilitate the overview of workflow.

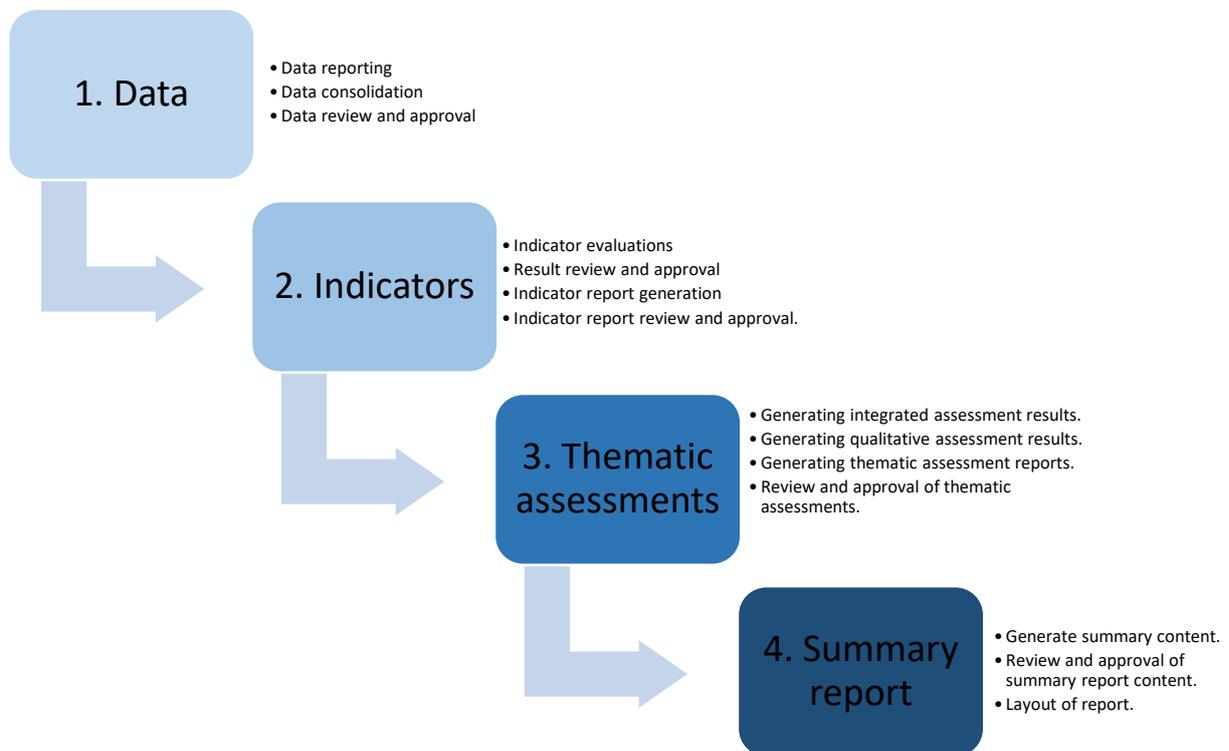
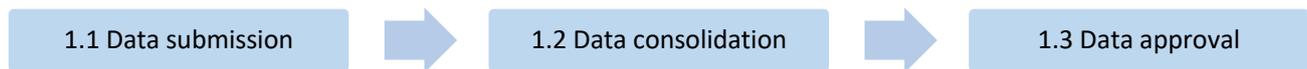


Figure 5. Structure and flow of HOLAS III assessment

1. Data



1.1. Data submission

Preparatory data calls presented in autumn meetings of HELCOM groups in 2020 and approved at HOD 59-2020. Specifications to data calls provided in spring 2021. Data calls are divided into “speeded up” data reporting of existing functional dataflows needed to meet HOLAS III deadlines and grouped ad-hoc data call for non-existent or not fully functional dataflows.

Data to be submitted by national experts in accordance with the specifications in the data calls.

