



Document title	Draft data call for HOLAS III
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Category	DEC
Agenda Item	6 - Matters arising from the HELCOM Groups
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Submitted by	Executive Secretary
Reference	State & Conservation 13-2020 4J.44-47, GEAR 23-2020 5.23-5.28, Outcome of State & Conservation 13B-2020

Background

Preliminary gap analysis of HOLAS II and HELCOM data flow summaries have been compiled in the HELCOM Data Flows project (Described in [S&C 12-2020 Document 3MA-8](#)). The analysis focused on identifying data flows which require additional actions beyond regular annual data reporting activities to be able to provide complete raw data set for the assessment period 2016-2021 of HOLAS III assessment. The analysis also compared the HOLAS III timeline ([HOD 58-2020 Document 5-5](#)), the reporting deadlines of various data strands ([S&C 12-2020 3MA-7-Rev1](#)) for data period 2016-2021 to be reported by May 2022 and the current status of HELCOM Data flows ([S&C 12-2020 3MA-14](#)).

The Data flows are divided into 3 different tables (Attachments 1-3):

- Attachment 1: Core indicators,
- Attachment 2: BSPI / BSII Ecosystems components,
- Attachment 3: BSPI / BSII Human activities

Data flows requiring additional actions are listed in the attachments. The additional required actions are grouped into 3 categories by action type:

- **TIME:** Data flow contains regular (annual) reporting but reporting of 2021 data by May 2022 is problematic.
- **EXISTENCE:** Data flow is not regular. Thus, data will not be in place for HOLAS III without data flow arrangements and targeted data call.
- **COMPLETENESS:** The completeness of the Data flows (i.e. the regularity of the reporting and gaps) will be assessed at a later stage.

This document suggests actions to fill in the data reporting gaps by targeted HOLAS III Data Call focusing on action types on TIME and EXISTENCE. The document contains draft outline of the content of the data call. It should be noted that the draft data call covers data currently foreseen to be needed in relation to existing assessments, however, in case more indicators are operational by HOLAS III, there will be a need to make specific data calls.

Prioritization of the update need of BSPI/BSII layers have been carried out in [State & Conservation 13B-2020 meeting](#) and map layers that were prioritized as “high” priority and which cannot be updated without a data call will be included in the ad hoc data call.

This document was reviewed by State & Conservation 13-2020 ([Outcome](#), para 4J.44) and has been modified accordingly ([Outcome](#) para 4J.45). State & Conservation endorsed the submission of the draft data calls to GEAR 23-2020 for review and endorsement. GEAR 23-2020 endorsed (draft outcome, para 5.28) the document to be submitted to HOD 59-2020 for approval.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to approve the draft data call for HOLAS III.

Introduction

Preparation for the Third State of the Baltic Sea report (HOLAS III) according to preliminary time table ([HOD 58-2020 Document 5-5](#)) outlines that data collection for the assessment period of 2016-2021 is carried out during 2021- Week22/2022 (end of May). This poses both a timeline challenge for all data collection as well as completeness challenge due to lack of regular annual reporting of certain HELCOM data flows.

This document contains categorization of HELCOM data flows by their status and the need for a data call in order to be able to have sufficient data in time for HOLAS III assessment.

The Data flows are divided into 3 different tables (Attachments 1-3):

1. Attachment1: Core indicators
2. Attachment2: BSPI / BSII Ecosystems components
3. Attachment3: BSPI / BSII Human activities

For the core indicators (Attachment 1), the column "Status for HOLAS III" is highlighting the issues for each Data flows:

- **TIME:** Data flow contains regular (annual) reporting but reporting of 2021 data by May 2022 is problematic due to established data reporting routines and deadlines.
- **EXISTENCE:** Data flow is not regular. Thus, data will not be in place for HOLAS III without data flow arrangements and a targeted data call.

Draft data call content

Resulting from the analysis of existing HELCOM Data flows, following content is suggested for the HOLAS III data call.

Due to varying establishment statuses of the data flows, the data call is suggested to be divided into two data calls.

