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Agenda Item	5 – Assessments and data for MSP
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Background

Coherent regional spatial datasets on several human activities and pressures serves many purposes, such as e.g. spatial planning, assessing the sea use and potential pressures from activities. HELCOM has evaluated availability of data for human activities and pressures listed in document 5-1. Data on many of the activities and pressures are regularly collected within HELCOM framework, while some are identified not to have spatial data available at a regional scale. For a handful of activities, HELCOM will request additional spatial data through national data call, to be used in assessments as well as being important for the future use by public, or other purposes. The national data request is going to be submitted in early 2016.

Data collection on emerging issues may be important for projects and future work, and need to be collected ad hoc. The process of ad hoc data collation has to be documented to ensure validity and trust on the content and conclusions. When the datasets fulfils quality rating, they will be freely available and open through [HELCOM Map and Data service](#), as stated also in [HELCOM data and information strategy](#). The documented validation process and transparency of collected datasets improves the applicability for wider use in other sectors on national and international level.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

Data call on human activities

At present, HELCOM is forming a data call on human activities to gather information on of spatial datasets of human activities and uses that cannot be directly obtained from the regional and other available sources. The data request is going to be submitted early February to enable enough time for the Contracting Parties to reply to the call.

The HELCOM data request will contain

- a list of the datasets asked for
- a general description of each data set
- technical information specifying the request for each data set
- HELCOM data policy information
- a general description of the purpose of data request and the planned use of the data
- instructions for how to deliver the data

Timeline

- The data call will be submitted in early February 2016.
- The data should be delivered to HELCOM by April 15, 2016.
- The Secretariat will compile the data that is delivered, verify it for quality by checking the data and metadata, and if needed, return to the data provider with any potential clarifying questions.
- The data sets will be compiled by September 2016 and validated through validation process.

Data requested

The requested data will be thematically oriented into 3 groups, relating to the extraction of living resources, modification of shoreline or seabed, and other disturbance to seabed of hydrology (figure 1).

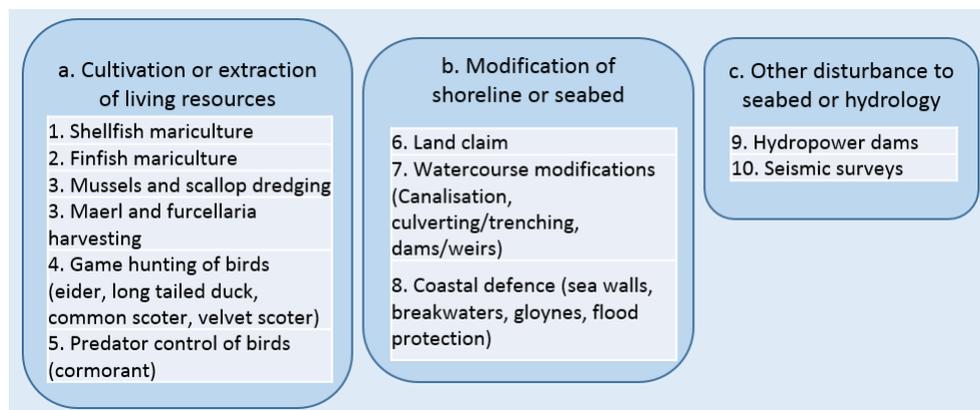


Figure 1. Three thematic groups for national data call. In theme b, datasets 7 and 8 will be result from aggregation of several activities.