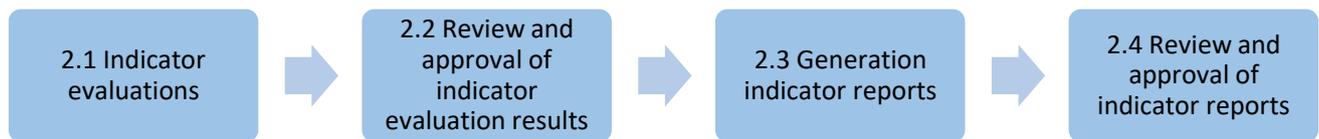
1.2 Data consolidation

Submitted data will be consolidated by the Secretariat and provided for review by nominated national experts in a dedicated online workspace. Metadata will be provided and included, depending on the dataflow, either by the data submitters or by the HELCOM Secretariat.

1.3 Data review and approval

Review and approval will be done by the nominated national experts and will take place intersessionally online as indicated in the specified timetable in Annex 1.

2. Indicator evaluations



2.1 Generating indicator results

The indicator evaluations are performed and compiled by the respective indicator leads.

2.2 Review and approval of indicator results

The results of the indicator evaluation will be presented for approval by the State and Conservation Working Group as indicated in Annex 1.

Results will be submitted to the relevant WGs and Expert Groups (EGs) for review concomitantly with submission to State and Conservation, comments by WGs and EGs representatives to be provided to Secretariat 10 days prior to the State and Conservation WG meeting, for consolidation by the Secretariat. Comments and input will be shared with the State & Conservation and indicator leads by the information deadline for the meeting. Indicator leads will be invited to provide clarifications and corrections to the Meeting, as needed and proposed amendments will be presented at the meeting.

2.3 Generating indicator reports

Indicator reports will be prepared by the indicator leads, with intersessional review and support from the relevant EGs. The Secretariat will provide leads with an indicator report template ahead of time, which will be presented to State and Conservation and Pressure WGs in advance for review. The same template will be used for all indicator reports. The Secretariat will strive to pre-fill the templates with the information from the 2018 reports to facilitate work for the indicator leads. In addition to the new template an updated indicator webpage will be prepared to accommodate the reports after approval.

Where deemed appropriate and feasible, linking the pressure indicators with information on sources and loads will be explored jointly by relevant experts. Climate change information will be included as indicated earlier in the document.

2.4 Review and approval of indicator reports

Indicator reports, including the already approved evaluation results, will be presented to Heads of Delegation in December 2022 for approval.

The reports will be submitted to EGs, WGs and GEAR for intersessional review concomitantly with submission to the Heads of Delegation meeting. Input from the review process is to be provided to Secretariat 10 days prior to the Heads of Delegation meeting. The Secretariat will consolidate the input and share it with the Meeting and indicator leads by information deadline for the meeting. Leads will be invited to provide clarifications and corrections to the Meeting, as needed and proposed amendments will be presented at the meeting.

3. Thematic assessments



The thematic assessments produced for HOLAS III will focus on answering the questions as to “how” and “what”, i.e. presenting assessment and analysis methods and thematic results in detail, as well as include discussion of the broader scientific knowledge of relevance to provide additional context for the results. While the Thematic Assessments should be accessible to a readership beyond strictly scientific circles they are envisioned to be, in comparison to the Summary report, more scientific/technical in nature and should present the assessments in such detail that it is possible to replicate the assessment based on the provided information. Five thematic assessment reports are envisioned for HOLAS III:

- Thematic Assessment of Biodiversity
- Thematic Assessment of Pollution
- Thematic Assessment of Eutrophication
- Thematic Assessment of Economic and Social Analyses
- Thematic Assessment of Spatial Distribution of Pressures and Impacts

The thematic assessment are mutually supportive in that they target different steps of the DAPSIM (drivers-activities-pressures-state-impact-measures) chain which underpins the HOLAS assessment. A conceptual representation of the division of topics, as well as the internal logic across topics is presented in Figure 6.