1. One targeted for speeded schedule of 2021 for HOLAS III for existing data flows ("**Speeded schedule data call**")
2. One targeted for non-existing data flows ("**Ad hoc data call**")

Speeded schedule data call

Speeded schedule data call would request Contracting Parties to report 2021 monitoring data earlier than official reporting deadlines outlined in the Monitoring Manual or current established practices. This would allow full data coverage for HOLAS III.

When preparing this document, it has been signaled by experts and data providers that for certain data flows and Contracting Parties the reporting of monitoring data for 2020 by May 2022 is foreseen to be problematic or impossible. To circumvent this, it is recommended that Contracting Parties look into available options of speeded data delivery and aim to make national arrangements to enable data reporting by end of May 2022.

According to HOLAS III timeline, the monitoring data for 2021 should be reported by end of May 2022. The Speeded schedule data call would be targeted to following core indicator data flows which will have issues with timely data delivery:

Biodiversity:

- Biological community data (reported to ICES)
 - o Phytoplankton
 - o Zooplankton
 - o Zoobenthos

Eutrophication:

- Oceanographic data (reported to ICES)
 - o Nutrients and Chlorophyll-a
 - o Secchi depth and Oxygen debt

Contaminants:

- Concentrations of contaminants in biota, sediment and water (reported to ICES)
- Radioactive substances (MORS)

Human Activities/Pressures:

- Impulsive noise
- Continuous noise (once established)
- Beach litter (once established)
- Management of dredged material at sea
- Inputs of nutrients

Ad hoc data call

Ad hoc data call would be targeted to those data types which feed established core indicators and/or BSII/BSPI and do not have established data flows.

It has been emphasized by experts that specifically for the ad-hoc data call under HOLAS II, much time was lost due to delays in forwarding the data call from national delegations to the data hosting institutions. To circumvent this, it is recommended that Contracting Parties inform the national data holders well in advance about the approaching HOLAS 3 ad hoc data call and its planned scope and content. This would enable proper time for preparing and compiling data before the official data call is received.

It should be noted that updating most of the BSII/BSPI input datasets would require ad hoc data call since those are not in the scope of regular annual HELCOM data collection activities. Therefore, it should be decided on which BSII/BSPI datasets should be prioritized and updated for HOLAS 3 and thus included in the ad hoc data call. For this purpose, State & Conservation 13B-2020 meeting prioritized the map layers in terms of their update need ([Outcome](#), [Outcome Att1](#) (Ecosystem components), [Outcome Att 2](#) (Human activities/pressures=). HELCOM Data flow project will look into data sources for BSPI/BSII map layers and will include in the ad hoc data call layers that were prioritized as “high” and which cannot be updated without a data call.

Ad-hoc data call will focus on following data:

Biodiversity:

- Seals: Abundance and distribution, other indicators.
- Birds: Breeding and wintering abundance.
- BSII prioritized ecosystem components

Human Activities/Pressures

- Trends in arrival of new non-indigenous species
- BSII/BSPI prioritized human activities/pressure datasets

Annex I. Draft speeded schedule data call

Data call – speeded schedule data call for regular HELCOM data collection activities

RATIONALE FOR DATA REQUEST

HELCOM Secretariat requests Contracting Parties of HELCOM to report monitoring data in speeded schedule for usage in the Third Holistic Assessment of the ecosystem health of Baltic Sea (HOLAS III) and for other HELCOM purposes.

Following the decision by HOD 58-2020 ([Outcome para. 5.20](#)) on HOLAS III timeline, **HELCOM Secretariat request Contracting Parties to report all available monitoring data for the assessment period 2016-2021 to be reported to the respective data hosts by 31 May 2022.**

DATA USE POLICY

The requested national data will be compiled to a Baltic wide HELCOM dataset by the respective data host and extracted for use in HOLAS III.

According to [HELCOM data and information strategy](#), all data collected for HELCOM assessment purposes should be openly accessible. The underlying unrestricted spatial datasets submitted by national data providers will be made publicly available as a HELCOM dataset using [HELCOM Map and Data service](#). For transparency and replicability of the assessment, the underlying data should be openly available and documented with proper metadata on lineage and sources. Each compiled dataset will contain a metadata sheet containing lineage information on national data providers.

