
Document title	Underwater noise – response to input request in preparation for Second HELCOM Indicator Workshop
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Background

In preparation for the Second HELCOM Indicator Workshop a list of questions was sent out to relevant HELCOM Expert and Working Groups. The document below provides responses from the indicator leads for the topic of underwater noise, in particular with relevance to impulsive sound.

In addition to this document there are two attachments provided:

1. Document 22 ATT.1 Impulsive sound indicator_development phases and open issues
2. Document 22 ATT.2 Questionnaire_DataCompleteness_ImpNoiseRegistry

These two attachments provide a detailed proposal for development to take place and an approach to carry out the proposed work.

Action requested

The Workshop is invited to take note of this information and use it as required during the discussion.

Distribution in time and space of loud low- and mid-frequency impulsive sounds (pre-core)

Proposal for preparatory input for the second HELCOM indicator workshop regarding the HELCOM Indicator

(HELCOM information given in green, proposed answers given in orange)

As input prior to the second workshop HELCOM Experts are invited to: Review the relevant Topic Summary and revised aims section

- Provide specific comments if it requires updating or is incorrect. *correct*

Topic summary:

<https://portal.helcom.fi/meetings/INDICATOR%20WS%201-2019-616/MeetingDocuments/11-%20Future%20work%20on%20HELCOM%20indicators%20-%20Underwater%20noise.pdf>

Aim:

A Baltic Sea regional assessment of underwater noise generated by anthropogenic activities that result in either continuous or impulsive sound. Such an assessment should be tied to suitable species that are affected by these noise generating activities during periods of biological significance of their lifetime, and be assessed against suitable threshold values. Threshold values should be linked to appropriate values that represent levels at which no harm to species identified as sensitive to noise occur.

Cooperation with relevant institutions (e.g. OSPAR) should take place and the specific feasibility

of stages of the development work should be clarified. There is a need to ensure regionally harmonized monitoring and methodologies are applied and that relevant quality assurance is in place. National restrictions on data may also be relevant.

In the short-term assessments should consider an evaluation of pressures and trends, with longer-term developments to address the link with biota.

Review the HELCOM indicator-policy match (particularly for the BSAP and MSFD)

- Provide specific comments if it requires updating or is incorrect. *correct*

https://portal.helcom.fi/meetings/INDICATOR%20WS%201-2019-616/layouts/15/xlviewer.aspx?id=/meetings/INDICATOR%20WS%201-2019-616/MeetingDocuments/17%20Annex%201%20-%20HELCOM%20Indicator%20match%20and%20scoring%20tables%20Rev.1_240519.xlsx

Evaluate if existing/developing HELCOM indicators correctly meet the requirements of the [COMMISSION DECISION \(EU\) 2017/848](#).

Criteria element: *Anthropogenic impulsive sound in water.*

Criteria D11C1 — Primary: *The spatial distribution, temporal extent, and levels of anthropogenic impulsive sound sources do not exceed levels that adversely affect populations of marine animals. Member States shall establish threshold values for these levels through cooperation at Union level, taking into account regional or subregional specificities.*

Methodological standards: *The extent to which good environmental status has been achieved shall be expressed for each area assessed as follows: (a) for D11C1, the duration per calendar year of impulsive sound sources, their distribution within the year and spatially within the assessment area, and whether the threshold values set have been achieved; The use of criteria D11C1 and D11C2 in the assessment of good environmental status for Descriptor 11 shall be agreed at Union level. The outcomes of these criteria shall also*

- If not, define the adjustments/developments required. **correct**
- *Following aspects are currently not covered by the developing indicator and should be integrated:*
 1. *levels of anthropogenic impulsive sound source, where available and applicable*
 2. *the distribution within the year, e.g. seasonality*

Address the priority areas identified at HELCOM Indicator WS 1-2019 (see information provided separately).

HIGH priority areas/indicators identified for adjustment/development – for HOLAS III:

Underwater noise , define an appropriate framework for short - (e.g. coverage and impact) and long-term assessments (e.g. biological impacts component – including work linked with OSPAR), and the timeline for the development work.

- Prepare proposed solutions and answers to the issues pinpointed for consideration at the second HELCOM indicator workshop.
- A proposal for timelines, open issues and work phases is detailed in attachment 1.*

Provide a clear indication of the resource requirements to implement the work.

- The minimum required information is the hours/days it would in your opinion require to complete the work proposed. If it is not possible to provide such a clear statement then it is necessary to indicate whether the work could be completed using the lead/co-lead approach utilized within HELCOM, or if alternative solutions (e.g. a designated project) may be required. A clear indication of time and cost implications should be provided where ever possible. This can assist in the process to identify final priorities for further work and will help ensure that national resources are assigned for the work.
- Estimate on personal resources during the relevant development phase (2019-2021): approx. three person month's for each of the lead/co-lead countries. Currently, DE considers resources of 100.000€ for supporting the developments.*

- Identify important cooperative opportunities, e.g. considering [those identified by DG GES](#).

Note the agreed deadlines for indicator development (adjustment by autumn 2020 and development by autumn 2021).

- Confirm if defined adjustment/development can be done in the given timeline.

The further development and process partly depends on the data delivery by HELCOM CP's and if requested support in reporting required data can be provided.

- Clarify if not and what are potential obstacles/delays.

A proposal for a questionnaire regarding data reporting and support requests is detailed in attachment 2.

Evaluate appropriate approaches for carrying out integrated assessments and identify where clear interlinkages between different indicators (or BSAP segments) occur (e.g. linkage between eutrophication and bird status).

- Confirm if existing integration approaches are appropriate, propose specific needs for adjustments, identify new approaches where integration is currently not carried out.
Presently, integrated approaches are not appropriate.
- Highlight interlinkages, in particular where indicator application and evaluation should show comparable result across themes.