

An initial overview of deadlines for data reporting listed in HELCOM Monitoring Manual and guidelines

The revised HELCOM Recommendation 19/3 refers to the reporting deadlines, which have to be defined in the Introduction of the HELCOM Monitoring Manual. In the published version of the HELCOM Monitoring Manual, the data reporting deadlines are identified as they have been agreed in HELCOM COMBINE, MORS, PLC, and illegal oil spills monitoring. But the deadlines for new sub-programmes are not agreed yet (see Table 1).

In the sub-programme sections of the HELCOM Monitoring Manual, data availability, update frequency, and access points are described. Still, in most cases, the data reporting deadlines are not defined for the new sub-programmes. Furthermore, in many cases, the sub-programmes do not specify the databases set up or agreed on for data hosting and access. In the HELCOM HOLAS II process, the data were collected as agreed either in the Manual or on the level of expert networks. To guarantee the smooth assessment process in the next assessment cycle, it is time to agree on the deadlines and databases taking into account practices and routines already in place and the experience from the HOLAS II process.

Table 1. Deadlines for reporting data from coordinated monitoring (<http://www.helcom.fi/action-areas/monitoring-and-assessment/monitoring-manual/introduction>).

Programme topic	Sub-programme	Deadline of reporting data from previous years as indicated in Introduction (and in the old REC 19/3)	Deadline of data reporting (as stated in the sub-programme sections) and data access points
Hydrography	Water column hydrological characteristics	May (1 May)	May; annually; ICES
	Water column physical characteristics	-	Not defined; available near real-time; CMEMS; EMODnet
	Ice	-	Not defined; update weekly, yearly; national databases, e.g., FMI; CMEMS
Hydrochemistry	Water column chemical characteristics	May (1 May)	May; annually; ICES
	Nutrients	May (1 May)	May; annually; ICES
Phytoplankton	Phytoplankton – Pigments	May (1 September)	May; annually; ICES
	Phytoplankton - Species composition, abundance and biomass	May (1 September)	May; annually; ICES
Zooplankton	Zooplankton - Species composition, abundance and biomass	May (1 September)	Not defined; Annually; ICES
Fish shellfish and fisheries	Fish - Coastal fish	-	Not defined; update yearly; national databases
	Fish - Migratory fish	DCF Data reported to DG MARE annually	Not defined; update yearly; national databases

	Fish - Offshore fish	Data are available annually at different times for different surveys	Update annually at different times for different surveys; ICES
	Commercial shellfish	DCF Data reported to DG MARE annually	Not defined; update yearly; national databases
	Fisheries bycatch	DCF Data reported to DG MARE annually	Not defined; update yearly; ICES
Birds	Birds - Marine breeding birds abundance and distribution	-	Not defined; update every six years; national databases and ICES (in the future)
	Birds - Marine bird health	-	Not defined; 3 or 5 years intervals; national databases
	Birds - Marine wintering birds abundance and distribution	-	Not defined; update annually; database under development
Mammals	Mammals - Seal abundance	Not operational yet, annual reporting planned from 3/2015 onwards	Not defined; update annually; HELCOM seal EG
	Mammals - Health status	-	Not defined; update every 6/3 years; HELCOM and national databases
	Mammals - Harbor porpoise abundance	-	Not defined; update every 6 years; national databases; DK – NOVANA database
Concentrations of contaminants	Contaminants in water	30 October (1 September)	Contaminants – update annually; ICES
	Radioactive substances	1 September (1 September)	Radioactive substances – update annually; HELCOM MORS
	Contaminants in sediment	1 September (1 September)	Contaminants – update annually; ICES
	Radioactive substances	1 September (1 September)	Radioactive substances – update annually; HELCOM MORS
	Contaminants in biota	1 September (1 September)	Contaminants – update annually; ICES
	Radioactive substances	1 September (1 September)	Radioactive substances – update annually; HELCOM MORS
Inputs	Nutrient inputs from atmosphere	Modelling results approved at the EMEP steering group meetings in September (2 years in arrears)	Update annually; EMEP database
	Contaminant inputs from atmosphere	Modelling results approved at the EMEP steering group meetings in September (2 years in arrears)	Update annually; EMEP database
	Nutrient inputs from landbased sources	31 October	31 October; update annually; HELCOM PLC Modelled data 31 December

		Modelled results reported 31 December.	
	Contaminant inputs from landbased sources	31 October	31 October; update annually; HELCOM PLC
	Nutrient inputs from seabased sources	-	Not defined as a sub-programme
	Contaminant inputs from seabased sources	-	Not defined as a sub-programme
	Acute pollution	15 February	Second half of the year; update annually; HELCOM Map and Data Service
Biological effects of contaminants	TBT /imposex	-	TBT – update annually; ICES; Imposex – Not defined; update annually; not defined
	Other biological effects monitoring to be developed	-	Not defined as a sub-programme
Litter	Macrolitter characteristics and abundance/volume	-	Not defined; update frequency not defined; national databases
	Litter microparticle abundance/volume	-	Not defined; update frequency not defined; national databases
Underwater noise		-	Both sub-programmes – continuous low-frequency sound and impulsive sounds still under development
Non indigenous species		(See phytoplankton and Zooplankton)	Available on request; update annually; ICES; HELCOM-OSPAR port survey database; AquaNIS
Seabed habitat distribution and extent	Habitat-forming species and substrates	-	Available on request; update annually; national databases
	Seabed habitat physical characteristics	-	Available on request; update annually; national databases
Benthic community species distribution and abundance	Hardbottom Species	-	Not defined; update every 6 years; national databases
	Softbottom fauna	- (partly it should be 1 September)	Not defined; update 1-6 years; ICES and national databases
	Softbottom flora	-	Not defined; update frequency not defined; national databases
Contaminants in seafood*		-	Programme topic under development
Benthic physical loss and damage*		-	Programme topic under development

Commented [A1]: For discussion here and next: is annual reporting here reasonable or could be updated every 6 years?

* These programme topics are not listed in the Table 1 in the Introduction of the HELCOM Monitoring Manual