



Baltic Marine Environment
Protection Commission



19 January 2022

To: HELCOM State and Conservation Contacts and Observers
HELCOM GEAR Contacts and Observers
Contacts of CG HOLAS 3
Nominated experts for CG FOODWEB
Nominated experts for PELAGIC WS
Contacts and Observers of the Expert Group on Marine Mammals
Contacts of Baltic expert of the HELCOM-OSPAR-ICES Joint Working Group on Seabirds
Contacts of PEG and ZEN
Contacts and Observers of FISH PRO III
Contacts expert Network on Benthic habitats
Contacts of HELCOM BLUES Project (Activity 2)
Contacts of Baltic Data Flows Project
HELCOM indicators leads and co-leads

Cc: HELCOM Heads of Delegation
Chair and Vice-Chairs of the HELCOM Groups
HELCOM Observers

Re: Invitation to the Targeted Assessment Methodology Workshop for HOLAS 3 on the HELCOM Integrated biodiversity assessment tool, BEAT (HOLAS3/BLUES/BDF BEAT 2 -2022), online, 7 and 11 March 2022

Dear Colleagues,

With reference to the [Outcome](#) of the 61st Meeting of the Heads of Delegation (HOD 61-2021, para 5.34 & 5.35), I have the pleasure to invite you to the Targeted Assessment Methodology Workshop for HOLAS 3 on the HELCOM Integrated biodiversity assessment tool (BEAT), HOLAS3/BLUES/BDF BEAT 2 -2022. This event will be a joint Workshop involving the HELCOM experts as well as participants from the HELCOM BLUES and Baltic Data Flow projects.

This Workshop will be divided into three specific thematic sessions divided across two days (**7 and 11 March 2022**). The workshop will be held **online** from **10:00 (EET) to 17:00 (EET)** each day, with the thematic sessions divided as follows:

- **Monday 7 March 2022 – fish and waterbirds,**
- **Friday 11 March 2022 – marine mammals.**

This Workshop will be focused on solving any remaining open issues, to review latest proposals on the integrated assessment of marine mammals, waterbirds and fish (non-commercial/coastal) for HOLAS 3, and to recommend the optimal assessment for HOLAS 3. The participants will be invited to discuss the methodology for HOLAS 3 and the workshop outcome is expected to result in a clear regional proposal on the approach (i.e. integrated or overall assessment of these biota groups) that can be presented to SATE & CONSERVATION 16-2022 for approval.

This Workshop will also revisit the [Outcome](#) (cf. Annex 2) of the Workshop on the HELCOM Integrated biodiversity assessment tool (BEAT WS 1-2021) held on 26 August 2021. We would like to kindly remind you that based on the [Outcome](#) of STATE & CONSERVATION 15-2021 (para 3J.102), this workshop could be organized, if possible, with a supporting Contracting Party. We are inviting the Contracting Parties willing to nominate a national expert as Chair for this Workshop to inform the Secretariat (florent.nicolas@helcom.fi) as soon as possible.

A more detailed agenda and any other documents for this Workshop will be made available via the HELCOM Meeting Portal on the [Meeting Site for HOLAS3/BLUES/BDF BEAT 2 -2022](#). Please note that you need to be a registered user with relevant rights to access the *restricted* meeting documents. Instructions for the use of the Meeting Portal are available on the [HELCOM website](#).

Information documents to the Meeting should be sent in electronic form via e-mail to the Secretariat (florent.nicolas@helcom.fi) **by 24 February 2022**. The Secretariat has prepared a document template which is available on the [Meeting Site](#) (section "Related information") and would like to encourage the participants to use the template when submitting documents to the Secretariat.

Participants of the Workshop are requested to **register** by **3 March 2022** to attend the event by answering the [Participation Survey](#). The Workshop will be held via Zoom, Meeting link and instructions will be sent to the **registered participants only**.

In case of any questions, please contact the HELCOM Secretariat (florent.nicolas@helcom.fi).

Yours sincerely,

Jannica Haldin
Deputy Executive Secretary