



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Expert Group on Monitoring of Radioactive Substances
in the Baltic Sea

MORS EG 11-2021

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Background

This document contains an overview of the timelines, as well as provisional submission deadlines, for the HOLAS III preparatory and assessment phases.

Action

The Meeting is invited to take note of the timelines and provisional deadlines contained in the document and plan the indicator work accordingly.

Timeline for HOLAS III processes

The overall work leading up to the publication of the State of the Baltic Sea is divided into two main processes (as outlined in Table 1):

- **A preparatory phase** focusing on improving infrastructure to support the holistic assessment. The preparatory phase is structure along three distinct but interlinked projects: consolidation and development of indicators, establishing and improving data flows, and refining and further developments of the assessments. The preparatory phase runs from the beginning of 2020-to the end of 2021, in a staggered structure.
- **A HOLAS III assessment**, consisting of data collection, indicator evaluations, integrated assessments and report production, would begin in late 2021 and run to the end of 2023, with the bulk of results and supporting material ready and approved by mid-March 2023.

Table 1. Overall timeline for HOLAS III and related processes.

	2020				2021				2022				2023			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Indicator development/consolidation (HELCOM Indicators)																
Establishing and ensuring dataflows (HELCOM DataFlow)																
Refining and further developments of assessments (HELCOM MetDev)																
External projects supporting HOLAS III																
HOLAS III Assessment																

The planning for HOLAS III has been done within the framework delineated by the BSAP and in accordance with the needs of the Contracting Parties with respect to other international commitments. This places some limitations on how dynamic the HOLAS III process can be and necessitates that some trade-offs be considered early in the process. It also sets hard deadlines which need to be met in order to optimize the added value and to make full use of the HOLAS III work. Efforts have been made to take these considerations into account when developing the timeline contained in this document, i.e. to the extent possible the timeline strives to have assessment results and supporting material in place for approval to make them available also for national consultation and reporting purposes.

The timelines presented in this document (Tables 2 and 3) are in line with the approved timeline for the HOLAS III preparatory process and the [specified timeline for the HOLAS III assessment phase](#) (approved in HOD 58-2020). At each step indicated in the tables time has been secured between submission to the Secretariat and submission for review by CPs to enable the Secretariat to prepare the documents and conduct initial proofreading etc. The preparation and approval of the work process plan for the HOLAS III assessment phase is currently ongoing, however, effort has been made to align the content of this document with the latest version of the plan.

It is important to note that any new or updated threshold values, indicators, methodology and tools intended to be used for the HOLAS III assessment need to be presented for approval to Heads of Delegation in December 2021, or they cannot be included in the assessment. For indicator thresholds a review process of three months has been requested by Contracting Parties, in practice meaning that new or update threshold values need to be submitted to the Secretariat by **7 September 2021**. For updated or new methodology and tools the deadline for submission to the

Secretariat is **15 November 2021**. Note that for methodology and tools it is the concept, methods and tool itself that are to be considered for approval, actual assessments and results will be presented for approval under the respective work strands in 2022 and 2023.

Guidance and approval by HELCOM groups:

- ensures that the products and deliverables from the project are policy relevant and fit within the larger scope of the holistic assessment and HELCOMs work.
- ensures that information on work done under the Expert Groups and indicator leads reaches a broad audience, from technical experts to ministries across the whole region.
- functions as a way for Expert Groups and indicator leads to get input and support from a wide range of experts, including expertise not available in the group.
- ensures, through approval, uptake of products and deliverables are taken onboard in HELCOMs work and used long term and as the HOLAS work is directly relevant for national reporting under the MSFD, the methods etc. need to be agreed at a regional level by all relevant countries.

Table 2. Workflows and work strands for the HOLAS III preparatory and assessment phases.

	indicative of possibility to start parts of a process earlier in the timetable
	process
	Submission (with date)
	Review/endorsement
	Approval
	indicate hard deadline for update or new threshold values/indicator concepts
Note that exact dates of submission etc are still provisional for the meetings which date are not yet set. These are indicated with an asterisk (*).	

2021 (Preparatory phase + Assessment phase)

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Indicators				8 April	3-7 May		7 September	4-8 October				8-9 December
Assessment methodology				8 April	3-7 May		7 September	4-8 October			15 November	8-9 December
Assessment tools				8 April	3-7 May		7 September	4-8 October			15 November	8-9 December
Data reporting												

2022 (Assessment phase)

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Data reporting						6 June-1 July						
Indicator evaluation results								31 August		10-14 October*		
Indicator reports										17 October		8-9 December*
Integrated assessments										17 October		
Thematic assessment reports												5 December

2023 (Assessment phase)

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Thematic assessment reports			7 March*									
Summary report, content					8 May	13-14 June*						
Summary report, layout and website						15 June						15 December

Table 3. List of possible meetings, dates, submission deadlines and expected type of submission for HOLAS III processes.

Please note that under the current proposed work structure all relevant EGs and WGs will be invited to review the products and results of the assessment as part of the intersessional approval processes under HOLAS III, irrespective of the timing and type of submission indicated in this table.

Note that exact dates of submission etc are still provisional for the meetings which date are not yet set. These are indicated with an asterisk (*). To the extent possible the indicated deadlines have been set according to the earliest expected meeting dates in an effort to avoid that submission deadlines would be adjusted to bring submission earlier than indicated in this table.

Year	Season	Meeting	Dates of meeting	Submission to Secretariat by	Expected type of submission (Update/guidance/review/approval)
2021	Spring	PRESSURE 14-2021	13-16 April 2021	18 March	Update/guidance
		FISH 13-2021	20-21 April 2021	25 March	Update/guidance
		STATE&CONSERVATION 14-2021	3-7 May 2021	8 April	Update/guidance/review
		GEAR 24-2021	18-20 May 2021	26 April	Update/guidance
		HOD 60-2021	3-4 June 2021	7 May	Update/guidance
	Autumn	MARITIME 21-2021			Update/guidance
		STATE&CONSERVATION 15-2021	4-8 October 2021	7 September	Review
		PRESSURE 15-2021	1-5 November 2021	7 October	Review
		GEAR 25-2021	8-10 November 2021	13 October	Review
		HOD 61-2021	8-9 December 2021	15 November	Approval
2022	Spring	FISH 14-2022	28 February-5 March 2022	3 February	Update/guidance
		PRESSURE 16-2022	April 2022*		Update/guidance
		STATE&CONSERVATION 16-2022	May 2022*		Update/guidance
		GEAR 26-2022	24-26 May 2022	28 April	Update/guidance
		HOD 62-2022	June 2022*		Update/guidance
	Autumn	MARITIME 22-2022	*		Update
		STATE&CONSERVATION 16-2022	October 2022*	31 August*	Approval
		PRESSURE 16-2022	October/November 2022*	*	Update
		GEAR 26-2022	November 2022*	*	Update
		HOD 63-2022	December 2022*	17 October*	Approval
2023	Spring	HELCOM 44-2023	March 2023*	5 December*	Approval
		HOD 64-2023	June 2023*	8 May*	Approval