



Document title	A concept of the Workshop on nutrient input ceilings
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Background

PRESSURE 11-2019 agreed in general on the proposed approach to update the values for nutrient input ceilings. The meeting requested to continue the discussion on calculations with national experts in the PLC Project Implementation Group and proposed to communicate the proposal for the updated nutrient reduction scheme with Heads of Delegation, integrating the nutrient ceiling values with the textual part of the revised scheme and submitting the integrated proposal for commenting to HOD 57-2019 meeting.

PRESSURE 11-2019 also requested to arrange a workshop dedicated to the discussion of technical aspects of the update of the nutrient input ceilings on 20 April 2020, a day before PRESSURE 12-2020.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to discuss the provisional agenda of the workshop on the update of the national input ceilings, which is proposed to be convened back-to-back with PRESSURE 12-2020.

HELCOM Workshop on the update of the national nutrient input ceilings

20 April 2020 in Helsinki, Finland

Background

HELCOM Ministerial Declaration 2018 identified that, due to improved data on nutrient inputs in the reference period, the Country Allocated Reduction Targets (CART) for nutrients are no longer always sufficient to achieve GES of the Baltic Sea with regard to eutrophication and that, therefore, the follow-up of the nutrient reduction requirements of the BSAP should focus on national commitments based on Maximum Allowable Inputs (MAI) and that this should be taken into consideration when updating the BSAP.

Improvement of the data, especially, on airborne input of nitrogen and transboundary loads for both nutrients may also lead to a need to update national input ceilings to sub-basins, based on the Maximum Allowable Inputs agreed in the MD2013 which remain unchanged.

A proposal to update national nutrient input ceilings was presented at PRESSURE 11-2019. The proposal was based on the approach to address eutrophication-related reduction targets including nutrient loads through transboundary rivers, taking into account retention and reflecting input from upstream countries to the sea. The proposed update of the input ceilings was also discussed at the Workshop with river basin management authorities in September 2019, where participants welcomed the proposal pointing out its value for the management of river basins.

PRESSURE 11-2019 in general supported the proposed approach. Nevertheless, the participants pointed out that the presented values are of indicative character, and they will be further improved utilising the best available scientific knowledge, which requires continuation of the discussion on the details of calculations with national experts in the PLC-7 Project Implementation Group and also discussion on all methodological aspects of the calculation at a workshop to be held back-to-back with PRESSURE 12-2020.

In accordance with the working plan of the PLC-7 Project, assessment of the progress towards national nutrient input reduction targets (national input ceilings) 1995-2017 is to be accomplished in the second quarter of 2020. The assessment utilizes nutrient input ceilings agreed in 2013 and used for the previous assessment carried out in the frame of PLC-6 Project covering period 1995-2014. The first assessment results will be presented to the Workshop for thorough consideration.

Outcomes of the Workshop will be reported to PRESSURE 12-2020.

Goals of the Workshop are:

- to discuss and agree on expert level on the results of the assessment of progress towards national nutrient input reduction ceilings in 1995-2017;
- to assure transparency of the data used for the update of the nutrient input ceilings (NICs) and common understanding of the used methodology.

Provisional Programme of the Workshop

Provisional timeframe for the workshop is 10.00 – 16.00.

Part 1. Assessment of progress towards national nutrient input reduction ceilings in 1995-2017

1.1 Assessment dataset

PLC-water data reporting, quality assuring, filling in data gaps and resolving transboundary issues.

Airborne input of nitrogen – contributions of emissions from different countries and sectors to atmospheric nitrogen input to the Baltic Sea.

1.2 Assessment methods

Methods used to assess achieved progress: trend analysis, break points, uncertainty and visualization.

Part 2. Update of the nutrient input ceilings (NICs)

2.1. Data used for the update of the input ceilings.

Changes of the data on airborne deposition of nitrogen from 2013 to 2019; improvement of the data on transboundary waterborne inputs.

2.2. Methodological approach utilized to identify nutrient input ceilings

Method to compute nutrient input ceilings; difference between newly computed nutrient input ceilings and once identified in 2013; benefits of the new approach.

Discussion and conclusion

The participants will be invited to clarify all technical aspects of computing nutrient input ceilings and assessing the progress to express common position of the regional expert community regarding the proposed environmental targets. The position will be communicated with relevant HELCOM Working Groups.

Workshop's target group

The Workshop is tasked to convene open discussion on various methodological aspects of setting nutrient input targets as well as data and methods to follow up the progress. The target group of the Workshop is a broad audience of experts and policy makers involved in the national and regional work to achieve nutrient input reduction targets. In general, the target groups for the Workshop are: scientific and research organizations; authorities responsible for the marine and river basin environmental management; agencies conducting water quality monitoring; intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations; representatives of professional associations concerned about nutrient related environmental targets.