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<b>Document title</b>	Working arrangement for development of indicators and updates of indicator evaluations
<b>Code</b>	4-20
<b>Category</b>	DEC
<b>Agenda Item</b>	4 – Matters arising from HELCOM Groups
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<b>Reference</b>	

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## Background

*HOD 48-2015 considered the core indicator GES-boundary adoption and agreement on further development on the set of indicators (cf. doc. 3-17 and 3-17-Corr.1) as well as the summary of GES-boundaries recommended for adoption (cf. doc. 3-26).*

*HOD 48 took note that Denmark will carry out an interministerial coordination process during 2015 regarding core indicators and GES boundaries and that the Danish study reservation remains until this process is completed by end of the year. Denmark pointed out that this should not hinder the ongoing work and development of assessment tools in the HOLAS II project.*

*The Meeting took note that in Germany a national meeting to discuss core indicators and GES boundaries will be held in the end of June and that Germany aims at clarifying their general and specific study reservations based on this meeting and by the end of July. The Meeting noted that Germany will provide detailed comments on a number of indicators and requested the Secretariat to ensure that proposed changes are communicated to relevant experts from the Contracting Parties*

*Taking note of the study reservations from Denmark and Germany, the Meeting agreed on indicators and GES- boundaries and further development of the set of indicators (as contained in **Annex 4** to the HOD Outcome), including their use in HOLAS II assessment according to the recommendation by the Gear Group (cf. document 3-17), and the publication of agreed core indicator reports at the HELCOM website as they become ready for publishing.*

*Furthermore, the Meeting agreed to shift the category from candidate to pre-core for a number of indicators and on the continued core indicator work. HOD 48-2015 agreed that further indicator development in HELCOM will be based on a Lead Country approach (doc. 3-13 and 3-21), and Contracting Parties were invited to inform their willingness to take on the Lead or co-lead in the continued indicator development and to appoint expert representatives to carry out the work.*

*The HOD 48-2015 meeting also requested all HELCOM expert groups, projects and networks to prioritize their role as platform for development of indicators and also as providers of support for HELCOM assessments and to make arrangements for the work as necessary (para 3.65).*

This document contains an updated list of Lead and co-Lead country offers and information on the anticipated time-line for continued development of indicators and the required indicator evaluations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> HELCOM holistic assessment. The list of Lead and co-Lead country offers and nominated expert representatives is a living document. The full list including nominated experts and participants of HELCOM expert groups, networks and projects is included in Attachment 1.

## Action required

The Meeting is invited to:

- take note of the updated list of Lead and co-Lead countries and participants in HELCOM expert groups, networks and projects,
- encourage Contracting Parties to take on the role as Lead Country for indicators where this is lacking,
- decide on a HELCOM group to be responsible for the core indicator on incidental by-catch taking into account that setting an environmental target and availability of data are the main needs for making the indicator operational.

Denmark and Germany are invited to clarify their study reservation.

## Development of indicators – role of Lead and co-lead countries

The working arrangements for continued work on indicators were presented to and supported by State and Conservation 3-2015 (Outcome State and Conservation 3-2015, para 4J-1 – 4J-6).

The current planning horizon for development of indicators is based on ensuring a comprehensive set of indicators for use in the 2<sup>nd</sup> HELCOM holistic assessment. For indicators to be included in the 2<sup>nd</sup> holistic assessment it is anticipated that they need to be presented, at the latest, for review at relevant working groups (October/November 2016) and for endorsement by HOD held in December 2016 (Table 1).

**Table 1. Time-table for finalizing of indicators to be included in the 2<sup>nd</sup> HELCOM holistic assessment.**

2015	2016			
Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Setting up Lead Country-approach work  Further development work initiated	Development work  (presented to working and expert groups meetings as relevant)	Development work  (presented to working expert groups meetings as relevant)	Development work  (presented to working and expert groups meetings as relevant)	Indicators and GES-definitions to be used in HOLAS II to be considered at the latest by:  - Meetings of relevant Working Groups in autumn  - HOD: Dec 2016

Indicators are to be developed jointly by Lead and co-lead countries, with Lead countries taking initiative for the continued work. Co-Lead countries are expected to provide active contribution to the development work e.g. plan the remaining work together with the Lead Country, carry out tests of the indicator, or in the drafting of reports or assessment protocols.