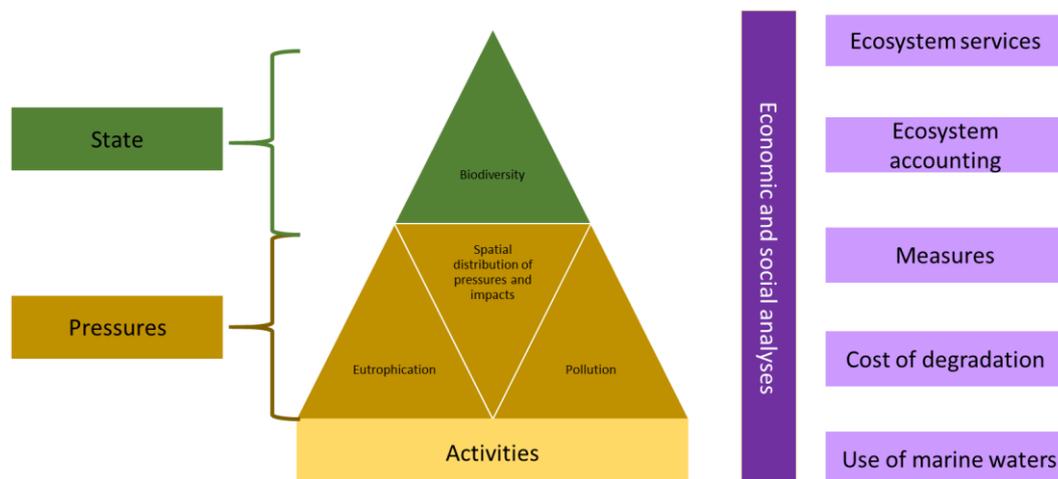


Figure 6. A conceptual representation of the division and internal logic across topics covered by the thematic assessments. In this figure the activities underpin the pressures, which in turn affect the state of biodiversity. The economic and social analyses are by their nature horizontal, with the various aspects under this thematic assessment providing supporting information to each of the topics under the four other thematic assessments. In the figure green indicates topics and the thematic assessment for biodiversity, yellow indicates topics and thematic assessments which focus on pressures and purple indicates topics and the thematic assessment associated with economic and social analyses.

Thematic assessments are foreseen to consist of a combination of both quantitative and qualitative assessments. The qualitative assessments are mainly generated through the integrated assessments and

the quantitative analysis of economic and social analysis. Qualitative assessments in turn cover mainly those topics for which no indicators or established assessment methods under HOLAS III are available, but which have been lifted as relevant to ensure the holistic perspective of the assessment. Figure 7 presents an initial proposal for the grouping of topics under each thematic assessment. For some topics, for which relatively recent assessment results were available for HOLAS II (e.g. spatial conservation and threatened species), no new information will have been generated prior to 2023 and thus these topics will either be included based on the previous assessments or targeted topical processes will be needed to update the underlying information. The information contained in the reports will function as the basis for compiling the summary report.



Figure 7. Allocation of various topics to the thematic assessment reports. Darker color indicates topics which, at least in some form have been included in the HOLAS II assessment, lighter color indicates new topics that have been highlighted as relevant and are thus to be included in HOLAS III. Green indicates topics and the thematic assessment for biodiversity, yellow indicates topics and thematic assessments which focus on pressures and purple indicates topics and the thematic assessment associated with economic and social analyses.

3.1 Generating quantitative thematic assessment results (including integrated assessments)

Data driven thematic assessments (including integrated assessments of the approved indicator results), are proposed to be taken forward as indicated in Figure 8. Information presented in square brackets is provisional and either remains open or is dependent on ongoing processes.

3.2 Generating qualitative thematic assessments

Qualitative assessments are proposed to be taken forward as indicated in Figure 8 below. Information presented in square brackets is provisional and either remains open or is dependent on ongoing processes.

3.3 Thematic assessment reports

For HOLAS III a shared template for thematic assessments will be prepared, currently planned for early 2022. The first draft of the template is intended to be reviewed in spring 2022 and approved by S&C in autumn 2022, jointly with the indicator results. The template is intended to:

- Ensures that the relevant information needed for the Summary report is available under all the thematic assessments;
- Ensure that the thematic assessment reports present the needed information to make them policy-relevant and also highlights gaps etc.;
- Support the holistic perspective;
- Make the information and reports more accessible and easier to navigate across reports.

Thematic assessment reports will be prepared by the relevant lead as listed in Figure 8. The responsible party for the Thematic Assessment of Biodiversity remains open and will depend on the hosting of the BEAT tool.

