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Background

This document aims to provide a summary of information of relevance for the indicator work towards and during HOLAS III. Aspects of the items introduced in this document will also be presented in greater detail at the meeting.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information provided and discuss as needed.

Towards HOLAS III – HELCOM indicators

The following aspects are addressed under this document and the overall aim is to provide as much information as possible to the leads/co-leads in preparation for HOLAS III. The majority of this information will also be briefly introduced during the meeting but links to existing information if provided here to allow for preparation in advance.

HOLAS III preparatory phase

The HOLAS III preparatory phase is the phase we are currently involved in and has the critical deadline of 7 September 2021 – i.e. for approval of methodological and threshold value related components. This phase therefore addresses all indicator adjustment/development work currently underway. A [presentation](#) given at the recent meeting of State and Conservation 14-2021 provides a broad overview of the preparatory work underway for HOLAS III, encompassing numerous projects and processes, including the work on HELCOM indicators, highlighting the deadlines, and review, guidance and approval steps required.

HOLAS III assessment phase

The HOLAS III assessment phase was also introduced at the recent meeting of State and Conservation 14-2021. The [presentation](#) provides an overview of the process and stages involved in carrying out the HOLAS III assessment. The incorporation of indicators and relevant Expert and Working Groups is considered, as well as the approval processes required and relevant deadlines.

HOLAS III data call

The HOLAS III data call has been sent out. The document summarising the data requested was presented to the recent meeting of State and Conservation 14-2021. This document reflects the data requested from Contracting Parties to support the indicator evaluations, and other relevant data requiring processes under HOLAS III. Work on this has been carried out supported by the Baltic Data Flows project, as reflected under document [4J-11 Rev.1](#) to State and Conservation 14-2021. The HOLAS II data call, i.e. the data requested from Contracting Parties for the HOLAS III period of 2016-2021 and the process by which it should be reported, are provided under [4J-11 Att.1](#).

Summary of indicators anticipated for use in HOLAS III

At the recent meeting of State and Conservation 14-2021 a summary of indicators anticipated to be available for HOLAS III, the anticipated level of their development by HOLAS III, and the ongoing work related to adjustment/development was presented. This [table](#) provides a quick overview of the indicators and where development issues requiring endorsement/approval (i.e. by 7 September 2021) are present.

Recent input from State and Conservation and GEAR Working Groups

The progress and planned work on HELCOM indicators towards HOLAS III was also presented in greater detail at State and Conservation 14-2021, i.e. those indicators where adjustment/development work is underway towards HOLAS III. The documents (available at the [meeting site](#)) carrying this information were also presented in brief via a [summary powerpoint presentation](#). Comments received by the meeting included technical and policy guidance, as represented in the [meeting outcome](#) (see agenda item 4J, in particular paragraphs 4J.55 onwards). Once the outcome of the GEAR Working Group has been finalised (these documents and the input from the State and Conservation meeting were also provided to GEAR) the specific details will be shared with the relevant indicator leads (the outcome is anticipated to be available [here](#) on 26 May).

Downstream use of the indicators in HOLAS (e.g. integration)

Relevant core indicators are also generally integrated under thematic integrated assessments: Biodiversity (BEAT), Eutrophication (HEAT), and Hazardous Substances (CHASE). These tools were applied in [HOLAS II](#) and will be applied again in HOLAS III. There have been recent developments to the HEAT tool ([document 4J-80](#)), planned development are underway for the CHASE tool ([document 4J-83](#)) and a workshop was

recently endorsed to focus on the BEAT tool (State and Conservation 14-2021, [outcomes paragraph 4J-178-184](#)).