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HELCOM BalticBOOST Workshop on the HOLAS II hazardous substance assessment

Time: Tuesday 2 February 9:00 – Thursday 4 February 16:00

Venue: ICES Headquarters, H.C. Andersens Boulevard 44-46 Copenhagen, Denmark

Aim

The workshop will support outlining the assessment of hazardous substances as a contribution to the HELCOM second holistic assessment of ecosystem health in the Baltic Sea, carried out through the HOLAS II project. The meetings will discuss tasks under the HELCOM expert network on hazardous substances as well as the hazardous substances assessment tool to be used in HOLAS II.

The aim of the workshop is to;

Meeting of the HELCOM expert network on hazardous substances: Tuesday 2 February 09:00 – Wednesday 3 February 12:00

- discuss the remaining development work on core indicators needed during 2016 through a Lead Country approach,
- consider the metadata requirements for the core indicators and the feasibility to include data reported through EIONet in the hazardous substance assessment following up on conclusions from State and Conservation 3-2015, and
- guide the work on data-arrangements for indicators to be developed through the BalticBOOST WP 2.2.

HELCOM BalticBOOST workshop to develop the hazardous substance assessment tool to be used in HOLAS II: Wednesday 3 February 13.00- Thursday 4 February 16.00

- propose principles for how to carry out the thematic assessment of hazardous substances based on core indicators using an assessment tool which will be developed through the BalticBOOST WP 2.1.

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 hazardous substance 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.

Registration

The participants are kindly requested to register to the Workshop by answering the [Participation Survey](#) **not later than 20 January 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.

Background documents

Background documents for the workshop will be up-loaded on the [workshop meeting site](#) in the HELCOM Meeting Portal.

General information related to the hazardous substance assessment, including core indicator reports, are held in the dedicated [hazardous substance workspace](#).

Draft Provisional Annotated Agenda and Schedule

Core indicators development work and data-arrangements		
Tuesday 2 February		
Tentative schedule	Topic	Presenter
9:00	Arrival and words of welcome	HELCOM Secretariat and host ICES
	HELCOM Expert Network on Hazardous Substances housekeeping	HELCOM Secretariat
9:30	State of play on the core indicator based hazardous substance assessment	HELCOM Secretariat
10:30	Indicator specific discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - plans for development work to be carried out during 2016 - potential need for conversion factors - other open issues 	Lead Country representatives
12:00	Lunch	
13:00	<i>continue indicator specific discussions</i>	Lead Country representative
16:00	Data availability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - currently available data for testing during 2016 - data to include in the indicator evaluations to be completed by EN HZ for inclusion in HOLAS II 	HELCOM Secretariat
16:30	BalticBOOST WP 2.2 plans for core indicator data-arrangements	ICES BalticBOOST WP 2.2 Lead
18:00	Wrap-up of the discussions of the day	HELCOM Secretariat
Wednesday 3 February		
9:00	<i>continued discussions on data-arrangements for core indicators</i> Wrap up of the data-arrangement discussion	ICES BalticBOOST WP 2.2 Lead
12:00	Lunch	

Assessment tool development		
Wednesday 3 February		
Tentative schedule	Topic	Presenter
13:00	Introduction to current stage of development of the hazardous assessment tool	Niva Denmark BalticBOOST WP 2.1 Lead
	Introduction to the assessment needs in HOLAS II	HELCOM Secretariat
	Discussion on the need to align MSFD assessment of coastal areas with aggregation rules with WFD	
18:00	Wrap-up of the discussions of the day	NIVA Denmark
Thursday 4 February		
9:00	<i>continue discussions on the requirements of the assessment tool</i>	NIVA Denmark
12:00	Lunch	
13:00	Conclude on the expert level proposal on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - aggregation rules to be used in the assessment tool - compartments to be assessed 	NIVA Denmark
	Conclude on the plans for the tool development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the test of the assessment tool using core indicators - the test of a comparison assessment of the coastal waters using WFD and CHASE approach 	NIVA Denmark
16:00	Wrap-up of the assessment tool discussion	NIVA Denmark