To assist in starting up the work, the Secretariat has summarized the remaining work for each indicator recognized at the end of the CORESET II project and will contact Lead countries to support the preparation of a plan for the continued work. The Secretariat will also support setting up online meetings for the indicator team as needed. The continued development of indicators is linked to HELCOM expert groups/projects/network as indicated in Annex 1. Lead countries are expected to inform the relevant expert body on the plans and progress on indicator development and to participate in tentative meetings of these bodies.

It can be noted that the remaining work will differ significantly between the indicators depending on the current level of development. In general, the development of indicators will concern development of GES-boundaries if still missing, development of assessment protocols, and the development of an operational data-flow system for calculating the indicators.

As of 17 November 2015, Lead Country offers were received for the continued development of 30 indicators and co-Lead country offers were received for all indicators (Annex 1). In addition, some indicators are developed directly under existing HELCOM groups or projects (e.g. RedCore and IWGAS). Lack of Lead country offers are notably on indicators related to benthic communities and hazardous substances. Preferentially a Lead is assigned to each indicator but when there is no such offer as Lead Country, it is proposed that co-lead countries will share responsibilities for further indicator development.

### Regular updates of indicators and support for HELCOM assessment – role of expert groups

The HELCOM groups, networks and projects to which the indicators are assigned have been tasked to follow and review the on-going development of indicators to ensure involvement of all Contracting Parties in the continued development work.

Another key task for these bodies is to carry out the regular updates of indicator reports and to provide timely indicators evaluations for HELCOM assessments, firstly the 2<sup>nd</sup> HELCOM holistic assessment. Thus, the expected contribution continues until 2018 and beyond. Updated indicator evaluations are needed in early 2017 and early 2018 to provide for finalization of the first results of HOLAS II by mid-2017 and of the updated HOLAS II by mid-2018. The arrangements for carrying out the thematic assessments under the HOLAS II project are not agreed yet, but it can be anticipated that the expert bodies will be invited to participate in the quality assurance of thematic assessment results, e.g. through the arrangement of dedicated workshops for specific themes of the assessment report.

At State and Conservation 3-2015 Terms of Reference were agreed in principle for the expert network on hazardous substances (Outcome State and Conservation 3-2015, 4J-7), and for a proposed expert network on eutrophication (Outcome State and Conservation 3-2015, para 4J-8, document submitted separately). ToR for the expert network on marine litter was agreed at Pressures 3-2015 (Outcome Pressure 3-2015, para 5.17). ToR for these new networks reflect the time-table for continued indicator development and the 2<sup>nd</sup> holistic assessment. For existing expert bodies, the ToR will be reviewed to evaluate whether the ToR should be revised to reflect the new task placed on them by HOD 48-2015. The Secretariat will assist in this task.

The Secretariat has started the process to inform the relevant expert bodies on the new expectations, at upcoming meetings or intersessional depending on timing of next meetings.

## Annex 1. Overview of Lead and co-lead countries for indicators

The link to HELCOM expert groups, networks and projects is indicated. The overview is based on information received by the HELCOM Secretariat 17 November 2015.

HELCOM WG/ EG/ EN/ Project (Contact in the Secretariat)	Indicator (C)- core (PC) – pre core (cand) - candidate	Lead Country	Co-lead Country
SEAL EG  (Petra.Kaaria@helcom.fi)	Distribution of Baltic seals (C)	<b>Finland</b>	Denmark Sweden
	Population trends and abundance of seals (C)	<b>Sweden</b> <b>Finland</b>	Denmark
	Nutritional status of marine mammals (C)	<b>Sweden</b>	Finland
	Reproductive status of marine mammals (C)	<b>Sweden</b>	Finland
	Harbour porpoise distribution and abundance (cand)		Denmark Finland Germany
FISH-PRO II  (Petra.Kaaria@helcom.fi)	Abundance of coastal fish key functional groups (C)	<b>Sweden</b>	Finland
	Abundance of key coastal fish species (C)	<b>Sweden</b>	Finland
JWG Birds ICES/OSPAR/HELCOM  (Lena.Avellan@helcom.fi)	Abundance of waterbirds in the breeding season (C)	<b>Germany</b>	Finland Sweden
	Abundance of waterbirds in the wintering season (C)	<b>Germany</b>	Finland Sweden
PEG  (Ullali.Zweifel@helcom.fi)	Seasonal succession of functional phytoplankton groups (PC)	<b>Estonia</b>	Finland Latvia Sweden
	Diatoms/dinoflagellates index (PC)		Estonia Finland Germany Latvia Poland Sweden
	Phytoplankton species assemblage clusters based on environmental factors (cand)		Finland Latvia Sweden
ZEN-ZIIM  (Ullali.Zweifel@helcom.fi)	Zooplankton mean size and total stock (C)	<b>Sweden</b>	Finland Latvia Estonia
EN benthic habitat monitoring  (Ullali.Zweifel@helcom.fi)	Population structure of long-lived macrozoobenthic species (C)		Finland Germany Sweden
	State of the soft-bottom macrofauna community (C)		Estonia Finland Sweden Germany
	Cumulative impact on benthic biotopes (PC)		Estonia Finland Germany Latvia Lithuania

