



---

<b>Document title</b>	Draft provisional annotated agenda
<b>Category</b>	DEC
<b>Submission date</b>	18.12.2015
<b>Submitted by</b>	Secretariat

---

## 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 at the premises of NIVA Denmark Water Research, Ørestads Boulevard 73, 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

The Project for Developing the Second Holistic Assessment of Ecosystem Health in the Baltic Sea (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 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.

### Preparations and expected contributions

Workshop participants are advised that **background documents** will be sent out before the workshop, and that participants are assumed to be familiar with the content of these in order to meet the aims of the workshop.

Participants are invited to **inform further on how they can contribute to the workshop** by contacting the project coordinator of HOLAS II, Lena Bergström, at [lena.bergstrom@helcom.fi](mailto:lena.bergstrom@helcom.fi).

### Registration

The participants are kindly requested to register to the Workshop by answering the [Participation Survey](#) by **January 20, 2016**. Please note that only registered users of the [HELCOM Meeting Portal](#) with relevant rights are able to fill in the Participation Survey and to access the restricted documents. Please find [here](#) instructions for first time Meeting Portal users.

### Draft Provisional Annotated Agenda and Schedule

Thursday 11 February	
10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arrival and words of welcome</li> <li><b>Introductory session</b></li> <li>- Outline of the planned HOLAS II biodiversity assessment and expected contributions of the BalticBOOST project</li> <li>- Proposed features of the tool</li> </ul>
12:30-13.30	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:30-18:00	<p><b>The integrated assessment tool</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spatial aggregations and indicator grouping</li> <li>- Potential applications based on the HOLAS 2010 assessment, the DEVOTES and Marmoni tools</li> <li>- Estimation of uncertainties and confidence in the assessment</li> </ul>
Friday 29 January	
9:30-12.30	<b>Planned outputs from the assessment</b>
12:30-13:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:30-17:00	<p><b>How to include the core indicators in the biodiversity assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conclusions and further steps</li> </ul>