

# HELCOM BLUES

HELCOM BLUES WS 3.2-2021

30 June 2021



**BLUES**



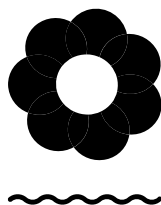
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# HELCOM BLUES - overview



“HELCOM biodiversity, litter, underwater noise and effective regional measures for the Baltic Sea” ([HELCOM BLUES](#))



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
ENVIRONMENT  
Directorate C - Quality of Life



- Project start: 25 January 2021
- Project duration: 24 months
- Project end: 24 January 2023



The aim of the project is to support regional capacity, coordination and cooperation with regards to developing effective measures to secure good status of the marine environment.



# What are we aiming to do?

## Envisioned project products and deliverables



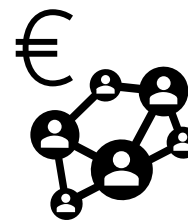
Consolidation and development of indicators (biodiversity, litter and noise)



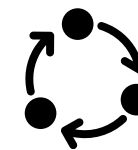
Expertise gap filling (e.g. pelagic habitats, foodwebs)



Support for assessments



Further development of economic and social analyses



Further development of assessment tools and methods



Establishing and improving data flows





# What are we aiming to do?

## Envisioned project products and deliverables



### Activity 1 - Effectiveness and Measures

- Description of the improved assessment framework for sufficiency, effectiveness and economic impacts of measures.
- Data for assessing the effectiveness and costs of regionally coordinated actions.
- Literature review on marine valuation studies.
- Improved approach for assessing regional benefits.
- Regional benefit estimates of achieving good environmental status.
- Results of regional analyses of the use of marine waters and cost of degradation.
- Results for the improved sufficiency and effectiveness of measures analysis.
- Approach for and results of a regional cost-benefit analysis of achieving good environmental status for 1-2 environmental topics.
- Description of incentives and regulations around the Baltic Sea countries to mitigate nutrient loading.



### Activity 2 - Biodiversity

- Regional bycatch risk maps and corresponding confidence evaluation for key species,
- Test cases evaluations for bycatch.
- Improved state indicator assessment for by-catch.
- Application of an improved methodology for state assessment for non-commercial fish.
- Application of size-based assessment for key fish species and interim threshold values .
- Operational indicators for zooplankton and phytoplankton, including threshold values and Pan-Baltic coverage.
- Approach for a more informative and integrated assessment of pelagic habitats.
- Improved harmonisation between HELCOM and OSPAR, assessment of trends in abundance of the Belt Sea harbour porpoise population.
- Test evaluation and threshold value application for the Belt Sea porpoise population trend in abundance evaluation.
- Expert-based qualitative assessments of abundance and distribution of the Baltic Proper population assessments.
- Adaptation of BEAT assessment flow to include new approved indicators.
- Review of food web assessment approaches and summary of knowledge on the Baltic Sea



### Activity 3 – Marine Litter

- HELCOM beach litter data compatible with EU coding,
- an overview of the effectiveness of EU regulations and actions within the HELCOM Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter.
- Beach litter assessment
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for monitoring of seabed sediment and water samples.
- Survey and dataset for consideration to calculate baseline and threshold values.



### Activity 4 – Underwater noise

- New soundscape maps
- Quantitative continuous noise assessment for HOLAS III
- Improve calibration standards for monitoring of continuous noise
- Quantitative impulsive noise assessment for HOLAS III



### Activity 5 - Data

- Updated data model of the biodiversity database
- Updated biodiversity database web application
- Reporting format for mobile species abundance and distribution
- Fishing effort and intensity maps, publicly available and downloadable set of data products (maps).
- Beach litter assessment tool, including making available downloadable sets of assessment raw data and data products (maps).
- Beach litter assessment data products



# What are we aiming to do?

## Envisioned project products and deliverables



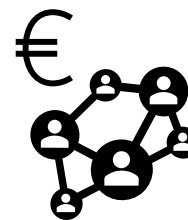
Consolidation and development of indicators (biodiversity, litter and noise)



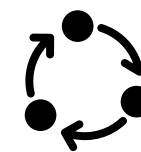
Expertise gap filling (e.g. pelagic habitats, foodwebs)



