



## Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Project for the development of the second holistic assessment of the Baltic Sea – HELCOM BalticBOOST  
Workshop on the HOLAS II Biodiversity assessment tool

Copenhagen, Denmark, 11-12 February 2016



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| <b>Document title</b>  | Updated Provisional Agenda |
| <b>Category</b>        | DEC                        |
| <b>Submission date</b> | 4.2.2016                   |
| <b>Submitted by</b>    | Secretariat                |

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## HELCOM BalticBOOST Workshop on the HOLAS II Biodiversity assessment tool

Time: Thursday 11 February 10:00 - Friday 12 February 16:00

Venue: NIVA Denmark Water Research, Copenhagen, Denmark

### Aims

The workshop will support the development of the Biodiversity assessment tool to be used by the HOLAS II project in the development of the 2<sup>nd</sup> HELCOM Holistic Assessment of Ecosystem Health in the Baltic Sea. More specifically, the workshop will:

- evaluate proposed features of the tool and its planned assessment outputs
- detail how the development needs could build on the results from HOLAS 2010, and the DEVOTES and Marmoni projects
- consider how to include information on uncertainty and confidence in the assessment
- consider the biodiversity related HELCOM Core indicators and how to include them in the assessment

The Workshop will be held from 10:00 on February 11, 2016, to 16:00 on February 12, 2016 at the premises of NIVA Denmark Water Research (Ørestads Boulevard 73) in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Contracting Parties are welcome to invite participants to the Workshop as needed in order to meet the aims of the Workshop.

The Workshop will be chaired by Mr. Samuli Korpinen, Finland, under the HELCOM BalticBOOST project.

### Background

HOLAS II runs from December 2014 to June 2018. The project will assess the overall environmental status of the Baltic Sea and its pressures, and evaluate progress in relation to the goals of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP). It will be developed so that it can also be used by Contracting Parties also being EU Member States in the reporting under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). One main focus during 2016 is to develop methods and tools for carrying out the assessments, including the thematic assessment of biodiversity status.

The biodiversity assessment tool is developed under the HELCOM BalticBOOST project: The Baltic Sea project to boost regional coherence of marine strategies through improved data flow, assessments, and knowledge base for development of measures. The project is co-financed by the EU under the call "Best practices for

action plans to develop integrated, regional monitoring programmes, coordinated programmes of measures and addressing data and knowledge gaps in coastal and marine waters" (DG ENV/MSFD Action Plans /2014) and runs from September 2015 -December 2016. Guidance to the tool development is provided by the State and Conservation Working group, the HOLAS II core team, and through expertise from HELCOM Contracting Parties through this workshop, as well as a second planned workshop to be held in autumn 2016.

## Provisional Agenda

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| Thursday<br>11 February |   |
| 10:00                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arrival and words of welcome</li> <li>- Outline of the HOLAS II biodiversity assessment with timeline, including expected contributions of the BalticBOOST project (Document 1)</li> <li>- Evaluation of aggregation methods and tools for integrated assessment of biodiversity (Document 2)</li> <li>- Requirements for the tool in relation to the HELCOM Core indicators (Document 3)</li> </ul> |
| 12:30-13.30             | <i>Lunch break</i>  |
| 13:30-18:00             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A proposal for structure and functions of the biodiversity assessment tool (Presentation). <i>The proposed tool is based on the NEAT tool from the FP7 project DEVOTES but customized by the HELCOM HOLAS II needs.</i></li> </ul>   |
| Friday 29 January       |   |
| 9:30-12.30              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Estimation of uncertainties and confidence in the assessment</li> <li>- Potential development of a web workspace for the tool</li> </ul>   |
| 12:30-13:30             | <i>Lunch break</i>  |
| 13:30-17:00             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Planned outputs from the assessment</li> <li>- Conclusions and further steps</li> </ul>  |