Data collection process

The process for collection and acceptance of data collected ad hoc can be grouped in to 4 process steps (Figure 2):

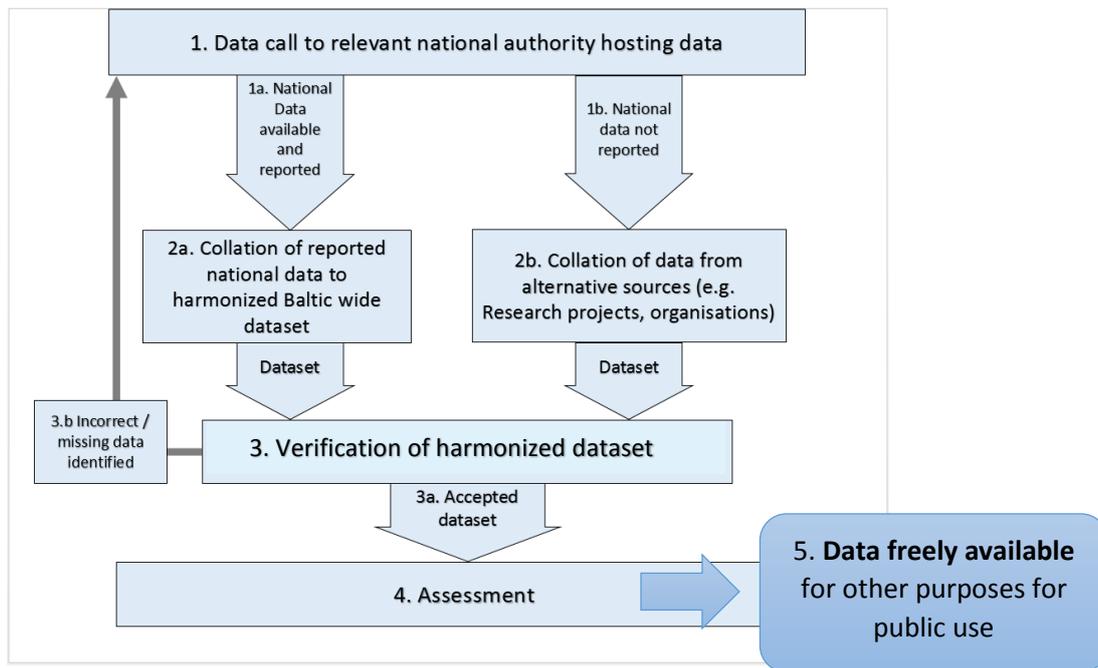


Figure 2. Data collection and acceptance process for additional data.

Process steps:

1. **Data call** to relevant national authority hosting the data – through HELCOM contacts in Contracting Parties - accompanied with metadata template. For this purpose, contacts of suitable working and expert groups should be used as far as they can be identified.
2. **Collation of data** that has been reported by countries and possibly complemented with data outside national data holdings, e.g. International or European data holdings, outcomes of research projects.
Collation options:
 - a. Collation of national data (preferred)
 - b. Collation of other data holdings (optional)
3. **Verification of harmonized dataset.** The harmonized dataset is a synthesis of all collected data including a metadata description outlining each data source and for spatial data each spatial object (point/line/polygon) traceable to the data source. With the documented metadata and spatial object traceability, it can be verified if the dataset is of such quality/completeness that it can be used and shared. HELCOM Secretariat will perform the check of the datasets to ensure data and metadata quality and submit the result for approval by the CPs (designated contacts or similar).

Acceptance options:

- a. Dataset is verified as acceptable by the Secretariat based on the specifications (metadata): The dataset will be verified based on the judgement of the Secretariat and accepted for use by the Contracting Parties (designated contacts or similar). A possible procedure is tacit approval with a few week consultation by the Secretariat.
- b. Dataset contains incorrect data that is identified as incorrect or missing by the Secretariat: For incorrect data the data provider is approached with a resubmission request. After such consultations and corrections, the datasets may be identified by the Secretariat as sufficiently complete and the data may be submitted for acceptance by the Contracting Parties. A possible procedure is tacit approval with a few week consultation by the Secretariat.

4. **Assessment and documentation.** The possible assessments and applications are done based on accepted spatial datasets. Data collection process is documented, documentation is retained in the HELCOM Secretariat.
5. **Data sharing.** Collated datasets will be shared freely through [HELCOM Data and Map service](#) for other usage e.g. in cross-border maritime spatial planning.