Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Expert Group on Monitoring of Radioactive Substances in the Baltic Sea

MORS EG 9-2019

Roskilde, Denmark, 21-23 May 2019

Document title	A survey on HELCOM knowledge and research needs
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Reference	

Background

HELCOM 40-2019 agreed to develop a HELCOM science agenda, concomitantly with the update of the BSAP. The agenda is to outline existing and foreseen HELCOM regional science needs. It will serve the development of activities in HELCOM as well as to inform external funding mechanisms on the research needs of HELCOM. The development of the agenda will also be an opportunity to provide regional input to the BANOS CSA process and can also contribute to support processes under the UNESCO Decade of Ocean Science. In order to account for the broad range of topics covered by HELCOM work, the dynamic nature of policy and management needs, emerging issues, and the scientific progress, the agenda is envisioned to be regularly updated.

In 2016, a survey of knowledge and science needs to reach good environmental status was carried out by the State and Conservation Working Group and associated Expert groups and networks as an activity of the HELCOM Roadmap on activities on Ecosystem approach. To initiate the development of an HELCOM science agenda, the survey will be updated and circulated to all HELCOM Working Groups and associated Expert groups with the aim to identify knowledge and research needs to implement HELCOM goals and objectives, commitments from the HELCOM Ministerial Declarations and HELCOM strategic areas of work (HELCOM monitoring and assessment strategy, PLC, MSP Roadmap etc). The survey aims to capture shorter-term knowledge needs as well as longer-term research needs. The results will be summarized in a report that will provide an overview of results and that will form the starting point for the development of the HELCOM science agenda. A process for the further development of the science agenda is still to be agreed. OSPAR recently updated and ICES have finalized their Science Agendas and their experiences could be utilized when further considering how to finalize the HELCOM plan.

This document contains the list of focal areas and guidance on issues to be indicated in the survey. A set of predefined focal areas and aspects are included to facilitate the sorting of responses. If an area or aspects of interest is not included in the predefined list they can be added as "other". The associated template (8-2-Att.1. to this document; a separate xls file) should be used when submitting response to the survey. The survey will be extended to HELCOM Working Groups and associated expert groups, networks etc. Representatives of working and expert groups can submit responses intersessionally, either as individual experts or coordinated nationally, and the input will then be discussed at the following meeting of the Working Group with the view of agreeing on a joint input to the survey. Any requests for clarification can be directed to ullali.zweifel@helcom.fi.

Action required

The Meeting is invited to

- take note of the survey and that Contracting Parties and experts are invited to submit proposals by end of June 2019 (ullali.zweifel@helcom.fi), noting that the proposals will be discussed at State & Conservation 11-2019.

Focal areas for the HELCOM survey on knowledge and research needs

HELCOM Working Groups, Expert groups and projects are requested to consider, in their field of expertise, the knowledge and research gaps in related to:

- Activities contributing to pressures on the Baltic Sea
- Pressures on the Baltic Sea, including climate change
- Biodiversity; including both ecosystem components and function
- Ecosystem based management; addressing cross-cutting issues such as tool and models to support ecosystem-based management, maritime spatial planning, social and economic analyses.

An extract of the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2018 is provided in table 1 which reflects these focal areas as well as the ambition to implementing the updated BSAP based on a science-based decision making.

Activity and pressure types, biodiversity characteristics

A number of predefined activity and pressures types and biodiversity characteristics are provided as list menu options. "Other" can also be added if something is found missing from the list.

Aspects

For each focal area a number of pre-defined aspects are provided as list options. The aspects differ somewhat between focal areas but cover in general the following:

- monitoring/mapping; e.g. development of new programmes, implementation of new techniques
- state indicators and threshold values
- pressure indicators and pressure targets; i.e. quantitative reduction of pressures to achieve GES
- sources of pressures; e.g. activities, source apportionment
- effectiveness of measures to reduce the pressures, or spatial protection and nature conservation measures
- development of new measures
- social and economic aspects; depending on topic socio-economic aspects could reflect e.g. cost-effectiveness of measures, cost-benefit of reducing pressure on the Baltic Sea and improving its state, aspects of health and human wellbeing, valuation of ecosystem services.

For ecosystem management the following pre-defined aspects are provided:

- tools, e.g. for integrated status assessments, cumulative impact assessments
- models for use in ecosystem management
- activity-pressure-state response relationships, including for aspects of biodiversity
- Maritime Spatial Planning
- social-economic analyses
- impacts of climate change at an ecosystem level.

Title and description

For each proposal a title and description of knowledge/research needs should be provided using free text. Indicative length for the description is 100-150 words. Note that the proposals should address knowledge and research needs to implement HELCOM goals and objectives, HELCOM agreements to improve the Baltic Sea, and strategic areas of work. The proposals should not duplicate ongoing or planned research activities in HELCOM or regional projects, but can expand on them.

Use in HELCOM

Indicate using free text if the knowledge is needed for any specific planned or foreseen activity in HELCOM (e.g. 3rd HELCOM holistic assessment, PLC, implementation of HELCOM agreements, adapting HELCOM policies and recommendations to climate change, red list assessments).

Accessibility

Indicate for each proposal:

- if the required data/information is likely to already exist i.e. knowledge could be acquired through gathering of existing data/information or a review activity, or
- new research activities are likely to be required to meet the knowledge needs

Estimated time

Indicate for each proposal the estimated time to achieve new knowledge for management purposes

- <1 year,
- 1-5 years,
- >5 years),

Scale

Indicate if the proposal is perceived as needed on local, national or regional level (or a combination thereof)

- local
- national
- regional
- local/national
- national/regional
- local/national/regional

Submitted by

Indicate who is submitted the information (e.g. country, network, working group)

NB that is the submission is done by country the input will be addressed and consolidated by the next Working Group meeting.