State: Biodiversity []	Pressure: Pollution [EN HAZ, supported by Secretariat]	Pressure: Eutrophication [IN EUTRO, supported by Secretariat]	Economic and social analyses (Secretariat)	Pressure: Spatial pressures and impacts (Secretariat)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction [responsible for running BEAT, supported by Secretariat] • Species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seals [responsible for running BEAT] • Harbour porpoise (BLUES) • Birds [responsible for running BEAT] • Fish [responsible for running BEAT] • Zooplankton [responsible for running BEAT] • Phytoplankton [responsible for running BEAT] • Foodweb • Threatened species (Secretariat) • Bycatch (BLUES) • Habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seabed • Pelagic (BLUES) • Threatened habitats and biotopes (Secretariat) • Spatial conservation (MPAs, OECMs) (Secretariat) • Restoration (Secretariat) • BEAT methodology (BLUES) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction [responsible for running CHASE, supported by Secretariat] • Contaminants (Secretariat) • Pharmaceuticals [] • Oilspills [indicator lead] • Marine litter (BLUES) • Underwater noise (BLUES) • Non-indigenous species [Indicator lead] • CHASE methodology [EN HAZ, supported by Secretariat] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction [responsible for running HEAT, supported by Secretariat] • Nutrient concentration [responsible for running HEAT] • Direct effects [responsible for running HEAT] • Indirect effects [responsible for running HEAT] • HEAT methodology [IN EUTRO supported by Secretariat] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction (Secretariat) • Ecosystem services [Secretariat] • Ecosystem accounting [Secretariat] • Drivers (Secretariat) • Use of marine waters (BLUES) • Cost of degradation (BLUES) • Effectiveness of measures (BLUES) • Methodologies (Secretariat) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction (Secretariat) • Methodology and tool (Secretariat)

Figure 8. Provision division of labor for producing thematic assessment results and compiling relevant sections for the respective assessment reports. Proposals are based on work already ongoing under various projects and on the division of work under HOLAS II. Information presented in square brackets is provisional and either remains open or is dependent on ongoing processes.

3.4 Review and approval of thematic assessments

The thematic assessment reports, including the results of the assessments themselves and relevant contextual information, will be presented for approval to HELCOM 44-2023.

The reports will be submitted to EGs, WGs and GEAR for intersessional review concomitantly with submission to the HELCOM meeting. Input from the review process is to be provided to Secretariat by the end of January/beginning of February 2023, as indicated in the detailed timeline (see Annex 1 or Table 1 for overview), giving the Secretariat and relevant contributors the opportunity to address the input and provide amendments for review prior to the meeting. Input will be consolidated by Secretariat and shared with the authors, who will be invited to provide clarifications and corrections as needed. A table listing input and proposed amendments, together with prepared revised drafts will be provided to CPs prior to the HELCOM meeting, to provide an overview of changes and function as the basis for further input and approval at the meeting.

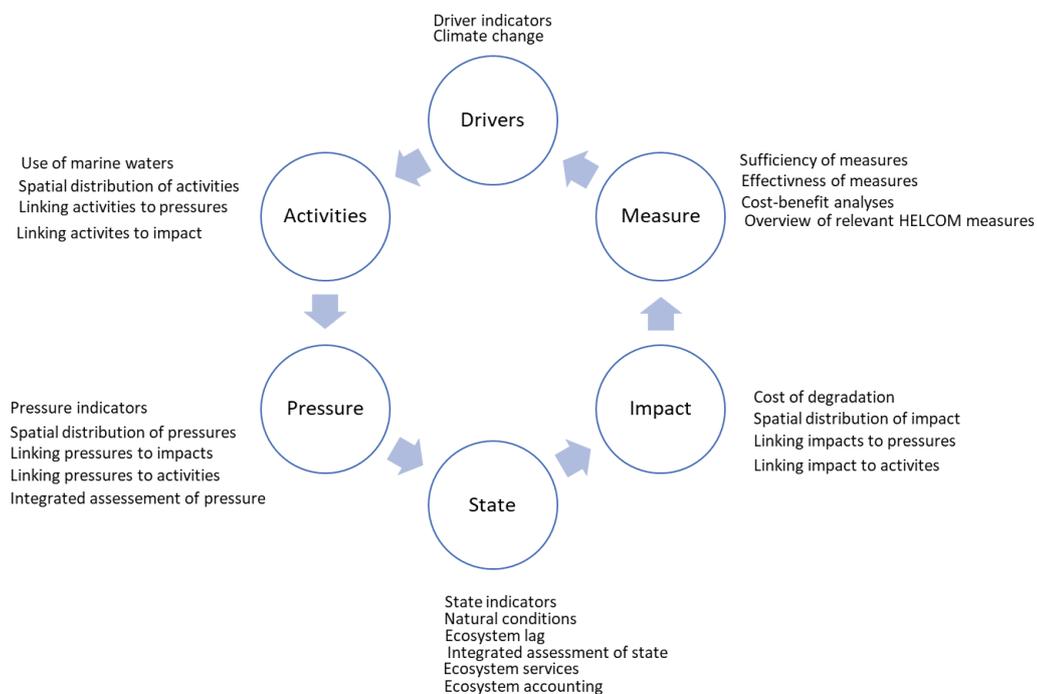
4. Summary report: Third State of the Baltic Sea report