	Distribution, pattern and extent of benthic biotopes (PC)	<b>Estonia</b>	Finland Germany Latvia Lithuania Sweden
	Lower depth limit distribution of the macrophyte community (PC)		Estonia Finland Germany Latvia Sweden
	Biomass ratio of opportunistic and perennial macroalgae (cand)	<b>Estonia</b>	
Fish WG  ( <a href="mailto:Hermanni.Backer@helcom.fi">Hermanni.Backer@helcom.fi</a> )  State & Conservation WG (e.g. target development)" ( <a href="mailto:ullali.zweifel@helcom.fi">ullali.zweifel@helcom.fi</a> )	Number of drowned mammals and waterbirds in fishing gear (C)	<b>Germany</b>	
	Abundance of salmon spawners and smolt (C)	<b>Finland</b> <i>(preliminary)</i>	
	Abundance of sea trout spawners and parr (C)	<b>Finland</b> <i>(preliminary)</i>	
	Proportion of large fish in the community (LFI) (C)	<b>Sweden</b>	Finland Germany
	Maximum length of fish in the pelagic community (PC)	<b>Sweden</b>	
EN marine litter  ( <a href="mailto:Marta.Ruiz@helcom.fi">Marta.Ruiz@helcom.fi</a> )	Beach litter (PC)	<b>Poland</b>	Denmark Sweden
	Litter on the seafloor (cand)		Denmark Sweden
	Micro litter in the watercolumn (cand)	<b>Finland</b>	Denmark Germany
EN-Noise ( <a href="mailto:Marta.Ruiz@helcom.fi">Marta.Ruiz@helcom.fi</a> )	Continuous low frequency anthropogenic sound (PC)	<b>Poland</b>	Denmark Finland Germany Sweden
	Distribution in time and space of loud low- and mid-frequency impulsive sounds (cand)		Denmark Finland Germany
EN hazardous substances Contact for network: <a href="mailto:Lena.Avellan@helcom.fi">Lena.Avellan@helcom.fi</a>	Hexabromocyclodecane (HBCDD) (C)		Finland Sweden
	Metals (C)	<b>Poland</b>	Denmark Finland Sweden
	Polybrominated biphenylethers (PBDE) (C)		Finland Sweden
	Perfluorooctane sulphonate (PFOS) (C)		Finland Sweden
	Polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and their metabolites (C)	<b>Germany</b>	Finland Sweden
	Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) and dioxin and furan (C)		Finland Sweden
	TBT and imposex (C)	<b>Sweden</b> <i>(tentatively)</i>	Denmark Finland
	White-tailed eagle productivity (C)	<b>Sweden</b>	Finland
	Acetylcholinesterase inhibition (PC)		
	Diclofenac concentration (PC)		Denmark Finland
	Estrogenic-like chemicals and effects (PC)	<b>Sweden</b>	Denmark Finland

	Lysosomal membrane stability (LMS) (PC)		Denmark Finland
	Reproductive disorders: Malformed eelpout and amphipod embryos (PC)		Denmark Finland Sweden
	Fish disease index (PC)		Denmark Finland
	Micronucleus test (PC)		Denmark Finland
	EROD activity (cand)	<b>Sweden</b>	
MORS EG (joni.kaitaranta@helcom.fi)	Radioactive substances: Cesium-137 in fish and seawater (C)	<b>Poland</b>	Finland
Pressure WG (Dmitry.Frank-Kamenetsky@helcom.fi)	Inputs of nitrogen and phosphorous to the basins (C)	<b>Red Core DG</b>	
Tentative future arrangement TG Ballast (Hermann.Backer@helcom.fi)	Trends in arrival of new non-indigenous species (C)	<b>Finland</b>	Germany Latvia Sweden
IWGAS (laura.meski@helcom.fi)	Oil-spills affecting the marine environment (C)	<b>IWGAS</b>	