Support for assessments



Further development of economic and social analyses



Further development of assessment tools and methods



Establishing and improving data flows



### Key outcomes of HELCOM BLUES

=> new and improved methodology

=> improved assessments

=> indicator development

# How will we do it?

## Project Consortium



14

partners



6

out of 9 Baltic  
Sea states



7

identified  
subcontractors





# How will we do it?

## Project Consortium

### Project Partners

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Abbreviation	Full name	
AAPC	Center for Environmental Policy	LT
HELCOM	Helsinki Commission	-
IfW	Kiel Institute for the World Economy	DE
LIAE	Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology	LV
LUKE	Natural Resources Institute Finland	FI
SLU	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences	SE
SMHI	Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute	SE
SU	Stockholm University	SE
SwAM	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	SE
SYKE	Finnish environment institute	FI
TalTech	Tallinn University of Technology	EE
TiHo	University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover	DE
UHAM-CEN	Center for Earth System Research and Sustainability, University of Hamburg	DE
UT	University of Tartu	EE

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### Project sub-contractors

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Abbreviation	Full name	
AKTiVS	AKTiVS Ltd.	LV
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea	-
GAR	GaviaEcoResearch	DE
QO	QuietOceans	-
MZ	Meereszoologie	DE
KST	Keep Sweden Tidy	SE
NRM	Swedish Natural History Museum	SE

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# How will we do it?

## Project setup







# How will we do it?

## Work process

### Activity 7: Project management

#### Project Manager

- HELCOM
- Jannica Haldin ([jannica.haldin@helcom.fi](mailto:jannica.haldin@helcom.fi))



#### Project Coordinator

- HELCOM
- Jana Wolf ([jana.wolf@helcom.fi](mailto:jana.wolf@helcom.fi))





## Activity Leads



Activity 1: Efficiency and Measures  
Finnish Natural Resources Institute (LUKE)  
Heini Ahtiainen ([heini.ahtiainen@luke.fi](mailto:heini.ahtiainen@luke.fi))



Activity 2: Biodiversity  
• HELCOM



Activity 3: Litter  
• HELCOM



Activity 4: Underwater noise  
Tallinn University of Technology (TalTec)  
Aleksander Klauson ([aleksander.klauson@ttu.ee](mailto:aleksander.klauson@ttu.ee))



Activity 5: Data  
HELCOM



Activity 6: Dissemination  
HELCOM

## HELCOM Secretariat liaisons

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# HELCOM BLUES – Activity 3



Universität Hamburg  
DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

**CENTRUM**  
FÜR ERDSYSTEMFORSCHUNG  
UND NACHHALTIGKEIT (CEN)

 **LATVIJAS  
HIDROEKOĻĀŽIJAS  
INSTITŪTS**

  
**HÅLL SVERIGE RENT**



**HELCOM**



# Activity Consortium

## Activity Partners

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Abbreviation	Full name	
HELCOM	Helsinki Commission	-
LIAE	Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology	LV
UHAM-CEN	Center for Earth System Research and Sustainability, University of Hamburg	DE

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## Activity sub-contractors

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Abbreviation	Full name	
KST	Keep Sweden Tidy	SE