The main aim, and the added value, of the Summary Report lies in the possibility to link the information from the topical assessments together and thus highlighting the holistic aspects of the assessment for each topic. With this in mind the Summary Report will focus on answering the questions as to “what” and “why”, i.e. presenting the results of the thematic assessments by topic but linking and combining these topical results with the information and input from the other assessments/sources to provide context for the results.

In practice this means that for each topic/chapter of the summary report, as many of the aspects of the DAPSIM cycle as possible should be addressed. See Figure 9 for an initial representation of how the various topic planned for inclusion in HOLAS III are divided across the assessment framework.

Figure 9. Initial representation of how the various topic planned for inclusion in HOLAS III are divided across the DAPSIM assessment framework.



4.1 Generating content for the summary report

The summary report is envisioned to be prepared by the Secretariat and will be based on the information and results presented and approved under the various thematic assessments and indicator reports as well as material already available from other HELCOM processes.

The content under each chapter of the report will be topical but supported by contextual information generated under thematic assessments not directly under the theme in question (e.g. biodiversity element specific pressure and impact maps, possible driver indicators to support the status assessments etc.) and where relevant information from the HELCOM Climate Change Fact Sheets, implementation information from the HELCOM explorer etc in line with the DAPSIM assessment framework (please see Figure 10 for an initial idea of the type of information a chapter might contain).

The content of the report is intended for general consumption and should be accessible while still presenting a level of detail that allows a mildly initiated reader to follow the process and understand the significance

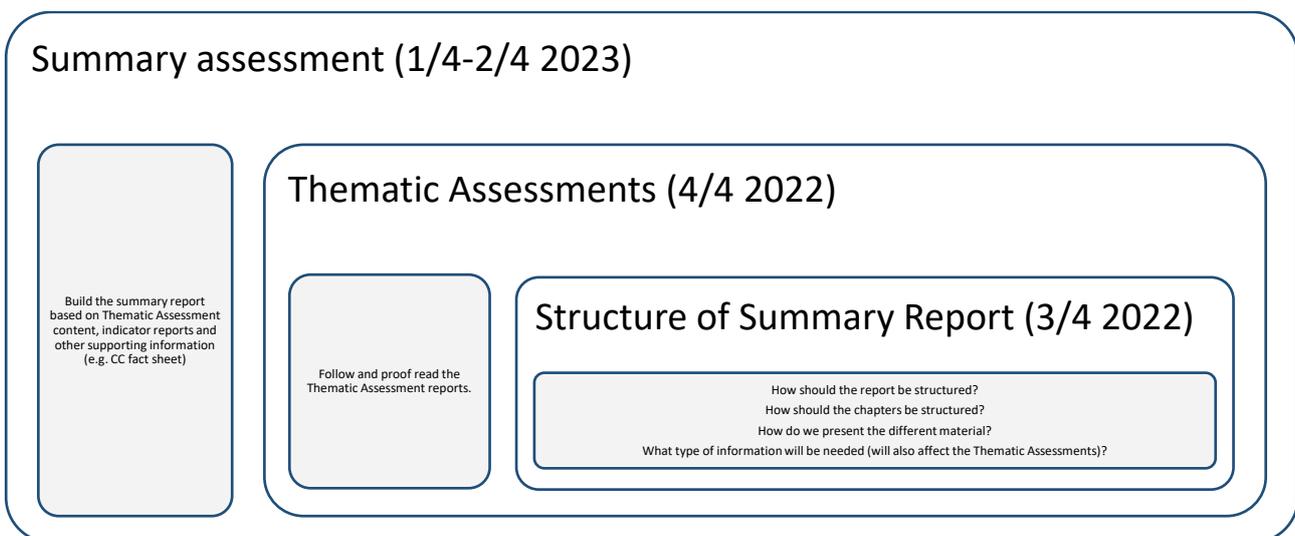
and implications of the results. Wherever possible the content and results of the chapters will be presented supported by figures and similar visual aids.