REQUESTED DATASET: SCOPE AND SPECIFICATIONS

HELCOM Secretariat requests monitoring data to be reported following the existing data reporting formats and reporting routines.

The temporal coverage of the sampling should be from 1.1.2016 until 31.12.2021. Following the existing annual data reporting routines, data for years 2016-2020 should have been reported by 2021. **Therefore, the scope of the data request is any monitoring data for 2016-2020 that has not yet been reported and all available data for monitoring year 2021.**

The data should be reported by 31 May 2022.

The scope of the dataset is all HELCOM Monitoring data that is regularly collected and reported annually to HELCOM database (to assigned data host or Secretariat).

Annex 2. Draft Ad hoc data call

RATIONALE FOR DATA REQUEST

HELCOM Secretariat requests Contracting Parties of HELCOM to report requested data (as specified below) for usage in the Third Holistic Assessment of the ecosystem health of Baltic Sea (HOLAS III) and for other HELCOM purposes.

Following the decision HOD 58-2020 ([Outcome para. 5.20](#)) on HOLAS III timeline, **HELCOM Secretariat request Contracting Parties to report all available data for the assessment period 2016-2021 to be reported to the secretariat (ioni.kaitaranta@helcom.fi) by 31 May 2022.**

DATA USE POLICY

The requested national data will be compiled to a Baltic wide HELCOM dataset.

According to [HELCOM data and information strategy](#), all data collected for HELCOM assessment purposes should be openly accessible. The underlying unrestricted spatial datasets submitted by national data providers will be made publicly available as a HELCOM dataset using [HELCOM Map and Data service](#). For transparency and replicability of the assessment, the underlying data should be openly available and documented with proper metadata on lineage and sources.

Each compiled dataset will contain a metadata sheet containing lineage information on national data providers.

In case reuse and redistribution of national data has to be restricted according to conditions applied by the data provider, the restrictions should be flagged by the national data provider in both metadata and attribute of spatial object which it applies to.

REQUESTED DATASET: SCOPE AND SPECIFICATIONS

The temporal coverage of the activity should last from 1.1.2016 until 31.12.2021.

The data call focuses on following datasets:

Monitoring data:

- Seal abundance and distribution
- Seal nutritional and reproductive status data
- Bird abundance (breeding and wintering)

Ecosystem components:

- Prioritized ecosystem components (list to be elaborated based on State & Conservation 13B-2020 outcome)

Distribution of human activities:

- Prioritized human activities datasets (list to be elaborated based on State & Conservation 13B-2020 outcome)

Requested format is dataset specific and will be outlined below per each dataset:

[Requested formats to be described per dataset]

Metadata template		
For each requested Ecosystem component and Human activities dataset, a metadata record should be filled in.		
Metadata fields		Content
Title	Title of the dataset	[Insert text]
Abstract	Short description of dataset (including e.g. modelling approach, if applicable)	[Insert text]
Data provider information	Organisation name	[Insert text]
	Contact person name	[Insert text]
	Contact person email	[Insert text]
Lineage	Lineage (history and/or overall quality of the spatial data set. Where appropriate it may include a statement whether the data set has been validated or quality assured)	[Insert text]
Spatial data information	Spatial data format (ESRI shapefile, MapInfo TAB, GML, Excel)	[Insert text]
	Data type (point / line / polygon / raster)	[Insert text]
	Coordinate reference system (EPSG: code)	ETRS89LAEA (EPSG: 3035)
	Minimum scale range	1:5,000
	Maximum scale range	1:150,000,000
Temporal extent	Start date (DD.MM.YYYY)	01.01.2016
	End date (DD.MM.YYYY)	31.12.2021
Access and use	Conditions applying to access and use	Data can be used freely given that the source is cited (following creative commons license CC-BY). The source should be cited as: "Organisation: Name of dataset (Year)".
	Limitations on public access (Yes/No/Partly)	No
Attribute specification and units	Description of attributes of each spatial object (Attribute name (data type): Description	Attribute: Attribute description [Units]