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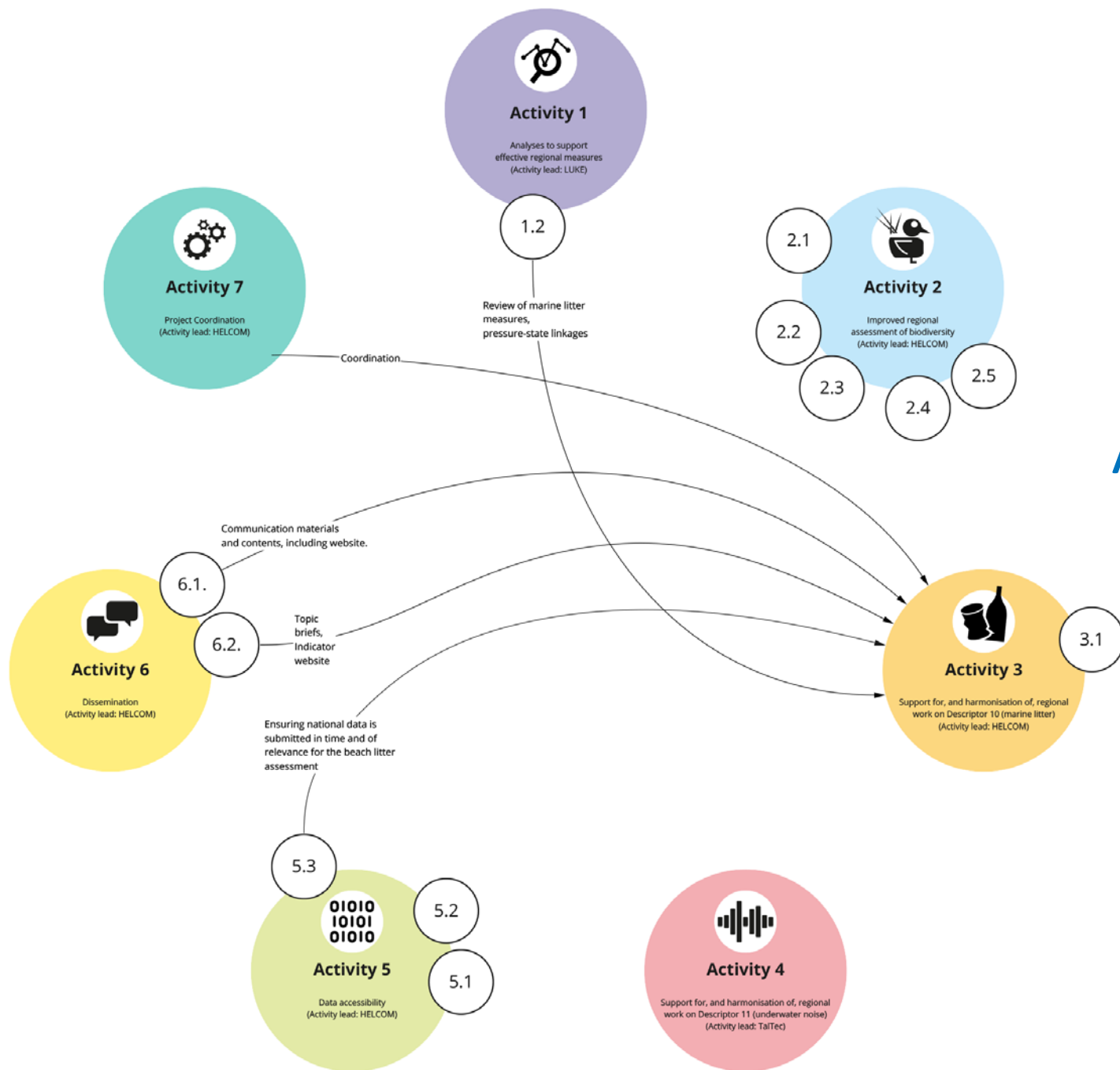
## Activity 3: Support for, and harmonization of, regional work on Descriptor 10: marine litter

### Task 3.1: Beach litter

### Task 3.2: Progress development of microlitter indicator

Subtask 3.1.1: Translation of beach litter historical data to the EUs revised Joint category list for marine litter items

Subtask 3.1.2 Execute beach litter assessment for HOLAS III



# Linkage to other Activities in the project



# Overview of Activity 3

Task	Expected results and deliverable	HELCOM	DE	LV	SE
<b>Task 3.1 Beach litter</b> Subtask 3.1.1	Translation of historical litter data	Sec.			KST
<b>Task 3.1 Beach litter</b> Subtask 3.1.2	Execute assessment of beach litter	Sec.			KST
<b>Task 3.2 Progress development of microlitter</b>	Data for assessing the effectiveness and costs of regionally coordinated actions	Sec.	UHAM-CEN	LIAE	

# Overview on subtasks of Task 3.2

## Progress development of microlitter



Task / Subtask	Expected results and deliverable	DE	LV
<b>Subtask 3.2.1</b>	Review / evaluation of current approaches applied for the water column and seabed sediment	UHAM-CEN	LIAE
<b>Subtask 3.2.2</b>	Drafting of guidelines for the detection of microlitter in the water column and seabed sediments	UHAM-CEN	LIAE
<b>Subtask 3.2.3</b>	Data collection from HELCOM countries on microlitter in the water column and seabed sediments	UHAM-CEN	LIAE
<b>Subtask 3.2.4</b>	Specification of prerequisites for the monitoring of microlitter in the water column and seabed sediments	UHAM-CEN	LIAE
<b>Subtask 3.2.5</b>	Screening study on microlitter in the water column (LV) and seabed sediments (DE)	UHAM-CEN	LIAE



# Thank you!!



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