Figure 10. Initial considerations of what a topical chapter in the Third State of the Baltic Sea report might contain. All information will not be available for each chapter but to the extent possible the structure across chapters should be similar to facilitate comparison across chapters.

Chapter X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status/state (map+text) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What indicators/topics are considered (textbox?) • Trends (graph+text) • Links to valuation and ecosystem services • Drivers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does climate change effect this topic • Indirect • What are the main pressures (map+text) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do we know about sources? • What do we know about pathways? • What are the main activities (pressure/activity matrix+map+text) • Cost of degradation (if available) • What actions/measures is HELCOM taking to tackle these activities/pressures (HELCOM actions overview+spatial presentation+text)? • Natural conditions/ecosystem lag • How might this topic affect/be affected by other topics included in the assessment (crosslinkage graph+text) • Gaps/uncertainties

The work on generating content for the report is, in line with the approved timeline, proposed to start in early 2023. However, there is a number of tasks in relation to the Summary Report which need to be addressed prior to the content falling into place, including preparing the structure of the summary report, planning how best to present the material to ensure the holistic perspective, securing input on horizontal topics, familiarizing oneself with the material in the indicator reports and the thematic assessments and ensuring that the needed information is available and included as part of the thematic assessments etc. In relation to this, and as outlined in document 5-6 to HOD 58-2020, it is foreseen that dedicated resources for this work will need to be secured at the Secretariat. Figure 11 presents a provisional overview the progressive work on the summary report starting in the third quarter of 2022 and finalizing in the second (or possibly third) quarter of 2023.

Figure 11. Provisional overview the progressive work on the summary report. Fractions indicate the quarter of the year in question and grey boxes list initial tasks.



4.2 Review and approval of summary report content

The summary report content will be submitted to EGs, WGs and GEAR for intersessional review concomitantly with submission for approval to the HOD meeting (June 2023). Input from the review process is to be provided to the Secretariat 10 days prior to the meeting (see Annex 1 and Table 1 for overview). Input will be consolidated by the Secretariat and shared with any relevant contributors. Clarifications and corrections will be prepared as needed. A table with proposed amendments, together with prepared revised drafts will be provided to CPs at the HOD meeting, to provide an overview of changes and function as the basis for further input and approval at the meeting.

2.4 Layout of report and website production

The layout of the reports and website production will be done in-house at the Secretariat following approval of the content. A mock-up of one of the summary report chapters can be provided as an example to the HOD meeting to illustrate what can be expected from the final product and to function as a basis for guidance.

Annex 1. Proposal for approval processes for HOLAS III

		Approval of data	Approval of indicator results	Indicator report approval	Approval of thematic assessments and assessment result	Approval of summary report	Proposed approval process
2022	23						
2022	24						
2022	25						
2022	26						Online approval process, approval by national experts through State and Conservation WG
2022	27						Summer holiday
2022	28						Summer holiday
2022	29						Summer holiday
2022	30						Summer holiday
2022	31						
2022	32						
2022	33						
2022	34						
2022	35						
2022	36						
2022	37						
2022	38						
2022	39						
2022	40						
2022	41						Approval at State&Conservation
2022	42						
2022	43						
2022	44						
2022	45						GEAR
2022	46						
2022	47						
2022	48						
2022	49						Approval at HOD
2022	50						
2022	51						Christmas
2022	52						Christmas
2023	1						Christmas

		Approval of data	Approval of indicator results	Indicator report approval	Approval of thematic assessments and assessment result	Approval of summary report	Proposed approval process
2023	2						
2023	3						
2023	4						Mid-way comments
2023	5						
2023	6						
2023	7						
2023	8						
2023	9						Approval at HELCOM 44-2023
2023	10						
2023	11						
2023	12						
2023	13						
2023	14						
2023	15						
2023	16						
2023	17						
2023	18						
2023	19						S&C
2023	20						GEAR
2023	21						
2023	22						
2023	23						
2023	24						Approval at HOD